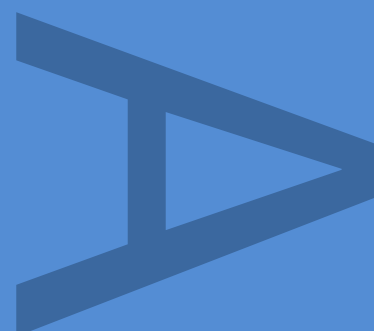


PANFIELD ROAD, BRAINTREE,
ESSEX

ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL
TRENCH EVALUATION

JUNE 2012



PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY
R11224

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION AT PANFIELD LANE,
BRAINTREE, ESSEX**

Site Code: BT48

Central NGR: TL 7562 2334

Local Planning Authority: Braintree District Council

Planning Reference: 10/01469/OUT

Written and Researched by Jan Janulewicz

Project Manager: Mark Hinman

**Commissioning Client: CgMs Consulting on behalf of McCarthy and
Stone Retirement Lifestyles Ltd**

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June 2012


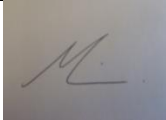
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PANFIELD ROAD, BRAINTREE, ESSEX

ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL TRENCH EVALUATION

Quality Control

Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd	
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Report Number	11224

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ABSTRACT

This document details the results of an archaeological trial trench evaluation at Panfield Lane, Braintree. The work was commissioned by CgMs Consulting on behalf of McCarthy and Stone Retirement Lifestyles Ltd to assess the archaeological implications of development on land at Panfield Lane, Braintree. The work was undertaken on 11th June 2012 and comprised the excavation of five archaeological evaluation trenches totalling 100m in length. No archaeological finds or features were observed during this evaluation due to considerable modern ground disturbance caused by the construction and demolition of previous buildings on site.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 This document details the results of an archaeological trial trench evaluation at Panfield Lane, Braintree (Figure 1). The work was commissioned by CgMs on behalf of McCarthy and Stone Retirement Lifestyles Ltd to assess the archaeological implications of development on the site. The work was undertaken on 11th May 2012 and comprised five archaeological evaluation trenches totalling 100m (see Figure 2).

1.2 Outline planning consent (10/01469/OUT) for the residential development of 13 houses at the Panfield Lane site was granted on the 26th October 2010. This consent was subject to an archaeological planning condition (12) imposed by the Local Planning Authority: The condition reads;

(12). "No demolition/conversion or preliminary groundworks of any kind shall take place until the applicant has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation to be submitted to, and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority in consultation with the Heritage Conservation Branch of Essex County Council"

Reason: To enable full investigation and recording of this site of archaeological importance.

1.3 The site at Panfield Lane, Braintree, Essex is centred at TL 7562 2334 covers a total area of approximately 0.33 hectares. Until recently the site was occupied by a number of large government office buildings dating from c. 1969-1975 and areas of car parking. These in turn had replaced an earlier complex of government office buildings (built c. 1939-48) and a timber yard established at the turn of the 20th century. All buildings on site had been demolished prior to the evaluation works. The site is underlain entirely by Boulder Clay (British Geological Survey Sheet 223:1982).

- 1.4 The site is located on gently sloping ground between 70m and 69m AOD.

- 1.5 The archaeological background and potential of the site has been the subject of a Desk Based Study (Hawkins, 2011). The study concluded that the site had been subject to considerable disturbance from past construction impacts but despite the cumulative impacts of previous development there remained a moderate potential for archaeology of the Iron Age and Roman periods to survive.

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

- 2.1 Five 20m long by 1.6m wide trenches were laid out in accordance with the trench location plan submitted in the Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) produced by PCA (Hinman 2012 – see Figure 2). The site was CAT scanned prior to excavation.

- 2.2 The ground reduction was carried out under archaeological supervision using a JCB machine fitted with a toothless ditching bucket. Topsoil and subsoil deposits were removed in spits down onto the upper level of the archaeological horizon or onto clean natural where potential archaeological features could be observed and recorded.

- 2.3 Ordnance datum heights and trench locations were recorded using a Leica 1200 GPS rover unit.

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE

- 3.1 The evaluation trenches were 20m long and 1.6m wide. No archaeological finds or features were observed in any of the five evaluation trenches.
- 3.2 The top of the Boulder Clay natural (12) was encountered at 68.75m AOD in Trench 1 and 2. The natural was recorded at 68.60m AOD, 68.80m AOD and 68.60m AOD in Trench 3, 4 and 5 respectively.
- 3.3 The natural subsoil (12) was heavily truncated by service runs and modern disturbance relating to previous development at the site from the first half of 20th century onwards (see Hawkins 2011).
- 3.4 Overlying the natural geology in each trench was a 0.80m thick layer of modern made ground (11). The upper 0.4m of this deposit comprised an orange coloured sandy gravel which formed the make up/construction layer that was clearly associated with the recently demolished areas of hard standing.

