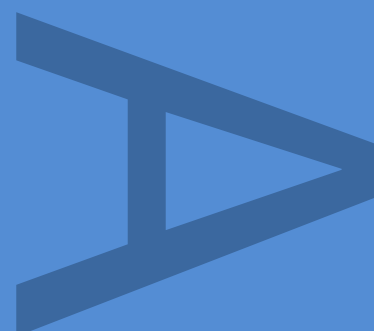


LAND AT HEATH HOUSE
LANE, HEDGE END,
HAMPSHIRE

REPORT ON AN
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
EVALUATION

REPORT NO: R12039

MARCH 2015



PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY

LAND AT HEATH HOUSE LANE, HEDGE END, HAMPSHIRE
REPORT ON AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

Local Planning Authority: Eastleigh Borough Council

Central National Grid Reference: SU 4884 1182

Planning Reference: F/14/74922

PCA Site Code: HHLH15

Written and researched by: Tony Molloy

Project Manager: Paul McCulloch

Commissioning Client: CgMs Consulting

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

Tel: 01962 849549

E-mail: pmcculloch@pre-construct.com

Website: www.pre-construct.com

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PCA Report Number: R12039

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FIGURE 1: SITE LOCATION

FIGURE 2: TRENCH LOCATION



FIGURE 3: SECTIONS

DOCUMENT VERIFICATION

Land Acres, Heath House Lane, Hedge End, Hampshire

Archaeological Evaluation

Quality Control

Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited Project Code			K3909
	Name & Title	Signature	Date
Text Prepared by:	T Molloy		20/11/2014
Graphics Prepared by:			11/11/2014
Graphics Checked by:	J Brown		11/11/2014
Project Manager Sign-off:	P McCulloch		25/11/2014

Revision No.	Date	Checked	Approved

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

SUMMARY

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd. (hereafter PCA) in advance of a proposed residential development on land at Heath House Lane, Hedge End, Hampshire. CgMs Consulting Ltd. commissioned PCA to undertake the evaluation.

The evaluation, undertaken on 8th – 11th March 2015 and comprising three trenches, revealed topsoil, subsoil and natural deposits within the site. Two modern features were exposed cutting subsoil in one trench. Otherwise, no features or artefacts pre-dating the modern period were encountered on the site.

A 'cambered' area of ground approximately on the line of the projected course of the Clausentum (Bitterne Manor, Southampton) to Noviomagus (Chichester) Roman road within the site proved to be composed of topsoil and natural deposits and is therefore probably of natural formation.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 PLANNING BACKGROUND

1.1.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd (PCA) was appointed by CgMs Consulting Ltd (CgMs) to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land at Heath House Lane, Hedge End, Hampshire (**Figure 1**) hereafter 'the site' (centred at NGR SU 4884 1182) in advance of residential development.

1.1.2 The proposed development entails the construction of 4 no. 5 bed detached dwellings with associated garages, amenity space and landscaping with access from Heath House Lane and Heath House Close.

1.1.3 The evaluation formed part of a programme of staged investigations to determine the archaeological potential of the site and in doing so assess the potential impact of the proposed development on the archaeological resource. The evaluation was informed by a Desk-based Assessment prepared by CgMs (2014).

1.1.4 PCA submitted a *Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation* which was approved by the County Archaeological Officer of Hampshire County Council acting as archaeological advisor to the Local Planning Authority, Eastleigh Borough Council.

1.2 SITE LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

1.2.1 The site, centred on NGR SU 4884 1182, is located in a residential area of Hedge End, on the south side of Heath House Lane, towards its western end. It is bounded to the west by Heath House Close, to the east by a residential property and to the south by Piland's Copse.

1.2.2 At the time of the evaluation the site comprised an area of open land containing six oak trees, a Hazel tree and a Hawthorn tree. A drainage ditch flanked the southern boundary of the site.

