

**THE DERWENT CENTRE
PRINCESS ALEXANDRA HOSPITAL
HAMSTEL ROAD, HARLOW
ESSEX CM20 1QX**

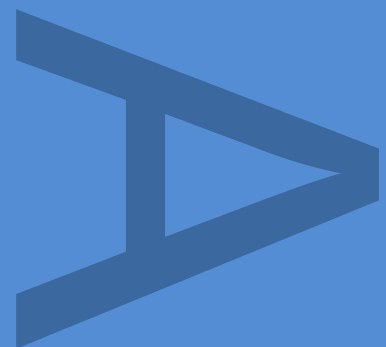
**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL
MONITORING EXERCISE**

**LOCAL PLANNING AUTHORITY:
HARLOW DISTRICT COUNCIL**

PCA REPORT NO: R12024

SITE CODE: HADC15

MARCH 2015




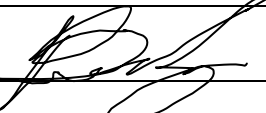
PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY

DOCUMENT VERIFICATION

THE DERWENT CENTRE,
PRINCESS ALEXANDRA HOSPITAL,
HAMSTEL ROAD,
HARLOW, ESSEX CM20 1QX

Quality Control

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**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING EXERCISE AT THE DERWENT
CENTRE, PRINCESS ALEXANDRA HOSPITAL, HAMSTEL ROAD,
HARLOW, ESSEX CM20 1QX**

Local Planning Authority: Harlow District Council

Planning Refs: HW/PL/11/00096

Site Code: HADC15

Central National Grid Reference: TL 4391 1018

Written by Peter Boyer

Project Manager: Tim Bradley

Commissioning Client: CgMs Limited on behalf of North Essex Partnership Trust

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March 2015**

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1 Abstract

- 1.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd. conducted an archaeological watching brief during groundworks for the extension of The Derwent Centre at Princess Alexandra Hospital, Harlow, Essex between the 16th and 25th of February 2015. The watching brief monitored ground reduction and the excavation of drainage runs during the early stages of the development project.
- 1.2 The earliest deposits recorded across the site were natural sands and gravels, observed at differing elevations, though truncated to varying degrees by previous development of the hospital complex.
- 1.3 Truncated natural deposits were directly overlain by made ground of varying thickness and composition, which appears to have been deposited at the time of the development of the hospital and the extensive truncation of underlying deposits.
- 1.4 The stratigraphic sequence was capped by areas of imported modern topsoil to provide grassed areas and varying types of hard standing to provided surfaces for pedestrian and vehicular access.

