

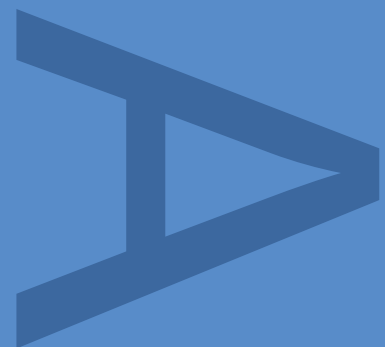
**HAWLEY GARDEN CENTRE
HAWLEY ROAD
HAWLEY
KENT, DA2 7RB**

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING
BRIEF**

PCA REPORT NO: 11126

SITE CODE: KHGC11

DECEMBER 2011



PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY

DOCUMENT VERIFICATION

HAWLEY GARDEN CENTRE, KENT
ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

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Summary Report of an Archaeological Watching Brief on land at Hawley Garden Centre, Hawley Road, Hawley, Kent, DA2 7RB

Site Code: KHGC11

Central National Grid Reference: TQ 5511 7142

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1 ABSTRACT

- 1.1 This report details the results of an archaeological watching brief undertaken on land at Hawley Garden Centre, Hawley, Kent, undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited. The first phase of the watching brief was carried out on the 24th and 25th October 2011, with the second phase following on at 22nd, 23rd and 25th November 2011.
- 1.2 The watching brief consisted of archaeological monitoring of the excavation of post pits around the Garden Centre in association with the construction of an open sided canopy to the rear of the centre and covered entrance to the front. The initial phase of work covered nineteen post pits related to the covered canopy, whilst the second phase was concerned with a further sixteen post pits for the covered entrance.
- 1.3 The principle objective of the watching brief was to monitor and examine the Lynch Hill and Taplow Gravel formations upon which the site was situated. These were laid down at the end of the last Interglacial and have potential for palaeolithic remains.
- 1.4 No finds or features of archaeological significance were observed during the course of the fieldwork.

2 INTRODUCTION

2.1 An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited (PCA) on land at Hawley Garden Centre, Hawley, Kent. The principle objectives of which were to:

- Identify, characterise and record any archaeological remains exposed during the groundwork.
- Identify, characterise and record the sub-surface stratigraphy of the site.
- Sample sediments of potential palaeoenvironmental significance and recover any Palaeolithic artefacts from the sediments preserved within the site, in particular the Gravel Terrace from which artefacts have previously been recovered.
- Identify and record any modern truncation on the site.

2.2 The site comprises a garden centre, situated on relatively level ground, lying at a height of c.15m AOD.

2.3 The central National Grid Reference of the site is TQ 5511 7142.

2.4 The site was given the code KHGC11.

2.5 The project was monitored by Wendy Rogers, Senior Archaeological Officer at Kent County Council, project managed for PCA by Tim Bradley and supervised by the author.



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Figure 1
 Site Location
 1:20,000 at A4



Figure 2
 Detailed Site Location
 1:625 at A4

3 PLANNING BACKGROUND

- 3.1 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 Planning permission has been granted by Kent County Council under consent reference DA/11/00864/FUL. A watching brief was required by Kent County Council because of the presence of Lynch Hill and Taplow Gravel Formations throughout the area of the site.
- 3.3 Wendy Rogers, Senior Archaeological Officer at Kent County Council, has recommended that the following condition be attached to the planning permission:

02 No development shall take place until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written specification and timetable which has been submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority.

4 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

4.1 Geology

4.1.1 The underlying geology of the site is of Lynch Hill and Taplow Gravels.

4.1.2 Made ground is present across the entire site capping the gravels which is associated with the formation of the garden centre.

4.2 Topography

4.2.1 The site, which is very broadly an indented sub-rectangle, lies in an area of undulating downland toward the base of a dry valley at a height of around c.15m AOD

4.2.2 The site is bounded to the east by Hawley Road, the south by the M25 Motorway and to the north and west by fields.

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

5.1 Prehistoric

5.1.1 A Lower-Middle Paleolithic handaxe , (HER No TQ57 SE46), was found to the northwest of the site, TQ 550 715, in 1958.