1.3 TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

1.3.1 The site is sloped, falling from 34m aOD in the north to c.31m aOD in the south, consistent with the gently undulating natural topography of the area to the west of the River Hamble, which lies 1Km to the south-east.

1.3.2 The solid geology of the site comprises London Clay Formation, comprising clay, silt and sand according to the Geology of Britain Viewer: <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>).

1.4 HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

1.4.1 The Desk-based Assessment (CgMs 2014) has provided a comprehensive study of the archaeological and historical background to the site, which is not repeated here.

In summary, the assessment concluded that there was a generally low potential for archaeological remains from all periods to exist on the site with the exception of remains from the Roman period, based on the projected course of a Roman road linking the Romano-British settlements of *Clausentum* (Bitterne Manor, Southampton) and *Noviomagus* (Chichester) that crosses the southern area of the site on an east-west alignment.

2. AIMS & OBJECTIVES

The aims and objectives of the investigation were:

- to determine the presence or absence of archaeological resources within the site and, where present, determine their nature, extent, date, condition and significance, taking account of their potential to contain biological and palaeo-environmental remains.
- to report on the results of the evaluation with the aim to provide a context for archaeological resource that it may be identified and provide sufficient information so that the future treatment of the resource, in respect of the proposed development, can be determined in consultation with the archaeological advisor to the Local Planning Authority.

3. METHODOLOGY

3.1 FIELDWORK METHODOLOGY

3.1.1 The evaluation (site code **HHLH15**) comprised the excavation of three trenches using a JCB fitted with a toothless blade bucket. It was intended that the trenches be excavated to a width of 1.8m however, as the machine only came with a 1.5m bucket, it was decided to keep the trenches to the width of the available bucket in consideration of the extremely boggy ground conditions and the potential difficulties that it might create for the manoeuvring of the JCB to attain the intended width.

3.1.2 Trench 1 was positioned in its intended location at the northern end of the site but the presence of a water main (marked out on the ground surface by wooden stakes) running east-west across the site, restricted the north-south extent of the trench to approximately 8m. The shortfall of intended meterage in Trench 1 was compensated by the excavation of an extra 5m of additional trenching to the intended 15m of Trench 2. Trench 3 was moved approximately 5m to the west of its intended north-south position on account of the presence of a fenced area projecting from the eastern site boundary. The actual excavated dimensions of the three trenches were as follows: Trench 1, 8m x 1.5m, Trench 2, 20m x 1.5m and Trench 3, 25m x 1.5m.

- 3.1.3 Topsoil and subsoil deposits were removed in successive shallow spits down to the level of the first archaeological horizon or the natural deposits, whichever was encountered first. The spoil from machine excavation was scanned for unstratified artefacts.
- 3.1.4 Archaeological and potential archaeological deposits were cleaned using hand tools and recorded as set out in the PCA fieldwork manual (Taylor and Brown 2009). Contexts were recorded according to PCAs fieldwork manual approved for use in Hampshire, including written, photographic and drawn records.
- 3.1.5 Deposits or the removal of deposits judged by the excavating archaeologist to constitute individual events were each assigned a unique record number (often referred to within British archaeology as 'context numbers') and recorded utilising PCAs printed pro-forma.
- 3.1.4 A trench plan was made of the final positions of the trenches and representative long sections of each trench drawn at a scale of 1:20 annotated to show heights relative to Ordnance Datum. A photographic record was made of each trench using an OLYMPUS TG-310 digital camera.

3.2 POST FIELDWORK METHODOLOGY

- 3.2.1 English Heritage's Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (EH 2006) was used as the framework for post-excavation work.
- 3.2.2 The archive from the mitigation works is currently held by PCA at their office in Winchester. Subject to the agreement of the legal landowner, the site archive will be deposited with Hampshire Cultural Trust, under an Accession Number.

