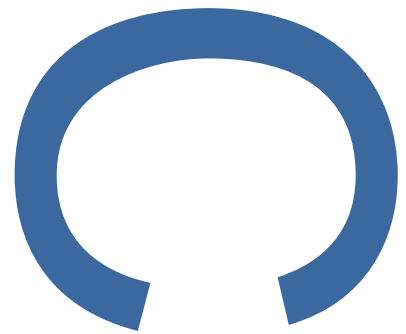


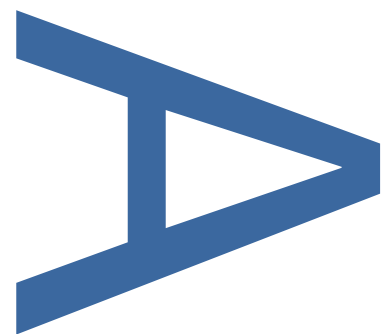
**LAND ADJACENT TO TOWER
HOUSE, EASTON LODGE, PARK
ROAD, LITTLE EASTON, ESSEX: AN
ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL TRENCH
EVALUATION**



PCA REPORT NO: R12851

SITE CODE: LETH17

APRIL 2017



Land adjacent to Tower House, Easton Lodge, Park Road, Little Easton, Essex:

An Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation

Local Planning Authority: Uttlesford District Council

Planning Reference: UTT/16/3099/HHF

Central National Grid Reference: TL 59282 24017

Site Code/Event Number: LETH17

Report No. R12851

Written and researched by: Mary-Anne Slater

Project Manager: Peter Crawley

Commissioning Client: The Cervus Group

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

Tel: 01223 845522

E-mail: pcrawley@pre-construct.com

Website: www.pre-construct.com

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April 2017

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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	17
10 APPENDIX 2: CONTEXT INDEX	20
11 APPENDIX 3: OASIS FORM	21
FIGURE 1 SITE LOCATION	15
FIGURE 2 TRENCH LOCATION	16
PLATE 1: SITE, VIEW EAST	17
PLATE 2: TRENCH 1, VIEW NORTH-EAST	18
PLATE 3: TRENCH 2 SHOWING WALL 109 IN END, VIEW NORTH-WEST	19

ABSTRACT

This report describes the results of an archaeological trial trench evaluation carried out by Pre-Construct Archaeology on land adjacent to Tower House, Easton Lodge, Park Road, Little Easton, Essex (NGR TL 59282 24017) on the 10th April 2017. The archaeological work was commissioned by The Cervus Group in response to a planning condition attached to the construction of a new basemented garage/store and leisure facility on the site of an existing garage. The aim of the work was to characterise the archaeological potential of the proposed development area.

Despite the location of the site within the historic core of Little Easton Lodge, no archaeological features of that period were present. One brick wall, potentially relating to activity during the 19th century was seen in both trenches, but the previous garage on the site appeared to have severely truncated the area.

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 An archaeological trial trench evaluation was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd (PCA) on land adjacent to Tower House, Easton Lodge, Park Road, Little Easton, Essex (centred on Ordnance Survey National Grid Reference (NGR) TL5928224017) on the 10th April 2017 (Figure 1).
- 1.2 The archaeological work was commissioned by The Cervus Group in response to an archaeological planning condition attached to the construction of a new basemented garage/store and leisure facility on the site of an existing garage. (Planning Reference: UTT/16/3099/HHF).
- 1.3 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) (Hinman 2017) in response to a Brief for Archaeological Trial Trenching and Excavation issued by Essex County Council Places Services (Havis 2016).
- 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 Two trenches positioned as a cross, amounting to a total of 20m were excavated in the footprint of the new building.
- 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 Colchester Museum.

2 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

2.1 Geology

2.1.1 The underlying bedrock is comprised of London Clay Formation made up of clay, silt and sand. This sedimentary bedrock formed approximately 34 to 56 million years ago in the Palaeogene Period. The bedrock is overlain by deposits of Lowestoft Formation, a Diamicton formed in the Quaternary period

2.2 Topography

2.2.1 The site lies within Easton Park, to the west of Warwick House and on the lower reaches of the Chelmer river valley and to the SW of the course of the Chelmer River. The site is situated at c.100m Above Ordnance Datum (AOD).

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

3.1.1 The archaeological background detailed below has been taken from the archaeological brief (Havis 2016), a search of the Essex HER and any available 'grey literature' reports documenting archaeological investigations in the area.

3.1.2 The Essex Historic Environment Record shows that the development area lies within the historic core at Little Easton Lodge (EHER 4591). The lands and hunting lodge at Little Easton were granted by Queen Elizabeth I in 1590 to Henry Maynard; a map of 1593 shows the site of the lodge and the walled garden. Maynard, who was knighted in 1603, demolished the hunting lodge and built a large Elizabethan mansion. He was succeeded in 1640 by his son, also William, who surrounded the new house with a park planted with a double avenue of trees aligned on the west front.

