DOCUMENT VERIFICATION

215-217 LEE HIGH ROAD
LONDON SE13
LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION & EXCAVATION

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An Archaeological Evaluation and Excavation at 215-217 Lee High Road, London SE13 5PQ, London Borough of Lewisham

Site Code: LHG 08

Central National Grid Reference: TQ 3941 7524

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Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited, August 2008

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1 ABSTRACT

1.1 This report details the results and working methods of an archaeological evaluation and excavation undertaken at 215-217 Lee High Road, London Borough of Lewisham, SE13 5PQ. The site is centred at National Grid Reference TQ 3941 7524 (Fig.1).

1.2 The evaluation consisted of the excavation of four trenches each measuring 10m x 2m at the base. Trench 1 was the only area which demonstrated evidence of meaningful survival and was extended to the north and west in order to adequately investigate the exposed remains. The trenches were located to the north and west of the standing buildings in an open area previously used for the storage of cars (Fig. 2). All of the trenches were broken out and reduced, under the supervision of the author, using a small rubber-tracked 360° mechanical excavator until archaeologically sensitive levels were reached. All further excavation was accomplished using hand tools.

1.3 The evaluation took place in advance of the proposed redevelopment of the site. It is proposed to demolish the standing structures and regenerate the frontage and open space with residential and commercial properties. The potential for archaeological survival was relatively high. Lee and the surrounding area were largely undeveloped up until the later 18th and 19th centuries which reduced the potential impact of modern development. Modern basements, where present, were also likely to be confined to the area adjacent to the Lee High Road frontage.

1.4 The evaluation found evidence of a massive 18th century ditch which ran east-west roughly parallel to the line of Lee High Road. Only the south side of the ditch was exposed, it had been supported by the addition of stout timber planking nailed to raked wooden uprights. The precise function of the ditch is at present unclear. It might have once formed a moat around a manor house or could represent a relief channel for water draining from the hillside located to the north into the river Quaggy, it may have fulfilled both of these functions.

2 INTRODUCTION

2.1 An archaeological evaluation was undertaken at 215-217 Lee High Road, London Borough of Lewisham, SE13 5PQ by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd between the 17th of March 2008 and the 4th of April 2008. A disused terraced house with a ground floor shop frontage and rear extension currently stands on the site, most of which is open ground. The open area extends to the north of the standing building, to the north of the adjoining properties to the west and to the east of the standing building where a gap in the terrace fronts onto Lee High Road. The rear extension had previously been used as a workshop for preparing cars prior to their sale and registration; the open area was used to store the vehicles prior to their being moved to a nearby showroom. The evaluation was designed to consist of four trenches each measuring 10m x 2m at base. This constituted approximately 8% of the proposed area of the redevelopment.

2.2 Acorn Homes commissioned the work which was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd. Douglas Killock supervised the evaluation and subsequent excavation, the project manager was Tim Bradley.

2.3 The site is situated to the north of Lee High Road and to the west of Dacre Park, London Borough of Lewisham.

2.4 The completed archive comprising written and drawn records will be deposited at the Museum of London under the site code LHG 08.

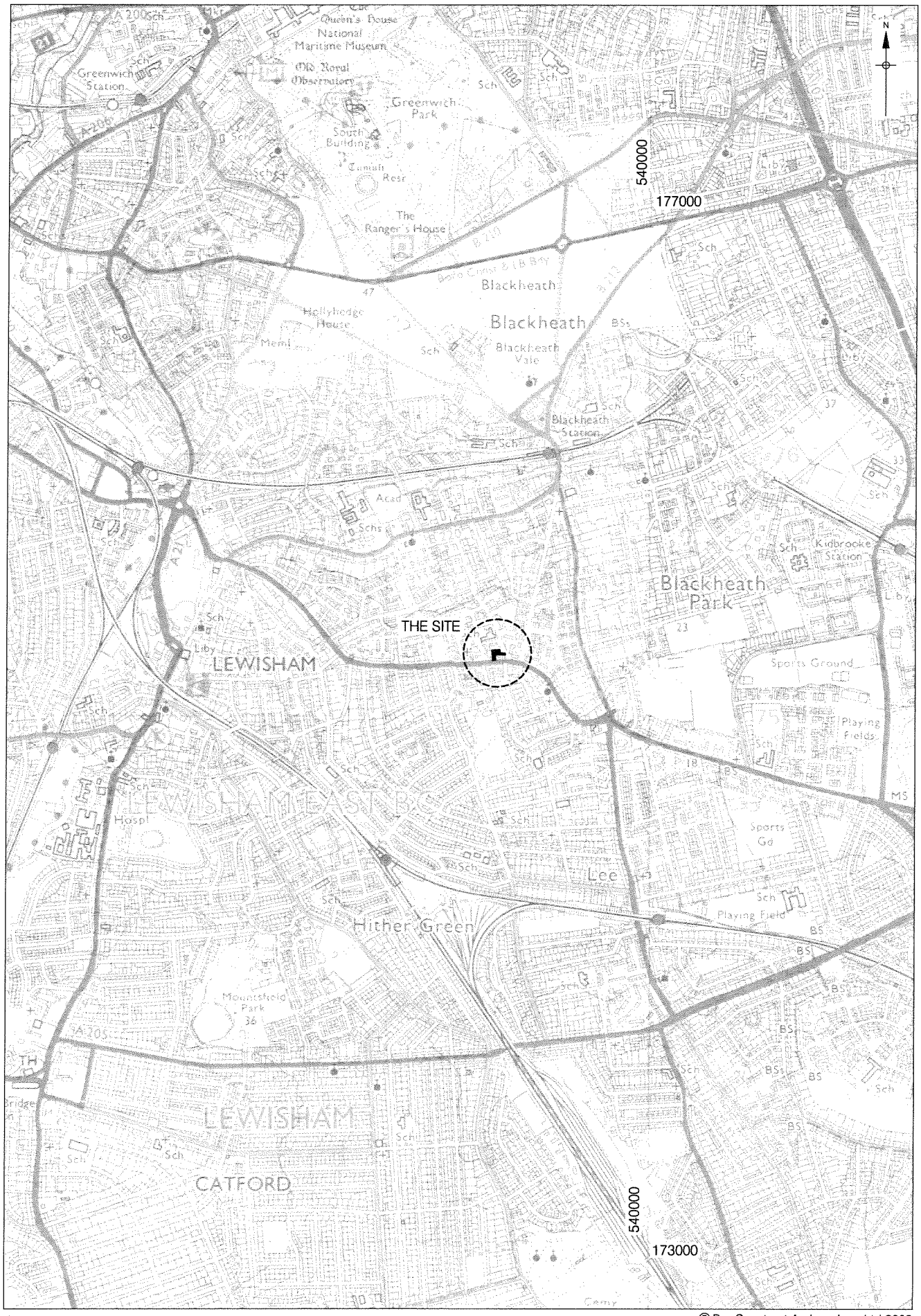


Figure 1
Site Location
1:20,000 at A4

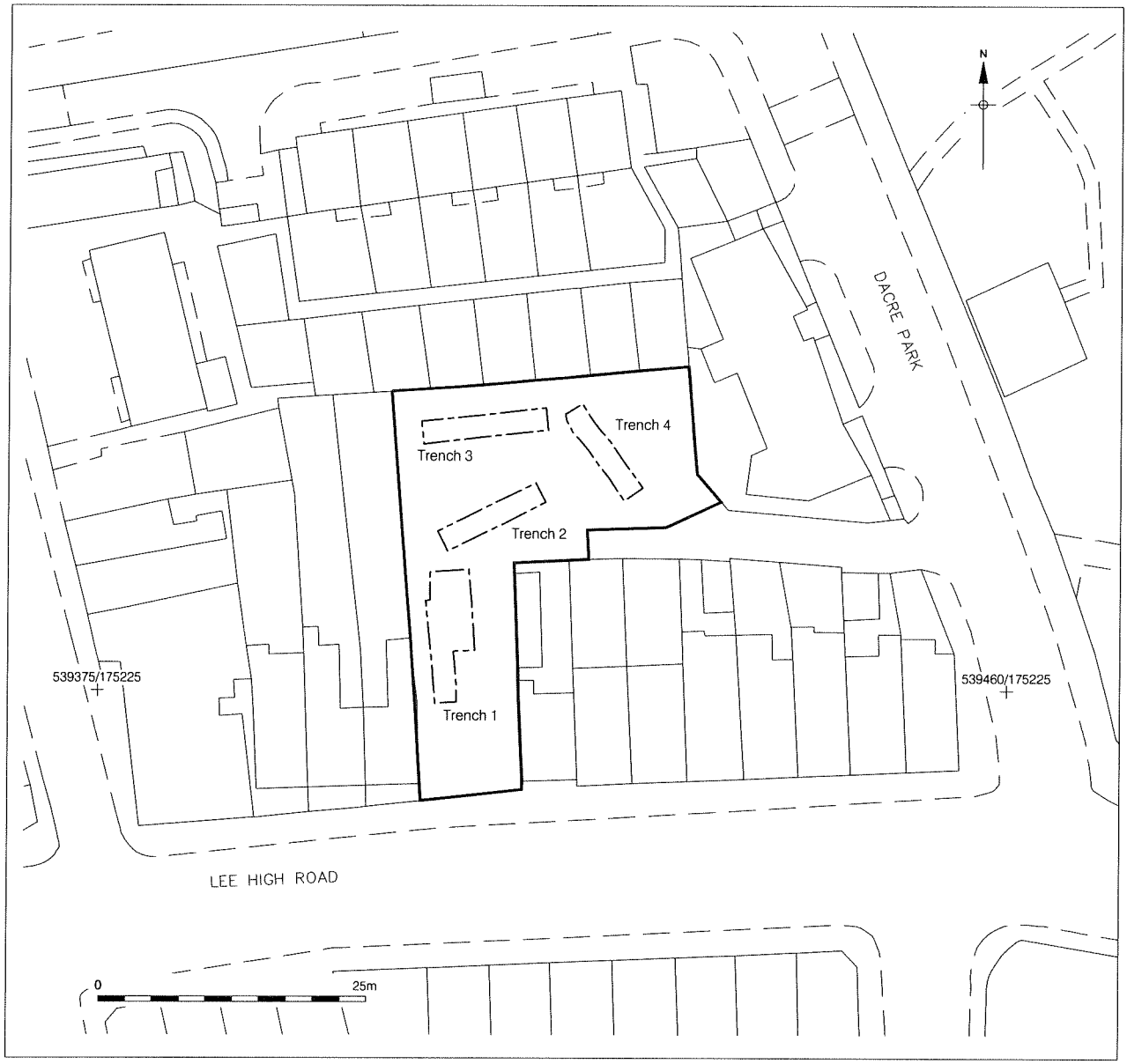


Figure 2
Trench Location
1:625 at A4

3 PLANNING BACKGROUND

3.1 The site is located within an Archaeological Priority Area as defined by the London Borough of Lewisham's Unitary Development Plan (APA 11, Lee). The Policy statements in respect of protecting the buried archaeological resource are outlined by the London Borough of Lewisham Unitary Development Plan (Adopted July 2004). Development of the site is covered by URB 21 Archaeology, which states:-

3.2 The Council will promote the conservation, protection and enhancement of the archaeological heritage of the Borough and its interpretation and presentation to the public by:

(a) Requiring applicants to have properly assessed and planned for the archaeological implications where development proposals may affect the archaeological heritage of the site. This may involve preliminary archaeological site evaluations before proposals are determined;

(b) Advising where planning applications should be accompanied by an evaluation within Archaeological Priority Areas as shown on the Proposals Map. This should be commissioned by the applicants from a professionally qualified archaeological organisation or archaeological consultant;

(c) Encouraging early co-operation between landowners, developers and archaeological organisations, in accordance with the principles of the British Archaeologists and Developers Liaison Group Code of Practice, and by attaching appropriate conditions to planning consents, and/or negotiating appropriate agreements under S106;

(d) Encouraging suitable development design, land use and management to safeguard archaeological sites and seeking to ensure that the most important archaeological remains and their settings are permanently preserved in situ with public access and display where possible and that where appropriate they are given statutory protection;

(e) In the case of sites of archaeological significance or potential where permanent preservation in situ is not justified, provision shall be made for an appropriate level of archaeological investigation and recording which should be undertaken by a recognised archaeological organisation before development begins. Such provision shall also include the subsequent publication of the results of the excavation;

(f) Seeking to ensure their preservation or record in consultation with the developer in the event of significant remains unexpectedly coming to light during construction; and;

(g) In the event of the Scheduling of any Ancient Monuments and Sites of National Importance, ensuring their protection and preservation in accordance with Government regulation, and to refuse planning permission which adversely affects their sites or settings.

