

**An Archaeological Watching Brief at 210 Kentish Town Road, London  
Borough of Camden NW5**

**Site Code: KTW08**

**Central National Grid Reference: TQ 5298 1849**

**Written and Researched by Sarah Barrowman & Alexander Pullen**

**Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited, March 2009**

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## CONTENTS

1	Abstract.....	3
2	Introduction .....	4
3	Planning Background .....	7
4	Geological Background.....	9
5	Archaeological And Historical Background.....	10
6	Archaeological Methodology.....	11
7	Archaeological Phase Discussion .....	12
8	Interpretations And Conclusions .....	15
9	Acknowledgments .....	16
10	Bibliography.....	17

## APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Context Register .....	18
Appendix 2: Site Matrix.....	19
Appendix 3: Oasis Data Collection Form.....	20

## ILLUSTRATIONS

Figure 1: Site Location.....	5
Figure 2: Trench Location.....	6
Figure 3: Sections 1 & 2 .....	13
Figure 4: Ordnance Survey 1870 showing north-south Victorian wall .....	14

## **1 ABSTRACT**

- 1.1 This report details the results of an archaeological watching brief undertaken at 210 Kentish Town Road, London Borough of Camden during a redevelopment to the rear of the existing structure. The project consisted the construction of two residential flats on the site. This watching brief monitored the excavation of strip foundations c. 1m wide and were a maximum of 1.30 m deep. The site is centred at National Grid Reference TQ52981849.
- 1.2 The project was commissioned by Angel Care through their agent, Salter Rex. Pre-Construct Archaeology undertook the fieldwork between 5<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> March 2009.
- 1.3 Site work was preceded by a desk-based assessment that concluded that at the site that there was a low possibility of encountering prehistoric, Roman or Saxon archaeological deposits being present, a moderate possibility of encountering medieval remains and a moderate-high potential for encountering post-medieval remains.
- 1.4 The watching brief demonstrated that archaeological deposits consisted of Victorian made ground and a north-south wall of a building constructed circa 1870. No other archaeological deposits were encountered.

## **2 INTRODUCTION**

- 2.1 An archaeological watching brief was conducted by Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited at 210 Kentish Town Road, London Borough of Camden between the 5th and 13<sup>th</sup> March 2009. The fieldwork commissioned by Angel Care through their agent Salter Rex, was project managed for Pre-Construct Archaeology by Gary Brown and supervised by Sarah Barrowman and Alexander Pullen.
- 2.2 The site is to the rear of 210 Kentish Town Road and is bound to the north and south by terraces fronting Kentish Town Road and to the east by Wolsey Mews. Prior to the new development the site was occupied by a paved garden associated with 210 Kentish Town Road and an electricity sub-station.
- 2.3 Groundwork on the site involved the excavation of foundations trenches for the new rear extension (Figure 3). The new extension covers an area of approximately 8.50m by 6.5m. The trenches were 1.3m deep.
- 2.4 The completed archive, which comprises written and drawn records, will be stored by Pre-Construct Archaeology until they are deposited at the London Archaeology Archive and Resource Centre under the site code KTW08.



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Figure 1  
Site location  
1:20,000 at A4



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Figure 2  
Trench Location  
1:625 at A4

### 3 PLANNING BACKGROUND

3.1 This report aims to satisfy the objectives of the London Borough of Camden, which fully recognise the importance of the buried heritage for which they are the custodians. The London Borough of Camden Unitary Development Plan (UDP), adopted in 2000, contains policy statements in respect of protecting the buried archaeological resource.