4. THE CONTEXTS

- 4.1 A unique context number was assigned to each distinguishable depositional event. In the text below context numbers are given in **bold**.
- 4.2 A total of 12 context numbers were allocated to structures, cuts, fills and layers. They are presented in table form in **APPENDIX 1**.
- 4.3 Cultural periods encountered on site were as follows:

Modern 1800 - Present

5. THE RESULTS

5.1 Trench 1

- 5.1.1 The sequence of deposits encountered in Trench 1 comprised a thin, irregular, (up to 0.1m thick) dark-greyish brown topsoil, **100**, which overlay a mixed, dark yellowish brown subsoil containing common rounded flints, clay lenses and charcoal and brick

inclusions **101**, measuring up to 0.5m in thickness (see **Figure 2; Plates 1, 2 & 3**). **101** tapered in thickness to the south. In the west-facing section of the trench **101** was cut by two modern features, **103** and **105**. The cut for **103** measured up to 1.4m in section and was 0.4m deep. Its fill, **104**, was a red-tinged, dark greyish brown sandy clay loam and contained polythene sheeting, glass bottles, linen and brick fragments. Towards the southern end of the trench, subsoil **101** was cut by a further modern feature, **105**, which measured 1.4m in length and 0.4m deep in section but also extended into the base of the trench. The fill of the feature, **106**, was a dark greyish brown sandy loam containing plastics, glass bottles and bricks. Both features in Trench 1 were clearly of modern origin; a conversation with the landowner of 30 years revealed that the site was previously un-fenced which enabled local residents to utilise the site as a dumping ground. At a depth of c.0.4m (c.33.5m aOD) natural London Clay was encountered, consisting of a brownish yellow/light yellowish brown sandy clay, **102**.

5.2 Trench 2

5.2.1 The sequence of deposits recorded in Trench 2 consisted of a thin, very dark greyish brown sandy clay loam topsoil, **200**, overlying natural geology, **201**. The mounded area (see **Figure 2; Plates 3 & 4**) approximating the line of the projected course of the *Claesentum* (Bitterne Manor, Southampton) to *Noviomagus* (Chichester) Roman road appears to be coincidental, as there was no evidence of any man-made layering evident within the trench sections. A 1.5m deep test pit was excavated at the apex of the mound to further test the possibility of buried archaeological deposits though this proved to be negative. The natural geology at the apex of the trench was of a brownish yellow colour whereas the colour of the natural within the lower ends of the trench was of a distinctly greyish brown colour and noticeably 'sticky', indicative of leaching and waterlogging.

5.3 Trench 3

5.3.1 Trench 3 (see **Figure 2; Plates 5 & 6**) similar to Trench 1, comprised topsoil, **300**, overlying London Clay, **301**.

6. THE FINDS

6.1.1 Modern finds were observed within the fills of pits **103** and **105** but were not retained.

7. CONCLUSIONS

- 7.1 The evaluation trenches did not identify any archaeological deposits or features pre-dating the modern period. Two modern pits recorded in Trench 1 appear to be receptacles for refuse disposal.
- 7.2 Natural deposits recorded on the site comprised London Clay in all the trenches, however the colour and texture of the natural varied noticeably within the trenches possibly due to leaching and waterlogging within parts of the site.
- 7.3 No evidence of the Roman road projected on an east-west alignment within the southern area of the site was recorded within the trenches. The mounded area present within the southern area of the site may be a naturally occurring anomaly, typifying the generally undulatory nature of the site, or may be the result of recent, unknown man-made land management.
- 7.4 The absence of significant archaeological deposits would seem to reflect the relatively recent known land use of the site, comprising an area of woodland throughout its documented history.

8. BIBLIOGRAPHY

CgMs, 2014, Archaeological Desk Based Assessment: Land at Heath House Lane, Hedge End, Hampshire, CgMs ref: MS/17245

English Heritage, 2006, Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment

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Pre-Construct Archaeology, February 2015. Written Scheme of Investigation for an Evaluation on Land at Heath House Lane, Hedge End, Hampshire

9. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

PCA West would like to thank the following for their involvement and cooperation during the project:

CgMs Consulting for commissioning the project.