Reasons

The Council wishes to protect its archaeological heritage and to ensure that any important remains are preserved and in suitable cases effectively managed as an educational, recreational tourist resource. Archaeological remains are a community asset and they provide a valuable picture of the history and development of the local area as well as London as a whole. They are a finite and fragile resource, vulnerable to modern development. The council endorses the DETR's advice as set out in PPG 16 (1990) and that of English Heritage (Development Plan Policies for Archaeology 1992) upon which this policy has been based.

3.3 The requirements of this Policy generally come into force when extensive redevelopment is proposed involving excavation or foundation work which may disturb or expose relatively undisturbed remains below the level of current building development. Schedule 3 'Areas of Archaeological Priority' explains the significance of the various designated Areas of Archaeological Priority, and gives an indication of the type and age of archaeological remains that might be discovered.

3.4 The location of Archaeological Priority Area 11, Lee, is shown in the Council's UDP. The specifics of the Priority Area are given below:-

The Lee place-name is associated with former woodland or a woodland clearance. Of the three principal manors, Lee retained its rural character until the encroachment of 19th century sub-urbanism and was a popular rural location for 18th century City businessmen. The ruined 15th century ragstone tower (Listed Grade II) of the medieval parish church of St Margaret survives in the old burial ground. The early moated manor house, latterly known as Annesley's House was located some distance away to the north of the High Road. The remains of medieval tenements are likely to occur along Old Road and along the line of Brandram Road, which linked the church to the manor house. Fragmentation of Annesley's House estate provided land for 17th and 18th century houses. Lee Place, which was built in the early 17th century and demolished in 1825, was the home of Christopher Boone, a London merchant who established the Almshouse and Chapel (Listed Grade I) on the High Road, which bears his name. Pentland House (Listed Grade II) was built in 1661, on what was previously part of the Lee Place estate. The Manor House built in 1771 is further considered in APA 19

3.5 Mr Mark Stevenson, of the GLAAS, English Heritage, acting as advisor to the local authority, decided that an evaluation should be carried out to determine the extent of archaeological potential and survival on the site. Once this had been achieved and clear evidence existed for the nature and extent of archaeological survival a mitigation strategy was formulated with the agreement of Acorn Homes and Mr Stevenson. The mitigation work commenced immediately once the agreement was reached and effectively formed a rolling programme with the evaluation.

3.6 Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd prepared a method statement for the site which was approved by Mr Stevenson prior to the beginning of the evaluation which presented details of how it was to be effected (Bradley 2008). The general aims of the evaluation were to determine the presence/character of any archaeological remains and assess their significance. It was also designed to also seek to clarify the extent and nature of existing disturbance and intrusions. In

addition to these general aims the site had the potential to provide information regarding specific research questions, which were:-

- What evidence is there of for prehistoric activity on the site?
- Is there any evidence of Roman activity on the site?
- Is there any evidence for the medieval period on the site? In particular, is there any evidence for the moated manor thought to be located in the vicinity?
- What evidence is there for post-medieval activity on the site?

4 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

4.1 The Geological Survey of Great Britain, Sheet 270, South London, shows the underlying natural deposits as Quaternary Kempton Park Gravel. These cryoturbated clayey gravels seal glauconite quartz sands of the Tertiary Thanet Beds, which occur as surface outcrops in the area.

4.2 The most notable watercourse close to the site is the River Quaggy, a tributary of the Ravensbourne which meanders along a mainly east-west course through Lee and passes below the High Road some distance to the east of the site. The modern river is largely confined to culverts and canalised concrete banks, although recent works such as those at Chinbrook Meadows have attempted to restore some areas to a more natural state.

4.3 The river, although relatively small and slow-moving, was prone to flooding after heavy rainfall and in the nineteenth century was said to rise as much as ten feet where it crossed the high road (Ireland 1830). This led to the construction of a bridge and 'high causeway having also been raised for a considerable length at either end'.

4.4 The site is situated at the foot of a hill that rises to the north toward Blackheath. The land to the south is relatively flat where the High Road passes the site before it meets a low ridge to the south. The crest of the ridge is close to Old Road, the former line of the High Road before the demolition of Lee Place and movement of the road to its present position. There is a slight fall in ground level to both the east and west of the site.

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

5.1 A Desk Based Assessment designed to study the archaeological potential of the site would normally have been commissioned prior to a fieldwork intervention of the sort carried out at the subject site. However, time constraints precluded this on this occasion. The majority of the details reproduced below are taken from a document commissioned to study a nearby site at Hedgley Mews (Jorgenson and Taylor 2008).

5.2 Prehistoric

5.2.1 In general the gravel terraces of the River Thames have revealed plentiful archaeological evidence of prehistoric activity in Greater London, however, comparatively little has been identified to date in the Lee area.

5.2.2 Mesolithic flints have been found in the area, albeit some distance from the site, the finds are generally thought to be residual in nature and most probably reflect redeposition through fluvial action (Stabler 2001; Thompson 2008). Finds dating to the Palaeolithic, Neolithic, Bronze Age or Iron Age are also scarce and at present there is very little evidence concerning the utilisation of the area during these periods (MoLAS 2000; Thompson 2008).

5.3 Roman

5.3.1 It is known that the Thames gravel terraces were extensively farmed during the Roman period, constituting a major element in the mixed-farming economy that characterised the rural hinterland of Roman *Londinium* (Bird 2000; MoLAS 2000). A desk based assessment recently compiled by Pre-Construct Archaeology for a redevelopment at 36-56 Lee High Road found some evidence of Roman material in its vicinity (Thompson 2008). However, the Roman findspots were both sparse and located some distance to the west of the site, implying that should Roman land use exist in the Lewisham/Lee area it is most probably located a significant distance to the west of the study area.

5.4 Saxon

5.4.1 The site is located within the Parish of Lee and, whilst the derivation of the place-name is disputed, documentary sources indicate that a settlement existed by at least the second half of the tenth century (Coulter 1994; Stabler 2001; Thompson 2008). However, despite the apparent Saxon origins of Lee archaeological evidence of settlement or cultivation during the Saxon period is generally limited.

5.4.2 By the end of the Saxon period the village of Lee had become established beside the High Road, which ran from Lewisham to the Manor of Eltham and thereafter towards Maidstone (Hasted

1797; Stabler 2001) and on the eve of the Conquest, Lee was a manor and parish within the Hundred of Greenwich (later Blackheath), held by the Abbot of Ghent (Williams & Martin 2002). The Domesday assessment of Lee indicates that in addition to arable cultivation, both meadow and woodland were significant economic assets of the late Saxon manor (Williams & Martin 2002) with manorial meadows concentrated along the banks of the River Quaggy.

5.5 Medieval

5.5.1 The medieval village of Lee appears to have been comprised of "several small foci of buildings including one at Lee Green, one at the northern end of Burnt Ash Road (formerly Burnt Ash Lane) and another on Old Road" (Lewisham 2007). Whilst little evidence exists to suggest the village significantly expanded throughout this period the history of the settlement is nonetheless well attested in documentary records.

5.5.2 In 1086 the Manor of Lee belonged to Odo, Bishop of Bayeux and Earl of Kentand later by Walter of Douai (Williams & Martin 2002). At the beginning of the 12th century Walter's son Robert of Bampton seized the Manor of Lewisham from the Abbot of St Peter's, Ghent (Coulter 1994) and despite the adjudication of Henry I in favour of the abbot, Robert persuaded its rightful owners to lease the manor to him and his heirs, until being bought out during the 13th century.

5.5.3 During the 12th century, at the height of inter-manorial tension, the lords of Lee and Lewisham fortified their manors with new moats and it is possible that the Quaggy was diverted to assist in their construction (Thompson 2008).

5.5.4 The Manor of Lee descended through the Bankwell family during the 13th and 14th centuries, however subinfeudation of the Manor of Lewisham led to the establishment of a number of sub-manors, two of which (Bankers and Shersholt/Shroffold) passed into the hands of the lords of Lee in 1387 (Coulter 1994; Lysons 1796). The three manors passed through the hands of a succession of secular owners, until ending up in the possession of the Watson family in the 18th century.

5.5.5 A number of documented buildings thought to originate in the late medieval period lay within the vicinity of the site. These consist of a moated manor site to the north of Lee Place, a farmstead dating to 1500 at Lee Green and a similarly dated mansion house at Old Road. In addition, 13th century pottery sherds have been retrieved to the north-west of the site at Old Road.

5.6 Post-Medieval

5.6.1 During the early post-medieval period it is probable that the majority of the Lee area was largely agricultural and by the second half of the 17th century the settlement had acquired a reputation as a "desirable rural retreat for wealthy London merchants" (Weinreb & Hibbert 1983). Lee is known to have "contained a number of large houses in the late 17th century including Pentland House, on Old Road... built between 1691 and 1699 by John Smith on land bought from the Widow of

Christopher Boon, whose house (Lee Place) stood just to the north". (Lewisham 2007). Whilst the nearby Manor of Lewisham developed rapidly throughout the post-medieval era, particularly during the onset of industrialisation, Lee itself appears to have developed more gradually and the settlement was still predominantly rural as late as the beginning of the 19th century (Thompson 2008).

5.6.2 Rocque's map of 1746 (Fig. 3) shows the environs of the site as largely open ground adjacent to the road that passed from Lewisham to Eltham. The main road is shown with a characteristic dog-leg which was later bypassed when the line of the road was moved to the north. Buildings shown to the north of the road almost certainly represent the mansion and outbuildings of Lee Place.

5.6.3 Further detail of the layout of Lee Place is shown on page 220 of Drake's 1886 edition of Hasted's History of Kent (Fig. 4). The mansion house is clearly marked to the north of the road with a strip building, probably a tenement for estate workers, located immediately to the east of it. An extensive drainage system formed of large ditches and a rectangular pond is shown to the north of the manor house. The drawing also contains the information that the mansion house was demolished in 1825.

5.6.4 Following the demolition of the mansion, presumably the associated outbuildings were demolished along with it, the course of the main road was shifted to the north. This had been accomplished by the time that G. F. Crutchley's map of London was produced in 1829. The diagnostic dog-leg that had previously been such a notable feature of the main road was preserved and is modern Old Road.

6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

6.1 The evaluation was designed to consist of four trenches, each measuring 10m X 2m at base, located in the open ground to the west and north of the standing building and adjacent properties to the east of it (Fig. 2). The trenches were each designated a Trench number, e.g. Trench 1. Minor variations to the agreed trench layout were made in order to avoid service trenches evident from the surface of the hard standing, the overall length of the trenching was unaffected by these changes.

6.2 All hard–standing was broken out using a 360° mechanical excavator and modern overburden removed under archaeological supervision until archaeologically sensitive levels or undisturbed natural soils were reached. Subsequent investigation was accomplished using hand tools only.

6.3 Trenches 2, 3 and 4 contained very limited remains of archaeological interest, none of them contained any horizontal stratigraphy and it was assumed that modern levelling had truncated the surface of the natural gravels and clayey brickearth. The trenches were cleaned, recorded and photographic record shots taken using a digital format camera. However, Trench 1 contained part of a very large cut feature, later shown to be a massive ditch. Once the trench had been expanded and the ditch investigated the latter was photographed using digital, black and white and colour slide formats.

6.4 Where relevant phased 'Harris Matrix' stratification diagrams have been produced for individual trenches.

6.5 Recording on site was undertaken using the single context recording system as specified in the Museum of London Site Manual. Representative plans and sections were drawn at a scale of 1:10 or 1:20, as appropriate. Contexts were numbered sequentially and recorded on *pro-forma* context sheets. Where referred to in the text context numbers are given in square brackets, i.e. pit [36].

6.6 A temporary bench mark (TBM) was established on the site with a value of 16.65m OD. The value of the TBM was established by transferring a level from the bench mark located on the frontage of telephone exchange located on the corner of Lee High Road and Glenton Road, the value of which is 14.75m OD.

6.7 The site was given the unique code LHG 08.

7 THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE

7.1 Phase 1 Natural Deposits

7.1.1 The natural subsoils exposed during the evaluation and excavation consisted predominantly of clayey gravels, these were recorded as layers [27], [30] and [33]. Patches of clay were evident throughout the gravel deposits although these areas were rarely concentrated enough to form defined areas of clay. Drainage was subsequently poor and standing water could accumulate quickly after short periods of rain. Mixed clay and gravel was recorded in Trenches 1, 2 and 4. The surface of the gravel as recorded between 15.76m OD and 15.67m OD. Both of these readings were taken from Trench 4, very similar readings were recorded in Trenches 1 and 2.

