

**LAND AT FOREST HILL POOLS,
DARTMOUTH ROAD, LEWISHAM
SE23 3YF**

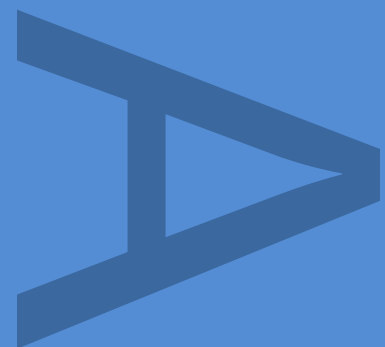
**SUMMARY REPORT ON AN
ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING
BRIEF**

**Local Planning Authority:
London Borough of Lewisham**

**Planning Application No:
DC/16/74205 (A) & (B)**

Site Code: FOR11

February 2011





DOCUMENT VERIFICATION

LAND AT FOREST HILL POOLS, DARTMOUTH
ROAD, LEWISHAM SE23 3YF

SUMMARY REPORT ON AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL
WATCHING BRIEF

Quality Control

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**LAND AT FOREST HILL POOLS, DARTMOUTH ROAD, LEWISHAM SE23 3YF
SUMMARY REPORT ON AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**

Written by: A L Pooley, Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd
February 2011

Local Planning Authority: London Borough of Lewisham

Planning Application No: DC/16/74205 (A) & (B)

Central NGR: TQ35227259

Site Code: FOR11

Project Manager: Chris Mayo, Pre-Construct Archaeology

Commissioning Client: CgMs Consulting
on behalf of
Lewisham Borough Council

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February 2011**

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CONTENTS

1	Introduction.....	3
2	Site Background	3
3	Sequence Description.....	4
4	Conclusions.....	5
5	Bibliography.....	5

APPENDICES

6	Appendix 1: Context Index.....	9
7	Appendix 2: OASIS Form.....	10

ILLUSTRATIONS

	Figure 1: Site Location.....	6
	Figure 2: Location Of Watching Brief Area Monitored	7
	Figure 3: Section 1.....	8

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This is a summary report of an archaeological watching brief on land at Forest Hill Pools, London Borough of Lewisham SE23 3YF by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd. The watching brief was conducted between on the 17th and 18th February 2011 and commissioned by Matthew Smith of CgMs Consulting. The site is centred at TQ35227259.
- 1.2 The work was necessitated by a planning condition (11) attached to planning permission (DC/16/74205 (A) & (B)) for the development. Mark Stevenson of English Heritage, Archaeology Advisor to the London Borough of Lewisham, stipulated that the condition should be met by a programme of pro-active observation and recording.
- 1.3 The archaeological watching brief monitored the excavation and ground reduction by machine of an area in the north of the site. This was in advance of the construction of foundations and pile caps for part of the new main pool and plant room (Smith 2010).
- 1.4 The site is sub rectangular in shape with an area of approximately 0.30ha. The area monitored was grassed before ground reduction began and the ground level sloped gradually from 58.50m AOD in the west to 57.20m AOD in the east.
- 1.5 The ground reduction was performed with a large tracked excavator with an approximately 1m wide toothless bucket. The author was in attendance throughout to examine and record any archaeological deposits exposed.
- 1.6 Site records were compiled in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation (Smith 2010) under the site code FOR11.

2 SITE BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The name Forest Hill was first coined by a property developer in the 1790s, and referred to the remaining part of The Great North Wood attested from the late 13th century. A series of developments took place from the very late 18th century onwards. The Lewisham Enclosure Act of 1810 enclosed local common land, thus facilitating prosperous suburban development of an area made attractive by the views permitted by the local hilly topography.
- 2.2 From 1819 the site had been part of a larger plot of glebe land, providing income for the vicars of Lewisham. In 1882, the Lewisham Vestry (using powers granted by the Baths and Wash Houses Act of 1846) appointed seven commissioners to raise funds and obtain land for the construction of a swimming baths. The vicar of Lewisham and a younger son of the Earl of Dartmouth, the Hon. Canon Augustus Legge, was one of the pools commissioners, and he made part of this plot available “at a price much lower than other land about”.
- 2.3 Wilson and Aldwinkle were appointed architects with the building itself designed by Thomas Aldwinkle (1845-1920), a locally active architect whose only extant buildings are on or immediately adjacent to this site. The real vision for the project, however, came from a serendipitous collaboration between the clerical aristocratic philanthropist, Legge, and Theophilus William Williams, Chairman of the Board of works from 1882 and a complex local politician who was later twice elected Mayor of Lewisham.

