

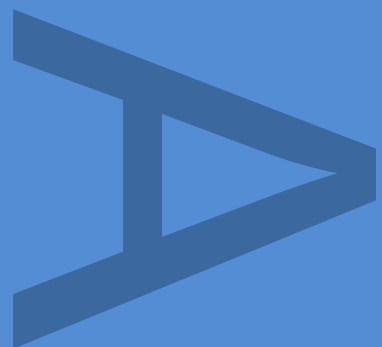
**HERTFORD REGIONAL COLLEGE  
WARE CAMPUS, SCOTTS ROAD  
WARE, HERTFORDSHIRE**



**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING  
EXERCISE**



**LOCAL PLANNING AUTHORITY:  
EAST HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL**



**PCA REPORT NO:R11869  
SEPTEMBER 2014**

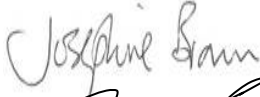

**PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY**

DOCUMENT VERIFICATION

HERTFORD REGIONAL COLLEGE, WARE  
CAMPUS, SCOTTS ROAD, WARE,  
HERTFORDSHIRE

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING EXERCISE

Quality Control

Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited			K3674
	Name & Title	Signature	Date
Text Prepared by:	Neil Hawkins		September 2014
Graphics Prepared by:	Jennifer Simonson		September 2014
Graphics Checked by:	Josephine Brown		September 2014
Project Manager Sign-off:	Tim Bradley		September 2014

Revision No.	Date	Checked	Approved

Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd  
Unit 54  
Brockley Cross Business Centre  
96 Endwell Road  
London  
SE4 2PD

**HERTFORD REGIONAL COLLEGE, WARE CAMPUS, SCOTTS ROAD, WARE,  
HERTFORDSHIRE  
AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING EXERCISE**

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**Museum of London Site Code:** HHRC14

**Local Planning Authority:** East Hertfordshire District Council

**Central NGR:** TL 3580 1390

**Commissioning Client:** CgMs Consulting

**Written and Researched by:** Neil Hawkins  
Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited, September 2014

**Project Manager:** Tim Bradley  
Unit 54, Brockley Cross Business Centre  
96 Endwell Road  
Brockley  
London  
SE4 2PD

