DOCUMENT VERIFICATION

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142 Deptford High Street, Deptford, London Borough of Lewisham

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Building Recording & Watching Brief

Quality Control

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142 Deptford High Street, Deptford, London Borough of Lewisham Building Recording and Archaeological Watching Brief

Site Code: DHL 05

Central National Grid Reference: TQ 3715 7845

Written and Researched by Stuart Holden and Victoria Osborne Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited, June 2005

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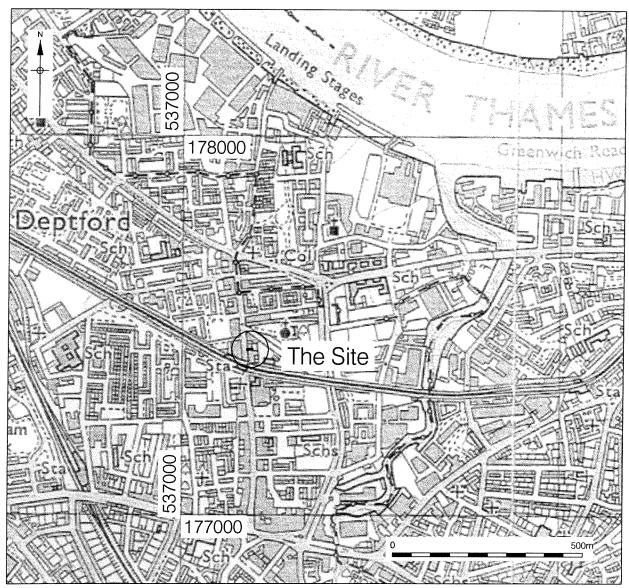
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1 ABSTRACT

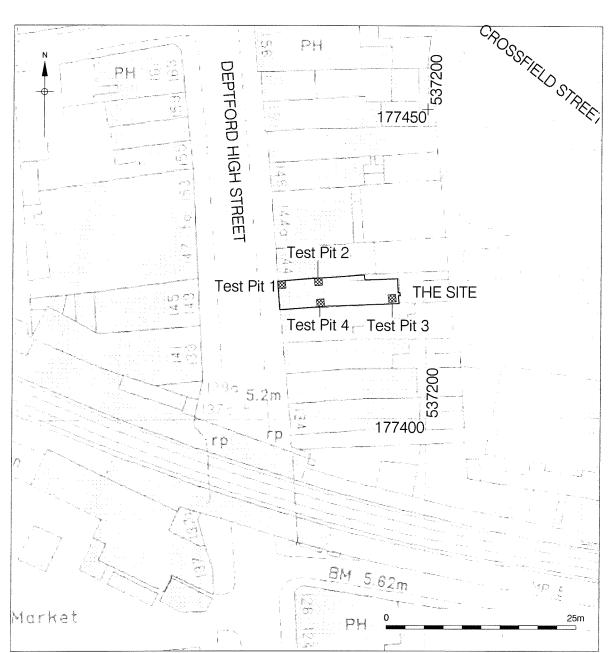
- 1.1 This report details the results of building recording and an archaeological watching brief undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited at 142 Deptford High Street, Deptford. The work consisted of a rapid building assessment and photographic survey and the recording of four geotechnical test pits located within the footprint of the preceding building.
- 1.2 The building recording was undertaken prior to partial demolition and the watching brief prior to any intrusive groundwork. The building is a typical of 18th to 19th century urban housing. Although the first and second floors retain their original room layout, there are no original internal features surviving and the staircase had been replaced. The building is consequently of little interest.
- 1.3 In each of the test pits, a series of 18th century made ground layers were observed and recorded. No evidence of earlier buildings were present within the test pits.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 Building recording and an archaeological watching brief were undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited at 142 Deptford High Street, Deptford (Figure 1) prior to redevelopment.
- 2.2 The work was commissioned by Alexander Sedgley Ltd and conducted on 16th May and on 14th and 15th June 2005.
- 2.3 The building recording included a site walkover with photographic survey and an examination of documentary records and historic maps. The watching brief constituted the archaeological recording of four geotechnical test pits (Figure 2).
- 2.4 The National Grid Reference of the centre of the site is TQ 3715 7845
- 2.5 The unique code DHL 05 was assigned to the project.
- 2.6 The building recording was undertaken by Victoria Osborne, managed by Ken Sabel and the watching brief was undertaken by Stuart Holden, managed by Peter Moore for Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited.



