

**Welch's, Granta Terrace,
Stapleford, Cambridgeshire:
An Archaeological Evaluation**



May 2014


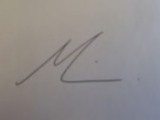


WELCH'S, GRANTA TERRACE, STAPLEFORD,
CAMBRIDGESHIRE

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

Quality Control

Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd	
Project Number	K3339
Report Number	R11659

	Name & Title	Signature	Date
Text Prepared by:	Shannon Hogan		May 2014
Graphics Prepared by:	Jennifer Simonson		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

Welch's Granta Terrace, Stapleford, Cambridgeshire:

An Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation

Local Planning Authority: South Cambridgeshire District Council

Planning Reference: S/1725/12/OL

Central National Grid Reference: TL 4677 5164

ECB Reference: ECB4189

Site Code: CWTS14

Report No. R11718

Written and researched by: Shannon Hogan

Project Manager: Mark Hinman

Commissioning Client: Welch's Group Holdings Limited & Wrenbridge
(Stapleford) Ltd.

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

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The material contained herein is and remains the sole property of Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd and is not for publication to third parties without prior consent.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	6
3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND	6
4 METHODOLOGY	7
5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS	10
6 CONCLUSIONS	14
7 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	15
8 BIBLIOGRAPHY	16
9 APPENDIX 1: PLATES	20
10 APPENDIX 2: CONTEXT INDEX	23
11 APPENDIX 3: OASIS FORM	24
FIGURE 1 SITE LOCATION	17
FIGURE 2 TRENCH LOCATION	18
FIGURE 3 TRENCH 1 PLAN AND SECTION	19

ABSTRACT

This report details the results of an archaeological trial trench evaluation at Welch's, Granta Terrace, Stapleford, Cambridgeshire (NGR TL 4677 5164) undertaken between 1st to 7th May 2014. The evaluation was commissioned by Welch's Group Holdings Limited & Wrenbridge (Stapleford) Ltd to address a planning condition placed on the redevelopment of the site. The aim of the evaluation was to determine the potential for surviving archaeological remains.

The evaluation identified a single probable modern pit within Trench 1. Modern disturbance and made ground were present in all trenches and in some areas of the site there were significant levels of ground contamination. The natural geological substrate was only exposed in four trenches, although in several places, this had been impacted upon by the modern ground disturbance. Given the depth of the overlying modern deposits and the low-lying natural substrate, the natural geology was not exposed in the remaining trenches. Alluvial deposits overlying the natural gravel terraces were revealed in three of the trenches and infer the possibility of undisturbed natural geology existing at depth across the southern area of site.

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Between 1st and 7th of May, an archaeological trial trench evaluation was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd (PCA) at Welch's, Granta Terrace, Stapleford, Cambridgeshire, CB22 5DL (centred on NGR TL 4677 5164) (Figure 1).
- 1.2 The archaeological work was commissioned by Welch's Group Holdings Limited & Wrenbridge (Stapleford) Ltd to address a planning condition placed on planning permission (11/00073/FUL) for the redevelopment of the 1.6ha site, from commercial/light industrial use to 44 residential dwellings. This work will include the demolition of existing buildings and the removal of hard standing.
- 1.3 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by Mark Hinman of PCA (Hinman 2014) in response to a design brief for an archaeological evaluation issued by Andy Thomas of Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team (Thomas, 2013).
- 1.4 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.
- 1.5 Two linear trenches measuring a total of 47m and a further 10 test pits measuring between 2m and 4m (totalling 207m²) were excavated and recorded between 1st and 7th May 2014 (Figure 2). The trenches and test pits demonstrated that the site had already seen significant ground disturbance and that the natural geological substrate was in most places buried below a considerable deposit of made ground or truncated by modern disturbance. A single modern pit was exposed in Trench 1 (Figure 3).
- 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 Geology

2.1.1 The underlying bedrock is comprised of the Zig Zag Chalk Formation. A Sedimentary Bedrock formed approximately 94 to 100 million years ago during the Cretaceous Period.

2.1.2 The superficial geology comprises river terrace sands and gravels with fine silt and clay from overbank flooding forming later floodplain alluvium.