3.1.3 The estate at Easton then passed through William's son, Banastre, to his grandson Henry who became the 4th Baron Maynard. Soon after his death without issue in 1742, the grounds were recorded in an engraving by Skynner, which shows the park had been formalised with radiating avenues laid out in a patte d'oie (fan shape). His brothers Grey, and then Charles succeeded him and it was during Charles, 6th Baron and 1st Viscount Maynard's time that Muilman's description of the grounds (1770) was published. This records a 'large park, gardens, canals, serpentine walks, shrubberies and various other useful ornaments' (Muilman 1770). The bachelor 1st Viscount was succeeded by his cousin, Charles in 1775. Chapman and Andre's county map of 1777 shows that he quickly modernised the gardens by the replacement of the canal with an oval basin but otherwise the grounds were unchanged. By 1811 an estate map of the gardens and park are shown in a form which changes very little until the 1870s.

3.1.4 The site lies immediately to the south of the walled garden of the Little

Easton Lodge Estate. Trial trenching in advance of quarrying on the southern side of the park has shown the presence of Roman and prehistoric occupation (EHER 46482). There is also much potential for medieval landscape within the development on the site.

- 3.1.5 During World War II the original house was requisitioned and the park land used as an airfield for the American Air Force. After the war the main house was demolished. Evidence of earlier phases of buildings associated with the estate may be identified in the area of development.

4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 Excavation and Sampling

4.1.1 The Written Scheme of Investigation for the evaluation proposed the excavation of two trial trenches, positioned as a cross in the footprint of the new building (Figure 2). The length of the trenches was limited by services immediately adjacent.

4.1.2 Ground reduction was carried out under archaeological supervision using a 14-ton tracked mechanical excavator fitted with a 1.8m-wide toothless ditching bucket. 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. 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.

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. Artefacts recovered during excavation were assigned to the record number of the deposit from which they were retrieved.

- 4.2.3 High-resolution digital photographs were taken at all stages of the evaluation process.

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE

5.1 Trench 1

5.1.1 Trench 1 contained one brick wall and two concrete wall foundations. No other archaeological features were present.

5.1.2 Foundation 102 measured 1.8m+ long, 0.62m wide and 0.29m+ thick. It was constructed of concrete and related to the previous garage on the site.

5.1.3 Wall 103 measured 2m+ long, up to 0.22m wide and 0.25m thick. It was constructed of handmade unfrogged red brick and aligned northeast-southwest.

5.1.4 Foundation 107 measured 1.8m+ long, 0.62m wide and 0.28m+ thick. It was constructed of concrete and related to the previous garage on the site.

TRENCH 1	Figure 2	Plate 2	
Trench Alignment:	Length: 13m	Level of Natural (m OD): 98.9m	
Deposit	Context No.	Average Depth (m)	
		NE End	SW End
Topsoil	(100)	0.32	N/A
Made Ground	(101)	0.3-0.57	0.7
Concrete Foundations	(102)	0.32+	N/A
Brick Wall	(103)	0.32-0.57+	N/A
Subsoil	(105)	N/A	N/A
Concrete Foundations	(107)	N/A	0.3+
Natural	(106)	N/A	N/A
Summary			
Trench 1 was located in the south-eastern part of the site. The modern concrete foundations for the previous garage were present, as was an earlier brick wall.			

5.2 Trench 2

5.2.1 Trench 2 contained one brick wall in the very end of the trench. No other archaeological features were present.

5.2.2 Wall 109 measured 1m+ long, up to 0.31m wide and 0.29m thick. It was

constructed of handmade unfrogged red brick and aligned northeast-southwest.

TRENCH 2	Figure 2		Plate 3	
Trench Alignment:	Length: 8m	Level of Natural (m OD): 98.91m		
Deposit	Context No.	Average Depth (m)		
		NW End	SE End	
Made Ground	(108)	0.28	0.41	
Subsoil	(105)	0.28-0.64	0.41-0.69	
Brick Wall	(109)	0.51	N/A	
Natural	(106)	0.64+	0.69+	
Summary				
Trench 2 was located in the south-eastern part of the site. A section of brick wall was exposed in the north-western end of the trench. No other archaeological features were present.				

6 DISCUSSION & CONCLUSIONS

6.1.1 Two trenches were excavated within the footprint of the proposed development.

6.1.2 Despite the site lying within the historic core of Little Easton Lodge, no archaeological features relating to that period were present. The previous garage on the site appeared to have severely truncated the area, although an earlier brick wall, potentially 19th century, was still present.

