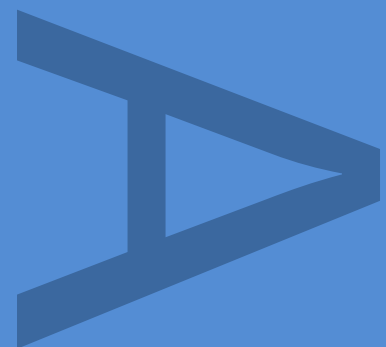


**LAND AT FORMER FOCUS DIY,
CAMBRIDGESHIRE, CB1 2XL**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL
TRENCH EVALUATION**

MAY 2014



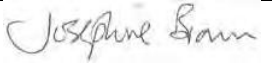
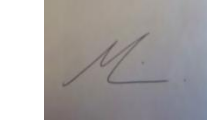
**PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY
R11680**

LAND AT FORMER FOCUS DIY, TENISON ROAD,
CB1 2XL, CAMBRIDGESHIRE

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

Quality Control

Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd	
Project Number	K3502
Report Number	R11680

	Name & Title	Signature	Date
Text Prepared by:	Lawrence Morgan-Shelbourne		May 2014
Graphics Prepared by:	Hayley Baxter		May 2014
Graphics Checked by:	Josephine Brown		May 2014
Project Manager Sign-off:	Mark Hinman		May 2014

Revision No.	Date	Checked	Approved

Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited
The Granary
Rectory Farm
Brewery Road
Pampisford
Cambridgeshire
CB22 3EN

Land at Former Focus DIY, Tenison Road, CB1 2XL, Cambridgeshire:

An Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation

Local Planning Authority: Cambridge County Council

Central National Grid Reference: NGR TL 46084 57396

Site Code: CTRC14

HER No: ECB 4168

Report No. R 11680

Written and researched by: Lawrence Morgan-Shelbourne

Project Manager: Mark Hinman

Commissioning Client: Hill Partnerships Ltd.

Contractor: Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd
Central Office
Rectory Farm
Brewery Road
Pampisford
Cambridgeshire
CB22 3EN

Tel: 01223 845522

Fax: 01223 845522

E-mail: mhinman@pre-construct.com

Website: www.pre-construct.com

©Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd

May 2014

The material contained herein is and remains the sole property of Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd and is not for publication to third parties without prior consent.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 Ltd cannot be held responsible for errors or inaccuracies herein contained.

CONTENTS

CONTENTS	2
ABSTRACT	3
1 INTRODUCTION	4
2 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY	5
3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND	6
4 METHODOLOGY	7
5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE	9
6 THE FINDS.....	12
7 DISCUSSION	13
8 CONCLUSIONS	14
9 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.....	15
10 BIBLIOGRAPHY	16
11 APPENDIX 1: PLATES.....	20
12 APPENDIX 2: CONTEXT INDEX.....	23
13 APPENDIX 3: OASIS FORM	24
FIGURE 1 SITE LOCATION	17
FIGURE 2 TRENCH LOCATION.....	18
FIGURE 3 TRENCH PLANS	19

ABSTRACT

This report describes the results of a nine-trench archaeological evaluation carried out by Pre-Construct Archaeology on land at the Former Focus DIY site, Cambridge (NGR TL 46084 57396) during April 2014. The archaeological work was commissioned by Hills Partnerships Ltd. In response to a planning condition attached to redevelopment of the area. The aim of the work was to characterise the archaeological potential of the site.

The evaluation identified two small pits and four small ditches, one of which contained modern material. The nine trenches revealed a significant level of ground disturbance across the whole area and especially towards the eastern side of the site where Trenches 1 and 2 were located. The majority of this disturbance is the result of the former use of the site as 19th-20th century railway sidings and layers of made ground associated with this activity were present in Trenches 3-9. The modern disturbance had in places truncated the natural substrate and subsequently may have severely hindered the survival of any archaeological remains pre-dating the post-medieval and modern periods. A few of the undated features on site were visible from immediately beneath the uppermost made ground deposits and are subsequently thought to relate to late post-medieval and modern activities on site.

