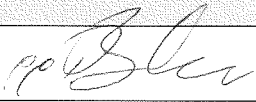



DOCUMENT VERIFICATION

HEDGLEY MEWS, LEE
LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

Quality Control

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Revision No.	Date	Checked	Approved

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**An Archaeological Watching Brief on Land at Hedgley Mews, Lee,
London Borough of Lewisham, SE12**

Site Code: HDL08

Central National Grid Reference: TQ 397 749

Written and Researched by J. Payne

Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited, July 2008

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July 2008

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1. ABSTRACT

1.1 This report details the results and working methods of an archaeological watching brief conducted prior to the commencement of the main ground works and immediately after demolition works, at Hedgley Mews, Lee, London Borough of Lewisham. The watching brief was commissioned by Latin Quarter Ltd and took place between the 2nd and the 7th July 2008.

1.2 The watching brief followed an approved Method Statement, agreed by English Heritage, which was prepared and issued by Tim Bradley, Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd. The excavation comprised two machine excavated trenches within the footprint of the proposed houses, forming a linear transect through the areas threatened by the proposed development.

1.3 These trenches revealed a general sequence of natural geological drift deposits overlain by subsoil and a buried topsoil of post-medieval date. Other evidence of later post-medieval activity was seen in the form of levelling deposits and cut features associated with the newly demolished buildings of later 19th century date. No archaeological features or finds pre-dating the 19th century were identified during the watching brief.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 An archaeological watching brief was undertaken at Hedgley Mews, Lee, London Borough of Lewisham, prior to the commencement of the main ground works and immediately after the demolition of the vacant workshops. This work was undertaken between the 2nd and the 7th July 2008 by Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited (Figure 1).
- 2.2 The site comprises a long and narrow east-west aligned strip of land, the northern boundary of which is formed by the rear of the properties which front Brightfield Road, whilst the southern boundary is formed by the rear of the properties which front Hedgley Street. Hedgley Street also forms the eastern boundary, from which the site accessed. The western boundary is formed by a property that fronts Brightfield Road. The site is centred on National Grid Reference TQ 397 749 (Figure 2).
- 2.3 The work was commissioned by Latin Quarter Ltd and was monitored by Mark Stevenson of English Heritage on behalf of the London Borough of Lewisham. The project was managed for Pre-Construct Archaeology by Tim Bradley and supervised by the author.
- 2.4 A unique site code, HDL08, was assigned to the site by the Museum of London.

