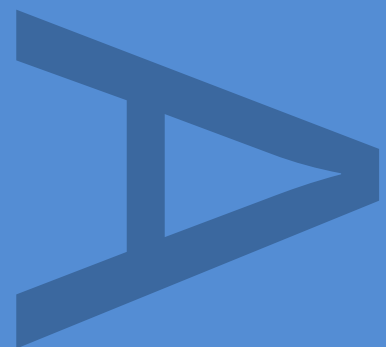


**Land Rear of 17-21 Crescent
Road/ Elizabeth Way, Heybridge,
Essex: An Archaeological
Evaluation**

June 2014



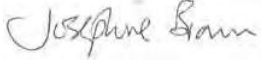
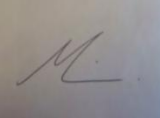
**PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY
R11707**

LAND REAR OF 17-21 CRESCENT ROAD/
ELIZABETH WAY, HEYBRIDGE,
ESSEX

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

Quality Control

Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd	
Project Number	K3523
Report Number	R11707

	Name & Title	Signature	Date
Text Prepared by:	Karl Hanson		June 2014
Graphics Prepared by:	Hayley Baxter		June 2014
Graphics Checked by:	Josephine Brown		June 2014
Project Manager Sign-off:	Mark Hinman		June 2014

Revision No.	Date	Checked	Approved

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

Land Rear of 17-21 Crescent Road/ Elizabeth Way, Heybridge, Essex:

An Archaeological Evaluation

Local Planning Authority: Maldon District Council

Planning Reference: MAL/01060/10

Central National Grid Reference: TL 8504 0826

Site Code: HYEW14

Report No. R11707

Written and researched by: Karl Hanson
Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd

Project Manager: Mark Hinman

Commissioning Client: CgMs on behalf of Mr Holloway

Contractor: Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd
Central Office
The Granary
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

June 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The material contained herein is and remains the sole property of Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd and is not for publication to third parties without prior consent.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	8
6 THE FINDS.....	10
7 DISCUSSION	12
8 CONCLUSIONS	13
9 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.....	14
10 BIBLIOGRAPHY	15
11 APPENDIX 1: PLATES.....	19
12 APPENDIX 2: CONTEXT INDEX.....	21
13 APPENDIX 3: OASIS FORM	22
FIGURE 1 SITE LOCATION	16
FIGURE 2 TRENCH LOCATION	17
FIGURE 3 TRENCH PLAN AND SECTION	18

ABSTRACT

This report describes the results of a two-trench archaeological evaluation carried out by Pre-Construct Archaeology on land at the rear of 17-21 Crescent Road, Heybridge, Essex (NGR TL 8504 0826) on the 28th and 29th of April 2014. The archaeological work was commissioned by CgMs on behalf of Mr Holloway in response to a planning condition attached to commercial development. The aim of the work was to characterise the archaeological potential of the site.

This evaluation identified possible Roman and post-medieval gravel extraction pits. Two later prehistoric artefacts (a piece of pottery and a struck flint) were recovered as a residual component of later cut features. The results of this evaluation indicate the potential for some later prehistoric activity within the vicinity of the site and provide some limited information regarding Roman and post-medieval activity in the area.

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 An archaeological trial trench evaluation was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd (PCA) on land at the rear of Nos. 17-21 Crescent Road, Heybridge, Essex (centred on TL 8504 0826) on the 28th and 29th of April 2014 (Figure 1).
- 1.2 The proposed development includes the demolition of two garages and the subsequent construction of three terraced cottages with associated access, car parks and landscaping. The site is located to the rear of the properties on Crescent Road, with the new properties fronting onto Elizabeth Way.
- 1.3 The archaeological work was commissioned by CgMs on behalf of Mr Holloway and in response to an archaeological condition attached to the planning application (Planning Reference MAL/01060/10).
- 1.4 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by Mark Hinman of PCA (Hinman 2014) and in accordance with a design brief for an archaeological evaluation written by Maria Medlycott of the Place Services Team of Essex County Council.
- 1.5 The aim of the evaluation was to determine the location, date, extent, character, condition and quality of any archaeological remains on the site, to assess the significance of any such remains in a local, regional, or national context, as appropriate, and to assess the potential impact of the development proposals on the site's archaeology.
- 1.6 Two trial trenches, comprising a 10m east-west trench and a 20m north-south trench, were excavated and recorded during 27th and 28th April 2014 (Figure 2).
- 1.7 This report describes the results of the evaluation and aims to inform the design of any potential archaeological mitigation strategy. The site archive will be deposited at the Colchester Museum.

