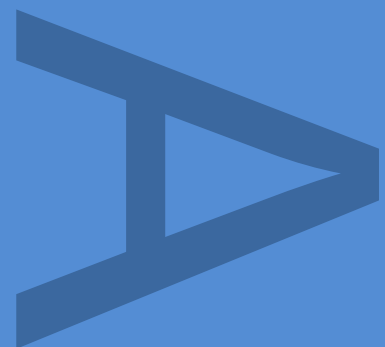


**LAND AT EKIN ROAD,
CAMBRIDGE,
CAMBRIDGESHIRE, CB5 8PS: AN
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
EVALUATION**

DECEMBER 2015



**PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY
R12296**

LAND AT EKIN ROAD, CAMBRIDGE,
CAMBRIDGESHIRE, CB5 8PS

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

Quality Control

Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd	
Project Number	K3651
Report Number	R12296

	Name & Title	Signature	Date
Text Prepared by:	Mary-Anne Slater		December 2015
Graphics Prepared by:	Ray Murphy		December 2015
Graphics Checked by:	Josephine Brown	<i>Josephine Brown</i>	December 2015
Project Manager Sign-off:	Taleyna Fletcher	<i>Taleyna Fletcher</i>	December 2015

Revision No.	Date	Checked	Approved

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

Land at Ekin Road, Cambridge, Cambridgeshire, CB5 8PS:

Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation

Local Planning Authority: Cambridge City Council

Planning Reference: 14/0887/FUL

Central National Grid Reference: TL 4810 5954

Site Code: ECB4233 / CERD15

Report No. R12296

Written and researched by: Mary-Anne Slater

Project Manager: Taleyna Fletcher

Commissioning Client: Keepmoat

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

Tel: 01223 845522

E-mail: tfletcher@pre-construct.com

Website: www.pre-construct.com

©Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd

November 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The material contained herein is and remains the sole property of Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd and is not for publication to third parties without prior consent.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	6
3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND	7
4 METHODOLOGY	8
5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE	10
6 CONCLUSIONS	11
7 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	12
8 BIBLIOGRAPHY	13
9 APPENDIX 1: PLATES	17
10 APPENDIX 2: CONTEXT INDEX	20
11 APPENDIX 3: OASIS FORM	21
FIGURE 1 SITE LOCATION	14
FIGURE 2 TRENCH LOCATION	15
FIGURE 3 TRENCH LOCATION PLAN SHOWING NEW DEVELOPMENT	16
PLATE 1: TRENCH 1, VIEW EAST	17
PLATE 2: TRENCH 2, VIEW WEST	18
PLATE 3: TRENCH 2, VIEW SOUTH	19

ABSTRACT

This report describes the results of an archaeological trial trench evaluation carried out by Pre-Construct Archaeology on land at Ekin Road, Cambridge, Cambridgeshire (NGR TL 4810 5954) on the 26th November 2015. The archaeological work was commissioned by Keepmoat in response to a planning condition attached to the construction of six residential dwellings with associated access and landscaping. The aim of the work was to characterise the archaeological potential of the proposed development area.

The construction of the proposed buildings had already commenced prior to PCAs arrival and therefore evaluation of the site was limited to the remaining available areas.

Two trenches were excavated, but no archaeological features were present.

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 An archaeological trial trench evaluation was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd (PCA) on land at Ekin Road, Cambridge, Cambridgeshire, CB5 8PS (centred on Ordnance Survey National Grid Reference (NGR) TL 4810 5954) on the 26th November 2015 (Figure 1).
- 1.2 The archaeological work was commissioned by Keepmoat in response to an archaeological planning condition attached to the construction of six new residential dwellings, with associated access, car-parking and landscaping (Planning Reference 14/0887/FUL).
- 1.3 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by Mark Hinman of PCA (Hinman 2014) in response to a Brief for archaeological evaluation issued by Andy Thomas (Thomas 2014) of Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team (CCC HET).
- 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 The foundations of the proposed buildings and installation of services had already taken place without the knowledge of PCA who subsequently notified Andy Thomas of CHET on behalf of their client. Following an on-site meeting between Andy Thomas, the client and PCA, it was agreed that an archaeological evaluation of the site must still be carried out prior to any further development taking place. A revised trench location plan was submitted to, and approved by CHET (Figures 2 and 3) which would supersede that in the original WSI (Hinman 2014).
- 1.6 A total of two trial trenches were excavated and recorded.
- 1.7 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 Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeology Store.

