

Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION: 26-30 BLYTHE HILL LANE CATFORD LONDON

on behalf of Total Property SE Ltd



Lizzie Gill BSc PgDip

October 2007

ASC: 970/CBH/02

Letchworth House
Chesney Wold, Bleak Hall,
Milton Keynes MK6 1NE
Tel: 01908 608989 Fax: 01908 605700
Email: office@archaeological-services.co.uk
Website: www.archaeological-services.co.uk



Site Data

<i>ASC project code:</i>	CBH	<i>ASC Project No:</i>	970
<i>Event No:</i>		<i>Accession No:</i>	BYX07
<i>County:</i>	Greater London		
<i>London Borough:</i>	Lewisham		
<i>Village/Town:</i>	Catford		
<i>NGR (to 8 figs):</i>	TQ 3672 7348		
<i>Present use:</i>	Wasteland with demolished garages		
<i>Planning proposal:</i>	Construction of three two storey houses		
<i>Planning application ref/date:</i>	04/55859 & 04/57728		
<i>Local Planning Authority:</i>	Lewisham		
<i>Date of fieldwork:</i>	20/09/07		
<i>Client:</i>	Total Property SE Ltd 128 Norwood High Street London SE27 9NH		
<i>Contact name:</i>	Philip O'Neill		

Internal Quality Check

<i>Primary Author:</i>	Lizzie Gill	<i>Date:</i>	3 rd October 2007
------------------------	-------------	--------------	------------------------------

<i>Revisions:</i>		<i>Date:</i>	
-------------------	--	--------------	--

<i>Edited/Checked By:</i>		<i>Date:</i>	
---------------------------	--	--------------	--

© Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd

No part of this document is to be copied in any way without prior written consent.

Every effort is made to provide detailed and accurate information. However, Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd cannot be held responsible for errors or inaccuracies within this report.

© Ordnance Survey maps reproduced with the sanction of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office.
ASC Licence No. AL 100015154

CONTENTS

Summary	4
1. Introduction	4
2. Aims & Methods	7
3. Archaeological & Historical Background	8
4. Results.	9
5. Conclusions	11
6. Acknowledgements	12
7. Archive	12
8. References	13

Appendices:

1. Trench Summary Tables.....	14
2. List of Photographs.....	10
3. ASC OASIS Form	16

Figures:

1. General location	3
2. Site plan	5
3. Sections	9

Plates:

Cover: View of NW corner of site

1. Looking NW down trench 1	10
2. Looking SE down trench 1	10
3. View of SE and NE facing sections	10
4. Looking SE down trench 1	10
5. View towards SW corner of site.....	10
6. View towards SE end of site	10



Figure 1: General location (Scale 1:25,000)

Summary

In September 2007, Archaeological Services and Consultancy Ltd. undertook an evaluation at 26-30 Blythe Hill Lane, Catford, London. The client, without archaeological supervision, excavated one 'T' shaped evaluation trench. The sections of this showed disturbed stratigraphy and modern rubble likely to be a result of terracing. One large pit filled with modern brick rubble was also noted in the NW half of the trench. No archaeological remains were observed and it is unlikely that significant archaeology is present on the site.

1 Introduction

1.1 In September 2007 *Archaeological Services and Consultancy Ltd* (ASC) carried out an evaluation at 28-30 Blythe Hill Lane, Catford (NGR TQ 3672 7348: Fig. 1). The project was commissioned by *Total Properties SE Ltd*, and was carried out according to instruction given on behalf of the local planning authority (LPA), *London Borough of Lewisham*, by their archaeological advisor (AA), *Greater London Archaeological Advisory Service* (GLAAS), and a project design prepared by ASC (970/CBH/01). The relevant planning application references are 04/55859 & 04/57728

1.2 *Planning Background*

This evaluation was required under the terms of *Planning Policy Guidance Note 16* (PPG16), in response to proposals for the construction of three two-storey houses.

1.3 *Location & Description*

The site is situated in southeast London, in the borough of Lewisham (Fig. 1). It comprises a rectangular plot of land, on the west side of Blythe Hill Lane, opposite Winterbourne Road and is centred on Ordnance Survey National Grid Reference TQ 3672 7348 (Fig. 2). The site is in a disused condition and comprises an area of hard standing and demolished garages.

