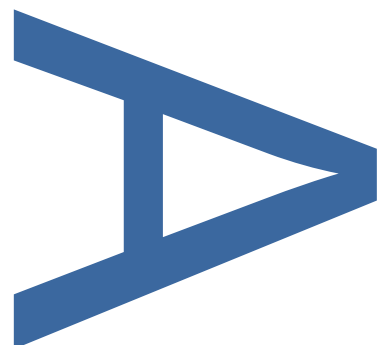
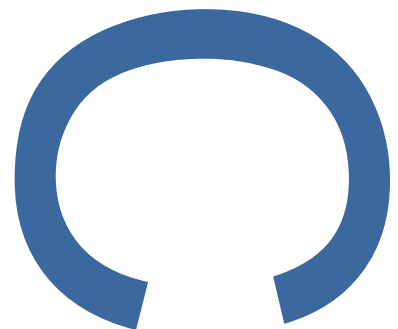


**LAND ADJACENT TO RUSHDEN
ROAD, SANDON,
HERTFORDSHIRE**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL
EVALUATION**

DECEMBER 2011



An Archaeological Evaluation at Land Adjacent to Rushden Road, Sandon, Hertfordshire

Site Code: HRRS11

HER Planning Reference: 10/02860/1

Central National Grid Reference: NGR TL 32168 24402

Written and Researched by Mark Hinman

Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited, December 2011

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Commissioning Client: M Faure Walker

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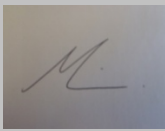


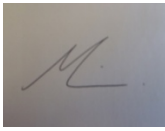
December 2011

DOCUMENT VERIFICATION

Site Name: Rushden Road, Sandon, Hertfordshire

Type of project: Archaeological Evaluation

QUALITY CONTROL

Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited Project Code			K2518
	Name & Title	Signature	Date
Text Prepared by:	M Hinman		December 2011
Graphics Prepared by:	J Brown		December 2011
Graphics Checked by:	J Brown		December 2011
Project Manager Sign-off:	M Hinman		December 2011

Revision No.	Date	Checked	Approved

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ABSTRACT

Pre-Construct Archaeology undertook an Archaeological Evaluation at land adjacent to Rushden Road Sandon on 23rd May 2011 with a further stage of groundworks monitoring on 14th November 2011.

Three trial trenches were excavated and recorded. Two of these were 8m long, a third was 4m long. The trenches were 1.5m wide.

An extant pond was revealed to have formerly been somewhat larger had clearly experienced considerable silting up or infilling. No other archaeological features were recorded during this evaluation.

A single sherd of handmade early medieval pottery dating to the 11th-12th century was recovered from the subsoil [10]. Six sherds of 14th to 16th century pottery were found in the silted up fill at the edge of the pond.

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This report details the working methods and results of an archaeological trial trenching programme undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology on land adjacent to Rushden Road, Sandon, Herts (figs 1 & 2).
- 1.2 The work was undertaken in response to a condition identified by Andy Instone of the Historic Environment Unit at Hertfordshire County Council. The site lies within a Conservation Area and an Area of Archaeological Significance (no 122) as identified in the North Hertfordshire District Plan.
- 1.3 Pre-Construct Archaeology has previously undertaken a programme of heritage recording of the Grade 11 listed 17th century timber framed farm house ("The Forge") and associated buildings occupying the site (Gould, M. 2011).
- 1.4 The study area centred on NGR TL 32168 34402, occupies approximately 0.40 hectares is currently in domestic use. The site is bordered on its south side by open fields and on its northern side by Rushden Road. The land to the east of the site is occupied by a house. The site slopes gently from north to south and lies at between 153.00 m and 151.50m OD.
- 1.5 The underlying geology of the area is boulder clay with some clay-with-flints overlying chalk.

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The site lies within Area of Archaeological Significance no.122 as identified in the North Hertfordshire District Local Plan. This notes the medieval settlement of Sandone and All Saints church which dates from the 14th century. There are earthworks opposite the church which

may be part of a medieval manorial site. A further medieval moated site is also located at Danyells Farm.

- 2.2 The Forge is listed as being of architectural and historic importance and dates from the 17th century (LB162414). Detailed information relating to this timber framed building and other buildings occupying the site can be found in the report produced by Malcolm Gould (Pre-Construct Archaeology).

