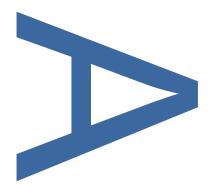
LAND AT HERTSWOOD UPPER SCHOOL, THRIFT FARM LANE, BOREHAMWOOD: AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING EXERCISE

LOCAL PLANNING AUTHORITY: HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

SITE CODE: HHSB17

AUGUST 2018









DOCUMENT VERIFICATION

Land at Hertswood Upper School, Thrift Farm Lane, Borehamwood Type of project

| Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited Project Code | | | K5154 |
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| | | | |
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| Graphics Prepared by: | C Faiers | | 4.9.2017 |
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AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF Quality Control

| Revision No. | Date | Checked | Approved | |
|--------------|-------------|-----------|-----------|--|
| 1 | August 2018 | A Fairman | A Fairman | |
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Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd Unit 54 Brockley Cross Business Centre 96 Endwell Road London SE4 2PD

LAND AT HERTSWOOD UPPER SCHOOL, THRIFT FARM LANE, BOREHAMWOOD:

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING EXERCISE

| Site Code: | HHSB17 |
|----------------------------------|---|
| Local Planning Authority: | Hertsmere Borough Council |
| Planning Application Number: | 10/1767/14 |
| Central National Grid Reference: | TQ 2011 9734 |
| Written by: | Natasha Billson |
| | Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited |
| | |
| Project Manager: | Amelia Fairman |
| Commissioning Client: | CgMs Consulting |
| - | |
| On Behalf of: | Bellway Homes |
| | y |
| | |
| Contractor: | Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited |
| Contractor: | |
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September 2017 revised August 2018

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1 ABSTRACT

- 1.1 This report presents the results of an archaeological monitoring exercise conducted by Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited during monitoring of a trench for an access road on land at Hertswood Upper School, Borehamwood in Hertfordshire (Figure 1). The site is centred at National Grid Reference TQ20119734.
- 1.2 Following an approved Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by CgMs Consulting Limited (Gailey 2016), an archaeological monitoring exercise was carried out between 15th and 17th August 2017, prior to the redevelopment of the site. The investigation comprised the archaeological monitoring of the initial soil strip for the access road across the Phase 1 development area, 182.50m east to west by between 8m and 12m north to south. The investigation area was located entirely within the Hertswood Upper School playing fields.
- 1.3 The monitoring exercise indicated that the land had been worked during the 19th to 20th century which led to substantial truncation of potential archaeological horizons. A series of late post-medieval dump layers were observed in the centre of the investigation area and undated subsoil was identified as overlying the entirety of the area monitored. No archaeological remains or horizons pre-dating the late post-medieval period were identified during the monitoring exercise. Natural clay (consistent with the geology of the area) was observed throughout.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 An archaeological monitoring exercise was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited on land at Hertswood Upper School, Borehamwood in Hertfordshire, between the 15th August 2017 and 17th August 2017. The site is centred at National Grid Reference TQ 20119734 (Figure 1).
- 2.2 The monitoring exercise consisted of the monitoring of a strip excavation for a new access road (Figure 2). The aim of this monitoring was to determine the location, form, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains liable to be threatened by any proposed development and investigate existing disturbance of the ground caused by modern intrusions.
- 2.3 The following specific research objectives were set for the archaeological investigation at the site within an approved Written Scheme of Investigation (Gailey 2016):
 - To record any significant archaeological deposits which may be exposed during the construction works
 - To determine the presence or absence of any activity pre-dating the 20th century school.
- 2.4 The site consists of an academic institution within large playing fields.
- 2.5 Planning consent has been granted for the scheme by the local planning authority, Hertsmere Borough Council. The application was supported by an archaeological desk-based assessment prepared by CgMs Consulting (Gailey 2014)
- 2.6 The archaeological monitoring exercise was conducted by Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited under the supervision of Natasha Billson, and under the project management of Amelia Fairman. The archaeological work was commissioned by CgMs Consulting on behalf of Bellway Homes Limited.
- 2.7 The site was recorded under the unique site code HHSB17. The completed archive comprising written, drawn and photographic records will, upon completion of the project, be ordered and catalogued at Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited's offices in London. After the completion of all stages of subsequent fieldwork and post-excavation it will be deposited with a local repository acceptable to the Historic Environment Unit (HEU) Hertfordshire County Council.