2.2 Topography

2.2.1 The site is located in South Cambridgeshire, within the parish of Stapleford. The proposed development area is bordered by Granta Terrace and light industrial units to the west, residential dwellings to the north and east and by the River Granta and associated floodplain to the south.

2.2.2 Topographically, the development area gently slopes towards the River Granta to the south although the present ground level has been made up to an artificial level surface. The centre of the site is located at c. 17m Ordnance Datum (OD). This height has been taken from topographic information provided by the client.

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

3.1.1 The proposed development area is located close to the historic Cambridgeshire village of Stapleford.

3.1.2 The site is located on the gravel terraces of the River Granta floodplain, in an area of known prehistoric activity. Well-draining gravel terraces such as these have remained a key focal point for activity throughout the later prehistoric periods and into the Roman and Saxon era. Indeed, fieldwalking and excavations to the south of the site at Dernford Farm (east of the River Cam) have identified evidence for Neolithic activity (MCB16359) as well as substantial remains of Iron Age, Romano British and Saxon settlement (HER 08354).

4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 The evaluation comprised two linear trenches and 10 test pits totalling an area of 207m².

4.2 Machining and Site Planning

4.2.1 Each trench was excavated using a 17 tonne mechanical excavator fitted with a 1.8m wide toothless ditching bucket. For each trench, the existing concrete and Tarmac ground was broken and removed by the excavator fitted with a mechanical breaker. The modern made ground and any intact topsoil and subsoil deposits were removed, where possible, to reveal the natural substrate. .

4.2.2 Exposed archaeological features and deposits were cleaned as necessary to define them using hand tools.

4.2.3 Metal-detecting was carried out on all stripped deposits throughout the evaluation process and all archaeological features and spoil heaps were surveyed using a metal-detector as they were encountered.

4.2.4 Limits of all excavation areas, pre-excavation and post-excavation plans of archaeological features and heights above Ordnance Datum (m OD) were recorded using a Leica 1200 Global positioning System (GPS) rover unit with RTK differential correction, giving three-dimensional accuracy of 20mm or better.

4.3 Recording and Sampling

4.3.1 Field excavation techniques and recording methods are detailed in the PCA Fieldwork Induction Manual (Operations Manual I) by Joanna Taylor and Gary Brown (2009).

4.3.2 All features were investigated and recorded in order to properly understand the date and nature of the archaeological remains on the site and to recover sufficient finds assemblages to assess the chronological development and socio-economic character of the site over time.

4.3.3 Drawn records are in the form of survey plans, drawn plans and section

drawings of all archaeological features at an appropriate scale (1:10, 1:20, 1:50) while all individual deposits and cuts were recorded as written records on PCA Pro-forma context sheets.

- 4.3.4 Linear features were investigated by means of slots excavated across their width and measuring at least 1m in length, positioned to avoid areas of intercutting/disturbance in order to provide uncontaminated finds assemblages. If stratigraphic relationships between features were not visible in plan, slots were positioned to determine inter-feature relationships.
- 4.3.5 Discrete features such as pits and postholes were half sectioned and when considered appropriate, fully excavated.
- 4.3.6 High-resolution digital photographs were taken at all stages of the evaluation process. Digital Photographs were taken of all archaeological features and deposits and black and white film photographs were taken when considered appropriate by the excavator and supervisor.
- 4.3.7 A metal detector was used during excavation in order to enhance finds recovery.

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

5.1.1 All twelve of the trenches contained modern made ground deposits, averaging around 0.5m in depth and comprising concrete and/or Tarmac overlying mixed modern made ground materials. These deposits have been grouped together as a modern depositional/levelling event (associated with the levelling of the area and the establishment of a hard surface for the subsequent commercial development) and are hereby referred to as context (100). The exposed topsoil and subsoil deposits occasionally found to be sealed by this made ground have similarly been grouped as context (101) and (102) respectively.