3 METHODOLOGY

- 3.1 All aspects of the programme were conducted in accordance with the Institute for Archaeologists' Code of Conduct, the Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations (2008), and Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England (EAA Occasional Paper 14). The methodology followed during this archaeological evaluation was further detailed in a Written Scheme of Investigation produced by M Hinman, Pre-Construct Archaeology, May 2011.
- 3.2 Field techniques and recording methods are detailed within the PCA fieldwork induction manual, (Operations Manual I) produced by Joanna Taylor and Gary Brown 2009.
- 3.3 Three trenches were excavated using a JCB mechanical excavator with a 1.5m wide toothless ditching bucket. A total of 20.50m of trenching was opened. This comprised two 8m long trenches (Trenches 1 & 2) and a 4m long trench (Trench 3). Trenches 1, 2 and 3 were excavated to a depth of 0.60m, 0.50m and 0.90m respectively below the existing ground surface.
- 3.4 All trenches were located using a Lieca 1200 GPS rover unit.

4 DEPOSIT DESCRIPTIONS

- 4.1 Natural geological horizons consisting of gravelly clay were encountered at depths of between 0.50m and 0.90m. Overlying the natural was a mid grey-brown silty clay subsoil [5], [10]. The subsoil in trench 3 [10] contained a single sherd of handmade early medieval pottery, possibly from a cooking pot, dating to the 11th-12th century. The top of the subsoil was recorded at between 0.30m and 0.40m below ground level. Overlaying the subsoil was topsoil [4].
- 4.2 The former edge of the current duck pond [7] occupying the site was encountered in Trench 1. The infilling or silting of the pond [6] contained six sherds of late medieval pottery dating to between the 14th and 16th century (see 5 below).

5 THE FINDS

By Chris Jarrett

- 5.1 The archaeological excavation produced from two contexts a total of seven sherds of pottery dating to the early medieval and late medieval periods. The pottery is fragmentary, although not abraded and therefore indicates that the material was discarded under secondary depositional circumstances. No forms can be confidently assigned to the pottery sherds. The pottery types are discussed by distribution.

Distribution

- 5.2 Layer [10], a sub-soil, produced a single sherd of handmade early medieval coarse sand and calcareous (chalk) tempered ware, possibly from a cooking pot as the exterior is sooted. Such wares are dated in Hertfordshire to the 10th-12th century, although much of the solid geology of Herefordshire consists of chalk and this temper is found in later medieval wares in the county (Turner-Rugg 1995, 46). The sherd from layer [10] has characteristics that date it to the 11th-12th century.

- 5.3 The top fill [6] of the pond produced six sherds of pottery dating to the late medieval period. All the pottery sherds are characterised as high-fired, fine sandy wares. Two sherds of pottery from the same vessel are in an unglazed grey ware fabric, possibly related to the South-East Midlands Late medieval reduced ware pottery type, dated to the mid 14th and late 15th century. Two sherds from another reduced fine sandy ware has a good quality, internal glaze and dates to the 15th-16th centuries. A further two sherds are in transitional period fabrics with oxidised cores and reduced surfaces. The pottery from context [6] would on the whole appear to date to the 15th century and perhaps the first half of the 16th century.

6 INTERPRETATION AND CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1 The presence of a single sherd of 11th-12th century pottery is noteworthy as tentative evidence for occupation in the medieval village of Sandon at this time but is of little further interpretative value as this sherd was recovered from the subsoil.
- 6.2 It has been demonstrated (in Trench 1) that the existing pond on the site was formerly somewhat larger and has suffered infilling by gradual silting. The infill of the pond contained pottery dating from the 14th-16th century. The origin of this pond may relate to the construction of The Forge and was perhaps prompted by the need to improve drainage and for a nearby water supply. The Church to the North of the site dates from the 14th century and earthworks possibly associated with a medieval manorial site lie opposite the church. The pond may originally have been associated with this manorial site.
- 6.3 The evaluation has demonstrated that no significant archaeological remains are present within the proposed development area.

7 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 7.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited would like to thank Mark Faure Walker for commissioning this project, in response to a condition placed on the proposed development by Hertfordshire County Council. Thanks are also due to Andy Instone, Isobel Thompson and Stuart Bryant of the Historic Environment Unit at Hertfordshire County Council and Keith Fitzpatrick Mathews of North Hertfordshire District Council's Archaeological Service for approving the project specification, supply of HER data and subsequent monitoring of the fieldwork.
- 7.2 The author would like to thank Nathalie Barratt for assistance with GPS survey and Josephine Brown for her work on the illustrations.