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3 PLANNING BACKGROUND

3.1 Planning background

3.1.1 The study 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.

3.1.2 The planning application number is 04/57281 (previous application 04/56512).

3.2 Research Objectives

3.2.1 Mark Stevenson of English Heritage Greater London Archaeological Advisory Service, on behalf of Lewisham Borough Council, highlighted the possibility of earlier structures surviving on the site. The watching brief aimed to record any evidence of archaeologically sensitive material that may be affected by the excavation of the test pits and subsequent redevelopment of the site. There was a potentiality for encountering remains of former buildings, dating to the 17th century or perhaps earlier.

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

4.1 The following provides an insight into the archaeological potential of the site collaborated from an archaeological Desk-Based Assessment for a nearby site (Hawkins, 2004) and from a Building Assessment at 176 Deptford High Street (Dixon, 2005), together with material in the Pre-Construct Archaeology archives.

4.2 Prehistoric

4.2.1 There have been very few finds recorded from the area. Of particular note is the absence of any prehistoric material from the recent excavations at Convoys Wharf and Greenwich Reach.

4.3 Roman

4.3.1 A small assemblage of pottery sherds was recovered during the excavations at Greenwich Reach to the northeast of the site.

4.4 Anglo-Saxon and Early Medieval

- 4.4.1 The name Deptford is thought to have derived from the Anglo-Saxon for 'deep ford', indicating the crossing point of the River Ravensbourne. The 't' appeared in the name from the 15th century onwards.
- 4.4.2 The first known mention of Greenwich was as part of the large 'multiple estate' of Lewisham. The estate of Lewisham, including Greenwich and Woolwich, was granted to the Abbey of St Peter at Ghent by King Edgar in 964. After a period in which the Abbey lost control of the lands, the grant was confirmed by King Edward the Confessor in accordance with a promise he had made in 1016, and by William the Conqueror in 1081.
- 4.4.3 The Greenwich settlement probably formed the river port of the Lewisham estate. The estate as described in the Domesday Book included a port worth 40 shillings a year, probably on the Thames at Greenwich, but possibly at the mouth of Deptford Creek. The area now called Deptford, known as West Greenwich in the manorial centuries, was probably also included in this estate.
- 4.4.4 The grant of 964 included the churches and churchyards within the Lewisham estate. It is not known when the parish church of St Nicholas was founded at Deptford. It is not mentioned in the Domesday Book, but that does not mean that it did not exist. During the Saxon period, the location of the church would have been dramatic, on a

low gravel cliff overlooking seasonally flooded marshes towards the Thames. The earliest known reference to it was in the list of churches belonging to the diocese of Rochester in the Textus Roffensis of c.1115.

- 4.4.5 Few finds of Saxon material are recorded from the vicinity, though a number of early Anglo-Saxon artefacts, including burials, are recorded in the area of Deptford Broadway. The most significant find in the vicinity of the site is a ditch containing Saxon pottery recorded on the Greenwich Reach site, immediately east of St Nicholas Church.
- 4.4.6 Despite the paucity of finds of this period in the vicinity, the area of Deptford Broadway should probably be considered as a focus of early to mid-Saxon settlement, and St Nicholas Church as a focus of mid to late-Saxon settlement.

4.5 Medieval

- 4.5.1 In the Domesday Book survey of 1086, the present Deptford was not mentioned by that name, but was referred to as the Manor of Grenviz (ie West Greenwich), held by Gilbert de Magminot, Bishop of Lisieux, from Bishop Odo of Bayeux, brother of William the Conqueror. Prior to this, Grenviz had been held as two manors, by Earl Harold Godwinson and Brixi Cild, perhaps corresponding to two settlement centres at the Broadway and St Nicolas Church.
- 4.5.2 Gilbert de Magminot was said to have built a castle at Deptford. Evidence for its location is not good but in the 17th century it was thought to be represented by 'some remains of stony foundations' on the Thames bank near Sayes Court.
- 4.5.3 The chief Manor of West Greenwich was passed on by Gilbert de Magminot to his family the Maminots and it remained with them until the 12th century and then passed to their descendants, the de Says. The Manor was then given the alternative name of Sayes Court. In the 15th century the Manor was held by the de la Pole Earls of Suffolk and confiscated by the Crown in 1487. In the early-16th century the Manor passed through the hands of various royal courtiers before returning to Henry VIII in 1535 and has been held by the Crown ever since.
- 4.5.4 The medieval Manor house of Sayes Court was in existence by 1405, constructed of timber and located to the north of the site within the boundaries of Convoys Wharf. In the 16th century a gateway was added. The whole house was rebuilt in the same place in 1568. Late in the 16th century the house was separated from the Manor and estates were attached to it, taken from the demesne lands of the Manor. In 1585 it

was leased to the Browne family and eventually to their descendants, the Evelyns, in the 17th century.