7 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

7.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd would like to thank The Cervus Group for commissioning the work and operating the excavator. PCA are also grateful to Richard Havis of the Essex County Council Place Services for his advice and for monitoring the work. The author would like to thank Peter Crawley for managing the project. The author would also like to thank PCA's CAD department for preparing the figures.

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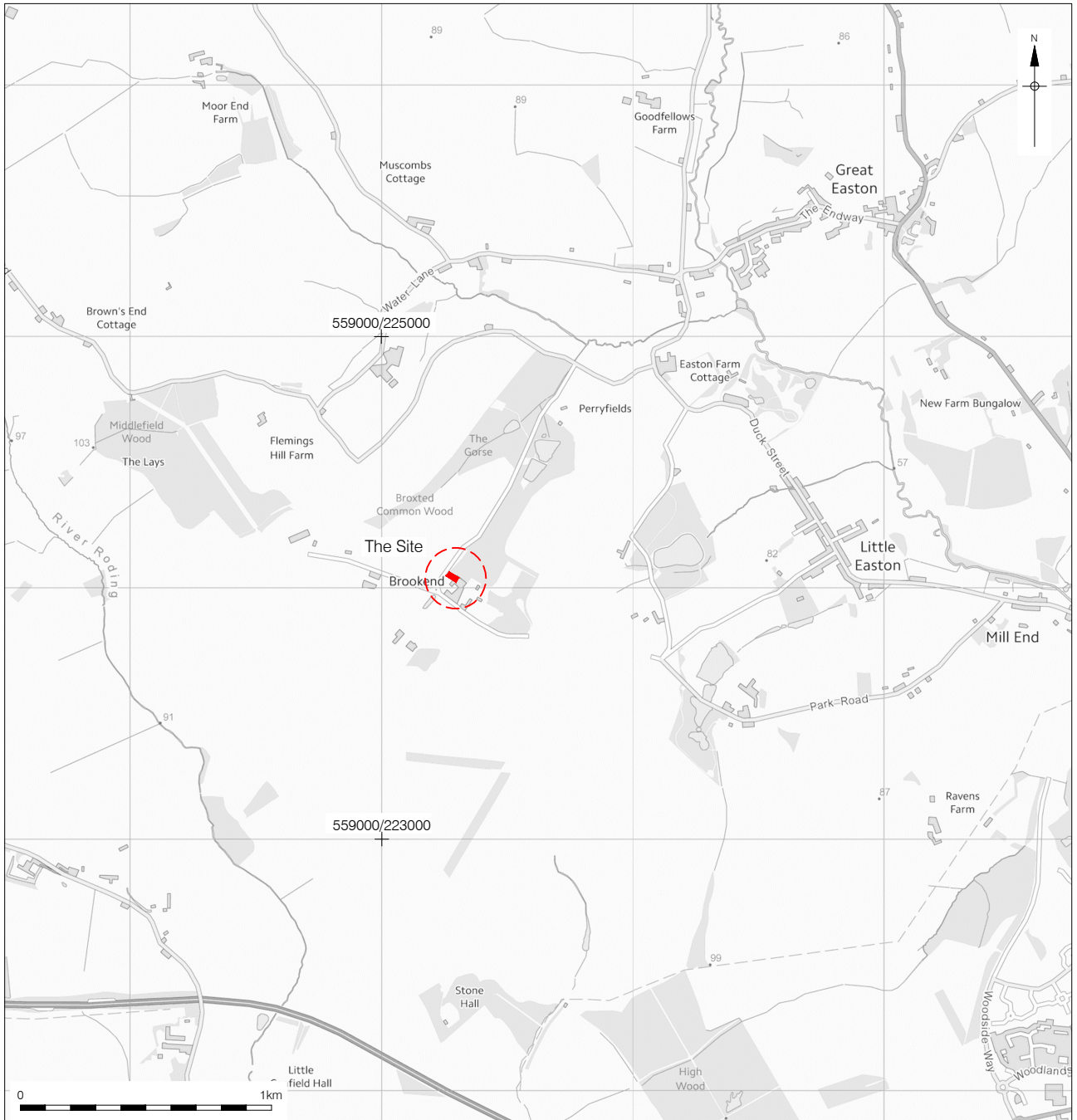
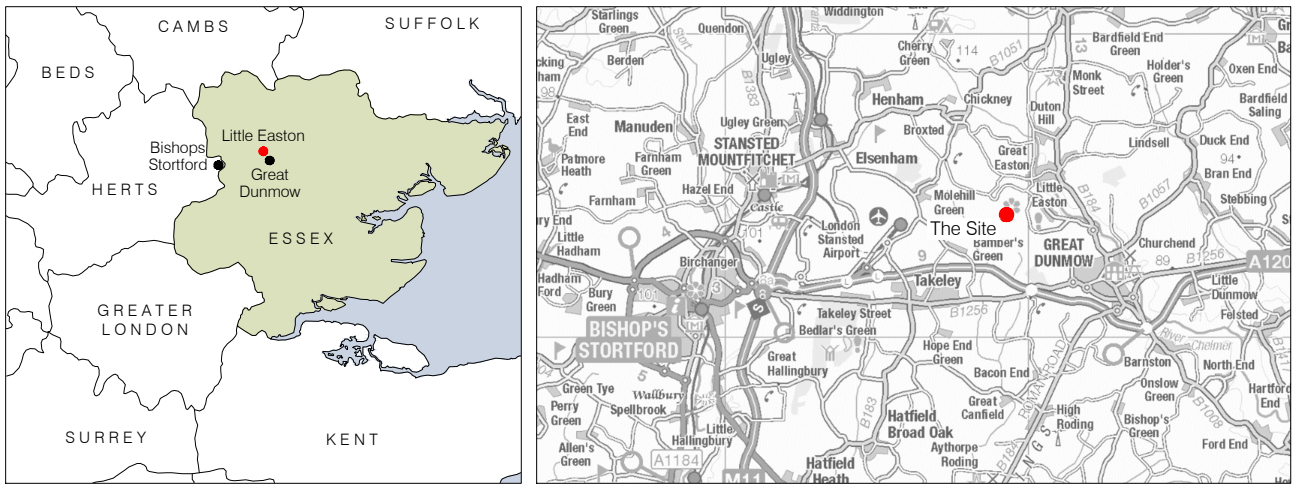
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8.2 Websites

