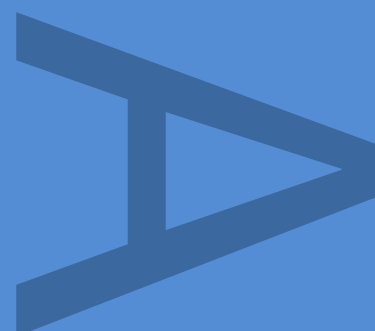


THE GREAT HALL, CASTLE  
AVENUE, WINCHESTER,  
HAMPSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
WATCHING BRIEF REPORT

REPORT NO: R11782

July 2014



PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY

**THE GREAT HALL, CASTLE AVENUE, WINCHESTER, HAMPSHIRE  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF REPORT**

**Scheduled Monument:** Winchester Castle, Winchester, Hampshire  
No: SM HA1, HA 1001959

**Site Code:** WINCM: AY548

**Central NGR:** 447970 129352

**Commissioning Client:** Gregory Havant Ltd on behalf of Hampshire County Council  
Property Services

**Written/Researched by:** Thomas Hayes  
Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited

**Project Manager:** Paul McCulloch (MifA)

**Contractor:** Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd (West)  
Block 4 Chilcomb House  
Chilcomb Lane  
Winchester  
Hampshire  
SO23 8RB

**Tel:** T: 01962 849 549 & M: 07714 134 099  
**E-mail:** pmcculloch@pre-construct.com  
**Web:** www.pre-construct.com

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**July 2014**

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DOCUMENT VERIFICATION

Site Name: The Great Hall, Castle Avenue, Winchester Hampshire

Archaeological Watching Brief Report

Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited Project Code:			K3500
	Name & Title	Signature	Date
Text Prepared by:	T Hayes		07.07.2014
Graphics Prepared by:	H Baxter		08/07/2014
Graphics Checked by:	J Brown	<i>Josephine Brown</i>	08/07/2014
Project Manager Sign-off:	P McCulloch	<i>P McCulloch</i>	10/07/2014

Revision No.	Date	Checked	Approved

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## **1 NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY**

Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd (PCA) was commissioned by Hampshire County Council Property Services (the Client) to undertake an archaeological watching brief during works to install electrical equipment (conduit and trunking for electrical power supply and related installations) to service a new sound system within the Great Hall, Castle Avenue, Winchester, Hampshire, at NGR 447765 129479. The Great Hall is a component of the Scheduled Monument Winchester Castle. This report concerns the results of the archaeological watching brief, which comprised monitoring visits made between May and June 2014 during the lifting of the existing stone floor slabs and the installations.

No significant archaeological deposits, features, artefacts or environmental remains were uncovered. It was observed that beneath the slabs was a thick layer of builder's sand used as a bedding for the slabs. Examples of 19th century ceramic building material fragments were seen throughout the bedding layer. The 20<sup>th</sup> century electrical trunking, which was being replaced as a part of the works, was also seen. The sand layer and, by extension, the current paving slabs are likely to be a result of the extensive 1874 renovations to the Great Hall. The new installation works appear to have been conducted as planned and without significantly affecting the scheduled monument

It is concluded that although the site clearly contains a great deal of archaeological potential, any evidence of archaeological deposits at the levels reached during the works had been removed by previous building and renovation works carried out in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries

## 2 INTRODUCTION

### 2.1 Project Background

2.1.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd (PCA) was been appointed by Gregory Havant Ltd (Main Contractor) on behalf of Hampshire County Council Property Services (the Client) to undertake a watching brief during works to install electrical equipment (conduit and trunking for electrical power supply and related installations) to service a new sound system within the Great Hall, Castle Avenue, Winchester, Hampshire, at NGR 447765 129479. The Great Hall forms part of the Scheduled Monument of Winchester Castle (Scheduled Monument: SM HA 1, HA 1001959). This report concerns the results of the archaeological Watching brief, which comprised monitoring visits made between April and June 2014, and is a requirement of Scheduled Monument Consent for the works granted to Hampshire County Council by the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport acting on the advice of English Heritage.

