

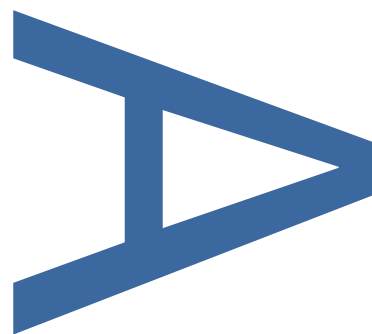
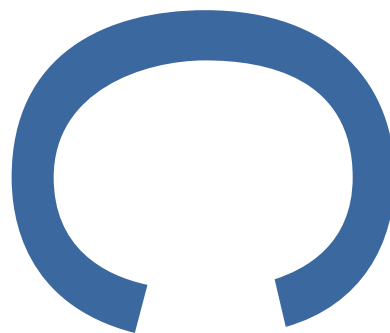
**GREAT GRANSDEN PS RISING
MAIN REPLACEMENT,
GREAT GRANSDEN,
CAMBRIDGESHIRE**

**REPORT ON AN
ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**

**LOCAL PLANNING AUTHORITY:
HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

SITE CODE: ECB5212

SEPTEMBER 2017



PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY

Land adjacent to Waresley Road, Great Gransden, Cambridgeshire, SG19 3RH:
An Archaeological Evaluation

Local Planning Authority: Huntingdonshire District Council

Planning Reference: N/A

Central National Grid Reference: TL 2601 5549 (c)

Site Code/Event Number: ECB 5212

Report No. R13023

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September 2017

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ABSTRACT

This report describes the results of an archaeological trial trench evaluation carried out by Pre-Construct Archaeology on land adjacent to Waresley Road, Great Gransden, Cambridgeshire (NGR TL 2601 5549 (c)) on the 18th and 19th September 2017. The archaeological work was commissioned by Anglia Water in preparation for the installation of a replacement PS water rising main. The aim of the work was to characterise the archaeological potential of the proposed development area.

No archaeological features or deposits were observed in the trenches excavated along the route of the proposed replacement pipeline.

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 An archaeological trial trench evaluation was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd (PCA) on land adjacent to Waresley Road, Great Gransden, Cambridgeshire, (centred on Ordnance Survey National Grid Reference (NGR) TL 2601 5549) on the 9th March 2017 (Figure 1).
- 1.2 The archaeological work was commissioned by Anglia Water prior to the installation of a replacement PS rising main pipeline.
- 1.3 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by Christiane Meckseper of PCA (Meckseper 2017) in response to a recommendation for a programme of archaeological evaluation issued by Andy Thomas 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 proposed pipeline installation on the site's archaeology.
- 1.5 A total of five 20m x 0.20m trial trenches were excavated and recorded.
- 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 Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeology Store.

2 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

2.1 Geology

- 2.1.1 The site has bedrock geology of Woburn Sands Formation-sandstone. Detrital sedimentary bedrock of interbedded sequences formed approximately 101 to 126 million years ago in the Cretaceous Period in an environment of shallow seas. The superficial deposits comprise Oadby Member Diamicton, glacial deposits derived from actions of ice and meltwater formed up to 2 million years ago in the Quaternary Period in ice age conditions (BGS, 2017)

2.2 Topography

- 2.3 Great Gransden lies at the far eastern edge of the Greensand Ridge, an area of elevated ground formed by an outcrop of the Woburn Sands Formation that stretches from Leighton Buzzard in the south-west to Gamlingay in the north-east.
- 2.4 The site of the trenching is located on a hill either side of the hedge and tree-lined Waresley Road at an elevation of around 55m AOD to the south-east, sloping generally to the north-west and north to around 43m AOD. Land use is agricultural, the site location currently under stubble. To the immediate east of the site is Gransden Wood nature reserve and to the south-east is an Anglia Water sewage treatment plant. The centre of the village of Great Gransden lies approximately 1.1km to the north-east and the hamlet of Waresley 1.6km to the south-west.

