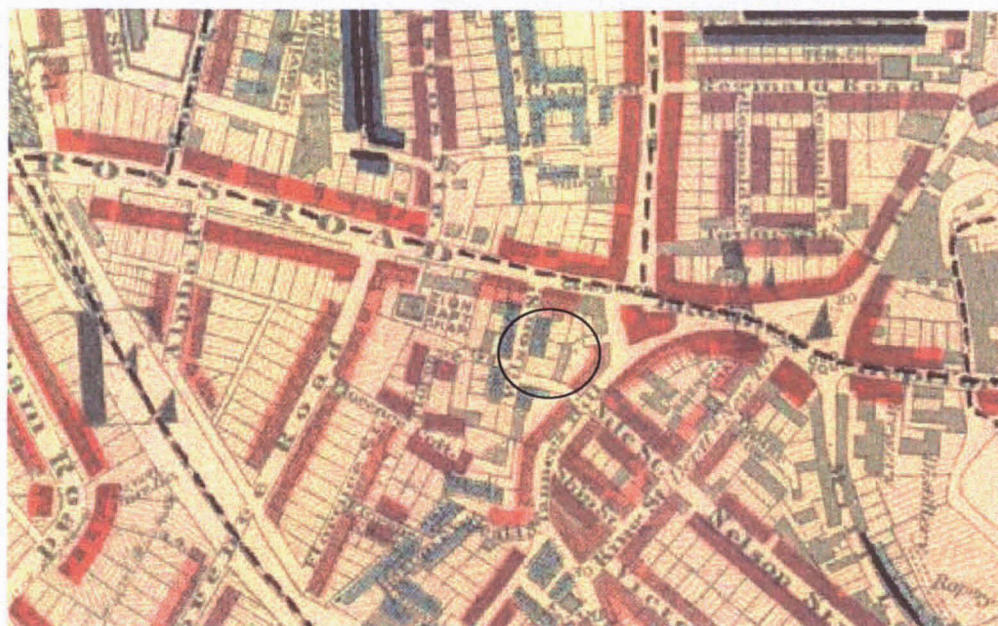


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**Tanner's Hill, Pearson's Avenue
and Willshaw Street,
Deptford SE8/SE14**
London Borough of Lewisham

Archaeological Watching Brief
on Foundations of No 19 Willshaw Street

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Archaeology Service

January 2005

**Tanner's Hill, Pearson's Avenue
and Willshaw Street,
Deptford SE8/SE14**
London Borough of Tower Lewisham

Archaeological Watching Brief
on Foundations of No 19 Willshaw Street

NGR 537132 176910

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Summary (non-technical)

Work on new foundation trenches was monitored between 9th and 12th of November 2004 during the redevelopment of the site.

A post-medieval wall foundation and well were observed dug through post-medieval ashy fill deposits. Below this fill were thin deposits of brickearth and alluvium over natural terrace sands and gravels.

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1 Introduction

1.1 Site background

The site is located to the south of New Cross Road and Deptford Broadway in Deptford, London, SE8. It lies on the north side of Pearson's Avenue, which forms its southern boundary. It is bounded to the west by Willshaw Street, to the east by Tanner's Hill and to the north by a number of properties fronting onto Willshaw Street, Pearson's Avenue and Tanner's Hill. The Ordnance Survey National Grid reference for the centre of the site is 537132 176910.

This report is of a watching brief on the rebuilding of 19 Willshaw Avenue. It follows a previous watching brief on 21a Willshaw Avenue.

A desk top *Archaeological impact assessment* was previously prepared by MoLAS, which covers the whole area of the site (Bowsher and Miller 2002). This document should be referred to for information on the natural geology, archaeological and historical background of the site, and the initial assessment of its archaeological potential.

1.2 The planning and legislative framework

The legislative and planning framework in which the archaeological exercise took place was summarised in the *Archaeological impact assessment* (Miller and Bowsher 2002).

1.3 Planning background

The site was given planning permission: Ref No 01/49347, for the construction of a four storey block, incorporating roof terraces, comprising 2, business units (Use Class B1), 10, one bedroom and 2, two bedroom, self-contained flats. It is part of a larger development of the whole site and a planning condition requiring an archaeological investigation has been applied.

1.4 Origin and scope of the report

This report was commissioned by Bowman Associates and produced by the Museum of London Archaeology Service (MoLAS). The report has been prepared within the terms of the relevant Standard specified by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA, 2001) and tEnglish Heritage Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service.

The purpose of the watching brief was to determine whether archaeological remains or features were present on the site and, if so, to record the nature and extent of such remains.

The purpose of the present report is to analyse the results of the excavation against the original research aims, and to suggest what further work, including analysis or publication (if any), should now take place.