5.2 Trench 1

5.2.1 Trench 1 was aligned northwest to southeast and was 27m long. The stratigraphic sequence comprised an average of 0.48m of made ground (100), which overlay the former topsoil (0.24m) and subsoil (0.22m) deposits. The natural superficial geology was exposed at a depth of approximately 1m (Plate 1). The remains of a single pit [103] measuring 1.3m x 0.18m deep was recorded toward the centre of the trench. It contained no finds. A modern refuse pit was apparent within the upper topsoil and subsoil immediately above this undated pit and it is possible that the pit represents the disturbed base of this modern feature.

5.3 Trenches 2, 3, 4 and 5

5.3.1 These trenches comprise four 3m by 2m test pits arranged west to east along the northern edge of the development area.

5.3.2 The westernmost of these test pits, Trench 2, was excavated to a depth of 1.15m but the natural substrate was not exposed. The upper made ground (100) measured around 0.55m thick, below which a thick topsoil (0.27m) and subsoil (0.33m) deposit were recorded. This subsoil comprised a reddish-brown sandy clay-silt material, seemingly slightly alluviated, and could indicate the extent of alluvial deposits associated with the floodplain landscape.

5.3.3 Trench 3 was abandoned owing to the presence of a modern iron drain

cover and associated drainage pipe located 0.34m below the surface of the made ground.

5.3.4 Trench 4 was located on the eastern side of Trench 3. The made ground deposit (100) measured 0.67m thick in this area and overlay a further 0.2m of topsoil and 0.32m of subsoil. Beneath this, the upper surface of the natural geology was exposed. Although the trench became flooded, no archaeological features were recognised.

5.3.5 A fifth test pit, Trench 5, was excavated to the east of Trenches 2, 3 and 4. The made ground deposit (100) was noticeably thinner in this area (0.25m thick) and overlay topsoil (0.21m) and subsoil (0.19m) deposits. The natural geology was exposed in this trench, but no archaeological features were present.

5.4 Trench 6

5.4.1 Aligned northwest-southeast Trench 6 measured 20m long and was located at the northeast corner of the development area (Plate 2). On average the made ground (100) measured 0.29m thick but was distinctly thicker at the eastern end of the trench. The topsoil and subsoil deposits measured an average of 0.28m and 0.22m respectively. At the western end of the trench, a large modern pit was exposed and filled with building debris, domestic and industrial waste. The natural substrate, exposed across the remainder of the trench, had clearly been impacted upon by modern disturbance. There were no archaeological features within this trench.

5.5 Trench 7

5.5.1 Trench 7 was located to the south of the development area, adjacent to the River Granta. It was apparent prior to excavation that this area of the site had been significantly built up. The trial pit revealed thick made ground deposits (100) totalling approximately 1.8m in depth with no evidence of underlying topsoil or subsoil deposits. A fine clay material, identified beneath the modern material is likely to be alluvium. The natural geological substrate was not exposed due to the depth of the overlying

deposits.

5.6 Trenches 8, 9 and 12

5.6.1 Trenches 8, 9 and 12 were positioned from south to north in the present car park. Topsoil and subsoil were absent from all three trenches and the natural gravel geology was not exposed.

5.6.2 Significant ground disturbance was evident in Trench 8, where a thick layer of re-deposited mixed soils, measuring 0.68m thick, were seen beneath 0.3m of modern made ground (100). Below these mixed soils, a layer of re-deposited gravels, which measured more than 0.44m in thickness, could not be fully exposed due to the depth of the trench.

5.6.3 Trench 9 was also extremely deep, with thick made ground deposits (0.72m) overlying a distinct clay and rubble mixed deposit (0.62m thick). Sealed beneath these layers was an homogenous silt clay interpreted as the floodplain alluvium (Plate 3). This alluvial deposit measured more than 0.7m thick.

5.6.4 Trench 12 was located to the north of Trenches 8 and 9 and displayed a sequence of 0.63m of made ground (100) overlying a thick, sandy silt material measuring more than 0.9m thick. This material had seemingly been disturbed and is not thought to represent an undisturbed natural geology, but more likely re-deposited material (Plate 5).