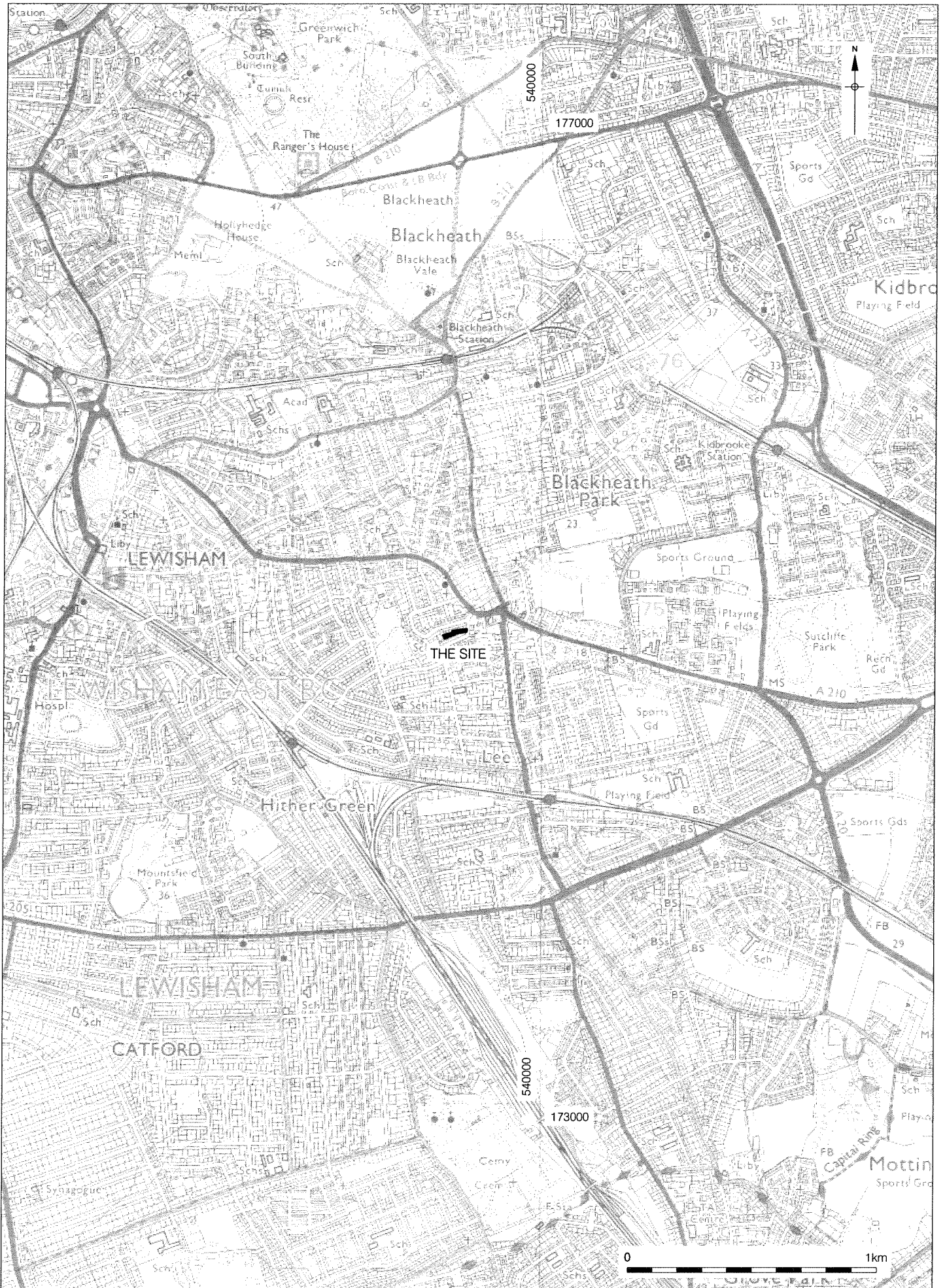
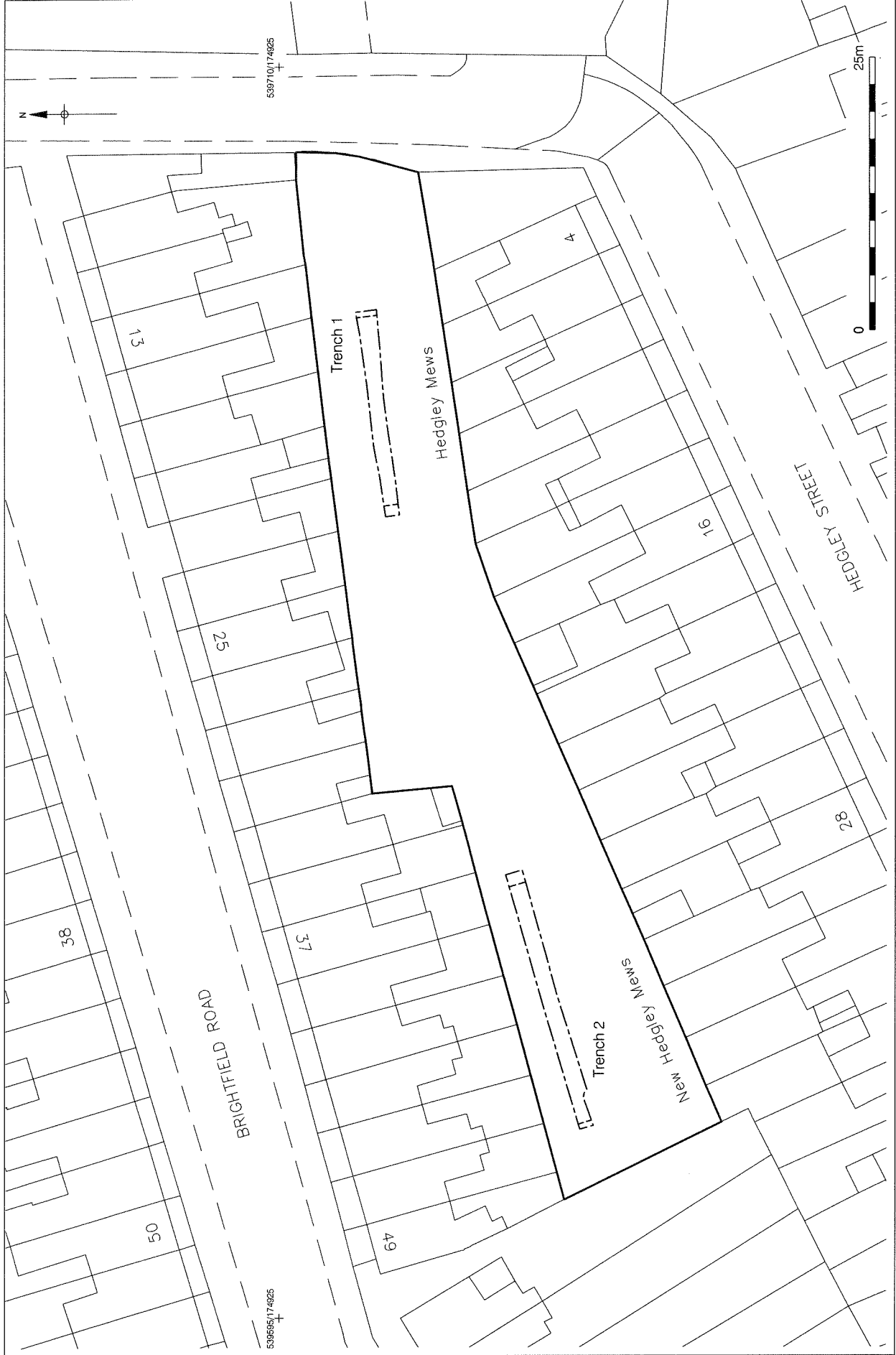