2.1.2 The watching brief and this report were requirements of the Scheduled Monument Consent. These requirements include:

*(a) The works to which this consent relates shall be carried out to the satisfaction of the Secretary of State, who will be advised by English Heritage. At least 2 weeks' notice (or such shorter period as may be mutually agreed) in writing of the commencement of work shall be given to [Ben Jervis; English Heritage, Eastgate Court, 195-205 High St, Guildford, Surrey, GU1 3EH; ben.jervis@english-heritage.org.uk] in order that an English Heritage representative can inspect and advise on the works and their effect in compliance with this consent.*

*(b) No works shall take place until the applicant has confirmed in writing the commissioning of a programme of archaeological monitoring for the project in accordance with a method statement which has been submitted to and approved by the Secretary of State advised by English Heritage.*

*(l) A summary report on the works, including details of the archaeological monitoring, shall be sent to The Assistant Inspector of Ancient Monuments, David Hopkins (Hampshire County Archaeologist) and Tracy Matthews (Archaeology Officer, Winchester District Council) within 3 months of completion. The report shall provide a photographic record of the works and details of the installed equipment to ensure a record of the change to the building.*

*(m) The contractor shall complete and submit an entry on OASIS (On-line Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations <http://oasis.ac.uk/england/>) prior to project completion, and shall deposit any digital project report with the Archaeology Data Service, via the OASIS form, upon completion.*

2.1.3 The required Written Scheme of Investigation (PCA 2014) was submitted to the LPA in March 2014 and approved in advance of the commencement of works on site in April 2014.

2.1.4 This report has been prepared in accordance with the Institute for Archaeologists standard and guidance for archaeological watching briefs (IfA 2008) and *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (English Heritage, 2006).

## **2.2 Location, Topography and Geology**

- 2.2.1 The Great Hall is located within the historic core of Winchester at the south end of Castle Avenue. It lies west of the Winchester Combined Court building and east and north of the military museums of the former Peninsula Barracks. The last surviving extant building of medieval Winchester Castle, the Great Hall occupies an elevated position within the urban topography of Winchester at approximately 60m above Ordnance Datum.
- 2.2.2 The geology of Winchester is characterised by superficial deposits of river terrace sands and gravels overlying bedrock Upper Chalk. These natural deposits are likely to occur at considerable depth beneath the site and are unlikely to be revealed by the proposed works.

## **2.3 Archaeological and Historical Background**

- 2.3.1 The Great Hall is last surviving element of Winchester Castle; a medieval defensive structure that was established shortly after the Norman Conquest in 1067. The Great Hall itself was a later addition to the Castle, likely to have been constructed between 1222 and 1235 (Portal 1899). The Great Hall has been the site of many royal events from the medieval and early medieval period, including royal marriages and births. Hanging above the western end of the hall is the 'round table'; a 13<sup>th</sup> century wooden table, later decorated with images of Arthurian legend under order of Henry VIII (Biddle & Clayre 1983).
- 2.3.2 In 1645 the castle was besieged by Oliver Cromwell, leading to heavy damage across many of the castle buildings and defences. In 1649 the Council of State decided that the castle was no longer safe and by 1651 the majority of buildings were demolished. The restoration saw renewed interest in the site of the Castle. King Charles II had initiated the construction of a new royal palace, designed by Christopher Wren, on the site of the now demolished castle, however work ceased in 1685 upon the death of the King (Page 1908).
- 2.3.3 In the early to mid-18<sup>th</sup> century the castle site was used to house captured French, Spanish and Dutch prisoners of war. In 1796 a large barracks was constructed (which was the primary use of the site until the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> century). Throughout the post-medieval period the Great Hall served as the assize court for the county. The Great Hall itself was extensively renovated and repaired in 1874, including the construction of an under floor tunnel leading to cells. However in 1894 a fire broke out, destroying what remained of the Kings House and endangering the Great Hall (Biddle & Clayre 1983).

## **3 AIM**

### **3.1 Archaeological Watching Brief**

- 3.1.1 The aim of the archaeological watching brief was to monitor all ground work for the presence of archaeological resources and, if present and where necessary, to investigate and record the resources and determine, as may be possible, their character, including their date, nature and extent.

3.1.2 The aim of the watching brief was also to advise the Main Contractor as they proceeded, regarding the archaeological significance, or lack of, of the sub-floor deposits that they encountered.

3.1.3 Specific research aims of the watching brief:

- Can the date of the existing paved floor be confirmed and related to the major alterations of the 19th century?
- Is there any evidence for the construction of the existing Great Hall in the 13th century?
- Is there any evidence of structural remains pre-dating the existing Great Hall?

3.1.4 This report on the results of the watching brief aims to be sufficient to demonstrate to the Secretary of State and the Asst. Inspector of Ancient Monuments (English heritage) that the watching brief was carried out in accordance with the WSI document and the requirements of Scheduled Monument consent.

## **4 METHOD**

### **4.1 Watching Brief**

4.1.1 Arrangements for the watching brief were put in place with the appointed main contractor Gregory Havant Ltd. These included visits to the site coinciding with the lifting of paving slabs in order to inspect the underlying deposits for the presence of archaeological features, deposits and artefacts.

