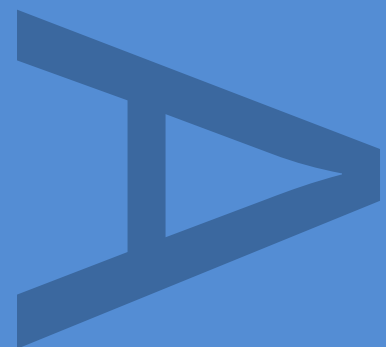


**ST COLETTE'S PREPATORY
SCHOOL, GEORGE PATEMAN
COURT, CAMBRIDGE:**

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL
EVALUATION**

MAY 2014



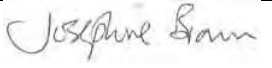
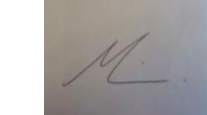
**PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY
R11726**

FORMER ST COLETTE'S PREPARATORY SCHOOL,
 GEORGE PATEMAN COURT, CAMBRIDGE, CB1 2RG

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

Quality Control

Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd	
Project Number	K3538
Report Number	R11726

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**Former St Colette's Preparatory School, George Pateman Court, Cambridge
CB1 2RG:**

An Archaeological Evaluation

Local Planning Authority: Cambridge County Council

Planning Reference: 12/1040/FUL

Central National Grid Reference: NGR TL 4591 5745

Site Code: CSCC14

ECB: ECB4200

Report No. R11726

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May 2014**

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ABSTRACT

This report describes the results of an archaeological trial trench evaluation carried out by Pre-Construct Archaeology at the former St Colette's Preparatory School George Pateman Court, Cambridge CB1 2RG (NGR TL 4591 5745) on the 15th and 16th May 2014. The archaeological work was commissioned by Hill Partnerships Ltd. on behalf of MPM Properties (Investments) Limited 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.

A total of 5 trenches were excavated and the evaluation identified no archaeological features.

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology has been commissioned by Hill Partnerships Ltd on behalf of MPM Properties (Investments) Limited to carry out an archaeological evaluation at the former St Colette's Preparatory School, George Pateman Court, Cambridge CB1 2RG (centered on NGR TL 4591 5745) (Figure 1).
- 1.2 The proposed development of the 0.4ha site comprises 7 new residential properties with associated parking and services (Planning Reference 12/1040/FUL).
- 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 was 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 an archaeological evaluation of the site (Hinman 2014) and in response to a Design Brief (Thomas 2014) 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 sands and gravels of the River Cam. (BGS viewer 2014)
- 2.2 The site lies at an elevation of c. 14m OD, roughly 1km from the River Cam to the west 1.6km from Cherry Hinton Brook to the east.
- 2.3 The development area is accessed through George Pateman Court off Tenison Road and is bordered by residential dwellings in all directions (Figure 1; Plate 1).
- 2.4 The current site was formerly occupied by St. Colette's Preparatory School, which has now been demolished. The area comprises hard-standing with areas of concrete pads, tarmac and former building foundations.

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. 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.
- 3.2 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).
- 3.3 The Foster's Mill site and other sites in this area of the city (e.g. CHER 16826) have also produced evidence for post-medieval field systems. A recent evaluation at Tenison Road (Morgan-Shelbourne 2014) to the southeast of the site found some limited evidence for late post medieval and modern remains but no earlier archaeological features.

4 METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 All aspects of the evaluation were 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 comprised the excavation of 5 linear trial trenches, measuring approximately 20m in length and 1.8m wide (excavator bucket width). Trenches were positioned to sample areas of the site likely to be affected by the proposed development.
- 4.3 Removal of topsoil, modern hard-standing and other non-archaeological overburden was carried out using a 360° tracked excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket, which was operated under close archaeological supervision.
- 4.4 A metal detector survey was carried out during stripping. Trenches were scanned during and after machining and excavated spoil was checked for finds visually and with a metal detector.
- 4.5 Trench locations and heights above Ordnance Datum were 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 None of the trenches contained archaeological features or deposits (Figure 2; Plate 1).