Readypower for provision of the machine hire and driver.

PCA CAD team for preparing the illustrations.

Paul McCulloch for Project Management and Report Editing.

PLATES



Plate 1. Trench 1, looking North.
Scales 2m x 0.4m



Plate 2. South-facing section of Trench
1. Scales 2m x 0.4m

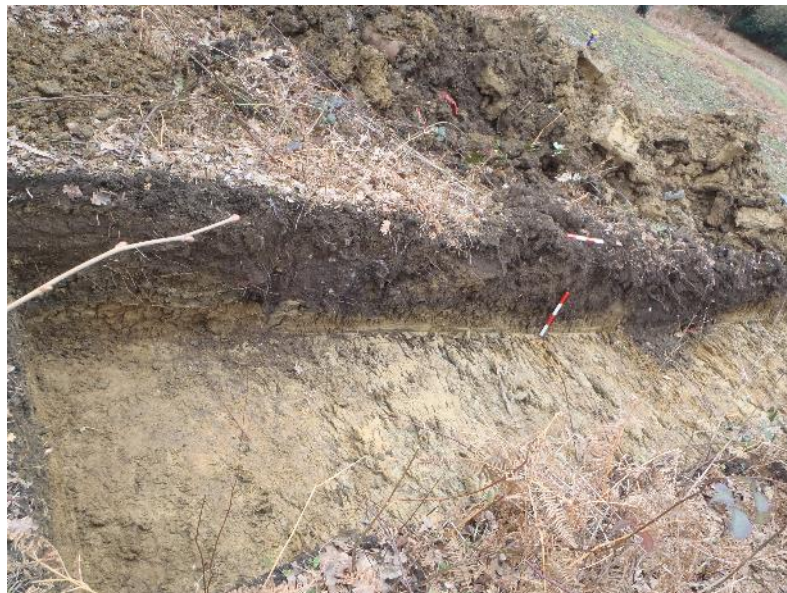


Plate 3. Oblique shot of west-facing section of Trench 1.



Plate 4. Trench 2, looking North.
Scales 2m x 0.4m



Plate 5. Trench 2, looking South. Scales
2m x 0.4m



Plate 6. West-facing section of 'cambered' area in Trench 2. Scales 2m x 0.4m



Plate 7. Trench 3, looking south. Scales
2m x 0.4m



Plate 8. Trench 3, looking North.
Scales 2 x 0.4m

APPENDIX 1. CONTEXT INDEX

In the table the abbreviations used mean the following: UE means 'unexcavated'; < means 'up to'; Context numbers are followed by a brief description and interpretation; their dimensions in metres (in the order length x width x depth; or diameter x depth); and their critical stratigraphic relationships.

Context	Category	Description	Interpretation	Dimensions (m)	After	Before
TRENCH 1						
100	Layer	Very dark greyish-brown sandy loam	Topsoil	Site Layer x <0.1	104, 106	-
101	Layer	Dark greyish –brown sandy clay loam	Subsoil	<8 x <1.5 x <0.5	102	103, 105
102	Layer	Yellowish-brown clay loam	Natural	Site Layer x UE	UE	101
103	Cut	Cut with irregular sloping sides onto irregular base	Modern rubbish pit	1.4 x 0.4	101	104
104	Fill	Dark greyish –brown sandy clay loam	Fill of 103	1.4 x 0.4	103	100
105	Cut	Cut with irregular sloping sides onto irregular base	Modern rubbish pit	1.4 x <0.5	101	106
106	Fill	Circular in-plan with near vertical steep sides and flat base	Fill of 105	1.4 x <0.5	105	100

Context	Category	Description	Interpretation	Dimensions (m)	After	Before
---------	----------	-------------	----------------	----------------	-------	--------