8 REFERENCES

Brown, G. and Taylor, J. 2009 PCA Fieldwork induction manual, (Operations Manual I)

Brown, N. and Glazebrook, J. 2000 Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties 2. Research agenda and strategy East Anglian. Archaeol. Occ. Pap. 8

Gould, M. 2011. Historic Building of The Forge, Rushden Road, Sandon, Hertfordshire. Unpublished Report. Pre-Construct Archaeology.

Gurney, D. 2003 Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England East Anglian. Archaeol. Occ. Pap. 14

Hinman, M. 2011. Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation at Rushden Road, Sandon, Hertfordshire. Pre-Construct Archaeology.

Turner-Rugg, A. 1995, Medieval Pottery from St Albans, *Medieval Ceramics* 19, 45-65.

Figure 1 Site Location

Figure 2 Trench Locations

9 APPENDIX 1: HER SUMMARY

Site name and address: The Forge, Rushden Road, Sandon, SG9 OQS		
County: Hertfordshire	District: North Herts	
Village/Town: Sandon	Parish: Sandon	
Planning application reference: 10/02860/1		
HER Enquiry reference:		
Client name, address, and tel. no.: M Faure Walker, The Forge, Rushden Road, Sandon, SG9 OQS		
Nature of application: Housing		
Present land use: Residential		
Size of application area:0.3ha	Size of area investigated:0.3ha	
NGR (to 8 figures): TL 32168 34402		
Site code (if applicable):HTFS11		
Site director/Organisation: Mark Hinman Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd		
Type of work Evaluation		
Date of work:	Start:23/05/11	Finish:24/11/11
Location of finds & site archive/Curating museum: Herts		
Related HER Nos:	Periods represented: Post Med	
Relevant previous summaries/reports		
<p>Summary of fieldwork results: <i>An archaeological evaluation undertaken during May2011 on land adjacent to Rushden Road, Sandon. Three trial trenches total length 20m were excavated. An extant pond was revealed to have formerly been somewhat larger had clearly experienced considerable silting up or infilling. No other archaeological features were recorded during this evaluation. A single sherd of handmade early medieval pottery dating to the 11th-12th century was recovered from the subsoil [10]. Six sherds of 14th to 16th century pottery were found in the silted up fill at the edge of the pond.</i></p>		
Author of summary: M Hinman	Date of summary:08/12/11	

10 APPENDIX 2 - DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHS



PLATE 1 : TRENCH 1 (Including Excavation Of The Pond)



PLATE 2: TRENCH 2



PLATE 3: TRENCH 3

APPENDIX 4 – OASIS FORM

OASIS ID: preconst1-115554

Project details

Project name	The Forge Sandon
Short description of the project	Evaluation Trenching at The forge, 3 trenches no significant archaeology
Project dates	Start: 23-05-2011 End: 24-11-2011
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	HTFS11 - Contracting Unit No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	Area of Archaeological Importance (AAI)
Current Land use	Residential 1 - General Residential
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	POTTERY Post Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Medieval
Methods & techniques	'Sample Trenches'
Development type	Building refurbishment/repairs/restoration
Prompt	Planning condition

Position in the planning process	Between deposition of an application and determination
----------------------------------	--

Project location

Country	England
Site location	HERTFORDSHIRE NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE SANDON The Forge Rushden Road Sandon
Postcode	SG9 OQS
Study area	0.30 Hectares
Site coordinates	TL 532168 234402 51.8879637815 0.226632472550 51 53 16 N 000 13 35 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 151.00m Max: 153.00m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd
Project originator brief	Andy Instone, Hertfordshire County Council Planning Archaeologist
Project originator design	Mark Hinman
Project director/manager	Mark Hinman
Project supervisor	Mark Hinman
Type of sponsor/funding body	m faure walker

Name of sponsor/funding body	m faure walker
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Project archives