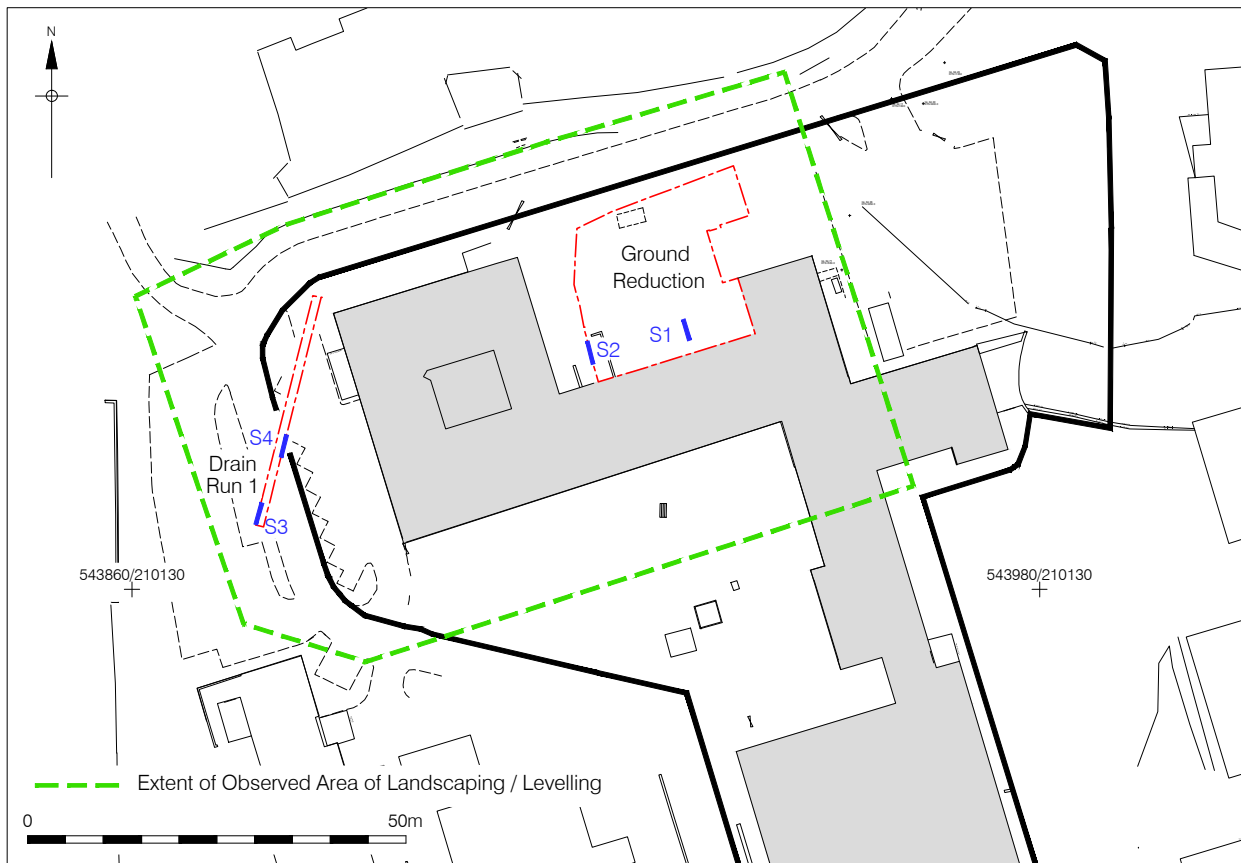
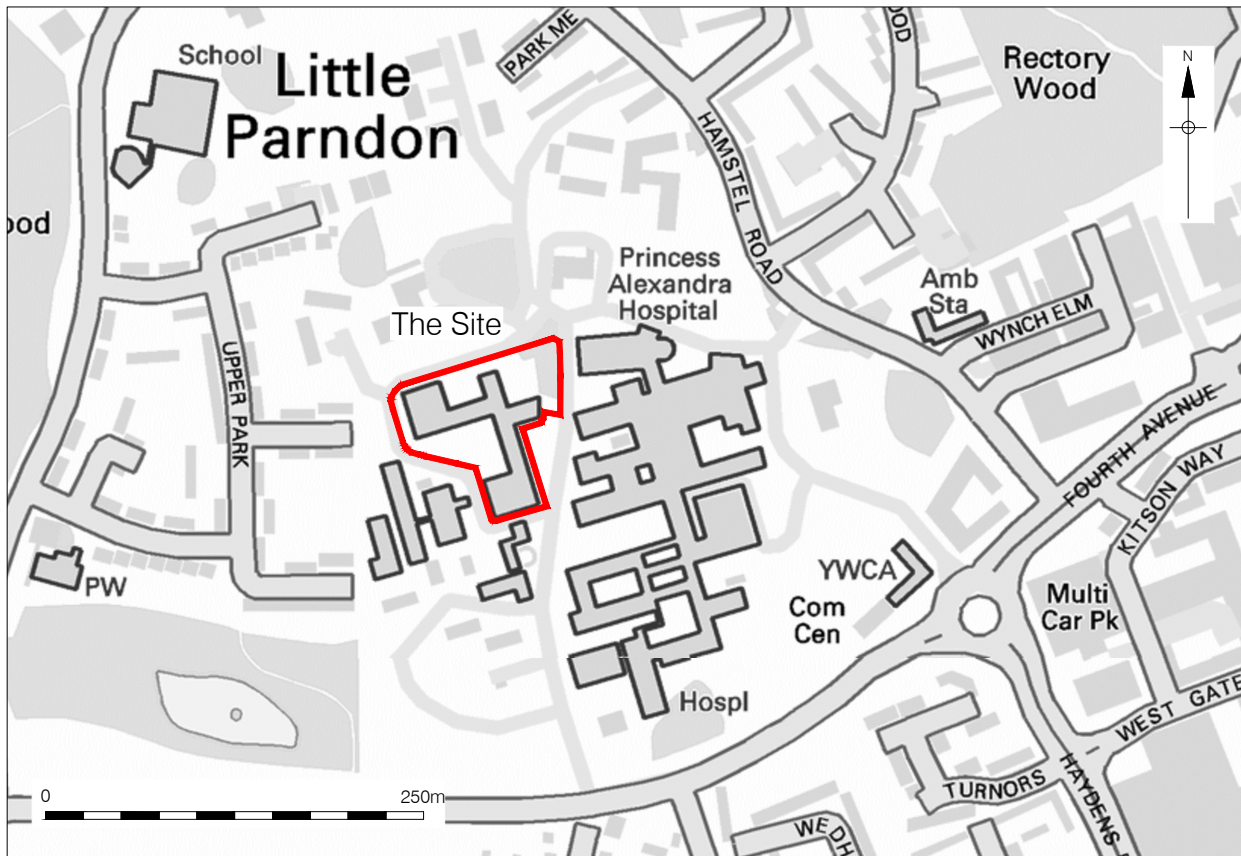
2 Introduction