4.6 Post-Medieval

- 4.6.1 In the late-15th and early-16th centuries Deptford increasingly felt the influences of Greenwich Palace on its economy. The increase in the number of courtiers resulted in the pastures of Deptford being used to supply cattle to the royal household. The King's Slaughterhouse was established beside the Ravensbourne on the site of Harold's Wharf. The Browne family of Says Court oversaw operations here as 'Clerks of the Green Cloth' in the late-16th and early-17th centuries.
- 4.6.2 The first great boost to Deptford's economy was the decision by Henry VIII to found a royal Dockyard here, formalising the *ad hoc* arrangements of his father who had rented facilities here.
- 4.6.3 By the late 17th century John Evelyn was building houses on land on the west side of Butt Lane, which later became Deptford High Street. These were required to meet the demand for housing as the local population increased with the expanding Dockyard.
- 4.6.4 This population pressure played a significant part in the division of Deptford into two parishes. The southern part became a new parish with a new church, the Baroque Church of St. Paul (Listed Grade I), which was erected in 1713-30 along with an extraordinary rectory, which was triangular with octagonal rooms and turrets at each corner. The main period of growth in housing occurred in the years 1650-1730, with a further boom in 1770-1800. Consequently Butt Lane and streets such as Albury Street (Listed Grade II*) were developed to provide housing for dockyard artisans and tradesmen (Lewisham UDP 2004).
- 4.6.5 The site is shown on John Rocque's map of 1745 with a line of terrace buildings fronting onto the High Street and this is likely to be depiction of the building present on the site. The Tithe Map, dated 1844, is more detailed showing the individual buildings shapes rather than as an amorphous strip together with the outbuilding at the eastern end of the plot. The 1894-96 Ordnance Survey map shows the site with extension towards the rear (eastern) side of the property, as it remained until the recent demolition works undertaken as part of the redevelopment.
- 4.6.6 A recent RCHME survey has assessed the survival and character of pre-1800 houses. A type of urban vernacular housing, in which timber framed construction methods were employed later than is common, has been found to survive extensively

within the area of Deptford High Street, with other examples occurring along Deptford Broadway and Tanners Hill. The design of these buildings provides significant evidence of the social development of Georgian London, which has implications for towns in England and in North America. In addition to the extant historic fabric of the buildings, excavation has revealed the survival of associated pits and wells to the rear of the properties and it has been found that cellars may survive even when all trace of the superstructure has been lost (Lewisham Borough Council, 2004).

5 METHODOLOGY

- 5.1 The building recording was undertaken prior to refurbishment and was aimed at analysis to define the architectural and historic interest of the building prior to alteration.
- 5.2 The fieldwork was designed to record any archaeologically sensitive deposits affected by the excavation of the geotechnical test pits and subsequent redevelopment of the site.
- 5.3 All works were undertaken in accordance with the guidelines set out by English Heritage and the Institute of Field Archaeology.
- The test pits were excavated by hand following the breaking out of hard standing by pneumatic drill. The resulting sections were drawn at an appropriate scale on polyester based drawing film and the deposits recorded onto pro forma context sheets. The positions of the test pits were located to Ordnance Survey data.

6 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

- 6.1 The site lies broadly at around 6mOD, c. 750m to the south of the River Thames and c. 500m to the west of Deptford Creek, where the River Ravensbourne flows north to join the Thames.
- The bedrock geology of the site is thought to be Thanet sand or chalk overlain by Thames floodplain gravels. This was located across the site from c.3.20m OD to c.4.60m OD.

7 BUILDING RECORDING

7.1 Non-technical Summary

7.1.1 This section details the results of a historic building survey of 142 Deptford High Street. The work is intended as a record of the property. The building was constructed during the 18th century and is typical of the High Street buildings. The façade dates to the late-18th or 19th century. The property is part of a terrace, and bears evidence of a succession of alterations as the function of the building changed, with a 20th century shop inserted in the ground floor and brick outhouse built at the rear of the property. It has three storeys, a ground, first floor and second floor.