1.4 *Services, Buildings, Access, Etc*

The site is located to the rear of houses on Ravensbourne Road, and is currently occupied by garages. Access to the site will be from Blythe Hill Lane. Service plans have not been provided.

1.5 *Geology & Topography*

The site lies within an urban area and the natural soils have not been mapped. It is flat and the surrounding area has been terraced, visible in the south eastern half of the site which is c.1.2m lower than the north western half (see fig.3 and plate 4). The natural topography rises to the north, towards Honor Oak Park and the site lies at an elevation of c. 35m OD.



Figure 2: Site plan (scale 1:1250)

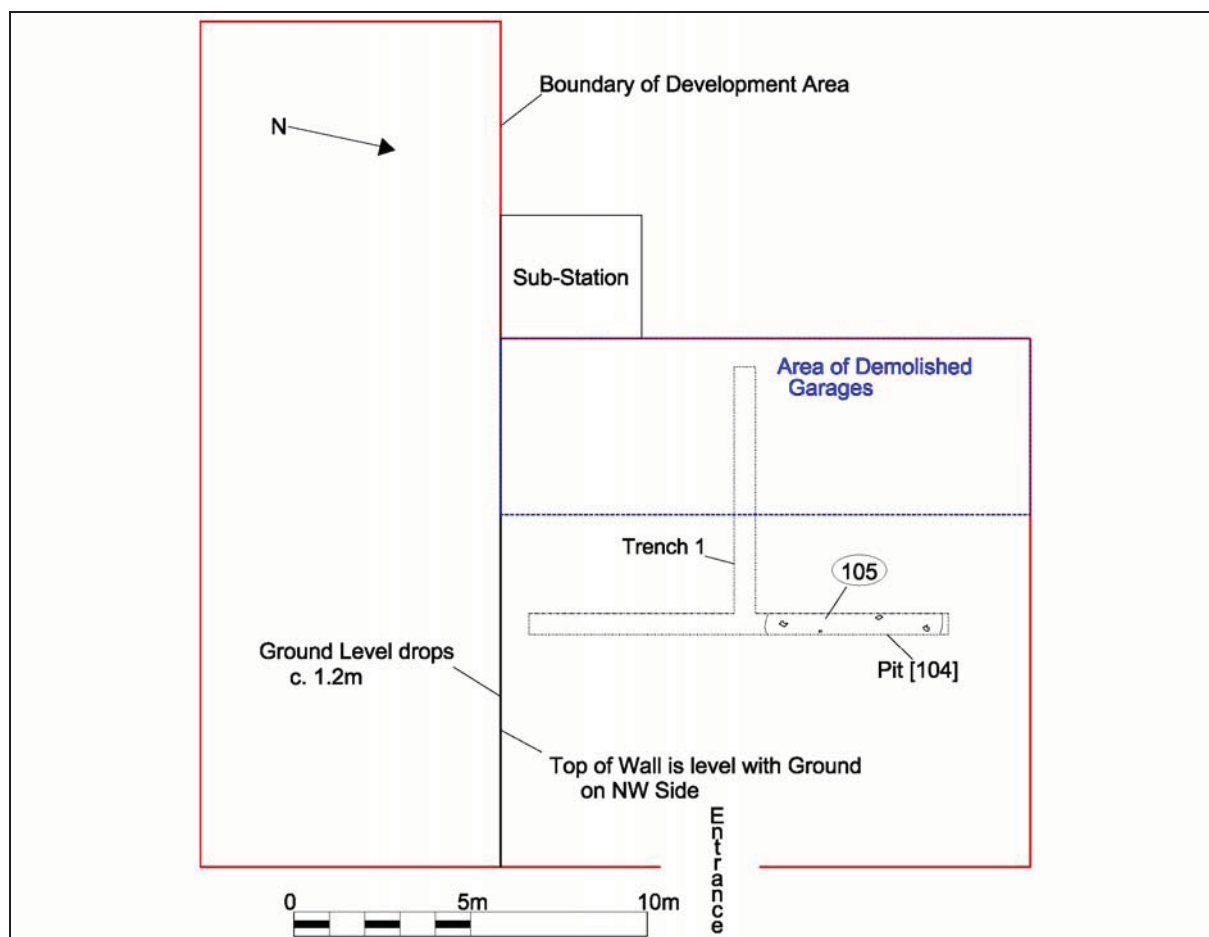


Figure 2: Site plan showing location of trench 1 (scale 1:200)