- 2.1 Between the 16th and 25th of February 2014 Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd. (PCA) carried out an archaeological watching brief during ground reduction work and the excavation of drainage runs at The Derwent Centre, Princess Alexandra Hospital, Harlow, Essex (Figures 1 & 2).
- 2.2 The work was carried out as part of a programme of development to extend The Derwent Centre building, including the creation of new basement areas. Ground reduction extended to more than 3m below ground level (bgl) in the areas of new basement construction and new drainage runs were excavated to depths up to 2m bgl, though potential archaeological deposits were only likely to be present in the upper c. 1m of the sequences exposed.
- 2.3 The work was commissioned by CgMs Limited on behalf of North Essex Partnership Trust and comprised the archaeological monitoring of ground reduction immediately north of the building (Figure 4) and the excavation of drainage runs to the north and west (Figure 4).
- 2.4 The site is located at National Grid Reference (NGR) TL 4391 1018.



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



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 Survey Data Provided by Sumo Survey Services (2015)
 © Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd 2015
 10/03/15 JS

Figure 2
 Detail Site Location and Trench Location
 1:5,000 & 1:1,000 at A4

3 Geology and Topography

- 3.1 The area of proposed development lies towards the north-west of the Princess Alexandra Hospital complex in the Little Parndon area of Harlow, towards the north-west of the urban conurbation area.
- 3.2 According to the British Geological Survey (1: 50,000 Sheet 240: Epping; BGS n.d.) the underlying geology of the site comprises sand silt and clay of the Palaeogene (Eocene) London Clay formation, deposited between c. 56 and 34 million years ago. This is overlain by superficial mid-Pleistocene glaciofluvial deposits comprising sands and gravels deposited during Ice Age conditions.
- 3.3 The hospital site lies on sloping terrain that rises from c. 40m AOD in the Stort Valley to the north to c. 100m AOD at Rye Hill to the south. The Derwent Centre site lies on ground that locally slopes upwards from west to east at surface elevations between c. 61m AOD and c. 65m AOD, though the topography was substantially modified during construction of the centre. The area of development immediately north of the existing Derwent Centre building was mostly covered by grass at a surface elevation of c. 63.65m AOD but at the western end of the area there was a sharp slope downwards where the natural slope had been terraced during previous development. In this area a grassed bank sloped down to a paved area, beyond which there was further grass, the lower area being located at a surface elevation of c. 61.65m AOD.
- 3.4 The nearest water course to the site is the Cannons Brook, a south to north flowing stream that is a tributary of the River Stort, which it joins to the north-west of Harlow. The westward flowing River Stort itself, lies some 900m north of The Derwent Centre
- 3.5 The area of development is bounded to the north, west and south by an internal hospital road and to the east by car-parking areas associated with The Derwent Centre.