3.2 The London Borough of Camden UDP states:

*3.54 There needs to be effective protection for all aspects of our historic environment. Listed buildings, conservation areas, our archaeological heritage and strategic and important local views require protection to ensure that the special values they bring to the Borough are not harmed or lost. They form an irreplaceable record that contributes to our understanding of both the present and the past and therefore have a central role to play in our cultural heritage and national identity. Their presence adds to the quality of our lives by enhancing familiar and valued local environment and sustaining the sense of local distinctiveness that is such an important aspect of the character and appearance of our built environment.*

#### B8 – Archaeological sites and monuments

##### *A – Sites and monuments of national archaeological importance*

*When considering development close to sites and monuments of national archaeological importance including scheduled ancient monuments, the Council will seek the physical preservation of the archaeological features and their settings.*

##### *B – Sites and monuments of archaeological importance*

*The Council will only grant consent for development where acceptable measures are undertaken to preserve remains of archaeological importance and their settings. Developers should adopt measures that allow such remains to be permanently preserved in situ. Where this cannot be achieved, no development shall take place until satisfactory excavation and recording of the remains has been carried out.*

*3.76 When researching the development potential of a site, developers should in all cases, undertake their own archaeological desk-based assessments of whether the site is known or likely to contain archaeological remains. Where there is good reason to believe that there are remains of archaeological importance on a site, the Council*

*will consider directing applicants to supply further details of proposed developments, including the results of archaeological desk-based assessment and field evaluation, under the provisions of Article 3(2) of the Town and Country Planning (General Development Procedure) Order 1995.*

*Within archaeological priority area and for sites of archaeological potential, the Council may require an archaeological field evaluation to be carried out before a planning application is determined. If important archaeological remains are found, developers should adopt measures that allow the remains to be permanently preserved in situ. Where the preservation of such remains in situ cannot be achieved, the Council will require that no development shall take place until satisfactory excavation and recording of the remains have been carried out on site by an archaeological organisation approved by the Council. In appropriate cases, the Council may grant planning permission subject to conditions, or seek voluntary agreements, to Camden UDP Revised Deposit Draft 2004. Section 3 - Built Environment covers such matters, including making provision for access, interpretation and display for public benefit during excavation and the publication of the recorded results, or may grant planning permission subject to conditions. Recorded results should also be provided by the developer for inclusion in the Greater London Sites and Monuments Record. Where developers do not propose due provision for accommodating important archaeological remains, planning permission may be refused.*

*3.78 It is important to note that sites and monuments of archaeological importance can also include standing buildings and structures (whether listed buildings or not), and that this policy applies to these standing buildings and structures in the same way it relates to other sites and monuments of archaeological importance.*

- 3.3 The Camden UDP mirrors advice contained in the Department of the Environment document 'Planning Policy Guidance: Archaeology and Planning (PPG 16)'. This document identifies the need for early consultation in the planning process to determine the impact of the construction schemes upon buried archaeological strata. Once the results of the Desktop Assessment are known, and where follow-up trial work is known to be necessary or otherwise, an informed decision on the necessity or otherwise for further archaeological strategies may be taken. These strategies may be preservation in *situ*, excavation or watching brief.
- 3.4 Whilst no Scheduled Ancient Monuments are sited within the development area, the site is located within an "Archaeological Priority Zone" as defined by the London Borough of Camden UDP.



## **4 GEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND**

- 4.1 The Geological Survey of Great Britain 1:50 000 scale map of the area (Sheet 256, 'North London') shows that the site is underlain by silty clays of the Eocene London Clay Formation, which overlie the clay Palaeocene and Woolich and Reading Beds of the Lambeth Group. The River Thames is located approximately 4.7 kilometres to the southeast.
  
- 4.2 No geotechnical ground investigations were undertaken at the site prior to commencement of construction work.

