

Land at Cantley Lane,
Cringleford, Norfolk, NR4 6TA:
An Archaeological Evaluation

AN HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT
BASED ASSESSMENT

JULY 2015



PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY
R12145

LAND AT CANTLEY LANE,
CRINGLEFORD, NORFOLK, NR4 6TA

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

Quality Control

Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd	
Project Number	K4080
Report Number	R12145

	Name & Title	Signature	Date
Text Prepared by:	Mary-Anne Slater		July 2015
Graphics Prepared by:	Jennifer Simonson		July 2015
Graphics Checked by:	Josephine Brown	<i>Josephine Brown</i>	July 2015
Project Manager Sign-off:	Mark Hinman	<i>M.</i>	July 2015

Revision No.	Date	Checked	Approved

Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited
The Granary
Rectory Farm
Brewery Road
Pampisford
Cambridgeshire
CB22 3EN

Land at Cantley Lane, Cringleford, Norfolk, NR4 6TA:

An Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation

Local Planning Authority: South Norfolk Council

Planning Reference: 2015/0346

Central National Grid Reference: TG 1917 0561

Site Code: ENF138280

Report No. R12145

Written and researched by: Mary-Anne Slater
Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd

Project Manager: Mark Hinman

Commissioning Client: Cripps Developments Ltd

Contractor: Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd
Central Office
The Granary
Rectory Farm
Brewery Road
Pampisford
Cambridgeshire
CB22 3EN

Tel: 01223 845522

E-mail: mhinman@pre-construct.com

Website: www.pre-construct.com

©Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd

July 2015

The material contained herein is and remains the sole property of Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd and is not for publication to third parties without prior consent. Whilst every effort has been made to provide detailed and accurate information, Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd cannot be held responsible for errors or inaccuracies herein contained.

CONTENTS

CONTENTS	2
ABSTRACT	3
1 INTRODUCTION	4
2 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY	5
3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND	6
4 METHODOLOGY	8
5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE	10
6 DISCUSSION & CONCLUSIONS	12
7 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	13
8 BIBLIOGRAPHY	14
9 APPENDIX 1: PLATES	18
10 APPENDIX 2: CONTEXT INDEX	20
11 APPENDIX 3: OASIS FORM	21
FIGURE 1 SITE LOCATION	15
FIGURE 2 TRENCH LOCATION	16
FIGURE 3 TRENCH 1 PLAN AND SECTION	17
PLATE 1: TRENCH 1, VIEW NORTH	18
PLATE 2: TRENCH 2, VIEW WEST	18
PLATE 3: TRENCH 3, VIEW NORTH-WEST	19
PLATE 4: PIT [105], VIEW NORTH-WEST	19

ABSTRACT

This report describes the results of an archaeological trial trench evaluation carried out by Pre-Construct Archaeology on land at Cantley Lane, Cringleford, Norfolk, NR4 6TA (NGR TG 1917 0561) on the 6th July 2015. The archaeological work was commissioned by Cripps Developments Ltd in response to a planning condition attached to the redevelopment of the site into a housing estate. The aim of the work was to characterise the archaeological potential of the proposed development area.

The principal result of the evaluation was an undated quarry pit in the southern end of Trench 1. No further archaeological features were seen, which may be a result of truncation by the former buildings on the site.

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 An archaeological trial trench evaluation was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd (PCA) on land at Cantley Lane, Cringleford, Norfolk, NR4 6TA (centred on Ordnance Survey National Grid Reference (NGR) TG 1917 0561) on the 6th July 2015 (Figure 1).
- 1.2 The archaeological work was commissioned by Cripps Developments Ltd. in response to an archaeological planning condition attached to the redevelopment of the site into a housing estate (Planning Reference 2015/0346).
- 1.3 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by Shannon Hogan of PCA (Hogan 2015) in response to a Brief for archaeological evaluation issued by James Albone (Albone 2015) of the Historic Environment Service of Norfolk County Council (HES/NCC).
- 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.
- 1.5 A total of three 30m trial trenches were excavated and recorded.
- 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 Norwich Castle Museum.

2 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

2.1 Geology

2.1.1 The bedrock geology of the proposed development area is recorded as chalk, characterised as the Lewes Nodular Chalk Formation, Seaford Chalk Formation, Newhaven Chalk Formation and Culver Chalk Forma. These sedimentary rock formations were formed approximately 71 to 94 million years ago during the Cretaceous Period. The superficial geology of the area comprises sands and gravels of the Sheringham Cliffs Formation, deposited by seasonal and post glacial meltwaters (www.bgs.ac.uk).