2 Aims & Methods

2.1 Aims

The aims of the evaluation were:

- To gather sufficient information to generate a reliable predictive model of the extent, character, date, state of preservation and depth of burial of any archaeological remains (and associated paleo-environmental deposits) within the site. In this case the following specific objective was identified:
- To establish whether there is evidence for the presence of the Roman road and any associated roadside activity

2.2 Standards

The work conformed to the project design (Barclay 2007), to the relevant sections of the Institute of Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct* (IFA 2000) and *Standard & Guidance Notes* (IFA 2001), and to the relevant sections of ASC's own *Operations Manual*.

2.3 Methods

The work was carried out as follows:

- Excavation of a trial trench in the open area in front of the existing garages
- Excavation of a 'T' shaped trench measuring 11m x 0.6m 9mx 0.6m.

2.4 Constraints

The evaluation was not carried out according to the project design (Barclay 2007), as the client excavated the trench himself without archaeological supervision. It was not located as suggested in the project design and it was dug using a machine with a 0.6m wide toothed bucket, instead of a 1.6m wide flat ditching bucket.

3 Archaeological & Historical Background

SMR = Sites and Monuments Record number

- 1.4.1 Catford is an area of considerable interest. Little archaeological work has taken place in the vicinity of the site and the area probably comprised open ground until the late 19th century.
- 1.4.2 The principal significance of the site is its proximity to a major Roman road (Fig. 2). Blythe Hill Lane follows the approximate route of the Roman road linking *Londinium* (London) with Lewis (Viatores route 14; OS 1979; Margery 1948). Road surfaces have been recorded c.1km north of the site in Blythe Hill Fields (SMR 436 and 1869). The significance of the Roman road has been recognised by the local authority and is designated as an *Archaeological Priority Area*.
- 1.4.3 The alignment of the Roman road in this area was preserved as a track and footpath and the present Blythe Hill Lane was laid out on this line during the 19th century (Godfrey 2005). Stanstead Road, which is the principal east to west route through and the area lies to the south of the Blythe Hill Lane, and may also be an early route.
- 1.4.3 The Lord of the Manor, the Earl of Dartmouth, introduced a bill to Parliament for the enclosure of the area in 1810 and received a substantial share of the land allotments. Many of the housing developments in the area commenced after the enclosure. Ravensbourne Road and its associated housing lies immediately to the west of the site and was constructed in 1825. For the remainder of the 19th century the site formed parts of the rear gardens of two semi-detached houses on the east side of Ravensbourne Road. The houses currently occupying the west side of Blythe Hill Lane were probably constructed during the first half of the 20th century.
- 1.4.4 The site was occupied by a row of garages, which have recently been demolished. These were probably constructed during the 1960s or 1970s. The site may also have been terraced.

4 Results

General

- 4.1 The client machine excavated one trench using a toothed bucket (Fig. 2). This was 'T' shaped and placed in the upper part of the site, parallel to the frontings of the demolished garages on a NW-SE alignment with the right angled part aligned SW-NE. A large amount of brick rubble and refuse covered the surface surrounding the trench.
- 4.2 The southeastern end of the site was c.1.2m lower than the northeastern half as a result of terracing. It was not possible to excavate a trench in the SE half due to health and safety concerns.

Detailed information regarding the trial trench and its contents appears in Appendix 1.

Trench / 1 (Fig. 2: Plates 1,2,3,4,6)

Dimensions: 11m x 0.6m 9m x 0.6m

Description: The stratigraphy of the trench consisted of 0.3m of mid grey silty clay with frequent inclusions of modern brick, tile, coke and plastic fragments (101) overlying a 0.1m thick layer of modern crushed brick (102) which in turn overlies a 0.6m thick layer of mid brownish clay re-deposited natural geology with inclusions of brick fragments (103). Underlying this is mid yellowish brown London clay which comprises the natural strata (plate 3).

A large pit [104] (plate 4) covered the NW most arm of the trench. This was c. 5m in diameter and filled with mid brown clay with inclusions of modern brick (105). Natural geology (106) was reached at c.0.9m in all areas of the trench excluding the area of the pit [104].

