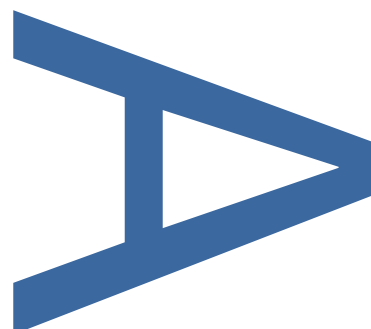
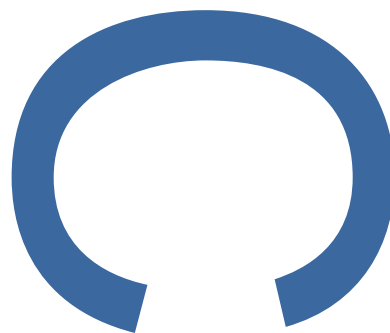


**LAND AT TEMPLE FARM, WEST
HANNINGFIELD, CHELMSFORD,
ESSEX: ARCHAEOLOGICAL
MONITORING**

PCA REPORT NO: 12762

SITE CODE: WHATF15

JANUARY 2017



Land at Temple Farm, West Hanningfield, Chelmsford, Essex: Archaeological Monitoring

Local Planning Authority: Chelmsford City Council

Planning Reference: 14/01971/OUT

Central National Grid Reference: TL 712 010

Site Code/Event Number: WHATF15

Report No. R12762

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ABSTRACT

This report describes the results of archaeological monitoring and a strip, map and record carried out by Pre-Construct Archaeology on land at Temple Farm, West Hanningfield, Chelmsford, Essex (NGR TL 712 010) between July and December 2016. The archaeological monitoring was commissioned by CgMs Consulting following previous archaeological evaluations which revealed a single Bronze Age pit and a single Bronze Age cremation urn. The aim of the work was to record any archaeological features seen during construction.

The results of the monitoring are consistent with previous evaluations at Temple Farm in demonstrating a general absence of archaeological activity across the entire site. Some worked flint was recovered from the central contaminated industrial area and the footings of known post-medieval structures belonging to Temple Farm were recorded.

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Archaeological monitoring was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd (PCA) on land at Temple Farm, West Hanningfield, Chelmsford, Essex (NGR TL 712 010) between the 7th July 2016 and 5th December 2016 (Figure 1).
- 1.2 The archaeological work was commissioned by CgMs Consulting following previous archaeological evaluations at the site (King 2007; Lees 2015).
- 1.3 The archaeological monitoring and strip, map and record were carried out in accordance with an Archaeological Design Brief produced by Place Services of Essex County Council, with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by Chris Clarke of CgMs (Clarke 2015).
- 1.4 The archaeological monitoring and strip, map and record represent a second phase of work targeting the area of Trench 6 (2007 evaluation) in Field 6/G, Trench 9 (2015 evaluation) in Field 1/A, the grubbing out of existing building foundations, contamination investigations within the central industrial area and the stripping of the proposed access road and attenuation pond in the north-west of the site, which until recently was largely wooded.
- 1.5 The aim of the monitoring was to record any archaeological activity seen during landscaping and construction.
- 1.6 This report describes the results of the monitoring. The site archive will be deposited at Chelmsford Museum.

2 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

2.1 Geology

2.1.1 The recorded bedrock geology of the site is recorded as The Bagshot Formation of sand and the Claygate Formation of clay, silt and sand. Both formations are sedimentary deposits formed approximately 34 to 56 million years ago in the Palaeogene Period (BGS 2015).

2.2 Topography

2.2.1 The site comprised eight fields covering an area of c.35ha, which were unused and left as open grassland and scrub. Topographically the site sloped downwards from the south-west to the north east and south-east. Spot heights taken at ground level varied between 89.76m Over Datum (OD) in the south-west corner of Field 9/I and 62.04m OD in the north-east corner of Field 4/E.

2.2.2 The parcels of land formerly evaluated form a circuit of green open space around a former car breaking and scrap yard. The prior use of this central area of the site has led to substantial landfilling, rubbish tipping and high levels of contamination.

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

3.1 General

3.1.1 This archaeological and historical background has been taken from the WSI (Clarke 2015) which summarised the Desk Based Assessment (DBA) for the proposed development (Bourn 2014).

3.2 Prehistoric

3.2.1 The only record of prehistoric date within 1km radius of the site is that of a pebble mace head of Mesolithic date c. 1.1km to the south-west of the site (Historic Environment Record (HER) 17627). There is no record as to the exact location and context of this find and therefore can only be interpreted as an indication of at least limited Mesolithic activity somewhere in the general locality of the study site.

