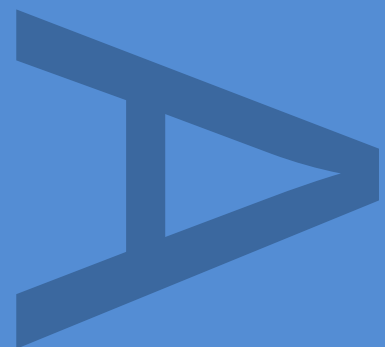


**Land at 21 Cambridge Road,
Stansted Mountfitchet, Essex:**

**An Archaeological Trial Trench
Evaluation**

April 2015



**PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY
R12074**

LAND AT 21 CAMBRIDGE ROAD,
STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET, ESSEX:

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL TRENCH
EVALUATION

Quality Control

Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd	
Project Number	K3951
Report Number	R12074

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Land at 21 Cambridge Road, Stansted Mountfitchet, Essex:

An Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation

Local Planning Authority: Uttlesford District Council

Planning Reference: UTT/14/1549/FUL

Central National Grid Reference: TL 5099 2523

Site Code: SMCR15

Report No. R12074

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ABSTRACT

This report describes the results of an archaeological trial trench evaluation carried out by Pre-Construct Archaeology on land at No. 21 Cambridge Road, Stansted Mountfitchet, Essex, CM24 8BD (NGR TL 5099 2523) on the 20th April 2015. The archaeological work was commissioned by Mr H. Khan in response to a planning condition attached to the construction of one detached and two semi-detached residential dwellings with associated parking facilities, access and landscaping. The aim of the work was to characterise the archaeological potential of the proposed development area, which is located within the historic core of settlement of Stansted Mountfitchet.

The evaluation identified no archaeological remains.

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1.1 An archaeological trial trench evaluation was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd (PCA) Central Office on land at 21 Cambridge Road, Stansted Mountfitchet, Essex, CM24 8BD (centred on Ordnance Survey National Grid Reference (NGR) TL 5099 2523) on the 20th April 2015 (Figure 1).
- 1.1.2 The archaeological work was commissioned by Mr H. Khan in response to an archaeological planning condition attached to the construction of one detached and two semi-detached residential dwellings with associated parking facilities, access and landscaping (Planning Reference UTT/14/1549/FUL).
- 1.1.3 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by Taleyna Fletcher of PCA (Fletcher 2015) in response to written instructions for archaeological evaluation issued by Richard Havis, Senior Historic Environment Consultant of Essex County Council (ECC), archaeological advisor to the local planning authority, Uttlesford District Council (UDC).
- 1.1.4 The aim of the evaluation was to determine the location, date, extent, character, condition and quality of any archaeological remains on the site, to assess the significance of any such remains in a local, regional, or national context, as appropriate, and to assess the potential impact of the development proposals on the site's archaeology.
- 1.1.5 A single trial trench, measuring 20m by 1.8m was originally planned but due to a live drain bisecting the site, two trenches totalling 18m were excavated and recorded.
- 1.1.6 This report describes the results of the evaluation and aims to inform the design of an appropriate archaeological mitigation strategy. The site archive will be deposited at Essex County Council Archaeology Store.

2 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

2.1 Geology

- 2.1.1 The solid geology of the area is classed as Thanet Sand Formation And Lambeth Group (undifferentiated) - Clay, Silt and Sand. This sedimentary bedrock was formed approximately 56 to 66 million years ago in the Palaeogene Period.
- 2.1.2 The superficial geology of the site is classed as Glaciofluvial Deposits, Mid Pleistocene - Sand And Gravel. These superficial deposits were formed up to 2 million years ago in the Quaternary Period.
- 2.1.3 The natural geological horizon (102) was identified during the evaluation as clay.

2.2 Topography

- 2.2.1 Stansted Mountfitchet is a village just inside the border of Essex with Hertfordshire, 30 miles north of London and north of Bishops Stortford.
- 2.2.2 The proposed development area totals 0.135Ha and lies within the core of the historic settlement at Stansted Mountfitchet, to the rear of 21 Cambridge Road, which is a grade II listed building dating to the 17th and 19th century (EHER 36481).
- 2.2.3 The site is presently undeveloped land, laid to lawn, with no known existing structures or protected trees or hedges (Figure 1). The site is relatively flat and lies at 89m Over Datum (OD).
- 2.2.4 Stansted Brook is located 500m south of the site, while the River Stort is aligned broadly north-south 1km west of the site.