## 5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 5.1 The Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment for 210 Kentish Town Road indicates that no prehistoric, Roman or Saxon archaeology has been encountered within a 1km radius of the site.
- 5.2 It is believed that a chapel may have existed in Kentish Town before the reign of Elisabeth I which, when considered alongside a number of entries in the Sites and Monuments Record dated to the medieval/early post-medieval and medieval/post-medieval periods and historical references, indicates the possibility that Kentish Town was established some time during the medieval period.
- 5.3 A chapel is referenced within Kentish Town during the 17<sup>th</sup> century and it would appear that a hamlet by the name of “Kennistonne” was in existence at this time (Walford 1878).
- 5.4 During the late 19<sup>th</sup> century Kentish Town was heavily developed. The St Pancras Parish Map 1849 indicates the site was in open fields. During the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century Kentish Town began to be heavily developed. The St Pancras Map of 1860 shows the site located to the rear of terraces fronting Old Chapel Street and appears to be comprised of garden areas. The St Pancras Parish Map of 1868 shows a similar picture. The 1870 Ordnance Survey shows that a building has been erected on the eastern side of the site, occupying about half the total area of the site. This building can be seen on the 1952 Ordnance Survey Map but does not appear on the 1968 Ordnance Map.

## 6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

- 6.1 All excavated areas were laid out by the groundwork contractors in accordance with the proposed development plan. All ground reduction works whether undertaken with a mechanical excavator or by hand were under the supervision of an archaeologist until a time at which it could be said with certainty that no archaeologically important remains were present.
- 6.2 The foundations consisted of two 8.53m x 1.0m x 1.30m east-west orientated foundation trenches connected to each other at both ends and in the middle by 3 smaller north-south orientated foundation trenches measuring 6.5m x 0.60m x 1.30m.
- 6.3 Section drawings were made of the two east-west trenches (Trenches 1 & 2) although all trenches were observed, but provided no additional information.
- 6.6 Individual descriptions of all archaeological strata and features excavated and/or exposed features were entered onto pro-forma recording sheets. All plans and sections of archaeological deposits were recorded on permatrace, the plans being drawn at a scale of 1:50 and the sections at 1:20. No finds were collected.
- 6.7 Levels on site were measured below ground level (bgl) with a tape measure. Ground level is approximately 33.50m OD.