4 Archaeological and Historical Background

- 4.1 The archaeological and historical background to the study site was previously discussed in an assessment document produced prior to submission of the planning application for the current development (Frederick Gibberd Partnership 2011). The findings of the assessment are summarised here along with further information that has come to light since that report was produced. There is little evidence for earlier prehistoric (Palaeolithic to Mesolithic) activity in the area and none within a 1km radius of The Derwent Centre according to the Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER). However, a Neolithic occupation area has been identified in the Northbrooks area some 800m to the south. A number of pits were recorded and finds included grooved ware pottery, fired clay and struck flints (Hedges 1980, 34). An assemblage of prehistoric finds comprising a quartzite hammerstone, seven arrowheads, a small jadeite adze and a "good" scraper is also recorded in the Parndon area c. 240m north-west of the site.
- 4.2 Within the Princess Alexandra Hospital complex, three mounds to the north of the study site appear to be Bronze Age barrows (Lawson *et al.* 1981). Archaeological investigations within the hospital grounds have also revealed evidence of Early Bronze Age or Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age date (RPS Consultants 2000), though subsequent investigations revealed little of archaeological interest (Robertson 2003). Iron Age and Roman material has been recovered in the Northbrooks area south of the site in close proximity to the Neolithic occupation area, but other than this no further late prehistoric or Roman activity is recorded within 1km of the site, though there have been significant Roman finds a little further afield.
- 4.3 There is no evidence of early medieval activity in the vicinity of the study site but by the Late Saxon period the area had become part of the manor of Little Parndon, which according to Domesday Book comprised an estate of three hides held in 1066 by a free man and by 1086 by Roger as tenant of Peter de Valognes. The site remained within the manor, which passed through numerous hands during the medieval and post-medieval periods until it was sold to Harlow Development Corporation in 1953. Prior to this there had been little development in the vicinity of the site apart from the construction of Parndon Hall, a large house within the grounds of the former estate, a short distance to the north in the 19th century.
- 4.4 After World War Two, the masterplan for Harlow was developed and construction of the New Town commenced. Once the town had become established, development of the Princess Alexandra Hospital complex also occurred. The Derwent Centre was constructed as part of the original complex in phases between 1958 and 1966. There was further development of the hospital complex in the 1990s, but not of The Derwent Centre.

5 Planning Background

- 5.1 The development of the site is subject to planning guidance and policies contained within the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and policies of Harlow District Council, which fully recognises the importance of the buried heritage for which it is the custodian.
- 5.2 In March 2012, the government published the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). In summary, current national policy provides a framework which protects nationally important designated Heritage Assets and their settings, in appropriate circumstances seeks adequate information (from desk based assessment and field evaluation where necessary) to enable informed decisions regarding the historic environment and provides for the investigation by intrusive or non-intrusive means of sites not significant enough to merit *in-situ* preservation.
- 5.3 The local planning authority responsible for the study site is Harlow District Council (HDC), which is currently formulating a new Local Development Plan as required by the NPPF. Meanwhile the Adopted Replacement Harlow Local Plan (2006) provides the basis for planning policy within the district, including that relating to Scheduled monuments and archaeological sites of national or local importance along with the following specific to archaeological remains of lesser importance:

BE13 The desire to preserve the remains and setting of a site with archaeological remains of lesser importance will be a material consideration when considering development proposals affecting the site. This desire will be balanced against the importance of the remains; the need for the development; the possibility of preservation in situ; and / or the appropriateness of an archaeological excavation for 'preservation by record'.

- 5.4 The site is now being developed with the extension and refurbishment of The Derwent Centre, a planning application (HW/PL/11/00096) having been submitted in April 2011 and approved with conditions by HDC in July of the same year. Condition 6 of the approved plan specifies that:

No development or preliminary groundworks of any kind shall take place until the applicant has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted by the applicant and approved by the Local Planning Authority.

Reason: In order to preserve and protect sites of archaeological importance and to accord with Policy BE13 of the Adopted Replacement Harlow Local Plan, July 2006.

- 5.5 In accordance with the condition a written scheme of investigation (WSI) was produced by CgMs Limited (CgMs 2012) and approved by the local planning authority. The work was carried out according to the WSI during February 2015 and is described in this report.

6 Archaeological Methodology

- 6.1 The fieldwork comprised the archaeological monitoring of ground reduction in an area at the north of The Derwent Centre building and the excavation of a series of drainage runs north and west of Shannon House at the north-west of the building. All aspects of the work followed national (IFA 2008) and regional (Gurney 2003) guidelines, and complied with PCA's own fieldwork manual (Taylor and Brown 2009). Reference was also made, where necessary, to regional and local resource assessment and research agenda and strategy documents (Glazebrook 1997; Brown and Glazebrook 2000; Medlycott 2011; O'Connor 2005) as required by ECC. The fieldwork was carried out according to a WSI issued by CgMs Limited (CgMs 2012) and approved by the local planning authority.
- 6.2 Ground reduction took place in an irregular area measuring approximately 30m east to west by 20m north to south at the extension location at the north of the building. Part of this area had until recently been covered by a northern extension of The Derwent Centre, the construction of which, along with a subterranean steam duct had already truncated underlying deposits. The archaeological monitoring therefore concentrated on an area not obviously directly impacted upon by the previous development and measuring c. 24m east to west by 22m north to south (Area 1; Figure 3). The drainage runs were mostly internal to existing buildings and the new extension but external runs extended from the north-west corner of the northern extension, along the northern side of Shannon House, through car-parking areas west of the building and along the southern side of Shannon House. However, many of these runs had been previously excavated so monitoring concentrated on the excavation of new runs west of Shannon House, in particular a major NNE-SSW run c. 30m long, linking previously established manholes (DR1; Figure 4, Plate 1).
- 6.3 Ground reduction was carried out using a 13 tonne 360° tracked excavator with a 1.8m wide, flat bladed ditching bucket, which removed upper levels in 100mm spits, lower deposits of no archaeological interest being bulk excavated. The drainage runs were up to 1.05m wide and excavated using an 8.5 tonne 360° tracked excavator with various flat bladed buckets to a maximum depth of 2m below the current surface level (Plate 2). The work was constantly monitored by the author with stratigraphic sequences recorded along with any extant archaeological features.

