

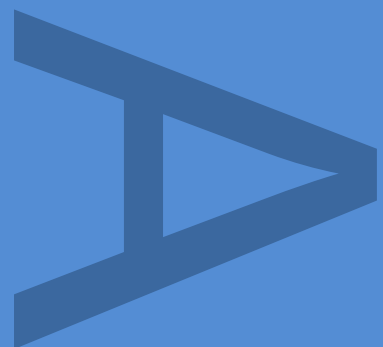
**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION  
OF LAND ADJACENT TO WHITE  
COTTAGE, WILDE STREET, BECK  
ROW, SUFFOLK IP28 8DF**



**LOCAL PLANNING AUTHORITY: FOREST  
HEATH DISTRICT COUNCIL**



**PCA REPORT NO: R11571**



**NOVEMBER 2013**

**PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY**

---

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION OF LAND ADJACENT TO  
WHITE COTTAGE, WILDE STREET, BECK ROW, SUFFOLK**

**Event No:** MNL 706

**Central NGR:** TL 703 788

**Local Planning Authority:** Forest Heath District Council

**Planning Reference:** F/2012/0621/OUT

**Written by** Tom Woolhouse

**Project Manager:** Mark Hinman

**Commissioning Client:** Clair Shingfield

**Contractor:**

**Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited**

**7 Granta Terrace**

**Stapleford**

**Cambridgeshire**

**CB22 4PF**

**Tel: 01223 845522**

**Email: [mhinman@pre-construct.com](mailto:mhinman@pre-construct.com)**

**Website: [www.pre-construct.com](http://www.pre-construct.com)**

**© Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited**

**November 2013**

© The material contained herein is and remains the sole property of Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited and is not for publication to third parties without prior consent.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 ..... 3

1 INTRODUCTION ..... 4

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY ..... 6

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE ..... 7

4 DISCUSSION..... 8

5 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS ..... 9

6 REFERENCES..... 10

APPENDIX 1 CONTEXT REGISTER..... 11

APPENDIX 2 OASIS FORM ..... 12

FIGURE 1 SITE LOCATION

FIGURE 2 DETAILED SITE LOCATION AND TRENCH LAYOUT

PLATE 1 TRENCH 1 LOOKING NORTH-WEST

PLATE 2 TRENCH 2 LOOKING SOUTH-WEST

## **ABSTRACT**

*This document details the results of an archaeological trial trench evaluation on land adjacent to the White Cottage, Wilde Street, Beck Row, Suffolk. The work was commissioned by the Clair Shingfield and is in response to an archaeological brief for a trial trench evaluation prepared by Dr Richard Hoggett of Suffolk County Council.*

*Two 15m Trial Trenches, set out in a T shaped plan and placed along each axis of the proposed building, were excavated in order to investigate the footprint of the new dwelling. No archaeological features, evidence or artefacts consistent with human activity were encountered.*

## 1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This document details the results of an archaeological trial trench evaluation of land adjacent to White Cottage, Wilde Street, Beck Row, Suffolk (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Clair Shingfield and was undertaken to assess the archaeological implications and potential impacts of the proposed new dwelling (Planning Reference: F/2012/0621/OUT ).
- 1.2 A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for an archaeological trial trench evaluation within the proposed development area (Hinman 2013) was prepared in response to a request for an archaeological evaluation by Dr Richard Hoggett of Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service's Conservation Team (SCCAS/CT).
- 1.3 White Cottage is situated to the north of Beck Row and within the small dispersed hamlet of Wilde Street. The site of the proposed new dwelling lies within an area of open green space/garden to the north-west of the White Cottage and to the west of a narrow lane providing access to adjacent properties at NGR TL 703 788. The north-western boundary of the property, which continues beyond the constraints of the site, appears to have been a former trackway or driveway aligned north-east to south-west, locally linking Becks Row and Wilde Street. The immediate area of the site remains rural in character, although Mildenhall and the air base are situated to the south and south-west of the site and RAF Lakenheath and Brandon to the north-east.
- 1.4 The topography of the site and surrounding area is broadly flat. In the wider landscape, the ground falls away westwards towards the fen edge and rises gradually to the east and south-east. The underlying bedrock is mapped as Late Cretaceous Zig Zag Chalk, overlain by Quaternary river terrace deposits of sand and gravel (British Geological Survey). The River Lark flows from east to west approximately 4m south of the site. The site lies on the edge of the Breckland, an area (in north-west Suffolk and south-west Norfolk) of thin, acid soils which has historically been used for sheep grazing, rabbit warrens and, in the last two centuries, coniferous plantations.
- 1.5 The development site lies in an area of particular archaeological potential, located on the fen-edge and in a topographic setting which is known to have been highly favourable to early occupation. A number of prehistoric finds have been recorded near to the proposed development. These include finds of prehistoric artefacts comprising assemblages of Bronze Age pottery, flint work and metal working debris (SHER refs MNL 012, 172 and 187), while archaeological monitoring (MNL523) in 2002 of land off Peterfen Drove, Wilde