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

3.1 General

- 3.1.1 The archaeological background is taken from the WSI for the site (Fletcher 2015).
- 3.1.2 Little archaeological work has been carried out in the area of the village, however several listed buildings dating between the 17th and 19th century are located within the vicinity.
- 3.1.3 An evaluation at Mont House, 450m to the east of the site was undertaken in 2006 (Pocock 2006). Archaeological remains comprised modern garden structures and isolated pits. Sample excavation of these remains recovered residual material dating to between the 17th and 19th century. These features and deposits were associated with the recent 20th century occupation of Mont House and either overlay or cut into the embanked material that formed each terrace edge.
- 3.1.4 An archaeological watching brief and subsequent trial trenching were undertaken at the former Castle Lotus site at Lower Street in 1998 and 2014, approximately 500m to the south-east of the site. No archaeological remains were encountered during either investigation (Havis 1998 and Hillelson 2014).
- 3.1.5 There are a significant number of listed buildings within the village and several within close proximity of the site along Cambridge Road. These include a C17th/C18th timber framed house, with C19th shop front at 23-25, an early C18th/C19th timber framed house, with C19th shop front at 31-33 and Betfield Hall Cottage, a C18th timber framed house, faced in brick at no. 13.
- 3.1.6 No 21, behind which the proposed development is located, is also a listed building described under a former name of The Bell and Feathers Inn as a mid-19th century red brick building with a 17th century timber-framed wing to the north-west. There is therefore potential for earlier structures set back from the road frontage to be encountered within the development area.

3.1.7 The area is shown on the first edition Ordnance Survey map as a concentration of settlement on the main London to Cambridge Road.

4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 General

4.1.1 One 9.5m long trench and one 8.5m long trench were investigated across the site (Figure 2).

4.2 Machining and Site Planning

4.2.1 Each trench was excavated using an 8 tonne tracked mechanical excavator with a toothless ditching bucket (Plates 1 & 5). The overlying topsoil (100) and subsoil (101) and made ground deposits (103) were excavated in spits down to the natural geological horizon (102).

4.2.2 Metal-detecting was carried out on all stripped deposits throughout the evaluation process and all archaeological features and spoil heaps were surveyed by metal-detector as they were encountered.

4.2.3 Limits of all excavation areas, pre-excavation and post-excavation plans of archaeological features and heights above Ordnance Datum (m OD) were recorded using a Leica 1200 Global positioning System (GPS) rover unit with RTK differential correction, giving three-dimensional accuracy of 20mm or better.

4.2.4 Upon completion of the evaluation all trenches were backfilled and reinstated (Plate 5).

4.3 Recording Methodology

4.3.1 Field excavation techniques and recording methods are detailed in the PCA Fieldwork Induction Manual (Operations Manual I) by Joanna Taylor and Gary Brown (2009).

4.3.2 Drawn records are in the form of survey plans, drawn plans and section drawings of all archaeological features at an appropriate scale (1:10, 1:20, 1:50) while all individual deposits and cuts were recorded as written records on PCA Pro-forma context sheets.

4.3.3 High-resolution digital photographs were taken at all stages of the evaluation process. Digital Photographs were taken of all archaeological features and

deposits.

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 Two trenches were excavated instead of the planned for one trench in order to not impact on a live drain aligned east to west.

5.2 Trench 1

5.2.1 Trench 1 contained no archaeological features or deposits.

TRENCH 1	Figure 2		Plates 1, 3 and 4	
Trench Alignment: NE-SW	Length: 10m	Level of Natural (m OD): 88.002m-88.28m		
Deposit	Context No.	Average Depth (m)		
		SW End	NE End	
Topsoil	(100)	0.47m	0.5m	
Made Ground	(101)	-	0.3m	
Subsoil	(103)	0.3m	-	
Natural Geological Horizon	(102)	0.77m	0.8m	
Summary				
Trench 1 was located towards the centre of the site to the south-west of Trench 2. Trench 1 exhibited topsoil on top of subsoil at the south-west end of the trench while made ground was identified in the north-eastern half of the trench beneath the topsoil and above the natural geological horizon.				