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology has been commissioned by Hill Partnerships Ltd to carry out a programme of archaeological evaluation at the former Focus DIY site on Tenison Road, CB1 2XL, Cambridge (centered on NGR TL 46084 57396).
- 1.2 The proposed development comprises 137 residential units and a new adopted highway.
- 1.3 The CB1 area has been subject to a series of archaeological investigations in connection to the redevelopment of the area. Roman earthworks are recorded in the vicinity and Roman features and later quarrying have been recorded close to the Cambridge train station. Linear features of probable Roman date have been recorded to the north and there is the potential for significant archaeology to survive on the current site.
- 1.4 Due to the high archaeological potential of the site, a condition has been placed on planning consent requiring that a scheme of archaeological investigation be undertaken. The initial phase of this work is a trial trench evaluation to assess the character and potential of any surviving archaeological remains and to determine the need for any future site investigation or archaeological mitigation.
- 1.5 This document has been created according to a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for archaeological evaluation of the approximate 0.9ha area of the site (Figure 1) and in response to a Design Brief prepared by Andy Thomas of Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team (HET).
- 1.6 This report describes the results of the evaluation and aims to inform the design of an appropriate archaeological mitigation strategy. The site archive will be deposited at Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeology Store.

2 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

- 2.1 The solid geology of the site is chalk of the West Melbury Formation, overlain by 3rd terrace gravels of the river Cam. The site lies at an elevation of c. 14m OD, roughly equidistant between the river Cam to the west (1.2km away) and Cherry Hinton Brook to the east (1.5km away).
- 2.2 The development area lies within the City of Cambridge, 120m north-west of Cambridge railway station. The site is bordered by Hills Road to the west, the railway line, Cambridge station and sidings to the east, Station Road to the south and by residential streets to the north.
- 2.3 The character of the immediate area is predominantly of former commercial/light industrial and office buildings which grew up around the station and sidings, which is in the process of being redeveloped into a new 25 acre mixed use development ('CB1') comprising office space, residential and retail units, large areas of green space, and student accommodation.

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

3.1 The CB1 area has been subject to a series of archaeological investigations in advance of different phases of the development. Although Roman earthworks are recorded in the vicinity, archaeological evidence for Roman activity has generally been relatively sparse, with some evidence for Roman quarrying adjacent to Hills Road. Ditches of possible Roman date are also recorded to the north of the site (Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record (CHER) 16296). A dispersed cluster of small Early Neolithic pits, associated with worked and burnt flint and two sherds of pottery, has been recorded to the south at the Foster's Mill site (CHER 19994), indicating additional potential for prehistoric remains on the current site. The Foster's Mill site and other sites in this area of the modern city (e.g. CHER 16826) have also produced evidence for post-medieval field systems.

4 METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 All aspects of the evaluation will be conducted in accordance with the Institute for Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct, Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluation* (2008) and *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney, D. 2003, East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper No. 14). Reference will also be made, where appropriate, to *Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties, 1. Resource Assessment* and *2. Research Agenda and Strategy* (East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 3 and 8), and *Research and Archaeology Revisited: A Revised Framework for the East of England* (East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 24).
- 4.2 The evaluation will comprise the excavation of 9 linear trial trenches 25m in length and approx. 2m wide (excavator bucket width), totalling 225m and providing a 5% sample (450m²) of the site's c. 9000m² area. Trenches will be positioned to sample all areas of the site likely to be affected by the proposed development. A proposed trench layout is shown on Figure 1 but trench positions may be adjusted by the site supervisor on the ground to take into account any previously unidentified constraints.
- 4.3 Removal of topsoil, modern hard-standing and other non-archaeological overburden will be carried out using a 360° tracked excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket, operating under close archaeological supervision. . Machine excavation will cease at the first archaeological level or at the surface of the natural geology, whichever is encountered first. All further excavation will be undertaken manually using hand tools.
- 4.4 A metal detector survey will be carried out during stripping. Trenches will be scanned during and after machining and excavated spoil will be checked for finds visually and with a metal detector.
- 4.5 Exposed archaeological features and deposits will be cleaned as necessary to define them using hand tools and trenches will be planned at an appropriate scale (usually 1:50). Trench locations and heights above Ordnance Datum will be recorded using a Leica 1200 GPS Smart Rover with