Street, to the north-east of the development recorded a number of undated hollows and pits, the latter thought to be prehistoric in date. The National Monuments Record detail the presence of a Bronze Age settlement site, Philips Sites 1, to the north of the development (Accession: 1964-10,-14) and a Mesolithic and later occupation site at the King Site, to the north (Accession :1964-12,-13/1977-412). Accordingly the development presents a high potential for encountering evidence of early occupation. Historically the site appears to have remained undeveloped indicating good conditions for archaeological preservation should any remains be present.

## **2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY**

- 2.1 Two trial trenches (Nos. 1 and 2) (Fig. 2 and Plates 1-2), measuring 15m in length by 1.8m in width and set out to a T shaped arrangement, following each principal axis of the proposed building, were excavated and recorded on the 15th November 2013. This uncovered a thin deposit of garden soil at the surface overlying a more substantial subsoil of wind-blown sand above the natural substrate.
- 2.2 The ground reduction was carried out under archaeological supervision using a wheeled JCB backhoe loader. A toothless ditching bucket was used to excavate the trenches. Topsoil and subsoil deposits were removed in spits down to the level of the undisturbed natural geology (sand) where potential archaeological features could be observed and recorded.
- 2.3 OD heights and trench locations were recorded using a Leica 1200 GPS rover unit. Archaeological or significant natural features were hand-drawn on permatrace at a scale of 1:20. The sequence of deposits in each trench was recorded using PCA's pro-forma recording sheets. Monochrome and colour digital photographs were taken of the trenches, archaeological features and sample sections; general site shots were also taken. The trenches were scanned visually for finds and with a metal-detector during machining and spoil heaps were checked.

### **3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE**

#### **Natural geology and topography**

- 3.1 The natural geology in both trenches comprised fine, pale brownish yellow-dark orange mottled sand with patches of degraded chalk, consistent with the BGS data. In Trench 1 the natural sand had an undulating horizon, dipping slightly within the centre of the trench. This may be interpreted as hummock and hollow, indicative of a fen-edge to Breckland landscape. The ground surface in the vicinity of both trenches was flat and even with little sign of previous extractions or significant disturbance.

#### **Overburden**

- 3.2 The overburden was consistent across both trenches. A relatively fine deposit of garden soil (5), measuring between 0.10m and 0.30m was present at the surface. This overlay a more substantial deposit of a mixed dark brown-grey slightly silty wind-blown sand (4), recorded in both trenches and measuring between 0.30m to 0.75m. This deposit sealed the natural sand (3). Trench 1 and the south-western end of Trench 2 were crossed by a band of discoloured sand, aligned on an approximate NNW-SSE axis and extending for the main part, the length of Trench 1. Investigation revealed it to be a shallow 'feature' (0.14m maximum) with diffuse edges, filled with a brownish-grey sand deposit which became increasingly more yellow and sandy toward the edges. Based on its characteristics and lack of finds or evidence of human activity, this was interpreted as a natural change or glacial banding within the sandy substrate.



## **4 DISCUSSION**

- 4.1 Despite the perceived potential for encountering early and later prehistoric settlement or associated activity in this archaeologically sensitive area along the fen edge, an area known to have been highly favourable to early occupation, no archaeological evidence, in the form of features or finds, were present within the trenches or as a residual element within the spoil. The sandy natural subsoil was clearly undisturbed by archaeological or modern interventions and was overlain by a considerable and undisturbed layer of wind-blown sand, a phenomenon typical of the Breckland landscape. The results of this investigation confirm that the area of the proposed development was not previously subject to archaeological activity.
- 4.2 Interestingly the north-western boundary of the site coincided with a former trackway or droveway, clearly seen on aerial photographs (google earth), fossilised into the landscape between Beck Row to the south-west and Wilde Street, continuing further, as Littlefield Drove, to the north-east and toward Brandon. This trackway, which follows the 5m contour along the edge of the fen, seems to appear within an archaeological excavation situated along the edge of Beck Row (Land to the rear of Smoke House Inn) and adjacent to Skeltons Drove and Locks Lane.