5.3 Trench 2

5.3.1 Trench 2 contained no archaeological features or deposits.

TRENCH 2	Figures 2		Plate 2	
Trench Alignment: NE-SW	Length: 9m	Level of Natural (m OD): 88.047m-88.225m		
Deposit	Context No.	Average Depth (m)		
		SW End	NE End	
Topsoil	(100)	0.1m	0.1m	
Made Ground	(101)	0.9m	0.7m	
Subsoil	(103)	-	0.19m	
Natural Geological Horizon	(102)	1n	0.99m	
Summary				
Trench 2 was located towards the centre of the site to the north-east of Trench 1. Trench 2 exhibited topsoil on top made ground above the natural geological horizon. Some subsoil was				

identified under the made ground underneath the made ground.

6 DISCUSSION & CONCLUSIONS

6.1 Discussion

6.1.1 The evaluation identified no archaeological deposits or features.

6.1.2 Made ground deposits accounted for the majority of the site, likely deposited in the late post-medieval period through to the modern period in order to build up slope at the back of the public house.

6.2 Conclusions

6.2.1 The evaluation identified no archaeological remains. No further archaeological remains are likely to be present on the site.

7 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 7.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd would like to thank Mr H. Khan for commissioning the work and Jim Larking of Danbury Plant Hire for operating the excavator. PCA are also grateful to Richard Havis of Essex County Council for monitoring the work. The author would like to thank Taleyna Fletcher for managing the project and PCA's CAD department for preparing the figures.