3 PLANNING BACKGROUND

3.1 National Guidance: National Planning Policy Framework

- 3.1.1 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) was adopted on March 27th 2012, and now supersedes the Planning Policy Statements (PPSs). The NPPF constitutes guidance for local planning authorities and decision-takers both in drawing up plans and as a material consideration in determining applications.
- 3.1.2 In considering any planning application for development the local planning authority will be guided by the policy framework set by the NPPF, by current Local Plan policy and by other material considerations.

3.2 Regional Guidance: The East of England Plan

3.2.1 Hertfordshire comes under the jurisdiction of the policies of the *East of England Plan* (or *Regional Spatial Strategy 14*), which was finalised by the Secretary of State in 2008 (subsequently revoked in July 2010 but reinstated in November 2010). The majority of saved policies within the Hertfordshire Structure Plan 1991-2011 have been superseded by those in the East of England Plan (EEP), including those that relate to the historic environment. Although it is government policy to phase out regional planning strategies such as the EEP, until the structure of the NPPF and the new Local Development Frameworks (LDFs) are fully established, the policies contained within the EEP are still relevant:

Policy ENV6: The Historic Environment

In their plans, policies, programmes and proposals local planning authorities and other agencies should identify, protect, conserve and, where appropriate, enhance the historic environment of the region, its archaeology, historic buildings, places and landscapes, including historic parks and gardens and those features and sites (and their settings) especially significant in the East of England:

- The historic cities of Cambridge and Norwich;
- An exceptional network of historic market towns;
- A cohesive hierarchy of smaller settlements ranging from nucleated villages, often marked by architecturally significant medieval parish churches, through to a pattern of dispersed hamlets and isolated farms;
- The highly distinctive historic environment of the coastal zone including extensive submerged prehistoric landscapes, ancient salt manufacturing and fishing facilities, relict sea walls, grazing marshes, coastal fortifications, ancient ports and traditional seaside resorts;
- Formal planned settlements of the early twentieth century, including the early garden cities, and factory villages;
- Conservation areas and listed buildings, including domestic, industrial and religious buildings, and their settings, and significant designed landscapes;

• The rural landscapes of the region, which are highly distinctive and of ancient origin; and The wide variety of archaeological monuments, sites and buried deposits which include many scheduled ancient monuments and other nationally important archaeological assets.

3.3 Local Planning Authority: Hertsmere Local Plan

3.3.1 The local planning authority responsible for the study site is Hertsmere Borough Council. The Hertsmere Local Plan Development Plan Document (DPD) adopted January 2013 contains the following policy of relevance:

Policy CS14 Protection or enhancement of heritage assets

All development proposals must conserve or enhance the historic environment of the Borough in order to maintain and where possible improve local environmental quality. Development proposals should be sensitively designed to a high quality and not cause harm to identified, protected sites, buildings or locations of heritage or archaeological value including Conservation Areas, Listed Buildings, Historic Parks and Gardens, Scheduled Ancient Monuments or their setting, and identified and as yet unidentified Archaeological Remains. The Council will take account of available historic environment characterisation work, including Conservation Area appraisals and archaeological assessments, when making decisions affecting heritage assets and their settings.

3.3.2 Further policy of relevance is contained within the Hertsmere Local Plan Site Allocations and Development Management Policies Plan adopted November 2016:

Policy SADM29 - Heritage Assets

Planning applications will be considered in accordance with the NPPF. When applications are submitted for proposals affecting any heritage asset the applicant must clearly explain what the proposal is for and provide sufficient detail to allow for an informed decision to be made.

When assessing proposals, the Council will have regard to the significance of the heritage asset and the potential harm to it.

The Council will not permit development proposals which fail to protect, conserve or where possible enhance the significance, character and appearance of the heritage asset and its setting. The scale, design, use and character of the proposal will be taken into account, as well as the detailed provisions following.