2 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

2.1 Geology

2.1.1 The underlying geology of the site is Chalk of the West Melbury Marly Chalk Formation (British Geological Survey; Website 1).

2.1.2 No superficial deposits are recorded within the vicinity of Ekin Road. Immediately south of the site the chalk bedrock is overlain by river terrace gravels (British Geological Survey; Website 1).

2.2 Topography

2.2.1 The site is located on the eastern side of Cambridge city, within a residential area. The development area is broadly flat, situated at an elevation of 16.4m above Ordnance Datum (AOD).

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

3.1 General

- 3.1.1 The site is located within the historic town of Cambridge. Substantial background research has been conducted within the immediate vicinity of Ekin Road. A desk-based assessment for a development on nearby Wadloes Road (Garwood 2013) established that there is potential for multi-period remains within the vicinity including prehistoric, Roman, Saxon and medieval. However the existing buildings at Ekin Road might have had a significant impact upon the survival of any buried archaeological remains.
- 3.1.2 Within 250m to the east and northeast of Ekin Road, archaeological investigations at the former allotment site off Newmarket Road and Greenhouse Farm, Fen Ditton found evidence for settlement and activity dating from the Late Bronze Age to the Roman period (HER CB14592; MCB19818). The excavations at Greenhouse Farm revealed a Late Iron Age settlement, whilst stray finds of Neolithic and Bronze Age flints, and later pottery and metalwork have been recovered from across the Fen Ditton area. Saxon burials have been excavated 300m south of Ekin Road at Barnwell Road (HER MCB16936).

4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 Excavation and Sampling

4.1.1 The Written Scheme of Investigation for the evaluation proposed the excavation of two 20m trenches, distributed across the site within the footprint of the proposed development. Due to construction work taking place prior to the evaluation, remedial action was taken and two trenches were positioned to avoid the new house footings (Figure 2).

4.1.2 Ground reduction was carried out under archaeological supervision using a 7-ton wheeled 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).

4.2 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 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.

- 4.2.3 High-resolution digital photographs were taken at all stages of the evaluation process and black and white record shots were also taken.

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 The trenches are described below in numerical order, with technical data tabulated. No archaeological features were seen in either trench.

5.2 Trench 1

5.2.1 No archaeological features were present in Trench 1.

TRENCH 1	Figure 2		Plate 1	
Trench Alignment: E-W	Length: 20m	Level of Natural (m OD): 13.01m		
Deposit	Context No.	Average Depth (m)		
		E End	W End	
Made Ground	(100)	0.80m	0.82m	
Subsoil	(102)	0.82-1.1m	0.82-1.07m	
Natural	(103)	1.1m+	1.07m+	
Summary				
Trench 1 was located close to the northern boundary of the site. No archaeological features were present.				

5.3 Trench 2

5.3.1 No archaeological features were present in Trench 2.

TRENCH 2	Figure 2		Plates 2-3	
Trench Alignment: N-S/E-W	Length: 20m	Level of Natural (m OD): 13.21m		
Deposit	Context No.	Average Depth (m)		
		W End	N End	
Made Ground	(100)	0.28m	0.41m	
Garden Soil	(101)	0.28-0.5m	0.41-0.63m	
Subsoil	(102)	0.5-0.74m	0.63-0.78m	
Natural	(103)	0.74m+	0.78m+	
Summary				
Trench 2 was 'L'-shaped and was located close to the southern boundary of the site. No archaeological features were present.				