Figure 1
Site Location
1:20,000 at A4



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© Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd 2008

Figure 2
Trench Location
1:500 at A4

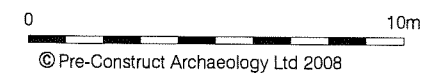
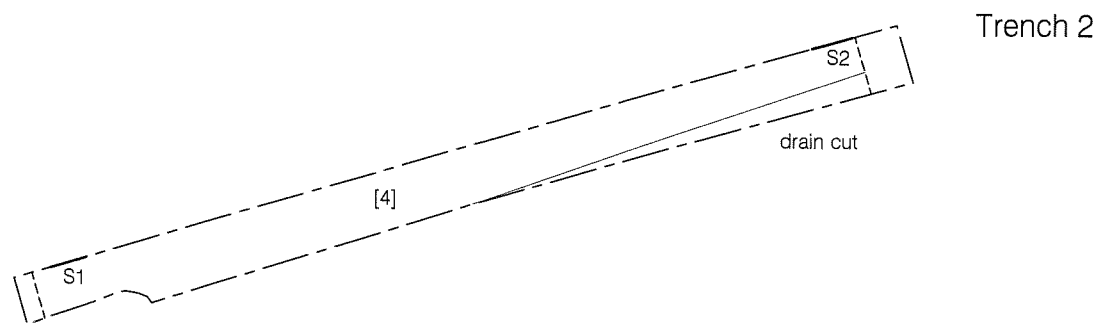
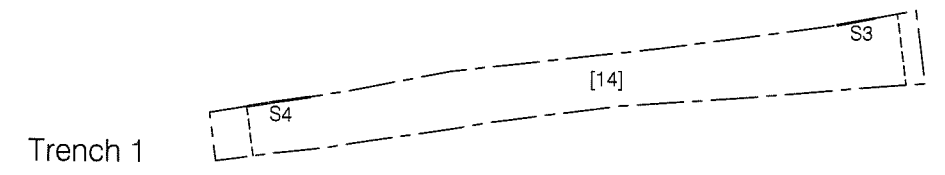


Figure 3
Trench 1 and 2
1:200 at A3

3 PLANNING BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Planning permission has been granted by Lewisham Borough Council for the demolition of a number of small workshops and construction of ten semi-basement single aspect houses.
- 3.2 The investigation aims to satisfy the objectives of London Borough of Lewisham, which fully recognises the importance of the built and buried heritage for which they are the custodians. The London Borough of Lewisham Unitary Development Plan (adopted July 2004) contains policy statements in respect of protecting the historical and archaeological resources.