Archaeology

The Council expects features of known or potential archaeological interest to be identified, assessed, surveyed, recorded and wherever possible retained. Developers will therefore be required to undertake an archaeological field assessment and submit a report on the findings before the Council will grant planning permission. Where a proposal would affect archaeological remains and it is considered acceptable for the development to proceed, conditions will be imposed to ensure that the remains are properly recorded, and where practicable, preserved and enhanced, and the results analysed and published.

3.4 Site Specific Planning

- 3.4.1 The consented planning application (10/1767/14) is subject to two archaeological planning conditions 29 and 30:
 - 29 NO DEMOLITION OR DEVELOPMENT SHALL TAKE PLACE UNTIL AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION HAS BEEN SUBMITTED TO AND APPROVED BY THE LOCAL PLANNING AUTHORITY IN WRITING. THE SCHEME SHALL INCLUDE AN ASSESSMENT OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL SIGNIFICANCE AND RESEARCH QUESTIONS; AND:
 - 1 THE PROGRAMME AND METHODOLOGY OF SITE INVESTIGATION AND RECORDING;
 - 2 THE PROGRAMME AND METHODOLOGY OF SITE INVESTIGATION AND RECORDING AS SUGGESTED BY THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION;
 - 3 THE PROGRAMME FOR POST-INVESTIGATION ASSESSMENT:
 - PROVISION TO BE MADE FOR ANALYSIS OF THE SITE INVESTIGATION AND RECORDING;
 - 5 PROVISION TO BE MADE FOR PUBLICATION AND DISSEMINATION OF THE ANALYSIS AND RECORDS OF THE SITE INVESTIGATION;
 - 6 PROVISION TO BE MADE FOR ARCHIVE DEPOSITION OF THE ANLAYSIS AND RECORDS OF THE SITE INVESTIGATION;

- 7 NOMINATION OF A COMPETENT PERSON OR PERSONS/ORGANISATION TO UNDERTAKE THE WORKS SET OUT WITHIN THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION.
- REASON: IN ACCORDANCE WITH POLICY 12 (PARA 141) OF THE NPPF
- 30. THE DEMOLITION AND DEVELOPMENT SHALL TAKE PLACE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROGRAMME OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORKS SET OUT IN THE WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION APPROVED UNDER CONDITION 29.
- REASON: IN ACCORDANCE WITH POLICY 12 (PARA 141) OF THE NPPF
- 3.4.2 Following consultation with the Historic Environment Advisor at Hertfordshire County Council in their role as archaeological advisor to Hertsmere Borough Council, a mitigation strategy was agreed. This comprised an initial archaeological monitoring exercise targeted on soil stripping for the access road across the Phase 1 area.

4 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

- 4.1.1 The underlying geology of the site consists of London clay formation; clay, silt and sand. The Sedimentary Bedrock formed approximately 34 to 56 million years ago in the Palaeogene Period. Local environment previously dominated by deep seas. These rocks were formed in deep seas from infrequent slurries of shallow water sediments which were then redeposited as graded beds (BGS, 2017).
- 4.1.2 The study site lies on a naturally north to south slope approximately 100m OD at the north to 91m OD in the south.

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The archaeological and historical background cited below was summarized from the site-specific desk-based assessment prepared by CgMs Consulting (Gailey, 2014).

5.1 Prehistoric

- 5.1.1 During the prehistoric era, the study area was most likely densely woodland as heavy clays are inhospitable agrarian environment.
- 5.1.2 A single mesolithic trenched axe was found at a property approximately 400m north west of the study site.

5.2 Roman

5.2.1 There is no evidence of roman activity within a 750m radius of the study site. This is most likely due to the dense woodland.

5.3 Anglo-Saxon and Medieval

- 5.3.1 Borehamwood was part of the medieval manor of Elstree. In 1188, Elstree was documented under the possession of St Albans Abbey, with the wood of Boreham recorded for feeding the swine.
- 5.3.2 There is no evidence of anglo-saxon and medieval activity within the vicinity.

5.4 Post-Medieval and Modern

- 5.4.1 The study site was situated on woodland until the early 19th century when the area was cleared and comprised of enclosed agricultural fields and most likely associated with Thrift Farm, located to the north east of the study site.
- 5.4.2 The 1870 Ordnance Survey shows agricultural field lines, with no land use change between the late 19th and early 20th centuries. A band of trees crossed the site from south-west to north-east in the 1935 Ordnance Survey.
- 5.4.3 Hertswood Upper School was constructed between 1935 and 1968, comprising of school buildings, a sub-station, tennis court, swimming pool ad playing fields. By the late 1960s to present, the school expanded with additional buildings and changes in landscaping.
- 5.4.4 As such, archaeological potential is low.