6 CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1.1 The evaluation has identified no evidence for archaeological activity on land at Ekin Road, Cambridge. Despite the previous use of land for garages and the large amount of made ground present in Trench 1, subsoil was still present in both trenches, indicating that no archaeology had been truncated historically.
- 6.1.2 The lack of archaeological features at Ekin Road is not unexpected given the results of previous archaeological work in this part of Cambridge (Wadloes Road, Jones and Slater 2015).

7 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

7.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd would like to thank Keepmoat for commissioning the work and South Midlands Plant for providing the plant and mechanical excavator. PCA are also grateful to Andy Thomas of Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team for his advice and for monitoring the work. The author would like to thank Taleyna Fletcher for managing the project, Clare Jackson for her hard work and finally PCA's CAD department for preparing the figures.

8 BIBLIOGRAPHY

8.1 Printed Sources

Garwood, A. 2013 Land at Wadloes Road, Cambridge, CB5 8PH: An Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment. Pre-Construct Archaeology (unpublished R11423)

Hinman, M. 2014 Written Scheme of Investigation for a Program of Archaeological Evaluation at Ekin Road, Cambridge. Pre-Construct Archaeology (unpublished)

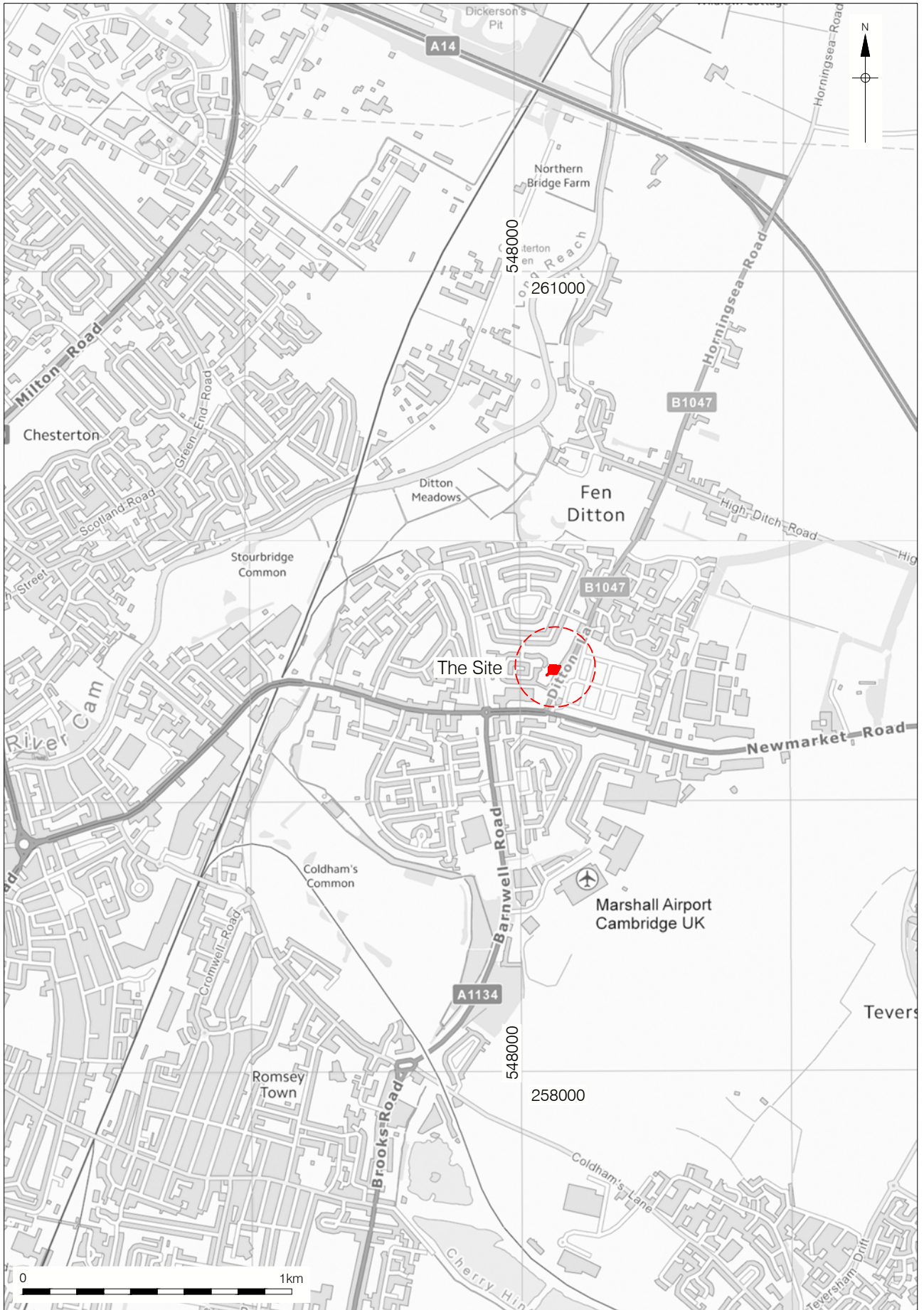
Jones, M. and Slater, M. 2015 Land at Wadloes Road, Cambridge, Cambridgeshire, CB5 8PH: Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation. Pre-Construct Archaeology (unpublished R12020)