URB 21 Archaeology

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 a 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.

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.

4 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

- 4.1 The Geological Survey of Great Britain 1:50 000 scale map of the area (Sheet 270, 'South London') suggests the site is underlain by the Quaternary Kempton Park Gravel River Terrace overlying fine grained glauconite quartz sands of the Tertiary Thanet Beds (George 1999; Thompson 2008).
- 4.2 The nearest watercourse is the River Quaggy, which flows from east to west. This is a tributary to the River Ravensbourne. The Quaggy is located approximately 65 metres to the north of the site and flows roughly parallel with the northern site boundary. The Quaggy has been prone to flooding since the medieval period, and since the early 20th century has been contained within an engineered concrete channel (Thompson 2008).
- 4.3 At present the site is relatively flat and is at around 15.00m OD. However evidence from this watching brief indicates that the underlying natural topography slopes down slightly from 14.72mOD at towards the west of the site to 14.53m OD at the eastern end of Trench 1.

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

5.1 GENERAL OVERVIEW

5.1.1 The archaeological and historical background outlined below is based on the earlier archaeological desk based assessment prepared by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd (Jorgenson/Taylor 2008) and published immediately prior to the commencement of this work. The findings of this earlier document are summarised below.

5.1.2 Prehistoric (450,000 BC – AD 43)

5.1.3 Although the gravel terraces of the River Thames have revealed plentiful archaeological evidence of prehistoric activity within Greater London, comparatively little has been identified within the area of Lee.

5.1.4 Mesolithic material, which includes a flint flake from 116 Manor Lane (MLO11365), a flint scraper from Handen Road (MLO1871) and a number of flint tools from Thornwood Road (MLO22954), have been found to the south and southeast of the site. This material was either residual within the later soil horizons or in the case of the Thornwood Road flints, within the gravel of the River Quaggy.

5.2 There are no recorded findspots for material dating to the Palaeolithic, Neolithic, Bronze Age or Iron Age on the SMR, within a search radius of 500 metres and from this evidence it would appear that the area was little utilised during these periods (MoLAS 2000; Thompson 2008).

5.3 Roman (AD 43 – 410)

5.3.1 It is known that the Thames gravel terraces were extensively farmed during the Roman. However despite this no evidence exists within the vicinity of the site to suggest that the surrounding area was settled during the Roman period, and no findspots dating to the Roman period were found within a 500m SMR search radius.

5.4 Anglo Saxon

- 5.4.1 The site is located within the Parish of Lee and the documentary sources indicate that a settlement existed here by at least the second half of the tenth century (Coulter 1994; Stabler 2001; Thompson 2008). However, despite the apparent Saxon origins of Lee, no archaeological evidence of settlement during the Saxon period is known and no find spots of Saxon date were made within a 500m SMR search radius.
- 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 a dispersed spread 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 The SMR search found evidence of a number of documented buildings within the vicinity of the site, which are thought to originate in the late medieval period. These consist of a moated manor to the north of Lee Place (MLO4021), a farmstead, dating to 1500, at Lee Green (MLO11377) and a similarly dated mansion house at Old Road to the north-east (MLO2009). In addition, 13th century pottery sherds have been retrieved to the north-west of the site at Old Road (MLO2009).

5.6 Post-Medieval

- 5.6.1 The area of Lee appears to have developed gradually and settlement within the area was still predominantly rural as late as the beginning of the 19th century (Thompson 2008). 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 area had acquired a reputation as a "desirable rural retreat for wealthy London merchants" (Weinreb & Hibbert, 1983).