1.5 Aims and objectives

The following research aims and objectives were addressed:

- What is the level of truncation caused by earlier basements in this area?
- What is the nature and significance of the surviving archaeological remains?
- What are the levels of natural deposits and how do these compare to adjacent sites?

All research is undertaken within the priorities established in the Museum of London's *A research framework for London Archaeology*, 2002

2 Topographical and historical background

The background to the site is extensively discussed in the Archaeological Impact Assessment (Bowsher and Miller 2002).

3 The watching brief

3.1 Methodology

New wall foundation trenches were observed excavated to hard deposits around the edge of 19 Willshaw Street and E-W across the middle of the new building. The perimeter trench was 1.2–1.5m wide and the trench across the middle 1.7m.

All archaeological excavation and recording during the watching brief was done in accordance with the the MoLAS Archaeological Site Manual (MoLAS 1994).

The slab/ground was broken out and cleared by contractors under MoLAS supervision. Trenches were excavated by machine by the contractors, and monitored by a member of staff from MoLAS.

The locations of the areas of excavation were recorded by offset survey from adjacent standing walls and plotted onto the OS grid on a digital 1:1250 scale map.

The heights of observations and/or archaeological remains were recorded relative to ground level.

Taped dimensions, and annotated sketch sections were recorded in notebook form (3 pages). There were no finds. The records can be found under the site code WW03 the MoL archive.

3.2 Results of the watching brief

Willshaw Street frontage

Observations on the Willshaw Street frontage were divided between north and south of the central trench. Deposits are reported below and depths are recorded in metres from the ground surface (approximately the same as Willshaw Street).

South trench	North trench	Deposit description
0	0	Concrete foundation
0.65	–	Red brick foundation
1.2	0.65	Grey coal-ashy fill
1.9	1.9	Dark brown dirty brickerath
2.2	2.1	Limit of excavation

North perimeter

The following deposits were typical of the north perimeter, recorded in a 2.2m long exposure towards the east side.

Depth	Deposit description
0	Concrete foundation
0.65	Modern made ground – brown silts and sand
1.8	Black-grey coal-ashy fill
2.2	Limit of excavation

East side

The following deposits were typical of the east side, recorded from the return with the north perimeter to the central foundations.

Depth	Deposit description
0	Concrete foundation
0.65	Modern made ground – brown silts and sand
1.0	Grey coal-ashy fill with sand lens towards bottom
1.7	Dark grey alluvium
2.1	Brown brickearth – at base of trench
2.1	Limit of excavation

East-west trench across the centre of the new building

Two structures were observed cut from ground level. They are described here above the sequence of deposits.

A circular red-brick feature 1.3m diameter, probably a well, backfilled with coal ash was cut through towards the east end of the new foundation trench. It was dug from the surface and its base was on the brickearth 2.1m deep.

A red-brick wall was built on a small stone foundation towards the west end of the central trench. The wall was aligned with Willshaw Street and the base of the foundation was at 1.4m below the surface. It was made of chalk and mortar and was 500mm wide and 300mm deep.

Depth	Deposit description
0	Modern made ground – brown silts and sand
0.4	Grey coal-ashy fill with sand lens towards bottom
1.3	Dark brown reworked brickearth
1.7	Dark grey alluvium
2.1	Brown brickearth
2.2	Sandy gravel
2.2	Limit of excavation

4 Potential of archaeology

4.1 Original research aims

Addressing the original questions

- There was no truncation by previous basements
- The only surviving features were a post-medieval wall and a brick well (dated to the 17th- or 18th centuries by the brickwork)
- Natural terrace gravels (mainly sand) were located a little over 2m below ground level and above them natural silt deposits had been reworked and there was a significant alluvial deposit. The site lies 130m west of 44–45 Deptford Broadway where a Post-medieval culvert was recorded at 1.8m below the ground surface and it is likely that this area was reworked by natural hillslope and alluvial activity in the early modern era.

4.2 New research aims

None

4.3 Significance of the data

Whilst the archaeological remains are undoubtedly of local significance there is nothing to suggest that they are of regional or national importance.

5 Publication and archiving

Information on the results of the excavation will be made publicly available by means of a database in digital form, to permit inclusion of the site data in any future academic researches into the development of London.

In view of the limited potential of the material and the relatively limited significance of the data it is suggested that further work is limited to records of these observations being archived at the Museum of London.

A short note on the results of the watching brief should appear in the annual round-up of the *London Archaeologist*.