**Tel:** 020 7732 3925

**Fax:** 020 7732 7896

**Email:** tbradley@pre-construct.com

**Website:** www.pre-construct.com

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**September 2014**

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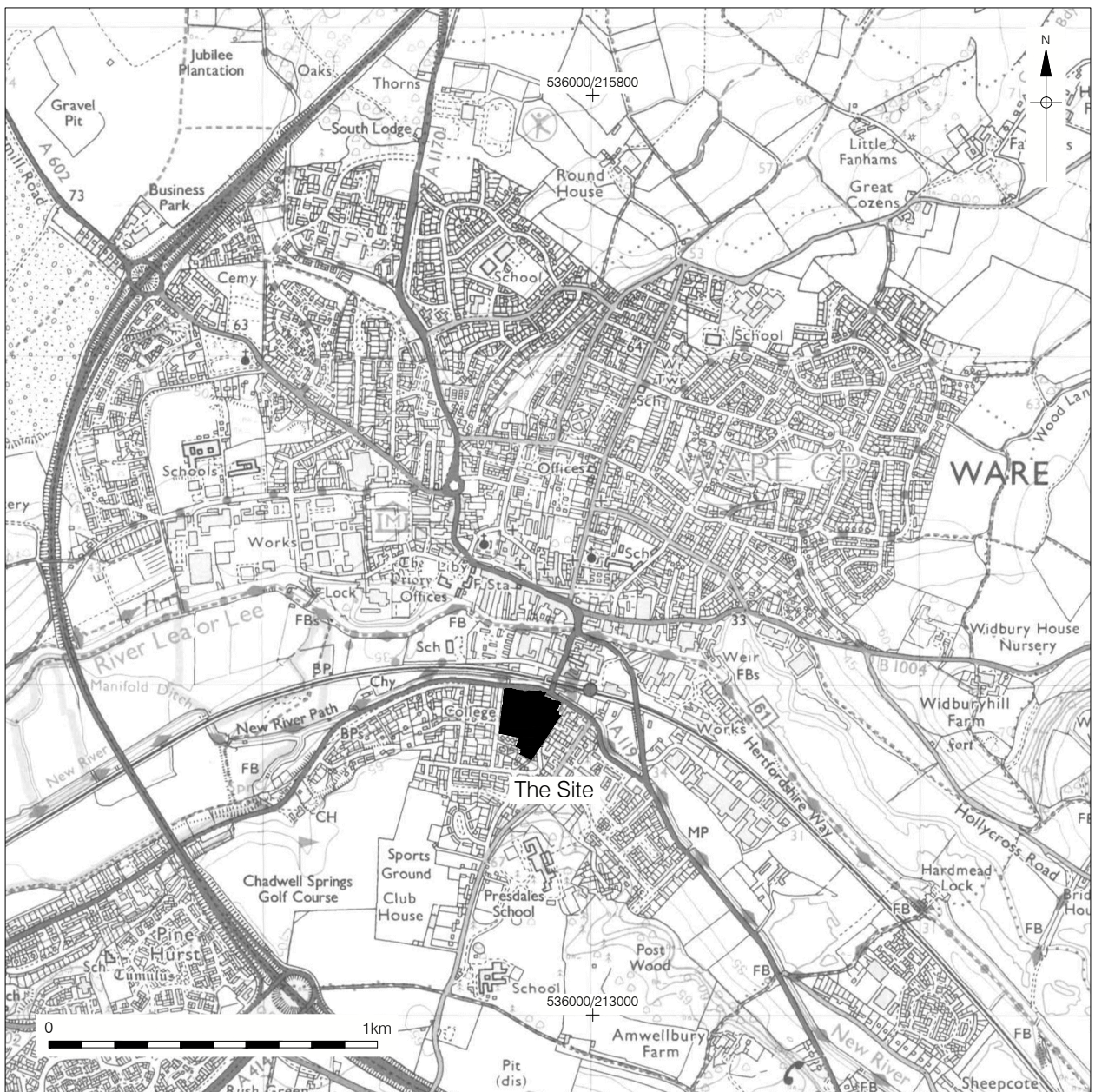
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## **1 ABSTRACT**

- 1.1 This report details the results and working methods of an archaeological monitoring exercise undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd. during development works on land at Hertford Regional College, Ware Campus, Scotts Road, Ware, Hertfordshire. The site was located to the south of Hertford Road / London Road (A119) and was bounded to the west by college buildings, to the south by Scotts Close and houses on Walton Road and to the east by Walton Road.
- 1.2 A Desktop Assessment (Meager 2013) had been prepared prior to the groundworks on the site indicating that the redevelopment proposal comprised new residential structures in the northwestern area, along with the redevelopment of the main college site.
- 1.3 The fieldwork was carried between 12<sup>th</sup> August and 17<sup>th</sup> September 2014 and consisted of a programme of archaeological monitoring works associated with the demolition of the previously extant college building and the construction of a new College facility, with particular focus within the footprint of the new development. These works involved the archaeological monitoring of drainage trenches, pile probing and the grubbing out of foundations.
- 1.4 The archaeological monitoring exercise encountered natural chalk, gravelly brickearth deposits and natural sand-gravel horizons consistent with the known underlying geology as described by the British Geological Survey. Directly sealing the natural deposits in all monitored excavations were modern make-up layers sealed variously by modern tarmac and concrete which represented the modern ground level. The presence of the modern deposits directly sealing the natural in the stratigraphic sequence strongly suggests that the area of the site has been heavily landscaped and therefore horizontally truncated during the modern period. This is attested to by the topography of the site whereby a number of terraces on different levels have been cut into the side of what was once a natural slope. This slope extended down from south to north and had clearly suffered considerable alteration during the construction of the former college buildings. This has therefore had a severe impact on any potential archaeological deposits or features.