5.1.2 Widening of the M25 Motorway to the south of the site in 2007 revealed numerous prehistoric finds. A flint scatter dating to the Middle Paleolithic, (HER No TQ57 SW1086) at TQ 5490 7108, a flint flake of Early Neolithic-Late Bronze Age date, (HER No TQ57 SW89) at TQ 5488 7109 and an Early-middle Iron Age pit containing pottery, (HER No TQ57 SW1087) at TQ 5486 7105.

5.2 Roman

5.2.1 The widening of the M25 to the south of the site also revealed a Late Iron Age-Roman ditch, gully and pit (HER No TQ57 SW89) at TQ 5488 7109 and a Roman cremation burial, ditch, pit, posthole and quarry, (HER No TQ57 SW1088) at TQ 5485 7105.

5.3 Anglo Saxon to Post Medieval

5.3.1 No finds of Anglo Saxon to post-medieval date have been recorded in proximity to the site, which appears to have comprised of farmland throughout the historical record until the construction of a nursery in c. 1938 which developed into the present day Garden Centre.

6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

- 6.1 A total 35 post pits were excavated, 19 for the canopy to the rear of the garden centre and 16 for the new entrance. The excavations were carried out by a mini digger fitted with a flat bladed bucket and were monitored by the attending archaeologist (the author).
- 6.2 Within each excavation area, deposits were removed by the machine in spits of no more than 250mm, with each sedimentary unit numbered separately. Samples from each sedimentary unit were, where possible, shaken through a 10mm mesh with the aim of identifying and retrieving artefacts and coarse ecofacts. Spoil from each spit was kept separate to allow correlation of artefacts to spits.
- 6.3 Following all machine and hand excavation, the relevant faces of the trench that required examination or recording were cleaned using appropriate hand tools, with recording both in plan and in section of all deposits on pro-forma sheets.
- 6.4 Due to the lack of any archaeological features or finds during the watching brief it was agreed with Wendy Rogers, Senior Archaeological Officer at Kent County Council, that only 8 of the 16 post pits for the new entrance way were to be monitored. Those post pits were 22, 23, 29, 30, 31, 32, 34 and 35.

7 ARCHAEOLOGICAL PHASE DISCUSSION

7.1 PHASE 1: Natural

- 7.1.1 The earliest deposit encountered on site was weathered chalk marl, [73] observed in PP29.
- 7.1.2 The next deposit stratigraphically was a light yellowish brown gravelly sand observed in PP10 as [48] and PP15 as [44].
- 7.1.3 This was overlain by a mid yellowish brown gravelly clay, recorded as [9], [13], [17], [21], [40], [43] and [47].
- 7.1.4 In turn this was sealed by a mid brown clayey gravel, [8], [12], [16], [20], [23], [39], [42], [46], [53], [58], [61], [65], [67] and [70].
- 7.1.5 Overlying the clayey gravel was a layer of light yellowish brown sandy gravel, recorded as [5], [7], [30], [33] and [38].
- 7.1.6 The sandy gravel was in turn sealed by loose flint gravels, [3], [4], [11], [15], [19], [22], [25], [32] and [35].

7.2 Phase 2: Colluvium

- 7.2.1 A light-mid yellowish brown brickearth-type deposit was recorded overlying the gravel deposits within Post Pits 1, 2, 5, 6, 11, 22, 23, 30, 31, 34 and 35. This was given the context numbers [1], [2], [37], [34], [50], [64], [53], [61], [58], [70] and [67] respectively, and was interpreted as a colluvially formed deposit towards the base of the valley.

7.3 Phase 3: Post-Medieval

- 7.3.1 Sealing the brickearth was a mid-dark greyish brown sandy silt subsoil deposit, recorded as [6], [10], [14], [18], [24], [26], [28], [31], [36], [41], [45], [49], [51], [54], [56], [59], [62], [65], [68] and [71].
- 7.3.2 Overlying the subsoil was a layer of made ground, deposited during the construction of the Garden Centre, which in turn was sealed by hardcore and block paving.

8 TRENCH SUMMARIES

Tabulated data for the contexts within each trench is set out below.