7.1.2 Large defined patches of clay were evident in Trench 2. One of these, context [7], was of a large sub-circular shape and had small fragments of tile pressed into its surface. This deposit was therefore partially excavated in an attempt to determine whether it was a fill of a man-made feature or a natural formation. No artefacts were evident apart from those collected from the surface but a concentration of contaminants, some form of hydrocarbons, precluded full excavation. The general paucity of artefacts and other indicators of human activity such as charcoal flecks suggested that this was a natural formation. A similar deposit, [28], was evident at the east end of Trench 2. No signs of human intervention were evident on the surface of this deposit and it was not excavated. The surfaces of these deposits were recorded at 15.71m and 15.69m OD.

7.1.3 A yellowish brown clay or clayey silt with dense concentrations of small shells was evident in Trenches 1 and 3, it was recorded as layers [24] and [4] (Figs. 6 & 7). The relationship between these deposits and the natural gravel was not established as the gravel was not seen in Trench 3 and modern intrusions had destroyed the interface between the two in Trench 1. The surface of the deposit was recorded at 15.55m OD in Trench 3 and 14.42m in Trench 1. The latter was almost certainly not the top of the deposit but the upper level visible in the base of ditch [13]. These deposits most likely represent the bedrock Woolwich Beds or alluvial sediments derived from them (see Appendix 8).

7.1.4 A natural sandy brickearth deposit [29] was found in the south of Trench 1, the surface was recorded at 15.89m OD. This layer appeared as an isolated patch bounded by modern service trenches and the limits of excavation. It was therefore unclear what the relationship was between this natural deposit and the others revealed during the course of the evaluation.

7.2 Phase 2 Post-Medieval Features (Figs. 5, 6 & 7)

7.2.1 A southeast-northwest aligned feature interpreted as a channel, [3], was recorded in Trench 3. The full extent of this feature was not seen; it extended beyond the limits of excavation to north, south, east and west. A very small portion of the south side was evident within the limits of the

trench. A sample sondage was excavated through the fills of this feature, the upper fill [6] contained fragments of ceramic building material. A lower fill [1] did not contain any artefacts but did resemble the upper fill [6] in its gravelly composition. The deposit recorded as the primary fill, [2], may have been a real fill of the cut feature but the similarity in composition between this deposit and the underlying natural deposit [4] suggested that they were derived from the same material. In particular, the frequency of small shells indicated a likely connection between the two. Fill [2] might have been formed from material slumped into the side and base of the channel. Alternatively this material might be identical to the natural deposit [4] and had simply become discoloured as water leached through the darker coloured fills above. This process was evident in the base of ditch [13].

7.2.2 It was unclear whether channel [3] was formed as a result of a human intervention or was simply part of a natural watercourse that had silted up in a historic period. Only one sondage was excavated through it so a direction of flow, whether for a natural or man-made feature, could not be established. The general paucity of finds and the highly diffused boundary observed between the edge of the feature and the fills led to the conclusion that this was probably not a man-made feature. The only datable finds recovered from the fills of this feature consisted of ceramic building materials dated between the 16th and 18th centuries.

7.2.3 During the initial evaluation stage the fills of a large cut feature were exposed in the northern end of Trench 1. The limits of the feature were not evident as the fills extended beyond the edge of excavation to the north, east and west. The construction trench for a modern brick culvert had impacted the southern edge of the feature but it was clear that the original south side must have been within the area of the culvert as natural gravel [30] was visible to the south of that feature. It was therefore evident that the large cut feature was more than 3m wide; the extent was obviously unknown.

7.2.4 The original brief for the work had highlighted the presence of an early moated manor house, known as Annesley's House, in the area and it was thought probable that the large cut feature might be part of the moat that surrounded the building. Given the apparent breadth of the feature exposed in the evaluation work and the probable size of a moat associated with the manor house it was clear that the trench would need to be extended if the ditch was to be adequately investigated. An agreement was quickly reached to extend the northern part of Trench 1 and commence mitigation works immediately.

7.2.5 The area broken out using a mechanical excavator extended the working area by c. 2m to the east of the original evaluation trench and c. 2.7m to the north of it. Within the trench a modern basement wall formed the effective limit of excavation to the east, producing a working area 1.60m wider than the original trench, to the north the working area increased by 2.5m.

7.2.6 All deposits considered to form modern overburden were removed using the mechanical excavator. Below this level excavation continued by hand in a trench measuring 1.50m wide. The width of the trench fulfilled both the requirement to adequately investigate the archaeological sequence and the necessity to ensure a safe and practicable working area.

7.2.7 The upper fills of the ditch, contexts [14] and [15] (Figs. 6 & 7), consisted principally of heavily compacted clay and gravel which might have represented a deliberate capping and backfilling deposit designed to produce a stable ground surface and reduce the inherent damp problems associated with a large backfilled watercourse. These deposits were found below 15.93m OD, when excavated in plan the finds were grouped together under context [9], this deposit was only subdivided when Section 2 was recorded. Neither fills [14] nor [15] presented a marked slope or profile characteristic of a ditch fill and they might be interpreted as more extensive horizontal layers rather than fills of a cut feature. However, although a true ground surface associated with the ditch was not exposed or recorded during the evaluation or mitigation works it should be noted that the natural brickearth found in the south of Trench 1 was recorded at 15.89m OD, which demonstrates that any later ground surface must have been found above this level.

7.2.8 Fill [10], which was sealed by fill [15], consisted of another compacted clay deposit which might represent deliberate capping or backfilling. Unlike the fills described above, however, a gentle slope characteristic of the fill of a cut feature was evident once fill [10] had been removed. Very few artefacts were recovered from the fills described above but the presence of Bristol stoneware sherds indicated that these deposits did not pre-date the 19th century.

7.2.9 Fill [10] represented the first deposit that spanned the entire width of the ditch from north to south, in fact it continued beyond the limit of excavation to the north and had been truncated to the south by the construction cut for a more recent brick culvert. The maximum extent of this deposit was more than 5.70m. This largely homogenous silty clay produced a marked ditch-shaped profile once it had been excavated, the base of the deposit in the centre of the ditch was over 0.40m deeper than that found at the south side. Artefacts and domestic waste continued to be very sparse, some fragments of pottery were recovered but could not be closely dated. The ceramic building materials recovered dated to the late 17th to 18th centuries, the glass recovered from this fill did not pre-date the 18th century.

7.2.10 A homogenous silty fill [11] was found below [10], this deposit was up to 0.75m thick in the central part of the ditch and extended across it's entire width. The composition of the material excavated suggested that it had been deliberately cast into the ditch, it did not have a waterlain character and a deposit of similar thickness was unlikely to have accumulated in short space of time, a longer lasting accumulation would have almost certainly shown signs of internal divisions with differences in the materials deposited. Domestic waste was sparse and as a consequence dating evidence was limited. The pottery recovered from fill [11] dated to the 18th century, the ceramic building materials were possibly a little earlier, dated to the late 17th to early 18th centuries. The brick and tile was probably residual as the glass found in this deposit dated to the late 18th or early 19th centuries. The clay pipe stems are also thought to be 19th century but this is not certain.

7.2.11 Excavation below the base of fill [11] was limited to the southern part of the trench which had previously been reduced by the machine to a lower level, consistent with that reached during the evaluation stage. The purpose of this work was to definitively establish the southern edge of the

ditch and, if possible, expose the base of the feature. A very marked change in the nature of the deposits was evident in the lower levels. The fills in the central part of the ditch were formed almost exclusively of black silt. This deposit oxidised to a brown colour within a few hours of exposure to air, indicating that it had formed and been preserved in anaerobic conditions. The earlier fills towards the southern edge were more mixed, as could be expected; these deposits would in part have been derived from material that slumped into the ditch. All of the earlier fills were grouped together as context [12] for the purpose of finds collection; they were subdivided into contexts [16] to [20] when recorded in Section 2 (Fig. 7). The artefacts recovered from the earlier ditch fills suggested that they dated from the early 18th century onwards. The pottery was not closely dated; it was deposited after 1650 but could not be placed in a more secure time bracket. The ceramic building materials were dated to the late 17th to 18th centuries. The most precise dating element consisted of a clay tobacco pipe dated 1700-1740.

7.2.12 Although food waste was generally as sparse as other detritus an elevated quantity of large bi-valved shells was evident within the earlier fills of the ditch. These have been identified as the remains of fresh-water mussels (Appendix 9). Several species of these are native to the UK and each is adapted to a particular habitat but some species are particularly suited to life in slow-moving rivers, canals, ponds and lakes. The only two animal bones recovered from the entire excavation, consisting of a young cattle skull, were also recovered from the lower fills of the ditch (Appendix 6).

7.2.13 The southern side of the ditch had been reinforced and supported by the insertion of timber planks, [21], nailed onto sloping uprights. The planks were up to 4cm thick and 22cm wide, the full extent of the revetting as seen consisted of two planks laid one above the other. The length of a complete plank was not evident which shows that they must have been more than 1.5m long. A baulk timber c. 17cm square formed the top of the wooden structure (See Fig 7). The presence of a possible ditch fill, [26], on the south side of the baulk might indicate that this was an earlier fill and that the timber revetting was a later modification to the south side of the ditch.

7.2.14 The mitigation work demonstrated that the east-west aligned ditch, [13], measured over 5.70m wide and was c. 1.75m deep. The ditch ran roughly parallel to the course of the modern High Road. The backfilling of the feature did not begin before the early 18th century. Although artefacts were extremely scarce material dating to the earlier post-medieval or medieval periods was absent indicating that the feature had probably not been dug in an earlier period and periodically cleaned out.

7.3 Phase 3 20th Century Features

7.3.1 Three brick pads or pier bases, contexts [36], [37] and [38], were recorded in Trench 4. Of these [38] comprised an irregular feature only one brick in depth; it was formed from a mixture of re-used bricks fragments. The bricks were nearly all of half-bat size or smaller and occurred as a range of fabrics including reddish-purple examples probably of 18th century date and yellow

fabrics more characteristic of the late 19th century. The function of this feature was unclear; it may once have formed part of the floor of a semi-interred structure or could have functioned as a base.

7.3.2 Brick piers [36] and [37] appeared to be associated with each other as they were very similar in size, shape and the materials employed appeared to be identical. Each comprised a square block of masonry 0.46m in diameter; the depth of these piers was not seen as they were not excavated. It is probable that the piers supported outbuildings such as storage sheds located to the rear of the standing structures found adjacent to the site.