- RTK differential correction giving global positioning accuracy to 20mm or better.
- 4.6 Field excavation techniques and recording methods are detailed in the PCA Fieldwork Induction Manual (Operations Manual I) by Joanna Taylor and Gary Brown (2009).
- 4.7 High-resolution digital photographs were taken of all relevant features and deposits, and were used to keep a record of the excavation process.
- 4.8 Bulk samples, generally 20-40 litres in volume, will be taken by the excavator and in consultation with the project's environmental specialist where practicable, in order to recover micro- and macro-botanical environmental remains. The broad aim of such sampling is to recover evidence relating to the past environment and agricultural economy of the site, and how these changed over time under both natural and anthropogenic influence.
- 4.9 Environmental sampling will make reference to the following guideline documents:
- *English Heritage, 2011, Environmental Archaeology: A Guide to the Theory and Practice of Methods from Sampling and Recovery to Post-excavation (second edition).*
 - *Association for Environmental Archaeology, 1995, Environmental archaeology and archaeological evaluations. Recommendations concerning the environmental archaeology component of archaeological evaluations in England. Working Papers of the Association for Environmental Archaeology 2, 8 ff. York: Association for Environmental Archaeology;*
 - *Dobney, K., Hall, A., Kenward, H. and Milles, A., 1992, A working classification of sample types for environmental archaeology. Circaea 9.1 (1992 for 1991), pg. 24-26;*
 - *Murphy, P.L. and Wiltshire, P.E.J., 1994, A guide to sampling archaeological deposits for environmental analysis.*

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE

5.1 Overview

5.1.1 Of the nine trenches excavated, only four contained the remains of archaeological features. Two ditches were found in Trench 3 and a further two in Trenches 5 and 7 whilst Trench 8 revealed two small pits. There were no archaeological features or deposits within the remaining five trenches. Most of the trenches displayed a similar stratigraphic sequence of made ground and modern deposits, although an area of major ground disturbance was evident at the eastern edge of the development area where trenches 1 and 2 were located.

5.2 Trench 1

5.2.1 Trench 1 was aligned northwest to southeast and was located toward the northeast corner of the development area. The trench contained no archaeological features or deposits. This area of site comprised a thick layer (approximately 1.1m) of disturbed ground which had truncated the upper surface of the natural substrate.

5.3 Trench 2

5.3.1 Trench 2, aligned northeast-southwest, was situated at the southeast corner of the area and comprised similar disturbed deposits as Trench 1 to the north. No archaeological remains were encountered likely owing to the nature and depth of the made ground.

5.4 Trench 3

5.4.1 Trench 3 was located to the west of Trench 1 and was oriented northeast-southwest. Two ditches were revealed within this trench. Ditch [4] was located at the eastern end of the trench and was aligned north-south, extending out of the trench in both directions. The sides of the ditch sloped gently and the base was concave. Where excavated, the ditch measured 1.10m wide x 0.28m deep. It contained a single fill of loose dark orange-brown silty-sand (3) but no archaeological finds.

5.4.2 Ditch [6], located toward the centre of the trench, was aligned north-south. The ditch terminated within the trench but extended beyond the trench

limits to the north. The ditch had gently sloping sides, a flat base and measured 1.30m wide x 0.07m deep. It contained a single fill of mid orange-brown silty-sand (5) and yielded no finds.

5.5 Trench 4

5.5.1 Trench 4 was positioned across the central southern area of the development area and oriented east-west. The upper deposits identified within the trench comprised made ground and although this material had not impacted severely on the natural substrate, there were no archaeological features within the trench.

5.6 Trench 5

5.6.1 Trench 5 was located at the northeast corner of the site and oriented east-west. A single northwest-southeast aligned ditch [8] was found toward the eastern end of Trench 5 and was seen to continue beyond the limits of the trench. Where excavated the ditch measured approximately 0.65m wide and 0.07m deep and displayed shallow sloping sides and a concave base. It contained a single fill of loose dark grey-brown silty-sand (7) and yielded no finds.

5.7 Trench 6

5.7.1 Trench 6 was situated to the north of Trench 6 and aligned north-south. The stratigraphic sequence was similar to that of Trench 4 but also comprised a layer of white chalk within the made ground. There were no archaeological features within this trench.