Post Pit	Context No	Thickness	Depth from Ground Surface
1	1	0.51m+	0.59m

Post Pit	Context No	Thickness	Depth from Ground Surface
2	2	0.31m	0.69m
	3	0.15m+	1.00m

Post Pit	Context No	Thickness	Depth from Ground Surface
3	4	0.45m	0.50m
	5	0.25m+	0.95m

Post Pit	Context No	Thickness	Depth from Ground Surface
4	6	0.40m	0.24m
	7	0.21m	0.64m
	8	0.20m	0.85m
	9	0.06m+	1.05m

Post Pit	Context No	Thickness	Depth from Ground Surface
5	36	0.29m	0.50m
	37	0.24m	0.79m
	38	0.17m+	1.03m

Post Pit	Context No	Thickness	Depth from Ground Surface
6	34	0.61m+	0.59m

Post Pit	Context No	Thickness	Depth from Ground Surface
7	31	0.21m	0.54m
	32	0.22m	0.75m
	33	0.19m+	0.97m

Post Pit	Context No	Thickness	Depth from Ground Surface
8	26	0.45m	0.29m
	27	0.46m+	0.74m

Post Pit	Context No	Thickness	Depth from Ground Surface
9	10	0.17m	0.48m
	11	0.20m	0.65m
	12	0.18m	0.87m
	13	0.20m+	1.05m

Post Pit	Context No	Thickness	Depth from Ground Surface
10	45	0.17m	0.57m
	46	0.21m	0.74m
	47	0.19m	0.95m
	48	0.16m+	1.14m

Post Pit	Context No	Thickness	Depth from Ground Surface
11	49	0.24m	0.26m
	50	0.60m+	0.50m

Post Pit	Context No	Thickness	Depth from Ground Surface
12	28	0.15m	0.32m
	29	0.53m	0.47m
	30	0.20m+	1.00m

Post Pit	Context No	Thickness	Depth from Ground Surface
13	22	0.23m	0.53m
	23	0.36m+	0.76m

Post Pit	Context No	Thickness	Depth from Ground Surface
14	14	0.28m	0.42m
	15	0.09m	0.70m
	16	0.31m	0.79m
	17	0.17m+	1.10m

Post Pit	Context No	Thickness	Depth from Ground Surface
15	41	0.10m	0.54m
	42	0.27m	0.64m
	43	0.11m	0.91m
	44	0.21m+	1.02m

Post Pit	Context No	Thickness	Depth from Ground Surface
16	35	0.80m+	0.40m

Post Pit	Context No	Thickness	Depth from Ground Surface
17	24	0.30m	0.40m
	25	0.30m+	0.70m

Post Pit	Context No	Thickness	Depth from Ground Surface
18	18	0.18m	0.50m
	19	0.06m+	0.68m
	20	0.26m	0.74m
	21	0.15m+	1.00m

Post Pit	Context No	Thickness	Depth from Ground Surface
19	39	0.20m	0.60m
	40	0.40m+	0.80m

Post Pit	Context No	Thickness	Depth from Ground Surface
22	62	0.28m	0.40m
	63	0.32m	0.68m
	64	0.20m+	1.00m

Post Pit	Context No	Thickness	Depth from Ground Surface
23	51	0.40m	0.40m
	52	0.35m	0.80m
	53	0.05m+	1.15m

Post Pit	Context No	Thickness	Depth from Ground Surface
29	71	0.22m	0.40m
	72	0.15m	0.62m
	73	0.41m+	0.79m

Post Pit	Context No	Thickness	Depth from Ground Surface
30	59	0.29m	0.40m
	60	0.32m	0.69m
	61	0.22m+	1.03m

Post Pit	Context No	Thickness	Depth from Ground Surface
31	56	0.36m	0.40m
	57	0.28m	0.76m
	58	0.26m+	1.04m

Post Pit	Context No	Thickness	Depth from Ground Surface
32	54	0.33m	0.37m
	55	0.50m+	0.70m

Post Pit	Context No	Thickness	Depth from Ground Surface
34	68	0.43m	0.22m
	69	0.65m	0.65m
	70	0.09m+	1.16m

Post Pit	Context No	Thickness	Depth from Ground Surface
35	65	0.32m	0.20m
	66	0.36m	0.52m
	67	0.22m+	0.88m

9 INTERPRETATIONS AND CONCLUSIONS

9.1 The principle objectives of the archaeological evaluation were to;

- Identify, characterise and record any archaeological remains exposed during the groundwork.
- Identify, characterise and record the sub-surface stratigraphy of the site.
- Sample sediments of potential palaeoenvironmental significance and recover any Palaeolithic artefacts from the sediments preserved within the site, in particular the Gravel Terrace from which artefacts have previously been recovered.
- Identify and record any modern truncation on the site.