## **5 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

PCA would like to thank the client Clair Shingfield and Dr Richard Hoggett for monitoring the project on behalf of Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service. Thanks to Josephine Brown of the PCA CAD Department for preparing the figures. The fieldwork was carried out by Tom Woolhouse.

## **6 REFERENCES**

### **Grey Reports**

Hinman, M. 2013 *Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation at Land adjacent to White Cottage, Wilde Street, Beck Row, Suffolk*. Pre-Construct Archaeology

### **Programs**

The Geoimformation Group 2013 viewed using Google Earth 7.0.3.8542

Google Earth

Archaeology Data Service Browser

Oasis

## APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT REGISTER

Context	Cut	Type	Trench	Comments
1	-	Trench	1	Trench 1
2	-	Trench	2	Trench 2
3	-	Natural	1/2	Pale brownish yellow to dark brown orange mottled sand
4	-	Subsoil	1/2	Dark brownish-grey, very slightly silty sand wind blown deposit
5	-	Topsoil	1/2	Garden Soil Loam
6	-	Natural feature	1/2	Banding with natural sandy substrate

## APPENDIX 2: OASIS FORM

**OASIS ID:** preconst1-164958

### Project details

**Project name** Archaeological Evaluation of Land adjacent to White Cottage, Becks Row, Wilde Street, Suffolk

### Short description of the project

The project was carried in accordance with an archaeological brief for a trial trench evaluation prepared by Dr Richard Hoggett of Suffolk County Council. Two 15m Trial Trenches, set out in a T shaped plan and placed along each axis of the proposed building were excavated in order to investigate the footprint of the new dwelling. No archaeological features, evidence or artefacts consistent with human activity were uncovered.

**Project dates** Start: 15-11-2013 End: 15-11-2013

**Previous/future work** No / No

**Any associated project reference codes** F/2012/0621/OUT - Planning Application No.

**Type of project** Field evaluation

**Site status** None

**Current Land use** Other 5 - Garden

**Monument type** NONE None

**Significant Finds** NONE None

**Methods & techniques** "Sample Trenches"

**Development type** Rural residential

Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS

After full determination (eg. As a condition)

### Project location

**Country** England

**Site location** SUFFOLK FOREST HEATH BECK ROW, HOLYWELL ROW AND KENNY HILL

White Cottage, Wilde Street, Beck Row, Suffolk

**Postcode** IP28 8DF

**Study area** 175.00 Square metres

**Site coordinates** TL 7030 7880 52 0 52 22 49 N 000 30 08 E Point

### Project creators

**Name of Organisation** Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd

**Project brief originator** Suffolk County Council's Archaeological Officer

**Project design originator** Mark Hinman

**Project director/manager** Gary Brown  
**Project supervisor** Tom Woolhouse  
**Type of sponsor/funding body** Private Client