5.8 Trench 7

5.8.1 Ditch [15] was located toward southern end of the northwest-southeast aligned trench. The ditch was oriented northeast-southwest and extended out of the trench in both directions. The ditch contained a single fill of a loose mid grey-brown silty-sand (14) which yielded modern material. The ditch measured 2m wide although was not fully excavated due to its modern date.

5.9 Trench 8

5.9.1 Two small pits were exposed in Trench 8, which was located to the

southwest of the development area. Pit [18] was sub-circular in plan with moderately sloping sides and a concave base. The pit measured 0.68m by 0.44m by 0.11m in depth and contained no material culture.

5.9.2 A small pit [20] was partially exposed toward the centre of Trench 8, measuring approximately 1.3m wide and 0.31m deep. The pit displayed gently sloping sides and a concave base but contained no finds.

5.10 Trench 9

5.10.1 Trench 9 was located in between trenches 4 and 8 and oriented north-south. There were no archaeological features or deposits within this trench.

6 THE FINDS

- 6.1 With the exception of some modern material found in ditch [15] in Trench 7, no archaeological artefacts were recovered during the evaluation at Tenison Road.

7 DISCUSSION

7.1 The limited archaeological remains at Tenison Road have clearly been impacted upon by modern ground disturbance resulting from the establishment of the railway line and associated works during the 19th and 20th century. With the exception of ditch [15] in Trench 7 which yielded some modern material, no finds were recovered. However, the fills of all the features were directly comparable and the relationship of some of the features to the stratigraphic sequence suggests that many of the features are modern in date. Without any conclusive evidence to indicate an earlier date, it seems plausible that all six features relate to modern activity.

8 CONCLUSIONS

- 8.1 The evaluation at Tenison Road revealed limited evidence of some modern activity which had been severely truncated by groundworks associated with the construction of the Cambridge railway line and sidings. It is not thought that any of the six exposed features relate to earlier periods of activity although it is possible that earlier remains have been completely removed during the 19th and 20th century railway works.

9 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 9.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd would like to thank Hill Partnerships Ltd for funding the programme of archaeological works and Andy Thomas from the Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team for monitoring the project. The graphics were produced by Hayley Baxter from Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd.