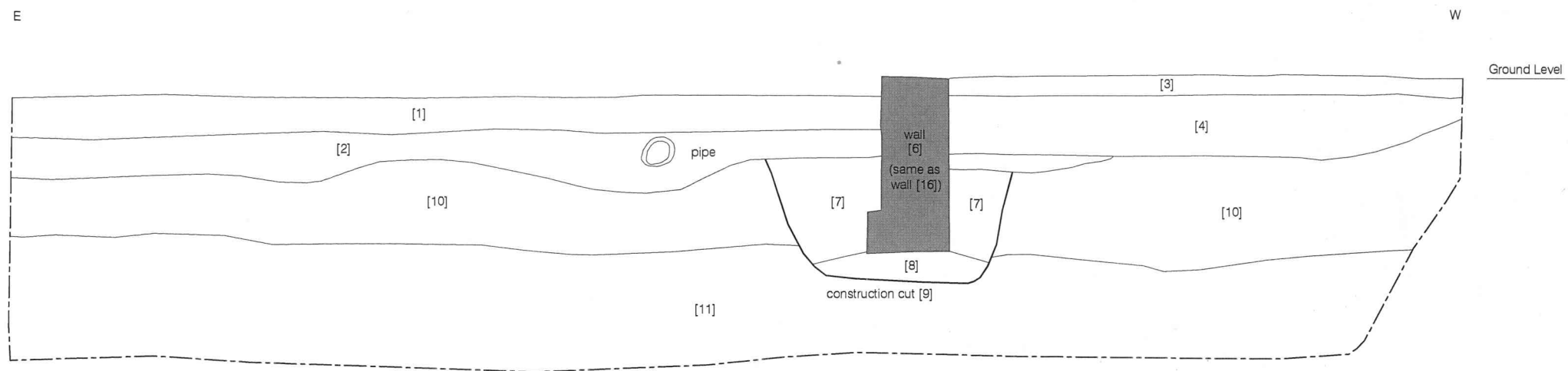
## 7 ARCHAEOLOGICAL PHASE DISCUSSION

### 7.1 Phase 1: Natural

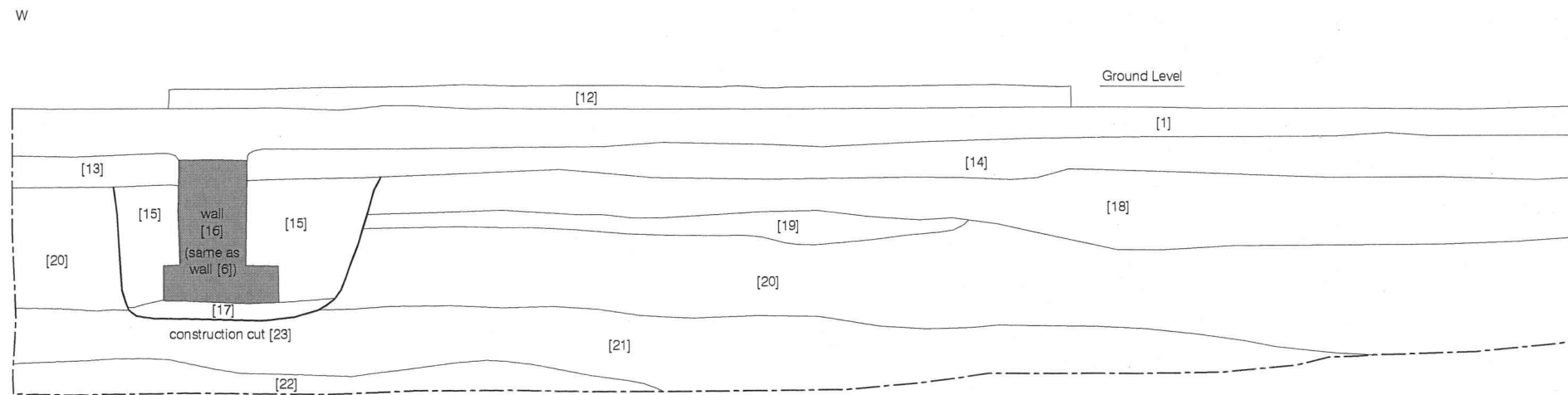
- 7.1.1 The earliest deposit encountered on the site was a yellowish-brown silty-gravel [22]. The top of this layer was 0.90 bgl and was seen in Trench 2. This layer was interpreted as naturally deposited gravel.

