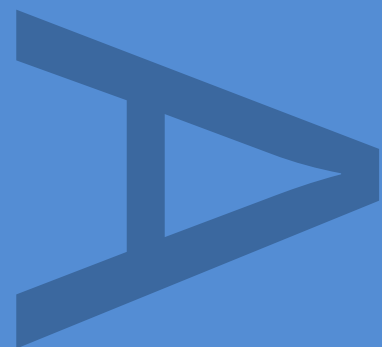


**ST IVES MOTEL, LONDON
ROAD, ST IVES,
CAMBRIDGESHIRE**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL
TRENCH EVALUATION AND
GROUNDWORKS MONITORING**

OCTOBER 2012



**PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY
R11225**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION AT ST IVES MOTEL,
LONDON ROAD, ST IVES, CAMBRIDGESHIRE**

Site Code: CSIM12

Central NGR: TL 3073 7028

Cambridgeshire Events Reference Number: 3781

Local Planning Authority: Cambridgeshire County Council

Planning Reference: 1102099FUL Huntingdonshire District Council

Written and Researched by Jan Janulewicz

Project Manager: Mark Hinman

**Commissioning Client: SLR Consulting Ltd for Care UK Community
Partnerships**

Contractor:

Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited

7 Granta Terrace

Stapleford

Cambridgeshire

CB22 4PF

Tel: 01223 845522

Email: mhinman@pre-construct.com

Website: www.pre-construct.com

© Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited

June 2012

© The material contained herein is and remains the sole property of Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited and is not for publication to third parties without prior consent. Whilst every effort has been made to provide detailed and accurate information, Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited cannot be held responsible for errors or inaccuracies herein contained.

CONTENTS

ABSTRACT	4
1 INTRODUCTION	5
2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY	6
3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE.....	7
4 CONCLUSION.....	10
5 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	11
6 REFERENCES	11
APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT REGISTER	17
APPENDIX 2: PLATES.....	18
PLATE 1: NORTHWEST FACING SECTION OF DITCH [14] IN TRENCH 2	18
Plate 2 :NORTHWEST FACING SECTION OF DITCH [14] IN TRENCH 2 ...	19
PLATE 3. SOUTHWEST FACING SECTION OF DITCH [17] IN TRENCH 3	20
PLATE 4: TRENCH 1.....	21
PLATE 5: TRENCH 2.....	22
PLATE 6: TRENCH 3	23
PLATE 7: TRENCH 4.....	24
PLATE 8: TRENCH 5.....	25
PLATE 9: WORKING SHOT	26
PLATE 10: PIT 2, SE FACING SECTION.....	27
APPENDIX 3: OASIS FORM	28

Appendix 4: Prehistoric Pottery 32

FIGURE 1 SITE LOCATION 13

FIGURE 2 TRENCH LOCATION 14

FIGURE 3 SECTIONS 15

FIGURE 4 WATCHING BRIEF LOCATION.....16

ABSTRACT

This document details the results of an archaeological trial trench evaluation at St Ives Motel, London Road, St Ives, Cambridgeshire. The work was commissioned by SLR Consulting Ltd on behalf of Care UK Community Partnerships to assess the archaeological implications of development of land at the site. The work was undertaken from the 29th May to the 30th May 2012, and comprised five archaeological evaluation trenches totalling 97m. Two prehistoric ditches were identified, one of which contained two small sherds of Bronze Age pottery. A watching brief carried out during the excavation of four pits for a temporary crane foundation on the 15th of October 2012 did not encounter any archaeological features, deposits or artefacts.

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This document details the results of an archaeological trial trench evaluation and watching brief at the St Ives Motel, London Road, St Ives, Cambridgeshire (see Figure 1). The work was commissioned by SLR Consulting Limited for Care UK Community Partnerships.
- 1.2 The site is centred at TL 3073 7028 and is located southwest of St Ives. It lies approximately 1km to the south of the river Great Ouse on first and second river terrace gravels (British Geological Survey 1975).
- 1.3 Research has been undertaken to place the site within its archaeological context (Archaeological Context SLR Report No. 402.02498.00011.0008).
- 1.4 The work carried out comprised the excavation and recording of five 1.6m wide archaeological evaluation trenches on the 29th and 30th May 2012, and the monitoring of four 2x2m pits excavated for the construction of foundation pads for a temporary crane. In total 113m of trenching was excavated (1x10m, 1x 27m, 3x20m and 4 x 4m).

