

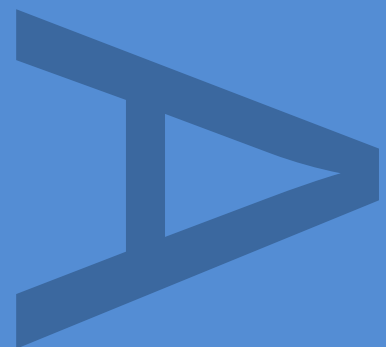
**LAND BETWEEN PERRY STREET  
AND MANOR ROAD, CRAYFORD,  
LONDON BOROUGH OF BEXLEY**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL PRO-ACTIVE  
OBSERVATION AND RECORDING  
EXERCISE**

**SITE CODE: POE10**

**APRIL 2011**

**PCA REPORT NUMBER: R11034**



**PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY**

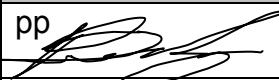

DOCUMENT VERIFICATION

LAND BETWEEN PERRY STREET AND MANOR ROAD, CRAYFORD, LONDON BOROUGH OF BEXLEY

ARCHAEOLOGICAL PRO-ACTIVE OBSERVATION AND RECORDING EXERCISE

Quality Control

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Report Number	R11034

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**An Archaeological Pro-Active Observation and Recording  
Exercise on Land Between Perry Street and Manor Road,  
Crayford, London Borough of Bexley**

**Site Code: PEO10**

**Central National Grid Reference: TQ 5107 7527**

**Written and Researched by Guy Seddon**

**Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd, April 2011**

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## **1 ABSTRACT**

- 1.1 Following an archaeological strip, map and sample excavation on land between Perry Street and Manor Road, Crayford during November and December 2010, a pro-active observation and recording exercise was undertaken during ground works on the eastern half of the land between 28<sup>th</sup> March and the 8<sup>th</sup> April 2011.
- 1.2 The site was located on land between Perry Street and Manor Road, just north of St Paulinus Church, Crayford, in the London Borough of Bexley. To the north the site was bordered by an open field, to the east and west by Perry Street and Manor Road respectively, whilst the cemetery associated with St Paulinus Church lay to the south.
- 1.3 During the archaeological evaluation and follow-up strip, map and sample excavation a series of linear features were recorded towards the west of the site which are likely to represent part of a medieval field system (Barrowman 2010), with possible pit features of uncertain date also being recorded.
- 1.4 The pro-active observation and recording exercise monitored ground reduction and the excavation of wall footings to the east of the site. No further archaeological finds or features were recorded during this phase of work.

## **2 INTRODUCTION**

- 2.1 This report details the results and working methods of an archaeological pro-active observation and recording exercise conducted on land between Perry Street and Manor Road, Crayford, London Borough of Bexley. The site is centred on National Grid Reference TQ 5107 7527. The work was commissioned by CgMs Consulting on behalf of Fairview New Homes Ltd who funded the archaeological investigation and was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology under the supervision of Guy Seddon and the project management of Tim Bradley.
- 2.2 The site was located within an open field, boarded by Manor Road to the west and Perry Street to the east. To the south lay the church of St Paulinus and the associated cemetery, and the north was a further open field (Fig. 1).
- 2.3 The site was previously the subject of a Desk Based Assessment by CgMs Consulting (Meager 2010), a field evaluation and strip, map and sample excavation conducted by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd, (Barrowman 2010). This investigation revealed a series of linear features concentrated in the western part of the site interpreted as medieval field systems.
- 2.4 Following the excavation, a pro-active observation and recording exercise was conducted to the east of the site, monitoring ground reduction and the excavation of wall footings for a garden of remembrance, as agreed with the archaeological advisor to the London Borough of Bexley, Mark Stevenson of the English Heritage Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service (GLAAS). The on-site work was conducted from the 28<sup>th</sup> March to the 8<sup>th</sup> April 2011.
- 2.5 The completed archive comprising written, drawn and photographic records and artefactual material will be deposited at the London Archaeological Archive and Resource Centre (LAARC) under site code PEO10.