## **5 RESULTS**

### **5.1 Introduction**

5.1.1 The following summary is based on the site archive, which comprises the site diary and digital photographs. The archive is held at PCA's Winchester office under the WINCM site code AY548 and will in due course be deposited with Winchester Museums Service.

### **5.2 Observations**

5.2.1 No archaeological deposits, features, artefacts or environmental remains were observed in the course of the watching brief.

5.2.2 During the course of works it was observed that beneath the stone floor slabs there was a thick layer of 19<sup>th</sup> century builder's sand that was laid down as a bedding. Examples of 19<sup>th</sup> century ceramic building material fragments were seen throughout the material beneath the slabs. The 20<sup>th</sup> century electrical trunking, which was being replaced as a part of the works, was also seen. The sand layer and, by extension, the existing slabs are likely to have been laid during the extensive 1874 renovations to the Great Hall. These 19<sup>th</sup> century works are likely to have removed any trace of earlier archaeological resources that may have been present underneath an earlier floor level.



5.2.3 The method of construction of the 19<sup>th</sup> century corridor under the floor level, running east/west under the northern edge of the great hall, was visible 1<sup>st</sup> course of the work. It appears to have been trench built and this is likely to have removed any earlier archaeological resources (Plates 23-24). The corridor gave access to cells beneath the Great Hall during its use as the assize courts, and is likely to have been a part of the 1874 renovations to the building.

### **5.3 Conclusions**

5.3.1 It is concluded that, although there is likely to be a great deal of significant archaeological remains beneath the standing structure of the Great Hall, these are not present at the depths encountered during the course of the works carried out.

5.3.2 The watching brief was able to meet the specific research aims in the following ways:

- The observations made can confirm that the existing stone slab floor relates to the major 19<sup>th</sup> century alterations to the Great Hall.
- Due to the low depth of the works carried out, no earlier archaeological resources were identified. Therefore there was no evidence relating to the 13<sup>th</sup> century construction of the Great Hall or for any structural remains pre-dating the Great Hall.

## **6 ARCHIVE PREPARATION & DEPOSITION**

### **6.1 The Site Archive**

- 6.1.1 The Site archive, to include all project records and cultural material produced by the project, will be prepared in accordance with '*Guidelines for the Preparation of Excavation Archives for Long-term Storage*' (UKIC 1990) and the Institute for Archaeologists '*Standard and Guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives*' (IfA 2009). On completion of the project PCA will arrange for the archive to be deposited in accordance with the provisional arrangements made at the onset of the watching brief with Winchester Museums Service. Any alternative arrangements will be agreed with the Historic Environment Officer and the Local Planning Authority.

## **7 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd would like to thank Hampshire County Council Property Services appointing PCA to carry out the watching brief and Gregory Havant Ltd for the assistance on site.

The author would like to thank Paul McCulloch for his project management and for editing of this report.

## **APPENDIX 1: SITE PHOTOGRAPHS**

The site photographs can be cross referenced with Figure 2, to give an approximate location. The photographs are organised in geographic order; going counter-clockwise around the Great Hall, starting in the south-west corner of Area A (Figure 2).



Plate 1 South-west corner of Area A



Plate 2 Area A





Plate 3 Area A



Plate 4 Area A





Plate 5 Area A



Plate 6 Area A





Plate 7 Area A



Plate 8 Area B





Plate 9 Area B



Plate 10 Area B





Plate 11 Area B



Plate 12 Area C





Plate 13 Area C



Plate 14 Area C





Plate 15 Area C



Plate 16 Area C



Plate 17 Area C



Plate 18 Area D





Plate 19 Area D



Plate 20 Area D





Plate 21 Area D



Plate 22 Area E





Plate 23 Area E



Plate 24 Area E





Plate 25 Area E



Plate 26 Area F





Plate 27 Area F



Plate 28 Area F





Plate 29 Area F



Plate 30 Area F





Plate 31 Area G



Plate 32 Area G





Plate 33 Area G



Plate 34 Area G





Plate 35 Area G



Plate 36 Area G





Plate 37 Area G



Plate 38 Area G



Plate 39 Area G



## Appendix 2: OASIS Report

### OASIS ID: preconst1-183968

#### Project details

Project name	THE GREAT HALL, WINCHESTER, HAMPSHIRE AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
Short description of the project	Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd (PCA) was commissioned by Hampshire County Council Property Services (the Client) to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the laying down of new electrical trunking, beneath the current paving slabs. This report concerns the results of the archaeological Watching brief, which comprised monitoring visits made between May and June 2014 during the lifting of slabs and replacement of electrical trunking. No archaeological deposits, features, artefacts or environmental remains were observed. It is concluded that although the site clearly contains a great deal of archaeological potential, any evidence of archaeological deposits at the levels reached during the works had been removed by previous building and renovation works carried out in the 19th and 20th centuries.
Project dates	Start: 01-05-2014 End: 05-06-2014
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	AY548 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	1001959 - SM No.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Scheduled Monument (SM)
Current Land use	Other 2 - In use as a building
Monument type	ASSEMBLY HALL Medieval
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	Scheduled Monument Consent