2 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

- 2.1 The geology of the area comprises the London Clay Formation overlain by superficial river terrace sands and gravels.
- 2.2 The site is located at an approximate height of 5m AOD and the natural topography slopes downwards to the River Blackwater to the southwest.

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The archaeological background detailed below has been summarised from the archaeological brief (Medlycott 2011a).
- 3.2 The proposed development lies on the eastern edge of the Roman settlement at Elms Farm. Archaeological fieldwork immediately adjacent to the site has revealed remains relating to prehistoric, Roman and Saxon activity (EHER 7794-9, 17444, 18779) including five Saxon dwellings excavated in 1972. The proposed development area falls within an area of high archaeological potential.
- 3.3 Across the wider parish of Heybridge, several areas of prehistoric, Roman and Saxon occupation have been identified through cropmarks. These cropmarks include field systems, farmsteads, trackways and burial sites. More recent post-medieval and modern quarrying however has significantly disturbed areas to the east of the development site.

4 METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 The archaeological evaluation comprised two 1.8m wide trial trenches arranged in a 'T' shape across the site. A 20m north-south aligned trench (Trench 1) was abutted by a 10m east-west aligned trench (Trench 2).
- 4.2 Ground reduction and soil removal was carried out under archaeological supervision using an 8 tonne wheeled mechanical excavator fitted with a 1.8m-wide toothless ditching bucket. Topsoil and subsoil deposits were removed to expose the natural geological substrate where potential archaeological features could be observed. Exposed surfaces were cleaned by trowel as appropriate and all further excavation was undertaken manually using hand tools.
- 4.3 Natural and archaeological deposits and events were assigned a unique 'context' number and records were made of each deposit. Archaeological processes categorised by the deposition of material are signified in this report by round brackets (thus), while events constituting the removal of deposits are referred to here as 'cuts' and signified by square brackets [thus]. The context numbers assigned to cuts and deposits are entirely arbitrary and in no way reflect the chronological order in which events took place. All features and deposits recorded during the evaluation are listed in Appendix 2. Artefacts recovered during excavation were assigned to their associated context number.
- 4.4 Metal-detecting was carried out during the topsoil and subsoil stripping and throughout the excavation process. Archaeological features and spoil heaps were also scanned by eye and using a metal-detector however only modern artefacts were recovered during these processes and were subsequently not retained.
- 4.5 High-resolution digital photographs were taken as a visual record of all relevant features and deposits.

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE

5.1 Overview

5.1.1 A modern topsoil deposit (1) measuring between 0.2m and 0.35m across the trenches overlay a modern made ground deposit (2), which ranged in depth from 0.15m to 0.35m. The made ground deposit comprised a mixture of building debris.

5.1.2 Two archaeological features and two modern features were identified during the evaluation.

5.2 Pit [9] (Figure 3; Plate 4)

5.2.1 Pit [9] has been interpreted as a quarry pit and yielded sherds of Roman pottery (see Anderson & Brudenell below). Remains of possible Roman quarry pits were identified to the north of the development at 48 Crescent Road (Hogan & House 2007) and indicate the possibility of some localised Roman quarry activity pre-dating the post-medieval and later extraction pits. The pit was truncated by pit [7] which indicates an earlier date.

5.3 Pit [7] (Figure 3; Plate 4)

5.3.1 Truncating the earlier potential Roman pit [9], was pit [7] which was identified as post-medieval in date based on the inclusion of post-medieval and modern ceramic building materials (not retained) within its fill (6). Fragments of residual Roman tile were also identified from this context (see Anderson & Brudenell), likely the result of the stratigraphic relationship between this and the earlier pit [9]. This later feature has also been interpreted as a quarry pit and probably relates to similar remains found to the east of the site. The pit was large and extended beyond the limits of the trenches. A single piece of abraded later Bronze Age/Early Iron Age pottery (see Anderson & Brudenell below) was also found within fill (6) and attests to the potential for later prehistoric activity in the area.