Physical recipient	Archive	Hertford Museum
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Physical Contents	'Ceramics'
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Digital recipient	Archive	Hertford Museum
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Digital Contents	'none'
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Digital available	Media	'Images raster / digital photography','Images vector','Text'
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Paper recipient	Archive	Hertford Museum
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Paper Contents	'none'
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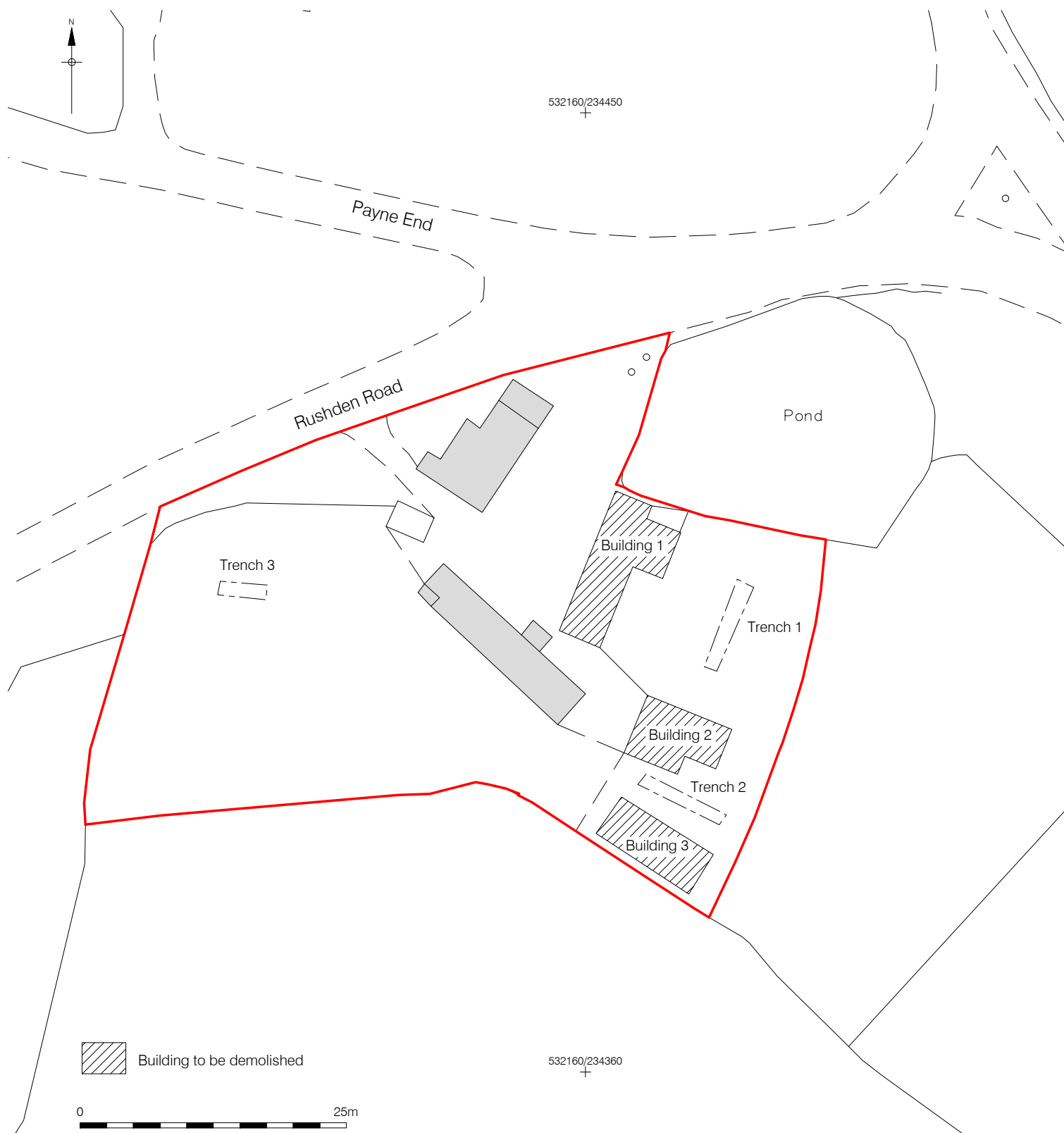
Paper available	Media	'Context sheet','Drawing','Photograph','Report'
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Entered by	Mark Hinman (mhinman@pre-construct.com)
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Entered on	9 December 2011
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Figure 1
 Site Location
 1:25,000 at A4



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Figure 2
 Trench Location
 1:500 at A4