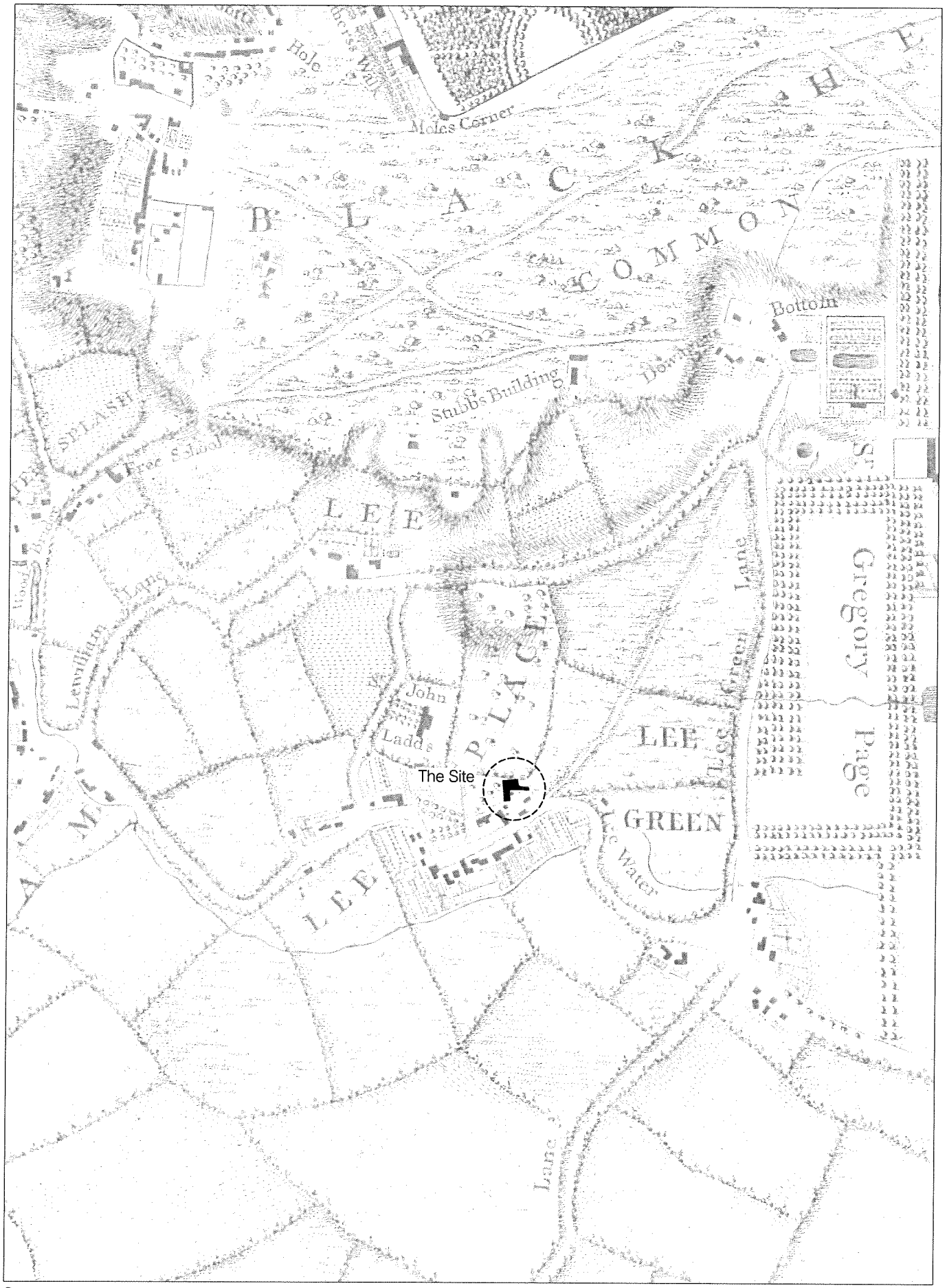


Figure 3
Rocque 1746
not to scale
approximate location of site

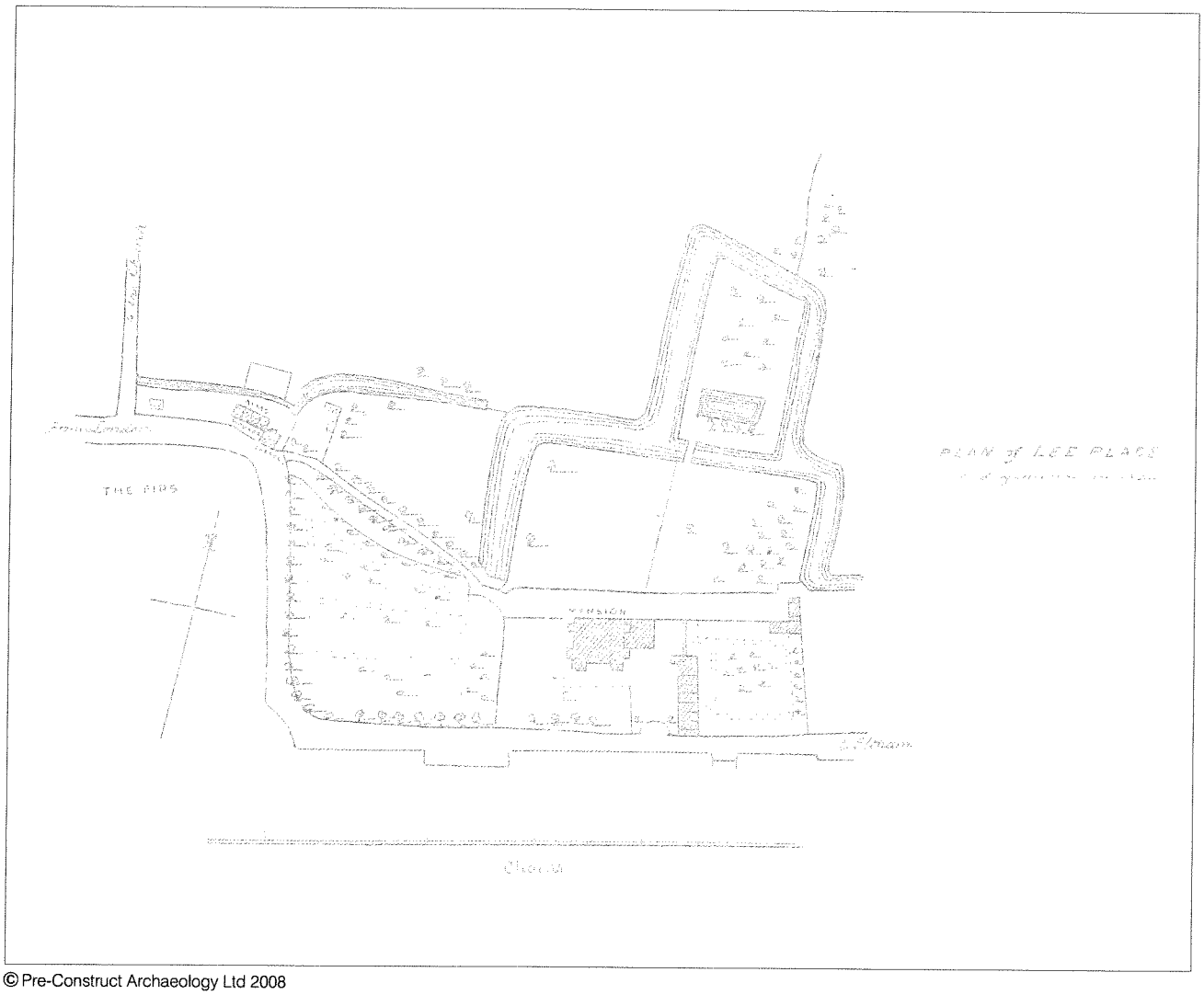


Figure 4
Plan of Lee Place

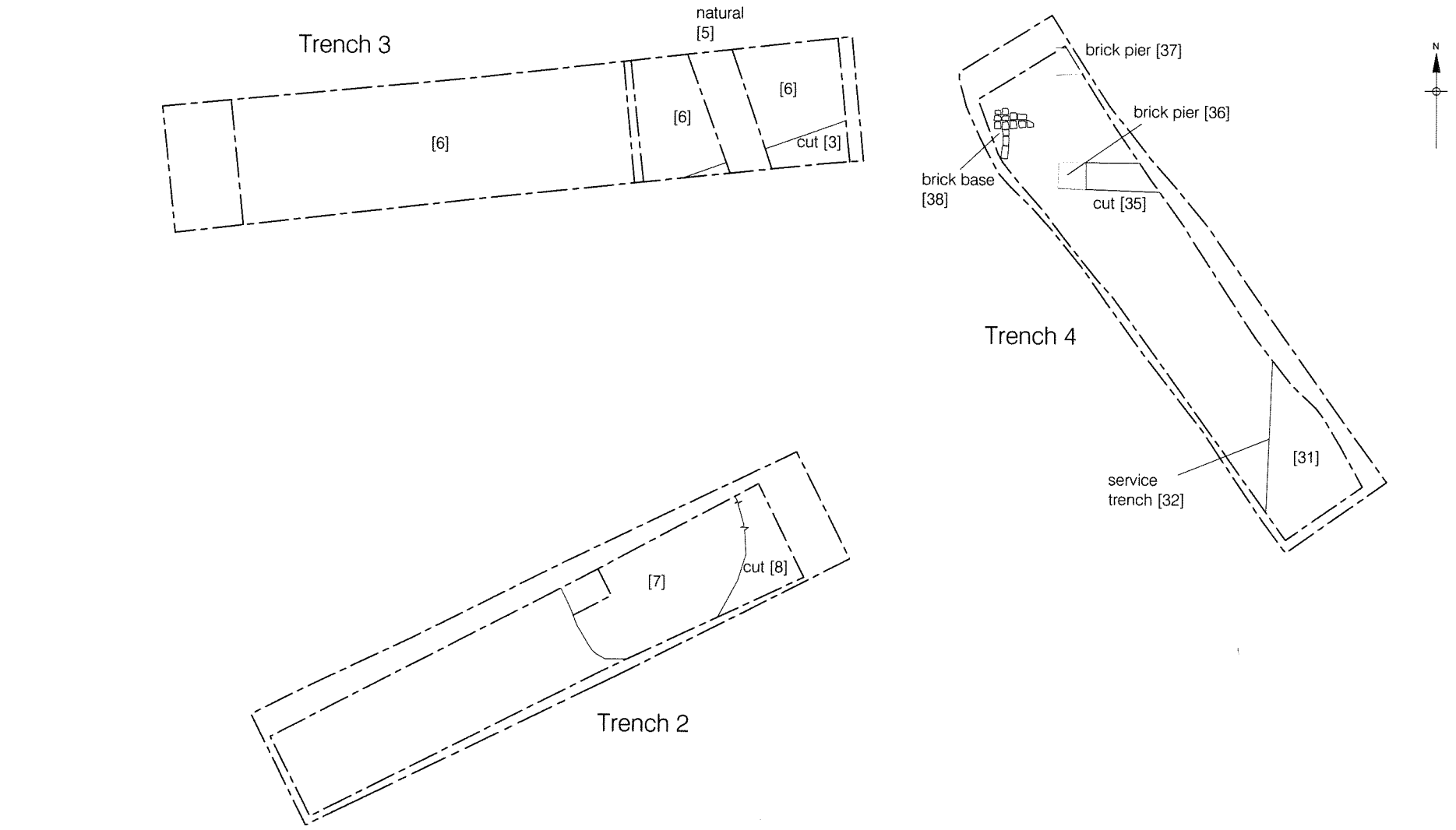


Figure 5
Plan of Trenches 2, 3 & 4
1:100 at A4

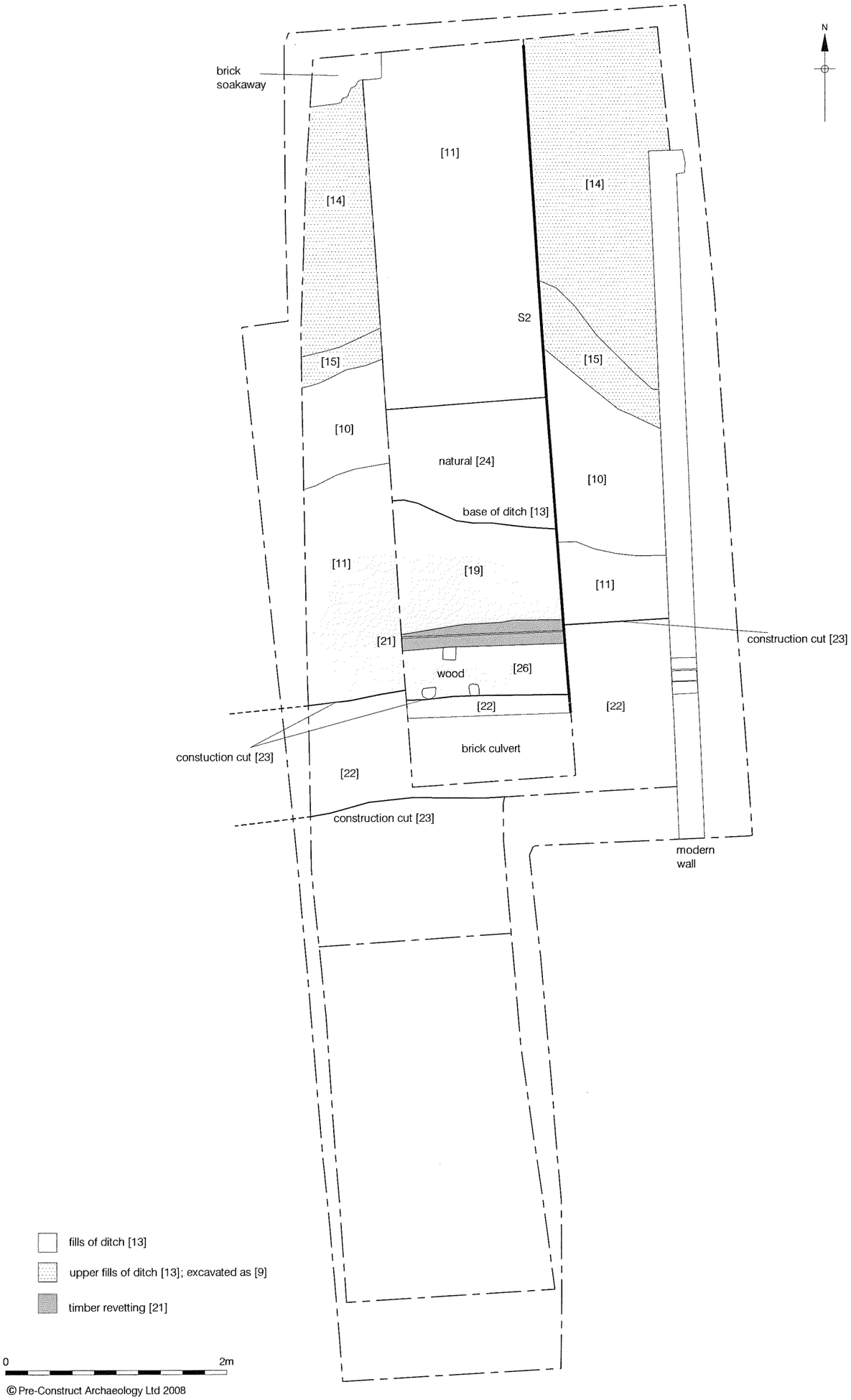
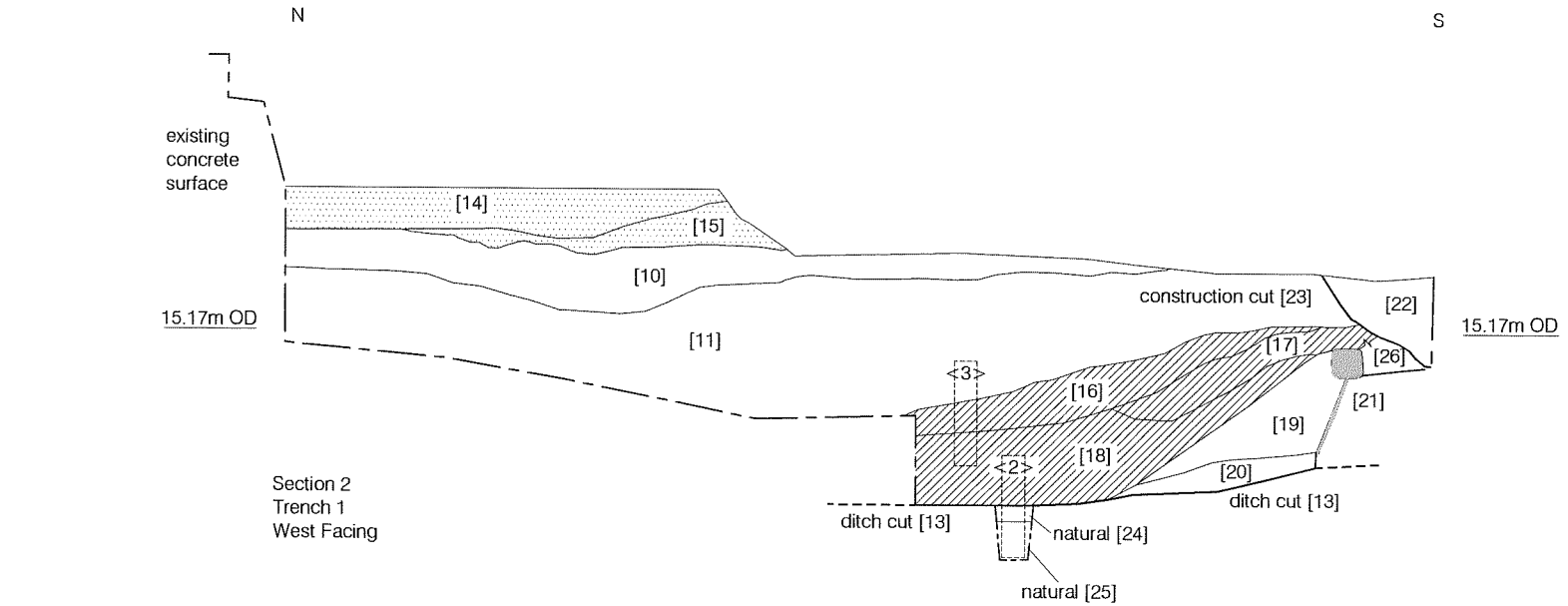


Figure 6
Plan of Trench 1
1:40 at A3



fills of ditch [13]

upper fills of ditch [13]; excavated as [9]

lower fills of ditch [13]; excavated as [12]

timber revetting [21]

0 2m

Figure 7
Section 2
1:40 at A3

8 CONCLUSIONS

8.1 The only feature of real archaeological importance uncovered during the works consisted of the very large east-west aligned ditch located to the north of the High Road. The earliest datable artefact recovered from the lower fills of the ditch was a clay tobacco pipe bowl that was produced between 1700 and 1740. The condition of this piece suggested that it had been discarded soon after breakage and it should provide a good guide to the date of the primary fills of the ditch. If this premise is valid the ditch fills should date to the first half of the 18th century.

8.2 The alignment of the ditch appeared to run parallel to the High Road, although such a short stretch of it was excavated in plan that only a very rough indication of its layout could be made (the ditch had also been truncated on the south side which of course also hampered judging the alignment). However, the date of the earlier ditch fills demonstrated that the feature was in existence long before the line of the High Road was moved northward after the demolition of Lee House in 1825. The existence, and size, of the ditch may have strongly influenced the setting out of the new road. The distance between the ditch and the north side of the road allowed properties to be constructed on solid ground with some provision for a plot of land at the rear. If the road had been laid out further to the north the structural stability of properties constructed adjacent to it would have been seriously compromised.

8.3 The plan of Lee Place shows a drainage system composed of substantial ditches to the north of the mansion and associated outbuildings. It is possible that the ditch discovered during the excavation originally formed part of the drainage scheme for Lee Place. The ditch might have continued in use after the road had been moved north and maintained as a flood protection to deal with water moving down the hill from Blackheath.

8.4 The full extent of the drainage system associated with Lee Place is not known as it continued beyond the limits of available drawings. It is possible that it continued and channelled water into the Quaggy some distance to the east of the site. Drake's edition of Hasted's History of Kent records how the river was prone to flooding and that a bridge with a 'high causeway' was constructed in 1778 to maintain the highway. This presumably refers to the point a little to the east of the site where the river passes from the north to south side of the road. Some protection for the causeway may have been felt necessary. The excavation, or re-excavation, of the ditch might even have formed part of that project with the excavated material being upcast to form the causeway.

8.5 The artefacts recovered from the upper fills of the ditch demonstrated that it was not backfilled before c. 1830. The infilling on the ditch appeared to have been carried out in a systematic fashion as a single event. The materials used to cap the ditch may have been deliberately chosen to act as a damp-course and may well have been compacted by a traction engine or similar mechanical means. The paucity of finds within the watercourse suggested that it was either maintained very regularly or that it was backfilled before the frontage of the new High Road

became fully developed. It is improbable that a large open feature of this size could have stood open in close proximity to a terrace without attracting the usual amount of domestic rubbish disposal.

9 Contents of the Archive

9.1 PAPER ARCHIVE

Context Sheets	38 sheets
Plans	8 plans (19 sheets)
Sections	2 (4 sheets)
Environmental sample sheets	6 sheets

9.2 THE FINDS

Pottery	1 box
Clay tobacco pipe	1 box
Ceramic building material	2 boxes