## **2 INTRODUCTION**

- 2.1 This report details the results and working methods of an archaeological monitoring exercise undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd. (PCA) on land at Hertford Regional College, Ware Campus, Scotts Road, Ware, Hertfordshire.
- 2.2 The groundworks were all located within the grounds of the eastern side of the campus. At the time of the investigation all but one of the structures due for demolition had been reduced to ground level. The site was bounded to the north by Hertford Road / London Road (A119) to the west by college buildings, to the south by Scotts Close and houses on Walton Road and to the east by Walton Road.
- 2.3 A detailed proposal for archaeological monitoring was included within the Written Scheme of Investigation (Meager 2014) and was prepared prior to the fieldwork.
- 2.4 The site is located within the County of Hertfordshire and centred at National Grid Reference TL 3580 1390. It occupies a plot of land c. 2.58 hectares in size.
- 2.5 The site was given the code HHRC 14.
- 2.6 The project was monitored for the client by Richard Meager of CgMs Consulting and for the local planning authority by Alison Tinniswood, Senior Archaeologist, Hertfordshire County Council. The site was project managed by Tim Bradley and was supervised by both Alexis Haslam and the author, Neil Hawkins.



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

### **3 PLANNING BACKGROUND**

#### **3.1 National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)**

3.1.1 In March 2012 the Department for Communities and Local Government issued the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), replacing Planning Policy Statement 5 (PPS5) 'Planning for the Historic Environment' which itself replaced Planning Policy Guidance Note 16 (PPG16) 'Archaeology and Planning'. It provides guidance for planning authorities, property owners, developers and others on the investigation and preservation of heritage assets.

3.1.2 In considering any planning application for development, the local planning authority will be guided by the policy framework set by government guidance, in this instance the NPPF, by current Unitary Development Plan policy and by other material considerations.

#### **3.2 East Herts Local Plan**

3.2.1 The relevant local plan policy for the site is the East Herts Local Plan (Second Review April 2007). The following 'saved' policies relating to archaeology are still valid until the emergence of the Local Development Framework (LDF):

##### **BH1 Archaeology and New Development**

Development will not be permitted where the council considers that it will adversely affect archaeological sites of National Importance, whether scheduled or unscheduled, and their setting

##### **BH2 Archaeological Evaluations and Assessments**

**On sites where it is demonstrated that there are remains of archaeological importance, whether of National or local significance, the applicant will be expected to provide the results of an archaeological evaluation and/or assessment prior to the determination of an application. The evaluation and/or assessment should seek to define:**

- a) The nature and condition of any archaeological remains within the application site ; and
- b) The likely impact of the proposed development on such features

**On the basis of the results of the evaluation and/or the assessment, the Council will consider the most appropriate means of mitigating the impact of the development on the Historic Environment in order to achieve preservation in situ or, where this is not merited, the measures needed to secure the recording of any remains prior to development.**

##### **BH3 Archaeological Conditions and Agreements**

- I. Where development is permitted on sites containing archaeological remains, any planning permission will be subject to conditions and/or formal agreements requiring appropriate excavation and recording in advance of development and the publication of results.
- II. The enhancement of archaeological remains and their setting will be sought by way of a planning obligation in circumstances where such works are necessary and relevant to the development proposed.



3.2.2 No Scheduled Ancient Monuments, Historic Wreck Sites or Historic Battlefield designations lie within the vicinity of the study site. The College buildings within the north-east corner of the study site do however comprise Grade II Listed structures of 18th century date, with a Grade II summerhouse within the north-western part of the site. The north-eastern portion of the site also lies within a designated Conservation Area. The site lies within an Archaeological Alert Area as designated by East Hertfordshire District Council.

## **4 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY**

### **4.1 Geology**

4.1.1 The British Geological Survey online viewer illustrates the site to predominantly comprise Lewes Nodular Chalk Formation and Seaford Chalk Formation (undifferentiated) – Chalk. Sedimentary Bedrock formed approximately 84 to 94 million years ago in the Cretaceous Period. Just to the north of the site lies a small area of the Kempton Park Gravel Formation; sand and gravel superficial deposits formed up to 2 million years ago in the Quaternary Period. Just beyond this to the north lie alluvial deposits associated with the River Lea.

### **4.2 Topography**

4.2.1 The general topography of the site comprises a considerable slope from south to north, towards the River Lea. This is reflected along both Scotts Road and Walton Road which bound the road to the west and east respectively. The site drops from c. 65m OD to the south to c. 35m OD to the north.