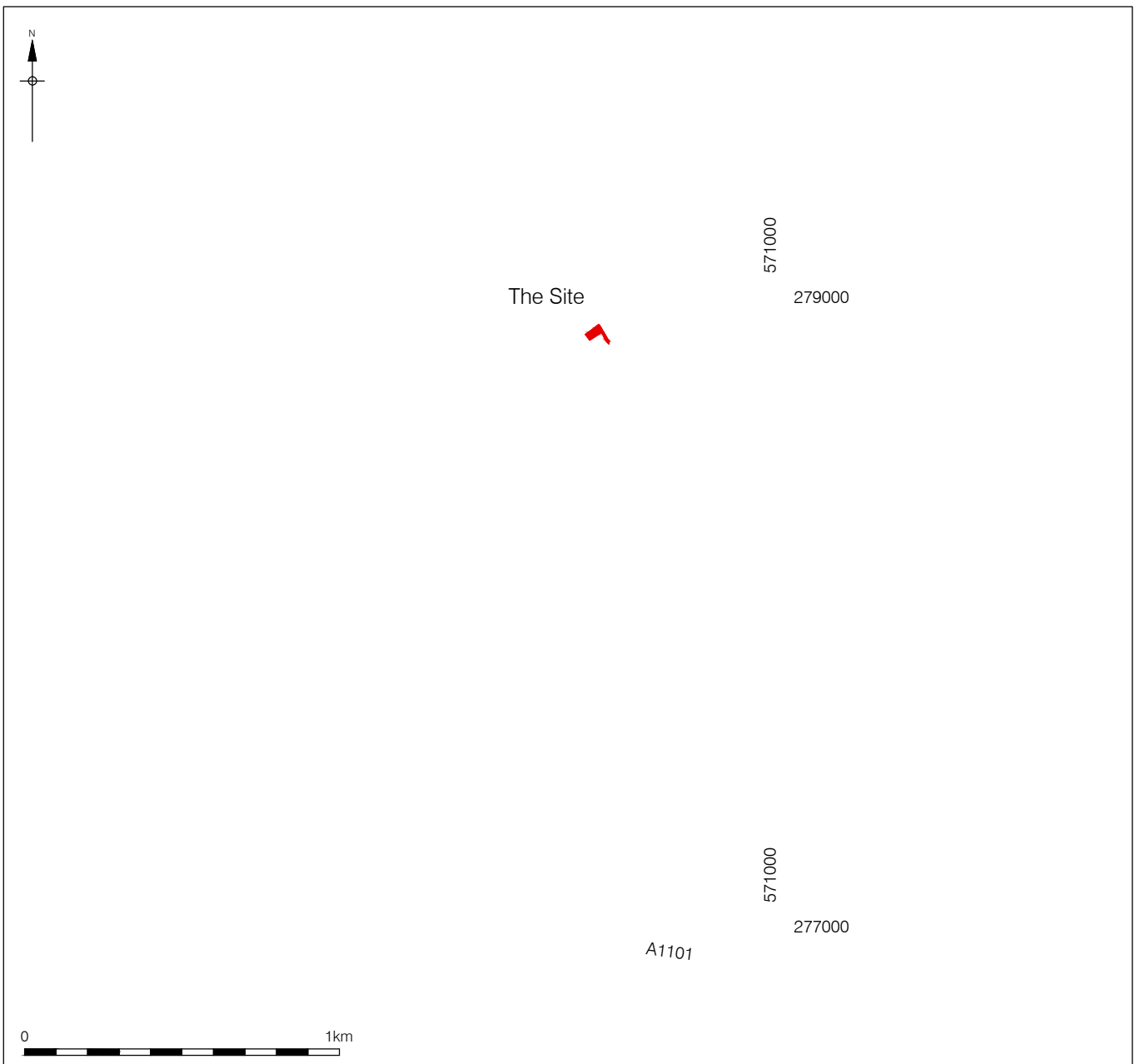
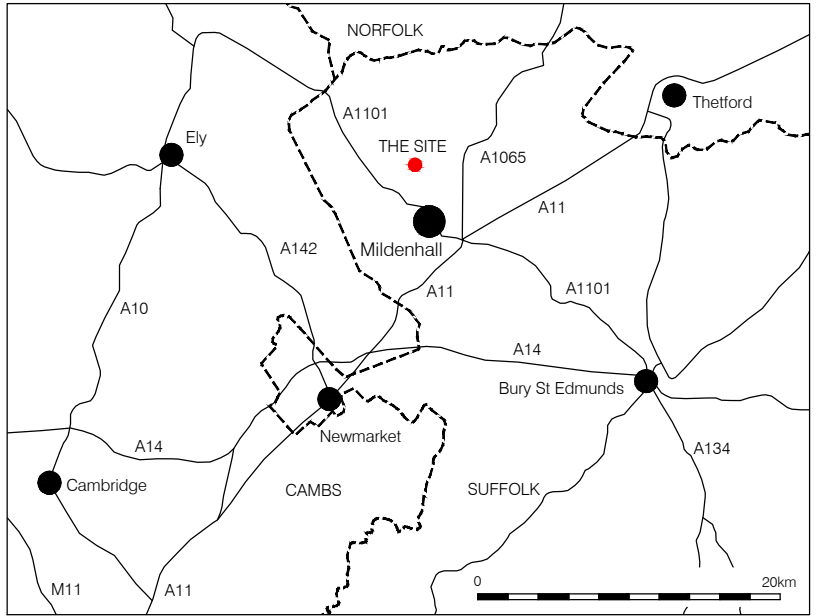
#### **Project archives**

**Physical Archive Exists?** No  
**Digital Archive recipient** Suffolk County Council  
**Digital Media available** "Images raster / digital photography", "Text"  
**Paper Archive recipient** Suffolk County Council  
**Paper Media available** "Context sheet", "Microfilm"

#### **Project bibliography 1**

**Publication type** Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)  
**Title** Archaeological Evaluation of land adjacent to White Cottage, Wilde Street, Beck Row, Suffolk  
**Author** Woolhouse, T  
**Date** 2013  
**Issuer or publisher** Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd  
**Place of issue or publication** Cambridge  
**Description** grey report

