

**FORMER GARTH HILL CAMPUS,  
WICK HILL, SANDY LANE,  
BRACKNELL, BERKSHIRE**

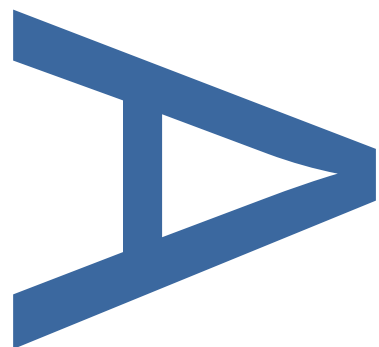
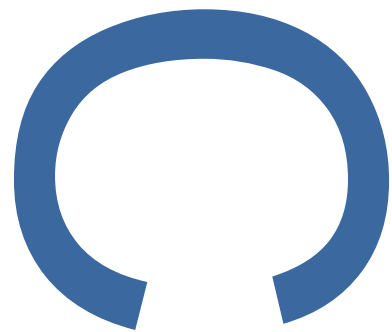
**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
EVALUATION**

**LOCAL PLANNING AUTHORITY:  
BRACKNELL FOREST COUNCIL**

**PCA REPORT NO: R13242**

**SITE CODE: SLBB18**

**APRIL 2018**



**PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY**

**FORMER GARTH HILL CAMPUS, WICK HILL, SANDY LANE, BRACKNELL,  
BERKSHIRE: AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**

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**Site Code:** SLBB18

**Central NGR:** 487271 169759

**Local Planning Authority:** Bracknell Forest Council

**Commissioning Client:** CgMs Consulting

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**April 2018**

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PCA REPORT NO. R13242

**DOCUMENT VERIFICATION**

**Site Name: Former Garth Hill Campus, Wick Hill, Sandy Lane, Bracknell, Berkshire**

**Type of project: Evaluation**

**Report:R13242**

**Quality Control**

<b>Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited Project Code</b>			<b>K5492</b>
	<b>Name &amp; Title</b>	<b>Signature</b>	<b>Date</b>
<b>Text Prepared by:</b>	<b>R Wolfe</b>		26/04/2018
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<b>Graphics Checked by:</b>	<b>J Brown</b>	JB	25/04/2018
<b>Project Manager Sign-off:</b>	<b>T Hayes</b>	TJH	27/04/2018

<b>Revision No.</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Checked</b>	<b>Approved</b>

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**Figure 1: Site Location**

**Figure 2: Trench Locations**

**Figure 3: Sections of TR3B & TR5**

## **1 ABSTRACT**

Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd was appointed by CgMs Consulting, on behalf of Cala Homes (Thames) Ltd, to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land at Former Garth Hill Campus, Wick Hill, Sandy Lane, Bracknell, Berkshire. The Site is the subject of a proposed residential development. This report sets out the results of the evaluation, which was carried out in April 2018.

The evaluation comprised the mechanical excavation of five trenches on open ground south of the former Garth Hill campus. The trenches revealed no archaeological deposits, features or finds. The deposit profile in trenches 2 and 3B appeared to confirm that parts of the Site had been subject to modern landscaping and groundworks to form a new level ground. It is concluded that the Site retains no archaeological potential.

## **2 INTRODUCTION**

### **2.1 Project Background**

2.1.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd (PCA) was appointed by CgMs Consulting, on behalf of Cala Homes (Thames) Ltd, to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land at Former Garth Hill Campus, Wick Hill, Sandy Lane, Bracknell, Berkshire, (**Figure 1**), hereafter 'the Site' (centred at NGR 487271 169759). The Site is the subject of a proposed residential development.

2.1.2 The evaluation has formed part of a staged approach to understanding the archaeological implications of the proposed development and was informed by the results of a Desk Based Assessment prepared by CgMs Consulting (CgMs, 2017).

2.1.3 This report provides the results of the evaluation, which was carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (PCA 2018) in March 2018. This report has been prepared in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation (CIfA 2014) and Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (Historic England, 2015).