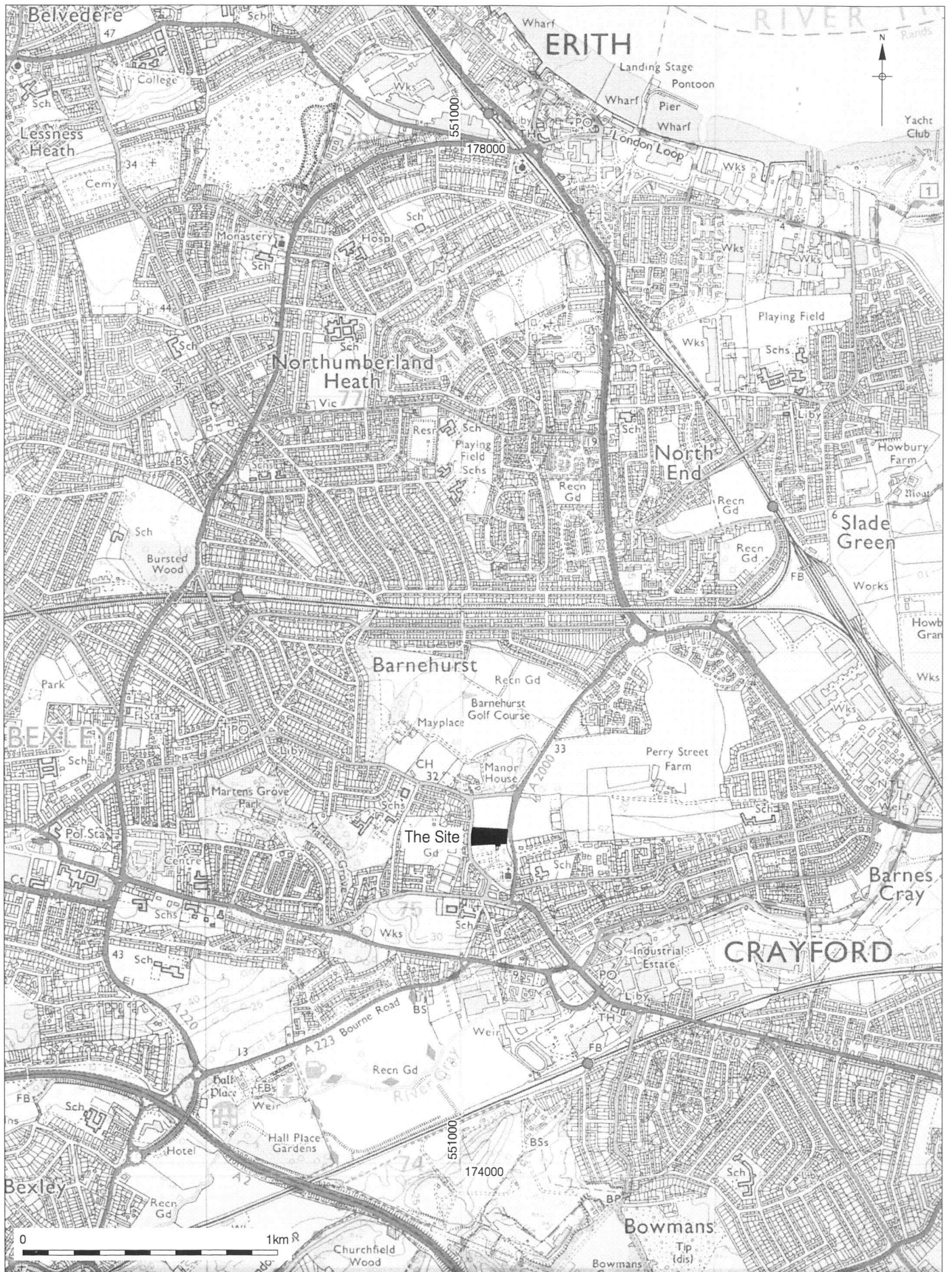


Figure 1  
Site Location  
1:20,000 at A4

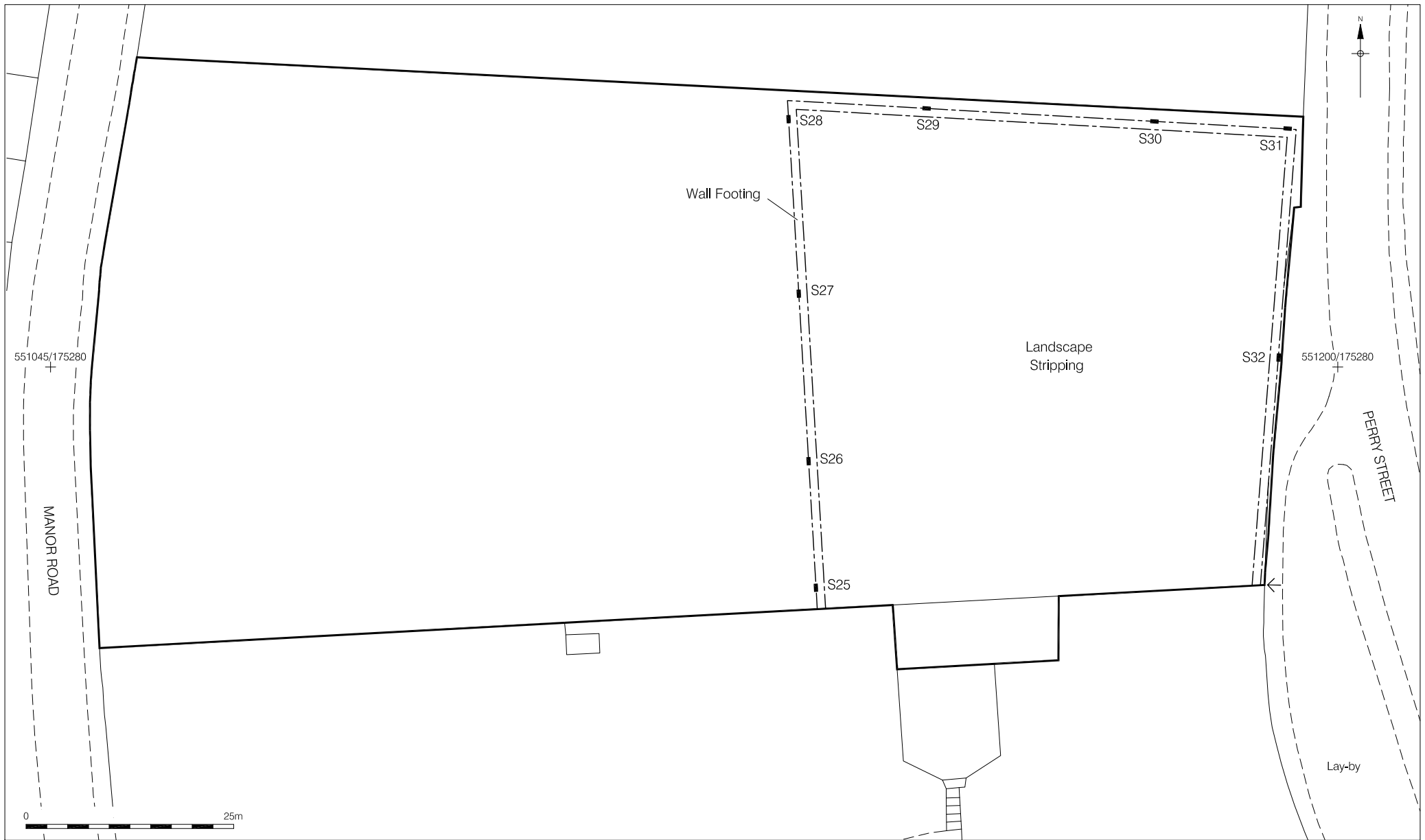


Figure 2  
 Trench Location  
 1:625 at A4



### **3 PLANNING BACKGROUND**

3.1 The planning background for the site is dealt with in detail in previous reports, (Meager 2010a; Barrowman 2011). The significant points are laid out below:

#### **3.2 National Policy: Planning Policy Statement (PPS 5)**

3.2.1 In March 2010 the Department for Communities and Local Government issued Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment (PPS5), which provides guidance for planning authorities, property owners, developers and others on the investigation and preservation of archaeological remains.