- 5.6.2 SMR entries representing post-medieval activity in the vicinity of the site include New Manor Farm (MLO11381), Lee Manor Farm, which had a market garden during the early 19th century and later engaged in mixed farming until 1870, (MLO11888) and a 17th century red brick house, which included the moat of Annesley Gardens, (MLO16801). The SMR entries are located to the west of the study area are within Lee Manor Conservation Area: 2.
- 5.6.3 Recent archaeological investigations conducted by Pre-Construct Archaeology at 215-217 Lee High Road demonstrated “that an east-west aligned ditch over 5.70m wide and c. 1.75m deep ran roughly parallel to the course of the modern High Road. Initial impressions are that the backfilling of the feature did not begin before the 18th century”. It is thought possible that the ditch may represent part of a moat associated with the nearby manor house (MLO16801, Ref Bradley & Killock 2008).
- 5.6.4 The pace of residential development in Lee accelerated following the opening of a railway station 1856, heralded the first wave of large-scale suburbanisation (Weinreb & Hibbert 1983; Walford 1878), and redevelopment of the previously rural landscape that continues to define the area today.

6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

- 6.1 Because of the extended period over which the excavation of the building foundation trenches was to be undertaken (90 days), it was agreed with Mr Mark Stevenson, English Heritage, to excavate two trenches through the footprints of the proposed development prior to the commencement of the main ground works, providing a linear transect across the area of impact of the proposed development. The archaeological excavation of the proposed trenches was undertaken from 2nd to 7th July 2008, during the demolition and removal of the previous on site structures.
- 6.2 The objective of the watching brief was to identify in advance of the main building works the presence of any surviving archaeological remains and, if present, to excavate and record as necessary.
- 6.3 Two trenches, each measuring approximately 25m x 2m, were excavated using a tracked mechanical excavator that was supplied by the site clearance contractor; this was placed under archaeological supervision during the trench excavations. Loose and disturbed soils were removed and then the in-situ soils were excavated in 100mm spits until archaeological or natural horizons were encountered.
- 6.4 Individual descriptions of all archaeological and geological strata and features excavated and/or exposed were entered onto pro-forma recording sheets. All plans and sections of archaeological deposits were recorded on polyester based drawing film, the plans being drawn at a scale of 1:50 and the sections at 1:10. The single context recording system was used.
- 6.5 A temporary bench mark (TBM) was established at eastern end of the site. The depths of the deposits identified during the investigation were then measured using a dumpy level that was calibrated to the on site TBM.
- 6.6 A full photographic record was compiled during the archaeological investigations.

7 SUMMARY OF THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE

7.1 Summary

7.1.1 The excavation of both trenches revealed a sequence of natural gravel, natural sandy clay, and a buried post-medieval topsoil. Within the easternmost of the two trenches (Trench 1) a bioturbated sandy clay subsoil was also recognised. Additionally, within the easternmost of the two trenches (Trench 1), levelling and surface deposits associated with the newly demolished workshops were preserved in section and recorded. No archaeological features which pre-date the later post-medieval period were identified during the watching brief.

Trench Dimensions

7.1.2 Trench 1: - 19.00m E-W x 1.85 N-S. (Overall length reduced to avoid truncation caused by a large concrete a steel fuel tank located at the eastern end of the trench).

7.1.2 Trench 2: - 24.30m E-W x 1.85m N-S.

7.2 Trench 1

Trench 1 was located in the eastern half of the site and was aligned east-west. It was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.94m (14.53m OD).

7.2.1 The earliest deposit revealed was seen throughout the whole length of the trench and consisted of a moderately sorted loose mid brownish orange sandy clay and rounded pebbles [14]. The height for the top of this deposit, which sloped down towards the east, was between 14.72m to 14.53m OD. This deposit is likely to represent river terrace gravel, probably the Kempton Park gravel referenced in Section 4 of this report. This deposit, which was only partly excavated to a maximum depth of 0.14m, was recorded in Trench 2 as context [4].

7.2.2 Directly overlying this gravel was a friable mid brownish orange sandy clay [11] that contained frequent moderately sorted rounded pebbles. The deposit sloped down towards the east and had a maximum thickness of 0.30m. The surface level was between 15.02m to 14.80m OD. It was seen throughout the whole length of the trench. The formation process for this deposit is clearly natural, possibly gravel reworked through colluvial activity in the immediate post-glacial period.