7 Ground Reduction, Drainage Trench Excavations and Interpretation of Sequences

7.1 This section records the stratigraphic sequences exposed during the ground reduction and in the trenching across the site and offers some interpretation of the sequences revealed. Elevations for the tops of sequences are extrapolated from elevation data on survey plans of the site and temporary bench marks located across the site.

7.2 Area 1

7.2.1 Basal deposits recorded across the site comprised Pleistocene sands and gravels. In Area 1 at the north of the building the upper natural deposit was soft, light reddish brown sand [3], recorded at an upper elevation of 62.93m AOD (Figure 5, Section 1). Below this were varying deposits of sand and gravel extending to at least the excavated formation level of c. 60.4m AOD (Plate 3).

7.2.2 In Area 1 natural sands and gravels had been significantly truncated, particularly to the west, where there had been terracing of the natural slope and excavation for the lower foundations of the secure unit (Shannon House) at the north-west corner of The Derwent Centre (Plate 4). The sands and gravels were directly overlain by up to 0.62m of mixed made ground [2] comprising reworked natural deposits, demolition rubble of recent date and other materials, recorded at an upper elevation of 63.51m AOD. Adjacent to the building the same material filled the extensive foundation trenches, which extended up to 2m from the structure and more than 3m bgl. The made ground was also truncated by numerous services, particularly drainage runs.

7.2.3 The stratigraphic sequence in Area 1 was completed by a layer of turf-covered topsoil [1] across much of the area. This material was up to 0.19m thick and recorded at an upper elevation of 63.63m AOD. At the foot of the slope towards the western end of the area, a north to south aligned path comprised of concrete paving slabs [4] had been laid directly over the exposed and truncated natural sands and gravels. This was recorded at an upper elevation of 61.86m AOD (Figure 5, Section 2).

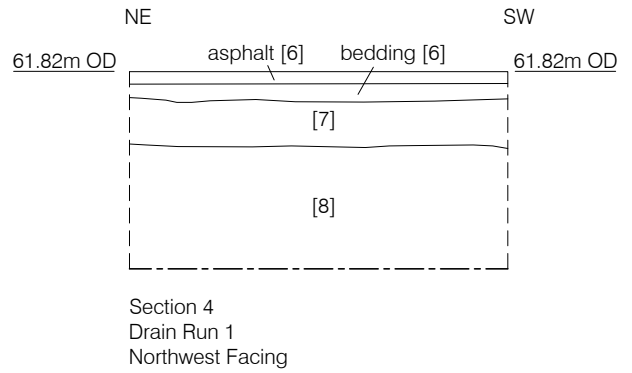
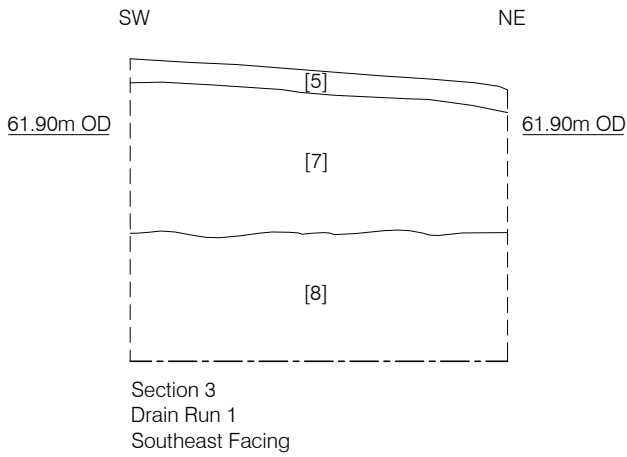
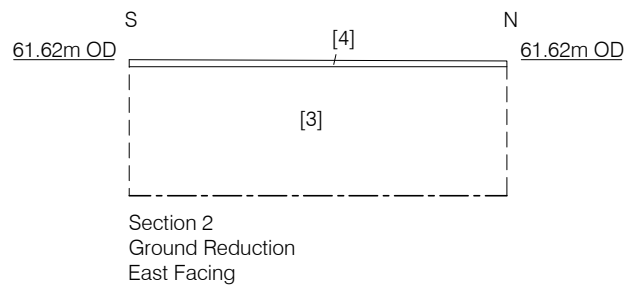
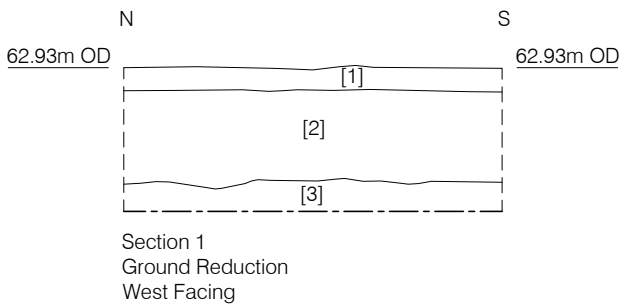
7.3 Drainage Runs