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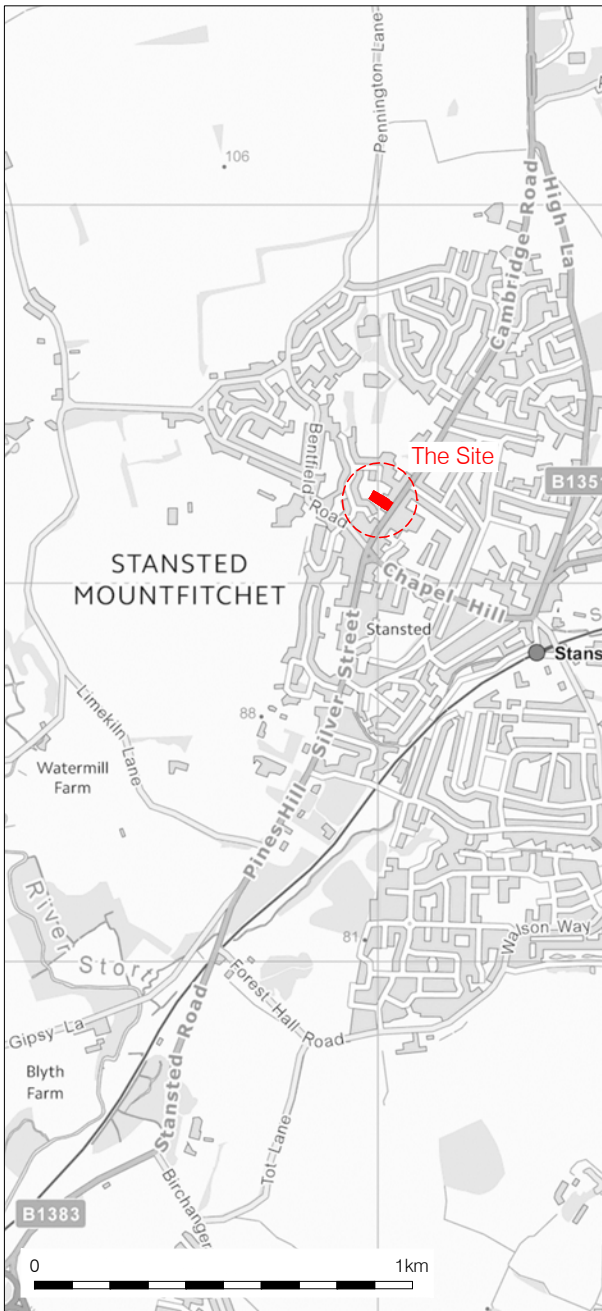
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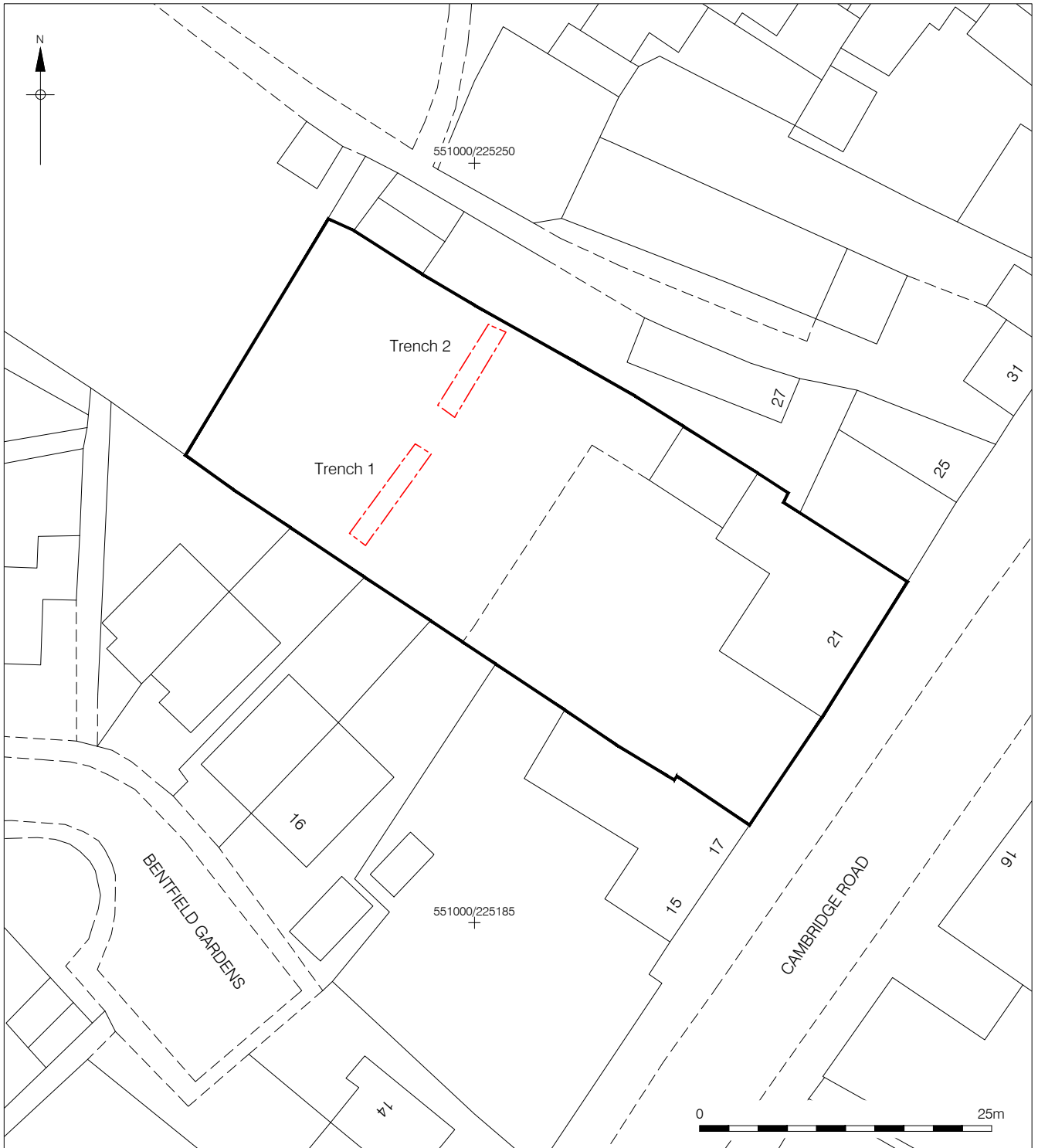
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 22/04/15 JS