- 7.2.3 Overlying layer [11] was a friable mid orangey brown sandy clay [10] that contained very occasional rounded pebbles. As with the underlying deposits, this deposit also sloped down towards the east. The deposit was seen throughout the whole length of the trench and had a maximum thickness of 0.13m and a highest level between 15.14 and 14.88m OD. This deposit is likely to represent a naturally derived subsoil deposit, probably formed through a combination of bioturbation and colluvial activity.
- 7.2.4 Sealing this subsoil was a 0.21m thick friable dark brownish grey sandy clay [7] that contained very occasional rounded pebbles. Although seen throughout the whole length of the trench this deposit became thinner through truncation towards the west. The surviving surface level was between 15.16 and 15.10m OD. This deposit is likely to represent a naturally derived topsoil deposit that probably postdates the c1863 construction phase on the site. Ceramics recovered from this deposit are of later 19th century date.
- 7.2.5 Directly overlying the topsoil was a friable mid yellowish brown sand [12] that contained occasional rounded pebbles. This deposit was only seen at the eastern end of the trench and extended westwards for approximately 10m. The maximum thickness was around 0.04m and the surface level between 15.15 and 15.12m OD. The deposit is thought to represent a deliberately lain levelling deposit, which is probably associated with the c1863 construction phase.
- 7.2.6 Overlying context [12] was a loose dark greyish black gritty sand and poorly sorted rounded pebbles [8], containing very occasional CBM and pottery fragments. This deposit was also only seen at the eastern end of the trench and also extended westwards for approximately 10m. The maximum thickness was around 0.09m and the surface level was between at 15.24 and 15.20m OD. The deposit is thought to represent further levelling deposit or badly worn gravel surface, probably associated with the c1863 construction phase. Ceramics recovered from this deposit are of post-medieval date.
- 7.2.7 Directly overlying deposit [8] was a friable mid brown sandy clay [13] that contained very frequent rounded pebbles. This deposit was only seen at the eastern end of the trench and extended westwards for approximately 8m. The maximum thickness was around 0.12m and the surface level between 15.32 and 15.30m OD. The deposit represents a make-up deposit for the most recent concrete surface.

7.2.8 The final deposit recorded in Trench 1 was a loose, mixed dark brown sandy clay and light grey concrete [9] that contained frequent pebbles. This deposit which was seen throughout the whole length of the trench had a surface level between 15.47 and 15.40m OD. and a thickness of around 0.15m. This deposit represents mixed demolition debris created by the ongoing demolition works.

7.3 Trench 2

7.3.1 Trench 2 was located in the western half of the site and was aligned east-west. It was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.84m (14.49m OD). Many of the soil deposits in this trench had suffered from severe truncation and were only seen at the extreme eastern end of the trench.

7.3.2 The earliest deposit revealed was seen throughout the whole length of the trench and consisted of a moderately sorted soft mid brownish orange sandy clay and rounded pebbles [4]. Although seen throughout the length of the trench the deposit was partly truncated towards the west. The height for the top of this deposit was between 14.70m to 14.58m OD. This deposit is likely to represent river terrace gravel, probably the Kempton Park gravel referenced earlier (Section 4, Geology and Topography). This deposit, which was partly excavated to a maximum depth of 0.17m, was also recorded in Trench 1 as context [14].