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

- 2.1 Five trenches were laid out following the trench location plan in the Written Scheme of Investigation produced by PCA (Hinman 2012 – see Figure 1). The trench layout was altered in the field, reducing the length of trenches to 97m in total. This was due to access constraints and tree preservation orders. The alignment of the trenches was also revised in the field (see Figure 2). The four crane base pits were laid out in accordance with instructions provided by the client (Figure 4). The site was CAT scanned prior to excavation.
- 2.2 The ground reduction was carried out under archaeological supervision using a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket. Topsoil and subsoil deposits were removed in spits down to the level of undisturbed geological deposits (referred to here as ‘natural’), where potential archaeological features could be observed and recorded.
- 2.3 Heights above Ordnance Datum (henceforth OD) and trench locations were recorded using a Leica 1200 GPS rover unit fitted with Real Time Kinematic correction, giving three dimensional accuracy of 20mm or less.

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE

- 3.1 Trench 1 was 10m long and aligned northwest/southeast. Ground level was found to be (6.01 MOD). The natural sand and gravel (13) was 0.8m below ground level at 5.21 MOD. This was overlain by a 0.4m thick subsoil (12) and 0.4m thick, dark brown topsoil (11).
- 3.2 Trench 2 was 'L' shaped and measured 27m in total. It was aligned northeast/southwest for 20m and northwest/southeast for 7m. Ground level was found to be between 5.94 and 6.09 MOD. The natural sand and gravel (13) was encountered at 5.24 MOD. This was overlain by a subsoil layer (12) 0.42m deep, which was itself sealed by a 0.43m thick layer of topsoil (11).
- 3.3 A ditch terminus [14] was present in the northern arm of the trench, extending eastwards into the limit of excavation (Fig. 2). This measured 0.99m wide and 0.27m deep. It had sloping sides (approx. 60 degrees from horizontal), which break gently to a flat base (Fig. 3). This feature contained a single fill (15) which comprised a mid brown, friable sandy silt, with occasional, sub angular flint and stone inclusions, measuring between 10mm and 50mm in size. Two sherds of Bronze Age pottery totalling 16g in weight (see Percival, Appendix 4) were recovered from this fill.
- 3.4 Trench 3 measured 20m in length and was aligned northwest/southeast. Ground level was found to be 5.85 MOD. Natural sand and gravel was encountered at 4.97 MOD. This was overlain by subsoil which was 0.45m in depth, topsoil which was 0.16m thick and a layer of sharp sand and modern building materials which was 0.23m thick.
- 3.5 An undated ditch terminus [17] was identified in the middle of the trench (Fig. 2). This measured 0.95m wide with gently sloping sides and a concave base. It was 0.35m deep and contained a single fill (16)

(Fig.3). This comprised a mid-brown, friable sandy silt with occasional stone and flint inclusions measuring up to 20mm in size. This fill (17) contained no datable artefacts but was similar in character to the fill of ditch [14] in Trench 2, and may possibly be of a contemporary Bronze Age date.