Animal bone	1 box
Glass	1 box
Shell	1 box
Environmental samples:	
column samples	2
bulk samples	4

9.3 PHOTOGRAPHS

Black and white (medium format)	5 shots
Colour (medium format)	6 shots
Black and white prints (35mm)	18 shots
Colour slide (35mm)	18 shots
Digital shots	35 shots

10 Original Research Questions and Revised Questions

10.1 Original Research Questions

The original research questions were set out in the method statement for the archaeological evaluation (Bradley 2008). As a general aim the evaluation aimed to determine, as far as is reasonably possible, the location extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains liable to be threatened by the proposed redevelopment.

In addition to these general aims, the following research questions were posed:

10.1.2 What evidence is there for prehistoric activity on the site?

There was no evidence of prehistoric activity found on site.

10.1.3 Is there any evidence for Roman activity on the site?

There was evidence of Roman activity found on site.

10.1.4 Is there evidence for the medieval period on the site? In particular, is there any evidence for the moated manor thought to be located in the vicinity of the site?

There was no apparent evidence of medieval activity on site. All of the artefacts on site were dated to the post-medieval period. It is possible that the ditch which is part of the network depicted on the plan of Lee Place (Fig. 4) may have originally have formed part of a medieval moated enclosure which was remodelled in the 18th century to form a garden feature associated with 18th century Lee Place.

10.1.5 What evidence is there for post-medieval activity on the site?

All the activity on site was dated to the post-medieval period. The investigation found evidence of a massive 18th century ditch which ran east-west roughly parallel to the line of Lee High Road. Only the south side of the ditch was exposed, it had been supported by the addition of stout timber planking nailed to raked wooden uprights. The precise function of the ditch is at present unclear. It might have once formed a moat around a manor house or could represent a relief channel for water draining from the hillside located to the north into the river Quaggy, it may have fulfilled both of these functions.

10.2 Revised Research questions

Initial analysis of the archaeological evidence from the site and assessment of the artefacts has generated additional research questions.

10.2.1 What is the nature of the large east-west feature revealed on the site?

10.2.2 Is it possible that the feature may originally have been part of a medieval moated manor house?

10.2.3 Is there any documentary evidence of a manor house predating the construction of Lee Place that could have been associated with the large ditch?

10.2.4 Is the ditch associated with a tributary of the Quaggy?

11 Importance of the Results And Publication Proposal

11.1 The archaeological investigation revealed evidence of a previously unknown ditch or watercourse which may have been either part originally of a moated enclosure later turned into a garden water feature or a part of a drainage cut to channel water off the hill.

11.2 It is proposed that the results of the site are published either in a local outlet or London Archaeologist. The publication would cover the following topics:

- Background to the archaeological investigation
- Archaeological and historical background
- Archaeological sequence concentrating on the large ditch
- Finds and environmental evidence will be incorporated into the main text
- Discussion of the nature of the find and its context
- The report will be illustrated with site drawings and historic maps and photographs

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13 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

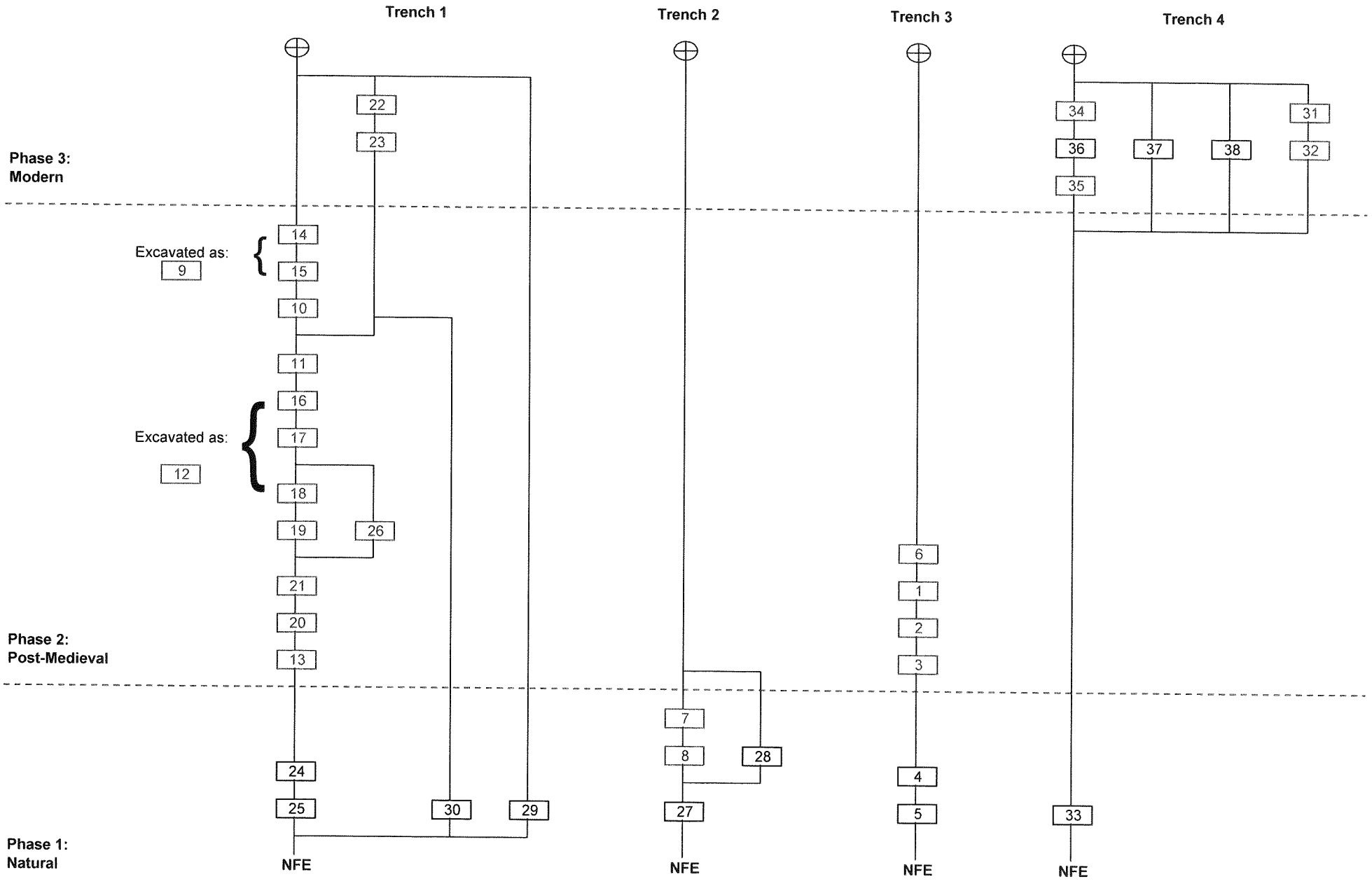
13.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited would like to thank Acorn Homes for commissioning the work. Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited would also like to thank the staff of Penfolds' Lewisham dealership for their cooperation in gaining access to the site and Mr Mark Stevenson of GLAAS for his support and encouragement throughout the evaluation and excavation.