4.2.2 The construction of the previously extant modern college facility across the site has resulted in a significantly altered topography of stepped terraces down the slope on various levels.

4.2.3 The course of the New River, constructed to supply fresh water to London in the early seventeenth century lays c. 20m north of the site on an east west alignment. The River Lea lays c. 200m north of the site.

## **5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORIC BACKGROUND**

5.1 A site specific archaeological Desktop Assessment (Meager 2013) has been prepared from which the following is summarised. This assessment included a review of archaeological findspots within a 500m radius held on the Hertfordshire Historic Environment Record (HER) along with a historic map regression exercise charting the development of the site.

### **5.2 Prehistoric**

5.2.1 There are no finds or features of Palaeolithic or Mesolithic date within the vicinity of the study site. Activity relating to later prehistoric periods is however well attested within the area and both Bronze Age and Iron Age farmsteads have been identified to the west of Ware. Finds within a 500m radius of the site include a Neolithic axe (HER 2906, TL 36 14) and a similarly unprovenanced Bronze Age axe (HER 16413, TL 36 14). Prehistoric remains have also recently been identified at Chadwell Green Golf Course and included pits and a gulley, with the flint and pottery recovered suggesting Neolithic and Bronze Age activity.

### **5.3 Roman**

5.3.1 Ermine Street, the Roman road that extends from London on to Lincoln and York lies to the west of the study site. Archaeological work since the early 19th century has established that a substantial Roman settlement once existed at Ware and measured up to c. 3 hectares in extent. This settlement straddled the road to the west and north-west of the study site. Burials have also been discovered to the west and east of the settlement.

5.3.2 Finds recovered from within a 500m radius of the study site include a complete amphora (HER 2097, TL 36 14) and an inhumation in a stone coffin which was found c. 1800 and was interpreted as Roman (HER 4114, TL 36 14)

5.3.3 Throughout the Roman period the study site was situated to the south of the settlement core and to the east of the Road.

### **5.4 Anglo Saxon & Medieval**

5.4.1 Occupation continued in Ware during the post-Roman period on the north side of the River Lea to the north and north-west of the study site. By the late Saxon period settlement had moved to the east of the Roman core and was concentrated east of Baldock Street. This area of habitation subsequently developed into the medieval Borough of Ware. A priory was established after 1081 and was suppressed in 1481. The church dates from the 13th century.