5.4 Modern features [5] and [11]

5.4.1 A modern pit [5], containing lumps of concrete, truncated the post-medieval feature [7] and was seen to be cut from higher within the stratigraphic sequence. Pit [11] was directly comparable in terms of its

stratigraphic sequence and is considered to be modern in date. A single struck flint of Neolithic or Bronze Age date (see Bishop below), recovered from pit [11], further demonstrates the potential for prehistoric activity in the vicinity.

6 THE FINDS

6.1 Lithics - Barry Bishop

Introduction

6.1.1 The archaeological investigations at the above site resulted in the recovery of a single struck flint. This report describes the struck flint and assesses its archaeological significance. It was recovered from the fill of a pit dated to the modern period and can be regarded as residually deposited. All metrical descriptions follow the methodology established by Saville (1980).

Description (Context (10), fill of Pit 11)

6.1.2 Retouched flake in a chipped and slightly 'sand-glossed' condition made from a fine-grained semi-translucent mottled dark and light grey flint. Its striking platform is missing but it retains part of a moderately pronounced bulb of percussion and its distal termination is hinged. Its dorsal surface is composed of four or five flake scars, all struck in the same direction as the flake was detached, and part of its distal end is formed from two flake scars struck from a much earlier platform positioned at a right angle. Around most of its right margin and parts of its left margin towards the proximal end are a number of irregularly-sized slightly invasive retouch scars. Its condition precludes assessing the presence or degree of use-wear. It measures >31mm long by 36mm wide and is 7mm thick.

Significance and Recommendations

6.1.3 The implement indicates prehistoric activity that included tool use at the site, most probably during the Neolithic or Early Bronze Age but by itself can contribute little more information as to the chronology or nature of that activity. It does contribute to a wider appreciation of prehistoric landscape use in the area, and provides further evidence for the prehistoric activity identified during the 1990s Elms Farm excavations (Atkinson and Preston 2001).

6.1.4 This report is all that is required for the archive and no further analytical work is warranted. As it has some potential in contributing to a wider

appreciation of landscape use in the area it should be recorded in the Historic Environment Record and a brief description included in any published account of the fieldwork.

6.2 Pottery - Katie Anderson and Matt Brudenell

- 6.2.1 Two sherds of pottery were recovered from the excavation. The earliest sherd comprised a single plain base sherd (28g) from a flint-tempered coarseware vessel (Fabric C, in the Nigel Brown's Essex prehistoric pottery fabric series) recovered from context (7). The sherd is of Late Bronze Age or Early Iron Age origin (c. 1100-350 BC), and belongs to the Post Deverel-Rimbury ceramic tradition.
- 6.2.2 The second sherd comprised a single body sherd (25g) from a fine greyware indented beaker (9). The exact source of this sherd is unclear, however, the vessel form suggests a mid-later Roman date (AD150-300).
- 6.2.3 Eight fragments of Roman tile were also recovered from context (6), including one box flue tile. This material cannot be more closely dated.

7 DISCUSSION

- 7.1 No prehistoric features were identified during the evaluation, but the sherd of post Deverel Rimbury pottery and struck flint of probable Late Neolithic or Early Bronze Age date found as a residual component in later cut features, suggest potential for later prehistoric activity in the vicinity.
- 7.2 The limited remains of Roman material suggests that whilst much of the known quarry remains within the vicinity of the site are likely post-medieval to modern in date, it is possible that areas of earlier Roman quarrying survive amid the later features. The area of pitting clearly extended beyond the limits of the trenches to the north and west suggesting similar remains will exist outside of the evaluated area. A relatively significant amount of modern disturbance was also recorded in the trial trenches, although the presence of Roman and post-medieval pits suggest some archaeological remains have survived in the area.
- .