13.2 The author would like to thank Veysel Apaydin and John Payne for their hard work on site, Lisa Lonsdale for her help with the logistics and machine hire, Tim Bradley for his project management. Gratitude is also expressed for the following finds specialists for their contributions to this report: Chris Jarrett for the post-Roman pottery and clay tobacco pipe, Berni Sudds for the building materials, Kevin Rielly for the animal bone, Becky Lythe for the shellfish remains, Sarah Carter for the glass, Chris Green, Rob Batchelor & D. Young of ArchaeoScape for the environmental assessment, together with Jenni Simonson and Hayley Baxter for the illustrations, Stuart Watson for undertaking the cartographic research, Streph Duckering for the photography and Jon Butler who edited the present report.

Appendix 1 Context Register

Context No.	Trench	Plan	Section / Elevation	Type	Description	Date	Phase	Site Code
1	Tr 3		1	Fill	Fill of [3]	Post-Med	2	LHG 08
2	Tr 3		1	Fill	Fill of [3]	Post-Med	2	LHG 08
3	Tr 3	Tr3	1	Cut	Possible channel	Post-Med	2	LHG 08
4	Tr 3	Tr3	1	Layer	Natural yellow clay with shells	Natural	1	LHG 08
5	Tr 3		1	Layer	Natural yellow clay with shells	Natural	1	LHG 08
6	Tr 3	Tr3	1	Fill	Fill of [3]	Post-Med	2	LHG 08
7	Tr 2	Tr2		Fill	Fill of [08]	Natural	1	LHG 08
8	Tr 2	Tr2		Cut	Natural depression	Natural	1	LHG 08
9	Tr 1		2	Fill	Upper fill of ditch [13]	Post-Med	2	LHG 08
10	Tr 1	Tr1px	2	Fill	Fill of ditch [13]	Post-Med	2	LHG 08
11	Tr 1	Tr1px	2	Fill	Fill of ditch [13]	Post-Med	2	LHG 08
12	Tr 1		2	Fill	Fill of ditch [13]	Post-Med	2	LHG 08
13	Tr 1	Tr1px	2	Cut	Massive ditch cut	Post-Med	2	LHG 08
14	Tr 1		2	Fill	Fill of [13], part of [9]	Post-Med	2	LHG 08
15	Tr 1		2	Fill	Fill of [13], part of [9]	Post-Med	2	LHG 08
16	Tr 1		2	Fill	Fill of [13], part of [12]	Post-Med	2	LHG 08
17	Tr 1		2	Fill	Fill of [13], part of [12]	Post-Med	2	LHG 08
18	Tr 1		2	Fill	Fill of [13], part of [12]	Post-Med	2	LHG 08
19	Tr 1	Tr1px	2	Fill	Fill of ditch [13]	Post-Med	2	LHG 08
20	Tr 1		2	Fill	Fill of ditch [13]	Post-Med	2	LHG 08
21	Tr 1	Tr1px	2	Timber	Revetting on south side of [13]	Post-Med	2	LHG 08
22	Tr 1	Tr1px	2	Fill	Fill of [23]	Post-Med	3	LHG 08
23	Tr 1	Tr1px	2	Cut	Construction cut for brick culvert	Post-Med	3	LHG 08
24	Tr 1	Tr1px	2	Layer	Natural grey clay with shells	Post-Med	1	LHG 08
25	Tr 1		2	Layer	Natural yellow clay with shells	Post-Med	1	LHG 08
26	Tr 1		2	Fill	Probable fill of ditch [13]	Post-Med	2	LHG 08
27	Tr 2	Tr2		Layer	Natural gravel mixed with clay	Post-Med	1	LHG 08
28	Tr 2	Tr2		Layer	Natural clay mixed with gravel	Post-Med	1	LHG 08
29	Tr 1	Tr1px		Layer	Natural brickearth	Post-Med	1	LHG 08
30	Tr 1	Tr1px		Layer	Natural gravel mixed with clay	Post-Med	1	LHG 08
31	Tr 4	Tr4		Fill	Fill of [32]	Post-Med	3	LHG 08
32	Tr 4	Tr4		Cut	Unexcavated service trench	Post-Med	3	LHG 08
33	Tr 4	Tr4		Layer	Natural gravel mixed with clay	Post-Med	3	LHG 08
34	Tr 4	Tr4		Fill	Fill of [35]	Post-Med	3	LHG 08
35	Tr 4	Tr4		Cut	Construction cut for pier [36]	Post-Med	3	LHG 08
36	Tr 4	Tr4		Masonry	Brick pier	Post-Med	3	LHG 08
37	Tr 4	Tr4		Masonry	Brick pier	Post-Med	3	LHG 08
38	Tr 4	Tr4		Masonry	Brick base	Post-Med	3	LHG 08

APPPENDIX 2: STRATIGRAPHIC MATRICES
Trenches 1-4



Appendix 3 Pottery Assessment

By Chris Jarrett

INTRODUCTION

A small sized assemblage of pottery was recovered from the site (one box). Very few sherds show evidence for abrasion, but the assemblage is mostly fragmentary and therefore secondary and tertiary deposition is probably represented. Despite the fragmentary nature of the pottery there are identifiable forms, some with complete profiles. Pottery was recovered from four contexts and individual deposits produced small groups of pottery (under 30 sherds).

All the pottery (25 sherds and none are unstratified) was examined macroscopically and microscopically using a binocular microscope (x20), and recorded in an ACCESS database, by fabric, form, decoration, sherd count and estimated number of vessels. The classification of the pottery types is according to the Museum of London Archaeological Service. All the pottery is post-medieval in date and is discussed by types and its distribution.

THE POTTERY TYPES

Local coarse red earthenware

London-area post-medieval redware (PMR), 1580-1900, 21 sherds, forms: bowl or dish, flowerpot.

Stonewares

English stoneware with Bristol-glaze (ENGS BRST), 1830-1900, one sherd, form: cylindrical (jam) jar.

Imports

Chinese porcelain with blue and white decoration (CHPO BW), 1580-1900, one sherd, forms: saucer.
German Frechen stoneware (FREC), 1550-1700, one sherd, forms: jug.
Westerwald stoneware (WEST), 1590-1900, one sherd, form: unidentified.

DISTRIBUTION

The distribution of the pottery is shown in table 1.

Context	No. of Sherds	Date range of Pottery types	Latest pottery type date range	Pottery types present	Spot Date
9	4	1580-1900	1830-1900	ENGS BRST, FREC, PMR.	1830-1900

Context	No. of Sherds	Date range of Pottery types	Latest pottery type date range	Pottery types present	Spot Date
10	2	1580-1900	1580-1900	PMR (bowl or dish and flower pot)	1580-1900
11	2	1580-1900	1590-1900	CHPO, WEST	18th C.
12	17	1580-1900	1580-1900	PMR (flower pot)	1580-1900/MID 17th C.+

Table 1. LHG08, distribution of pottery showing the number of sherds, date range of the pottery types, the pottery types present and the suggested deposition spot date for the context.

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE COLLECTION

The pottery is of little significance at a local and national level. The ceramics were derived from probable on site activity. The pottery also reflects the post-medieval ceramic trend for the London area.

POTENTIAL

The pottery has the potential to date the features in which it was found and to provide a sequence for them. None of the vessels merit photographing or illustration.

RESEARCH AIMS

No research aims are suggested as avenues for further research.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FURTHER WORK

There are no recommendations for further work. If a publication is required, then information should be taken from this report.

Appendix 4 Clay Tobacco Pipe Assessment

By Chris Jarrett

INTRODUCTION

A small sized assemblage of clay tobacco pipes was recovered from the site (1 box). Most fragments are in a fairly good condition, indicating that they had not been subject to much redeposition or were deposited soon after breakage. Clay tobacco pipes occur in two contexts as small groups (under 30 fragments) in contexts.

All the clay tobacco pipes (three fragments, of which none are unstratified) were recorded in an ACCESS database and classified by Atkinson and Oswald's (1969) typology (AO) and 18th-century examples by Oswald's (1975) typology and prefixed OS. The pipes are further coded by decoration and quantified by fragment count. The degree of milling has been noted and recorded in quarters, besides the quality of finish. The tobacco pipes are discussed by their types and distribution.

THE CLAY TOBACCO PIPE TYPES

The clay tobacco pipe assemblage from the site consists of one bowl and two stems.

1700-40

OS10: one bowl, marked F or E O and no pipe makers are at present documented for this period with either possibility for these initials.

DISTRIBUTION

Table 1 shows the distribution of the clay tobacco pipes, showing the number of fragments, the date range of the types and the latest bowl, the types of bowls present, together with a spot date for each context tobacco pipes occur in. The clay tobacco pipes are found in phase 2.

Context	No. Of fragments	Date range of bowl types	Latest dated bowl type	Bowl types (and makers)	Spot date
11	2			Stems	19th C?
12	1	1700-1740	1700-1740	X1 os10	1700-1740

Table 1. LHG08. Distribution of clay tobacco pipes.

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE COLLECTION

The clay tobacco pipes have little significance at a local level. There is no evidence for clay tobacco pipe production amongst the assemblage.

POTENTIAL

The clay tobacco pipes have the potential to date the contexts they were found in. None of the pipes require illustration. There is some evidence for the typological development of the different type of bowls in the site stratigraphy.

RESEARCH AIMS

No research aims are suggested for further avenues of research.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FURTHER WORK

There are no recommendations for further work. If a publication is required, then information should be taken from this report.

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Appendix 5 Building Materials Assessment

By Berni Sudds

Total number of boxes: 2.
Total weight: 7100g
Total number or contexts producing building material: 6

INTRODUCTION AND METHODOLOGY

A small assemblage of brick, paving brick and roof tile was recovered from excavations at 215-217 Lee High Road dating entirely to the post-medieval period. A date range of the material in each context and a suggested date of deposition is presented below in Table 1 (Appendix 1). The material is fragmented and in mixed condition.

The building materials were examined using the London system of classification. A fabric number is allocated to each object, specifying its composition, form, method of manufacture and approximate date range. Examples of the fabrics can be found in the archives of PCA and/or the Museum of London. The material was examined under magnification (x20) and quantified by number, measured and weighed. Fabric identifications remain provisional. A database cataloguing these attributes has been generated using Microsoft Access.

THE ASSEMBLAGE

Post-medieval brick and paving/ drain brick

The small number of brick fragments recovered can all be well-paralleled in the London region. Both pre- and post-Great Fire unfrogged stock bricks are evident, the former (fabric 3033) generally abraded and probably redeposited and the latter (fabric 3032) unfrogged with creased faces pre-dating the early to mid 19th century. Two bricks in a transitional fabric, thought to fall between but overlap with these successive fabrics (fabric 3032nr3033), were also recovered from the lower fills of ditch [13]. The latter are dated from c.1664 to 1725 AD although the uneven base and sunken margins of the near complete example from fill [11] might suggest it was manufactured before c.1700.