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



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Figure 2
Trench Location
1:500 at A4

APPENDIX 1: PLATES



Plate 1: Trench 1, view west across site



Plate 2: Trench 2, north-east view of trench



Plate 3: Trench 1, view north-west view of trench section



Plate 4: Trench 1, north-east view of trench



Plate 5: North-western view of Backfilling Trenches 1 & 2

APPENDIX 2: CONTEXT INDEX

Context	Cut	Type	Category	Interpretation	Trench Number
100	-	Layer	Topsoil	Topsoil	1-2
101	-	Layer	Subsoil	Subsoil	1-2
102	-	Layer	Natural	Natural Geological Horizon	1-2
103	-	Layer	Made Ground	Made Ground	1-2

APPENDIX 3: OASIS FORM

OASIS ID: preconst1-209265

Project details

Project name Land at 21 Cambridge Road, Stansted Mountfitchet, Essex: An Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation

Short description of the project Two trench evaluation totalling 20m in Stansted Mountfitchet

Project dates Start: 20-04-2015 End: 20-04-2015

Previous/future work No / Not known

Any associated project reference codes SMCG15 - Sitecode

Type of project Field evaluation

Site status None

Current Land use Other 13 - Waste ground

Monument type NONE None

Significant Finds NONE None

Methods & techniques "Sample Trenches"

Development type Urban residential (e.g. flats, houses, etc.)

Prompt Planning condition

Position in the planning process After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project location

Country England

Site location ESSEX UTTLESFORD STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET Land at 21 Cambridge Road, Stansted Mountfitchet, Essex

Postcode CM24 8BD

Study area 0.14 Hectares

Site coordinates TL 5099 2523 51.9046549506 0.195081071028 51 54 16 N 000 11 42 E Point

Height OD / Depth Min: 88.00m Max: 91.00m

Project creators

Name of Organisation Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd

Project brief originator Essex County Council

Project design originator Mark Hinman

Project director/manager Taleyna Fletcher

Project supervisor Matthew Lees

Type of sponsor/funding body Private Developer

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists? No

Digital Archive recipient Saffron Walden Museum

Digital Archive ID SMCR15

Digital Contents "none"

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

Paper Archive recipient Saffron Walden Museum

Paper Archive ID SMCR15

Paper Contents "none"

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

Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

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Author(s)/Editor(s) Lees, M

Other bibliographic details R12074

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Description PCA Grey Literature Report

Entered by Matthew Lees (MLEes@pre-construct.com)

Entered on 20 April 2015

**APPENDIX 4: ESSEX HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD/ ESSEX
ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORY SUMMARY SHEET**

Site name/Address: 21 Cambridge Road, Stansted, Essex, CM24 8BX	
Parish: Stansted	District: Uttlesford District Council
NGR: TL 5099 2523	Site Code: SMCR15
Type of Work: Evaluation	Site Director/Group: PCA Central
Date of Work: 20/04/15	Size of Area Investigated: 0.135Ha
Location of Finds/Curating Museum: Saffron Walden	Funding source: Private Enterprise
Further Seasons Anticipated?: No	Related EHCR No: None
Final Report: Land at No. 21 Cambridge Road, Stansted Mountfitchet, Essex: An Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation	
Periods Represented: Modern	
<p>SUMMARY OF FIELDWORK RESULTS:</p> <p>This report describes the results of an archaeological trial trench evaluation carried out by Pre-Construct Archaeology on land at No. 21 Cambridge Road, Stansted Mountfitchet, Essex, CM24 8BD (NGR TL 5099 2523) on the 20th April 2015. The archaeological work was commissioned by Mr H. Khan in response to a planning condition attached to the construction of one detached and two semi-detached residential dwellings with associated parking facilities, access and landscaping. The aim of the work was to characterise the archaeological potential of the proposed development area, which is located within the historic core of settlement of Stansted Mountfitchet.</p> <p>The evaluation identified no archaeological remains</p>	
Previous Summaries/Reports: None	
Author of Summary: Matthew Lees	Date of Summary: April 2013

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