- 2.4 The Forest Hill Pools complex was opened by Legge's father, the Earl of Dartmouth, on 2nd May 1885.

3 SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION

- 3.1 The area monitored was reduced by a depth of between 3.20m in the west and 2.10m in the east. No archaeological features or deposits were exposed and the area was recorded as a long section oriented west-east along the northern edge of the area subject to ground reduction.
- 3.2 Natural clay [2] was exposed at a height of between 56.10m AOD 55.52m AOD, the lower level reflecting truncation by modern features. It comprised a stiff mid greyish brown silt clay (30:70) with light yellowish brown, light greyish brown and light bluish grey lenses. It contained occasional sub-rounded to sub-angular flint pebbles and cobbles (up to c.20m in size), and was exposed for a maximum thickness of 0.90m.
- 3.3 This was overlain on the eastern edge by a layer of late 19th/early 20th made ground [1], comprising a soft light brownish grey clay silt (20:80) with inclusions of moderate chalk, occasional brick, tile, pot, charcoal and occasional very rounded to angular flint pebbles (up to 75mm in size). It lay at a height of 56.30m AOD to 56.26m AOD and was up to 0.30m thick.
- 3.4 These deposits were overlain and truncated by layers of modern made ground and foundations, and modern drainage pipes. These were between 0.90m and 2.90m thick.



Plate 1: View NE of modern wall and associated truncation, with truncated natural clay visible.

4 CONCLUSIONS

- 4.1 No archaeological features or deposits were exposed during this watching brief. Natural clay was exposed, truncated horizontally by modern activity and localised drainage trenches.

5 BIBLIOGRAPHY

Smith, M 2010 'Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Observation and Recording. Forest Hill Pools, Dartmouth Road, Lewisham', unpublished report for CgMs Limited.

Weinreb, B and Hibbert, C 1983 *The London Encyclopaedia*. London

In addition the following online sources were consulted (accessed 25/02/2011):