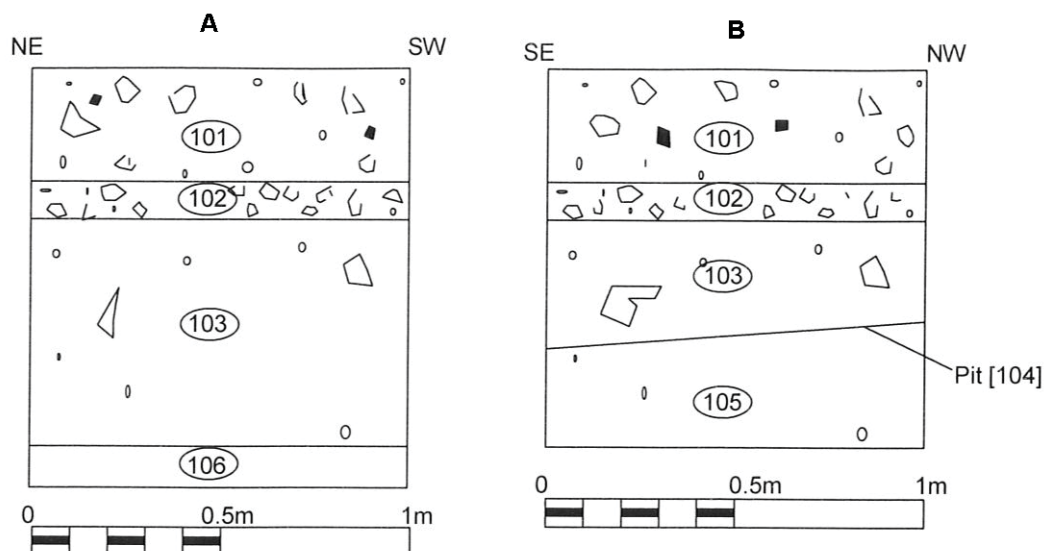


Figure 3: Sections of trench 1 showing stratigraphy down to the natural geology (A) and pit [104] (B) (scale 1:20)



Plate 1: Looking NW down trench 1



Plate 2: Looking SE down trench 1



Plate 3: View of SE and NE facing sections



Plate 4: Looking SE down trench 1



Plate 5: View towards SW corner of site



Plate 6: View towards SE end of site

5. Conclusions

- 5.1 Although the evaluation trench was not positioned as the project design suggested or dug under archaeological supervision, it is unlikely that this has unduly affected the findings of this evaluation. No archaeology was observed.
- 5.2 The layers of modern material observed in trench 1 (plate 3) suggest that the site has been subject to previous disturbance likely to have occurred when the area was terraced.
- 5.3 The southeastern part of the site is considerably lower than the north eastern half and has clearly undergone extensive terracing. It is likely that this half of the site would have similar stratigraphy to that seen in trench 1.
- 5.4 The large pit [104] in the NW half of the trench is filled with brick rubble and clearly of modern date. It is probably a dump relating to the terracing of the site.
- 5.5 Significant archaeological features were not observed in the trench. While the existence of individual isolated archaeological features away from the trench cannot be specifically excluded, it is unlikely that large numbers of archaeological features are present on the site. It is unlikely that the proposed development will have a significant impact on archaeological remains.
- 5.6 *Confidence Rating*
The trench was recorded on a dry but cloudy day by experienced archaeologists. Consequently the confidence rating for this evaluation is high.

6. Acknowledgements

The writer is grateful to Total Properties SE Ltd. for commissioning ASC Ltd. to carry out this project and to Bob Edden: Architect for providing plans and information. The help and advice of Mark Stevenson of GLAAS is also gratefully acknowledged.

David Fell MA MIFA, Chris Swain and Lizzie Gill BSc PgDip carried out the fieldwork for this project. Lizzie Gill wrote this report and David Fell who also managed the project and edited it.

7. Archive

7.1 The project archive will comprise:

1. Project Design
2. Initial Report
3. Clients site plans
4. Site records
5. List of photographs
6. B/W prints & negatives
7. CDROM with copies of all digital files.