5.7 Trenches 10 and 11

5.7.1 These last two trenches were located at the southeast corner of the site and aligned northwest-southeast. At the northern end of Trench 10 the sequence of deposits was similar to those trenches in the north of the site, and comprised 0.39m of made ground (100), overlying the topsoil (0.25m) and subsoil (0.19m) deposits. The natural gravel substrate was exposed here and subsequently the trench was boxed at its southern end (Plate 4). Here the ground had seen significant truncation and the upper made ground (100) measuring 0.46m, was seen to overlie an earlier made ground or levelling deposit (0.58m thick). The natural gravel was exposed throughout Trench 10 but no archaeological features were present.

5.7.2 Trench 11 was opened to the southeast of Trench 10 in order to identify the extent of the ground disturbance recorded in the southern end of Trench 10. The trench revealed a thick made ground layer (0.66m) above the same modern levelling material (measuring 0.58m) as seen in the southern end of Trench 10. The natural substrate was not exposed in Trench 11.

6 CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1.1 The evaluation at Welch's has revealed significant modern ground disturbance across the entire site, with small pockets of preserved natural geology existing in the northwest (Trench 1), northeast (Trench 5) and southeast corners (Trench 10). Within these surviving pockets, only a single cut feature was exposed (pit [103]) although this feature was seemingly the remains of a modern refuse pit. Deposits identified as possible floodplain alluvium were encountered within the central northern area of the site (Trench 2), the central southern area (Trench 7) and in the southwest corner (Trenches 9 and 12).
- 6.1.2 It seems likely that the majority of the proposed development area has been greatly affected by modern re-working and re-engineering of the ground levels to form a flat surface for light industrial and commercial use. However, the depth of made ground and probable intact alluvial deposits at the southern area of the site suggest that the natural gravel substrate is more likely to have survived undisturbed close to the river's edge. The depth of Trench 7 suggests the gravel horizon is located more than 1.8m below the modern ground surface. This area may have seen some limited prehistoric activity, however it is likely the low-lying gravel terrace was blanketed by thick alluvial deposits from an early period.

7 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 7.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd would like to thank Cambridge and County Developments for commissioning the work and Tim of Rogers Services Ltd for operating the machine. PCA are also grateful to Andy Thomas of Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team (CCCHET) for monitoring the evaluation. The authors would like to thank Mark Hinman for managing the project, Jonathan House of PCA for supervising the evaluation and Jennifer Simonson of PCA's CAD Department for preparing the figures.

8 BIBLIOGRAPHY

8.1 Printed Sources

Brown, N. and Glazebrook, J. (eds.) 2000 Research and Archaeology: a Framework for the Eastern Counties, 2. Research Agenda and Strategy. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper No. 8

Glazebrook, J. (ed.) 1997 Research and Archaeology: a Framework for the Eastern Counties, 1. Resource Assessment. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper No. 3