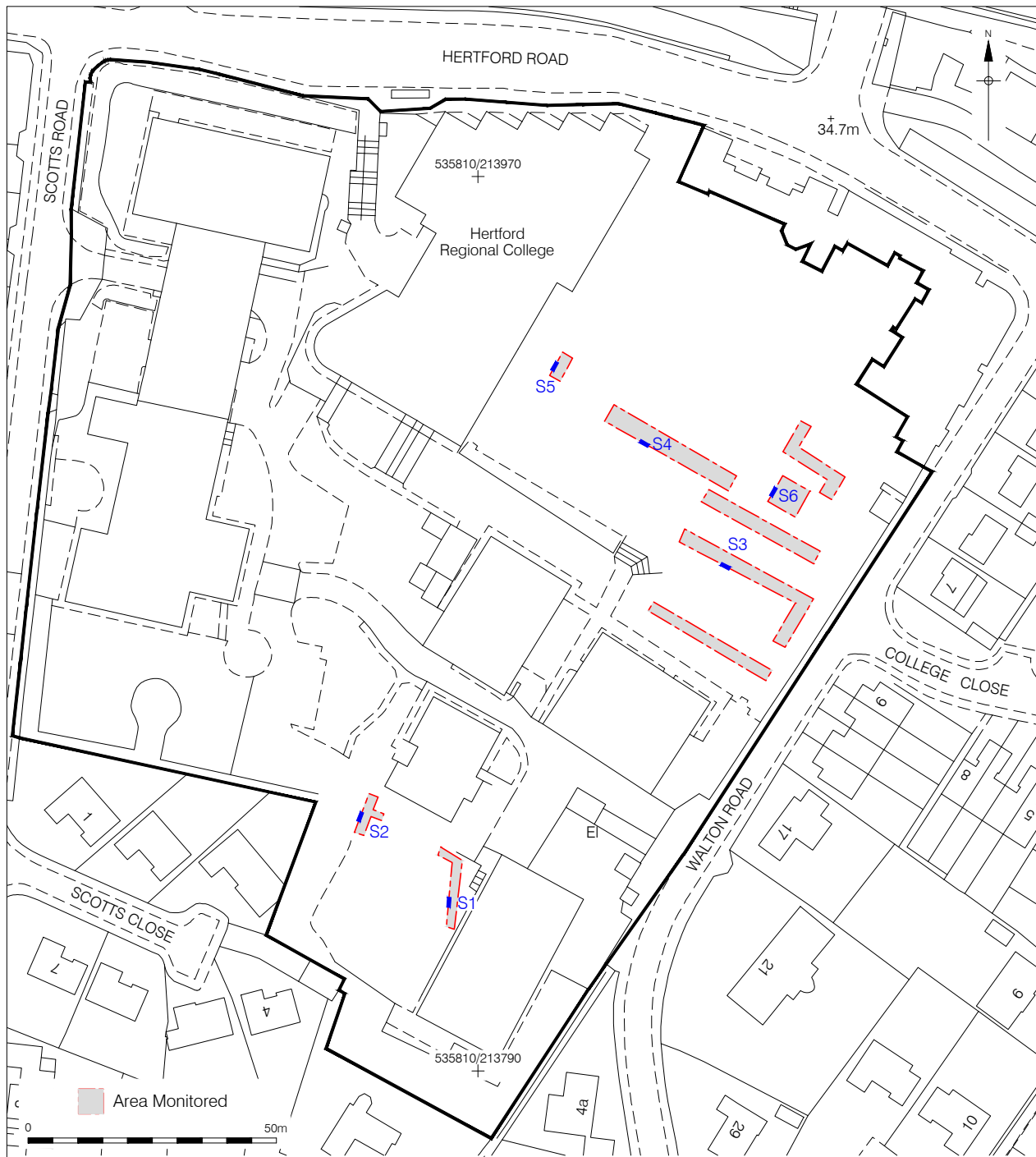
5.4.2 No archaeological finds or features dating to either the Saxon or medieval periods have been identified within the study area. The bridge crossing the River Lea marks the historic crossing point in use since the medieval period.

## 5.5 Post-Medieval & Modern

- 5.5.1 The buildings occupying the north-eastern edge of the college campus, Amwell House, comprise buildings dating to c. 1730. Later additions and alterations were undertaken in c. 1740 and again in the late 18th century, the early 19th century and also in 1973. The house was the residence of the Quaker poet John Scott (1730-1783) who laid out a garden to the rear in the early 1760's. Within the north-west portion of the study site a mid 18th century summerhouse survives (restored in the 1950's) and is now a Grade II listed building. Part of the original extent of the garden (known as Scott's Grotto) is a designated Historic Park and Garden which lies to the south-west of the study site (HER 13491, TL35878 13964).
- 5.5.2 Early maps show the study site to the south of the River Lea on undeveloped land albeit with buildings present in the north-eastern corner. By 1822 a garden is clearly depicted although in 1839 the land is still marked as both arable and meadowland with Amwell House to the north-east. By the time of the 1878 OS map the site was still occupied by Amwell House in the north-east and whilst the remainder of the site comprised open land and woodland. By 1898 further buildings are present in the north-west and the south-east. Ware Girl's Grammar School was established within the buildings in 1906 and more buildings are present on the 1923 OS map. The stables and outbuildings to the west of Amwell House were demolished in the 1960's. Ware College of further education was established on the site in 1964 with further development taking place in the 1970's. The 2006 Site Survey shows the demolition of buildings formerly occupying the north-west and south-west portions of the site. Since 2006 a large college building has been added to the north-western corner of the site.