8 CONCLUSIONS

The results of the archaeological evaluation to the rear of Nos. 17-21 Crescent Road have identified the potential for some limited remains relating to Roman and post-medieval activities to survive within the immediate vicinity of the development area. Furthermore the discovery of residual Bronze Age artefacts highlights the potential for later prehistoric activity in the wider area. In spite of the modern ground disturbance, the results of the archaeological evaluation at Crescent Road suggest that similar remains have likely survived within the immediate area of the archaeological trenches.

9 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 9.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd would like to thank Mr Holloway for commissioning the work. PCA are also grateful to Maria Medlycott of Essex County Council Historic Environment Team for monitoring the work. Figures accompanying this report were prepared by Hayley Baxter of PCA's CAD Department. The author would also like to extend thanks to the finds specialists Barry Bishop, Katie Anderson and Matt Brudenell.

10 BIBLIOGRAPHY

10.1 Printed Sources

Atkinson, M. and Preston, S. 2001 Prehistoric settlement and burials at Elms Farm, Heybridge. *Essex Archaeology and History* 32, 42-74.

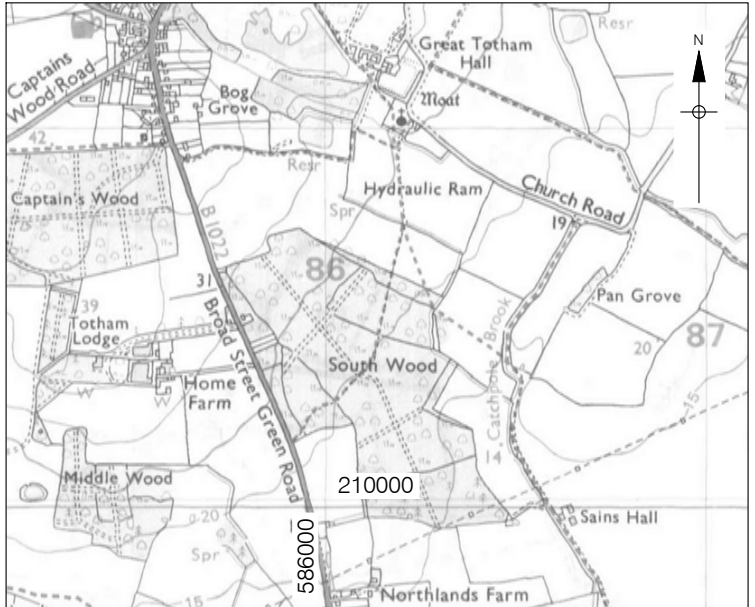
Hinman, M. 2014 Written Scheme of Investigation for a Program of Archaeological Evaluation on Land Rear of 17-21 Crescent Road/Elizabeth Way, Heybridge, Essex (unpublished document, Pre-Construct Archaeology)

Hogan, S. & House, J. 2007, 48 Crescent Road, Heybridge, Maldon, Essex: Archaeological evaluation (unpublished report, Archaeological Solutions Ltd)

Medlycott, M. 2011a. Archaeological Investigation, Land Rear of 17-21 Crescent Road/Elizabeth Way, Heybridge (unpublished report, Essex County Council Historic Environment Team).

Saville, A. 1980 On the Measurement of Struck Flakes and Flake Tools. *Lithics* 1, 16-20.

Taylor, G. and Brown, J. 2009 Fieldwork Induction Manual. (unpublished document, Pre-Construct Archaeology)



© Crown copyright 2009. All rights reserved. License number 36110309
 © Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd 2014
 06/05/14 HB