3.2.2 There are no other remains of prehistoric date recorded in the vicinity of the site. However, a field-walking project undertaken prior to the construction of a golf course at Crondon Park, c. 2km to the west recovered 27 pieces of worked flint spread fairly uniformly across the survey area. Although this is only indicative of a low level of prehistoric activity, there was a relatively high concentration of burnt flint which may indicate settlement sites or ploughed out burnt flint mounds.

3.2.3 There are a number of cropmarks of field boundaries of an unknown date recorded 700m – 1km to the north-east, north and north-west of the site (HER18202, HER 18200 & HER18210). While it is considered that these are actually the remains of medieval or post-medieval field boundaries, it is possible that they, or elements of them, could be prehistoric.

3.3 Roman

3.3.1 Although Chelmsford was Roman town, the only record of Roman remains within 1km of the study site is that of a cremation burial found at 'West Hanningfield Common' (HER5542). The exact provenance of this discovery is unknown.

3.3.2 The field-walking project at Crandon Park recorded 26 sherds of Roman

pottery and a concentration of Roman brick and tile, suggesting the presence of a small Roman farmstead with a thin scatter of Roman pottery around the site which suggests manuring of arable land.

3.3.3 There are no other remains of Roman date recorded in the vicinity of the site. However, the cropmarks referred to in Section 3.1.4 could be of Roman date, although it is considered that these are actually the remains of medieval or post-medieval field boundaries.

3.3.4 There are a number of cropmarks of undated field boundaries recorded within the 1km HER search radius of the site (HER18202, HER 18200 & HER18210). These are possibly medieval in origin. There are no other remains of medieval date recorded within 1km radius of the site. Later historic maps indicate that the area was agricultural fields and therefore, it is likely that the site would have been the same in the medieval period.

3.4 Anglo-Saxon and Medieval

3.4.1 There are no records of Saxon or Early Medieval remains within 1km radius of the study site. The archaeological evaluation of the site revealed no finds of features of Saxon date. The site is located away from the historic cores of all the nearby settlements.

3.4.2 There are a number of cropmarks of undated field boundaries recorded within the 1km HER search radius of the site (HER18202, HER 18200 & HER18210). These are possibly medieval in origin. There are no other remains of medieval date recorded within 1km radius of the site. Later historic maps indicate that the area was agricultural fields and therefore, it is likely that the site would have been the same in the medieval period.

3.5 Post-Medieval and Modern

3.5.1 The cropmarks of field boundaries referred to above, it is likely that they are essentially post-medieval in date although they may have had medieval origins. With the exception of some post-medieval pottery found c. 100m to the north of the site (HER5820).

3.5.2 There are a series of early maps of Essex which show the general character

of West Hanningfield which was agricultural at the time. However, none of the maps show the site in any detail.

3.5.3 The earliest map that shows the site at a reliable and reasonable scale is the 1846 West Hanningfield Tithe map. This depicts the site as being agricultural with Temple Farm comprising of a collection of buildings.

3.5.4 The site remained unchanged on the 1880 OS map. The site remained unchanged until the 1970 OS map at which time Temple Farm had been demolished. Temple Farm Trading Estate is first shown on the 2006 OS map.

3.6 Previous Archaeological Investigation

3.6.1 In 2007, an archaeological evaluation (King 2007) was undertaken on site as part of a previous planning application. The evaluation of nine trial trenches (Figure 2) located at intervals across the periphery of the site. The only featured encountered was in the crucifix shaped trench located in the southeast corner of Field 6/G (Foundations Archaeology 2007, Figures 2 & 3 & Clarke 2015, Figure 2) consisting of a small pit which contained several fragments of Bronze Age pottery. Undisturbed natural was recorded in all trenches (King 2007).

3.6.2 An archaeological evaluation undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology in 2015 (Lees 2015) revealed a single Middle Bronze Age urned cremation burial but no other activity apart from modern truncation and landfilling. Accordingly, in an archaeological context, it was concluded that that Temple Farm was of local significance only.

4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 Monitoring

- 4.1.1 Ground reduction was carried out under archaeological supervision using a 2.5-ton tracked mechanical excavator fitted with 0.3m and 0.6m-wide toothless ditching buckets. Deposits were removed in spits down to the level required. Exposed surfaces were cleaned by trowel and hoe as appropriate and all further excavation was undertaken manually using hand tools. Overburden deposits were examined visually and with a metal-detector for finds retrieval. Metal-detecting was carried out throughout the monitoring process.
- 4.1.2 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 Strip, Map and Record

- 4.2.1 Ground reduction was carried out under archaeological supervision using an 18-ton tracked mechanical excavator fitted with a 1.2m-wide toothless ditching bucket. Deposits were removed in spits down to the natural geology (Plate 5). Overburden deposits were examined visually and with a metal-detector for finds retrieval. Metal-detecting was carried out throughout the monitoring process.
- 4.2.2 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 Recording Methodology

- 4.3.1 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.
- 4.3.2 High-resolution digital photographs were taken at all stages of the monitoring process.