These objectives were achieved and the results are summarised below:

9.2 No archaeological features were identified during the entirety of the watching brief and no finds were observed.

9.3 The earliest deposit evidenced during the evaluation was a weathered chalk marl, [73] in Post Pit 29. Overlying the chalk was a sequence of gravel deposits that were probably laid down by an ancient, (now dry) river at the end of the last ice age. The gravels were sealed by a thick colluvial brickearth layer which was in turn overlain by a subsoil layer. The entire site was capped by a layer of made ground associated with the construction of the present Garden Centre which in turn was sealed by tarmac, concrete or block paving.

9.4 All sediments were thoroughly examined on site and none were deemed suitable for sampling or further investigation.

9.5 Across the majority of the site the subsoil horizons remained intact with modern truncations into the gravels only recorded in Post Pits 3, 13 and 16, all of which were associated with the canopy to the rear of the Garden Centre. However, no finds or features of archaeological interest were observed during the watching brief site.



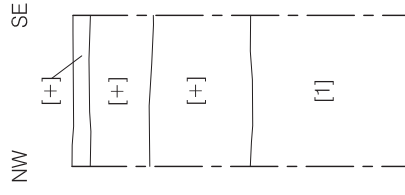
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Figure 3
 Piling locations for New Entrance
 1:200 at A4

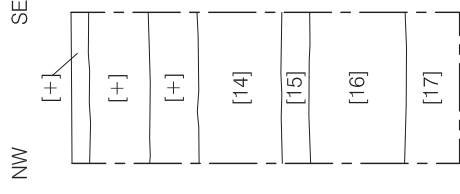


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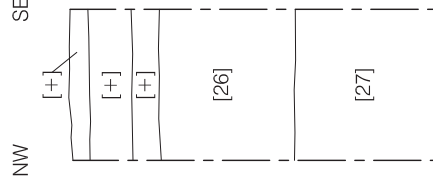
Figure 4
 Piling locations for New Covers
 1:200 at A4



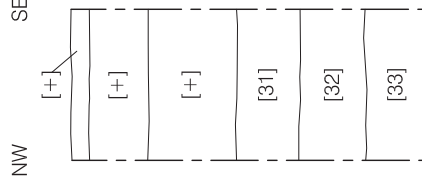
Section 1
PP1
South west facing



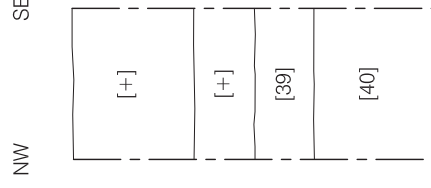
Section 5
PP14
South west facing



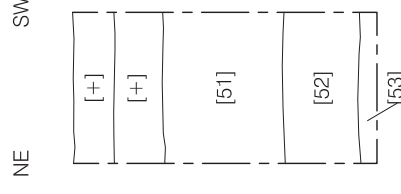
Section 9
PP8
South west facing



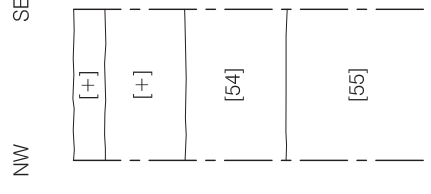
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PP7
South west facing



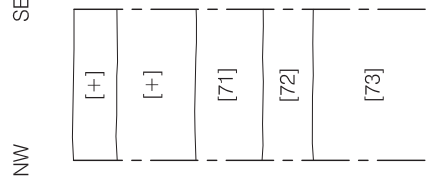
Section 15
PP19
South west facing



Section 19
PP23
North west facing



Section 20
PP32
South west facing



Section 26
PP29
South west facing

10 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 10.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology would like to thank Janice East of Hawley Garden Centre for commissioning the work. Thanks also to Wendy Rogers for monitoring the evaluation on behalf of Kent County Council.
- 10.2 The author would like to thank Tim Bradley for his project management and editing and Mark Roughley for the illustrations.