#### Project location

Country	England
Site location	HAMPSHIRE WINCHESTER WINCHESTER THE GREAT HALL, WINCHESTER, HAMPSHIRE
Postcode	SO23 8PJ
Study area	480.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	SU 447970 129352 50.9135897388 -1.36270870359 50 54 48 N 001 21 45 W Point

#### Project creators

Name of Organisation	PCA West
Project brief originator	Hampshire County Council Property Services

Project design originator	Paul McCulloch
Project director/manager	Paul McCulloch
Project supervisor	Thomas Hayes
Type of sponsor/funding body	County Council
Name of sponsor/funding body	Hampshire County Council

### Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Winchester Museums
Digital Archive ID	AY548
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography", "Survey", "Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Winchester Museums
Paper Archive ID	AY548
Paper Media available	"Diary", "Drawing", "Photograph", "Plan", "Report", "Survey ", "Unpublished Text"

### Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	THE GREAT HALL, WINCHESTER, HAMPSHIRE AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Hayes, T
Other bibliographic details	R11782
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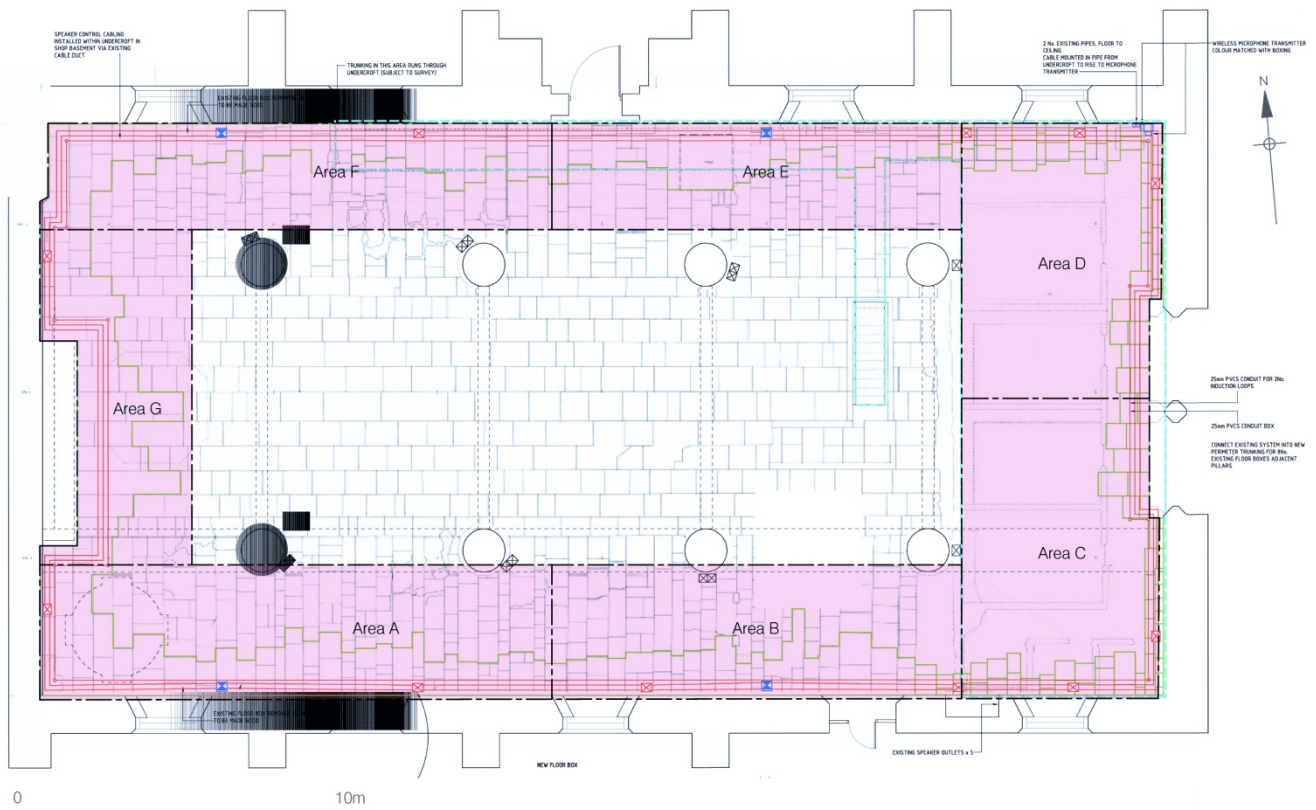
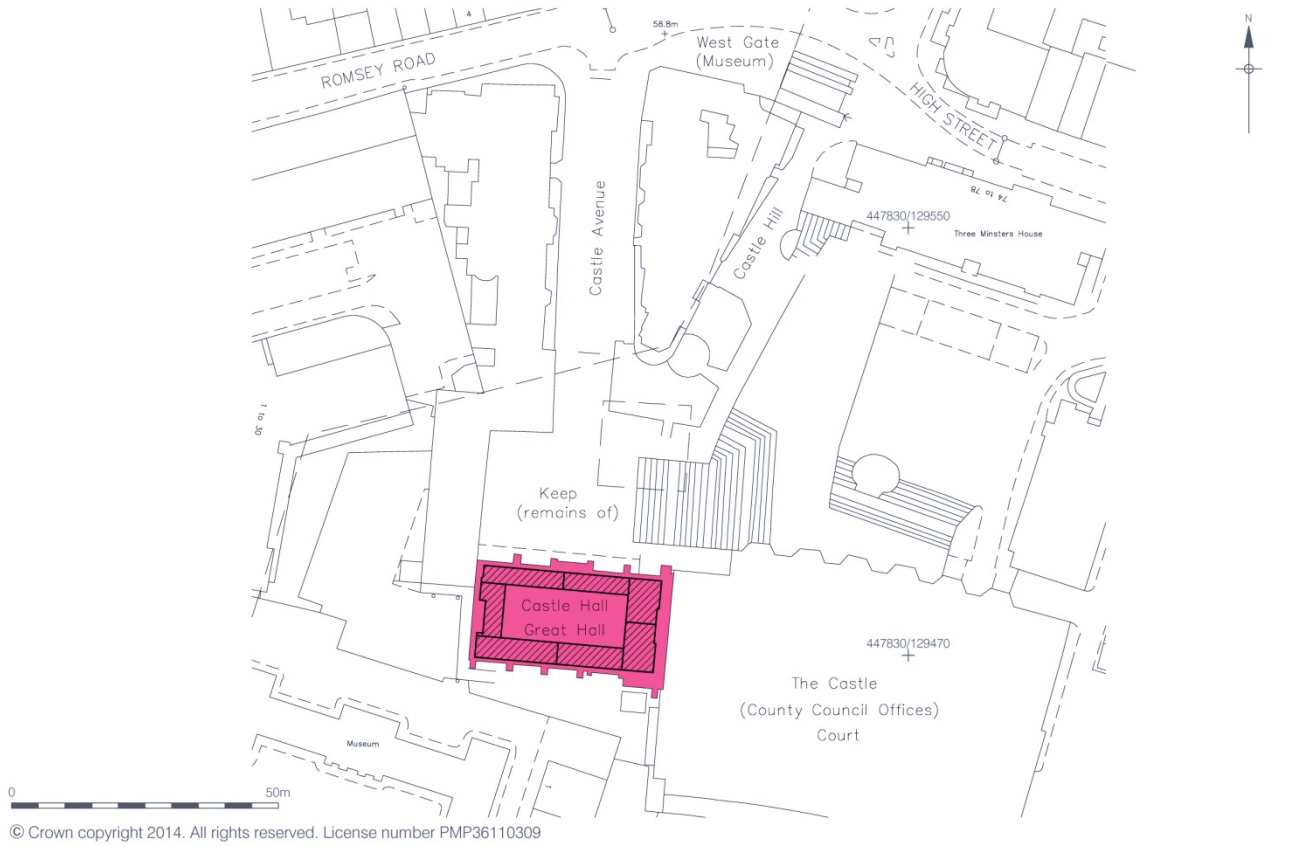




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Figure 1  
 Site Location  
 1:25,000 at A4





Plan of Great Hall based on drawing supplied by Hampshire County Council  
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Figure 2  
 Areas monitored  
 1:1,250 & 1:200 at A4

# PCA

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## **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**

THE GRANARY, RECTORY FARM  
BREWERY ROAD, PAMPISFORD  
CAMBRIDGESHIRE CB22 3EN  
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 849 549  
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 468 333  
EMAIL: [info.midlands@pre-construct.com](mailto:info.midlands@pre-construct.com)

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