1) British Geological Survey (date accessed 10/04/2017)

www.bgs.ac.uk



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12/04/17 CF

Figure 1
Site Location
1:2,000,000; 1:250,000, 1:25,000 at A4



Figure 2
 Trench Location with Archaeology
 1:625 at A4

9 APPENDIX 1: PLATES



Plate 1: Site, view east



Plate 2: Trench 1, view north-east



Plate 3: Trench 2 showing Wall 109 in end, view north-west

10 APPENDIX 2: CONTEXT INDEX

Context	Cut	Trench	Category	Period
100	N/A	1	Topsoil	
101	N/A	1	Made ground	Modern
102	N/A	1	Concrete foundations	Modern
103	104	1	Wall	19 th century?
104	104	1	Construction cut	19 th century?
105	N/A	1-2	Subsoil	
106	N/A	1-2	Natural	
107	N/A	1	Concrete foundations	Modern
108	N/A	2	Made ground – tarmac	Modern
109	110	2	Wall	19 th century?
110	110	2	Construction cut	19 th century?

11 APPENDIX 3: OASIS FORM

OASIS ID: preconst1-282301

Project details

Project name Land adjacent to Tower House, Easton Lodge, Park Road, Little Easton, Essex: 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 adjacent to Tower House, Easton Lodge, Park Road, Little Easton, Essex (NGR TL 59282 24017) on the 10th April 2017. The archaeological work was commissioned by The Cervus Group in response to a planning condition attached to the construction of a new basemented garage/store and leisure facility on the site of an existing garage. The aim of the work was to characterise the archaeological potential of the proposed development area. Despite the location of the site within the historic core of Little Easton Lodge, no archaeological features of that period were present. One brick wall, potentially relating to activity during the 19th century was seen in both trenches, but the previous garage on the site appeared to have severely truncated the area.

Project dates Start: 10-04-2017 End: 10-04-2017

Previous/future work Not known / Not known

Any associated project reference codes LETH17 - Sitecode

Type of project Field evaluation

Site status None

Current Land use Vacant Land 1 - Vacant land previously developed

Monument type WALL Post Medieval

Significant Finds NONE None

Methods & techniques "Sample Trenches"

Development type Small-scale extensions (e.g. garages, porches, etc.)

Prompt Planning condition

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

Project location

Country England
Site location ESSEX UTTLESFORD LITTLE EASTON Land adjacent to Tower House,
Easton Lodge, Park Road, Little Easton, Essex
Study area 320 Square metres
Site coordinates TL 59282 24017 51.891440987244 0.314965616971 51 53 29 N 000 18
53 E Point

Project creators

Name of Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited
Organisation

Project brief Richard Havis
originator

Project design Mark Hinman
originator

Project Mark Hinman
director/manager

Project supervisor Mary-Anne Slater

Type of Developer
sponsor/funding
body

Project archives

Physical Archive No
Exists?

Digital Archive Colchester Museum
recipient

Digital Archive ID LETH17

Digital Contents "none"

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

Paper Archive Colchester Museum
recipient

Paper Archive ID LETH17

Paper Contents "none"

Paper Media "Context sheet", "Report"
available

Project

bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

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Essex: An Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation

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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