Thomas, A. 2014 Brief for Archaeological Evaluation: Ekin Road, Cambridge. Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team (unpublished)

8.2 Websites

1) British Geological Survey (Accessed 30/11/2015)

<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>



Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2015
 © Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd 2015
 07/12/15 RM

Figure 1
 Site Location
 1:20,000 at A4





Figure 3
 Trench Location showing new development
 1:500 at A4

9 APPENDIX 1: PLATES



Plate 1: Trench 1, view east



Plate 2: Trench 2, view west



Plate 3: Trench 2, view south

10 APPENDIX 2: CONTEXT INDEX

Context	Cut	Type	Category	Interpretation	Trench Number
100	-	Layer	Made Ground	Overburden	1 and 2
101	-	Layer	Garden Soil	Overburden	2
102	-	Layer	Subsoil	Overburden	1 and 2
103	-	Layer	Natural	Natural Chalk Geology	1 and 2

11 APPENDIX 3: OASIS FORM

OASIS ID: preconst1-232277

Project details

Project name Land at Ekin Road, Cambridge, Cambridgeshire, CB5 8PS:
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 Ekin Road, Cambridge, Cambridgeshire (NGR TL 4810 5954) on the 26th November 2015. The archaeological work was commissioned by Keepmoat in response to a planning condition attached to the construction of six residential dwellings with associated access and landscaping. The aim of the work was to characterise the archaeological potential of the proposed development area. Two trenches were excavated, but no archaeological features were present.

Project dates Start: 26-11-2015 End: 26-11-2015

Previous/future work No / Not known

Any associated project reference codes ECB4233 - Sitecode

Type of project Field evaluation

Site status None

Current Land use Vacant Land 1 - Vacant land previously developed

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

Project location

Country England

Site location CAMBRIDGESHIRE CAMBRIDGE CAMBRIDGE Ekin Road,
Cambridge

Postcode CB5 8PS

Study area 0.1 Hectares

Site coordinates TL 4810 5954 52.213715960993 0.167979335625 52 12 49 N 000
10 04 E Point

Height OD / Depth Min: 13.01m Max: 13.21m

Project creators

Name of Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited
Organisation

Project brief Andy Thomas
originator

Project design Taleyna Fletcher
originator

Project Taleyna Fletcher
director/manager

Project supervisor Mary-Anne Slater

Type of Commercial Developer
sponsor/funding
body

Project archives

Physical Archive No
Exists?

Digital Archive Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeology Store
recipient

Digital Archive ID ECB4233

Digital Contents "none"

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

Paper Archive Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeology Store
recipient

Paper Archive ID ECB4233

Paper Contents "none"

Paper Media "Context sheet", "Report"
available

Project bibliography

1

Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Publication type

Title Land at Ekin Road, Cambridge, Cambridgeshire, CB5 8PS:
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