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7 NMR OASIS archaeological report form

Project details

Project name 19 Willshaw Street
 Short description of the project Watching Brief post-medieval wall and well. Post-med made ground, and alluvial deposits
 Project dates Start: 09-11-2004 End: 12-11-2004
 Previous/future work Yes / Yes
 Any associated project reference codes wwws03 - Sitecode
 Type of project Recording project
 Current Land use Other 3 - Built over
 Monument type WELL Post Medieval
 Monument type WALL Post Medieval
 Investigation type 'Watching Brief'

Project location

Site location GREATER LONDON LEWISHAM DEPTFORD AND NEWCROSS 19 Willshaw Street
 Postcode SE8
 Study area 15 Square metres
 National grid reference TQ 3713 7691 Point
 Height OD Min: 5m Max: 7.5m

Project creators

Name of Organisation MoLAS
 Project brief originator Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
 Project design originator MoLAS
 Project director/manager Robin Nielsen
 Project supervisor David Sankey

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists? Yes
 Digital Archive recipient LAARC
 Digital Archive ID wws03
 Digital Media available 'Text'
 Digital Archive Exists? Yes
 Paper Archive recipient LAARC
 Paper Media available 'Correspondence', 'Plan', 'Report', 'Unpublished Text'
 Paper Archive Exists? Yes

Project bibliography 1

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Fig 1 Site location

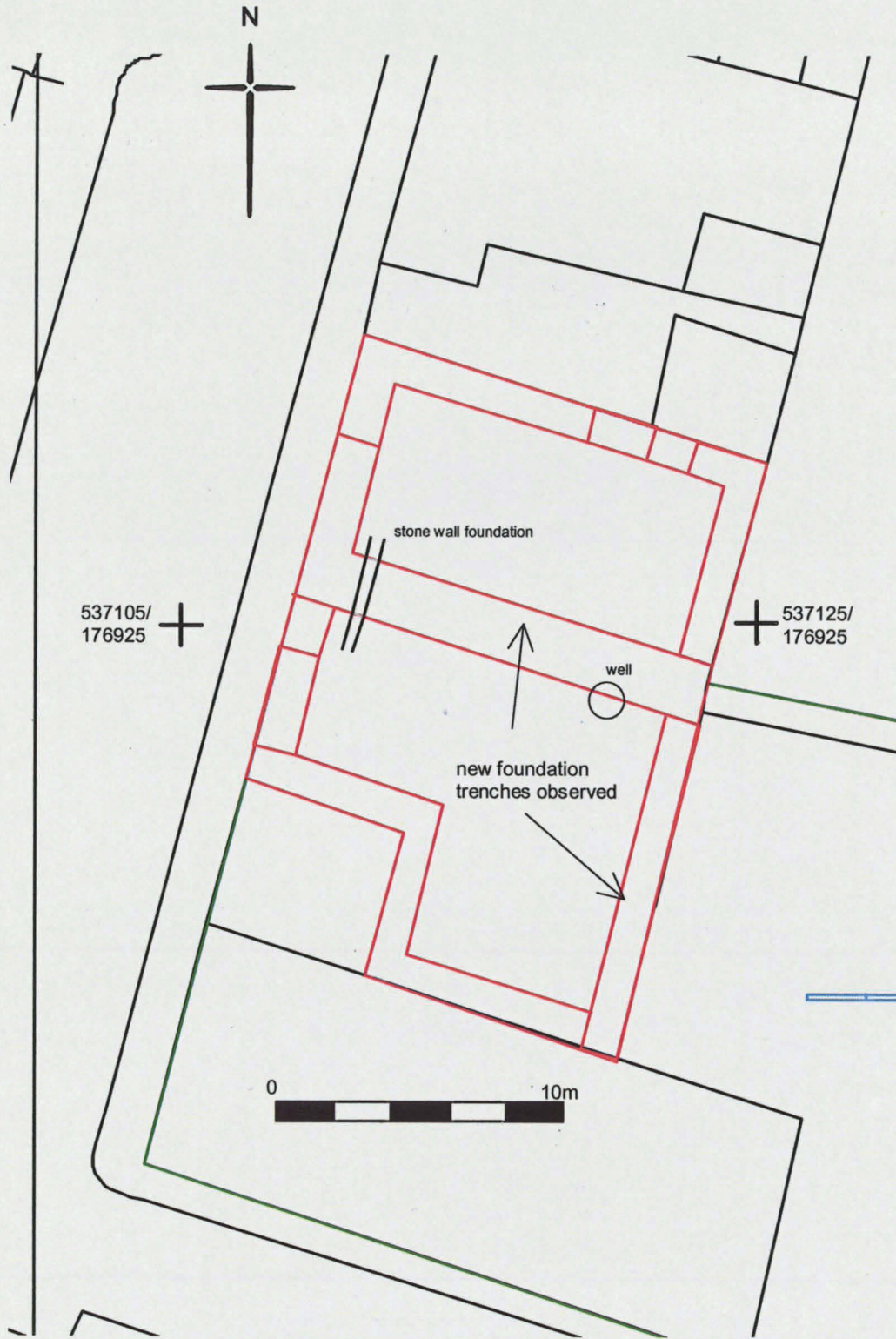


Fig 2 Location of observations