2.2 Topography

2.2.1 The development area comprises a small triangular plot of land of approximately 2.3ha and is bordered by the A11 to the north, Cantley Lane to the south and with open fields to the west. The site slopes gently from 22.6m AOD at its eastern extremity to 19.4m AOD at the westernmost point.

2.2.2 The development area is located within Cringleford, immediately southwest of Norwich. The site was formerly occupied by Cringleford Church of England First and Middle School but is now vacant.

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

3.1 General

3.1.1 The archaeological background has been taken from the brief (Albone 2015) and a search of the Norfolk HER (NHER).

3.2 Prehistoric

3.2.1 An evaluation in 2004 of the field to the west of the site revealed prehistoric flint artefacts and undated ditches, pits and postholes (NHER 40940). The flints included a later Neolithic/Early Bronze Age polished flint axe.

3.2.2 Prehistoric features and flint artefacts have been found to the north of the site, on the northern side of the A11 (NHER 36243, 40130, 40136). A possible Bronze Age round barrow is visible as a cropmark on aerial photographs of the fields to the north-west of the site, adjacent to the A47 (NHER 9395).

3.3 Roman

3.3.1 The proposed development area is situated just north of where a Roman cremation burial was discovered in 1930 (NHER 9364). Finds including pottery and oyster shells were found within this field and are thought to be of Roman date and it is likely this material relates to a settlement site in the immediately vicinity. The location of the development area and the field containing Roman finds is immediately adjacent to the projected route of a Roman road leading north-westwards from the Roman town at Caistor St Edmund (Venta Icenorum).

3.4 Anglo-Saxon

3.4.1 Saxon metalwork has been found in Cringleford parish, including a Middle Saxon brooch and a Late Saxon disc brooch and strap end (NHER 31627, 49817).

3.5 Medieval

3.5.1 St. Peter's Church lies to the north-east of the site. The nave and chancel date to the 11th century, with additions in the 13th and 14th centuries (NHER 9369). The site of the medieval manor house is believed to be to the west of

the church (NHER 15914). Medieval pottery and metalwork has also been found in Cringleford.

3.6 Post-Medieval

- 3.6.1 Within the present development site, there are 19th century former school buildings and a school house. Although these have not been designated as heritage assets in their own right, these structures contribute to the significance of the Cringleford Conservation Area.
- 3.6.2 Cringleford Hall was built as a relatively small timber framed house during the 16th or 17th centuries to the south-east of the site (NHER 11610). It had major additions during the 17th and 18th centuries.
- 3.6.3 Cringleford Bridge was built in 1520 and lies to the north-east of the site (NHER 9370). A timber bridge on the site was destroyed by floods in 1519.

4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 Excavation and Sampling

4.1.1 The Written Scheme of Investigation for the evaluation proposed the excavation of three 30m trial trenches (Figure 2).

4.1.2 Ground reduction was carried out under archaeological supervision using a 6-ton tracked mechanical excavator fitted with a 1.8m-wide toothless ditching bucket. Topsoil and subsoil deposits were removed in spits down to the level of the undisturbed natural geological deposits where potential archaeological features could be observed and recorded. Exposed surfaces were cleaned by trowel and hoe as appropriate and all further excavation was undertaken manually using hand tools. Overburden deposits were set aside beside each trench and examined visually and with a metal-detector for finds retrieval.

4.1.3 Metal-detecting was carried out during the topsoil and subsoil stripping and throughout the excavation process. Archaeological features and spoilheaps were scanned by metal-detector as they were encountered/ created.

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

4.1.5 All features were investigated and recorded in order to properly understand the date and nature of the archaeological remains on the site and to recover sufficient finds assemblages to assess the chronological development and socio-economic character of the site over time.

4.1.6 Discrete features were at least 50% excavated.

4.2 Recording Methodology

4.2.1 The limits of excavations, heights above Ordnance Datum (m OD) and the locations of archaeological features and interventions were recorded using a Leica 1200 GPS rover unit with RTK differential correction, giving three-dimensional accuracy of 20mm or better.

