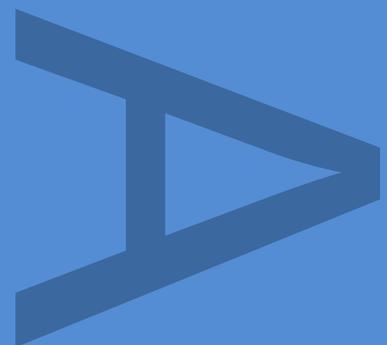


**Land at Combined Colleges
Boathouse, Logans Way,
Cambridge CB4 1BL:
Archaeological Monitoring**

JULY 2015



LAND AT COMBINED COLLEGES
BOATHOUSE, LOGANS WAY,
CAMBRIDGE CB4 1BL

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING

Quality Control

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Project Number	K3938
Report Number	R12178

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Land at Combined Colleges Boathouse, Logans Way, Cambridge CB4 1BL:

Archaeological Monitoring

Local Planning Authority: Cambridge County Council

Planning Reference: 14/0657/FUL

Central National Grid Reference: TL 4630 5920

Site Code: CBHC15

Event number: ECB4533

Report No. R12178

Written and researched by: Shannon Hogan

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Commissioning Client: Selwyn College on behalf of
the Combined Colleges

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August 2015

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ABSTRACT

This report describes the results of a programme of archeological monitoring carried out by Pre-Construct Archaeology on land at the Combined Colleges Boathouse, Cambridge CB4 1BL (NGR TF 4630 5920) on 16th May, 6th July 2015 and 4th August. The archaeological work was commissioned by Selwyn College on behalf of the Combined Colleges in response to an outline planning condition attached to the demolition of the existing boathouse structures and the erection of a new boathouse, landscaping and new foul drainage services. The aim of the work was to monitor the development and to ensure that any archaeological remains exposed during ground works were recorded, recovered and interpreted to an acceptable standard.

No archaeological features or deposits were seen during the monitoring.

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 A programme of archaeological monitoring was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd (PCA) on land at the Combined Colleges Boathouse, Logans Way, Cambridge CB4 1BL (centred on Ordnance Survey National Grid Reference (NGR) TF 4630 5920) on 16th May, 6th July and 4th August 2015 (Figure 1).
- 1.2 The archaeological work was commissioned by Selwyn College on behalf of the Combined Colleges in response to an outline planning condition attached to the demolition of the existing boathouse and the construction of new boathouse structures, landscaping and new foul drainage services.
- 1.3 The programme of monitoring was carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by Stephen Porter of PCA (Porter 2015) in response to an archaeological brief produced by K. Gdaniec of Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team (CCCHET) (Gdaniec 2015).
- 1.4 The aim of the work was to monitor the development and to ensure that any archaeological remains exposed during ground works were recorded, recovered and interpreted to an acceptable standard.
- 1.5 No archaeological remains or deposits were encountered.
- 1.6 This report describes the results of the archaeological monitoring. The project archive will be deposited with the Cambridgeshire Archaeological Store.

2 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

2.1 Geology

2.1.1 The underlying bedrock is comprised of the Gault Formation Mudstone overlain by river terrace sands and gravels and silty-clay alluvium.

2.2 Topography

2.2.1 The development area lies on the northern river bank of the River Cam as it flows between East Chesterton and Barnwell.

2.2.2 The centre of the site is located at c.8.6m AOD, the topography being generally flat.

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 3.1 A summary of the archaeological background is contained here and has been taken from the brief.
- 3.2 The development area lies on the north bank of the River Cam, opposite the site of the medieval Barnwell Abbey (HER MCB5626). It is possible that managed water systems and features associated with the abbey could be located on the northern bank.
- 3.3 To the northeast of the area lies the deserted medieval village of Prestiston (HER MCB9726), the extent of which might reach as far as the development plot.

4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 Overview

4.2 Machining and Site Planning

4.3 The initial area monitored (16th May) was a 4m by 4m topsoil strip on the northeast edge of the development area in preparation for a compound. The second phase of monitoring (6th July) comprised the removal of concrete foundation pads of the former boathouse building.

4.4 Preparations for the new building comprised the digging of 17 holes for piling pads (up to 0.6m in depth) and pile foundations (some 20-30cm in diameter) which were mechanically piled up to 3m below ground level. The third phase (4th August) involved monitoring the excavation of these holes.

4.5 A 20 tonne mechanical excavator fitted with a 1.6m wide toothless bucket was used to strip the topsoil and excavate the new foundation holes. A narrow toothless bucket (0.5m) was used to remove the former concrete pads.