4.3.3 Artefacts 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 (ClfA 2014; Walker 1990; Watkinson 1981).

5 DISCUSSION & CONCLUSIONS

5.1 Bronze Age

5.1.1 The Middle Bronze Age cremation found during the evaluation (Lees 2015) indicates that some activity was present at Temple Farm in the Middle Bronze Age period. This is in addition to the Bronze Age pit (King 2007) identified in Field 6/G in the 2007 evaluation on the site. However, no further activity was seen during monitoring of the site and a strip, map and record around the area of the cremation.

5.2 Post Medieval

5.2.1 Elements of the previous Temple Farm structures was observed during soil stripping, remnants of the footings, brick lined drains and a capped brick well were uncovered during machine excavation. The bricks were un-frogged, dating as 18th to early 19th century. The farm buildings can be seen on the first edition map (Ordnance Survey, 1875).

5.3 Modern

5.3.1 The site had been used extensively for rubbish tipping and landfilling in modern times, likely in direct relation to the activity of the scrap and breakers yard in the centre of the site. This contaminated waste is substantial, with large amounts seen in the area of the balancing pond (Plates 2-3).

5.3.2 A modern ditch and in-filled pond were present just to the south of Field 3/C, both seen on Ordnance Survey maps from the 19th -20th centuries. This disused ditch line, which was backfilled with modern scrap and landfill, appears on maps between 1874 and 1981, no longer in existence by 1992. Once cleared the ditch measured 4m wide by 0.6m deep at the north-east end, becoming wider and deeper towards its south western end where it measured 7m x 2.3m (Plate 4).

5.3.3 A disused pond at the south-west end of the disused ditch was also discovered, which appears on maps from 1880 to 1974, no longer on maps from 1980. The pond had silted up with soft, mid grey silty clay rather than been backfilled with scrap and landfill. When fully excavated the pond measured 10m x 12m x 2.8m.

5.4 Conclusions

5.4.1 Monitoring of works at Temple Farm revealed no further evidence for archaeological activity, apart from a modern ditch and pond.

6 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

6.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd would like to thank Chris Clarke of CgMs Consulting for commissioning the work, Derek Bennett, Jona Dawson and Andy Malt of BRD for facilitating the work, Anthill Plant Hire for providing the plant machinery and James Jenkins of Anthill Plant Hire for operating the machine. PCA are also grateful to Alison Bennett, Historic Environment Advisor of Essex County Council Place Services (ECCPS) for her advice and for monitoring the work. The author would like to thank Taleyna Fletcher for managing the project. The author would also like to thank Hannah Barrett, David Curry, Adam Garwood, Jon House and Sandy Pullen for their hard work throughout the project, and finally PCA's CAD department for preparing the figures.