4.2.2 Section drawings of archaeological features and deposits were drawn at an

appropriate scale (1:10, 1:20 or 1:50).

- 4.2.3 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 on individual pre-printed forms (Taylor and Brown 2009). Archaeological processes recognised by the deposition of material are signified in this report by round brackets (thus), while events constituting the removal of deposits are referred to here as ‘cuts’ and signified by square brackets [thus]. The record numbers assigned to cuts and deposits are entirely arbitrary and in no way reflect the chronological order in which events took place. All features and deposits recorded during the evaluation are listed in Appendix 2. Artefacts recovered during excavation were assigned to the record number of the deposit from which they were retrieved.
- 4.2.4 High-resolution digital photographs were taken at all stages of the evaluation process. Digital photographs were taken of all archaeological features and deposits.
- 4.2.5 Artefacts and ecofacts were collected by hand and assigned to the record number of the deposit from which they were retrieved, receiving appropriate care prior to removal from the site (IfA 2001; Walker 1990; Watkinson 1981).

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 The trenches are described below in numerical order, with technical data tabulated. Features and deposits are described from west to east or south to north depending on the alignment of the trench. Archaeological features and deposits were sealed by the subsoil, unless otherwise stated. The evaluation identified an undated quarry pit in Trench 1.

5.2 Trench 1

5.2.1 Trench 1 contained an undated quarry pit in the southern end of the trench.

5.2.2 Pit [105] (Figures 2-3, Section 1) was located at the southern end of the trench. It extended out of the eastern and western limits of the trench. A 1.00m wide slot was excavated to a depth of 0.33m, to a total depth of 1.2m below ground level. The pit had moderately sloping sides and appeared to be cut from high up. It had a single fill (104) of mid-greyish brown silty sand.

5.2.3 This feature is likely to be a quarry pit for gravel, sand or chalk extraction. There were no finds from this feature.

TRENCH 1	Figures 2-3		Plates 1, 4	
Trench Alignment: N-S	Length: 30m	Level of Natural (m OD): 21.08-22.28m		
Deposit	Context No.	Average Depth (m)		
		S End	N End	
Made Ground	(103)	0.1m	N/A	
Topsoil	(100)	0.35m	0.2m	
Subsoil	(101)	0.4m	0.35m	
Natural	(102)	0.75m+	0.35m+	
Summary				
Trench 1 was located close to the western boundary of the site.				
The trench contained a large undated pit, possibly a modern quarry pit.				

5.3 Trench 2

5.3.1 No archaeological features were seen in Trench 2.

TRENCH 2	Figure 2		Plate 2	
Trench Alignment: E-W	Length: 30m	Level of Natural (m OD): 21.20-22.02m		
Deposit	Context No.	Average Depth (m)		
		W End	E End	
Topsoil	(100)	0.4m	0.3m	
Subsoil	(101)	0.6m	0.65m	
Natural	(102)	0.6m+	0.65m+	
Summary				
Trench 2 was located close to the southern boundary of the site. No archaeological features were seen.				

5.4 Trench 3

5.4.1 The trench contained modern services associated with the former buildings on the site and two undated tree throws.

TRENCH 3	Figure 2		Plate 3	
Trench Alignment: NW-SE	Length: 30m	Level of Natural (m OD): 21.79-22.27m		
Deposit	Context No.	Average Depth (m)		
		SE End	NW End	
Topsoil	(100)	0.29m	0.26m	
Subsoil	(101)	0.79m	0.55m	
Natural	(102)	0.79m+	0.55m+	
Summary				
Trench 3 was located towards the northern boundary of the site. No archaeological features were present in Trench 3.				

6 DISCUSSION & CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1 Despite the close proximity of the site to the Roman urned cremation found to the south and to prehistoric finds in the vicinity the principal result of the evaluation was the discovery of an undated, but probably modern, quarry pit in the southern end of Trench 1. No archaeological features or artefacts were seen in Trenches 2 and 3, but this may be due to disturbance from the former buildings on the site.

7 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 7.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd would like to thank Cripps Development Ltd for commissioning the work and for operating the excavator. PCA are also grateful to James Albone of Historic Environment Service of Norfolk County Council for his advice and for monitoring the work. The author would like to thank Mark Hinman and Shannon Hogan for managing the project. The author would also like to thank Tom Learmonth for his hard work and PCA's CAD department for preparing the figures.