7.2 **Description**

- 7.2.1 The brown brick building is three storeys and the original part has a two room deep plan with a staircase located on the south side of the building at the rear. The building is flat fronted with yellow brick window arches. The larger windows of the first floor emphasise that the principal rooms are located there. The slated roof was partially hidden behind a low brick parapet.
- 7.2.2 Internally, the property has retained its original circulation on the first and second floor. The upper floors are composed of timber floorboards nailed to timber joists running east-west. It is accessed from the ground floor with a 20th century tiled ramp in the west elevation and a single doorway in the rear of the property (east). The brick walls are bonded in a lime mortar and Flemish bond pattern, the eastern half of the north elevation by the rear door possessing a small brick plinth. The brick has been covered with render and wallpaper. The first floor walls are covered in plasterboard and are fitted with a false ceiling and fluorescent lights. Towards the south east of the ground floor, a wooden staircase has been installed during the early-20th century replacing the original staircase, and is partially hidden by plasterboard walls. The stairs have a half landing, wooden banister and is set against timber panelling. Two cast iron brackets are suspended above the stairwell opposite a large sash window, the latter having been bricked up due to the abutting brick property to the rear.
- 7.2.3 The first floor has two rooms to the west and east of the property. The front room is part of the original building and overlooks Deptford High Street. It is subdivided with a timber stud wall frame into two halves. The frame has two doorways, one in the middle and one at the north end, which bear evidence of modern fittings and fixtures. Some of the timbers bear evidence of redundant joints suggesting that the timbers

have been reused. The front room is lit with two large rectangular sash windows and an electric bulb. It was heated by a fireplace, in the south wall, situated in a brick chimney-breast. A steel I section girder supports the second floor.

- 7.2.4 The southern room is an extension, built above the rear ground floor door and outside lavatory block. It is divided into two small rooms to contain the toilet and a mid-20th century sink and associated fittings and mirror. Between the north and south room, the southern half of the northern room is lit by an electric bulb, and contains the stairs from the ground floor and a modern set of timber steps to the second floor. From its austere appearance it is apparent that this area was an access route to the other rooms in the house. The redundant sash window is still visible on this floor, and is covered by a steel grille.
- 7.2.5 The second floor is similar to the first floor, and is divided into two rooms with a timber studded frame with one doorway to the north of the frame. The front room is lit with two small square sash windows and electric bulb. It was heated with a fireplace in the south wall similar to that on the first floor. The back room is lit with two small square sash windows and a small window in a vertical wooden casement that opens outward. This room overlooks the garden and brick outhouse to the rear of the property. It was heated with a small plain fireplace. The roof had been removed.
- 7.2.6 The west, front, elevation is characterised by a modern shop front of two plate glass windows either side a double door. Above the main shop front, the sash windows of the first and second floor have yellow brick flat arches. The tiled roof is partially hidden behind the parapet. A brick extension abuts the rear of the property, and covers the large sash window lighting the stairs of the original building. A small room has been constructed adjacent to the rear door, to house the toilet.
- 7.2.7 The brick building is of three storeys, and is accessed from the main building through a small, open passage way. The brickwork is bonded in English bond. The ground floor was lit by three square windows in the north elevation, and entry to the back yard was through a door between the second and third of these windows (from west to east). The central window was subsequently bricked up. The first and second floors were supported by large timber joists running north to south and were accessed from a flight of stairs in the south west of the building, directly opposite the door. The first floor was originally lit by four windows, with the third one of these being bricked up at a later date, the second floor by three smaller and squarer windows. The roof was no longer extant, and it is unclear whether it was pitched or flat.

7.3 Conclusions

7.3.1 The building is a typical 18th to 19th century terraced house with a ground floor shop. The floor plan is also typical being two rooms deep with a side entrance and rear staircase. Although the upper floors retain their original layout no original internal features survive. This is a common form of building and it is consequently of little interest.

8 ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE

8.1 **Summary**

- 8.1.1 The general sequence of deposits encountered in each of the test pits was of natural sand and gravel overlain by 18th century made ground capped with modern material. The following section details the deposits recorded in each of the test pits.
- 8.2 TP1 (Figure 3)- Excavated to a depth of 2.60 m
- 8.2.1 This test pit was located in the northwest corner of the site, adjacent to the shop front and within the cellar.