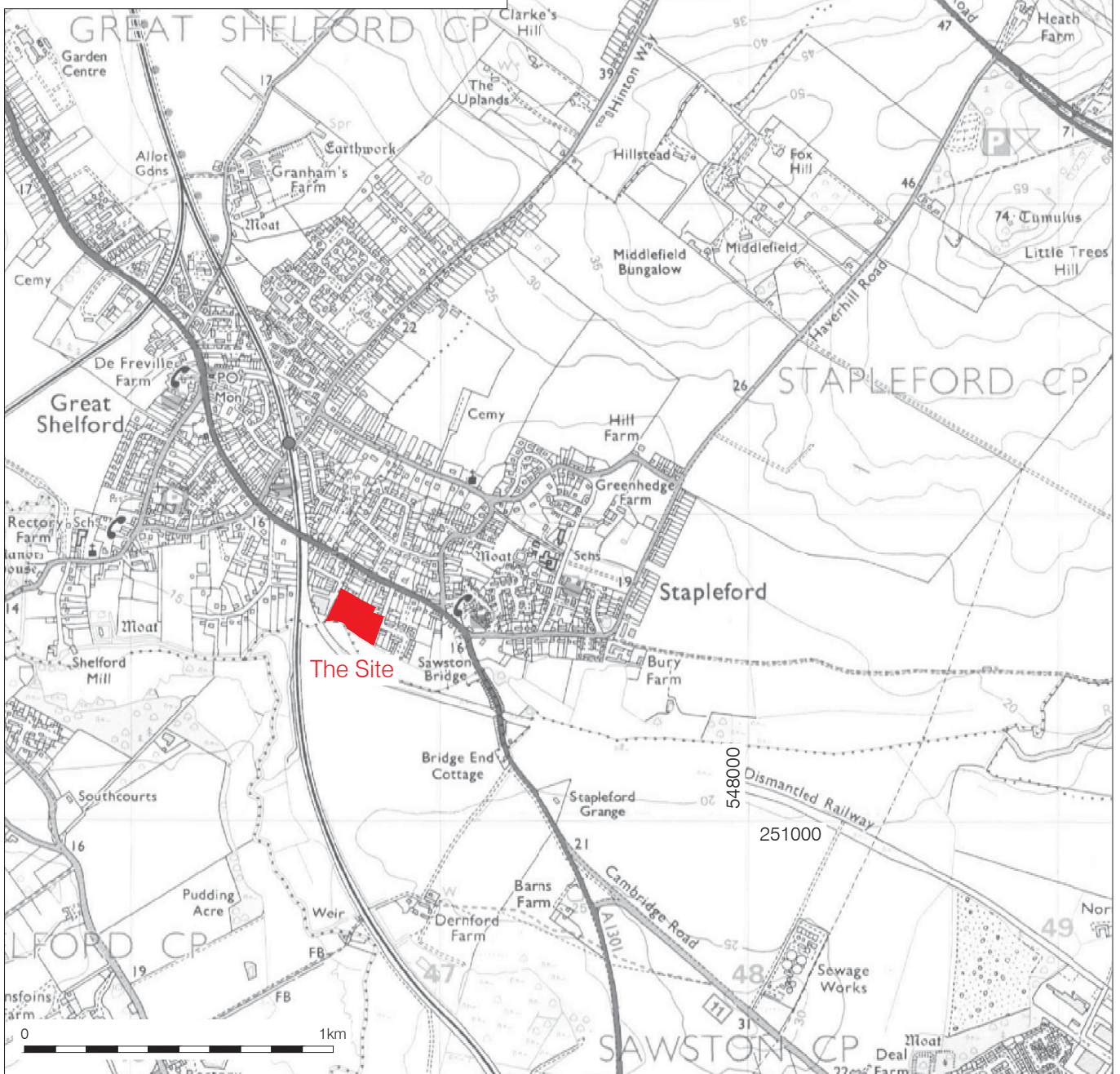
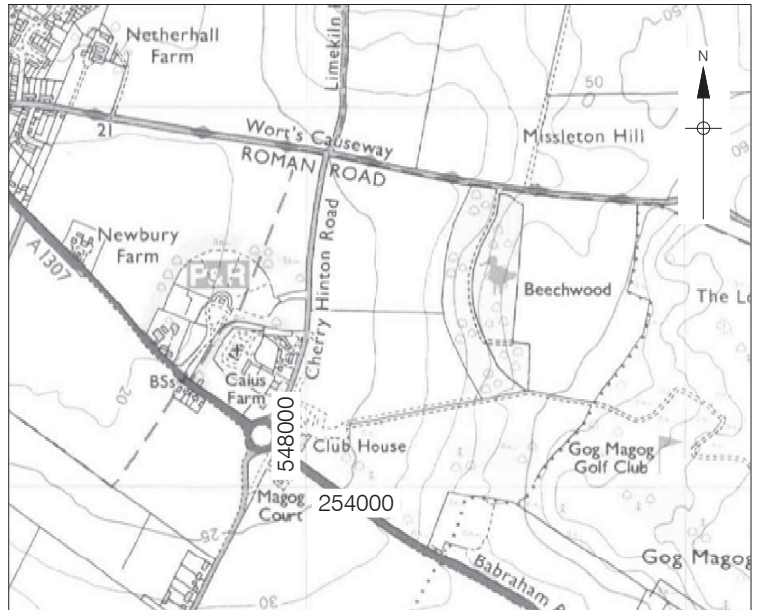
Hinman, M. 2014. Written Scheme of Investigation for a Program of Archaeological Evaluation at Welch's, Granta Terrace, Stapleford, Cambridgeshire. (unpublished, Pre-Construct Archaeology)