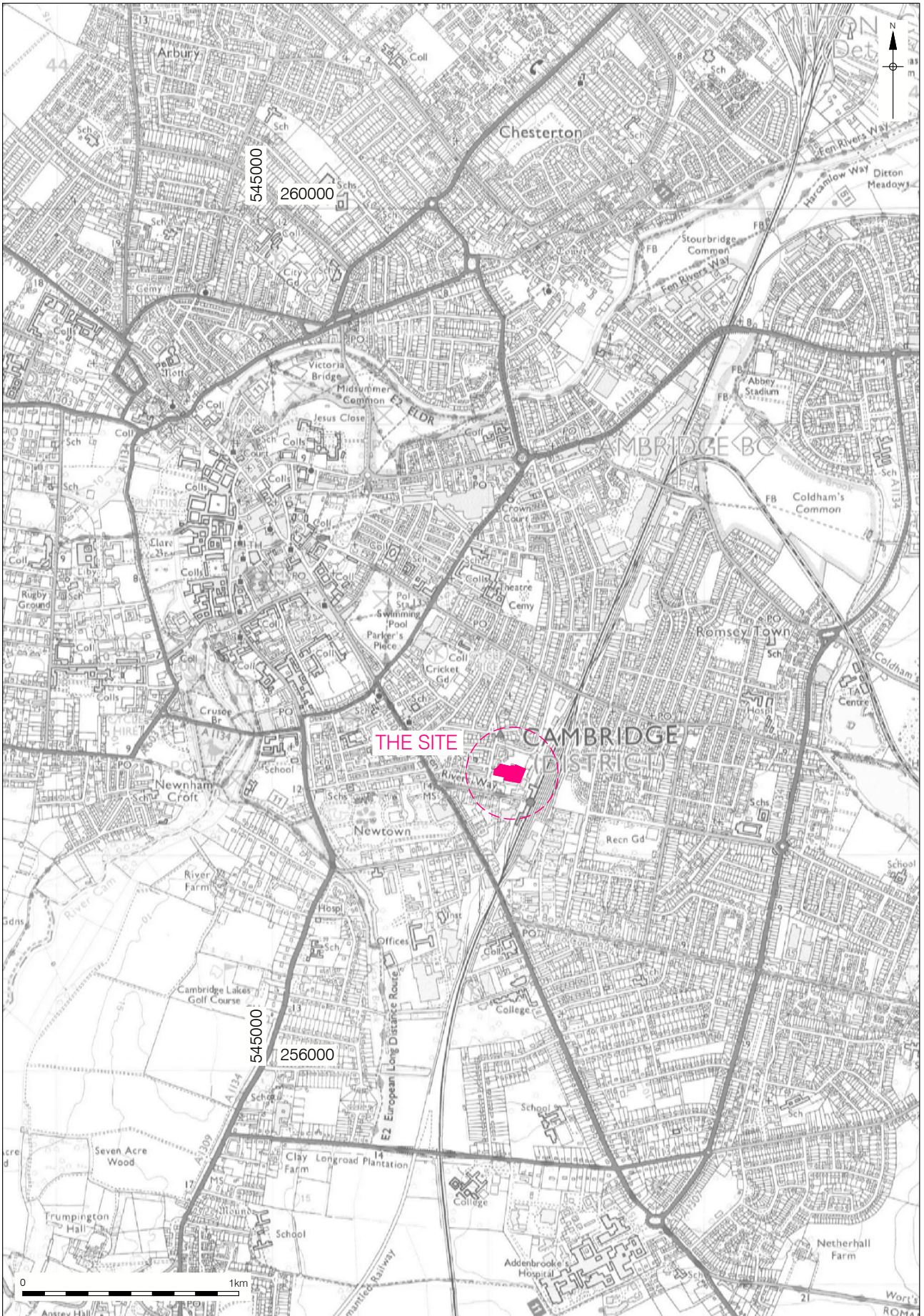
10 BIBLIOGRAPHY

10.1 Printed Sources

- 10.1.1 Hinman, M. 2014 Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation at the Former Focus DIY Site, Tenison Road, CB1 Area, Cambridge (unpublished, Pre-Construct Archaeology)
- 10.1.2 Thomas, A. 2014 Brief for Archaeological Evaluation: Former Focus DIY Site, Tenison Road, CB1 Area, Cambridge. (unpublished, Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team)