3.2.2 In considering any planning application for development, the local planning authority will be guided by the policy framework set by government guidance, in this instance PPS5, by current Unitary Development Plan policy and by other material considerations.

#### **3.3 Archaeology in the London Borough of Bexley**

3.2.1 The investigation aims to satisfy the objectives of the London Borough of Bexley, which fully recognises the importance of the buried heritage for which they are the custodians. The Borough's *Unitary Development Plan*, adopted 2004, contains policy statements in respect of protecting the buried archaeological resource.

#### **3.4 Development Planning Permission**

3.4.1 Planning permission has been granted for the layout of a cemetery and Remembrance Garden at the site (Planning Ref: 07/08321/FUL) which included the following archaeological condition:

*No development shall take place until the applicant has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted by the applicant and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.*

*Reason: to ensure that adequate archaeological records can be made in respect of the site and in the interests of the heritage of the area.*

3.5 Prior to the archaeological investigations, a specification was prepared for an archaeological pro-active observation and recording exercise on the redevelopment area (Meager 2010c) following discussions with Mark Stevenson of English Heritage GLAAS.

## **4 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY**

### **4.1 Geology**

- 4.1.1 The British Geological Survey Sheet 271, Dartford 1998, shows the underlying geology of the study site to comprise the sand and clay of the Lambeth Group (Woolwich and Reading Beds).
- 4.1.2 Geotechnical information derived from the study site in March 2010 revealed made ground/topsoil 0.3-0.4m thick above sandy-gravelly-clay. The borehole logs and location plan are reproduced in Appendix 1 of the Desk-Based Assessment (Meager 2010).
- 4.1.3 The excavation conducted on the western side of the site revealed the Lambeth Group deposits across the entirety of the excavation area. The composition of this deposit ranged from sandy-gravels on the higher southern areas, through to sandy-gravelly-clay (brickearth) in the north, with patches of clayey-gravelly-sand in areas, being mid yellowish-orange to orangey-yellow in appearance. The deposit sloped notably from the south downwards to the north, with levels of between 30.63m OD and 28.44m OD recorded.

### **4.2 Topography**

- 4.2.1 The topography of the site is moderately sloped from a high point to the south, upon which the church is situated, downwards towards a valley in the north. The visible topography was seen to reflect that which occurred naturally in the area. Spot heights taken across the site during the previous excavation indicate a highest level of 30.88m OD in the southwest area of the site, falling to 28.51m OD in the northwest area.
- 4.2.2 No watercourses or naturally occurring bodies of water are known within the vicinity of the study site.

## **5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

- 5.1 The archaeological and historical background is dealt with in detail in the Assessment of an Archaeological Investigation (Barrowman 2011). Some salient points from the recent excavations are laid out below.
- 5.2 During the archaeological evaluation a north-south aligned ditch was revealed in the three westernmost trenches, along with a narrow north-south linear in the northwest trench and a pair of small pits in the southwest trench (Barrowman 2010). The area investigated for the strip, map and sample excavation was designed to target this area of the site. Stripping of the site revealed further evidence of the two linear features from the evaluation, including the returns of both, and possible post impressions within the narrower linear. In addition, a further linear and several more possible pits were uncovered.
- 5.2.1 The linear features are likely to represent part of a medieval field system, with at least two phases clearly shown. It is also possible that the post impressions observed in the earlier gully represent the feature's re-use in a small-scale structural capacity, such as an animal pen or the like. The date of the third linear is unknown, but may be contemporary with the medieval features. The exact function of the possible pit features is uncertain, as is their date. No dating evidence was recovered from any of these features, however the presence of equine bones in the pit near the linear features suggests that a date contemporary to the larger ditch is possible, from which equine bones were also recovered.