## 6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

- 6.1 In accordance with the approved Written Scheme of Investigation (Meager 2014), an archaeological monitoring exercise was undertaken. The groundworks comprised the demolition of buildings, the removal of slabs, the grubbing out of foundations and drainage works. The machine excavation associated with these works was monitored by the attendant archaeologist. The objective of the monitoring exercise was to allow the archaeologist to identify, record and retrieve (as far as possible) any archaeological remains that were uncovered in the course of the development programme.
- 6.2 The slabs and foundations were removed with the use of a machine fitted breaker and two 20 tonne 360 degree mechanical excavators. As the machining progressed the archaeologist present examined the nature of the *in situ* and removed soils whilst checking for features and finds and recording the results.
- 6.3 The open areas and exposed sections were, if necessary, cleaned by hand, recorded and photographed. Recording of the deposits was accomplished using the Single Context Recording Method on proforma context and planning sheets.
- 6.4 The archaeological interventions were located by means of measured survey.
- 6.5 No unusual health and safety issues were encountered during the works
- 6.6 The completed archive, comprising all written, drawn and photographic records, will be deposited with Ware Museum under the unique Site Code HHRC14.



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Figure 2  
 Areas Monitored  
 1:1,250 at A4

## **7 ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE (FIGURE 3 AND PLATES)**

### **7.1 Phase 1: Natural**

7.1.1 The earliest deposits recorded during the monitoring exercise were the underlying natural deposits. These consisted of two distinct geology types by area; in the southern area of the site natural cryoturbated chalk with gravelly brickearth was recorded, context [1]. The other areas monitored to the northeast, recorded a reddish-orange sandy gravel deposit, context [2]. The natural deposit [1] was recorded between 44.30m OD and 44.16m OD in the southwest of the site and natural deposit [2] was recorded at a variety of levels between 37.38m OD and 35.50m OD to the northeast.

7.1.2 These natural deposits are consistent with the known underlying geology as described by the British Geological Survey, the levels of which clearly represent a disturbed land surface, and not the original topography.

### **7.2 Modern**

7.2.1 Sealing the natural deposits in all areas of the watching brief were various sequences of modern deposits. In the southern extreme of the site, in the location of the drainage trenches, modern made ground between 0.20m thick and 0.85m thick was recorded (Sections 1 & 2). These deposits were sealed by tarmac, being recorded between 44.50m OD and 45m OD and represent the modern ground level.

7.2.2 In the central area of the site to the immediate west of College Close, modern deposits between 0.50m and 0.60m thick and composed of redeposited silty gravel were sealed by modern concrete 0.20m thick (Section 3). This concrete represented the modern ground level, located at 37.10m OD.

7.2.3 At the northern end of the site modern deposits c. 1m thick were recorded and were sealed by modern concrete 0.20m thick (Section 6). This concrete represented the modern ground level, located 36.70m OD.

7.2.4 In the western area of the site modern deposits between 0.50m and 0.60m, again composed of redeposited silty gravel, were sealed by modern concrete 0.20m thick (Section 4). This concrete represented the modern ground level, located at 38.08m OD.

7.2.5 Further north in the car park area more substantial modern deposits, 1m thick, were recorded sealed by modern concrete 0.20m thick (Section 5). This concrete represented the modern ground level, located at 38.10m OD.