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

3.1 General

- 3.1.1 The following archaeological background has been taken from the archaeological pre-application advice issued by Andy Thomas and a search of the Heritage Gateway database. Numbers given in brackets in the following text are CHER asset identifiers.
- 3.1.2 A possible Bronze Age site with evidence of charcoal production has been recorded located in Great Gransden 916m to the north-east of the site (02400). Cropmarks near the south-western end of the pipeline route indicate the existence of a possible enclosure likely to be of prehistoric or Roman date (CHER 18935). An oval enclosure and two ring ditches of unknown date (CHER 05370) were recorded from aerial photographs c. 250m east of Waresley Wood. Two rectangular enclosures associated with Roman pottery have been located 1.6km to 1.7km to the north-west of the site (MCB18927 and MCB19084).
- 3.1.3 In 1066 Great Gransden was held by Lord Algar, valued at 40 pounds and in 1086 by Ranulf for the king, valued at 30 pounds. The quite large settlement consisted of a church and 33 households with land amounting to 15 ploughlands, 50 acres of meadow and 12 acres of woodland, some of which survives as Gransden Wood.
- 3.1.4 Medieval ridge and furrow agricultural features are visible on Google Maps in the field to the north-west of Waresley Road. There are also several records of ridge and furrow features around Waresley and Great Gransden, recorded from aerial photographs in the Historic Environment Record.
- 3.1.5 To the south of the historic village of Great Gransden the proposed pipeline route ends to the immediate west of Gransden Hall (CHER 02345, NHLE 1211193), a Grade II listed building of 17th century origin. Within Gransden Park, the landscaped grounds around the hall, lies Hall Park moat (CHER 00938), a regular square moat with an associated hollow way and fishponds, which most likely dates to the medieval period.

- 3.1.6 A post-medieval brickworks (CHER 02391) is located near Waresley to the south of the proposed pipeline route.

4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 Excavation and Sampling

- 4.1.1 The Written Scheme of Investigation for the evaluation proposed the excavation of five, 20m long and 2m wide evaluation trenches, located within the footprints of some of the drill pits and spaces in-between (Figure 1).
- 4.1.2 Ground reduction within each trench was carried out under constant archaeological supervision using an 8-ton 360° mechanical excavator with toothless ditching bucket. Topsoil and subsoil deposits were removed in 100mm spits down to the level of the undisturbed natural geological deposits where potential archaeological features could be observed and recorded if present. Exposed surfaces were cleaned by trowel and hoe as appropriate. Overburden deposits were set aside beside each trench, topsoil being separate from subsoil and examined visually and with a metal-detector for finds retrieval.
- 4.1.3 Field excavation techniques and recording methods are detailed in the PCA Fieldwork Induction Manual (Operations Manual I; Taylor & Brown 2009).

4.2 Recording Methodology

- 4.2.1 The limits of excavations and heights above Ordnance Datum (m OD) 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 observed within the trenches were each assigned a unique record context number and recorded on individual pre-printed forms (Taylor and Brown 2009). All 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. Digital Photographs were taken of all deposits.

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 The trenches are described below in numerical order, with technical data tabulated.

5.1.2 The evaluation overall revealed no archaeologically significant features or deposits.

5.2 Trenches

5.2.1 Trench 1 contained no archaeologically significant features or deposits.

TRENCH 1		Plate 1	
Trench Alignment: NW-SE	Length: 20m	Depth to Natural (m OD): 0.80m	
Deposit	Context No.	Average Depth (m)	
		NW End	SE End
Topsoil	(100)	0.32m	0.132m
Subsoil	(101)	0.48m	0.48m
Natural (max machined depth)	(102)	Θ	Θ
Trench 1 was located to the west of Gransden Wood. The trench contained no archaeologically significant features or deposits.			

5.2.2 Trench 2 contained no archaeologically significant features or deposits.

TRENCH 2		Plate 3	
Trench Alignment: NW-SE	Length: 20m	Depth to Natural (m OD): 0.65m	
Deposit	Context No.	Average Depth (m)	
		NW End	SE End
Topsoil	(100)	0.32m	0.30m
Subsoil	(101)	0.32m	0.36m
Natural (max machined depth)	(102)	Θ	Θ
Trench 2 was located in the south-east of the site. The trench contained no archaeologically significant features or deposits.			