11 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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APPENDIX 1: Context Index

Site Code	Context No.	Trench	Plan	Section / Elevation	Type	Description	Date	Phase
KHGC11	1	1	*	1	Layer	Brickearth	Colluvial	2
KHGC11	2	2	*	2	Layer	Brickearth	Colluvial	2
KHGC11	3	2	*	2	Layer	Loose Sandy Gravels	Natural	1
KHGC11	4	3	*	3	Layer	Loose Sandy Gravels	Natural	1
KHGC11	5	3	*	3	Layer	Silty Gravels	Natural	1
KHGC11	6	4	*	4	Layer	Sub-soil	Post-med	3
KHGC11	7	4	*	4	Layer	Silty Gravels	Natural	1
KHGC11	8	4	*	4	Layer	Clayey Gravels	Natural	1
KHGC11	9	4	*	4	Layer	Graveley Clay	Natural	1
KHGC11	10	9	*	5	Layer	Sub-soil	Post-med	3
KHGC11	11	9	*	5	Layer	Loose Sandy Gravels	Natural	1
KHGC11	12	9	*	5	Layer	Clayey Gravels	Natural	1
KHGC11	13	9	*	5	Layer	Graveley Clay	Natural	1
KHGC11	14	14	*	6	Layer	Sub-soil	Post-med	3
KHGC11	15	14	*	6	Layer	Loose Sandy Gravels	Natural	1
KHGC11	16	14	*	6	Layer	Clayey Gravels	Natural	1
KHGC11	17	14	*	6	Layer	Graveley Clay	Natural	1
KHGC11	18	18	*	7	Layer	Sub-soil	Post-med	3
KHGC11	19	18	*	7	Layer	Loose Sandy Gravels	Natural	1
KHGC11	20	18	*	7	Layer	Clayey Gravels	Natural	1
KHGC11	21	18	*	7	Layer	Graveley Clay	Natural	1
KHGC11	22	13	*	8	Layer	Loose Sandy Gravels	Natural	1
KHGC11	23	13	*	8	Layer	Clayey Gravels	Natural	1
KHGC11	24	17	*	9	Layer	Sub-soil	Post-med	3
KHGC11	25	17	*	9	Layer	Loose Sandy Gravels	Natural	1
KHGC11	26	8	*	10	Layer	Sub-soil	Post-med	3
KHGC11	27	8	*	10	Layer	Loose Sandy Gravels	Natural	1
KHGC11	28	12	*	11	Layer	Sub-soil	Post-med	3
KHGC11	29	12	*	11	Layer	Loose Sandy Gravels	Natural	1
KHGC11	30	12	*	11	Layer	Silty Gravels	Natural	1
KHGC11	31	7	*	12	Layer	Sub-soil	Post-med	3

Site Code	Context No.	Trench	Plan	Section / Elevation	Type	Description	Date	Phase
KHGC11	32	7	*	12	Layer	Loose Sandy Gravels	Natural	1
KHGC11	33	7	*	12	Layer	Silty Gravels	Natural	1
KHGC11	34	6	*	13	Layer	Brickearth	Colluvial	2
KHGC11	35	16	*	14	Layer	Loose Sandy Gravels	Natural	1
KHGC11	36	5	*	15	Layer	Sub-soil	Post-med	3
KHGC11	37	5	*	15	Layer	Brickearth	Colluvial	2
KHGC11	38	5	*	15	Layer	Silty Gravels	Natural	1
KHGC11	39	19	*	16	Layer	Clayey Gravels	Natural	1
KHGC11	40	19	*	16	Layer	Graveley Clay	Natural	1
KHGC11	41	15	*	17	Layer	Sub-soil	Post-med	3
KHGC11	42	15	*	17	Layer	Clayey Gravels	Natural	1
KHGC11	43	15	*	17	Layer	Graveley Clay	Natural	1
KHGC11	44	15	*	17	Layer	Graveley Sand	Natural	1
KHGC11	45	10	*	18	Layer	Sub-soil	Post-med	3
KHGC11	46	10	*	18	Layer	Clayey Gravels	Natural	1
KHGC11	47	10	*	18	Layer	Graveley Clay	Natural	1
KHGC11	48	10	*	18	Layer	Graveley Sand	Natural	1
KHGC11	49	11	*	19	Layer	Sub-soil	Post-med	3
KHGC11	50	11	*	19	Layer	Brickearth	Colluvial	2
KHGC11	51	23	*	20	Layer	Sub-soil	Post-med	3
KHGC11	52	23	*	20	Layer	Brickearth	Colluvial	2
KHGC11	53	23	*	20	Layer	Clayey Gravels	Natural	1
KHGC11	54	32	*	21	Layer	Sub-soil	Post-med	3
KHGC11	55	32	*	21	Layer	Brickearth	Colluvial	2
KHGC11	56	31	*	22	Layer	Sub-soil	Post-med	3
KHGC11	57	31	*	22	Layer	Brickearth	Colluvial	2
KHGC11	58	31	*	22	Layer	Clayey Gravels	Natural	1
KHGC11	59	30	*	23	Layer	Sub-soil	Post-med	3
KHGC11	60	30	*	23	Layer	Brickearth	Colluvial	2
KHGC11	61	30	*	23	Layer	Clayey Gravels	Natural	1
KHGC11	62	22	*	24	Layer	Sub-soil	Post-med	3
KHGC11	63	22	*	24	Layer	Brickearth	Colluvial	2
KHGC11	64	22	*	24	Layer	Clayey Gravels	Natural	1
KHGC11	65	35	*	25	Layer	Sub-soil	Post-med	3