- 3.6 Trench 4 measured 20m long and was aligned northwest/southeast. Ground level was found to be 5.86 MOD. Natural sand and gravel (11) was encountered at 5.00m MOD. This was overlain by a 0.36m thick subsoil (12), 0.26m deep topsoil and a 0.26m deposit comprised of sharp sand and modern building materials. No archaeological features were identified in Trench 4.
- 3.7 Trench 5 measured 20m long and was aligned northwest/southeast. Ground level was found to be 6.1 MOD. Natural sand and gravel (13) was encountered at 4.98 MOD. This was overlain by a subsoil layer (12), which was 0.39m deep; topsoil (11) which was 0.3m deep; and a layer of sharp sand and modern building materials which was 0.34m thick. No archaeological features were encountered in Trench 5.
- 3.8 The four pits excavated during the watching brief were numbered 1 to 4, and together formed the four corners of a temporary crane base 6 x 6m wide and aligned NW-SW. Pit 1 formed the NW corner, Pit 2 the NE, Pit 3 the SW and Pit 4 the SE (Figure 4). In pits 1, 3 and 4 the same sequence of deposits were recorded: a metallised surface of compacted gravel up to 0.2m thick overlies a dark greyish brown clay 'make-up' layer up to 0.3m thick and containing fragments of modern brick and tile, which in turn sealed a dark orangey-brown deposit of gravel and gravelly clay which corresponds to the subsoil recorded in the evaluation trenches. This subsoil continued below the limit of excavation at c.1.1m below ground level. The depositional sequence in Pit 2 was similar, although here the subsoil sealed a black humic or anaerobic clay at a depth of c.1m below current ground level. No

archaeological features, deposits or artefacts where encountered in any of the pits.

4 CONCLUSION

- 4.1 Archaeological features were identified in Trenches 2 and 3. There were no archaeological deposits in Trenches 3, 4 and 5 or within the four pits monitored during the watching brief.
- 4.2 Feature [14] is interpreted as the terminus of a ditch aligned roughly east to west. Feature [16] was aligned roughly north to south and is also probably a ditch terminus. Ditch [14] contained 2 small sherds of earlier prehistoric Bronze Age pottery. Although ditch [16] did not contain any datable artefacts, similarities between ditch [16] and ditch [14] suggests these may be contemporary. No other finds or environmental remains were recovered from the fills of either ditch.
- 4.3 Although the density of features within the areas available for investigation was relatively low, the presence of pottery does provide some slight evidence for occupation of this area during the Bronze Age. The micro-topography of the site indicates a slight rise in the underlying sands and gravels within the vicinity of ditch [14] in Trench 2. Although this rise was as little as 40mm above the surrounding landscape this difference, although admittedly slight, may have been sufficient to subtly alter local ground conditions. This may have provided slightly better drainage and influenced the location of a temporary settlement positioned on a slight gravel 'island' at this location.
- 4.4 The evaluation has provided only limited evidence of previous land use in the locality. This accords well with the results of previous work on land adjacent and to the south of the current site, where an evaluation revealed elements of a field system, tentatively dated as Bronze Age, and a Bronze Age pit containing two sherds of pottery (Phillips 2007).
- 4.5 When considered in the wider context of landscape utilisation and settlement density along the gravel terraces of the Ouse valley, the evaluation has contributed some tentative new evidence to the

emerging picture of sporadic, probably seasonal occupation of the area by earlier agricultural communities.

- 4.6 On the basis of the evaluation results and the results of previous evaluation work in the immediate area it is apparent that the remains represent part of a field systems and rural settlement of probable Bronze Age date. The archaeological remains within the current site are, however, of very low density and have been impacted upon by later agricultural usage and subsequent building work associated with the St Ives Motel. On this basis it is suggested that these remains are only of archaeological significance.

5 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

PCA would like to thank SLR Consulting Ltd for commissioning this evaluation on behalf of Care UK Community Partnerships. Thanks to Josephine Brown of the CAD Department for preparing the figures and to Kasia Gdaniec of the Historic Environment Team (HET) of Cambridgeshire County Council who advised on and monitored the fieldwork.