4.6 Exposed archaeological features and deposits were cleaned as necessary (and where practicable) to define them using hand tools.

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

4.8 Recording and Sampling

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

4.10 Individual deposits were recorded as written records on PCA Pro-forma context sheets.

4.11 High-resolution digital photographs were taken at all stages of the evaluation

process.

4.12 A metal detector was used during excavation to enhance finds recovery.

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

5.1 Overview

- 5.1.1 The stripping of a small area of topsoil measuring approximately 4m by 4m was monitored on the 16th May 2015. No archaeological find, features or deposits were encountered.
- 5.1.2 The removal of 16 concrete pads was monitored on the 6th July 2015. No archaeological features or deposits were encountered during this process. The removal of the foundations revealed a sequence of tarmac and concrete hardstanding overlying a thick made ground deposit comprising crushed brick and concrete. This in turn overlay the natural alluvium. These holes were then infilled with made ground and the site levelled.
- 5.1.3 On average, the tarmac measured between 0.2m and 0.25m thick, with the made ground deposits measuring approximately 0.25m-0.3m. The concrete pads were each approximately 2m by 1m and 0.8m deep. The removal of these pads exposed a series of holes measuring between 1m and 1.25m in depth, where the top approximately 0.5m comprised modern layers sitting above the natural alluvium.
- 5.1.4 The digging of 17 holes for new concrete piling pads was monitored on 4th August 2015. These holes comprised 11 rectangular pits (approximately 3m by 1.5m and 0.6m deep), five triangular pits (approximately 3m by 3m by 3m by 0.6m deep) and a single narrow trench (approximately 2m by 0.5m and 0.6m deep). Most of the holes occupied the same locations as the former concrete foundation pads and hence only exposed the recent backfilled made ground. Within the 'new' holes, no archaeological features or deposits were seen and the sequence of deposits was as described above, with up to 0.3m of made ground overlying the alluvium.
- 5.1.5 Within the narrow trench, located centrally within the development plot, a localised area of a more organic alluvium was noted but contained no archaeological material.

6 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

6.1.1 No archaeological finds, features or deposits were encountered during the monitoring of groundworks at The Combine Colleges Boathouse. A small area (c. 4m by 4m) of topsoil was stripped and revealed only the natural subsoil below. Where the former concrete pads (foundations) were stripped out from the demolished building, the natural alluvium was noted beneath a thick layer of made ground. The new foundations were almost exclusively dug into the backfilled holes of the former foundations and therefore did not expose any new ground. Only two holes were dug into virgin ground, but revealed the same sequence of made ground overlying the alluvium.

7 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 7.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd would like to thank R H Partnership for commissioning the work, P B Doyle for their assistance on site and Kasia Gdaniec of the Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team. The author would like to thank PCA's CAD Department for preparing the figures.

8 BIBLIOGRAPHY

8.1 Printed Sources

- 8.1.1 Brown, N. and Glazebrook, J. (eds.) 2000 Research and Archaeology: a Framework for the Eastern Counties, 2. Research Agenda and Strategy. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper No. 8
- 8.1.2 Gdaniec, K. 2015. Brief for Archaeological Monitoring & Recording at Combined Colleges Boathouse, Logans Way, Cambridge. (CHET)
- 8.1.3 Glazebrook, J. (ed.) 1997 Research and Archaeology: a Framework for the Eastern Counties, 1. Resource Assessment. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper No. 3
- 8.1.4 Medlycott, M. 2011. (ed.) Research and Archaeology Revisited: A revised framework for the East of England. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 24

8.2 Web Sources

- 8.2.1 British Geological Survey online viewer.
(<http://www.bgs.ac.uk/discoveringGeology/geologyOfBritain/viewer.html>)