### **2.2 Location, Topography and Geology**

2.2.1 The Site, north of Bracknell town centre, measures approximately 2.77 hectares in area and comprises an irregular parcel of land aligned roughly north-south. The Site is bounded by Garth Hill College, Clement House and the Wick Centre in the west and by housing along Shepherds Hill and Grange Road in the east. The Site has been cleared of all former buildings and has become heavily overgrown in places, though some areas of hardstanding remain.

2.2.2 The Site is 80-81 metres Above Ordnance Datum (AOD) in the north and slopes down to 72-73m AOD in the central area before rising again to 76m AOD towards the southern boundary. There are no known natural water courses located on or in the immediate vicinity of the Site.

2.2.3 The British Geological Survey (BGS Online, 2017) shows that the underlying geology of the Site is Bagshot Formation, Sand in the northern area and London Clay Formation, Clay Silt and Sand in the south. Superficial River Terrace Deposits of Sand and Gravel may occur on its northern boundary. No superficial deposits are recorded across the remainder of the Site.

### **3 AIM**

#### **3.1 Archaeological Evaluation**

3.1.1 The aim of the archaeological evaluation was to determine the presence or absence of archaeological remains within the Site and, where present, determine their nature, extent, date, condition and significance, taking account of their potential to contain biological and palaeo-environmental remains.

3.1.2 This report on the results of the evaluation aims to provide sufficient information so that the future treatment of any archaeological remains that have been found can be determined, in respect of the proposed development, in consultation with the archaeological advisor to the Local Planning Authority.

## **4 RESULTS**

### **4.1 Introduction**

4.1.1 This report provides a summary of the results of the evaluation fieldwork and is based on the Site archive, which comprises a Site diary, trench recording sheets, drawings and digital photographs; a context index is provided in Appendix 1 and digital photographs in Appendix 2. The archive is held at PCA's Winchester office under the site code **SLBB18**.

### **4.2 Methodology**

4.2.1 The archaeological evaluation comprised four 30m X 2m trenches and a 38m X 2m trench, as set out in the agreed Written Scheme of Investigation (PCA 2018). Owing to limitations of space and on-site conditions, the location and layout of the trenches was adjusted on-site. As such Trench 1 was not fully excavated, owing to the presence of services, and trench 3 was opened as two 15m trenches (trenches 3A and 3B).

4.2.2 The trenches were recorded on PCA *pro forma* Trench Recording Sheets. A representative section from each trench was cleaned by hand and drawn at 1:10 on drafting film. All trenches and sections were digitally photographed.

### **4.3 Summary of Deposition Sequence**

4.3.1 Trenches 1 and 2 had been significantly truncated by large service trenches, with the services still present. Trench 1 could not be fully excavated owing to a large metal pipe continuing along the length of the trench. Trench 2 had numerous services crossing the trench.

4.3.2 Trenches 3A and 3B (**Figure 2 & 3**) were excavated to a depth of approximately 0.95m below ground level, revealing at that depth natural orange-grey clay beneath a subsoil of dark greyish brown silty-clay. It appears that the ground in this area has been disturbed through modern landscaping, in an attempt to level the wider area.

4.3.3 Trenches 4 and 5 (**Figure 2 & 3**) were excavated to a depth of approximately 0.3m (**Plates 2**). The excavation revealed at that depth natural orange-grey clay beneath a subsoil of dark greyish brown silty-clay. Modern services were seen crossing both of these trenches, with further signs of modern disturbance.

4.3.4 No archaeological deposits, features or finds were identified within any of the five trenches.

### **4.4 Conclusion**

4.4.1 The evaluation revealed no archaeological features, deposits or finds. The Site has previously been the subject of modern landscaping to create a stepped open space and, further to the west, a car park.

4.4.2 This archaeological evaluation has demonstrated that the site is likely to have been subject to a variety of modern disturbances and, therefore, it is concluded that the Site retains no archaeological potential.