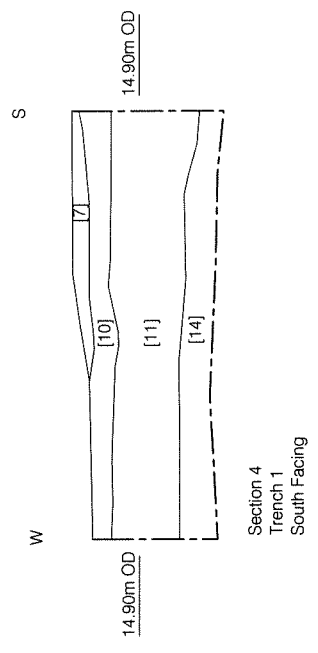
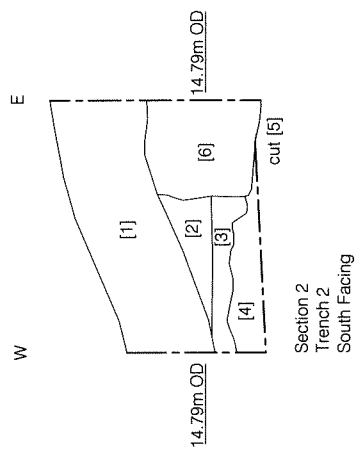
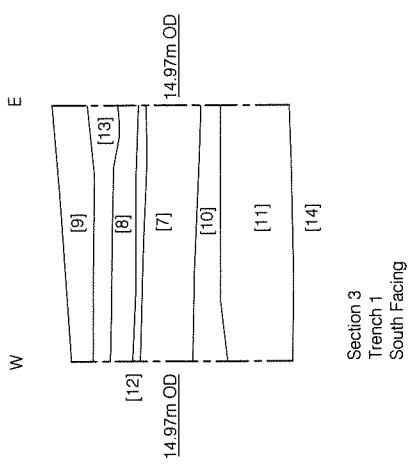
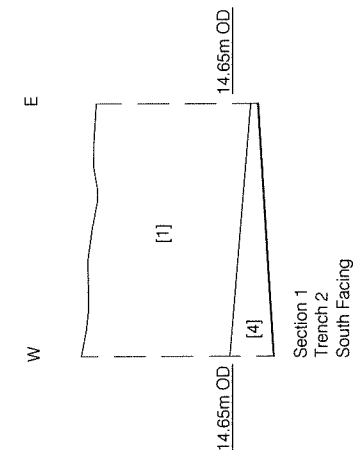
7.3.3 Directly overlying this gravel was a soft mid orangey brown sandy clay [3] with no visible inclusions. The deposit only survived at the eastern end of the trench for approximately 2m. It had a maximum thickness of 0.15m and the highest level was at 14.76m OD. The deposit is likely to represent a naturally derived soil, possibly a subsoil deposit similar to that seen in Trench 1 (context [10]). If this hypothesis is correct, the deposit is probably formed through a combination of bioturbation and colluvial activity.

7.3.4 Sealing this subsoil was a 0.21m thick friable dark brownish grey sandy clay [2] that contained moderate rounded pebble inclusions. The deposit only survived at the extreme eastern end of the trench for 0.53m east- west. The surviving surface level was between 14.98 and 14.76m OD. This deposit is likely to represent a naturally derived topsoil deposit, which probably postdates the c1863 construction phase. Ceramics and glass recovered from this deposit are of late post-medieval date.

7.3.5 Cutting this topsoil was a vertical sided, flat-based cut [5], which was only partly revealed in the eastern end of the trench. The dimensions as seen were 0.53m E-W x

1.80m N-S x 0.45m deep, and the single fill of consisted of mixed soils [6]. The top of the cut was at 14.98m OD whilst the base was at 14.57m OD. Its function is unclear, although it is clearly of modern date.

7.3.6 The final deposit recorded in Trench 2 was a loose, mixed dark brown sandy clay and light grey concrete [1] that contained frequent pebbles and mortar fragments. This deposit which was seen throughout the whole length of the trench had a surface level between 15.40 and 15.10m OD. and a thickness of around 0.60m. This deposit represents mixed demolition debris created by the ongoing site clearance works.



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Figure 4
Sample Sections 1-4
1:30 at A4

8 INTERPRETATION AND CONCLUSIONS

- 8.1 The excavation of the two trenches revealed a stratigraphic sequence comprising river terrace gravels with a surface level of between 14.72 to 14.53m OD overlain by a naturally derived soil of probable post-glacial origin with a surface level between 15.05 to 14.76m OD. Overlying this was a subsoil deposit with a surface level of between 15.14 to 14.76m OD. This deposit is likely to have formed through various differing processes over an extended period. Sealing this subsoil was a buried topsoil deposit that contained late post-medieval (later 19th century) ceramics. The surface level for this topsoil was between 15.16 to 14.76m OD. The remaining stratigraphic sequence seen within the trenches was clearly associated with, or later than the 19th century construction phase which first appears on maps dating from 1863.
- 8.2 Whilst it is clear that areas of the site still preserve an in-situ sequence of natural glacial soils, subsoil and 19th century buried topsoil, no pre-19th century archaeological features or artefacts were recovered during the archaeological investigations.