Figure 1 Site location

Figure 2 Areas Monitored

9 APPENDIX 1: PLATES



Plate 1: Topsoil strip monitored on 16th May, looking south

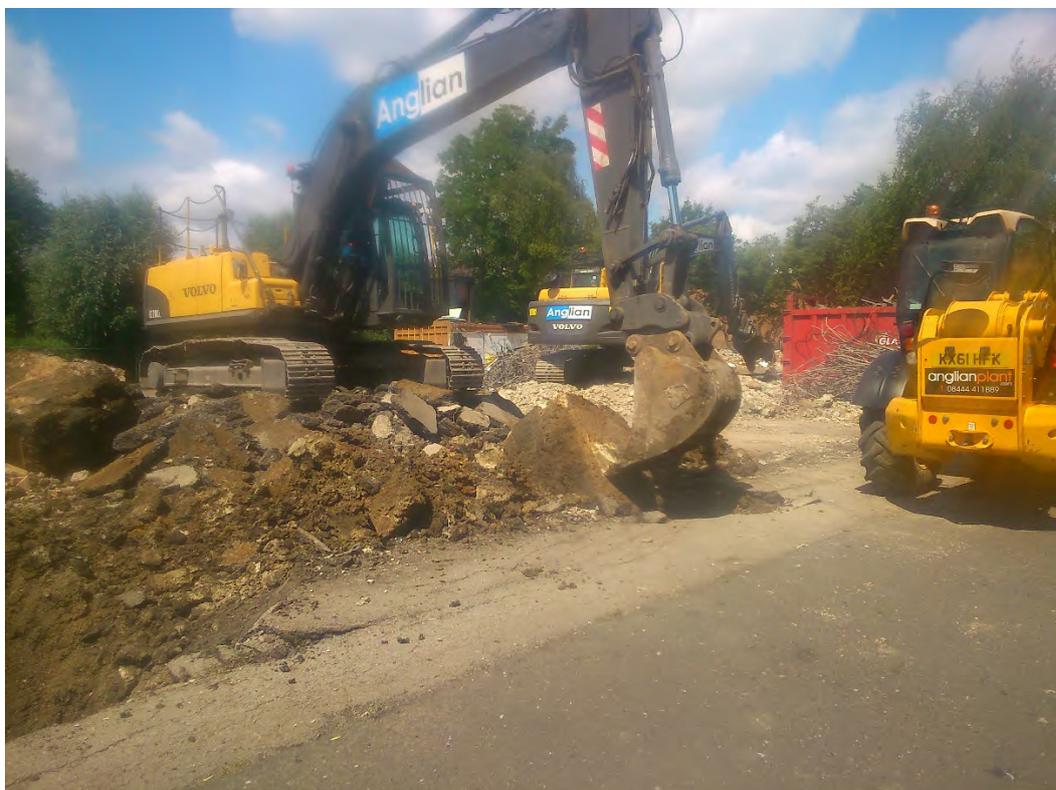


Plate 2: Removal of concrete pads, 6th July



Plate 3: Made ground and alluvium revealed whilst removing concrete pads



Plate 4: The new foundation pits exposing recently backfilled made ground, the concrete pads and piles, looking west.



Plate 5: The narrow trench located centrally to the development plot exposing made ground overlying an organic-rich alluvium, looking northwest

10 APPENDIX 2: CONTEXT INDEX

Context	Type	Comment/Description	Average Thickness (m)
(1)	Tarmac	Modern tarmac (external)	0.2
(2)	Concrete hardstanding	Modern surface (internal)	0.2
(3)	Made Ground	Modern levelling/foundation deposit. Comprised of crushed brick, concrete and some sand.	0.3
(4)	Alluvium	Natural alluvial clay. Mid-dark grey or blue-grey silty clay. Some modern intrusive material.	0.5+

11 APPENDIX 3: OASIS FORM

11.1 OASIS ID: preconst1-220050

Project details

Project name	Archaeological Monitoring at Combine Colleges Boathouse, Cambridge
Short description of the project	This report describes the results of a programme of archeological monitoring carried out by Pre-Construct Archaeology on land at the Combined Colleges Boathouse, Cambridge CB4 1BL (NGR TF 4630 5920) on 16th May and 6th July 2015. The archaeological work was commissioned by Selwyn College on behalf of the Combined Colleges in response to an outline planning condition attached to the demolition of the existing boathouse structures and the erection of a new boathouse, landscaping and new foul drainage services. The aim of the work was to monitor the development and to ensure that any archaeological remains exposed during ground works were recorded, recovered and interpreted to an acceptable standard. No archaeological features or deposits were seen during the monitoring.
Project dates	Start: 16-05-2015 End: 04-08-2015
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	CBHC15 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Methods & techniques	""Visual Inspection""
Development type	Small-scale (e.g. single house, etc.)
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - Direction 4
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project location

Country	England
Site location	CAMBRIDGESHIRE CAMBRIDGE CAMBRIDGE Combined Colleges Boathouse, Logans Way, Cambridge
Postcode	CB4 1BL
Study area	0.23 Hectares
Site coordinates	TL 4630 5920 52.2111432283 0.141502898488 52 12 40 N 000 08 29 E Point
Lat/Long Datum	Unknown
Height OD / Depth	Min: 8.30m Max: 9.20m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd
Project brief originator	Cambridgeshire County Council
Project design originator	Mark Hinman
Project director/manager	Shannon Hogan
Project supervisor	Shannon Hogan
Type of sponsor/funding body	Client