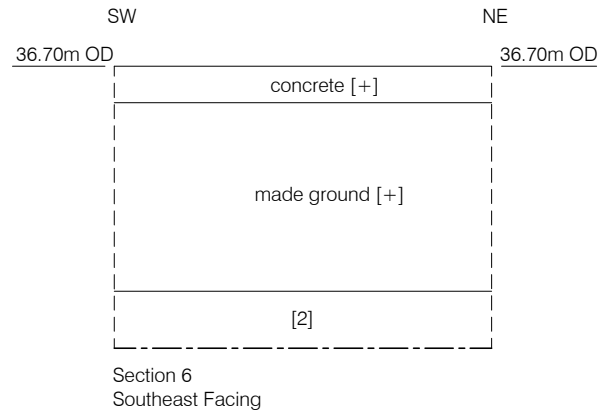
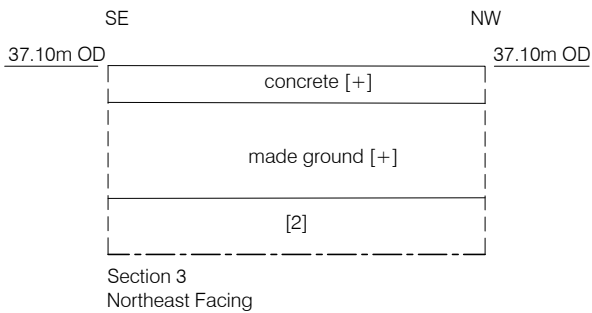
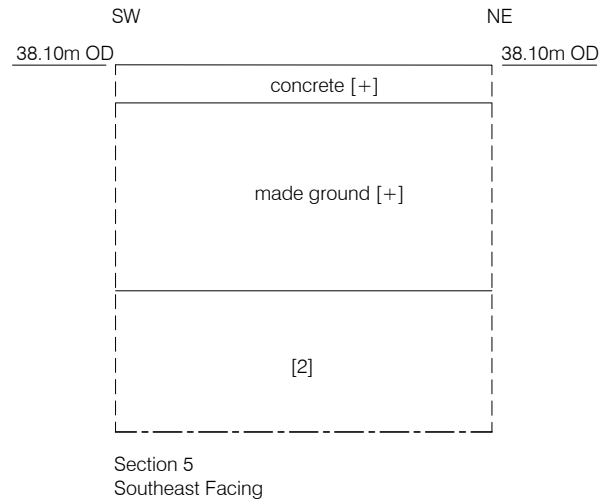
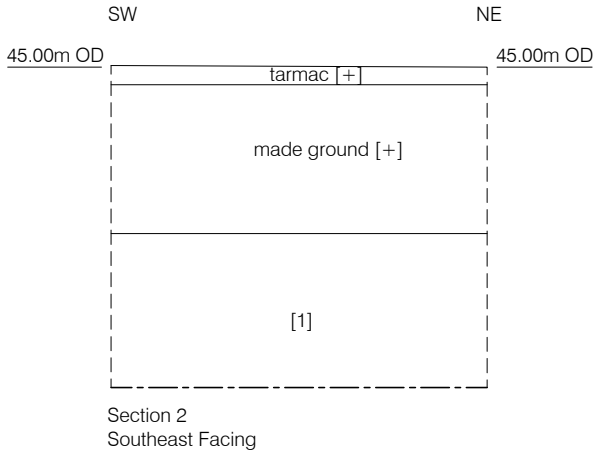
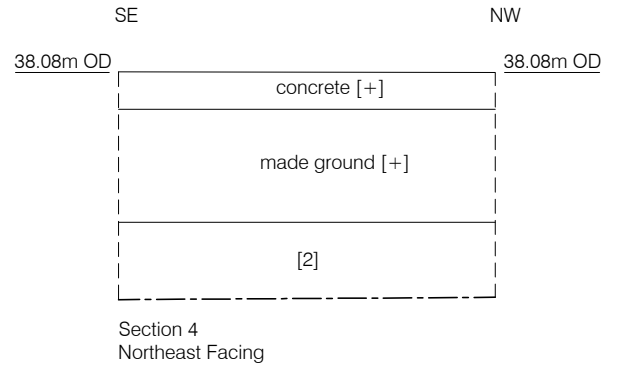
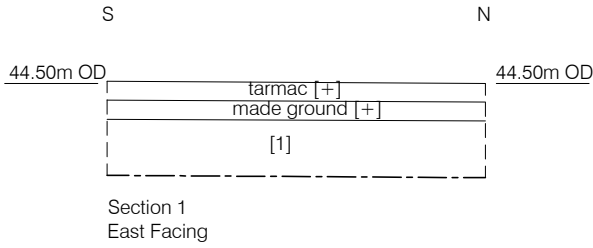