### 7.2 Phase 2: Post-Medieval

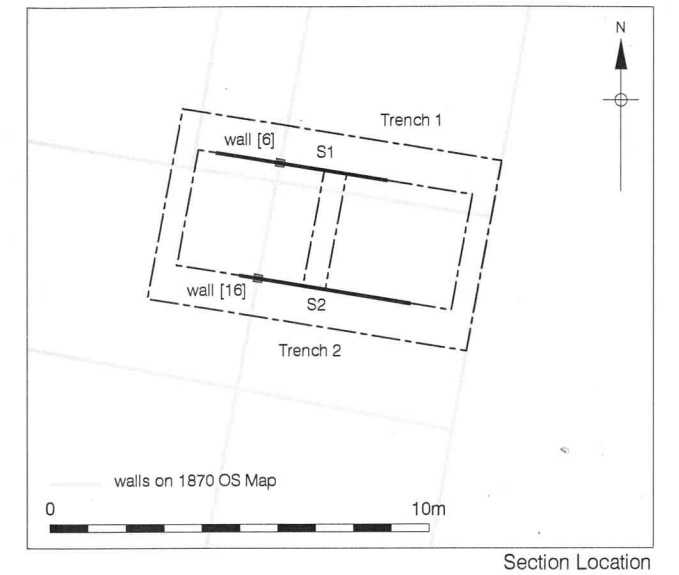
- 7.2.1 **Trench 1 (Section 1).** The following deposits were recorded in section. The lowest deposit in Trench 1 was a light brownish-grey silty gravel [11]. The top of this layer was 0.63m below ground level. Overlying this was a mid greyish-brown sandy-silt [10] possibly an agricultural soil that was later a garden soil. The top of [10] was 0.20m bgl. Cut through this soil was a red brick late 19<sup>th</sup> century wall [6] (construction cut [9], backfills [7] & [8]). The top of the cut is 0.25m bgl and the base of the construction cut is 0.70m bgl. Sealing the construction cut and abutting the wall were layers of gravelly Victorian made ground [5], [2], [4]. To the east and west of the wall, above [2] and [4] were layers of modern concrete yard surface [1], [3] respectively.
- 7.2.2 **Trench 2 (Section 2).** The following deposits were recorded in section. Above the naturally deposited gravel [22] was a dark greyish-brown clay-silt with frequent gravel inclusions [21]. The top of layer [21] was 0.63m bgl and probably corresponds to [11] in Trench 1. Overlying [21] was a mid-greyish brown sandy silt layer with frequent gravel inclusions probably corresponding to [10] in Trench 1. The top of this layer was 0.25m bgl. Above layer [10] were layers of 19<sup>th</sup> century made ground, [18] & [19]. These layers were truncated by a construction cut [23] for a wall. The wall [16] was the same as [6] in Trench 1. The top of the construction cut for wall [16] was 0.27m bgl. The base of the cut was 0.70m bgl and the top of the wall was 0.16m bgl. The wall sat on a levelling layer of gravelly mortar [17] and was backfilled with a gravelly silty clay [15]. Abutting the wall above the construction cut backfill are gravelly made ground layers [13] & [14] above which was a concrete ground surface [1] and brick paving [12].