## **5 ARCHIVE PREPARATION AND DEPOSITION**

### **5.1 The Site Archive**

5.1.1 The Site archive, to include all project records and cultural material produced by the project, will be prepared in accordance with 'Guidelines for the Preparation of Excavation Archives for Long-term Storage' (UKIC 1990) and the Institute for Archaeologists 'Standard and Guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives' (ClfA 2014). On completion of the project PCA will arrange for the archive to be deposited, if required, with the relevant archive repository.

### **5.2 Copyright**

5.2.1 The full copyright of the written/illustrative archive relating to the site will be retained by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 with all rights reserved. The relevant museum, however, will be granted an exclusive licence for the use of the archive for educational purposes, including academic research, providing that such use shall be non-profitmaking, and conforms to the Copyright and Related Rights regulations 2003. Further distribution and uses of the report either in its entirety or part thereof in paper or electronic form is prohibited without the prior consent of Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd.

5.2.2 The licence extends to the use of all documents arising from this project in all matters relating directly to the project, as well as for bona fide research purposes (which includes the relevant museum).

5.2.3 Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd has made every effort to ensure the accuracy of the content of this report. However, Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd cannot accept any liability in respect of, or resulting from, errors, inaccuracies or omissions this report contains.

## **6 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Pre-Construct Archaeology is grateful to Duncan Hawkins of CgMs Consulting for commissioning the evaluation and to Roland Smith of Berkshire Archaeology for his advice.

The evaluation was supervised by Ryan Wolfe, assisted by Bartlomiej Grden.

This report was prepared by Ryan Wolfe with Illustrations prepared by Hayley Baxter. The project was managed for PCA by Paul McCulloch.

## **7 REFERENCES**

- AOC. 2017. Land at Wick Hill Campus, Bracknell, Berkshire, Desk-Based Assessment
- CgMs. 2017. Former Garth Hill Campus, Sandy lane, Bracknell, Berkshire: Archaeological Desk Based Assessment
- PCA. 2018. Former Garth Hill Campus, Wick Hill, Sandy Lane, Bracknell, Berkshire: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation.
- PCA. 2018. Wick Hill Campus, Sandy Lane, Bracknell, Berkshire: An Archaeological Evaluation Report.

## Appendix 1: Trench Index

Context Number	Trench Number	Section	Type	Description	Thickness
101	1	N/A	Layer	Top soil, mid greyish brown, silty clay	N/A
102	1	N/A	Layer	Natural, mid greyish orange, clay	N/A
201	2	1A	Layer	Top soil, mid greyish brown, silty clay	0.36m
202	2	1A	Layer	Natural, mid greyish orange, clay	+0.36m
301	3A, 3B	1B	Layer	Top soil, mid greyish brown, silty clay	0.45m
302	3A, 3B	1B	Layer	Natural, mid greyish orange, clay	+0.8m
303	3B	1C	Layer	Sub-soil, mid brownish grey, silty clay	0.5m
401	4	1D	Layer	Top soil, mid greyish brown, silty clay	0.19m
402	4	1D	Layer	Sub-soil, mid brownish gray, silty clay	0.11m
403	4	1D	Layer	Natural, mid greyish orange, clay	+0.3m
501	5	1E	Layer	Top soil, mid greyish brown, silty clay	0.3m
502	5	1E	Layer	Natural, mid greyish orange, clay	+0.3m

## Appendix 2: Photographs (Plates 1-2)



**Plate 1: Trench 3A, view to west with 1m scale**



**Plate 2: Trench 5, view to the west with 1m scale**

### Appendix 3: OASIS Form

#### Project details

Project name	Garth Hill Campus
Short description of the project	A five-trench archaeological evaluation on land at Former Garth Hill Campus, Wick Hill, Sandy Lane, Bracknell, Berkshire
Project dates	Start: 09-04-2018 End: 10-04-2018
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	SLBB17 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Vacant Land 1 - Vacant land previously developed
Development type	Urban residential (e.g. flats, houses, etc.)
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF
Position in the planning process	Not known / Not recorded
Project location	
Country	England
Site location	BERKSHIRE BRACKNELL FOREST BRACKNELL Former Garth Hill Campus, Wick Hill, Sandy Lane, Bracknell
Postcode	RG12 2GH
Study area	2.77 Hectares
Site coordinates	SU 87271 69759 51.419622690346 -0.744787138028 51 25 10 N 000 44 41 W Point
Project creators	
Name of Organisation	Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited
Project brief originator	CgMs Consulting
Project design originator	CgMs Consulting
Project director/manager	Paul McCulloch
Project supervisor	Ryan Wolfe
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body	Cala Homes (Thames) Ltd