Figure 1
 Site Location
 1:2,000,000 & 1:20,000 at A4

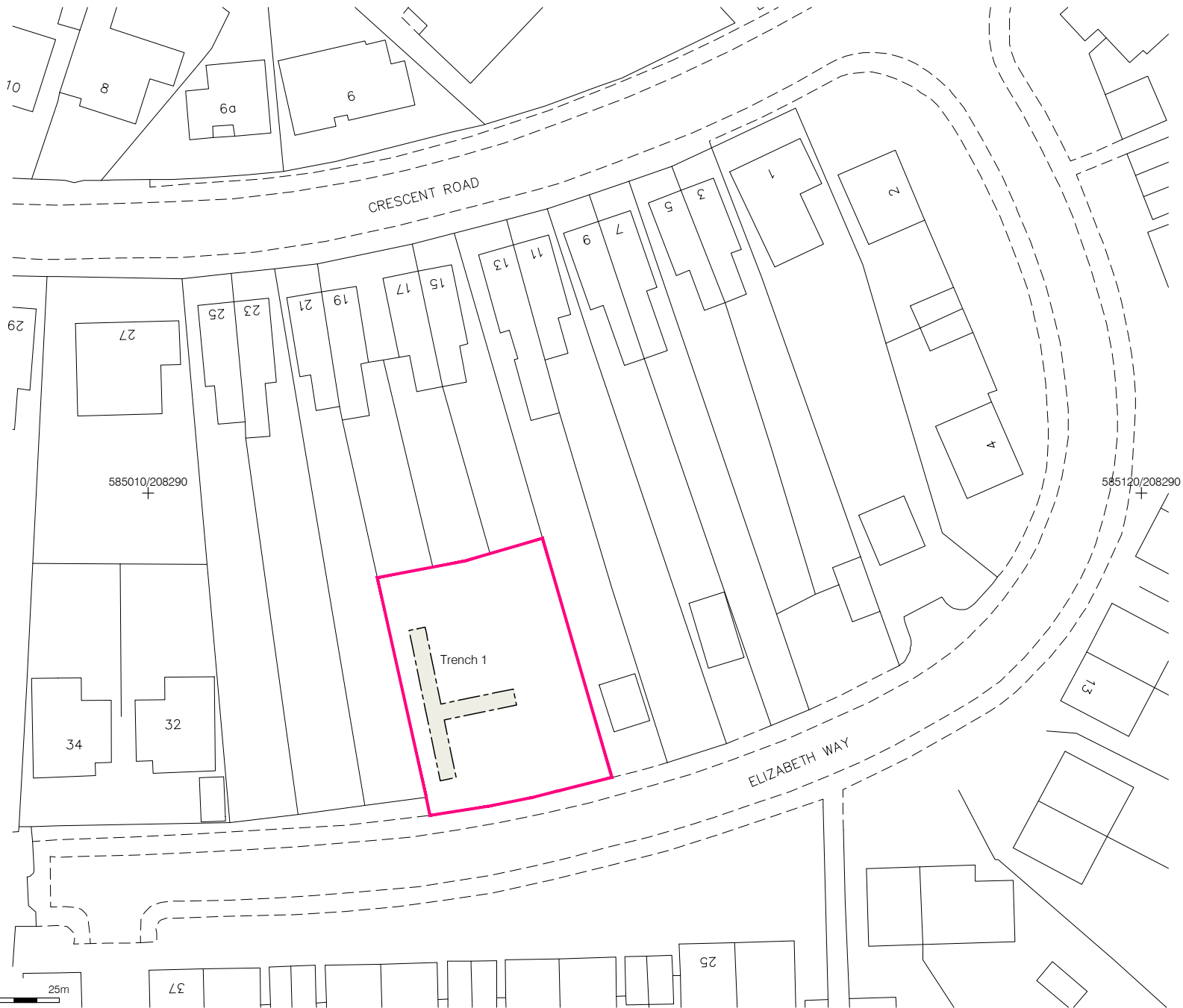