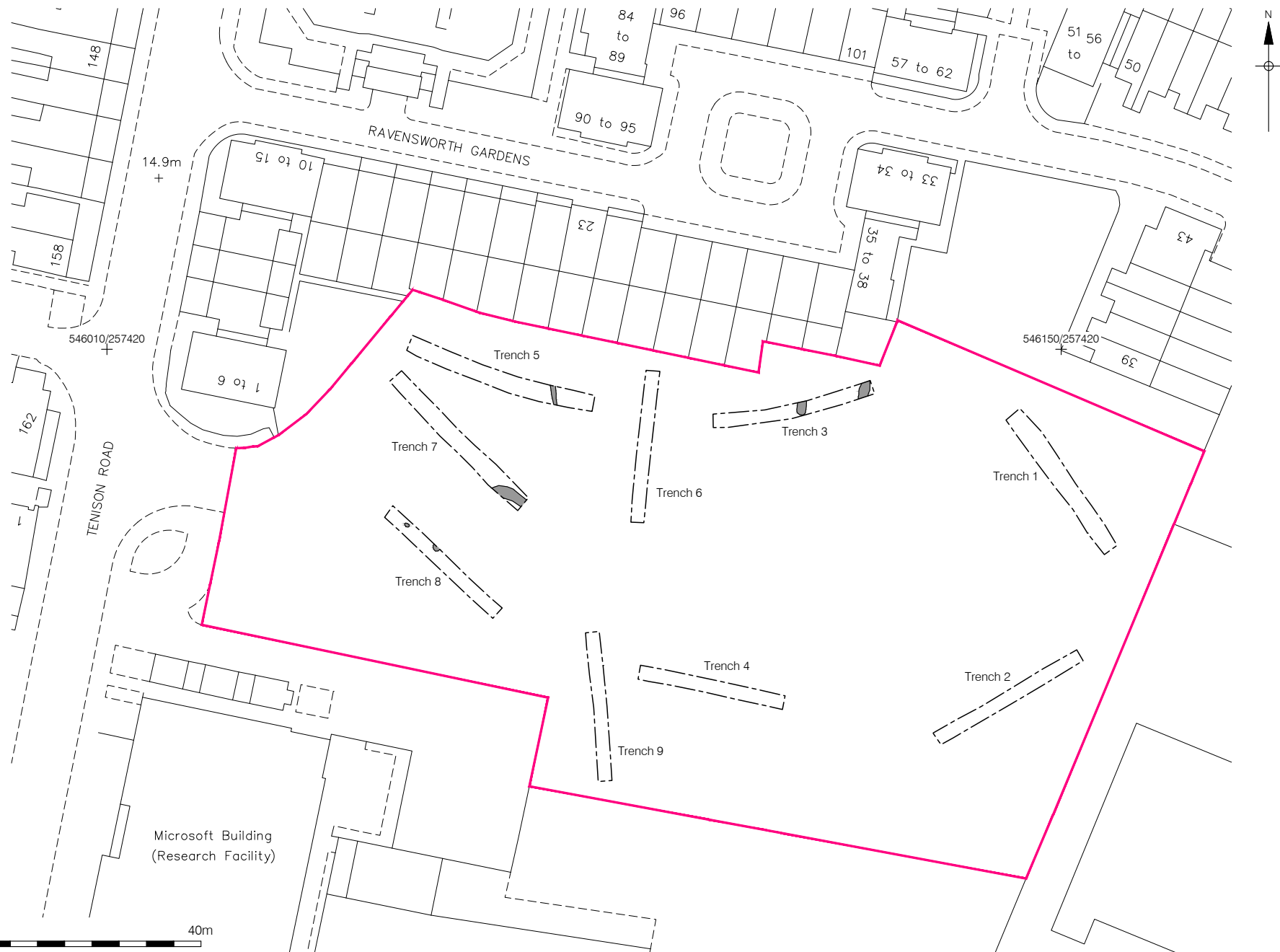
10.2 Websites

- 10.2.1 1) British Geological Survey 2014 Geology of Britain Viewer. Date accessed 30/04/2014