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists? No

Digital Archive recipient Berkshire Records Office

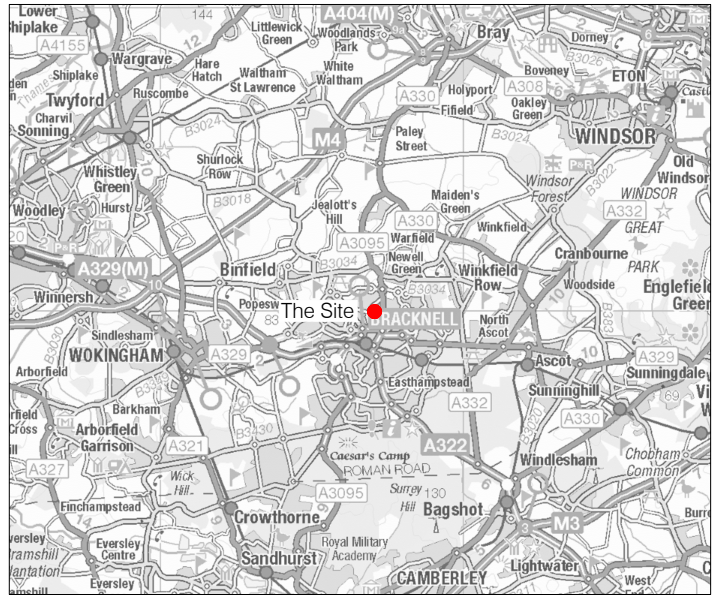
Digital Media available "Database","Images raster / digital photography","Survey","Text"

Paper Archive recipient Berkshire Records Office

Paper Media available "Context sheet"

Entered by Ryan Wolfe (ryanlwolfe@hotmail.co.uk)