A complete Dutch paving brick (fabric 3036), dating to the 17th or 18th century, was also recovered from the upper fill of ditch [13] and another drain or paving brick (fabric 3047) from the deposit beneath. The former is a small buff coloured brick resembling stone. Bricks of this type were imported from Holland to London in large numbers predominantly during the 17th and early 18th century, frequently used on edge as paving or in other features, including fireplaces. The other possible paving brick has a slightly broader date range produced from the late 17th to 19th century but is probably

contemporary with the remainder of the material from the ditch. The fabric resembles the pre-Great Fire local brick 3033 but the bricks are thinner and far more regular with sharp arrises and moulding sand to all surfaces. These bricks were used for a number of purposes, primarily for paving and in drains. The wear demonstrated on the example from site might suggest it was used for paving prior to being deposited in the ditch.

Post-medieval roof tile

The roof tile also occurs in fabrics common to the London region, namely 2276, 2586, 2816 and 3090. Fabrics 2586, 2816 and 3090 date from c.1180/1200 to 1800 but manufacture and the use of fine moulding sand suggest the examples from site post-date 1500. Fabric 2276 dates from c.1480 to 1900, but as with all of the roof tile recovered is likely to date to the 17th or 18th century, contemporary with the remainder of the assemblage from site. Where diagnostic the roof tile is of the peg type.

DISTRIBUTION

Trenches 2 and 3 produced broadly dated post-medieval peg tile from the fill of channel [3] and natural depression [8].

The bulk of the assemblage was collected from the backfill of ditch [13] in Trench 1. Broadly dated post-medieval roof tile was recovered from the lower fills ([11] & [12]) but in addition to transitional bricks in fabric 3032nr3033 manufactured during late 17th or early 18th century. At least one of these has evidently been re-used, however, so a later date is possible. More roof tile was recovered from the upper fills but a late 17th to 18th century date is suggested by the combined presence of an unfrogged post-Great Fire stock brick, Dutch paving brick and an oxidised regular paving or drain brick in fabric 3047.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The material recovered from site can be largely well-paralleled in the London region and as non-structural provides little more than background evidence that an early post-medieval structure or structures were located in the vicinity, elements of which are likely to have dated to the late 17th to 18th century. Consequently, no further analysis is recommended.

APPENDIX 1

Context	Date range of material		Latest dated material		Suggested date of deposition
1	1200	1800	1200	1800	16th – 18th century
7	1200	1800	1200	1800	16th – 18th century
9	1180	1900	1666	1900	Late 17th to 18th century
10	1200	1900	1680	1900	Late 17th to 18th century
11	1180	1900	1664	1725	Late 17th – early 18th century
12	1664	1725	1664	1725	Late 17th – early 18th century

Table 1: Dating table. List of contexts containing ceramic building material and provisional spot date.

Appendix 6 Animal Bone Assessment

By Kevin Rielly

INTRODUCTION

Excavations revealed the remains of a large east-west ditch running parallel to the main high road. An 18th century manor house was previously situated in this area and the main building Lee House, was located just to the north of the old main road. The large ditch may represent a section of a moat or drainage system associated with this structure.

DESCRIPTION OF THE ANIMAL BONES

Just two bones were recovered from this site, both arising from ditchfill [12], one of the deposits within the presumed southern moat. While the few potsherds from this context are rather diverse, the clay pipes give a more accurate date, between 1700 and 1740. The two bones are probably part of the same juvenile cattle skull, consisting of a temporal and a frontal fragment, the age indicated by the porosity of these bones as well as the state of fusion of the various sutures. The latter fragment has been split along the frontal suture as well as showing grazing chop marks in the area of the horncore. Such cuts represent removal of the brain and skinning marks respectively. The size of the bones are relatively large considering its age, which may suggest it is either from an improved breed, or it may be a male, possibly a bull. The latter explanation may be more likely, as such improved domestic animals tend not to be shown in the archaeological record until somewhat later in the post-medieval period. Here following the mid to late 18th century agricultural reforms in animal management and breeding undertaken by gentlemen farmers as Robert Bakewell (1725-95) (see Davis 1987, 188). These bones almost certainly represent a veal calf, a meat that became increasingly more popular in Britain, following the importance of the cattle dairy industry from the late medieval period (Albarella 1997, 22). This is clearly shown in London where documentary evidence from the late 1500s states that the butchers at Cheapside were selling some 1,700 to 1,800 veal carcasses every Saturday (Rixson 2000, 172).

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FURTHER WORK

The conclusions detailed above should be included in any forthcoming publication. No further work is recommended for these few bones.

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Appendix 7 Glass Assessment

By Sarah Carter

Only 11 fragments of glass were recovered from the site. All are fragments from wine bottles and date to the late 18th–19th century.

CONTEXT	NO FRAGS	COLOUR	FORM	COMMENTS	DATE
10	1	green	bottle	wine bottle fragment	18th - 19th C
11	3	green	bottle	3 necks and rims of wine bottles with string rims	L18th - E19th C
11	6	green	bottle	wine bottle fragments	18th - 19th C
11	1	green	bottle	wine bottle base fragment	18th - 19th C

Table 1: Distribution of glass

Potential and recommendations

There are no recommendations for future work on the glass for this site

Appendix 8 Environmental Assessment

By C.P. Green, C.R. Batchelor and D. Young
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INTRODUCTION

This report summarises the findings arising out of the environmental archaeological assessment undertaken by *ArchaeoScape™* associated with the proposed development at 215-217 Lee High Road, London Borough of Lewisham, (National Grid Reference: TQ 394 751; Site Code: LHG08). Two column samples and (<2> and <3>) and four bulk samples (<1>, <4>, <5> and <6>) were recovered from Trench 1 during recent archaeological investigations at the site undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited (PCA Ltd) for environmental archaeological assessment, and possible future analysis.

The overarching aim of the environmental archaeological assessment was to evaluate the potential of the sedimentary sequence for reconstructing the environmental history of the site and its environs. In order to achieve this aim, the environmental archaeological assessment consisted of:

1. Recording the lithostratigraphy of column samples (<2> and <3>) to provide a preliminary reconstruction of the sedimentary history
2. Assessment of the preservation and concentration of pollen grains and spores (column samples <2> and <3>) to provide a preliminary reconstruction of the vegetation history, and to detect evidence for human activities
3. Assessment of the preservation and concentration of diatom frustules (column samples <2> and <3>) to provide a preliminary reconstruction of the hydrological history e.g. water quality and depth
4. Assessment of the preservation and concentration of macroscopic plant remains (waterlogged and charred seeds and wood) and insect remains (from bulk samples <1>, <4>, <5> and <6>) to provide a preliminary reconstruction of the vegetation history and general environmental context of the site.

GEOLOGICAL CONTEXT

The site is in the valley of the Quaggy River, a right-bank tributary of the Ravensbourne, itself a right-bank tributary of the River Thames, confluent with the Thames near Greenwich. The topography of the site is interesting. The ground level at the site is between 16m and 17m OD, but immediately to the south of the site the ground rises above 20m OD, The 20m contour encloses a small area of slightly higher ground that separates the site from the modern course of the Quaggy. Lower ground to the south of this low hill is occupied by the valley floor of the Quaggy which loops southward around the higher ground. Lower ground to the north of the low hill, including the present site is now occupied by Lee High Road but could be seen as a possible former course of the Quaggy, alternative to or supplementary to the southward loop of the present course.

The site is underlain by the sands and clays of the Palaeocene Lambeth Group, represented here by the Woolwich Beds (British Geological Survey 1:50,000 Sheet 270 South London 1998). The Woolwich Beds have been described from sites in this area (e.g Whitaker 1874) as alternating beds of sand and clay with several horizons rich in mollusc remains, including oyster and Corbicula (formerly Cyrena). The presence of 'race' (calcareous concretions) is also recorded. The higher ground to the north of the site, rising towards Blackheath, and the low hill to the south of the site are capped by the pebbly sands of the Harwich Formation (formerly Blackheath Beds). The valley floor of the Quaggy is underlain by deposits assigned by the British Geological Survey to the Kempton Park Gravel, but probably more realistically representing deposits of the Quaggy ranging in age from the Mid Devensian, or earlier, to the present day. No superficial geological deposits are mapped by the British Geological Survey beneath the present site.

METHODS

Lithostratigraphic descriptions

The lithostratigraphy of the two column samples (Tables 1 and 2) was described in the laboratory using standard procedures for recording unconsolidated sediment, noting the physical properties (colour), composition (gravel, sand, clay, silt and organic matter) and inclusions (e.g. artefacts). The procedure involved: (1) cleaning the samples with a spatula or scalpel blade and distilled water to remove surface contaminants; (2) recording the physical properties, most notably colour using a Munsell Soil Colour Chart; (3) recording the composition; gravel, fine sand, silt and clay, and (4) recording the unit boundaries e.g. sharp or diffuse.

Pollen assessment

Seven sub-samples were extracted from column samples <2> and <3> for pollen assessment. The pollen was extracted as follows: (1) sampling a standard volume of sediment (1ml); (2) deflocculation of the sample in 1% Sodium pyrophosphate; (3) sieving of the sample to remove coarse mineral and organic fractions (>125µ); (4) acetolysis; (5) removal of finer minerogenic fraction using Sodium polytungstate (specific gravity of 2.0g/cm^3); (6) mounting of the sample in glycerol jelly. Each stage of the procedure was preceded and followed by thorough sample cleaning in filtered distilled water. Quality control is maintained by periodic checking of residues, and assembling sample batches from various depths to test for systematic laboratory effects. Pollen grains and spores were identified using the Royal Holloway (University of London) pollen type collection and the following sources of keys and photographs: Moore *et al* (1991); Reille (1992). Plant nomenclature follows the Flora Europaea as summarised in Stace (1997). The assessment procedure consisted of scanning the prepared slides at 2mm intervals along the whole length of the coverslip and recording the concentration and state of preservation of pollen grains and spores, and the principal pollen taxa (Table 3).

Diatom assessment

Seven sub-samples were extracted from column samples <2> and <3> for assessment of diatoms. The diatom extraction involved the following procedures (Battarbee *et al.,* 2001):

1. Treatment of the sub-sample (0.2g) with Hydrogen peroxide (30%) to remove organic material and Hydrochloric acid (50%) to remove remaining carbonates
2. Centrifuging the sub-sample at 1200 for 5 minutes and washing with distilled water (4 washes)
3. Removal of clay from the sub-samples in the last wash by adding a few drops of Ammonia (1%)
4. Two slides prepared, each of a different concentration of the cleaned solution, were fixed in mounting medium of suitable refractive index for diatoms (Naphrax)

The assessment procedure consisted of scanning the prepared slides at 2mm intervals along the whole length of the coverslip and recording the concentration and state of preservation of diatoms, and the principal diatom taxa (Table 4).

Bulk sample assessment (plant macrofossils)

Four bulk samples were processed for the assessment of waterlogged and charred plant macrofossils (seeds and wood). The bulk samples were wet-sieved using 300 micron and 1mm mesh sizes. The residues were scanned using a low power zoom-stereo microscope and identifications made using keys, photographs and reference collections at Royal Holloway (Table 5). Plant nomenclature follows Stace (1997).

RESULTS AND INTERPRETATION OF THE LITHOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

Two overlapping column samples were obtained, representing the infill of the partially revetted ditch/channel [13] and, at the base, the presumed natural bedrock into which the feature was cut.

At the base of the sequence in column sample <2>, two units are recorded between 13.97m and 14.09m OD, representing contexts [25] and [24], recorded in the field as, respectively, 'natural clay and shells' and 'natural deposit'. They comprise greyish brown passing down to dark yellowish brown silty clays with common shell fragments. Also present are small (<10mm) chalky calcareous particles. Bearing in mind the considerable distance from the nearest Chalk outcrop (*ca.*10km) and the recorded presence of calcareous concretions ('race') in the Woolwich Beds, which form the bedrock beneath the site, it seems likely that these chalky inclusions are 'race' and that these two units represent the bedrock Woolwich Beds, or alluvial sediments derived directly from them.

Overlying Unit 2 of column sample <2>, with a sharp contact (cut [13]) is the brown to dark brown silty clay of Unit 3 - context [18]. This was described in the field as black silt oxidising to brown and containing remains of large freshwater bivalves. Shell debris was recorded in the column sample and surviving patches of black sediment were also recorded which appeared to be plant-rich relative to the surrounding oxidised material. Root remains were present at this level.

The upper part of context [18] was represented in column sample <3>. The overlying context [16] could not be distinguished in the column sample and the two contexts together form Unit 1 of sample

<3>. The sediment sequence passes up through a diffuse boundary into Unit 2 of sample <3> representing context [11]. This context is distinguished by its darker colour - very dark greyish brown, coarser texture, including sand and gravel, and more obvious organic content, including shell debris, detrital wood and herbaceous remains.