## **6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY**

- 6.1 The pro-active observation and recording exercise followed an earlier strip, map and sample exercise which had identified a probable medieval field system in the western area of the site (Barrowman 2011). A specification was prepared prior to the works detailing the methodology required for the excavation of the strip and map area (Meager 2010b).
- 6.2 In accordance with the specification, the removal of the top and subsoils down the formation levels for the Garden of Remembrance and the footings for its boundary wall was conducted with the use of a large 360° tracked machine fitted with a flat bladed grading bucket in spits of no more than 100mm in thickness. This machine was monitored under archaeological supervision at all times. The spoil was transported and piled beyond the limits of excavation with the use of a dumper. Neither machine entered the freshly opened archaeological areas. No live services were present on the site.
- 6.3 The single context planning recording system was used, with individual descriptions of all archaeological strata entered onto pro-forma recording sheets. All plans and sections of archaeological deposits and features were recorded on polyester based drawing film, the plans being drawn at a scale of 1:20 and the sections at 1:10. The OD height of all principal strata was calculated and indicated on the appropriate plans and sections.

## **7 THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE**

### **7.1 Introduction**

7.1.1 The following description of the stratigraphy details the main characteristics of each context, its position within the phased stratigraphic matrix and its preliminary interpretation.

### **7.2 Phase 1: Natural**

7.2.1 The underlying geology of the site is known to be deposits that composed the Lambeth Group (Woolwich and Reading Beds) [136] and this was seen across the entirety of the excavation area. However, during the large scale stripping of the area only the upper interface of this natural stratum was observed at a depth of between 0.30m and 0.40m below ground level, with elements of the overlying allotment subsoil also present to formation level of the landscaping. This precluded the positive identification of any archaeological features which may have been present.

7.2.2 As well as the general stripping of the area, a deeper trench was cut north-south along the east and west perimeters of the area, and east-west along the southern perimeter. This trench was excavated to greater depths of between 0.50m and 1m, and allowed a full profile through the natural and overlying deposits to be recorded. The composition of the natural ranged from sandy-gravels on the higher southern areas, through to sandy-gravelly-clay (brickearth) in the north, with patches of clayey-gravelly-sand in areas, being mid yellowish-orange to orangey-yellow in appearance. The deposit sloped notably from the south downwards to the north, with levels of between 30.63m OD and 28.44m OD recorded. No archaeological deposits or cut features were recorded during the excavation of this trench.

### **7.3 Phase 2: Post-Medieval to Modern**

7.3.1 The archaeological horizons of the site were sealed by a layer of subsoil [135], and in turn by the topsoil [134] that formed the existent surface level of the area.