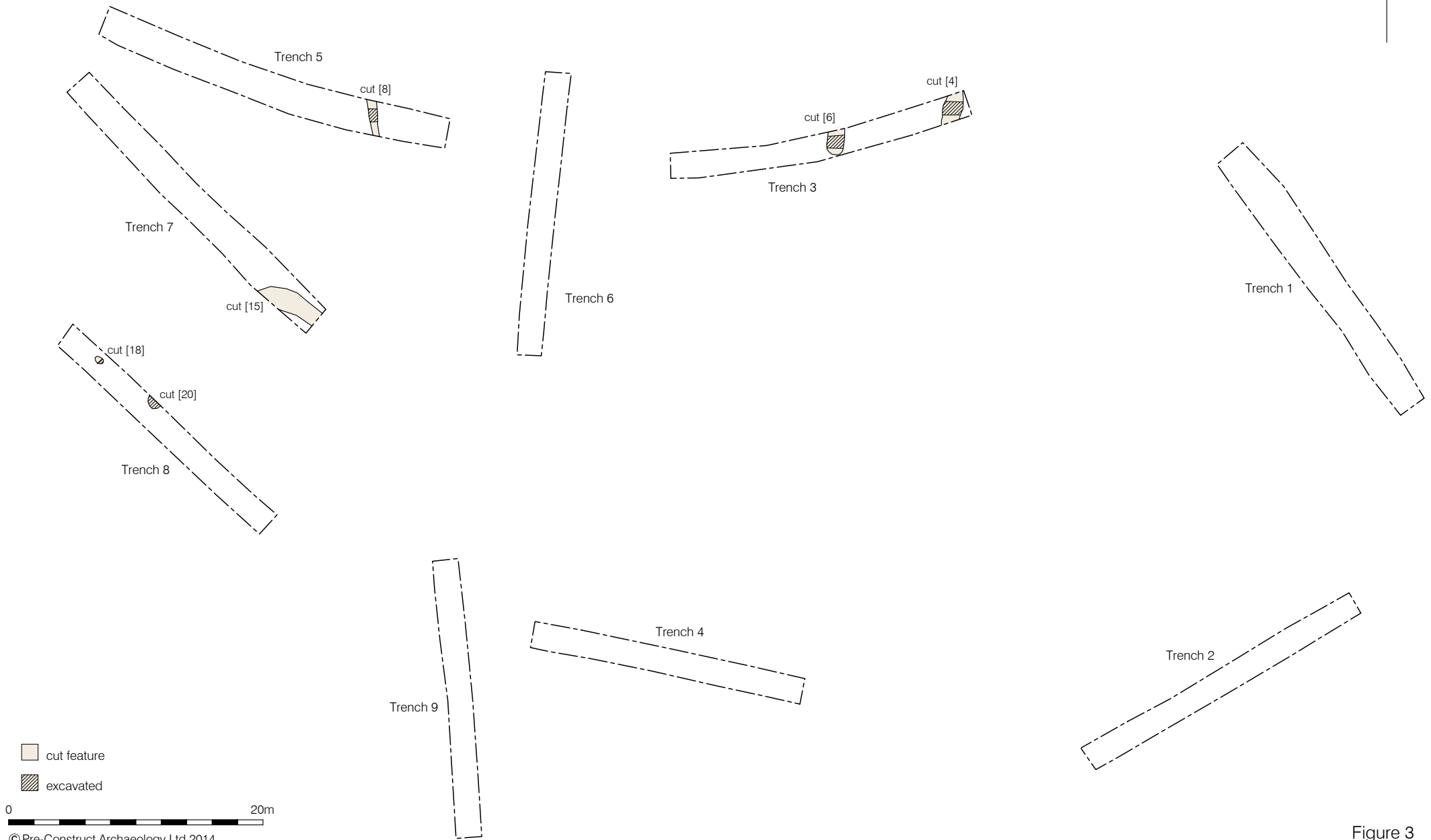
© Crown copyright 2007. All rights reserved. License number 36110309
 © Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd 2014
 02/05/14 HB