6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

- 6.1 The archaeological monitoring exercise followed a methodology designed in the Written Scheme of Investigation (Gailey 2016).
- 6.2 The general aims of the monitoring exercise were to record any archaeological artefacts and ecofacts and their context. Additional objectives included to record any significant archaeological deposits which may be exposed during construction works and to determine the presence or absence of any activity pre-dating the 20th century school.
- 6.3 The area monitored was machined under constant archaeological supervision. The trench was excavated by a 1.80m wide flat-bucket and extended east to west by 182.50m by 8m and 12m, with a depth between 0.30m BGL (below ground level) and 0.60m BGL.
- 6.4 All investigations were recorded on proforma recording sheets and planned on permatrace. A digital photographic record was also kept of the monitoring exercise. The interventions were located by an engineer working for the contractor.
- 6.5 The completed archive comprising written, drawn and photographic records has been ordered and is stored at Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited's offices in London. After the completion of the project, it will be deposited with a local repository acceptable to the Historic Environment Unit (HEU) Hertfordshire County Council under the unique site code HHSB17.

7 THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE

7.1 Phase 1: Natural

- 7.1.1 The earliest deposit recorded was a firm mid orangey brown natural clay [102] (Plate 2 and 3). This was seen throughout the trenches entirety from a depth of between 0.26m and 0.42m below ground level (BGL) and continuing beyond project level (not fully excavated). It was recorded at heights ranging between 93.90m OD and 92.05m OD, sloping down from east to west.
- 7.1.2 A change in the natural was noted in the central area of the trench, where a firm light brown with blue grey clay was exposed. The natural deposit extended 30.5m east-west by 10m north-south, at 92.60m OD and 92.30m OD with an east to west downwards slope.

7.2 Phase 2: Post-Medieval

7.2.1 In the central area of the trench, a moderately compact light-mid brown silty clay layer [106] was recorded at 92.80m OD, running north to south 4m by 11.50m east to west. This made ground deposit was capped by a mid-brown silty clay layer [105] as seen in Section 4 from elevations of between 92.7m OD and 92.6m OD, and contained two Chinese ceramic shards dating to the 18th century. This deposit was overlain by a loose black silt and charcoal layer [104], which extended 7m by 8.50m and 70mm thick. (Plate 1)

7.3 Phase 3: Subsoil

7.3.1 Nearly the entirety of the trench, between elevations of 94m OD and 92m OD sloping down from east to west, was an undateable mid-brown clayey silt layer [101] with a thickness of 0.25m. The latter deposit was recorded in sections 1 to 5 (Plate 4 and 5). The levelling deposit was truncated by over twenty late 19th to 20th century terracota field drains, running northeast to southwest (Plate 2). Its' construction cut and fill; consisting of charcoal-stained silt and very frequent small-medium sub-angular stones, was recorded in section 1 and section 2, with depths between 0.30m BGL and 0.35m BGL.

7.4 Phase 4: Modern

- 7.4.1 In the central area of the trench, where deposits [106], [105], [104] was encountered, a modern intrusion was revealed. A yellow brick man-hole capped by a concrete slab was recorded.
- 7.4.2 To also note was four black plastic field drains capped with clean gravels. They most likely replaced the late 19th to 20th century ceramic field drains to accommodate the water flow.
- 7.4.3 Throughout the area of monitoring, modern intrusions comprising concrete lampposts and concreted wooden posts, truncated the subsoil. Also of note were numerous loose patches of silt suggesting disturbance by bioturbation/vegetation.

8 RESEARCH OBJECTIVES AND CONCLUSIONS

8.1 Research Objectives

8.1.1 The following research objectives were contained within the Written Scheme of Investigation (Gailey 2016):

To record any significant archaeological deposits which may be exposed during the construction works.