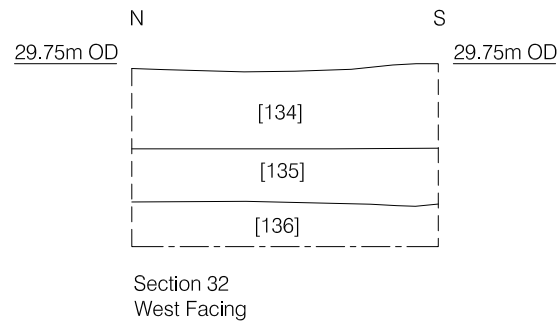
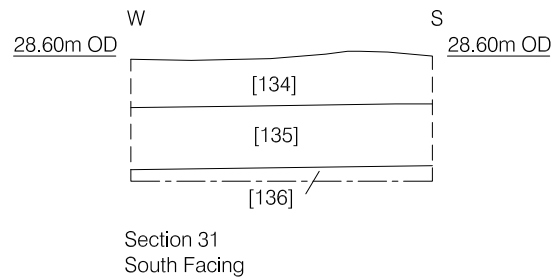
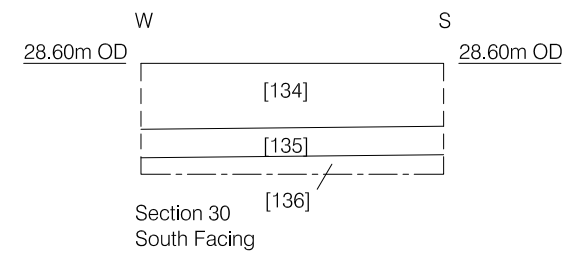
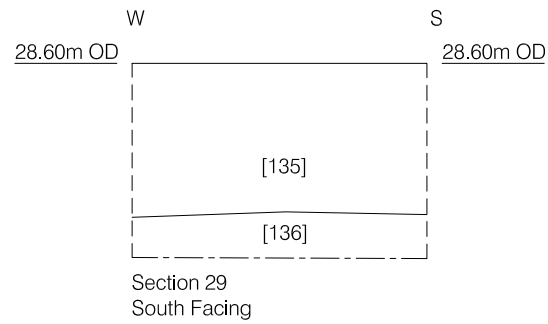
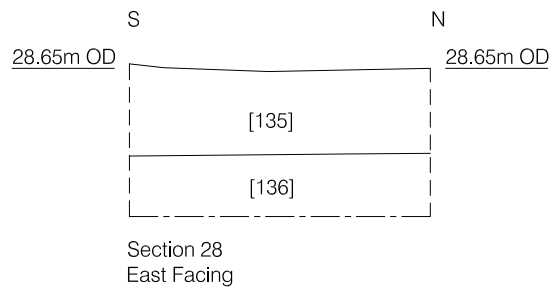
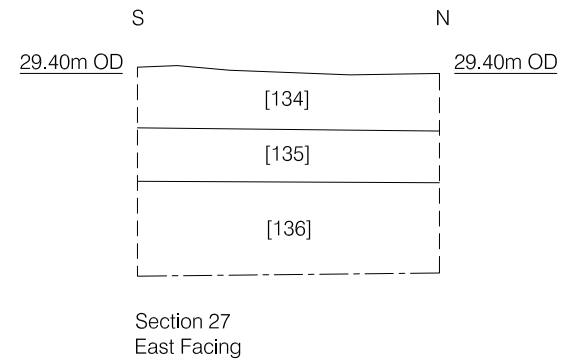
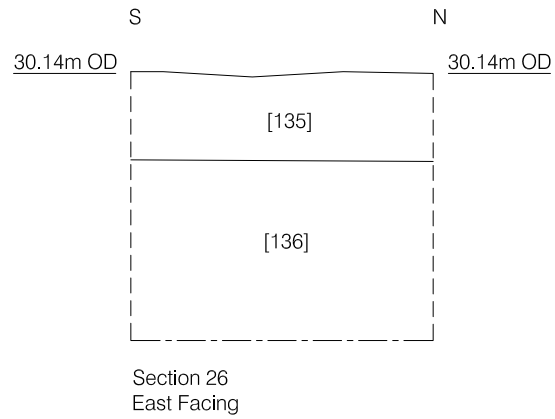
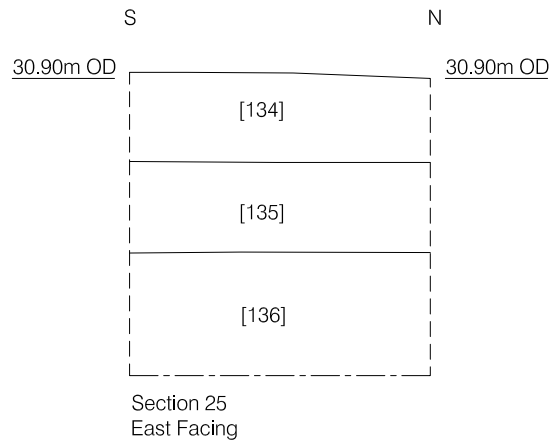


Figure 3  
Sections  
1:25 at A4

## **8 CONCLUSIONS**

- 8.1 The pro-active observation and recording undertaken across the eastern side of the development area revealed no evidence of the continuation of archaeological activity recorded during the investigations undertaken across the western side of the site.
- 8.2 The general stripping of the area for landscaping only penetrated to the interface between the overlying allotment soil and the underlying natural, and therefore did not provide a 'clean' horizon from which to positively identify archaeological features. However, the footing of the perimeter wall, which was excavated around the circumference of the eastern, southern and western sides of the site, provided a full profile through natural and overlying deposits. This trench provided no evidence of cut features along its length. This would suggest that the field system identified in the western side of the site did not extend across the development area, and is likely to have been focused along, and accessed off, Manor Way in antiquity.