Thomas, A. 2013. Brief for Archaeological Evaluation Aylesford Way, East of Granta Terrace, Stapleford, Cambridgeshire. (unpublished, Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team)

Medlycott, M. 2011. (ed.) Research and Archaeology Revisited: A revised framework for the East of England. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 24

8.2 Websites

British Geological Survey 2014 Geology of Britain Viewer
<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>. Date accessed
08/05/2014



© Crown copyright 2007. All rights reserved. License number 36110309
 © Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd 2014
 12/05/14 JS

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



Figure 2
Trench Location
1:1,000 at A4

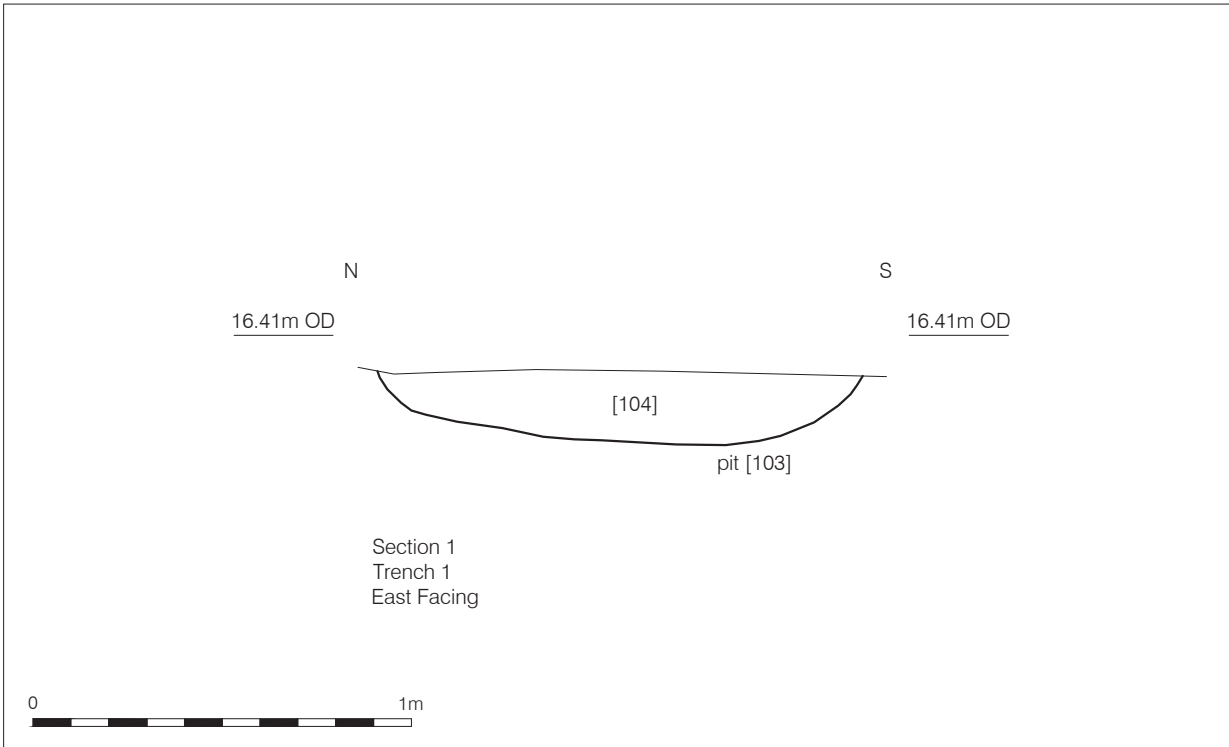
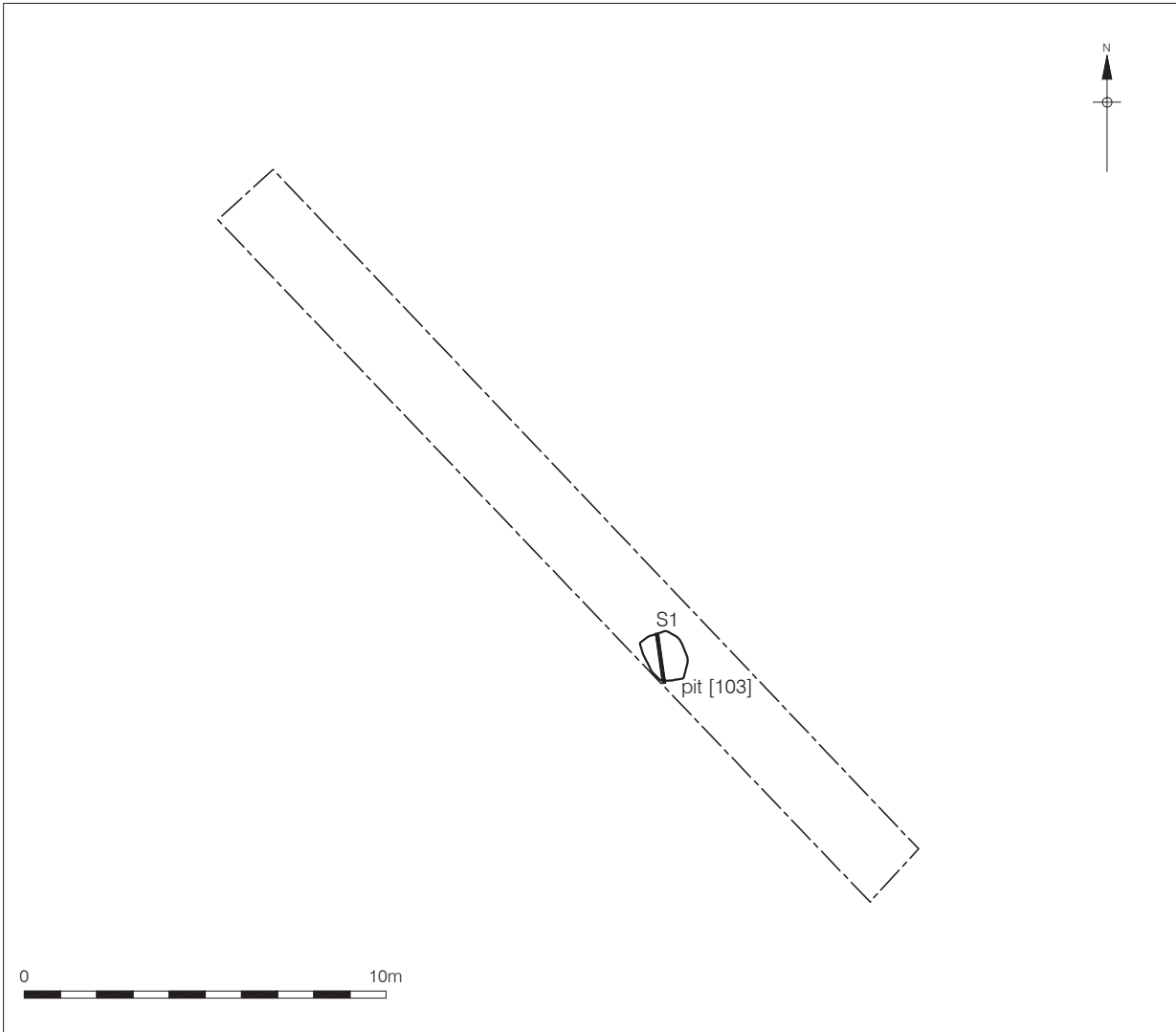