8 BIBLIOGRAPHY

8.1 Printed Sources

Albone, J. 2015. Brief for archaeological evaluation by trial trenching at Cringleford First and Middle School, Cantley Lane, Cringleford (unpublished, HES/NCC)

Hogan, S. 2015. Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation at Cantley Lane, Cringleford, Norfolk (unpublished, Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd.)

8.2 Websites

1) <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>. Date accessed 07/07/2015



Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2015
 © Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd 2015
 14/07/15 JS

Figure 1
 Site Location
 1:2,000,000 and 1:50,000 at A4

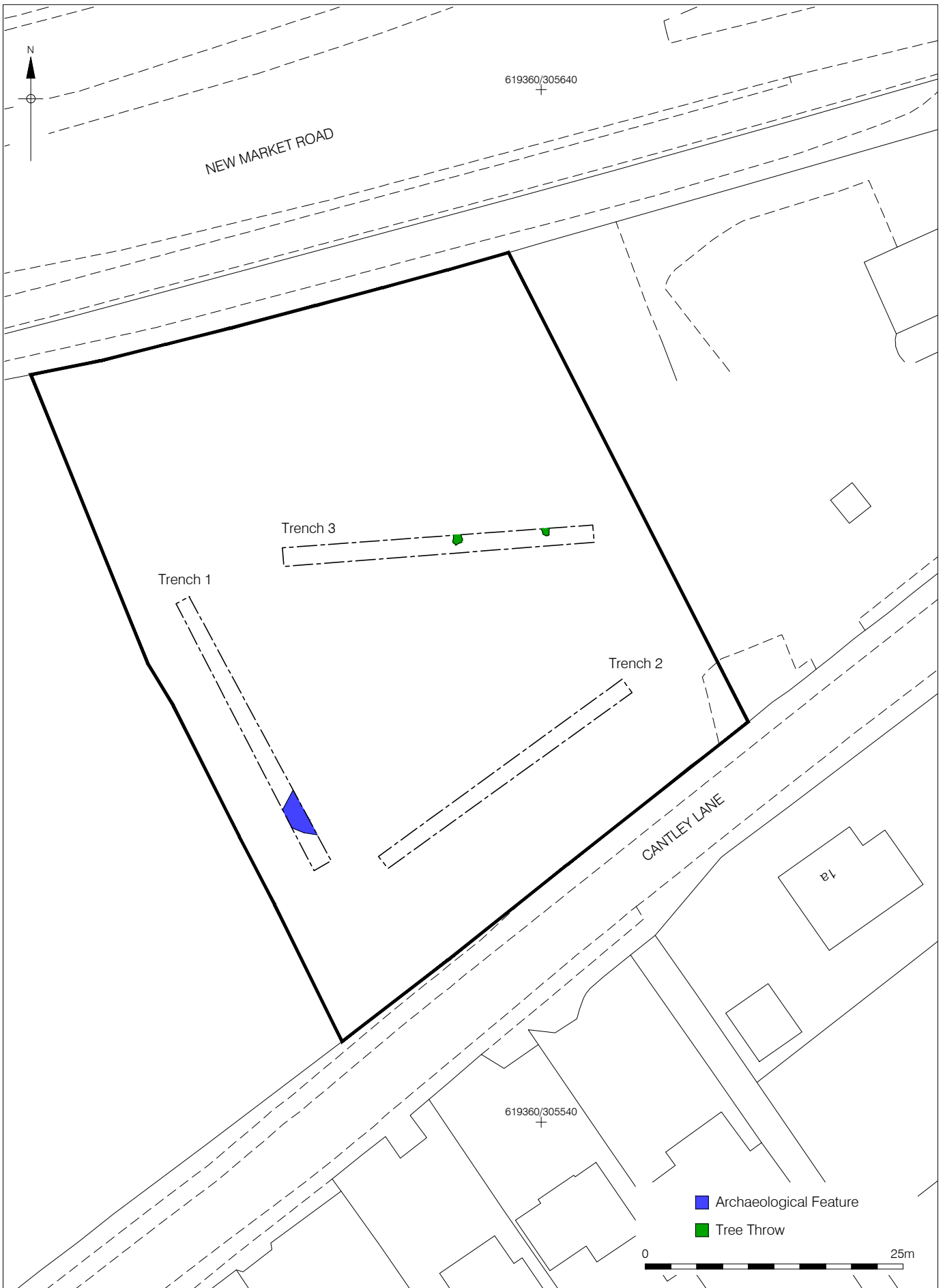
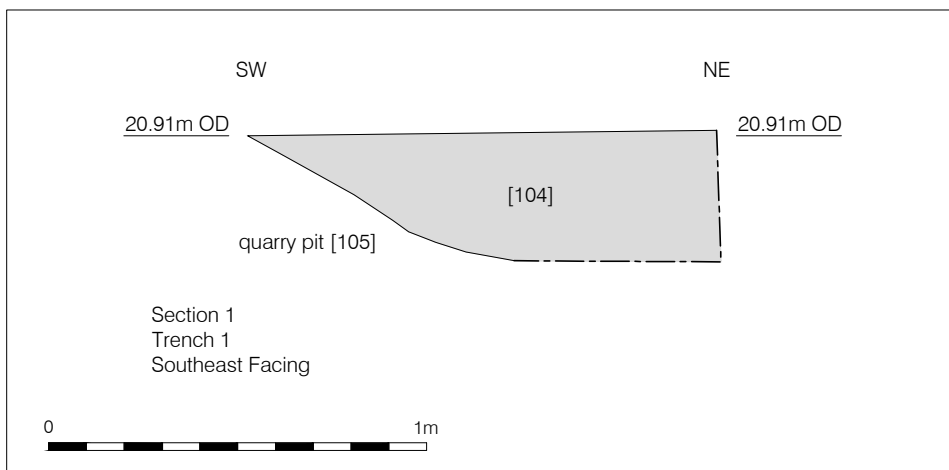
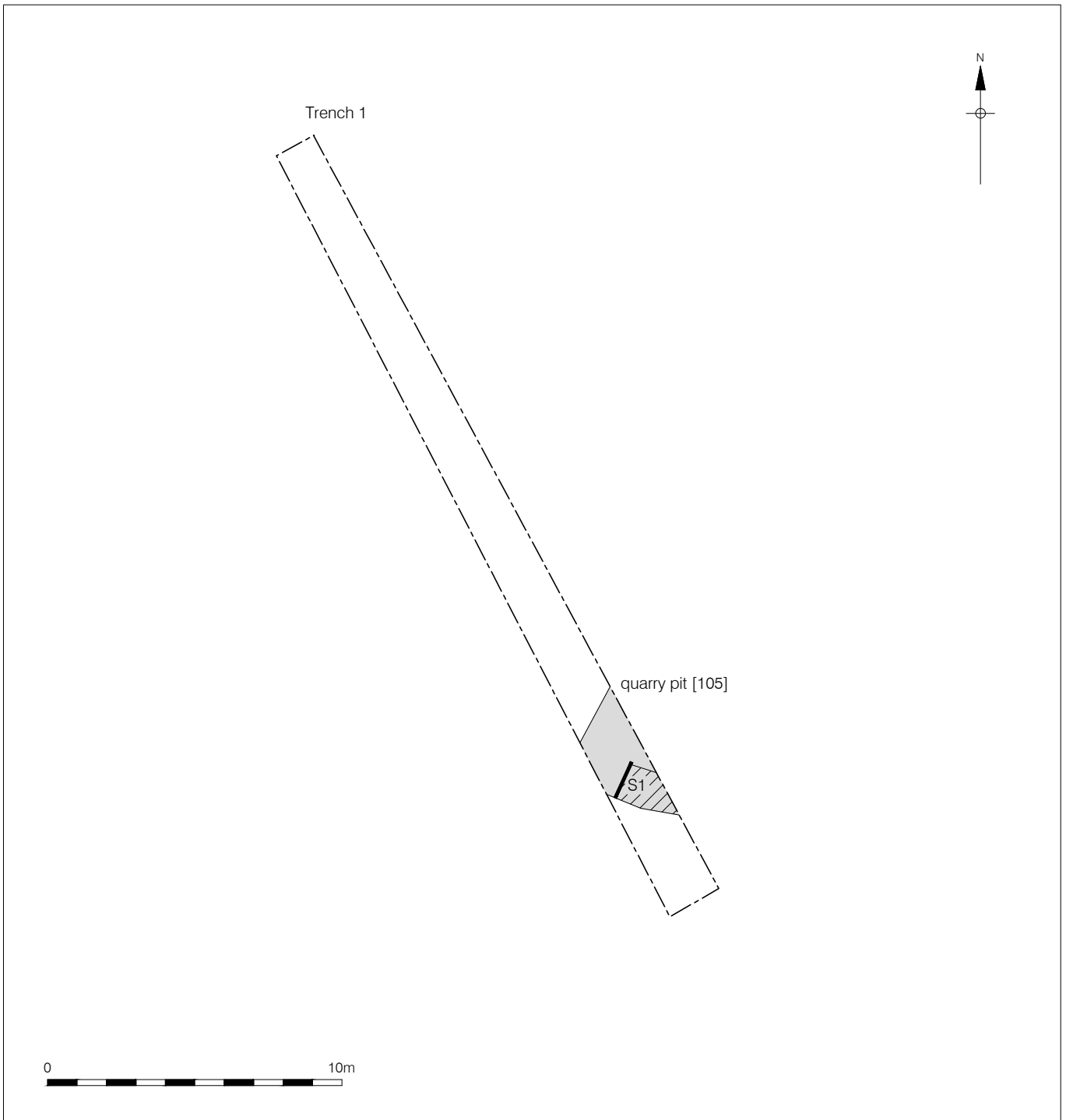