## **9 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

- 9.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited would like to thank Richard Meager of CgMs Consulting for commissioning this project on behalf of Fairview New Homes Ltd who funded the archaeological investigation and Mark Stevenson of English Heritage for monitoring the works.
- 9.2 The author would like to thank Jennifer Simonson for illustrations and Tim Bradley for his project management and editing of this report.



## 10 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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## APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT INDEX

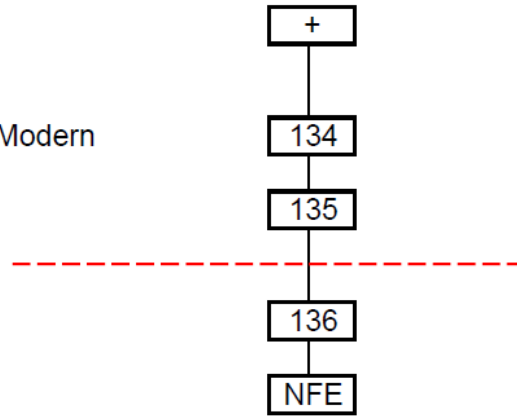
Site Code	Context No.	Trench	Plan	Section / Elevation	Type	Description	Date	Phase
PEO 10	134	GoR	-	25, 27, 30, 31	Layer	Topsoil	Post-Medieval	2
PEO 10	135	GoR	-	25-31	Layer	Subsoil	Post-Medieval	2
PEO 10	136	GoR	-	25-31	Layer	Natural	-	1

## APPENDIX 2: MATRIX

PEO 10  
Matrix

Phase 2  
Post Med- Modern

Phase 1  
Natural



## APPENDIX 3: OASIS FORM

### Project details

Project name	An Archaeological Pro-Active Observation and Recording Exercise, Perry Street and Manor Road, Crayford, LB Bexley
Short description of the project	Following an archaeological strip, map and sample excavation on land between Perry Street and Manor Road, Crayford during November and December 2010, a pro-active observation and recording exercise was undertaken during ground works on the eastern half of the land between 28th March and the 8th April 2011. The pro-active observation and recording exercise monitored ground reduction and the excavation of wall footings to the east of the site. No further archaeological finds or features were recorded during this phase of work, with natural clay, subsoil and topsoil representing the full archaeological sequence.
Project dates	Start: 28-03-2011 End: 08-04-2011
Previous/future work	Yes / No
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Area of Archaeological Importance (AAI)
Current Land use	Vacant Land 2 - Vacant land not previously developed

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### Project location

Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON BEXLEY CRAYFORD Land off Manor Road and Perry Street, Crayford
Postcode	DA1 4ET
Study area	800.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 5107 7527 51.4557097601 0.174621834658 51 27 20 N 000 10 28 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 28.44m Max: 30.63m

---

### Project creators

Name of Organisation	Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd
Project brief originator	English Heritage
Project design originator	CgMs Consulting

Project director/manager	Tim Bradley
Project supervisor	Guy Seddon
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body	Fairview New Homes Ltd

---

### Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	LAARC
Digital Archive recipient	LAARC
Digital Media available	'Text'
Paper Archive recipient	LAARC
Paper Media available	'Context sheet', 'Photograph', 'Plan', 'Report', 'Section'

---

### Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	An Archaeological Pro-Active Observation and Recording Exercise on Land Between Perry Street and Manor Road, Crayford, London Borough of Bexley
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Seddon, G.
Date	2011
Issuer or publisher	Pre-Construct Archaeology
Place of issue or publication	Brockley, London
Description	A4 spiral bound report

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