Entered on 24 April 2018



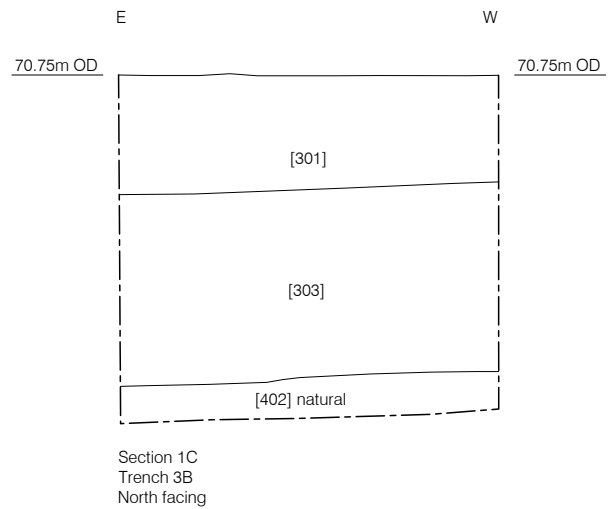
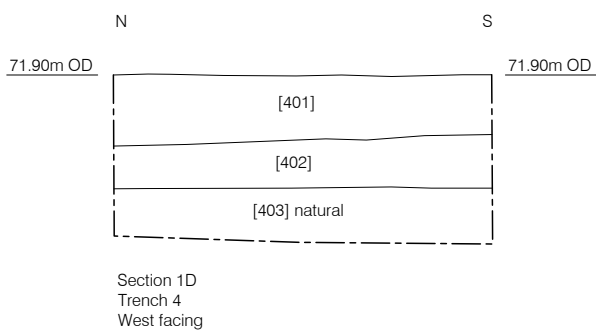
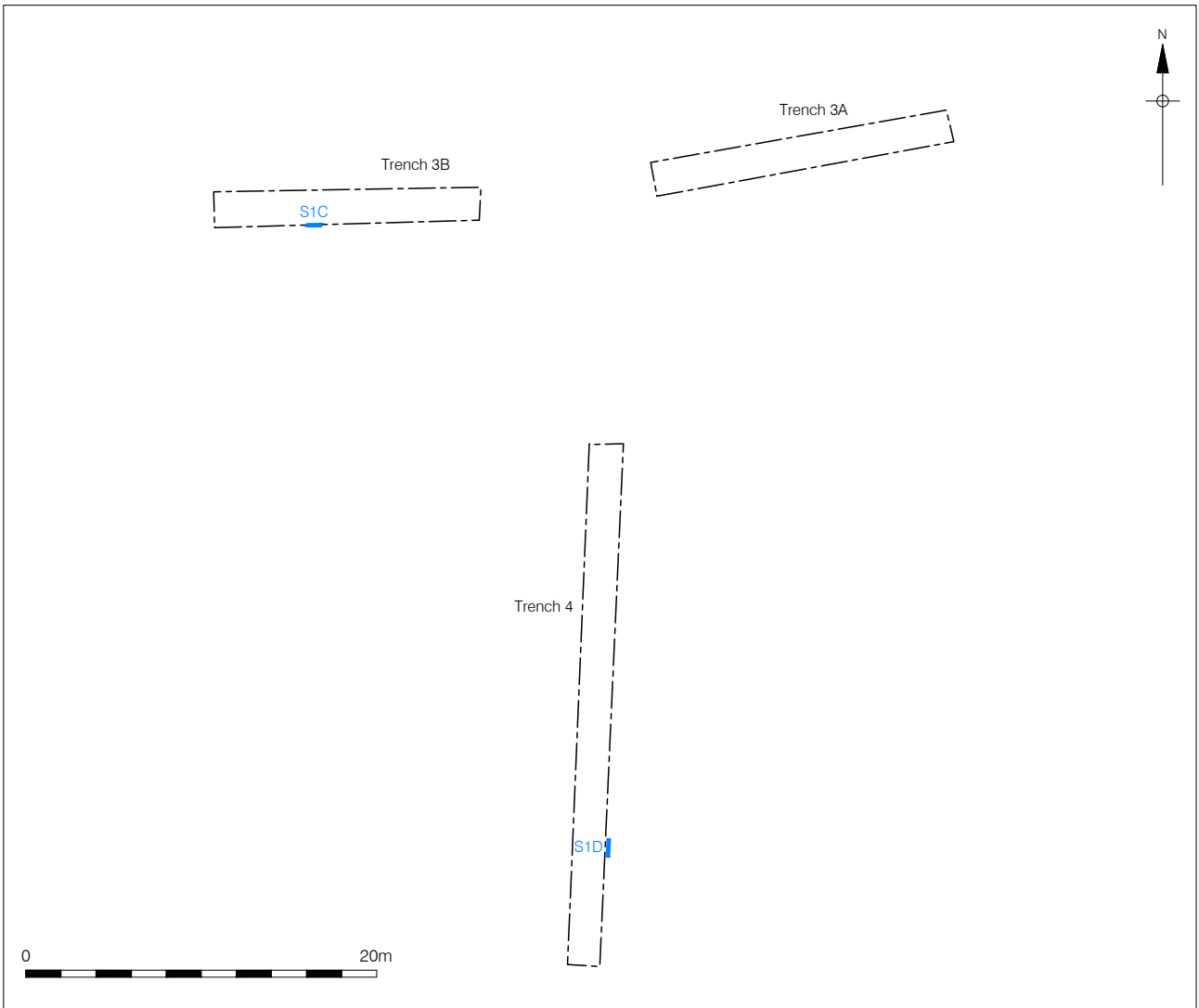
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Figure 1  
 Site Location  
 1:2,000,000; 250,000 & 25,000 at A4





Figure 2  
 Trench Location  
 1:4,000 at A4



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Figure 3  
Plan of Section Locations & Sections 1C & 1D  
Plan 1:400 & Sections 1:20 at A4

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