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	R12178
Digital Archive ID	CBHC15

Digital Contents	"other"
Digital Media available	"Text"
Paper Archive recipient	R12178
Paper Archive ID	CBHC15
Paper Contents	"other"
Paper Media available	"Photograph","Report"

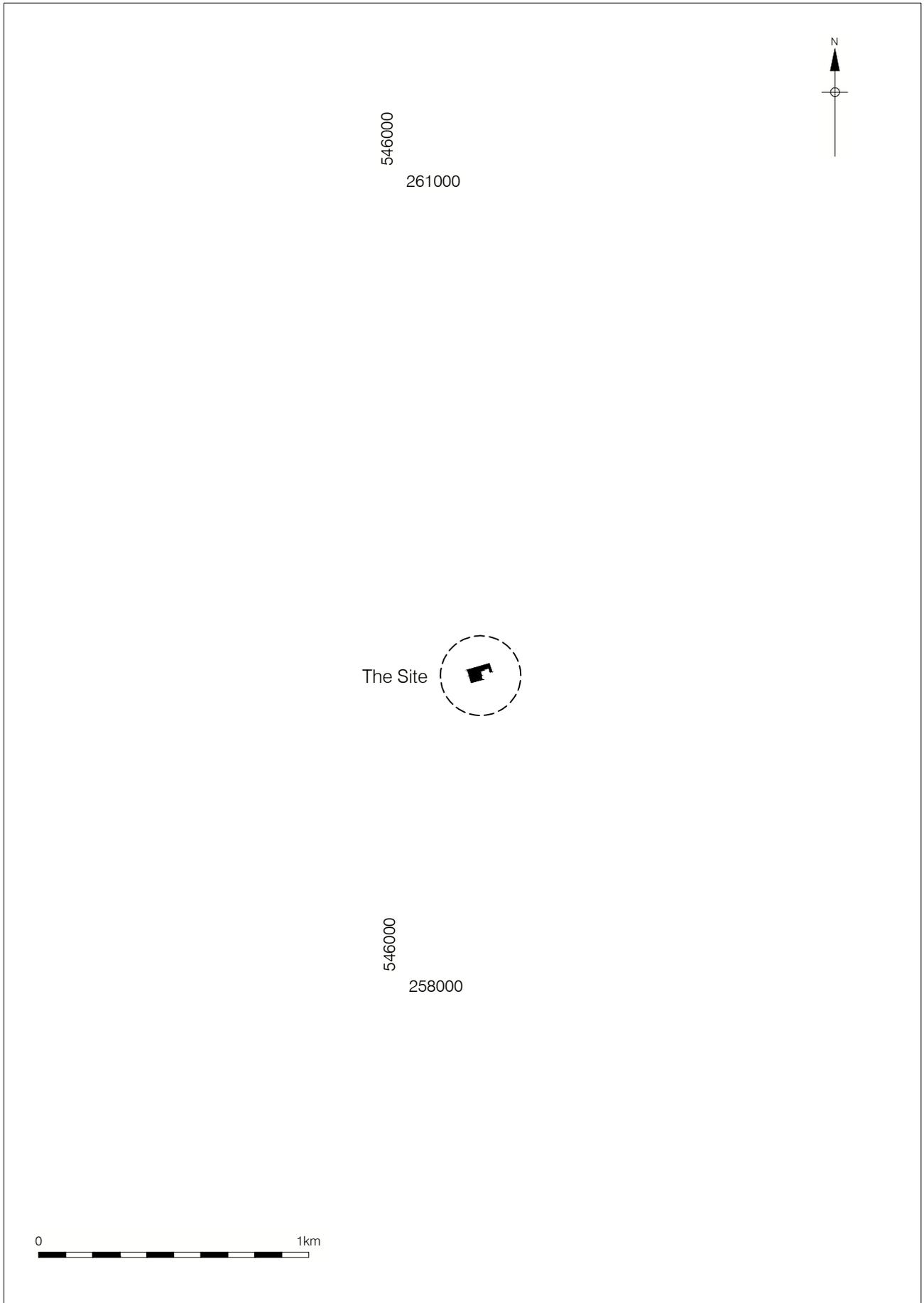
Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Land at Combined Colleges Boathouse, Logans Way, Cambridge CB4 1BL: Archaeological Monitoring
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Hogan, S.
Other bibliographic details	R12178
Date	2015
Issuer or publisher	PCA
Place of issue or publication	Cambridge
Description	A4 bound report, colour plates
URL	http://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk

Entered by	Shannon Hogan (shogan@pre-construct.com)
Entered on	10 August 2015

12 APPENDIX 4: ATTENDANCE

Date	Staff	Works monitored
16/05/2015	J.House	Topsoil strip
06/07/15	S.Hogan	Removal of concrete pads (foundations)
04/08/15	S Hogan	Digging of new holes for pile pads



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14/08/15 RM

Figure 1
Site Location
1:20,000 at A4

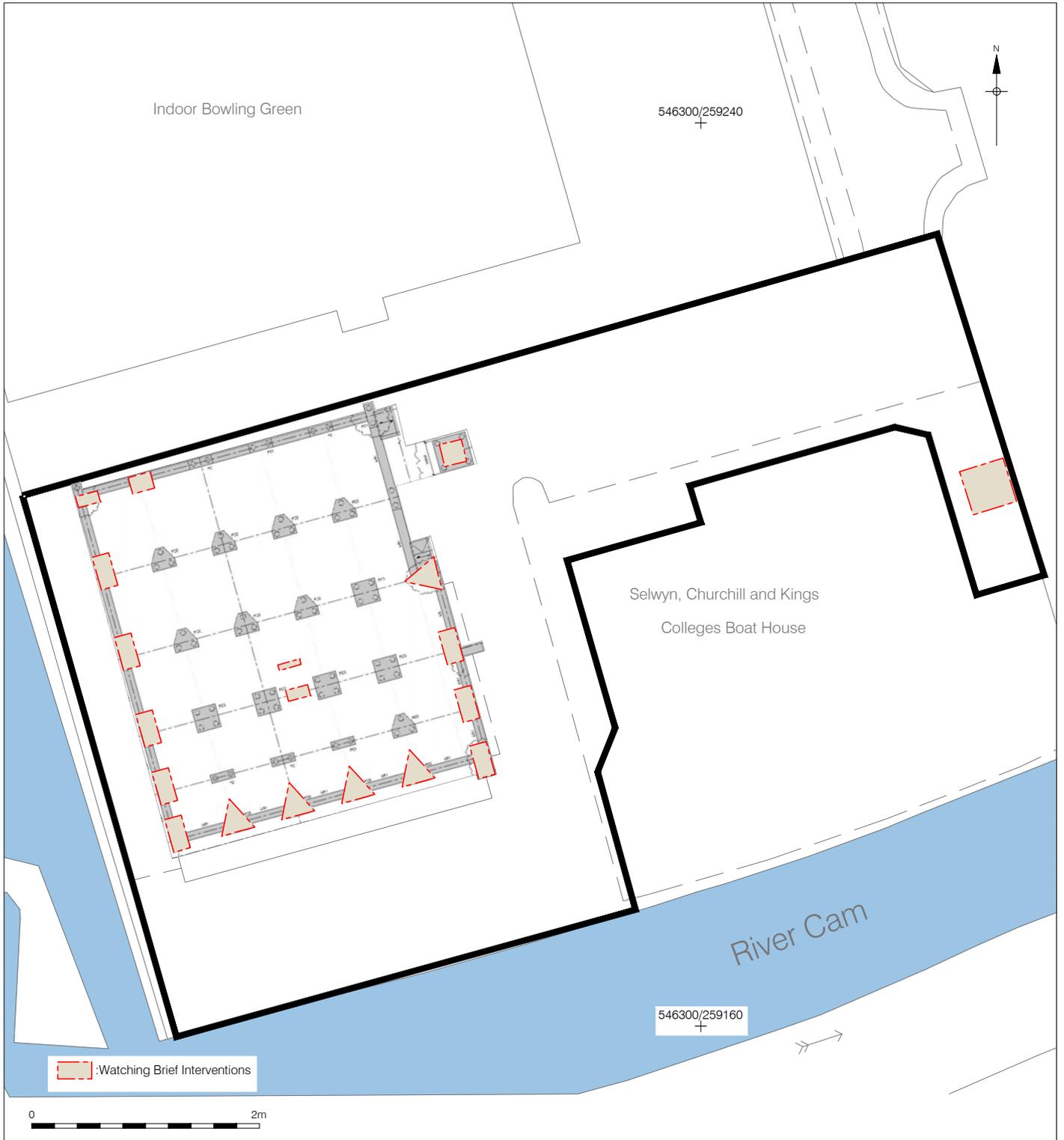


Figure 2
 Watching Brief Location
 1:500 at A4

PCA

PCA SOUTH

UNIT 54
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96 ENDWELL ROAD
BROCKLEY
LONDON SE4 2PD
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PCA NORTH

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EMAIL: info.north@pre-construct.com

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