6 REFERENCES

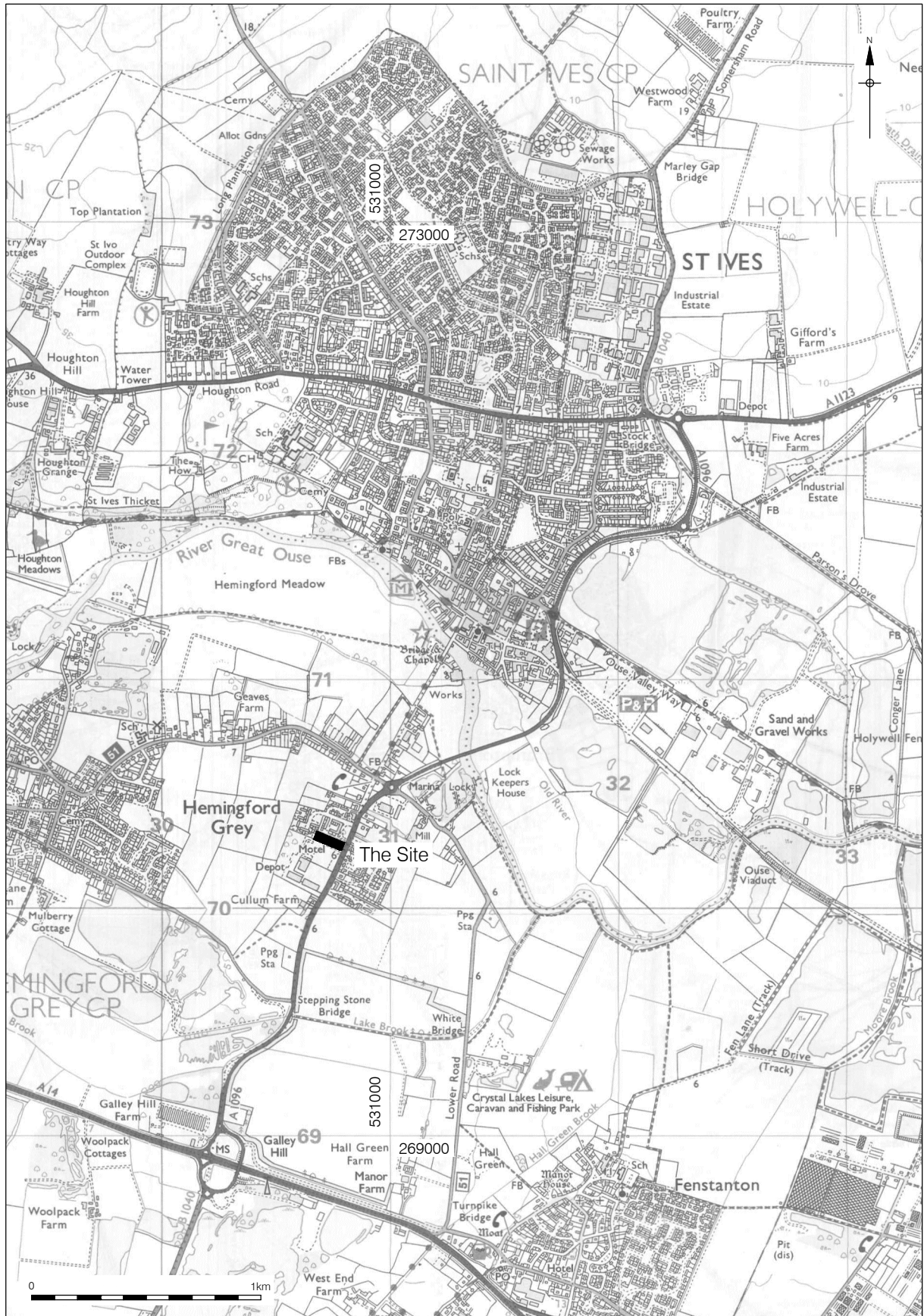
British Geological Survey 1975. England and Wales Sheet 187
Huntingdon, Drift Edition.

Gdaniec, K. 2012. Brief for Archaeological Evaluation.

Hinman, M. 2012. *Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation at London Road, St Ives Motel, Hemingford Grey, Cambridgeshire*. Pre-Construct Archaeology.

Phillips, T. 2007. London Road Hemingford Grey, Cambridgeshire. An Archaeological Evaluation. CAM ARC Report 994.

SLR Consulting Ltd 2012. St Ives Motel, London Road, St Ives, Cambridgeshire, PE27 5EX. Archaeological Context. SLR report Ref: 402.02498.00011.0008, June 2012.