9 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 9.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited would like to thank Latin Quarter Ltd for commissioning the project. The work was monitored by Mark Stevenson of English Heritage on behalf of the London Borough of Lewisham.
- 9.2 The author would like to thank Tim Bradley for his project management and the ground crew for their on-site co-operation. Additional thanks go out to Jem Rogers of Pre-Construct Archaeology for assisting in establishing a site TBM. Thanks to Jenny Simonson and Josephine Brown for the illustrations.

10 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT INDEX

Context No	Trench No	Section No	Phase	Type	Discription
1	2	1 & 2	5	Layer	Mixed demolition material (modern)
2	2	2	3	Layer	Post-medieval soil horizon (same as [7])
3	2	2	1	Layer	Natural drift geology (same as [11])
4	2	1 & 2	1	Layer	Natural drift geology (same as [14])
5	2	2	4	Cut	Post-medieval construction cut, filled by [6]
6	2	2	4	Fill	Fill of cut [5]
7	1	3 & 4	3	Layer	Post-medieval soil horizon (same as [2])
8	1	3	4	Layer	Gravel surface (post-medieval)
9	1	3	5	Layer	Mixed demolition material (modern)
10	1	3 & 4	2	Layer	Subsoil deposit
11	1	3 & 4	1	Layer	Natural drift geology (same as [3])
12	1	3	4	Layer	Levelling deposit for siface [8]
13	1	3	4	Layer	Levelling deposit for modern concrete siface
14	1	3 & 4	1	Layer	Natural drift geology (same as [14])

Appendix 2: Site Matrix

	Trench 2	Trench 1
Phase 5 (modern disturbed soils)	1	9
Phase 4 (c 1863 deposits)		13
		8
	6	12
	5	
Phase 3 (post-medieval topsoil)	2	7
Phase 2 (subsoil)	3	10
Phase 1 (natural soils)		11
	4	14

12 APPENDIX 3: OASIS FORM

12.1 OASIS ID: preconst1-45803

Project details

Project name	An Archaeological Watching Brief on Land at Hedgley Mews, Lee, London Borough of Lewisham, SE12
Short description of the project	An Archaeological Watching Brief (two linear trenches) in advance of the redevelopment of the site. These trenches revealed a general sequence of natural geological drift deposits (Kempton Park Gravel) overlain by subsoil and a buried topsoil of post-medieval date. Other evidence of later post-medieval activity was seen in the form of levelling deposits and cut features associated with the newly demolished buildings of later 19th century date. No archaeological features or finds pre-dating the 19th century were identified during the watching brief.
Project dates	Start: 02-07-2008 End: 07-07-2008
Previous/future work	Yes / No
Type of project	Recording project
Site status (other)	Archaeological Priority Area
Current Land use	Vacant Land 1 - Vacant land previously developed
Significant Finds	POTTERY Post Medieval

Project location

Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON LEWISHAM LEWISHAM AND BLACKHEATH Hedgley Mews, Lee
Postcode	SE12

Study area 1140.00 Square metres

Site coordinates TQ 397 749 51.4553121715 0.01091951201860 51 27 19 N 000 00
39 E Point

Height OD Min: 14.43m Max: 14.72m

Project creators

Name of Organisation Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd

Project brief originator GLAAS

Project design originator Tim Bradley

Project director/manager Tim Bradley

Project supervisor John Payne

Type of sponsor/funding body Developer

Name of sponsor/funding body Latin Quarter Ltd

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient LAARC

Physical Contents 'Ceramics'

Digital Archive recipient LAARC

Digital Contents 'Stratigraphic', 'Survey'

Digital Media available	'Spreadsheets','Text'
Paper Archive recipient	LAARC
Paper Contents	'Ceramics','Survey'
Paper Media available	'Context sheet','Drawing','Matrices','Photograph','Plan','Report','Section','Survey'
Project bibliography 1	
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	An Archaeological Watching Brief on Land at Hedgley Mews, Lee, London Borough of Lewisham, SE12
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Payne, J
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Entered on	22 July 2008