- 8.1.2 Post-medieval levelling deposits were observed across the investigation area. These were overlain by a clayey silt levelling layer, and in one specific area, three different silty clays layers between heights of 92.7m OD and 92.6 m OD
- 8.1.3 A 0.20m to 0.25m thick layer of undated subsoil was found overlying the entirety of the trench.
- 8.1.4 No evidence of prehistoric, Roman, medieval or activity was seen during the archaeological monitoring.

To determine the presence or absence of any activity pre-dating the 20th century school.

- 8.1.5 The construction and redevelopment of the school along with its associated landscaping have little affected the archaeological horizon. Outside of the building footprints, modern truncation occurred between depths of 0.25m and 0.40m BGL, resulting in a localised survival of a subsoil layer.
- 8.1.6 Natural clay deposits were encountered across the entire site at widely varying heights between 93.9m OD and 92.05m OD. The marked variation on the heights of the natural strata suggest that the land has been worked.

8.2 Conclusions

8.2.1 The archaeological monitoring exercise demonstrated little survival of archaeological features or horizons. Isolated late post-medieval layers were dated by two pottery shards found in layer [105]. Subsoils and natural horizons were truncated by numerous late 19th to 20th century field drains which stretch along the fields of the study area.

9 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 9.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited would like to thank CgMs Consulting for commissioning the work on behalf of Bellway Homes Limited.
- 9.2 Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited would also like to extend its gratitude to the staff of Houlighans for their assistance during the project.
- 9.3 The author would also like to thank Amelia Fairman for project managing the monitoring exercise and editing this report and Charlotte Faiers for the CAD illustrations.

10 BIBLIOGRAPHY

Gailey, S, 2016, *Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Monitoring Exercise: Land at Upper Hertswood School, Thrift Farm Lane, Borehamwood*, CgMs Consulting Limited Fairman, A. 2017. 'Health and Safety Risk Assessment and Method Statement: Land at Hertswood Upper School, Thrift Farm Lane, Borehamwood: '. Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited.

Gailey, S. 2014. 'Archaeological Desk Based Assessment: Land at Hertswood Upper School, Thrift Farm Lane, Borehamwood.' CgMs Consulting Limited.

Online Resources

BGS, 2017. http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html?location=hertswood+upper+school British Geological Survey (Accessed August 2017)

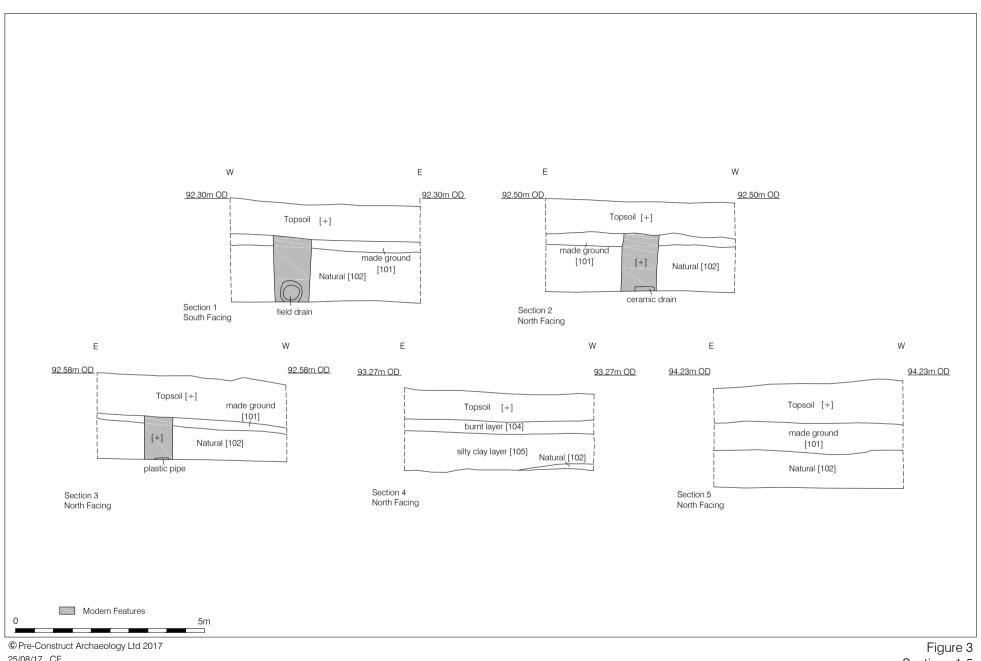


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Figure 2 Location of Area Monitored during Watching Brief 1:800 at A3



25/08/17 CF

Plates



Plate 1: North facing section 4 showing [104], [105] and [106].