Figure 3
Trench 1 Plan & Section
Plan 1:200; Section 1:20 at A4

9 APPENDIX 1: PLATES



Plate 1: Trench 1 looking southeast



Plate 2: Trench 6 looking northwest with modern disturbance in the distance



Plate 3: Trench 9 showing alluvium beneath thick made ground and levelling deposits



Plate 4: Trench 10 looking northwest, showing surviving natural geology



Plate 5: Trench 12 looking north

10 APPENDIX 2: CONTEXT INDEX

Context	Cut	Type	Interpretation	Description	Trench Number
(100)	-	Layer	Made Ground	Levelling material comprising modern rubble, crush hardcore etc. overlain by tarmac, road surfacing or concrete.	1-12
(101)	-	Layer	Topsoil	Dark brown silts.	1,2,4,6,10
(102)	-	Layer	Subsoil	Reddish brown slightly sandy silts.	1,2,4,6,10
[103]		Cut	Cut of pit	Sub-circular in plan, gently sloping edges and flattish base.	1
(104)	[103]	Fill	Fill of pit	Mid brown sandy silt. Bioturbated.	1

11 APPENDIX 3: OASIS FORM

OASIS ID: preconst1-178706

Project details

Project name Welch's, Granta Terrace, Stapleford. An Archaeological Evaluation

This report details the results of an archaeological trial trench evaluation at Welch's, Granta Terrace, Stapleford, Cambridgeshire (NGR TL 4677 5164) undertaken during 1st to 7th May 2014. The evaluation was commissioned by Welch's Group Holdings Limited and Wrenbridge (Stapleford) Ltd to address a planning condition placed on the development of the site. The aim of the evaluation was to determine the potential for surviving archaeological remains. The evaluation identified a single probable modern pit within Trench 1.

Short description of Modern disturbance and made ground were present in all trenches and the project in areas of the site, there were significant levels of ground

contamination. The natural geological substrate was only exposed in four trenches, although in several places, this had been impacted upon by the modern ground disturbance. Given the depth of the overlying modern deposits and the low-lying natural substrate, the natural geology was not exposed in the remaining trenches. Alluvial deposits overlying the natural gravel terraces were revealed in three of the trenches and infer the possibility of undisturbed natural geology existing at depth across areas of the site.

Project dates Start: 01-05-2014 End: 07-05-2014

Previous/future work No / No

Any associated project reference codes CWTS14 - Sitecode

Type of project Field evaluation

Site status None

Current Land use Industry and Commerce 1 - Industrial

Monument type REFUSE LAYERS Modern

Monument type PIT Modern

Significant Finds	BUILDING DEBRIS Modern
Significant Finds	GLASS AND METAL Modern
Methods & techniques	"Targeted Trenches","Test Pits"
Development type	Rural residential
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)
Project location	
Country	England
Site location	CAMBRIDGESHIRE SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE STAPLEFORD Welch's
Postcode	CB22 5DL
Study area	1.40 Hectares
Site coordinates	TL 467 516 52.1427495709 0.144066151466 52 08 33 N 000 08 38 E Point
Lat/Long Datum	Unknown
Height OD / Depth	Min: 19.00m Max: 19.00m
Project creators	
Name of Organisation	Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited
Project brief originator	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
Project design originator	Mark Hinman
Project director/manager	Mark Hinman
Project supervisor	Jonathan House
Type of sponsor/funding body	Landowner
Name of sponsor/funding	Welch's™ Group Holdings Limited & Wrenbridge (Stapleford) Ltd

body

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient
Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeology Store

Physical Archive notes
PCA report number R11718

Digital Archive recipient
Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeology Store

Digital Archive ID
CWTS14

Digital Contents
"none"

Digital Media available
"Survey","Text"

Digital Archive notes
PCA report number R11718

Paper Archive recipient
Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeology Store

Paper Archive ID
CWTS14

Paper Contents
"none"

Paper Media available
"Context sheet","Photograph","Plan","Report","Section","Survey",
","Unpublished Text"

Paper Archive notes
PCA report number R11718

Project bibliography 1

Publication type
Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title
Welch's, Granta Terrace, Stapleford, Cambridgeshire: An
Archaeological Evaluation

Author(s)/Editor(s)
House, J.

Other bibliographic details
R11718

Date
2014

Issuer or publisher
Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited

Place of issue or
publication Cambridge

Description Pre-Construct Archaeology evaluation report. A4 bound report
including 3/4 site figures and 5 plates. Digital and paper copies.

Entered by Shannon Hogan (shogan@preconstruct.com)

Entered on 12 May 2014

Please e-mail [English Heritage](#) for OASIS help and advice
© ADS 1996-2012 Created by [Jo Gilham and Jen Mitcham, email](#) Last modified Wednesday
9 May 2012
Cite only: <http://www.oasis.ac.uk/form/print.cfm> for this page

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