7.3.1 In the area of the monitored drainage runs west of Shannon House the natural deposit comprised sands and gravels [8] recorded at upper elevations varying between 61.13m AOD and 61.25m AOD, and extending to at least the basal drain level of c. 59m AOD.

7.3.2 The natural sands and gravels were overlain by mixed made ground comprising redeposited natural materials and recent demolition rubble [7] (Figure 5, Section 4; Plate 5). This was of a negligible thickness at the north-west corner of Shannon House but increased to a thickness of approximately 1m at the south-western end of

the monitored drainage run (Figure 5, Section 3; Plate 6), where it formed an artificial bank, which had been grassed over.

- 7.3.3 The stratigraphic sequence was mostly completed by modern asphalt and concrete paving surfaces, though with some garden areas and a grassed bank to the south-west, recorded at elevations between 61.45m AOD (lower asphalt car parking area to the north-east) and 62.53m AOD (top of grassed bank to the south-west).



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Figure 3
Sections 1 - 4
1:50 at A4

8 Phased Archaeological Sequence

8.1 Phase 1: Natural Deposits

8.1.1 The earliest deposits recorded across the site were natural sands and gravels varying in composition from fine sand to coarse gravel and generally light reddish brown in colour. These appear to have been mid Pleistocene glaciofluvial deposits, which are shown on geological maps overlying Eocene London Clay across the site.

8.2 Phase 2: Recent

8.2.1 In all areas there had been significant truncation of underlying deposits into the natural sands and gravels. No natural subsoil deposits survived and the natural sands and gravels were directly overlain by mixed made ground deposits comprising reworked natural materials, demolition rubble and other deposits of recent date. In the ground reduction area at the north of the building the made ground was up to 0.62m thick and included modern, machine-made, frogged bricks. Similar material was present in the drainage runs to the west, where the made ground was up to 1m thick.

8.3 Phase 3: Modern

8.3.1 The stratigraphic sequence was capped in Area 1 by a layer of topsoil up to 0.19m thick with a cover of turf over much of the area, with grass and a concrete slab path capping the sequence at the reduced elevation western end. In the areas of drainage run excavation the upper deposits generally comprised asphalt and concrete paving which made up the modern surfaces, along with grassed areas.

9 Discussion and Conclusions

- 9.1 Archaeological monitoring of the ground reduction and drainage trench excavation revealed a number of phases of deposition and activity on the site which started with the accumulation of natural deposits and ended with the laying of modern surfaces associated with the development of the hospital complex.
- 9.2 Natural deposits were exposed in all areas monitored and comprised mid Pleistocene glaciofluvial materials, which are known to have been extant across the hospital site. The varying upper elevations of the deposits have indicated the local natural slope upwards of the site from west to east, and also the extensive truncation resulting from development of the hospital complex and The Derwent Centre in particular.
- 9.3 Truncated natural deposits were directly overlain by made ground of varying thickness and composition, which appears to have been deposited at the time of the development of the hospital development and the extensive truncation of underlying deposits.
- 9.4 The stratigraphic sequence was capped by areas of imported modern topsoil to provide grassed areas and varying types of hard standing to provided surfaces for pedestrian and vehicular access.
- 9.5 Overall the watching brief has shown a natural topography significantly altered by recent hospital building development, overlain by deposits laid down during development and capped by modern hard and soft surfaces. No significant features or finds of archaeological interest were present.

