

SUMMARY OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS AT 306-310a LEE HIGH ROAD, SE13, LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM (LHI06)

1. Introduction

This represents a summary of archaeological observations carried out on site at the junction of Lee High Road and Bankwell Road, SE13 during groundwork redevelopments (Fig 1). This report was commissioned as it was considered that the site has some archaeological potential.

2. Summary

The site was visited on June 22nd after the existing structures had been demolished and prior to any ground reduction by machine. Photographs were taken and evidence of any basement structures was sought. A small concreted basement structure was observed in the south-west of the site, measuring *c* 3m long by 1m wide and 1m deep, with access to previous building via a short flight of steps. This would not have been enclosed and probably served as a storage yard.

Archaeological observations were carried out during the contractor's groundworks on June 26th and 27th. The site was located on fairly level ground at about 17m OD, to be reduced to *c* 15.75m OD at which point foundations would be laid and some drainage trenches dug.

Initial ground reduction revealed a medium sized post-medieval rubbish pit in the north-west corner of the site measuring *c* 5m in length by 2m wide and cutting into the natural clay. The pit was photographed and recorded. Ceramic and leather finds dating to the nineteenth century were recovered from the upper fill of the pit during cleaning for photographing. The pit is at *c* 15.8m OD and not subject to further groundworks therefore did not need to be excavated.

Ground reduction continued throughout the site and no further archaeological features or deposits were observed. Clean natural deposits were directly overlain by recent made ground, and previous soil horizons had been wholly truncated.

3. Conclusion

During archaeological observations of ground reduction on site, only one post-medieval rubbish pit was found. The site has been reduced foundation level revealing natural yellow sandy clay with no further evidence of cut features or deposits. While some further construction trenches will be excavated by the contractor, it is not considered necessary to have an archaeologist present to monitor these works.



Fig 1 The site outline in relation to the current Ordnance Survey 1:1250 map (Plan TQ 3975SW)

Reproduced from the OS map with permission of the HMSO. ©Crown Copyright 2006. All rights reserved. Compass Archaeology Ltd., London SE1 1RQ, licence no. AL 100031317