Section 1  
North facing  
Trench 1

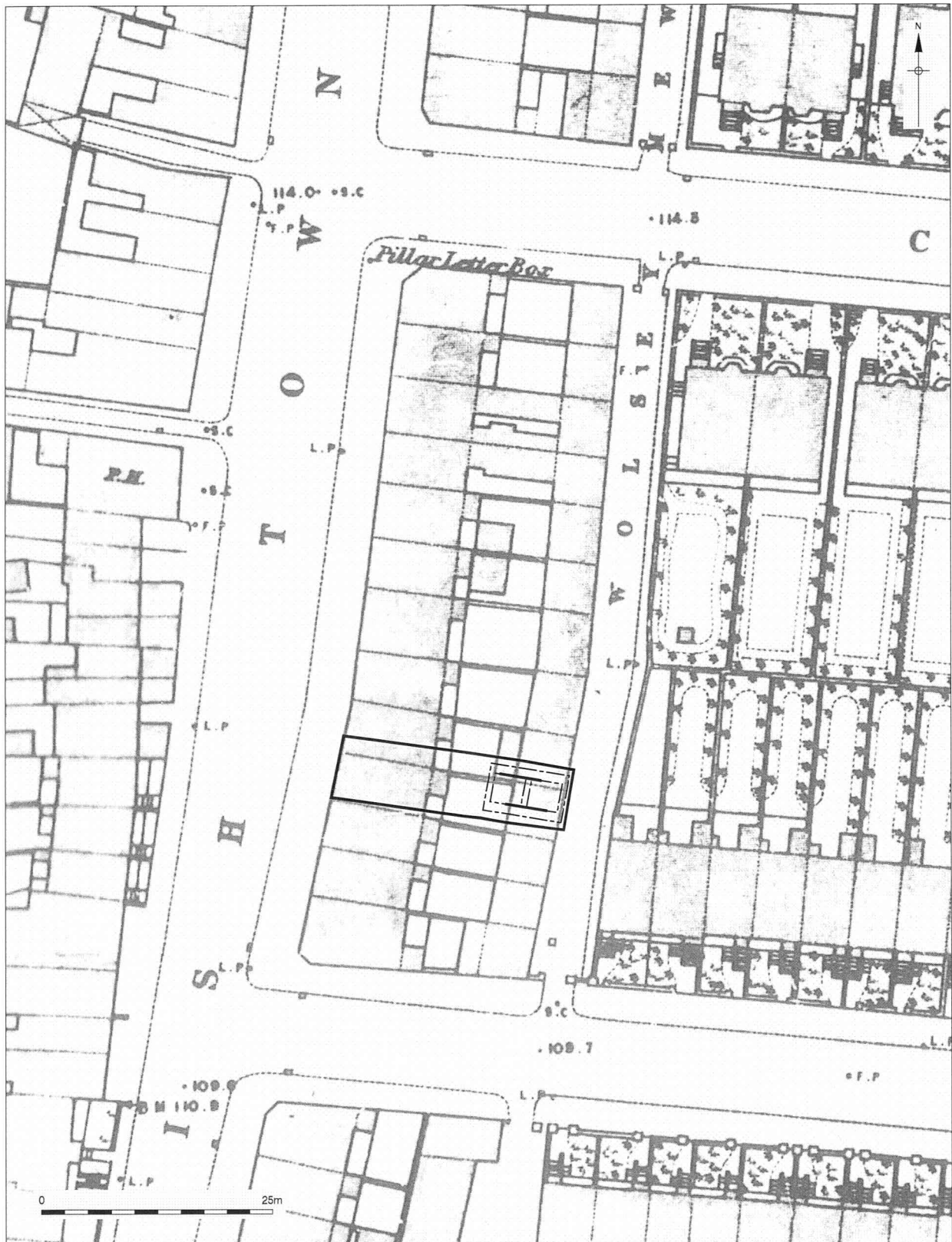


Section 2  
South facing  
Trench 2



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Figure 3  
Sections 1 & 2  
1:20 at A3



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Figure 4  
 1870 OS Map with Trench and Section Location  
 1:625 at A4

## **8 INTERPRETATIONS AND CONCLUSIONS**

- 8.1 The watching brief was intended to identify and record archaeological material during the excavation of foundations for a new development at 210 Kentish Town Road. The principal objective was to determine the presence of any archaeological activity on site.
- 8.2 The earliest deposit encountered was naturally deposited gravel.
- 8.3 The location of the north-south wall running across the middle of the site suggests that this is the western wall of a building erected on the site between 1868 and 1870 (see Figure 4 above). This building was constructed during a period of heavy development in Kentish Town during the later half of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century.
- 8.4 No pre-19<sup>th</sup> features or artefacts were recorded during this recording exercise. It is suggested that medieval Kentish Town was not present in this locality.

## **9 ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

- 9.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited would like to thank Angel Care for commissioning the project via their agent Salter Rex. PCA would particularly like to thank David Heasman of Angel Care and Rhisha Vora of Salter Rex. Thanks too are given to the officers of GLAAS, representing LB Camden, initially Diane Walls and latterly Kim Stabler. PCA would like to also acknowledge the assistance provided by the contractors, Topnotch Construction.
- 9.2 The authors would like to thank Gary Brown for project management of the site and editing this report, and Josephine Brown for the illustrations.



## 10 BIBLIOGRAPHY

Department of the Environment 1990 *Planning Policy Guidance: Archaeology and Planning (PPG 16)*