5.2 Modern Overburden

5.2.1 Trench 1 (Plate 3) contained made ground deposits (6) associated with the foundations of the old school buildings, to the average depth of 0.18m. Trenches 2, 3, 4 and 5 (Plate 4 and 5) contained tarmac with rubble underlay (10) to an average depth of 0.32m, below this were various made ground deposits (11), (12) and (13) to an average depth of 0.54m. These deposits were associated with the old school playground and parking areas. Below these deposits the former topsoil and subsoil survived in all the trenches, to an average depth of 0.68m and 0.75m respectively. No residual archaeological finds were recovered from these layers.

6 CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1 The evaluation at the former site of St. Colette's Preparatory School did not discover any archaeological features. Although the previous use of the site as a school has had the effect of locally truncating away some of the archaeological horizon, little archaeological activity appears to have taken place on the site.
- 6.2 Based on the results of the evaluation, the potential of the site to contain further significant archaeological remains is considered to be low.

7 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 7.1 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.

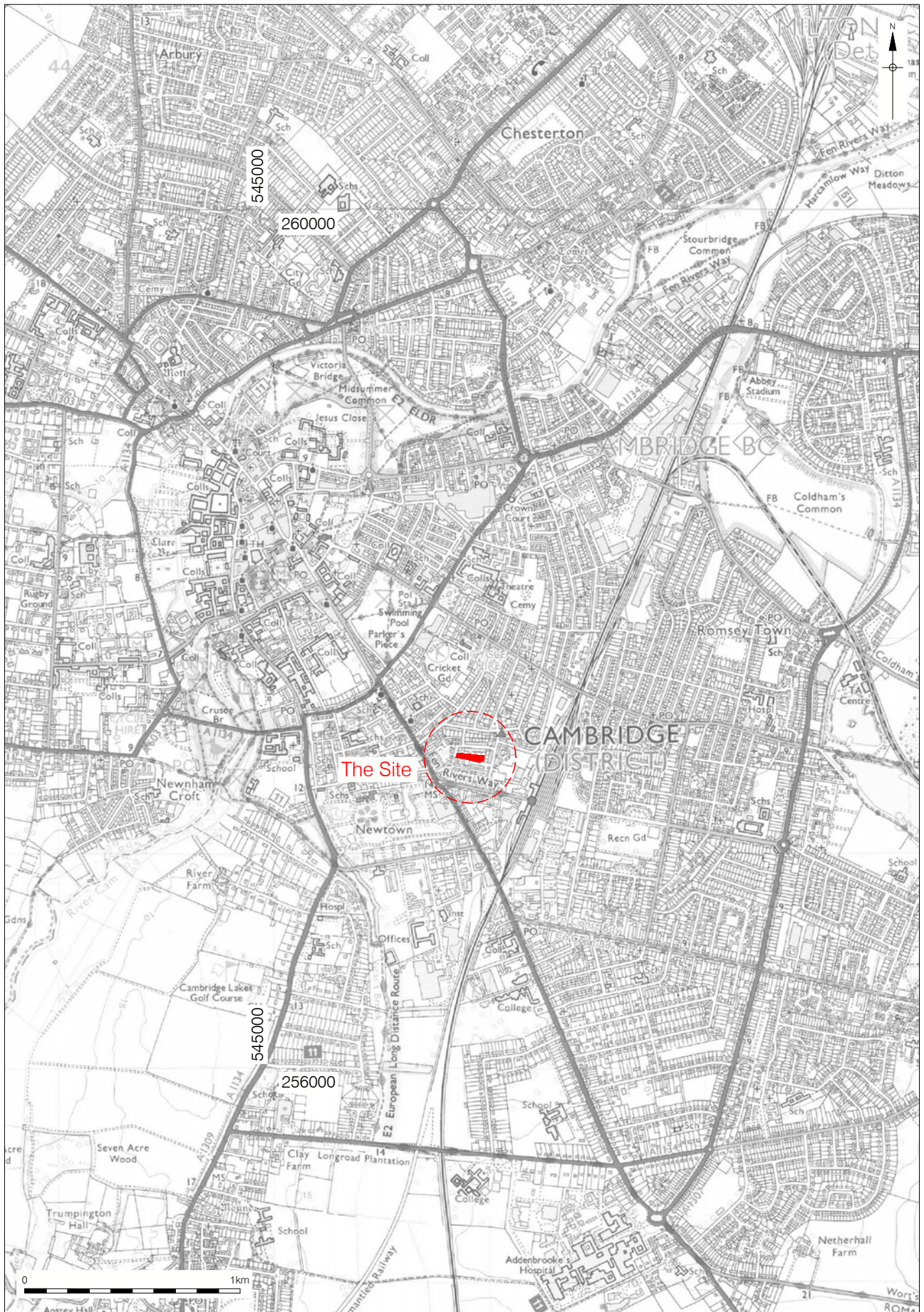
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- 8.1.1 Hinman, M. 2014 Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation at the Former Focus DIY Site, Tenison Road, CB1 Area, Cambridge (unpublished, Pre-Construct Archaeology)
- 8.1.2 Morgan-Shelbourne, L. 2014 Land at Former Focus DIY, Tenison Road, CB1 2XL, Cambridgeshire: An Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation (unpublished, Pre-Construct Archaeology)
- 8.1.3 Thomas, A. 2014 Brief for Archaeological Evaluation: St. Colette's Preparatory School, George Pateman Court, Cambridge. (unpublished, Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team)