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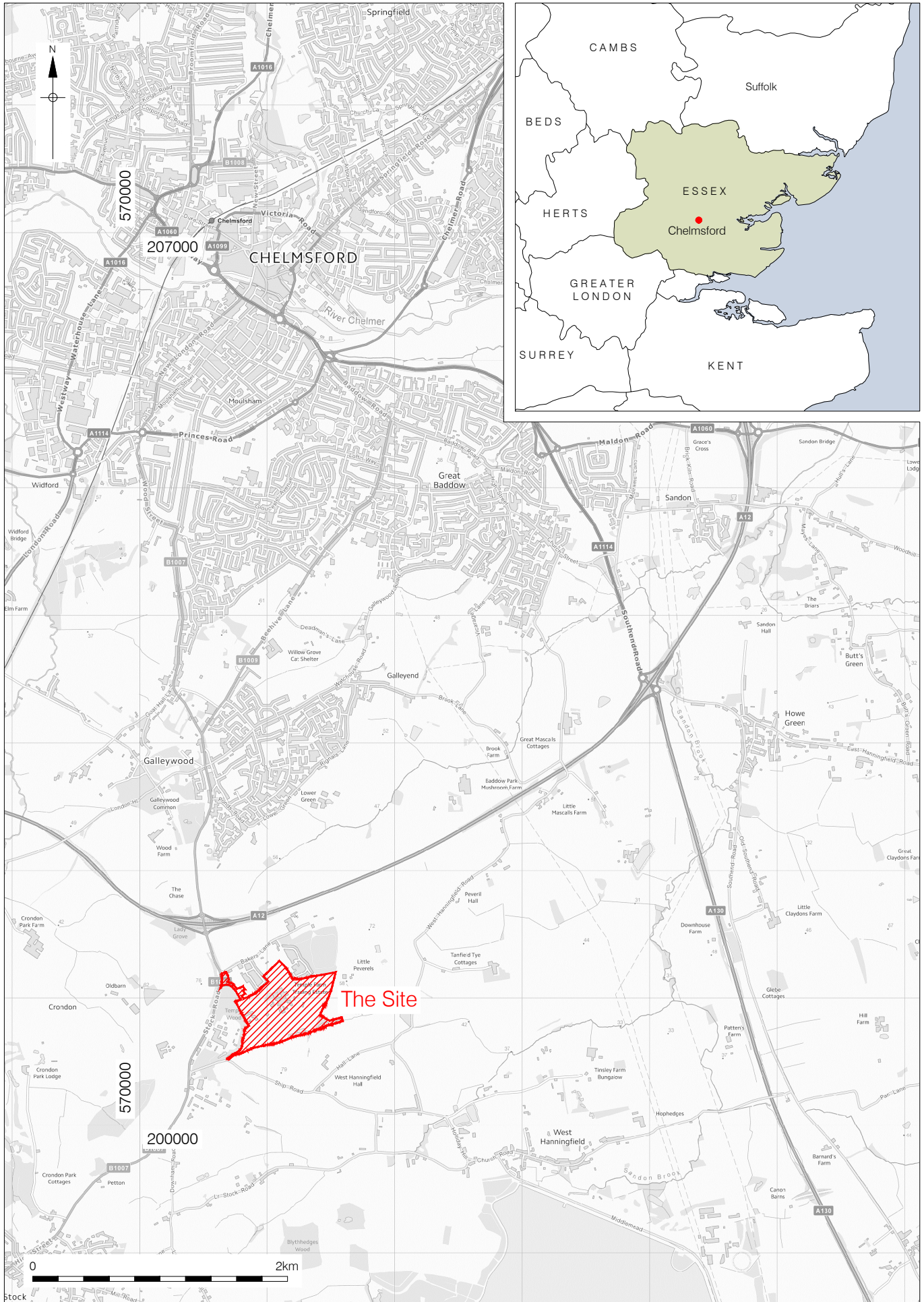
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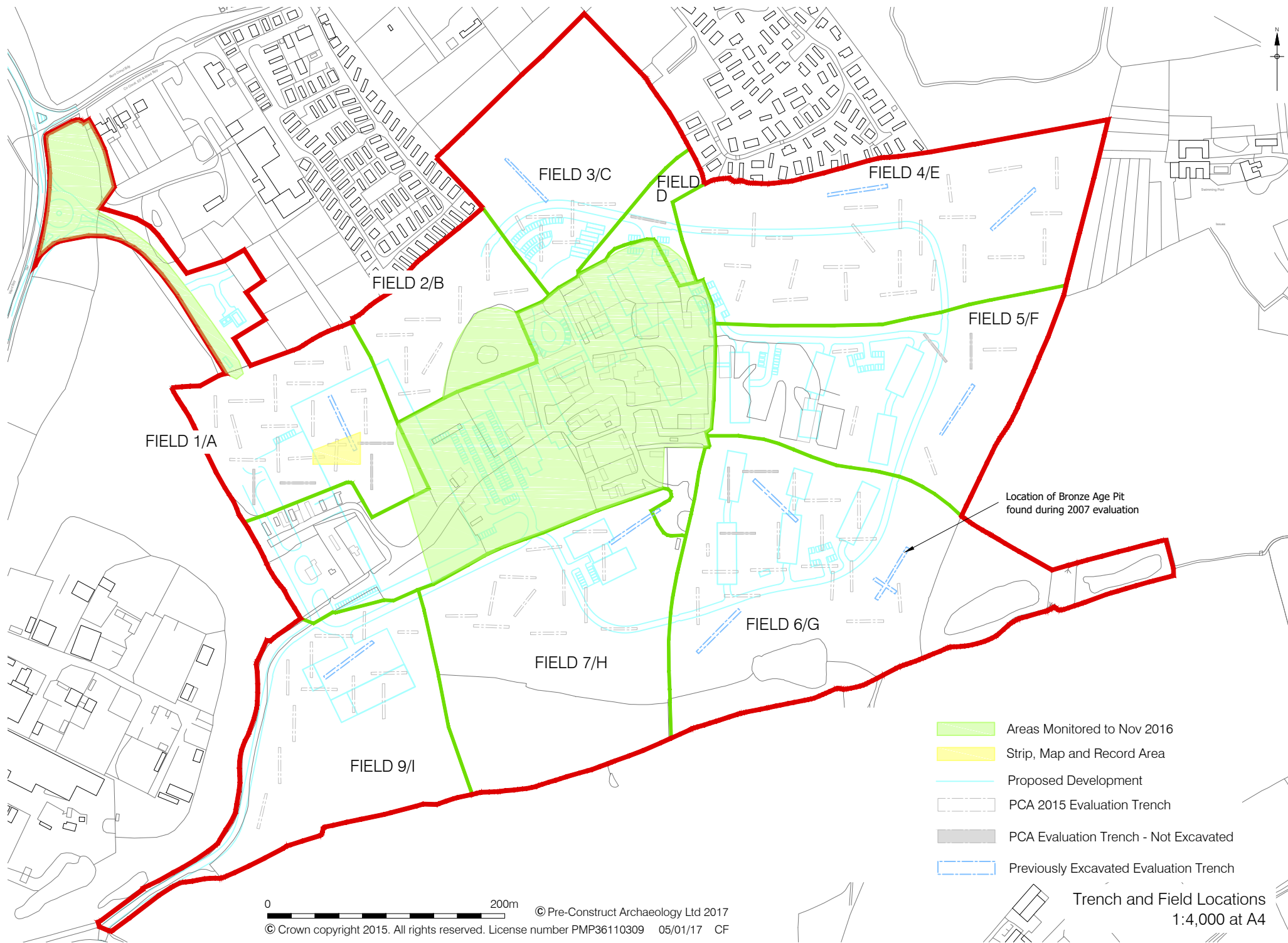
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 20/07/15 JS