Plate 2: Natural [102] cut by C19=20th NE-SW field drains.



Plate 3: Natural [103] with patches of vegetation/ bioturbation.



Plate 4: North facing, section 5, showing [101] and [102].



Plate 5: Interface layer [101] at east end of Trench.

APPENDIX 1: SITE MATRIX

| Phase 4: Modern | | + | | |
|------------------------|-------|-----|-----|---------|
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| Phase 3: Post-Medieval | 104 | | | |
| | 105 | | | |
| | 106 | | | |
| | | | | |
| Phase 2: Subsoil | 101 | | | |
| | 100 | | | |
| Phase 1: Natural | 102 | | 103 | |
| | - | | | Group 1 |
| | | NFE | | |

APPENDIX 2: CONTEXT INDEX

| Site Code | Context | Trench | СТХ Туре | CTX_Levels high | CTX_Levels low | Phase |
|--------------|---------|--------|----------|--------------------|-------------------|-------|
| HHSB1 7 | 101 | 1 | Layer | 92.3 | 92 | 3 |
| HHSB1 7 | 102 | 1 | Natural | 93.5 | 92 | 1 |
| HHSB1 7 | 103 | 1 | Layer | 92.6 | 92.3 | 1 |
| HHSB1 7 | 104 | 1 | Layer | 93.01 | | 3 |
| HHSB1 7 | 105 | 1 | Layer | 92.7 | 92.6 | 2 |
| HHSB1 7 | 106 | 1 | Layer | 92.8 | | 2 |