Context	Description	Top mOD	Depth from surface	Thickness
	Shop floor	c.5.60	0	0.25
01	Loose mid greyish brown sandy silt with occ cbm frags, mod sub rounded pebbles ≤40mm Φ	c.3.60	2.00	0.40
02	Loose mid light yellowish brown sand and sub- rounded and angular gravel ≤60mm Φ	c.3.20	2.40	0.20*

^{*}Denotes maximum thickness of the deposit as exposed

freq-frequent, mod-moderate, occ-occasional, cbm-ceramic building material, frags-fragments Φ-diameter

- 8.3 TP2 (Figure 3)- Excavated to a depth of 1.85m
- 8.3.1 This test pit was located to the rear of the shop area adjacent to the wall forming the northern boundary of the site.

Context	Description	Top mOD	Depth from surface	Thickness
		c.6.00	0	0.10
03	Wall footing built of yellow stock brick in a honeycomb pattern. Unfounded.	c.5.90	0.10	0.30
04	Loose mid greyish brown sandy silt with freq cbm frags incl. Peg and pan tile	c.5.60	0.40	1.10
05	Loose greyish brown sandy silt matrix around demolition rubble constituting c.60% mainly brick frags	c.4.50	1.50	0.35*

8.3.2 Context [04] produced two sherds of tin glazed earthenware and a single sherd of Freckenware dated to the late-17th century, fragments of 19th century clay tobacco pipe, fragments of post-medieval peg and pan tile and a piece of moulded Portland

stone likely to date to the mid-18th century and come from a relatively high status building.

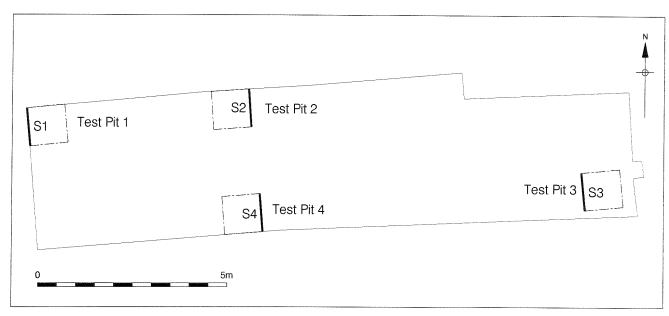
- 8.4 <u>TP3</u> (Figure 3)- Excavated to a depth of 1.60m
- 8.4.1 This test pit was located in the southeastern corner of the extension to the preceding building.

Context	Description	Top mOD	Depth from surface	Thickness
	Modern demolition	c.6.00	0	0.50
06	Loose mid greyish brown sandy silt with occ cbm frags incl. peg tile, sub-rounded pebbles ≤50mmΦ, occ c.coal fleck	c5.50	0.50	0.90
07	Mod compact mid light yellowish brown sand and sub-rounded and angular gravel ≤60mm Φ	c.4.60	1.40	1.20*

- 8.4.2 Context [06] produced fragments of post-medieval peg tile.
- 8.5 **TP4** (Figure 3)- Excavated to a depth of 2.00m
- 8.5.1 This test pit was located to the rear of the shop area adjacent to the wall forming the southern boundary of the site.

Context	Description	Top mOD	Depth from surface	Thickness
	Concrete	c.5.70	0	0.20
08	19 th century rubble	c.5.50	0.20	0.35
09	Loose mid greyish brown sandy silt with freq cbm frags incl. Peg and pan tile	c.5.15	0.55	1.15
10	Mod compact mid light yellowish brown sand and sub-rounded and angular gravel ≤60mm Φ	c.4.00	1.70	0.30*

8.5.2 Context [09] produced a single sherd of tin glazed earthenware dated 1690-1800 with a decoration likely to date between 1750 and 1775 and two clay tobacco pipe bowls dated to 1680-1710 and 1840-80.