5.2.3 Trench 3 contained no archaeologically significant features or deposits.

TRENCH 3		Plate 5	
Trench Alignment: N-S	Length: 20m	Depth to Natural (m OD): 0.65m	
Deposit	Context No.	Average Depth (m)	
		N End	S End
Topsoil	(100)	0.31m	0.25m
Subsoil	(101)	0.34m	0.30m
Natural (max machined depth)	(102)	Ø	Ø
Trench 3 was located to the west of Waresley Road. The trench contained no archaeologically significant features or deposits.			

5.2.4 Trench 4 contained no archaeologically significant features or deposits.

TRENCH 4		Plate 7	
Trench Alignment: N-S	Length: 20m	Depth to Natural (m OD): 0.77m	
Deposit	Context No.	Average Depth (m)	
		N End	S End
Topsoil	(100)	0.31m	0.22m
Subsoil	(103)	0.46m	0.20m
Natural (max machined depth)	(102)	Ø	Ø
Trench 4 was located to the west of Waresley Road. The trench contained no archaeologically significant features or deposits.			

5.2.5 Trench 5 contained no archaeologically significant features or deposits.

TRENCH 5		Plate 9	
Trench Alignment: NE-SW	Length: 20m	Depth to Natural (m OD): 0.82m	
Deposit	Context No.	Average Depth (m)	
		N End	S End
Topsoil	(100)	0.21m	0.22m
Subsoil	(104)	0.61m	0.40m
Natural (max machined depth)	(105)	Ø	Ø
Trench 2 was located to the west of Waresley Road. The trench contained no archaeologically significant features or deposits.			

6 DISCUSSION & CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1 No archaeological deposits were observed within the five excavated trenches. No finds of archaeological interest were recovered from the excavated deposits. Early 20th century redundant field drains running roughly south to north were observed within the subsoil of trenches 1 and 2 and a more modern land drain running east to west was observed and retained intact within the natural clay in trench 5.
- 6.2 The lack of archaeological features within the trench locations may be due to the location of the fields affected by the replacement pipeline. Evidence of settlement in the Bronze Age and Roman periods is provided by Historic Environment Records and previous archaeological investigations to the north and northwest of the area while cropmarks to the south-west and east indicate enclosures and ring ditches from the prehistoric or Roman periods.
- 6.3 It is possible that the land between the recorded activity locations, the route of the proposed pipeline, had been allocated for agricultural use, situated as it is on raised land draining to the north-west. The heavy and ill-drained soils in this area might well have been unproductive for farming in the prehistoric period, but Roman settlers with improved agricultural techniques allowed previously unused land to be cultivated successfully.
- 6.4 The lack of features and finds of archaeological interest within the targeted trench locations does not however preclude the possibility of archaeological evidence being located in any future groundwork in the vicinity.

7 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

7.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd would like to thank Anglia Water for commissioning the project. PCA are also grateful to Andy Thomas of Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team for advice and for monitoring the work. The author would like to thank Pete Crawley for managing the project and Rory Fisher for assisting on the site.

8 BIBLIOGRAPHY

8.1 Printed Sources

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

Medlycott, M. (ed.) 2011. Research and Archaeology Revisited: A revised framework for the East of England. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 24

8.2 Websites

1) British Geological Survey (Date accessed 19/09/2017)

www.bgs.ac.uk

2) British History Online (Date accessed 19/09/2017)

[www.british-history-ac.uk](http://www.british-history.ac.uk)