Table 1: Lithostratigraphic description of column sample <2>, 215-217 Lee High Road, London Borough of Lewisham (LHG08)

Depth (m OD)	Depth from surface (m)	Context number	Description
14.52 to 14.16	0 to 0.36	[18	7.5YR 4/2 to 3/2; As3, Ag1, shell fragments+, rootlets+; Brown to dark brown silty clay with shell fragments and rootlet inclusions, with patches of 10YR 2/1; As3, Sh1; Black organic-rich clay; sharp contact into:
14.16 to 14.09	0.36 to 0.43	[24]/[25]	10YR 5/2; As1, Ag1, chalk fragments1, shell fragments 1; Greyish brown silty clay rich in chalk and shell fragments; diffuse contact into:
14.09 to 13.97	0.43 to 0.55	[25]	10YR 4/4; As2, Ag1, shell fragments 1, chalk fragments+; Yellowish brown silty clay rich in shell fragments with chalk inclusions

Table 2: Lithostratigraphic description of column sample <3>, 215-217 Lee High Road, London Borough of Lewisham (LHG08)

Depth (m OD)	Depth from surface (m)	Context number	Description
15.02 to 14.72	0 to 0.30	(11)	10YR 3/2; As3, Ag1, Ga+, shell fragments+, Dl+, Dh+, Gg+; Very dark greyish brown silty clay with sand, gravel, shell fragment, detrital wood and herb inclusions, with patches of 10YR 2/1; As3, Sh1; Black organic-rich clay; diffuse contact into:
14.72 to 14.47	0.30 to 0.55	(16)/(18)	7.5YR 4/2 to 3/2; As3, Ag1, shell fragments+, rootlets+; Brown to dark brown silty clay with shell fragments and rootlet inclusions, with patches of 10YR 2/1; As3, Sh1; Black organic-rich clay.

RESULTS AND INTERPRETATION OF THE POLLEN ASSESSMENT

Seven sub-samples were extracted from the column samples <2> and <3> for pollen assessment (Table 3). The results of the pollen assessment indicate generally moderate pollen concentrations throughout contexts [11], [16] and [18], but no pollen was preserved in samples from in contexts [24] and [25]. Pollen preservation was very good. In contexts [11] and [16] the pollen assemblage was dominated by herbaceous taxa including Poaceae (grass family), *Cereale* type (e.g. Barley), *Artemisia* (mugwort), Lactuceae (Daisy family), and Sinapis type (e.g. Charlock), with sporadic tree and shrub taxa including Tilia (lime), Ulmus (elm) and Hedera (ivy). This assemblage indicates a relatively open environment, modified by human activity, with occasional trees and shrubs. In context [18], the pollen assemblage is dominated by a greater proportion of herbaceous taxa including: Poaceae (grasses), Apiaceae (carrot family), *Plantago lanceolata* (Ribwort plantain), *Cereale* type (e.g. Barley) and *Sinapis* type (e.g. Charlock). Tree and shrub taxa were near absent, while the presence of *Myriophyllum* type (water milfoil) indicates the local presence of water.

Table 3: Pollen-stratigraphic assessment, 215-217 Lee High Road, London Borough of Lewisham (CLQ08)

Depth (m OD) From	To	Depth (m from surface) From	To	Context number	Column	Main pollen taxa	Common name	Concentration 0 (none) to 4 (high)	Preservation 0 (none) to 4 (excellent)
14.93	14.92	0.09	0.10	[11]	<3>	Poaceae *Cereale* type *Tilia* *Ulmus* cf *Hedera* Unknown	Grass family e.g. Barley Lime Elm Ivy	2-3	3
14.77	14.76	0.25	0.26	[11]	<3>	Poaceae cf *Artemisia* Unknown/obscured	Grass family Mugwort	1	3
14.61	14.60	0.41	0.42	[16]	<3>	cf *Sinapis* Poaceae cf *Cereale* type Lactuceae *Quercus* *Betula*	e.g. Charlock Grass family e.g. Barley Daisy family Oak Birch	2	3
14.46	14.45	0.06	0.07	[18]	<2>	Poaceae Apiaceae Cf *Hedera* *Plantago lanceolata* *Ranunculus* type	Grass family Carrot family Ivy Ribwort plantain e.g. Creeping buttercup	2-3	3-4
14.3	14.29	0.22	0.23	[18]	<2>	Poaceae *Hedera* cf *Cereale* type *Sinapis* type *Myriophyllum* type	Grass family Ivy e.g. Barley e.g. Charlock e.g. Water milfoil	2-3	3
14.14	14.13	0.38	0.39	[24]	<2>			0	0
13.98	13.97	0.54	0.55	[25]	<2>	Dinoflagellate cyst		0	0

RESULTS AND INTERPRETATION OF THE DIATOM ASSESSMENT

Seven sub-samples were extracted from the column samples <2> and <3> for assessment of diatom content (Table 4). The results of the diatom assessment indicate moderate to high diatom concentrations throughout contexts [11], [16] and [18], and very low concentrations in contexts [24] and [25]. The quality of diatom preservation in these samples is variable but most slides have moderately well preserved valves, but there is a great deal of valve breakage. This diatom valve breakage may have altered the diatom assemblages significantly (see Flower 1993; Ryves *et al.* 2001). The five slides from contexts [11], [16] and [18] have some potential for percentage diatom counting (with a lower total counting sum), or further diatom analysis.

Table 4: Diatom assessment, 215-217 Lee High Road, London Borough of Lewisham (CLQ08)

Depth (m OD)		Depth (m from surface)		Context number	Column Sample	Concentration 0 (none) to 4 (abundant)	Preservation 0 (none) to 4 (excellent)	Weight (g)
14.93	14.92	0.09	0.10	[11]	<3>	3	2-3	0.92
14.77	14.76	0.25	0.26	[11]	<3>	2-3	2	0.90
14.61	14.60	0.41	0.42	[16]	<3>	3-4	3	0.97
14.46	14.45	0.06	0.07	[18]	<2>	3-4	2-3	0.95
14.3	14.29	0.22	0.23	[18]	<2>	4	3	0.98
14.14	14.13	0.38	0.39	[24]	<2>	0	0	0.93
13.98	13.97	0.54	0.55	[25]	<2>	1-2	1-2	0.93

RESULTS AND INTERPRETATION OF THE PLANT MACROFOSSIL ASSESSMENT

Four bulk samples were processed (samples <1>, <4>, <5> and <6>) for assessment of the waterlogged and charred plant macrofossils (Table 4). Samples were void of all charred and waterlogged material except in sample <6> where a low proportion of waterlogged wood was recorded. Molluscs were recorded in low to moderate concentrations in samples <1>, <5> and <6>. Monocots were recorded in low to moderate concentrations in samples <1>, <4> and <5> and moderate to high concentrations in sample <6>. A single bone fragment was recorded in sample <6>.

1 Table 5: Bulk sample assessment, 215-217 Lee High Road, London Borough of Lewisham (CLQ08)

Sample number	Context number	Volume (L)	Fraction	Waterlogged		Charred		Mollusca	Monocots	Bone
				Wood	Seeds	Wood	Seeds			
<1>	[2]	1	>300µm	-	-	-	-	2	1	-
			>1mm	-	-	-	-	2	2	-
<4>	[24]	1	>300µm	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
			>1mm	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
<5>	[25]	1	>300µm	-	-	-	-	2	2	-
			>1mm	-	-	-	-	1	1	-
<6>	[18]	1	>300µm	-	-	-	-	2	4	-
			>1mm	2	-	-	-	2	4	1

Key:

1 =	1 to 25	2 =	26 to 50	3 =	51 to 75	4 =	76 to 100

DISCUSSION, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

At the base of the sequence in column sample <2>, two units were recorded between 13.97m and 14.09m OD, representing contexts [25] and [24], recorded in the field as, respectively, 'natural clay and shells' and 'natural deposit'. They comprised greyish brown passing down to dark yellowish brown silty clays with common shell fragments and small (<10mm) chalky calcareous particles (most likely 'race'). It seems likely that these two units represent the bedrock Woolwich Beds, or alluvial sediments derived directly from them. These units were truncated by a ditch/channel [13], which has been assigned on the basis of archaeological evidence to the post-medieval period, probably no earlier than the 18th century. The infill sediments (contexts [18], [16] and [11]), are free from visible anthropogenic material (in the column samples), so, although artefacts were recovered from the sediment during excavation, the feature in which the sediment accumulated does not seem to have been very close to an area of domestic or industrial activity or to have served as a regular repository for waste from such sources. The dimensions of the feature, with an observed maximum extent of at least 5.7m, indicate a fairly large body of water and this is confirmed by the presence of large freshwater bivalves in the lower part of the infill. All British lowland species of large bivalve display a preference for large water bodies, and are rare or absent in smaller ones. Several are chiefly encountered in flowing water and rare or unknown in enclosed lakes or ponds. The fine-grained, predominantly silty and clayey nature of the sediment comprising contexts [18] and [16] suggests that the water from which they were deposited was either still or very slow moving and that there was little disturbance of the adjacent land surface to provide a supply of coarser detritus. In the sediment forming context [11] coarser detritus is present including sand and gravel, wood and other visible plant remains, suggesting a change in the style of land management in the area surrounding the water body, or in the management of the water body itself.

The pollen and diatom records indicate generally moderate concentration and preservation through contexts [18], [16] and [11], but were not recorded in contexts [24] and [25]. During these periods the pollen record indicates that, herbaceous taxa dominated including grasses, cereals, ribwort plantain and members of the daisy and carrot family, indicating an open environment modified by human activity. The only definitive indication for the nearby presence of water was the occurrence of water milfoil pollen. Waterlogged and charred plant macrofossils were absent in nearly all samples. Molluscs were also recorded in low to moderate concentrations in samples <1>, <5> and <6>. It is recommended that further investigation of the mollusc and diatom species will provide important additional information about the depositional environment represented in these sediments.

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Appendix 9 Shellfish Assessment

By Rebecca Lythe

The following report outlines the results of the preliminary analysis of marine Mollusc remains from Lee High Road, London Borough of Lewisham. One complete shell and several fragments, representing a minimum of three individuals, were retained for the purpose of species identification.

The shells were recovered from context [12], the fill of a ditch. They were identified as fresh water mussels of the family Unionidae or Margaritiferidae.

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Appendix 10 OASIS FORM

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

OASIS ID: preconst1-40971

Project details

Project name	215-217 Lee High Road
Short description of the project	An evaluation and subsequent mitigation exercise found evidence of a massive 18th century ditch which ran east-west roughly parallel to the line of Lee High Road. Only the south side of the ditch was exposed, it had been supported by the addition of stout timber planking nailed to raked wooden uprights. The precise function of the ditch is at present unclear. It might have once formed a moat around a manor house or could represent a relief channel for water draining from the hillside located to the north into the river Quaggy, it may have fulfilled both of these functions.
Project dates	Start: 17-03-2008 End: 04-04-2008
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	LHG 08 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	Area of Archaeological Importance (AAI)
Current Land use	Industry and Commerce 4 - Storage and warehousing
Monument type	DITCH Post Medieval
Significant Finds	POT Post Medieval
Significant Finds	TILE Post Medieval
Significant Finds	CLAY PIPE Post Medieval
Significant Finds	BOTTLES Post Medieval
Methods &	'Environmental Sampling','Sample Trenches'

techniques

Development type	Urban residential (e.g. flats, houses, etc.)
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16
Position in the planning process	Not known / Not recorded

Project location

Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON LEWISHAM LEWISHAM AND BLACKHEATH 15-217 Lee High Road
Postcode	SE13 5PQ
Study area	785.00 Kilometres
Site coordinates	TQ 3941 7524 51.4584394216 0.00688188923840 51 27 30 N 000 00 24 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 15.69m Max: 15.89m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd
Project brief originator	English Heritage
Project design originator	Tim Bradley
Project director/manager	Tim Bradley / Chris Mayo
Project supervisor	Douglas Killock
Type of sponsor/funding body	Private company

Name of sponsor/funding body	Acorn Homes

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	LAARC
Physical Contents	'Animal Bones','Ceramics','Glass'
Digital Archive recipient	LAARC
Digital Media available	'Images raster / digital photography','Survey'
Paper Archive recipient	LAARC
Paper Media available	'Context sheet','Drawing','Matrices','Photograph','Plan','Report','Section','Survey','Unpublished Text'

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	An Archaeological Evaluation and Excavation at 215-217 Lee High Road, London SE13 5PQ, London Borough of Lewisham
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Douglas Killock
Date	2008
Issuer or publisher	Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd
Place of issue or publication	Brockley
Description	A4 report, blue cover

Entered by	jon butler (jbutler@pre-construct.com)
Entered on	21 August 2008