8.2 Online Sources

- 8.2.1 1) British Geological Survey 2014 Geology of Britain Viewer. Date accessed 16/05/2014



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Figure 1
 Site Location
 1:25,000 at A4



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Figure 2
Trench Location
1:625 at A4

9 APPENDIX 1: PLATES



Plate 1: The site, pre-excitation, looking west



Plate 2: The site, post excavation, looking west



Plate 3: Trench 1, looking southwest



Plate 4: Trench 3, looking southwest



Plate 5: Trench 4, looking southeast

10 APPENDIX 2: CONTEXT INDEX

Context	Cut	Type	Category	Period	Trench Number
1		Trench	n/a		1
2		Trench	n/a		2
3		Trench	n/a		3
4		Trench	n/a		4
5		Trench	n/a		5
6		Layer	Made ground		1
7		Layer	Top soil		All
8		Layer	Subsoil		All
9		Layer	Natural		All
10		Layer	Tarmac and hardcore underlay		2,3,4,5
11		Layer	Asphalt rubble		3,4,5
12		Layer	Made ground		3,4
13		Layer	Made ground		5

11 APPENDIX 3: OASIS FORM

OASIS ID: preconst1-179161

Project details

Project name	Former St Colette's Preparatory School, George Pateman Court, Cambridge CB1 2RG: An Archaeological Evaluation
Short description of the project	Former St Colette's Preparatory School, George Pateman Court, Cambridge CB1 2RG: An Archaeological Evaluation
Project dates	Start: 15-05-2014 End: 16-05-2014
Previous/future work	Not known / No
Any associated project reference codes	CSCC14 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Vacant Land 1 - Vacant land previously developed
Monument type	NONE None
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Methods & techniques	"Sample Trenches"
Development type	Urban residential (e.g. flats, houses, etc.)
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project location

Country	England
Site location	CAMBRIDGESHIRE CAMBRIDGE CAMBRIDGE St Colettes preparatory school, George Pateman Court, Cambridge
Postcode	CB1 2RG
Study area	0.40 Hectares
Site coordinates	TL 4591 5745 52.1955228927 0.135044417116 52 11 43 N 000 08 06 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 0.48m Max: 1.11m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	PCA
Project brief originator	Cambridge HET
Project design originator	Mark Hinman
Project director/manager	Mark Hinman
Project supervisor	Lawrence Morgan-Shelbourne
Type of sponsor/funding body	Hill Partnerships Ltd
Name of sponsor/funding body	Hill Partnerships Ltd

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Cambridgeshire County Council
Digital Contents	"none"
Digital Media available	"Database", "Images raster / digital photography", "Spreadsheets", "Survey", "Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Cambridgeshire County Council
Paper Contents	"none"

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

Entered by Mark Hinman (mhinman@pre-construct.com)

Entered on 16 May 2014

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