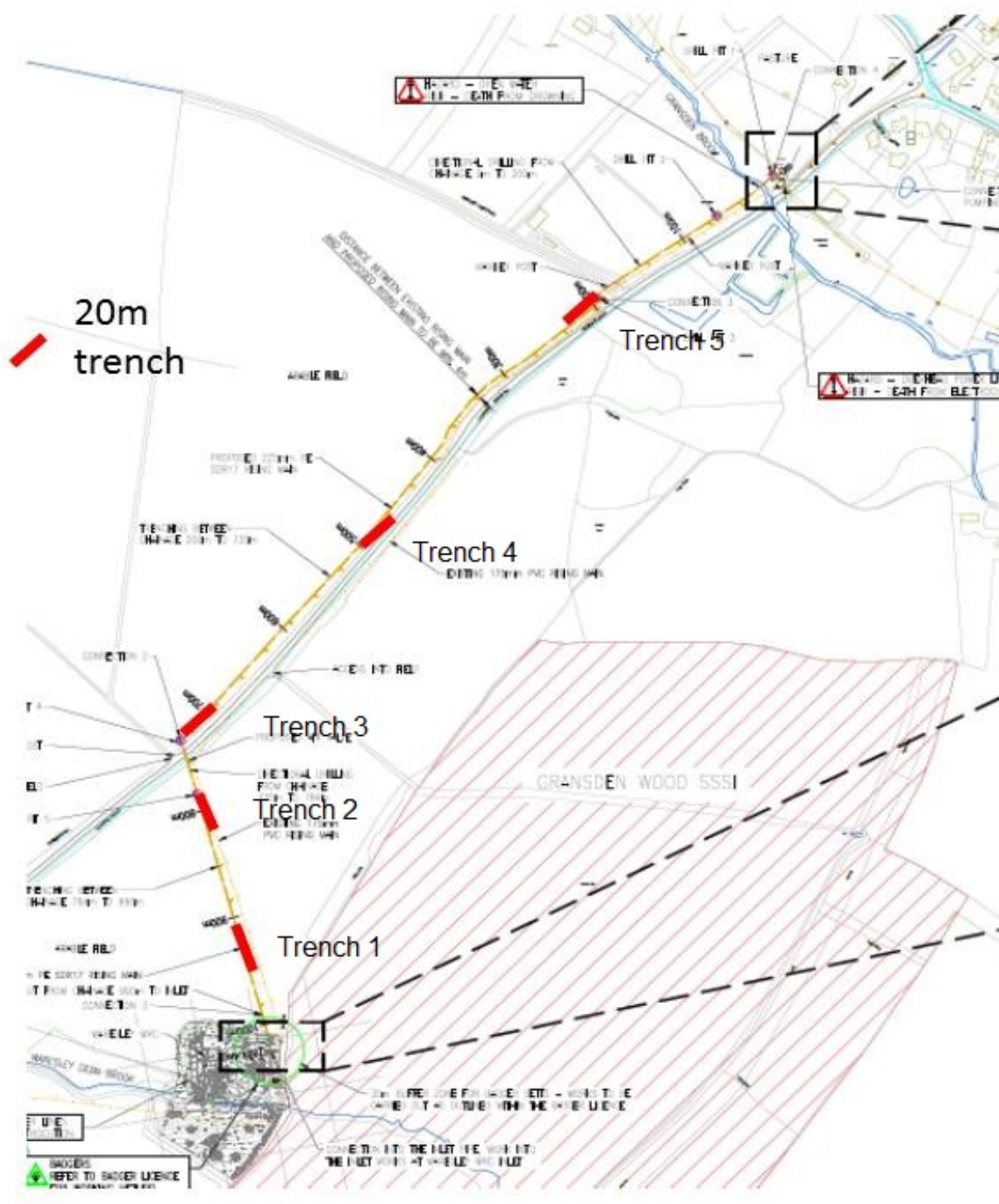
3) Old Maps Online (Date accessed 19/09/2017)

www.oldmapsonline.org

4) Open Domesday online (Date accessed 19/09/2017)