TRENCH 2						
200	Layer	Very dark greyish-brown sandy loam	Topsoil	Site Layer x <0.15	201	-
201	Layer	Yellowish-brown clay loam	Natural	Site Layer x UE	UE	201
TRENCH 3						
300	Layer	Very dark greyish-brown sandy loam	Topsoil	Site Layer x 0.1	301	-
301	Layer	Yellowish-brown clay loam	Natural	Site Layer x UE	UE	301

APPENDIX 2. OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM

OASIS ID: preconst1-206877

Project details



Project name	Land at Heath House Lane, Hedge End, Hampshire
Short description of the project	An archaeological evaluation
Project dates	Start: 08-03-2015 End: 10-03-2015
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	HLLH15 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	Local Authority Designated Archaeological Area
Current Land use	Woodland 1 - Deciduous native
Monument type	Refuse Pits Modern
Significant Finds	None None

Status **Incomplete**

Missing Fields **Fields from the project type section**

Project location



Site location	HAMPSHIRE EASTLEIGH HEDGE END, Hedge End, Hampshire
Postcode	SO30 0JZ
Study area	0 Square metres

Status **Incomplete**

Missing Fields **Site coordinates**

Project creators



Name of Organisation	PCA West
Project brief originator	Hampshire County Council
Project design originator	CgMs Consulting and Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd
Project director/manager	Paul McCulloch
Project supervisor	Tony Molloy
Type of sponsor/funding body	Private Client

Status **Incomplete**

Project archives



Physical Archive Exists?	'No physical archive'
Digital Archive recipient	Hampshire Museums and Archives Service
Digital Media available	'Images raster / digital photography','Text'

Paper Archive recipient Hampshire Museums and Archives Service

Paper Media available 'Context sheet','Photograph','Report'