www.sydenhamsociety.com/2008/07/history-of-forest-hill-pools/

www.ideal-homes.org.uk/lewisham/assets/histories/forest-hill

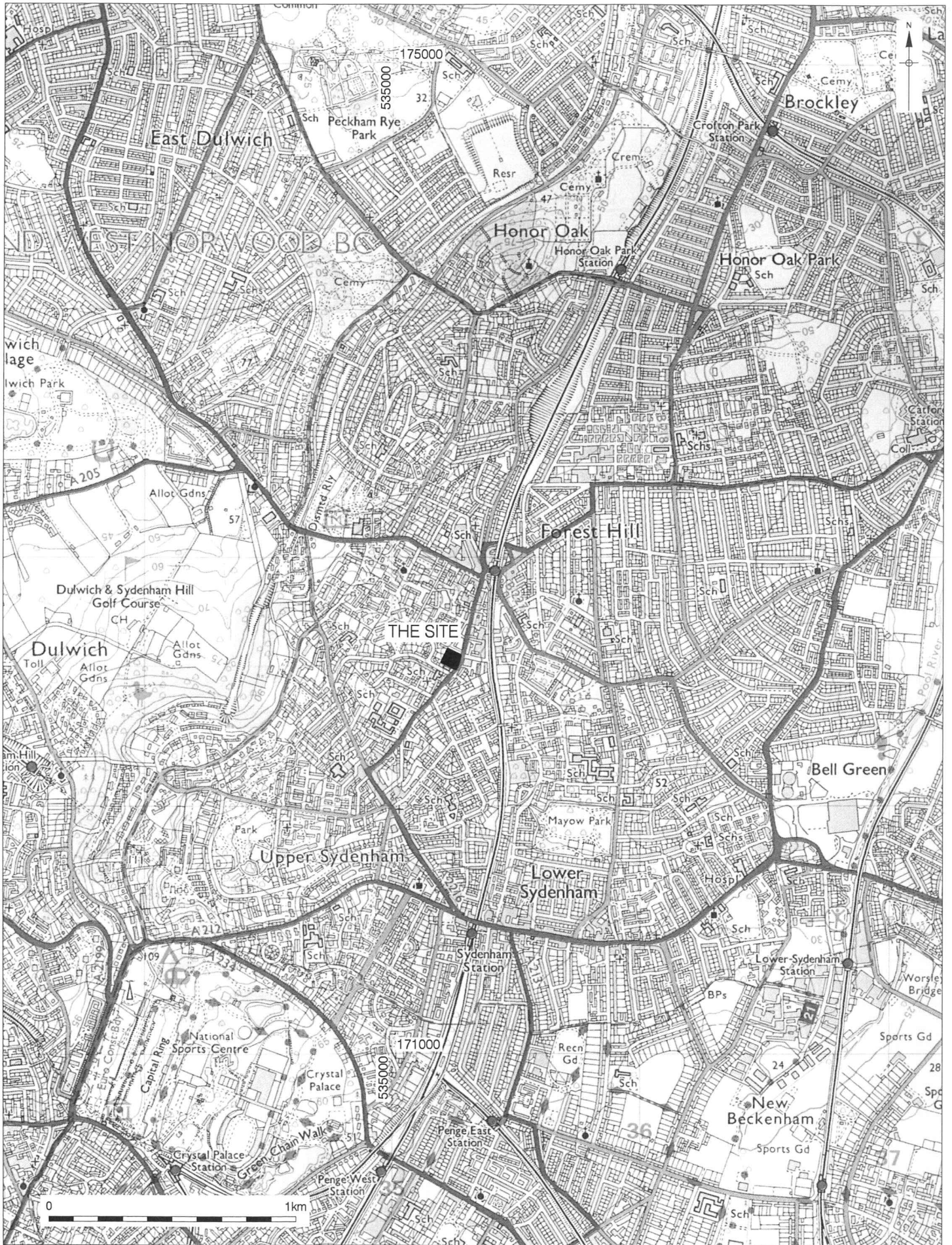
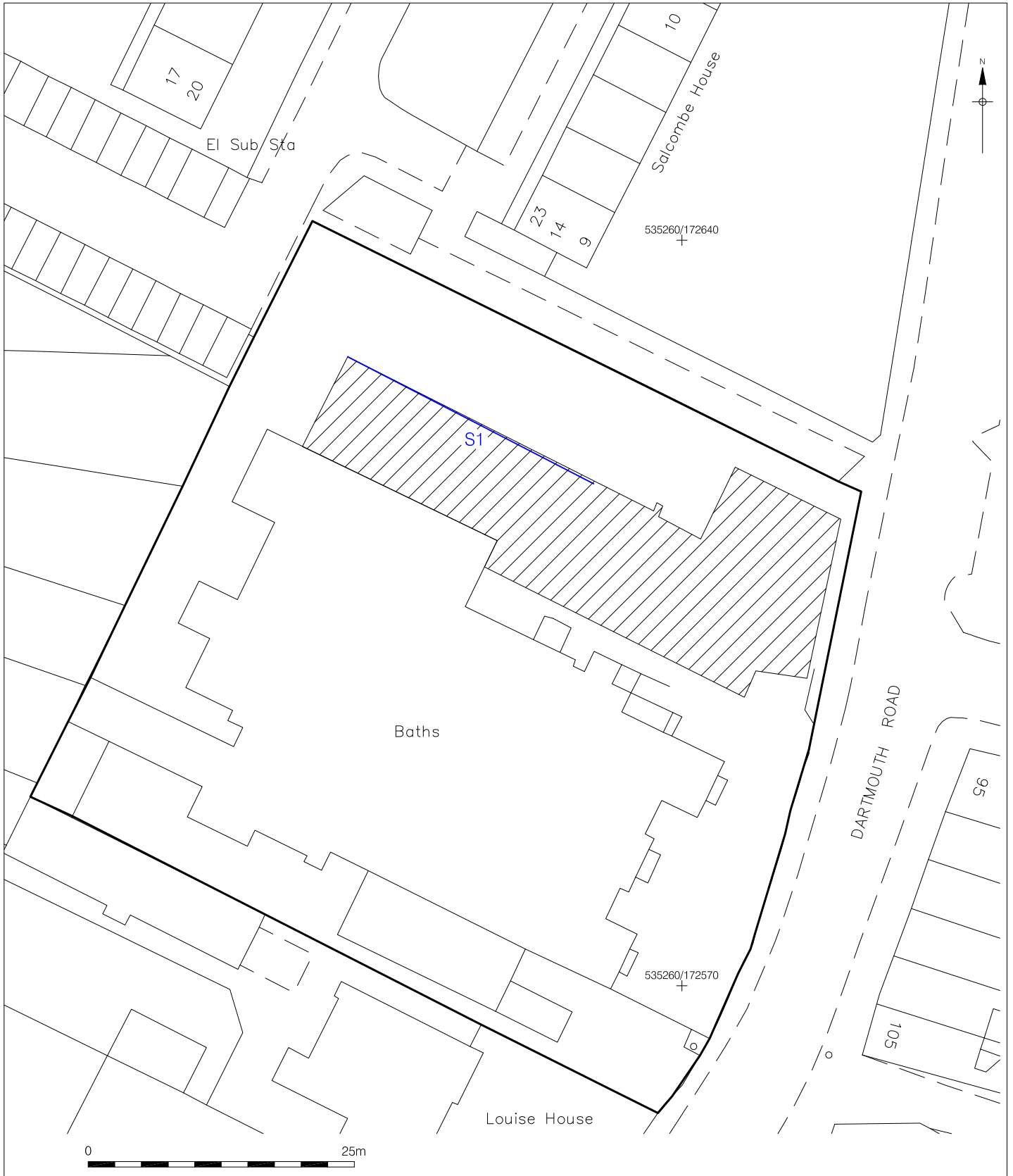