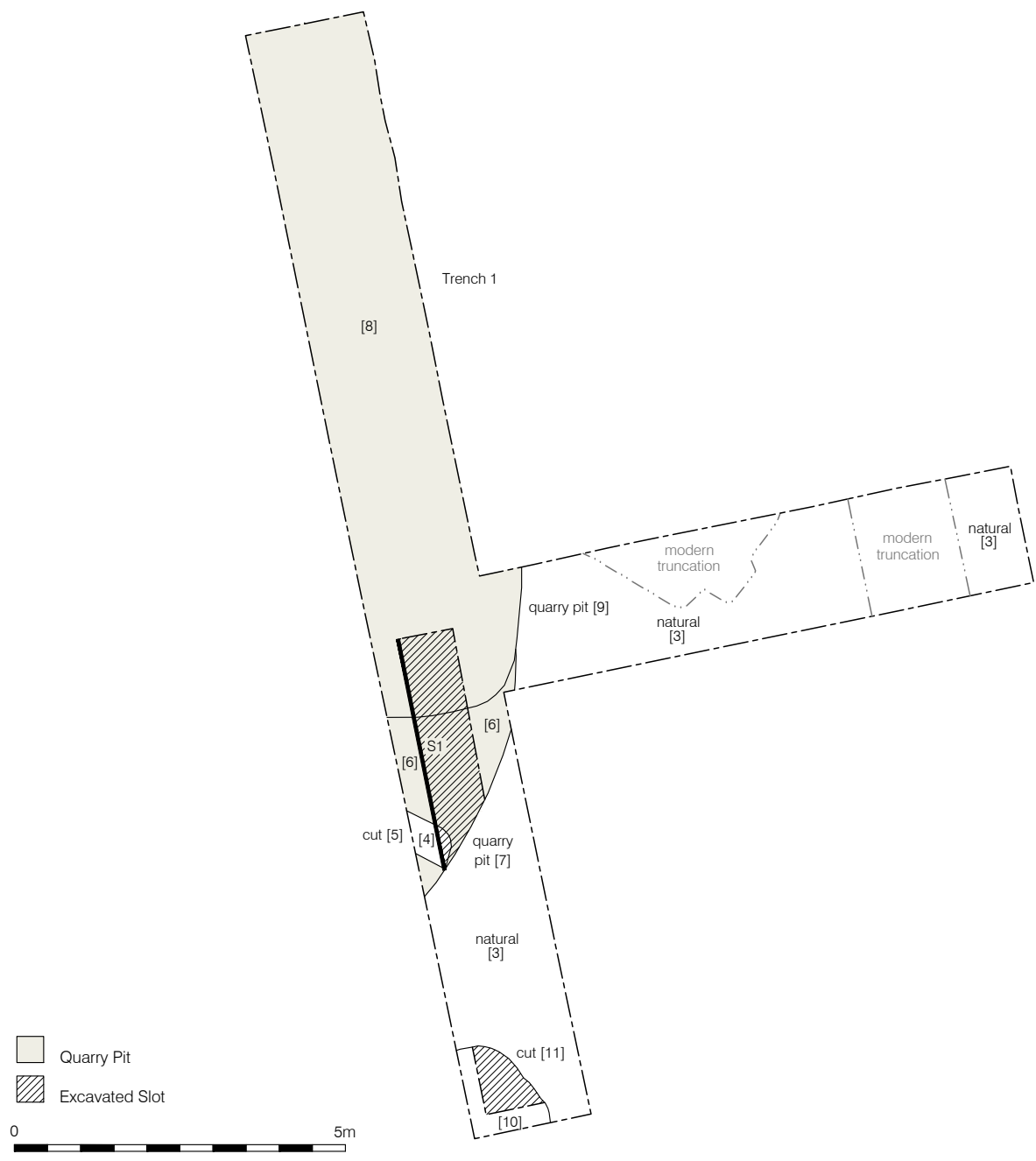
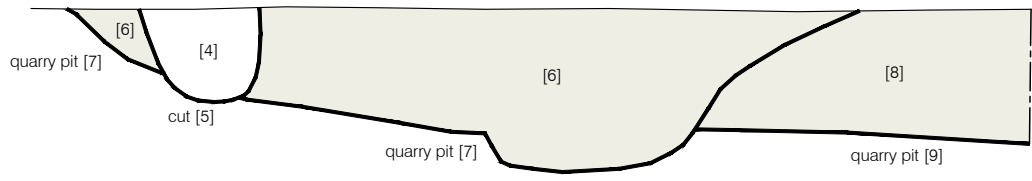