Status Incomplete

Missing Fields Digital Contents, Paper Contents

 Project bibliography 1

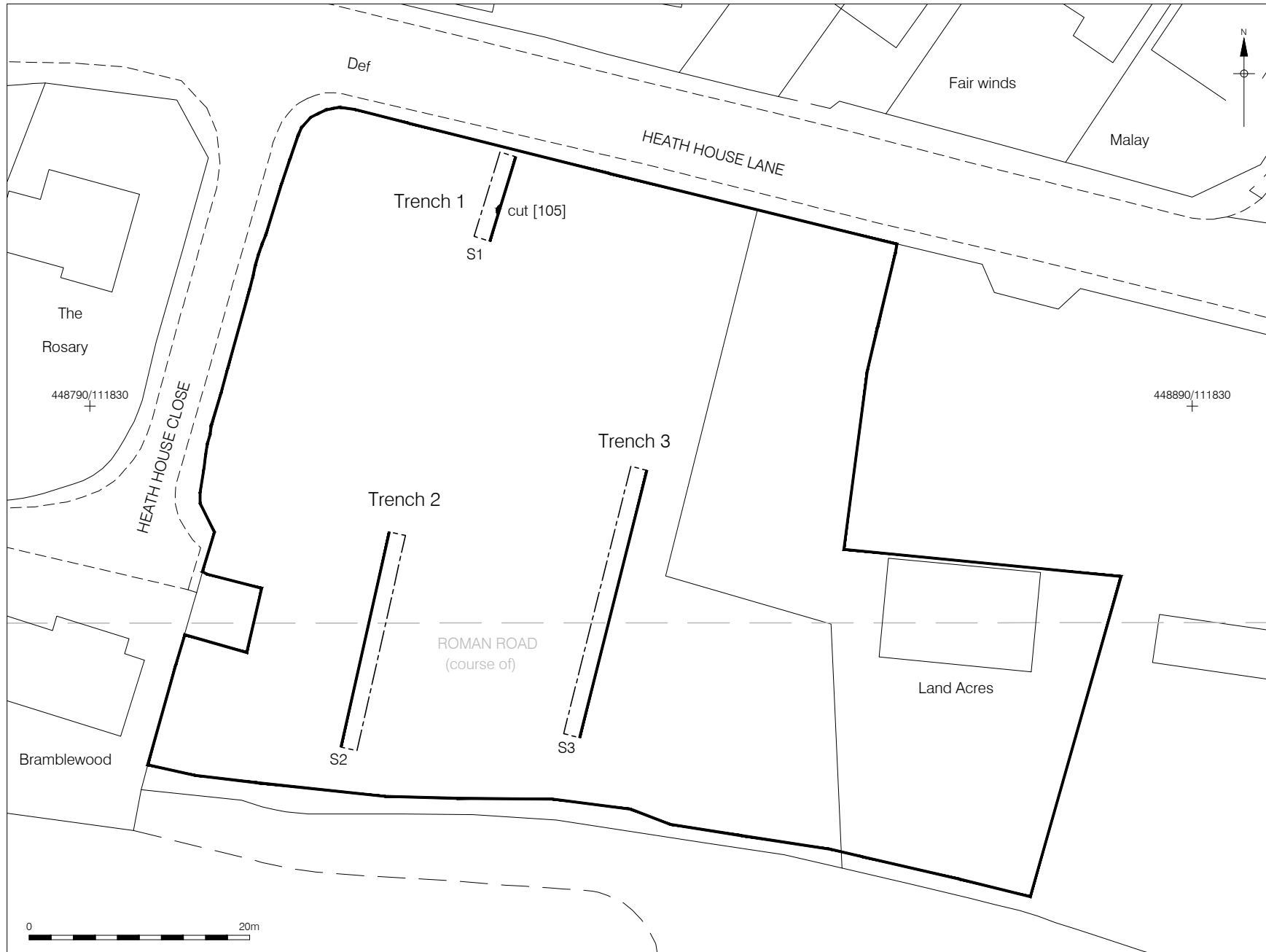


Status Incomplete



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Figure 1
 Site Location
 1:250,000 & 1:25,000 at A4