4 CONCLUSION

- 4.1 The boulder clay natural (12) was heavily truncated by modern service runs and pre and post war disturbance relating to construction and demolition of the former government office buildings which occupied the site (see Hawkins 2011). Overlying the natural geology (12) in all five trenches was a significant build-up of modern made ground (11).
- 4.2 No archaeological finds or features were observed during this archaeological evaluation exercise.
- 4.3 The results of this archaeological evaluation has established the extent the cumulative impacts of past development have had on site and indicate that the proposed redevelopment of the area for 13 new houses will have a negligible archaeological impact.

5 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

PCA would like to thank CgMs on behalf of McCarthy and Stone Retirement Lifestyles Ltd for commissioning this work. Jenny Simonson of PCA's CAD department produced the figures. Teresa O'Connor of Essex County Council Place Services monitored the evaluation trenches.

6 REFERENCES

Hawkins, D. 2012. *Desk Based Assessment. Land at Panfield Lane, Braintree, Essex.* CgMs Consulting.

Hinman, M. 2012. *Written Scheme of Investigation at Panfield Lane, Braintree, Essex.* Pre-Construct Archaeology.

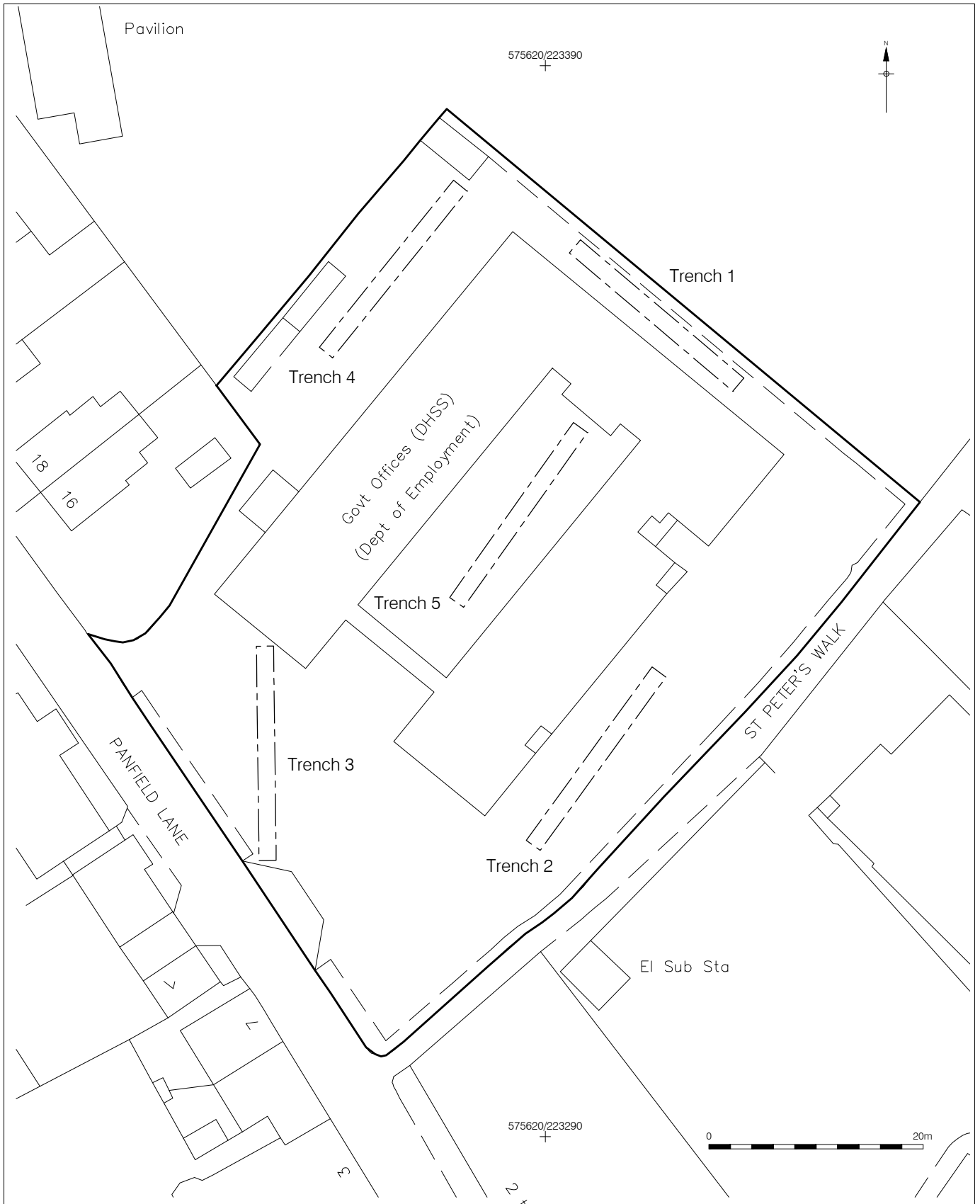


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JB 22/06/12

Figure 1
Site Location
1:20,000 at A4



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Figure 2
 Trench Location
 1:500 at A4

APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT REGISTER

Context	Cut	Type	Trench	Comments
1	-	Trench	1	Trench 1
2	-	Trench	2	Trench 2
3	-	Trench	3	Trench 3
4	-	Trench	4	Trench 4
5	-	Trench	5	Trench 5
11	-	Layer	ALL	Modern made ground
12	-	Layer	ALL	Boulder Clay natural

APPENDIX 2: PLATES

Plate 1: Site after recent demolition. Looking north to cricket pitch



Plate 2: Trench 1 looking northeast



Plate 3: Trench 2 looking southwest



Plate 4: Trench 3 looking north



Plate 5: Trench 4 looking northeast



Plate 6: Trench 5. Natural Boulder Clay truncated by modern service run. Looking north



APPENDIX 3: OASIS FORM

Project details

Project name	Archaeological Evaluation at Panfield Lane, Braintree, Essex
Short description of the project	Archaeological Evaluation at Panfield Lane, Braintree. The work was commissioned by CgMs Consulting on behalf of McCarthy and Stone Retirement Lifestyles Ltd to assess the archaeological implications of development of land at the site. The work was undertaken on 11th June 2012, and comprised five archaeological evaluation trenches totalling 100m. No archaeological finds or features were observed during this evaluation. The site has been subject to considerable modern disturbance.
Project dates	Start: 11-06-2012 End: 11-06-2012
Previous/future work	Not known / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	BT48 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Community Service 1 - Community Buildings
Monument type	NONE None
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Methods & techniques	"Sample Trenches"
Development type	Urban residential (e.g. flats, houses, etc.)
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	Not known / Not recorded

Project location

Country	England
Site location	ESSEX BRAINTREE BRAINTREE Panfield Lane
Study area	0 Hectares
Site coordinates	TL 7562 2334 50 0 50 58 55 N 000 30 08 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 69.00m Max: 70.00m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	CgMs Consulting Ltd.
Project brief originator	CgMs Consulting
Project design originator	Mark Hinman
Project director/manager	Mark Hinman
Project supervisor	Jan Janulewicz
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer

Project archives

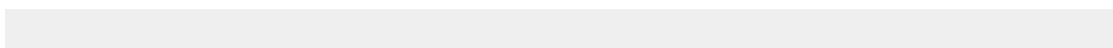
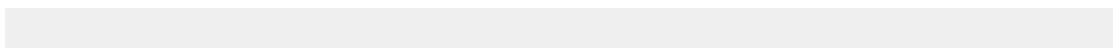
Physical Archive Exists?	No
Physical Archive recipient	None
Digital Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	n/a
Paper Archive recipient	n/a
Paper Media available	"Photograph", "Plan"

**Project
bibliography 1**

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Archaeological Evaluation at Panfield Lane, Braintree, Essex
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Archaeological Evaluation at Panfield Lane, Braintree, Essex
Date	2012
Issuer or publisher	PCA
Place of issue or publication	Stapleford
Description	A4 Grey Literature Report
<hr/>	
Entered by	Jan Janulewicz (jjanulewicz@pre-construct.com)
Entered on	21 June 2012

**APPENDIX 4: ESSEX HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD/ESSEX ARCHAEOLOGY
AND HISTORY SUMMARY SHEET**

Site name/Address: Archaeological Evaluation at Panfield Lane, Braintree , Essex	
Parish: Braintree	District: Braintree
NGR: TL 7562 2334	Site Code: BT48
Type of Work: Evaluation	Site Director/Group: Pre-Construct Archaeology
Date of Work: 11/06/2012	Size of Area Investigated: 100sq.m
Location of Finds/Curating Museum: Braintree	Funding source: McCarthy and Stone Retirement Lifestyles Ltd
Further Seasons Anticipated?: None	Related HER Nos 1226/6057/7572/2328/5347/17496
Final Report: Archaeological Evaluation at Panfield Lane, Braintree , Essex R11224	
Periods Represented: None	
<p>SUMMARY OF FIELDWORK RESULTS: This summary details the results of an archaeological trial trench evaluation at Panfield Lane, Braintree. The work was commissioned by CgMs Consulting on behalf of McCarthy and Stone Retirement Lifestyles Ltd to assess the archaeological implications of development on land at Panfield Lane, Braintree. The work was undertaken on 11th June 2012 and comprised the excavation of five archaeological evaluation trenches totalling 100 sq.m. No archaeological finds or features were observed during this evaluation due to considerable modern ground disturbance caused by the construction and demolition of previous buildings on site.</p>	
<p>Previous Summaries/Reports: Hawkins, D. 2012. <i>Desk Based Assessment. Land at Panfield Lane, Braintree, Essex.</i> CgMs Consulting. Hinman, M. 2012. <i>Written Scheme of Investigation at Panfield Lane, Braintree, Essex.</i> Pre-Construct Archaeology</p>	
Author of Summary: Jan Janulewicz	Date of Summary: 21/06/2012



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