Figure 3  
Sections 1 - 6  
1:40 at A4



PLATE 1: WEST FACING SHOT OF SECTION 1



PLATE 2: SOUTH FACING SHOT OF SECTION 6



*PLATE 3: SOUTHWEST FACING SHOT OF SECTION 4*



*PLATE 4: NORTHWEST FACING SHOT OF SECTION 5*



## **8 INTERPRETATIONS AND CONCLUSIONS**

- 8.1 Natural deposits were recorded throughout the areas excavated during the watching brief. These natural deposits consisted of two different geological types; the southwest of the site recorded a cryoturbated chalk with gravelly brickearth and the northeast of the site recorded a sandy-gravel. These natural deposits are both consistent with the known underlying geology of the site as illustrated by the British Geological Survey; Lewes Nodular Chalk Formation and Seaford Chalk Formation (undifferentiated) and the Kempton Park Gravel Formation respectively. These deposits were recorded between a highest level of 44.30m OD in the southwest and 35.50m OD to the northeast.
- 8.2 The natural deposits recorded clearly represent a truncated land surface and in no way represent the former natural topography, which has clearly been heavily landscaped and modified.
- 8.3 No archaeological features, deposits or artefacts dating to any historical periods from the prehistoric to the post-medieval were recorded during the archaeological monitoring exercise.
- 8.4 Directly sealing the natural deposits in all areas of the site were various thicknesses of modern deposits sealed by concrete which represented the modern ground level. The presence of exclusively modern deposits directly sealing natural strata strongly suggests that site has seen considerable modification and horizontal truncation during the modern era. The topography of the site is testament to this as a considerable slope can be seen external to the site along Walton Road. Within the site boundary however, a number of terraces have been cut into the side of the slope to facilitate the construction of the former college buildings. This process has had a severe impact on any potentially underlying archaeological features or deposits which may once have been extant.

## **9 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

- 9.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology would like to thank Richard Meager of CgMs Consulting for commissioning the fieldwork on behalf of Hertfordshire Regional College. Thanks also go to Alison Tinniswood for monitoring the work on behalf of Hertfordshire County Council.
- 9.2 The author would like to thank Tim Bradley for project management and editing, Alexis Haslam for starting the fieldwork and for the illustrations.

## **10 BIBLIOGRAPHY**

Meager, R. 2013 *An Archaeological Desk Based Assessment on Land at Hertford Regional College, London Road, Ware, Hertfordshire* CgMs unpublished report

Meager, R. 2014 *A Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Monitoring Exercise on Land at Hertford Regional College, London Road, Ware, Hertfordshire* CgMs unpublished report

## APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT INDEX

Site Code	Context	Type	Area	Sec. No.	Description
HHRC 14	1	Natural	South	1, 2	Cryoturbated Chalk
HHRC 14	2	Natural	North	3, 4, 5, 6	Gravel

## APPENDIX 2: OASIS REPORT FORM

**OASIS ID: preconst1-190907**

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### Project details

Project name	Hertford Regional College, Ware Campus, Scotts Road, Ware, Hertfordshire
Short description of the project	Pre-Construct Archaeology undertook an archaeological monitoring exercise at Hertford Regional College, Ware Campus, Scotts Road, Ware, Hertfordshire between the 4th and 17th of September 2014. The works involved monitoring the demolition of buildings, the removal of slabs and footings and the introduction of drainage. The site had been heavily landscaped and horizontally truncated during former construction episodes on the site. No archaeology was encountered.
Project dates	Start: 04-09-2014 End: 17-09-2014
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	HHRC14 - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Conservation Area
Current Land use	Other 3 - Built over
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF

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### Project location

Country	England
Site location	HERTFORDSHIRE EAST HERTFORDSHIRE WARE Hertford Regional College, Ware Campus, Scotts Road, Ware, Hertfordshire
Postcode	SG12
Study area	0 Square metres

Site coordinates TL 3580 1390 51.8067567133 -0.0300538563447 51 48 24 N 000 01 48  
W Point

Height OD / Depth Min: 35.50m Max: 44.30m

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### Project creators

Name of Organisation Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd.

Project brief originator CgMs Consulting

Project design originator Richard Meager

Project director/manager Tim Bradley

Project supervisor Neil Hawkins

Name of sponsor/funding body Hertford Regional College

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### Project archives

Physical Archive Exists? No

Digital Archive Exists? No

Paper Media available "Context sheet", "Map", "Report", "Unpublished Text"

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Entered by Neil Hawkins (nhawkins@pre-construct.com)

Entered on 24 September 2014

# 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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