Figure 1
 Site Location
 1:25,000 at A4



0 40m
 © Crown copyright 2014. All rights reserved. License number PMP36110309
 © Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd 2014
 02/05/14 HB

Figure 2
 Trench Location
 1:800 at A4



0 20m

© Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd 2014
02/05/14 HB

Figure 3
Plan of Trenches 1 - 9
1:400 at A4

11 APPENDIX 1: PLATES



Plate 1: The site before excavation.



Plate 2: Trench 2 looking east showing truncated natural substrate.



Plate 3: Trench 3 looking southwest with ditch [4] in the foreground.



Plate 4: Trench 7, looking northwest. Ditch [15] can clearly be seen cutting from beneath the upper made ground deposits.

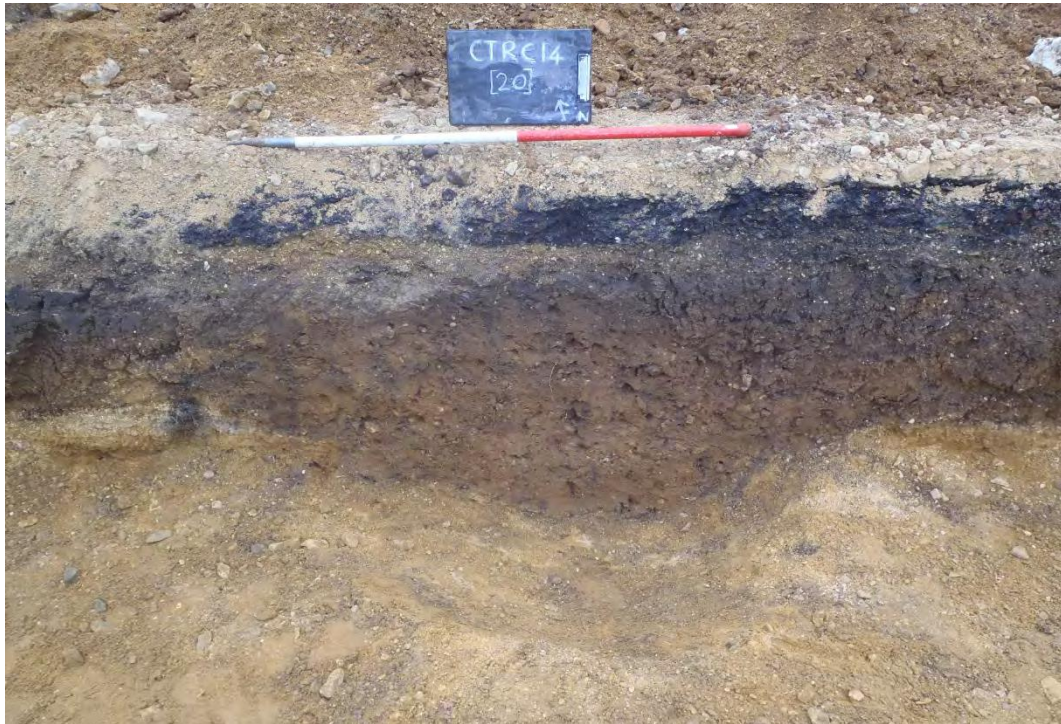


Plate 5: Pit [20] in Trench 8.

12 APPENDIX 2: CONTEXT INDEX

Context	Cut	Type	Category	Period	Trench Number
1	-	Layer	Made ground	Modern	
2	-	Layer	Natural	N/A	
3	4	Fill		Modern	3
4	-	Cut	Ditch	Modern	3
5	6	Fill		Modern	3
6	-	Cut	Ditch	Modern	3
7	8	Fill		Modern	5
8	-	Cut	Ditch	Modern	5
9	-	Layer	Made ground	Modern	
10	-	Layer	Made ground	Modern	
11	-	Layer	Made ground	Modern	
12	-	Layer	Made ground	Modern	
13	-	Layer	Made ground	Modern	
14	15	Fill		Modern	7
15	-	Cut	Ditch	Modern	7
16	-	Layer	Made ground	Modern	
17	18	Fill		Modern	8
18	-	Cut	Pit	Modern	8
19	20	Fill		Modern	8
20	-	Cut	Pit	Modern	8

13 APPENDIX 3: OASIS FORM

OASIS ID: preconst1-177982

Project details

Project name	Archaeological Evaluation at Tenison Road, Cambridge
Short description of the project	An archaeological evaluation comprising nine linear trenches was undertaken at Tenison Road, Cambridge during April 2014. Six modern features were found but no earlier archaeological remains were encountered.
Project dates	Start: 23-04-2014 End: 25-04-2014
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	ECB 4168 - HER event no.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Industry and Commerce 2 - Offices
Monument type	DITCHES Modern
Monument type	RAILWAY GROUNDWORKS Post Medieval
Significant Finds	BRICK AND TILE Modern

Project location

Country	England
Site location	CAMBRIDGESHIRE CAMBRIDGE CAMBRIDGE Tenison Road, Cambridge
Postcode	CB1 2XL
Study area	9000.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TL 4608 5739 52.1949386466 0.13750421747 52 11 41 N 000 08 15 E Point
Lat/Long Datum	Unknown
Height OD / Depth	Min: 14.00m Max: 14.00m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited
Project brief originator	Cambridge HET
Project design originator	Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd

Project director/manager	Mark Hinman
Project supervisor	Lawrence Morgan-Shelbourne
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body	Hill Partnerships Ltd

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeology Store
Digital Archive recipient	Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeology Store
Digital Archive ID	CTRC14
Digital Contents	"none"
Digital Media available	"Survey", "Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Cambridgeshire County Council
Paper Archive ID	CTRC14
Paper Contents	"none"
Paper Media available	"Drawing", "Plan", "Report", "Section", "Survey", "Unpublished Text"

Project bibliography

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Land at Former Focus DIY, CB1, Cambridge. An Archaeological Evaluation
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Morgan-Shelbourne, L.
Other bibliographic details	R11680
Date	2014
Issuer or publisher	Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited
Place of issue or publication	Cambridge
Description	A4 bound report including text, figures and plates.

Entered by	Shannon Hogan (shogan@preconstruct.com)
Entered on	30 April 2014

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

THE GRANARY, RECTORY FARM
BREWERY ROAD, PAMPISFORD
CAMBRIDGESHIRE CB22 3EN
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