Figure 1
 Site Location
 1:20,000 at A4



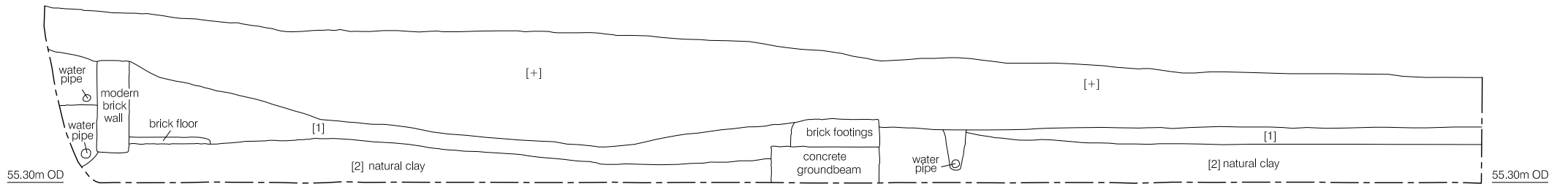
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Figure 2
Location of Watching Brief Monitored Area
1:500 at A4

NW

SE



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Figure 3
Section 1
1:100 at A4

6 APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT INDEX

Context Number	Description	Interpretation	Height AOD
1	Soft light brownish grey clay silt (20:80) with moderate chalk and occasional charcoal, brick, tile, pot and very rounded to angular flint pebbles (up to 75mm)	Modern made ground layer	56.30m AOD to 56.26m AOD
2	Stiff mid greyish brown (with light yellowish brown, light bluish grey and light greyish brown lenses) silty clay (30:70) with occasional sub-rounded to sub angular flint pebbles and cobbles (up to 0.20m)	Natural clay	56.10m AOD to 55.52m AOD

7 APPENDIX 2: OASIS FORM

OASIS ID: preconst1-94848

Project details

Project name	LAND AT FOREST HILL POOLS, DARTMOUTH ROAD, LEWISHAM SE23 3YF
Short description of the project	An archaeological watching brief was conducted on land at Forest Hill Pools, London Borough of Lewisham SE23 3YF by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd. The watching brief monitored the excavation and ground reduction by machine of an area in the north of the site. No archaeological features or deposits were exposed during this watching brief. Natural clay was exposed, truncated horizontally by modern activity and localised drainage trenches.
Project dates	Start: 17-02-2011 End: 18-02-2011
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	FOR11 - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Conservation Area
Current Land use	Community Service 2 - Leisure and recreational buildings
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	'Watching Brief'
Prompt	Planning condition

Project location

Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON LEWISHAM LEWISHAM AND BLACKHEATH LAND AT FOREST HILL POOLS, DARTMOUTH ROAD, LEWISHAM
Postcode	SE23 3YF
Study area	0.30 Hectares
Site coordinates	TQ 3522 7259 51.4356416550 -0.05441027599510 51 26 08 N 000 03 15 W Point
Lat/Long Datum	Unknown
Height OD / Depth	Min: 55.52m Max: 56.10m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd.
Project brief originator	Local Planning Authority (with/without advice from County/District Archaeologist)
Project design originator	CgMs Consulting
Project director/manager	Chris Mayo
Project supervisor	Ashley Pooley
Type of sponsor/funding body	Consultant
Name of sponsor/funding body	CgMs Consulting

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	LAARC
Digital Contents	'Stratigraphic'
Digital Media available	'Images raster / digital photography', 'Images vector', 'Spreadsheets', 'Text'
Paper Archive recipient	LAARC
Paper Contents	'Stratigraphic'
Paper Media available	'Context sheet', 'Miscellaneous Material', 'Plan', 'Section'

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Land at Forest Hill Pools, Dartmouth Road, Lewisham SE23 3YF: Summary Report on an Archaeological WB
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Entered on	2 March 2011

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