English Heritage 1998 *GLASS Archaeological Guidance Papers*

Institute of Field Archaeologists 1993 *Standards in Archaeological Practice*

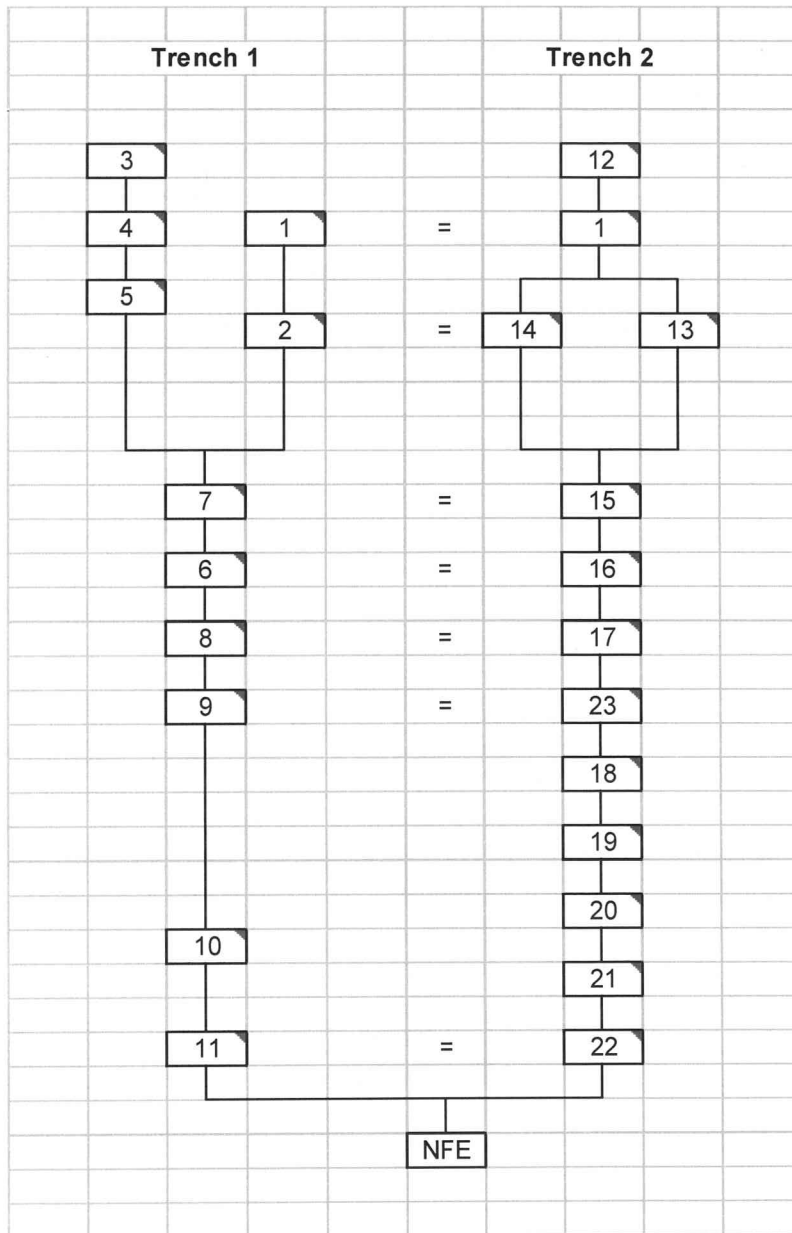
Taylor, J 2007 *210 Kentish Town Road, London Borough of Camden NW5: An Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment*