Site Code	Context		Trench	Plan	Section / Elevation	Type	Description	Date	Phase
	No.								
KHGC11	66		35	*	25	Layer	Brickearth	Colluvial	2
KHGC11	67		35	*	25	Layer	Clayey Gravels	Natural	1
KHGC11	68		34	*	26	Layer	Sub-soil	Post-med	3
KHGC11	69		34	*	26	Layer	Brickearth	Colluvial	2
KHGC11	70		34	*	26	Layer	Clayey Gravels	Natural	1
KHGC11	71		29	*	27	Layer	Sub-soil	Post-med	3
KHGC11	72		29	*	27	Layer	Brickearth	Colluvial	2
KHGC11	73		29	*	27	Layer	Chalk Marl	Natural	1

APPENDIX 2: OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM

OASIS ID: preconst1-114706

Project details

Project name	An Archaeological Watching Brief on Land at Hawley Garden centre, Hawley, Kent.
Short description of the project	An archaeological watching brief was undertaken on land at Hawley Garden Centre, Hawley, Kent by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd. The first phase was carried out on the 24th and 25th October 2011, with the second phase following on at 22nd, 23rd and 25th November 2011. The watching brief consisted of archaeological monitoring of the excavation of post pits around the Garden Centre in association with the construction of an open sided canopy to the rear of the centre and covered entrance to the front. The initial phase of work covered nineteen post pits related to the covered canopy, whilst the second phase was concerned with a further sixteen post pits for the covered entrance. The principle objective of the watching brief was to monitor and examine the Lynch Hill and Taplow Gravel formations upon which the site was situated. These were laid down at the end of the last Interglacial and had potential for paleolithic remains. No finds or features of archaeological significance were observed.
Project dates	Start: 24-10-2011 End: 25-11-2011
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	KHGC11 - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project

Site status	None
Current Land use	Industry and Commerce 3 - Retailing
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	POT Medieval
Investigation type	'Watching Brief'
Prompt	Planning condition

Project location

Country	England
Site location	KENT DARTFORD SUTTON AT HONE AND HAWLEY Hawley Garden Centre, Hawley
Postcode	DA2 7RB
Site coordinates	TQ 5511 7142 51.4200190784 0.231043161616 51 25 12 N 000 13 51 E Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd
Project brief originator	Kent County Council Heritage Conservation Group
Project design originator	Tim Bradley
Project director/manager	Tim Bradley
Project supervisor	Guy Seddon
Type of sponsor/funding	Landowner

body

Name of Hawley garden Centre
sponsor/funding
body

Project archives

Physical Archive Local museum
recipient

Physical Contents 'None'

Digital Archive Local museum
recipient

Digital Contents 'Stratigraphic'

Digital Media 'Text'
available

Paper Archive Local Museum
recipient

Paper Media 'Context sheet', 'Report', 'Section'
available

**Project
bibliography 1**

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	An Archaeological Watching Brief on Land at Hawley Garden Centre, Hawley Rd, Hawley, Kent DA27RB
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Seddon, G
Date	2011
Issuer or publisher	Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd
Place of issue or publication	Brockley
Description	A4 unbound grey literature

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