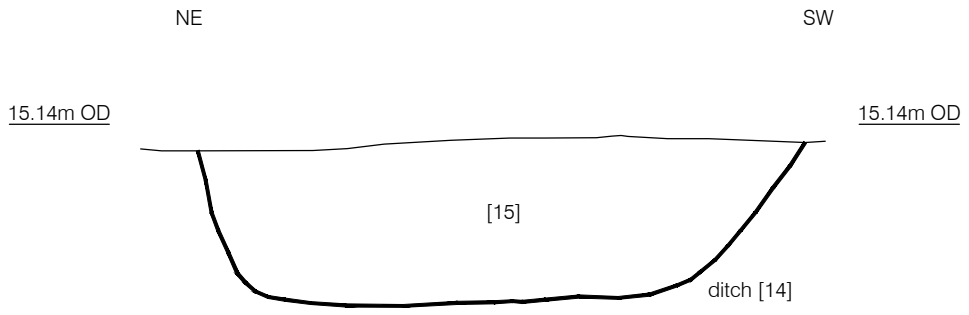
© Crown copyright 2009. All rights reserved. License number 36110309

© Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd 2012

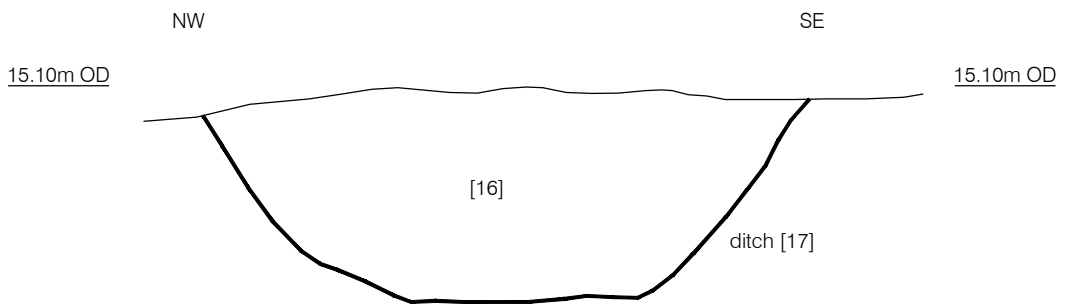
06/06/12 JS

Figure 1
Site Location
1:25,000 at A4





Section 1
Northwest Facing

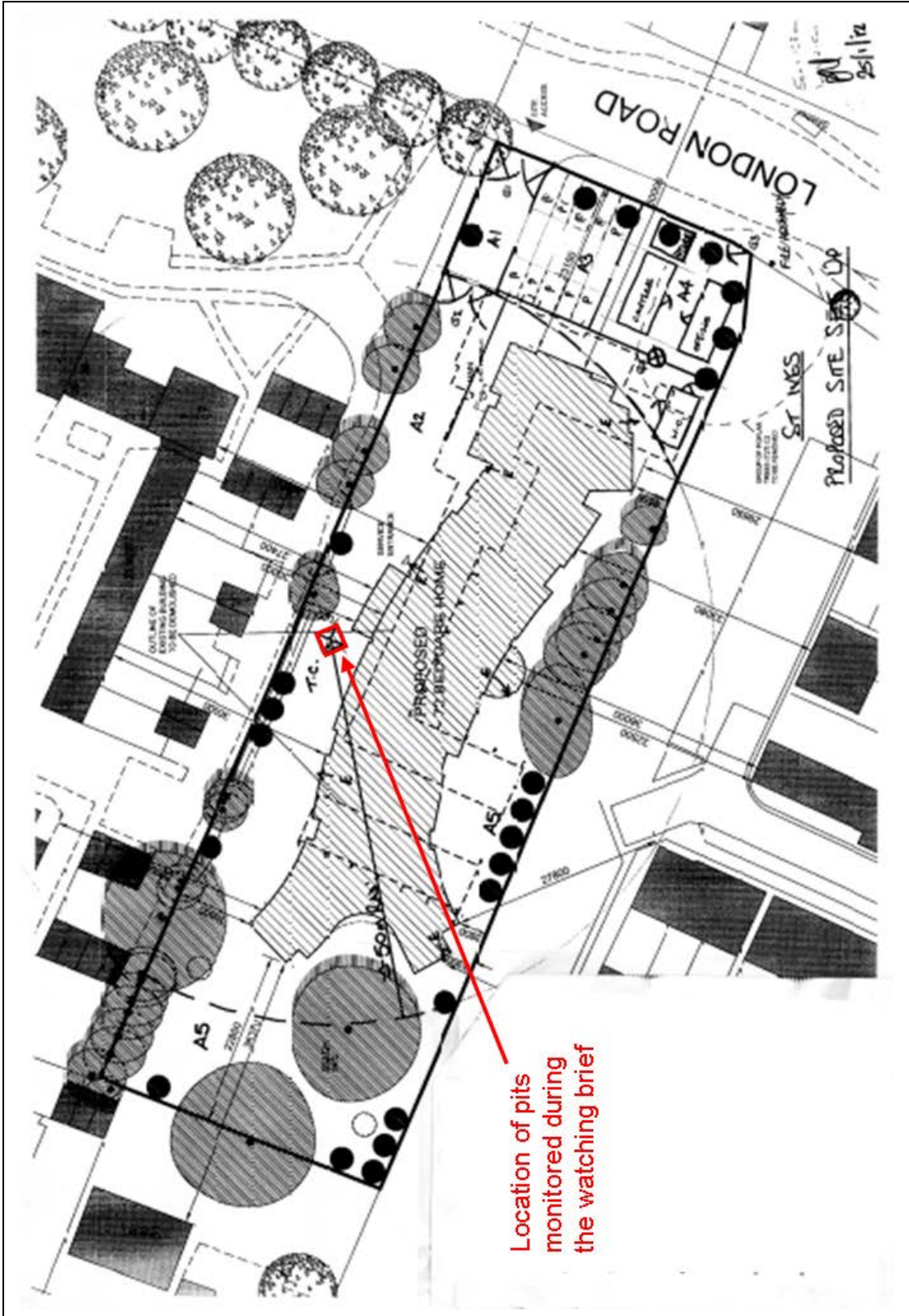


Section 2
Southwest Facing



© Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd 2012
06/06/12 JS

Figure 3
Sections 1 & 2
1:25 at A4



Location of pits monitored during the watching brief

Figure 4
Watching Brief Locations
Not to Scale

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
6-10				Not Used
11	-	Layer	ALL	Topsoil-Mid brown sandy silt
12		Layer	ALL	Subsoil-Light yellowy brown, friable silty sand with occasional stone inclusions up to 25mm
13		Layer	ALL	Natural
14	14	Cut	2	Cut of ditch terminus- 0.99m wide, 0.27m deep, sloping sides (approx 60 degrees from horizontal), breaking gently to a flat base
15	14	Fill	2	Single fill of ditch [14]. friable sandy silt, occasional, sub angular flint and stone inclusions between 10mm and 50mm
16	16	Fill	3	Single fill of [17], mid brown, friable sandy silt with occasional stone inclusions up to 20mm
17	16	Cut	3	0.95m wide with sides sloping 45 degrees from horizontal and breaking gently to a concave base. 0.35m deep and contained a single fill (16)

APPENDIX 2: PLATES

PLATE 1: NORTHWEST FACING SECTION OF DITCH [14] IN TRENCH 2



PLATE 2 :NORTHWEST FACING SECTION OF DITCH [14] IN TRENCH 2



PLATE 3. SOUTHWEST FACING SECTION OF DITCH [17] IN TRENCH 3



PLATE 4: TRENCH 1



PLATE 5: TRENCH 2



PLATE 6: TRENCH 3



PLATE 7: TRENCH 4



PLATE 8: TRENCH 5



PLATE 9: WORKING SHOT



PLATE 10: PIT 2, SE FACING SECTION



APPENDIX 3: OASIS FORM

6.1 OASIS ID: preconst1-129905

Project details

Project name Archaeological Evaluation at St Ives Motel, London Road, St Ives, Cambridgeshire