Figure 2
 Trench Location
 1:500 at A4



9 APPENDIX 1: PLATES



Plate 1: Trench 1, view north



Plate 2: Trench 2, view west



Plate 3: Trench 3, view north-west



Plate 4: Pit [105], view north-west

10 APPENDIX 2: CONTEXT INDEX

Context	Cut	Type	Category	Interpretation	Trench Number
100	-	Layer	Topsoil	Overburden	-
101	-	Layer	Subsoil	Overburden	-
102	-	Layer	Natural	Natural Geology	-
103	-	Layer	Made ground	Overburden	1
104	105	Fill	Pit	Fill of [105]	1
105	105	Cut	Pit	Quarry Pit	1

11 APPENDIX 3: OASIS FORM

OASIS ID: preconst1-217007

Project details

Project name Land at Cantley Lane, Cringleford, Norfolk, NR4 6TA: An Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation

Short description of the project This report describes the results of an archaeological trial trench evaluation carried out by Pre-Construct Archaeology on land at Cantley Lane, Cringleford, Norfolk, NR4 6TA (NGR TG 1917 0561) on the 6th July 2015. The archaeological work was commissioned by Cripps Developments Ltd in response to a planning condition attached to the redevelopment of the site into a housing estate. The aim of the work was to characterise the archaeological potential of the proposed development area. The principal result of the evaluation was an undated quarry pit in the southern end of Trench 1. No further archaeological features were seen, which may be a result of truncation by the former buildings on the site.

Project dates Start: 06-07-2015 End: 06-07-2015

Previous/future work No / Not known

Any associated project reference codes ENF138280 - Sitecode

Type of project Field evaluation

Site status None

Current Land use Vacant Land 1 - Vacant land previously developed

Monument type PIT Uncertain

Significant Finds N/A None

Methods & techniques "Sample Trenches"

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

Prompt Planning condition

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

Project location

Country England

Site location NORFOLK SOUTH NORFOLK CRINGLEFORD Cantley Lane,
Cringleford

Postcode NR4 6TA

Study area 2.30 Hectares

Site coordinates TG 1917 0561 52.6034990374 1.23702000229 52 36 12 N 001 14 13
E Point

Height OD / Depth Min: 21.08m Max: 22.28m

Project creators

Name of Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd.

Organisation

Project brief James Albone
originator

Project design Mark Hinman
originator

Project Mark Hinman
director/manager

Project supervisor Mary-Anne Slater

Type of Construction/housing
sponsor/funding
body

Name of Cripps Development Ltd
sponsor/funding
body

Project archives

Physical Archive No
Exists?

Digital Archive Norwich Museum
recipient

Digital Archive ID ENF138280

Digital Contents "none"

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

Paper Archive Norwich Museum
recipient

Paper Archive ID ENF138280

Paper Contents "none"

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

Project bibliography

1

Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Publication type

Title Land at Cantley Lane, Cringleford, Norfolk, NR4 6TA: An
Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation

Author(s)/Editor(s) Slater, M.

Date 2015

Issuer or publisher Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd

Place of issue or Cambridge
publication

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