10 Acknowledgements

- 10.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd. would like to thank Richard Meager of CgMs Limited for commissioning the work; the staff of Vinci Construction UK Limited, particularly the site manager, Mike Simmonds for enabling the monitoring; the staff of P. C. Cooney for carrying out the groundworks, particularly supervisor Pauric Gallagher and drivers Danny, Darren and Coner; and Maria Medlycott of Place Services, Essex County Council for monitoring the project.
- 10.2 The author wishes to thank Tim Bradley for project management and editing this report and Adela Murray-Brown for preparing the illustrations.

11 Bibliography

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APPENDIX 1: PLATES



Plate 1: Location of DR1, Looking NNE



Plate 2: Excavation of DR1, Looking SSW



Plate 3: Truncated Natural Deposits in Area 1, Looking South



Plate 4: Heavily Truncated Natural and Made Ground Deposits, Western End of Area 1, Looking North-West



Plate 5: WNW-Facing Section, DR1 (Scale: 0.5m)

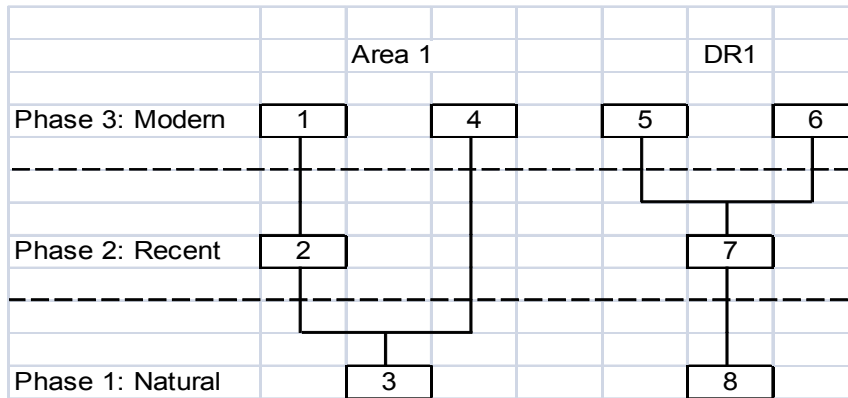


Plate 6: ESE-Facing Section, DR1 (Scale: 0.5m)

APPENDIX 2: CONTEXT INDEX

Site Code	Cxt	Type	Location	Description	Date	Phase
HADC15	1	Layer	Area 1	Turf and topsoil	Modern	3
HADC15	2	Layer	Area 1	Made ground	Recent	2
HADC15	3	Layer	Area 1	Natural sand and gravel	Natural	1
HADC15	4	Layer	Area 1	Concrete paving slabs	Modern	3
HADC15	5	Layer	DR1	Turf and topsoil	Modern	3
HADC15	6	Layer	DR1	Asphalt car park surface	Modern	3
HADC15	7	Layer	DR1	Made ground	Recent	2
HADC15	8	Layer	DR1	Natural sand and gravel	Natural	1

APPENDIX 3: SITE MATRICES



APPENDIX 4: EHER SUMMARY SHEET

ESSEX HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD/ESSEX ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORY

SUMMARY SHEET

Site name/Address: The Derwent Centre, Princess Alexandra Hospital, Hamstel Road, Harlow, Essex	
Parish: Harlow	District: Harlow
NGR: TL 4391 1018	Site Code: HADC15
Type of Work: Watching Brief	Site Director/Group: Peter Boyer/PCA Ltd.
Date of Work: 16/02/2015 – 26/02/2015	Size of Area Investigated: c. 430m ²
Location of Finds/Curating Museum: Harlow Museum	Funding source: Developer
Further Seasons Anticipated?: Not Known	Related EHCR No.s: 18154, 31657, 45353, 46426, 46428,
Final Report: Boyer, P. 2015 <i>An Archaeological Monitoring Exercise at The Derwent Centre, Princess Alexandra Hospital, Hamstel Road, Harlow, Essex CM20 1QX</i> , PCA unpublished report	
Periods Represented: Post-Medieval, Modern	
<p>SUMMARY OF FIELDWORK RESULTS: Archaeological monitoring of the ground reduction and drainage trench excavation revealed a number of phases of deposition and activity on the site which started with the accumulation of natural deposits and ended with the laying of modern surfaces associated with the development of the hospital complex. Natural deposits were exposed in all areas monitored and comprised mid Pleistocene glaciofluvial materials, which are known to have been extant across the hospital site. The varying upper elevations of the deposits have indicated the local natural slope upwards of the site from west to east, and also the extensive truncation resulting from development of the hospital complex and The Derwent Centre in particular. Truncated natural deposits were directly overlain by made ground of varying thickness and composition, which appears to have been deposited at the time of the development of the hospital and the extensive truncation of underlying deposits. The stratigraphic sequence was capped by areas of imported modern topsoil to provide grassed areas and varying types of hard standing to provided surfaces for pedestrian and vehicular access. Overall the watching brief has shown a natural topography significantly altered by recent hospital building development, overlain by deposits laid down during development and capped by modern hard and soft surfaces. No significant features or finds of archaeological interest were present.</p>	
<p>Previous Summaries/Reports: Frederick Gibberd Partnership 2011, <i>The Derwent Centre Harlow: Archaeological Assessment</i>, unpublished report</p>	
Author of Summary: Peter Boyer	Date of Summary: 26 th February 2015