Short description of the project This document details the results of an archaeological trial trench evaluation at St Ives Motel, London Road, St Ives, Cambridgeshire. The work was commissioned by SLR Consulting Ltd on behalf of Care UK Community Partnerships to assess the archaeological implications of development of land at the site. The work was undertaken from the 29th May to the 30th May 2012, and comprised five archaeological evaluation trenches totalling 97m. Two prehistoric ditches were identified, one of which contained 2 small sherds of Bronze Age pottery. A watching brief carried out during the excavation of four pits for a temporary crane foundation on the 15th of October 2012 did not encounter any archaeological features, deposits or artefacts.

Project dates Start: 29-05-2012 End: 15-10-2012

Previous/future work Not known / Not known

Any associated project reference codes CSIM12 - Sitecode

Any associated project reference codes 3781 - HER event no.

Type of project Field evaluation

Monument type	DITCH Bronze Age
Monument type	DITCH Bronze Age
Significant Finds	POTTERY Bronze Age
Methods & techniques	"Sample Trenches"
Development type	Not recorded
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	Not known / Not recorded

Project location

Country	England
Site location	CAMBRIDGESHIRE HUNTINGDONSHIRE SAINT IVES St Ives Motel, London Road, St Ives, Cambridgeshire
Study area	160.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TL 3073 7028 52 0 52 18 52 N 000 04 55 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 5.00m Max: 6.00m

Project creators

Name of Organisation Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited

Project brief originator SLR Consulting Ltd

Project design originator Mark Hinman

Project director/manager Mark Hinman

Project supervisor Jan Janulewicz

Type of sponsor/funding body Developer

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient Cambridgeshire County Council

Physical Contents "Ceramics"

Digital Archive recipient Cambridgeshire County Council

Digital Media "Survey"

available

Paper Archive recipient
Cambridgeshire County Council

Paper Media available
"Context sheet", "Photograph", "Plan"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Archaeological Evaluation at St Ives Motel, London Road, St Ives, Cambridgeshire
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Janulewicz, Jan
Date	2012
Issuer or publisher	Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited
Place of issue or publication	Stapleford
Description	A4 Grey Literature Report
Entered by	Mark Hinman (mhinman@pre-construct.com)
Entered on	18 October 2012

APPENDIX 4: PREHISTORIC POTTERY

By Sarah Percival

A total of two sherds weighing 8g were recovered including three joining pieces from a recently broken sherd. Two fabrics were identified; the first contains sparse grog and flint pieces within a sandy matrix whilst the second is grog and flint tempered. All the sherds are undecorated. The fabric and distinctive colouring of the sherds suggests that they may be later Neolithic early Bronze Age Beaker.

PCA

PCA SOUTH

UNIT 54
BROCKLEY CROSS BUSINESS CENTRE
96 ENDWELL ROAD
BROCKLEY
LONDON SE4 2PD
TEL: 020 7732 3925 / 020 7639 9091
FAX: 020 7639 9588
EMAIL: info@pre-construct.com

PCA NORTH

UNIT 19A
TURSDALE BUSINESS PARK
DURHAM DH6 5PG
TEL: 0191 377 1111
FAX: 0191 377 0101
EMAIL: info.north@pre-construct.com

PCA CENTRAL

7 GRANTA TERRACE
STAPLEFORD
CAMBRIDGESHIRE CB22 5DL
TEL: 01223 845 522
FAX: 01223 845 522
EMAIL: info.central@pre-construct.com

PCA WEST

BLOCK 4
CHILCOMB HOUSE
CHILCOMB LANE
WINCHESTER
HAMPSHIRE SO23 8RB
TEL: 01962 849 549
EMAIL: info.west@pre-construct.com

PCA MIDLANDS

17-19 KETTERING RD
LITTLE BOWDEN
MARKET HARBOROUGH
LEICESTERSHIRE LE16 8AN
TEL: 01858 468 333
EMAIL: info.midlands@pre-construct.com