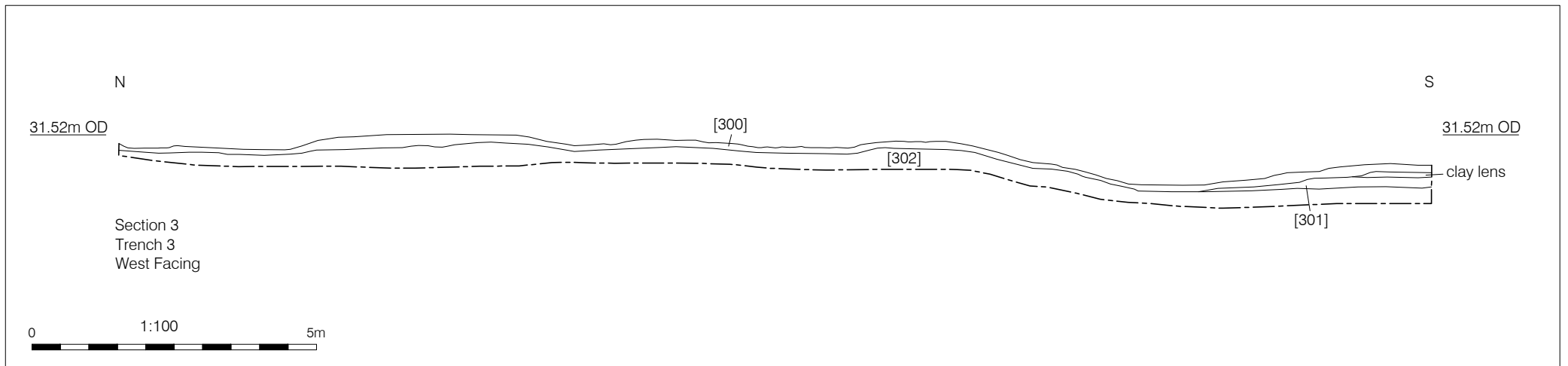
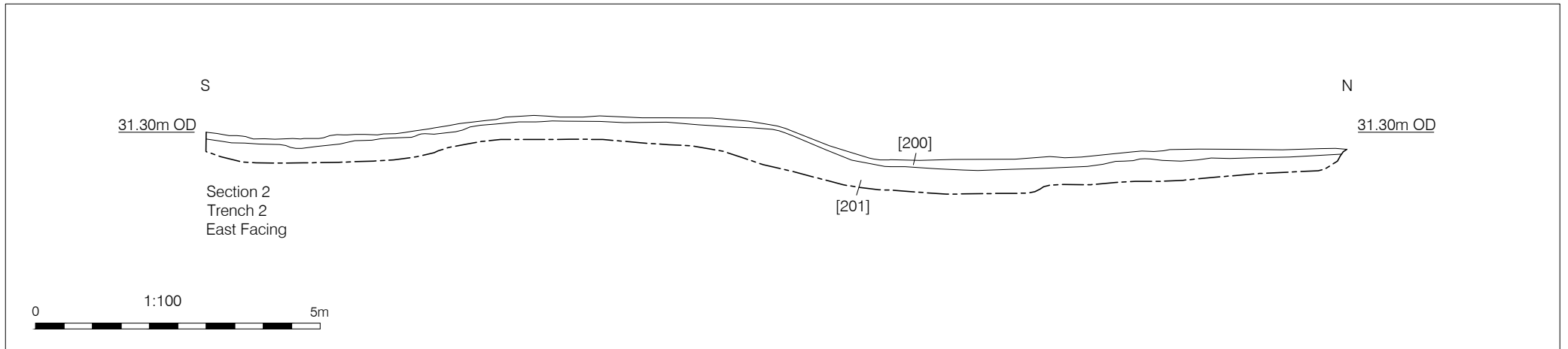
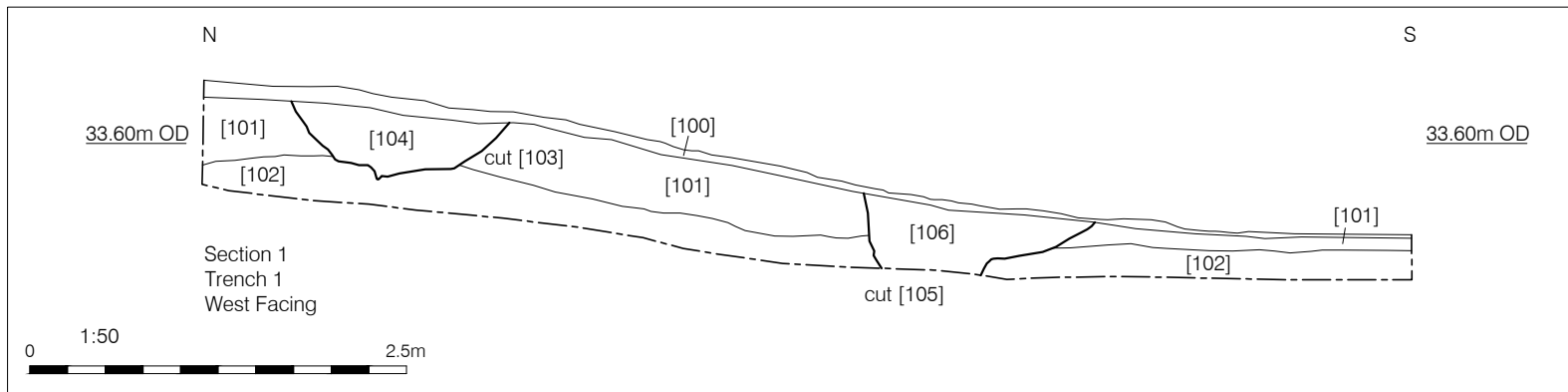


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19/03/15 JS

Figure 2
Trench Location Plan
1:500 at A4



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