Figure 2
 Trench Location
 1:625 at A4



S N



Section 1
East facing
Trench 1



© Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd 2014
06/05/14 HB

Figure 3
Plan of Trench 1 & Section 1
Plan 1:100 & Section 1:25 at A4

11 APPENDIX 1: PLATES



Plate 1: Trench 1 looking north



Plate 2: Trench 2 looking west



Plate 3: Trench 1 showing modern pit [11] under excavation



Plate 4: Section of features [5], [7], [9]

12 APPENDIX 2: CONTEXT INDEX

Context	Cut	Type	Category	Period	Interpretation	Trench Number
(1)	-	Layer	Top Soil	Modern	Top Soil	1,2
(2)	-	Layer	Made Ground	Modern	Modern Made ground	1,2
(3)	-	Layer	Natural	-	Natural	1,2
(4)	[5]	Fill	Pit	Modern	Fill of modern pit	1
[5]	[5]	Cut	Pit	Modern	Cut of modern pit	1
(6)	[7]	Fill	Quarry Pit	Post Medieval	Back fill of Post Medieval Quarry Pit	1,2
[7]	[7]	Cut	Quarry Pit	Post Medieval	Cut of poss. Roman Quarry Pit	1,2
(8)	[9]	Fill	Quarry Pit	Roman	Back fill of Post Medieval Quarry Pit	1,2
[9]	[9]	Cut	Quarry Pit	Roman	Cut of poss. Roman Quarry Pit	1,2
(10)	[11]	Fill	Pit	Modern	Fill of modern pit	1
[11]	[11]	Cut	Pit	Modern	Cut of modern pit	1

13 APPENDIX 3: OASIS FORM

OASIS ID: preconst1-178008

Project details

Project name	Land Rear of 17-21 Crescent Road/ Elizabeth Way, Heybridge, Essex: An Archaeological Evaluation
Short description of the project	This report describes the results of a two-trench archaeological evaluation carried out by Pre-Construct Archaeology on land at rear of 17-21 Crescent Road, Heybridge, Essex (NGR TL 8504 0826) on 27th and 28th April 2014. The archaeological work was commissioned in response to a planning condition attached to commercial development. The aim of the work was to characterise the archaeological potential of the site. This evaluation identified Roman and Post Medieval quarry pitting extracting sands and gravel ballast which formed the natural river terraces. Also while not identifying features of Prehistoric data there where two artefacts (a piece of pottery and a struck flint) residually deposited within later feature which indicate Prehistoric activity in the vicinity of the area. The results of the fieldwork enhance understanding of the Roman and Post Medieval land utilization of this part of Heybridge, while spotlighting the potential of Prehistoric activity within the area.
Project dates	Start: 27-04-2014 End: 28-04-2014
Previous/future work	Not known / No
Any associated project reference codes	HYEW14 - Site code
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 5 - Garden
Monument type	QUARRY Roman
Monument type	QUARRY Post Medieval
Significant Finds	BRICK AND TILE Modern
Methods & techniques	"Targeted Trenches"

Development type	Urban residential (e.g. flats, houses, etc.)
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project location

Country	England
Site location	ESSEX MALDON HEYBRIDGE Land Rear of 17-21 Crescent Road/ Elizabeth Way, Heybridge, Essex
Postcode	CM9 4SJ
Study area	45.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TL 8504 0826 51.7419267519 0.680496350265 51 44 30 N 000 40 49 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 4.13m Max: 4.36m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	PCA
Project brief originator	Maria Medlycott
Project design originator	Mark Hinman
Project director/manager	Mark Hinman
Project supervisor	Karl Hanson
Type of sponsor/funding body	Construction/housing
Name of sponsor/funding body	Mr Holloway

Project archives

Physical Archive	Colchester Museum
------------------	-------------------

recipient	
Physical Contents	"Ceramics","Worked stone/lithics"
Digital Archive	Colchester Museum
recipient	
Digital Contents	"Stratigraphic","Survey","other"
Digital Media	"Database","Text"
available	
Paper Archive	Colchester Museum
recipient	
Paper Contents	"Stratigraphic","Survey"
Paper Media	"Plan","Report"
available	

Project

bibliography 1

	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Publication type	
Title	Land Rear of 17-21 Crescent Road/ Elizabeth Way, Heybridge, Essex: An Archaeological Evaluation
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Hanson, K
Other bibliographic details	Report Number R11707
Date	2014
Issuer or publisher	Pre-Construct Archaeology
Place of issue or publication	Cambridge
Description	Grey Report

Entered by	Mark Hinman (mhinman@pre-construct.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