APPENDIX 5: OASIS FORM

OASIS ID: preconst1-204061

Project details

Project name An Archaeological Monitoring Exercise at The Derwent Centre, Princess Alexandra Hospital, Harlow, Essex

Short description of the project Archaeological monitoring of the ground reduction and drainage trench excavation revealed a number of phases of deposition and activity on the site which started with the accumulation of natural deposits and ended with the laying of modern surfaces associated with the development of the hospital complex. Natural deposits were exposed in all areas monitored and comprised mid Pleistocene glaciofluvial materials, which are known to have been extant across the hospital site. The varying upper elevations of the deposits have indicated the local natural slope upwards of the site from west to east, and also the extensive truncation resulting from development of the hospital complex and The Derwent Centre in particular. Truncated natural deposits were directly overlain by made ground of varying thickness and composition, which appears to have been deposited at the time of the development of the hospital and the extensive truncation of underlying deposits. The stratigraphic sequence was capped by areas of imported modern topsoil to provide grassed areas and varying types of hard standing to provided surfaces for pedestrian and vehicular access. Overall the watching brief has shown a natural topography significantly altered by recent hospital building development, overlain by deposits laid down during development and capped by modern hard and soft surfaces.

Project dates Start: 16-02-2015 End: 25-02-2105

Previous/future work No / Not known

Any associated project reference codes 22 - HER event no.

Any associated project reference codes 18154 - HER event no.

Any associated project reference codes 31657 - HER event no.

Any associated project reference codes 45353 - HER event no.

Any associated project reference codes 46426 - HER event no.

Any associated 46428 - HER event no.

project reference
codes

Any associated
project reference
codes HADC15 - Sitecode

Type of project Recording project

Site status None

Current Land use Other 15 - Other

Monument type MADE GROUND Modern

Monument type FOOTPATH Modern

Monument type CAR PARK Modern

Monument type LAWN Modern

Significant Finds NONE None

Investigation type ""Watching Brief""

Prompt Planning condition

Project location

Country England

Site location ESSEX HARLOW HARLOW The Derwent Centre

Postcode CM20 1QX

Study area 430.00 Square metres

Site coordinates TL 4391 1018 51.7712948676 0.0859666861682 51 46 16 N 000
05 09 E Point

Height OD / Depth Min: 60.98m Max: 62.93m

Project creators

Name of
Organisation CgMs Consulting Ltd.

Project brief
originator Essex County Council

Project design
originator Richard Meager

Project
director/manager Tim Bradley

Project supervisor Peter Boyer

Type of sponsor/funding body Consultant

Name of sponsor/funding body CgMs Limited

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists? No

Digital Archive recipient Harlow Museum

Digital Media available "Images raster / digital photography","Text"

Paper Archive recipient Harlow Museum

Paper Media available "Context sheet","Plan","Section"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

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PCA

PCA SOUTH

UNIT 54
BROCKLEY CROSS BUSINESS CENTRE
96 ENDWELL ROAD
BROCKLEY
LONDON SE4 2PD
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FAX: 020 7639 9588
EMAIL: info@pre-construct.com

PCA NORTH

UNIT 19A
TURSDALE BUSINESS PARK
DURHAM DH6 5PG
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PCA CENTRAL

THE GRANARY, RECTORY FARM
BREWERY ROAD, PAMPISFORD
CAMBRIDGESHIRE CB22 3EN
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PCA WEST

BLOCK 4
CHILCOMB HOUSE
CHILCOMB LANE
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HAMPSHIRE SO23 8RB
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PCA MIDLANDS

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