Walford, E. 1878 *Old and New London: Vol. V. Victoria County Histories*

## APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT REGISTER

Site Code	Context No.	Plan	Section Elevation	Type	Description	Date
			S1			
KTW 08	1	-	S2	Surface	Concrete bedding layer for [12]	Modern
KTW 08	2	-	S1	Deposit	Made Ground	Post-Med
KTW 08	3	-	S1	Surface	Current concrete ground surface	Modern
KTW 08	4	-	S1	Deposit	Made Ground	Post-Med
KTW 08	5	-	S1	Deposit	Made Ground	Post-Med
KTW 08	6	-	S1	Masonry	Red brick wall	Post-Med
KTW 08	7	-	S1	Fill	Secondary fill of [9]	Post-Med
KTW 08	8	-	S1	Fill	Primary fill of [9] and bedding for [6]	Post-Med
KTW 08	9	-	S1	Cut	Construction cut for [6]	Post-Med
KTW 08	10	-	S1	Deposit	Possible sub/garden-soil or made ground	Post-Med
KTW 08	11	Trench 1	S1	Deposit	Gravels - possible made ground	Uncertain
KTW 08	12	-	S2	Masonry	Current paving bricks	Modern
KTW 08	13	-	S2	Deposit	Made Ground	Post-Med
KTW 08	14	-	S2	Deposit	Made Ground	Post-Med
KTW 08	15	-	S2	Fill	Secondary fill of [23]	Post-Med
KTW 08	16	-	S2	Masonry	Red brick wall	Post-Med
KTW 08	17	-	S2	Fill	Primary fill of [23] and bedding for [16]	Post-Med
KTW 08	18	-	S2	Deposit	Made Ground	Post-Med
KTW 08	19	-	S2	Deposit	Red brick crush deposit	Post-Med
KTW 08	20	Trench 2	S2	Deposit	Made Ground	Post-Med
KTW 08	21	Trench 2	S2	Deposit	Possible sub/garden-soil or made ground	Uncertain
KTW 08	22	Trench 2	S2	Deposit	Gravels - possible made ground	Uncertain
KTW 08	23	-	S2	Cut	Construction cut for [16]	Post-Med

## APPENDIX 2: SITE MATRIX



## APPENDIX 3: OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM

### 10.1 OASIS ID: preconst1-57083

#### Project details

Project name An Archaeological Watching Brief at 210 Kentish Town Road, London Borough of Camden NW5

Short description of the project This report details the results of an archaeological watching brief undertaken at 210 Kentish Town Road, London Borough of Camden during a redevelopment. The project consisted the construction of two residential flats on the site. This watching brief monitored the excavation of strip foundations that were a maximum of 1.30 m deep. The site is centred at National Grid Reference TQ52981849. The project was commissioned by Angel Care through their agent Salter Rex. Pre-Construct Archaeology undertook the fieldwork between 5th and 13th March 2009. Archaeological deposits on the site consisted of Victorian made ground and a north-south wall of a building constructed circa 1870. No other archaeological deposits were encountered.

Project dates Start: 05-03-2009 End: 13-03-2009

Previous/future work Yes / Not known

Any associated project reference codes KTW08 - Sitecode

Type of project Recording project

Site status Local Authority Designated Archaeological Area

Current Land use Other 5 - Garden

Investigation type 'Watching Brief'

Prompt Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16

#### Project location

Country England

Site location GREATER LONDON CAMDEN CAMDEN 210 KENTISH TOWN ROAD

Postcode NW5

Study area 128.00 Square metres

Site coordinates TQ 5298 1849 50.9449494853 0.177889126736 50 56 41 N 000  
10 40 E Point

Lat/Long Datum Position derived from charts

Height OD / Depth Min: 32.60m Max: 32.60m

#### Project creators

Name of Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd  
Organisation

Project brief Gary Brown  
originator

Project design Gary Brown  
originator

Project Gary Brown  
director/manager

Project supervisor Alexander Pullen

Type of Developer  
sponsor/funding  
body

Name of Angel Care  
sponsor/funding  
body

#### Project archives

Physical Archive No  
Exists?

Physical Archive LAARC  
recipient

Digital recipient      Archive LAARC

Paper recipient      Archive LAARC

**Project  
bibliography 1**

Publication type      Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title                    210 Kentish Town Road, London Borough of Camden NW5 An  
Archaeological Desk Based Assessment

Author(s)/Editor(s)   Taylor, J.

Date                     2007

Entered by              Alexander Pullen (apullen@pre-construct.com)

Entered on              18 March 2009

**11 OASIS:**

Please e-mail [English Heritage](#) for OASIS help and advice  
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February 2006  
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