Figure 1
 Site Location
 1:2,000,000 & 1:40,000 at A4



8 APPENDIX 1: PLATES



Plate 1: Central Area, view west



Plate 2: Contamination in the area of the balancing pond, view south-east



Plate 3: Contaminated made ground in the area of balancing pond, view north



Plate 4: Disused modern ditch fully excavated, view south



Plate 5: Strip, map and record around Bronze Age cremation in Field 1/A,
view north-west

9 APPENDIX 2: OASIS FORM

OASIS ID: preconst1-272513

Project details

Project name Land at Temple Farm, West Hanningfield, Chelmsford, Essex:
Archaeological Monitoring

Short description of the project This report describes the results of archaeological monitoring and a strip, map and record carried out by Pre-Construct Archaeology on land at Temple Farm, West Hanningfield, Chelmsford, Essex (NGR TL 712 010) between July and December 2016. The archaeological monitoring was commissioned by CgMs Consulting following previous archaeological evaluations which revealed a single Bronze Age pit and a single Bronze Age cremation urn. The aim of the work was to record any archaeological features seen during construction. The results of the monitoring are consistent with previous evaluations at Temple Farm in demonstrating a general absence of archaeological activity across the entire site. Some worked flint was recovered from the central contaminated industrial area and the footings of known post-medieval structures belonging to Temple Farm were recorded.

Project dates Start: 07-07-2016 End: 05-12-2016

Previous/future work Yes / Not known

Any associated project reference codes WHATF15 - Sitecode

Type of project Recording project

Site status None

Current Land use Other 13 - Waste ground

Monument type DITCH Modern

Significant Finds FLINT Uncertain

Investigation type "Watching Brief"

Prompt Planning condition

Project location

Country England

Site location ESSEX CHELMSFORD WEST HANNINGFIELD Temple Farm, West

Hanningfield, Chelmsford

Study area 0 Square metres

Site coordinates TL 712 010 51.681121202295 0.476652906615 51 40 52 N 000 28 35 E
Point

Project creators

Name of Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited
Organisation

Project brief Essex County Council
originator

Project design CgMs Consulting
originator

Project Taleyna Fletcher
director/manager

Project supervisor Hannah Barrett

Project supervisor Adam Garwood

Project supervisor Dave Curry

Project supervisor Jonathan House

Project supervisor Mary-Anne Slater

Project supervisor Alexander Pullen

Project archives

Physical Archive No
Exists?

Digital Archive Chelmsford Museum
recipient

Digital Archive ID WHATF15

Digital Contents "none"

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

Paper Archive Chelmsford Museum
recipient

Paper Archive ID WHATF15

Paper Contents "none"

Paper Media "Correspondence","Plan","Report"
available

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