Section Location 1:100

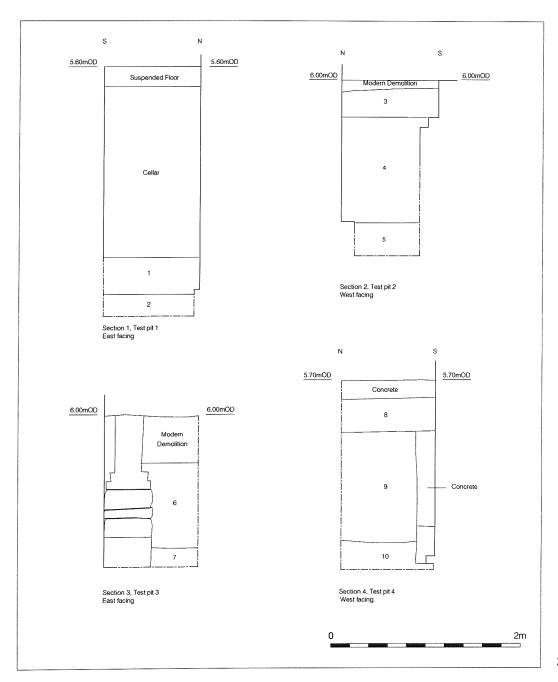


Figure 3 Sections 1:40

9 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9.1 The building is a typical 18th to 19th century terraced house with a ground floor shop. The floor plan is also typical being two rooms deep with a side entrance and rear staircase. There are no original internal survivals and the building is consequently of little interest.
- 9.2 The results of the watching brief indicate it is unlikely that any archaeologically sensitive deposits or remains of earlier structures survive on the site. It appears that the construction of the 18th century building, still present in part, together with later additions, have removed all traces of earlier occupation. It is therefore unlikely that further work would enhance the archaeological information and understanding of the development of this part of Deptford.

10 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

10.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited would like to thank Alexander Sedgley Ltd for commissioning the work. The authors would like to thank the finds specialists (John Brown; cbm, Chris Jarrett; pottery and clay tobacco pipe) for their spot dating, Peter Moore and Ken Sabel for project management and Victoria Osborne for produced the illustrations.

11 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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APPENDIX 1: PLATES



View of the site from Deptford High Street



View of the extension looking east



View of the first floor interior looking west

APPENDIX 2: OASIS FORMS

OASIS ID: preconst1-8684

Project details

Project name

142 Deptford High Street BR

Short description of the

project

A rapid building recording was undertaken at 142 Deptford High Street

Project dates

Start: 16-05-2005 End: 16-05-2005

Previous/future work

No / Yes

Any associated project

reference codes

04/57281 - Planning Application No.

Any associated project

8685 - OASIS form ID

reference codes

DHL 05 - Site Code

Type of project

Building Recording

Site status

Local Authority Designated Archaeological Area

Current Land use

Other 2 - In use as a building

Monument type

HOUSE Post Medieval

Project location

Country

England

Site location

GREATER LONDON LEWISHAM DEPTFORD AND NEWCROSS 142

Deptford High Street

Postcode

SE8

Study area

150.00 Square metres

National grid reference

TQ 3715 7845 Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation

Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd

Project brief originator

Greater London Archaeological Advisory Service

Project design originator

Peter Moore/Ken Sabel

Project director/manager

Ken Sabel

Project supervisor

Victoria Osborne

Sponsor or funding body

Alexander Sedgley LTD

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?

No

Digital Archive recipient

LAARC

Digital Media available

'Text'

Digital Archive Exists?

No

Paper Archive recipient

LAARC

Paper Media available

'Notebook - Excavation',' Research',' General

Notes', 'Photograph', 'Report'

Paper Archive Exists?

Yes

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Entered on

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Project details

Project name

142 Deptford High Street WB

Short description of the

An archaeological watching Brief was undertaken at 142 Deptford High

project

Street.

Project dates

Start: 14-06-2005 End: 15-06-2005

Previous/future work

Yes / Not known

Any associated project

reference codes

04/57281 - Planning Application No.

Any associated project

8684 - OASIS form ID

reference codes

DHL 05 - Site Code

Type of project

Recording project

Site status

Local Authority Designated Archaeological Area

Current Land use

Other 2 - In use as a building

Monument type

HOUSE Post Medieval

Project location

Country

England

Site location

GREATER LONDON LEWISHAM DEPTFORD AND NEWCROSS 142

Deptford High Street

Postcode

SE8

Study area

150.00 Square metres

National grid reference

TQ 3715 7845 Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation

Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd

Project brief originator

Greater London Archaeological Advisory Service

Project design originator

Peter Moore

Project director/manager

Peter Moore

Project supervisor

Stuart Holden

Sponsor or funding body

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Physical Archive recipient

LAARC

Physical Contents

'Ceramics', 'Worked stone/lithics'

Physical Archive Exists?

Yes

Digital Archive recipient

LAARC

Digital Media available

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Digital Archive Exists?

Yes

Paper Archive recipient

LAARC

Paper Media available

'Correspondence', 'Plan', 'Report', 'Section'

Paper Archive Exists?

Yes

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