<http://opendomesday.org/place/TL2755/great-gransden/>

Figure 1 Trench Locations



9 APPENDIX 1: PLATES



Plate 1: Trench 1, facing South



Plate 2: Trench 1, north-east facing section



Plate 3: Trench 2, facing north-west



Plate 4: Trench 2, north-west facing section



Plate 5: Trench 3, facing north-east



Plate 6: Trench 3, north-east facing section



Plate 7: Trench 4, facing north-east



Plate 8: Trench 4, north-east facing section



Plate 9: Trench 5, facing north-east

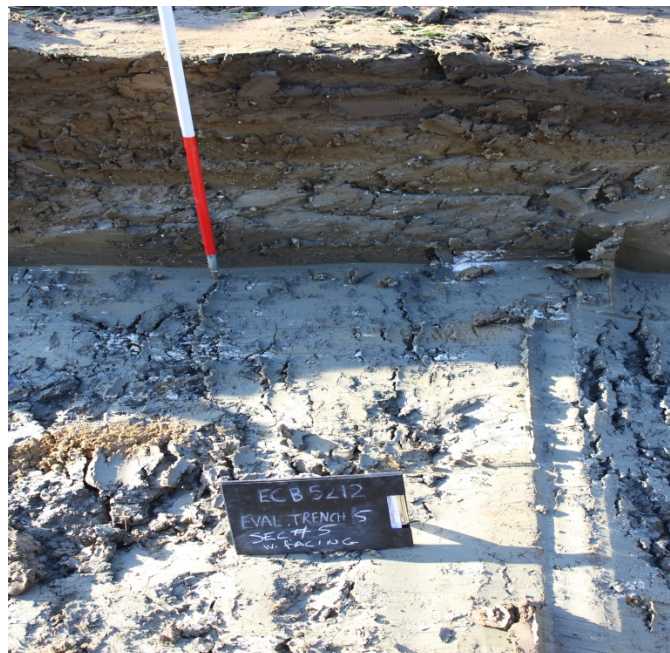


Plate 10: Trench 5, west facing section

10 APPENDIX 2: CONTEXT INDEX

Context	Cut	Type	Category	Interpretation	Trench Number
100	-	Layer	Topsoil	Overburden	1-5
101	-	Layer	Subsoil	Overburden	1-3
102	-	Layer	Natural	Geological clay	1-3
103	-	Layer	Subsoil	Overburden	4
104	-	Layer	Subsoil	Overburden	5
105	-	Layer	Natural	Geological clay	5

11 APPENDIX 3: OASIS SUMMARY REPORT

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

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OASIS ID: preconst1-296515

Project details

Project name	Great Gransden Archaeological Evaluation
Short description of the project	An archaeological evaluation of five trenches on land adjacent to Waresley Road, Great Gransden, Cambridgeshire on the line of an Anglia Water rising main replacement scheme. No features or finds of archaeological interest were observed in the evaluation trenches.
Project dates	Start: 18-09-2017 End: 19-09-2017
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	ECB5212 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Current Land use	Cultivated Land 3 - Operations to a depth more than 0.25m
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Methods & techniques	"Targeted Trenches"
Development type	Pipelines/cables (e.g. gas, electric, telephone, TV cable, water, sewage, drainage etc.)

Project location

Country	England
Site location	CAMBRIDGESHIRE HUNTINGDONSHIRE GREAT GRANSDEN Land adjacent to Waresley Road, Great Gransden
Site coordinates	TL 2601 5549 52.182828201871 -0.156697338306 52 10 58 N 000 09 24 W Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd
Project design originator	PCA Central
Project director/manager	Peter Crawley
Project supervisor	Ben Philip Hobbs
Type of	Utility Company

sponsor/funding
body

Name of
sponsor/funding
body Anglia Water

Project archives

Physical Archive No
Exists?

Digital Archive recipient Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeology Store

Digital Media available "Images raster / digital photography"

Paper Archive recipient Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeology Store

Paper Media available "Context sheet", "Drawing", "Photograph", "Plan", "Report", "Section"

Entered by Ben Philip Hobbs (ben.hobbs@pre-construct.com)

Entered on 22 September 2017

OASIS:

Please e-mail [Historic England](#) for OASIS help and advice

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