**Entered by** Adam Garwood (agarwood@pre-construct.com)  
**Entered on** 22 November 2013



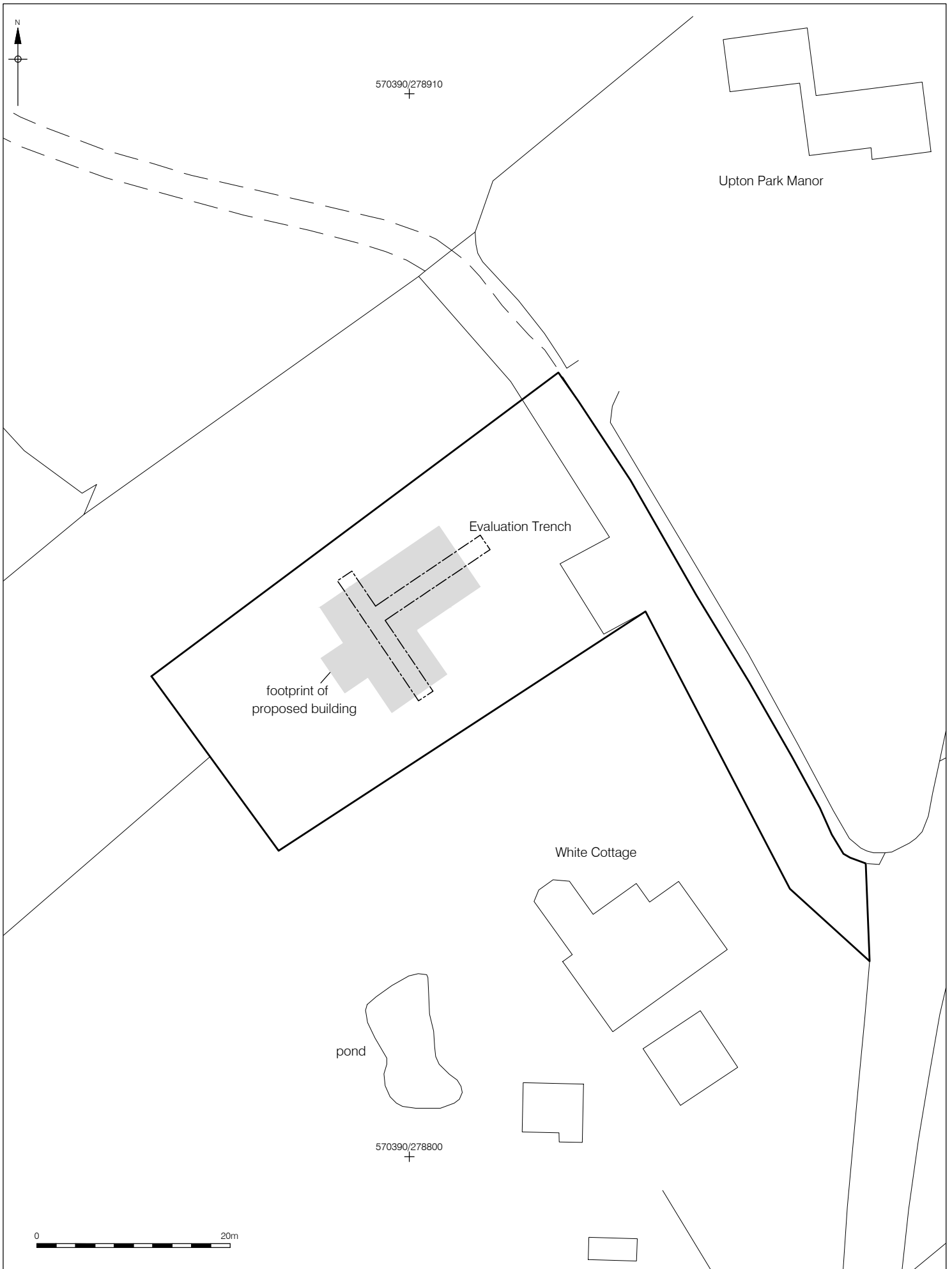






Plate 1 Trench 1 looking north-west



Plate 2 Trench 2 looking south-west

# 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:info.central@pre-construct.com)

---

## **PCA WEST**

BLOCK 4  
CHILCOMB HOUSE  
CHILCOMB LANE  
WINCHESTER  
HAMPSHIRE SO23 8RB  
TEL: 01962 826 761  
EMAIL: [info.west@pre-construct.com](mailto:info.west@pre-construct.com)

---

## **PCA MIDLANDS**

17-19 KETTERING RD  
LITTLE BOWDEN  
MARKET HARBOROUGH  
LEICESTERSHIRE LE16 8AN  
TEL: 01858 468333  
EMAIL: [info.midlands@pre-construct.com](mailto:info.midlands@pre-construct.com)

---