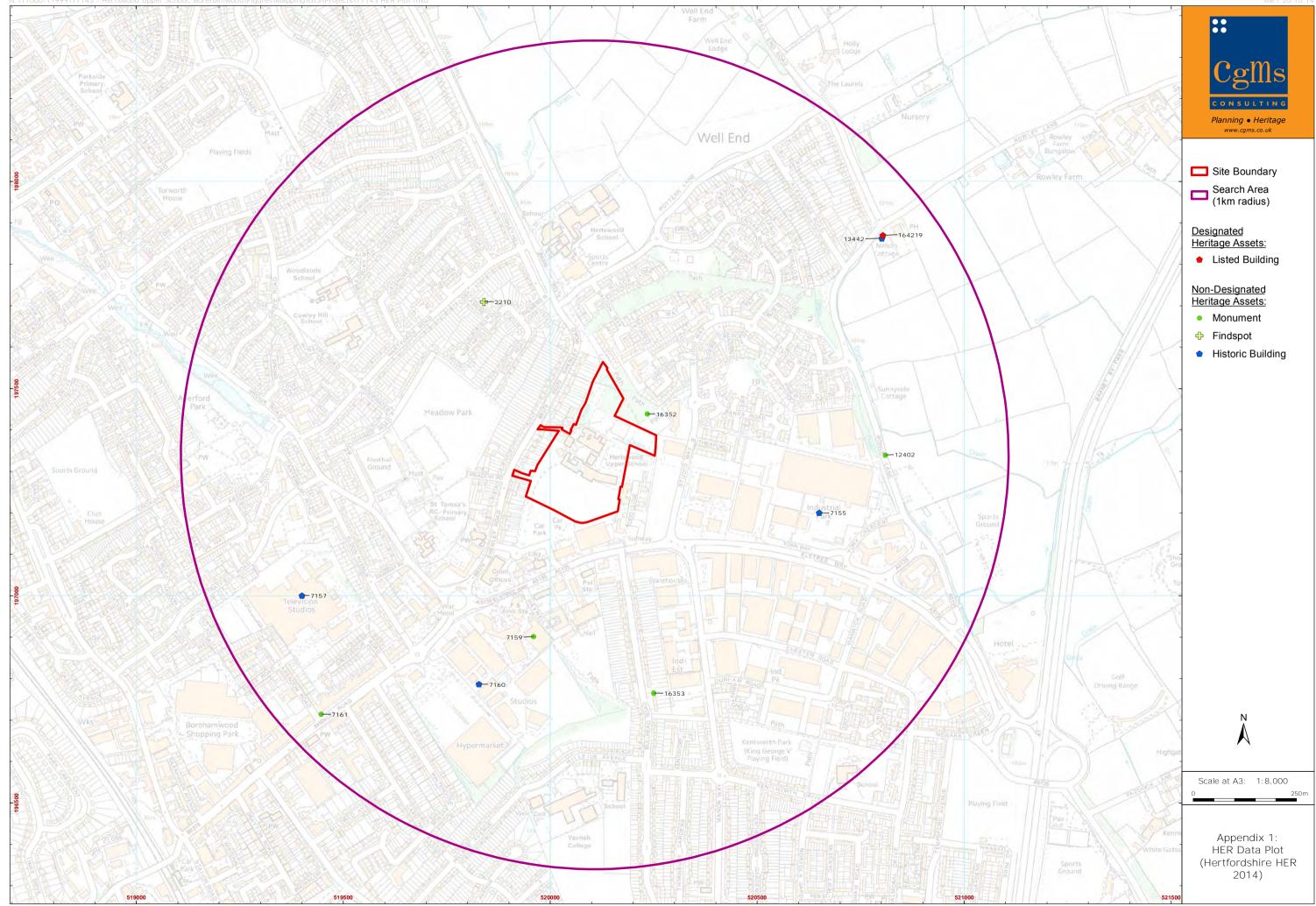
APPENDIX 3: OASIS DATA ENTRY FORM

OASIS ID: preconst1-294804

| Project details | |
|--|---|
| Project name | Land at Hertswood Upper School, Borehamwood: An archaeological monitoring exercise |
| Short description of the project | An archaeological monitoring exercise was carried out on an area 182.50m by 8m and 12m; for an access road on Land at Hertswood Upper School, Thrift Farm Lane, Borehamwood. The exercise indicated that the land had been worked during the 19th to 20th century which led to substantial truncation of potential archaeological horizons. |
| Project dates | Start: 15-08-2017 End: 17-08-2017 |
| Previous/future work | Not known / Not known |
| Any associated project reference codes | HHSB17 - Sitecode |
| Type of project | Recording project |
| Site status | None |
| Current Land use | Grassland Heathland 3 - Disturbed |
| Monument type | LATE VICTORIAN FIELD DRAINS Post Medieval |
| Significant Finds | C18TH CHINESE CERAMIC SHARD Post Medieval |
| Investigation type | "Watching Brief" |
| Prompt | Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16 |
| Project location | |
| Country | England |
| Site location | HERTFORDSHIRE HERTSMERE ELSTREE AND BOREHAMWOOD Land at Hertswood Upper School, Thrift Farm Lane, Borehamwood |
| Postcode | WD6 5LG |
| Site coordinates | TQ 2011 9734 51.661514405735 -0.263252351367 51 39 41 N 000 15 47 W Point |
| Height OD / Depth | Min: 91m Max: 100m |
| Project creators | |
| Name of Organisation | Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd |

| Project brief originator | CgMs Consulting |
|------------------------------------|---|
| Project design originator | Suzanne Gailey |
| Project director/manager | Amelia Fairman |
| Project supervisor | Natasha Billson |
| Type of sponsor/funding body | Property Developers |
| Name of sponsor/funding body | Bellway Homes |
| Project archives | |
| Physical Archive Exists? | No |
| Digital Archive recipient | Hertfordshire Archives and Local Studies |
| Digital Media available | "GIS","Geophysics","Images raster / digital photography","Text" |
| Paper Archive recipient | Hertfordshire Archives and Local Studies |
| Paper Media available | "Context sheet","Drawing","Matrices","Microfilm","Plan","Report","Section","Unpublished Text" |
| Project | |
| bibliography 1 | Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript) |
| Publication type | |
| Title | Land at Hertswood Upper School, Borehamwood: An Archaeological Monitoring Exercise |
| Author(s)/Editor(s) | Billson, N |
| Date | 2017 |
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| Place of issue or publication | London |
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| Entered on | 5 September 2017 |

APPENDIX 4: HER DATA PLOT



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