7.2 The archive will be deposited with Museum of London.

8. References

Standards & Specifications

Barclay C. 2007 *28-30 Blythe Hill Lane, Catford, London Project Design for Evaluation*
ASC/PD/907/CBH/01

EH 1991 *The Management of Archaeological Projects, 2nd edition.* English Heritage
(London).

IFA 2000a Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct.*

IFA 2001 Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Standard & Guidance documents (Desk-Based Assessments, Watching Briefs, Evaluations, Excavations, Investigation and Recording of Standing Buildings, Finds).*

Secondary Sources

Godfrey A 2005 *Forest Hill and Catford Bridge* Alan Godfrey Maps

Kendall M (ed.) 2000 *The Archaeology of Greater London* MOLAS/English Heritage


Marjary I D 1948 *Roman Ways in the Weald.* Phoenix House

Ordnance Survey 1894 London Series 128

Ordnance Survey 1979 *Ordnance Survey Map of Roman Britain.* Southampton

Soil Survey 1983 *1:250,000 Soil Map of England and Wales, and accompanying legend*
(Harpenden).

Appendix 1: Trench Summary Tables

Trench 1						
	Max Dimensions (m)					
	Length	12mx6m	Width	0.6m	Depth	1.11m max.
	NGR Co-ordinates					
	Centred on	TQ 3672 7348				
	Orientation	NW-SE SW-NE				
Reason for Trench				Evaluation		
Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Max Width (mm)	Max Thckn (mm)	Depth BGL (mm)	
101	Layer	Mid grey silty clay with frequent inclusions of modern brick, tile and plastic fragments. Made up ground. Modern	-	200	0	
102	Layer	Modern crushed brick. Made up ground	-	100	200	
103	Layer	Mid brownish clay re-deposited natural with inclusions of modern brick	-	600	300	
105	Fill	Mid brownish grey clay with inclusions of modern brick. Modern	500	Unknown	700	
104	Cut	Large, subcircular pit. Depth not investigated. Modern	500	-	700	
106	Layer	Mid yellowish brown clay natural geology	-	-	900-	

Appendix 2: List of Photographs

SITE NAME: 28-30 Blythe Hill Lane, Catford, London			SITE NO/CODE: 970/cBH
Shot	B&W	Digital	Subject
1	✓	✓	Looking NW down trench 1
2	✓	✓	Looking SE down trench 1
3	✓	✓	View of SE and NE facing sections
4	✓	✓	Looking SE down trench 1
5	✓	✓	View towards SW corner of site

Appendix 3: ASC OASIS Form

PROJECT DETAILS			
Project Name:	26-30 Blythe Hill Lane, Catford, London		
Short Description:	<i>In September 2007, Archaeological Services and Consultancy Ltd. undertook an evaluation at 26-30 Blythe Hill Lane, Catford, London. The client, without archaeological supervision, excavated one 'T' shaped evaluation trench. The sections of this showed disturbance likely to be a result of terracing. One large pit filled with modern brick rubble was also noted in the NW half of the trench. No archaeological remains were observed and it is unlikely that significant archaeology is present on the site.</i>		
Project Type: (indicate all that apply)	Trial trenching		
Site status: (eg. none, SAM, Listed)	none	Previous work: (eg. SMR refs)	-
Current land use:	Demolished garages	Future work: (yes / no / unknown)	-
Monument type:	-	Monument period:	-
Significant finds: (artefact type & period)	none		
PROJECT LOCATION			
County:	Greater London	OS reference: (8 figs min)	TQ 3672 7348
Site address: (with postcode if known)	28-30 Blythe Hill Lane, Catford, London		
Study area: (sq. m. or ha)	c. 14x15m	Height OD: (metres)	c. 35m
PROJECT CREATORS			
Organisation:	Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd		
Project brief originator:	-	Project design originator:	Caroline Barclay BA MA
Project Manager:	David Fell MA MIFA	Director/Supervisor:	David Fell MA MIFA
Sponsor / funding body:			
PROJECT DATE			
Start date:	20/09/07	End date:	20/09/07
PROJECT ARCHIVES			
	Location (Accession no.)	Content (eg. pottery, animal bone, files/sheets)	
Physical:			
Paper:			
Digital:			
BIBLIOGRAPHY (Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report)			
Title:			
Serial title & volume:			
Author(s):			