

An Archaeological Strip, Map and Record Investigation of the former New Farm, Weston Way, Baldock, Hertford.

Site Code: HWES 07

Central National Grid Reference: TL 4250 3470

Written and Researched By Amelia Fairman

Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited, August 2007

Project Manager: Peter Moore

Commissioning Client: Geoffrey Osborne Limited

Contractor:

Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited

Unit 54 Brockley Cross Business Centre

96 Endwell Road, Brockley

London, SE4 2PD

Tel: 020 7732 3925

Fax: 020 7639 9588

Email: pmoore@pre-construct.com

Website: www.pre-construct.com

© Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited

August 2007

© The material contained herein is and remains the sole property of Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited and is not for publication to third parties without prior consent. Whilst every effort has been made to provide detailed and accurate information, Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited cannot be held responsible for errors or inaccuracies herein contained.

CONTENTS

1	ABSTRACT	1
2	INTRODUCTION	2
3	PLANNING BACKGROUND AND RESEARCH OBJECTIVES	7
4	GEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND	10
5	ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND	12
6	ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY	14
7	ARCHAEOLOGICAL PHASE DISCUSSION	15
8	INTERPRETATIONS AND CONCLUSIONS	17
9	ACKNOWLEDGMENTS	18
10	BIBLIOGRAPHY	19

Figures

1	Site Location	4
2	Trench Locations	5
3	Plan of Features	6
4	Sections 1-3	7

Appendices

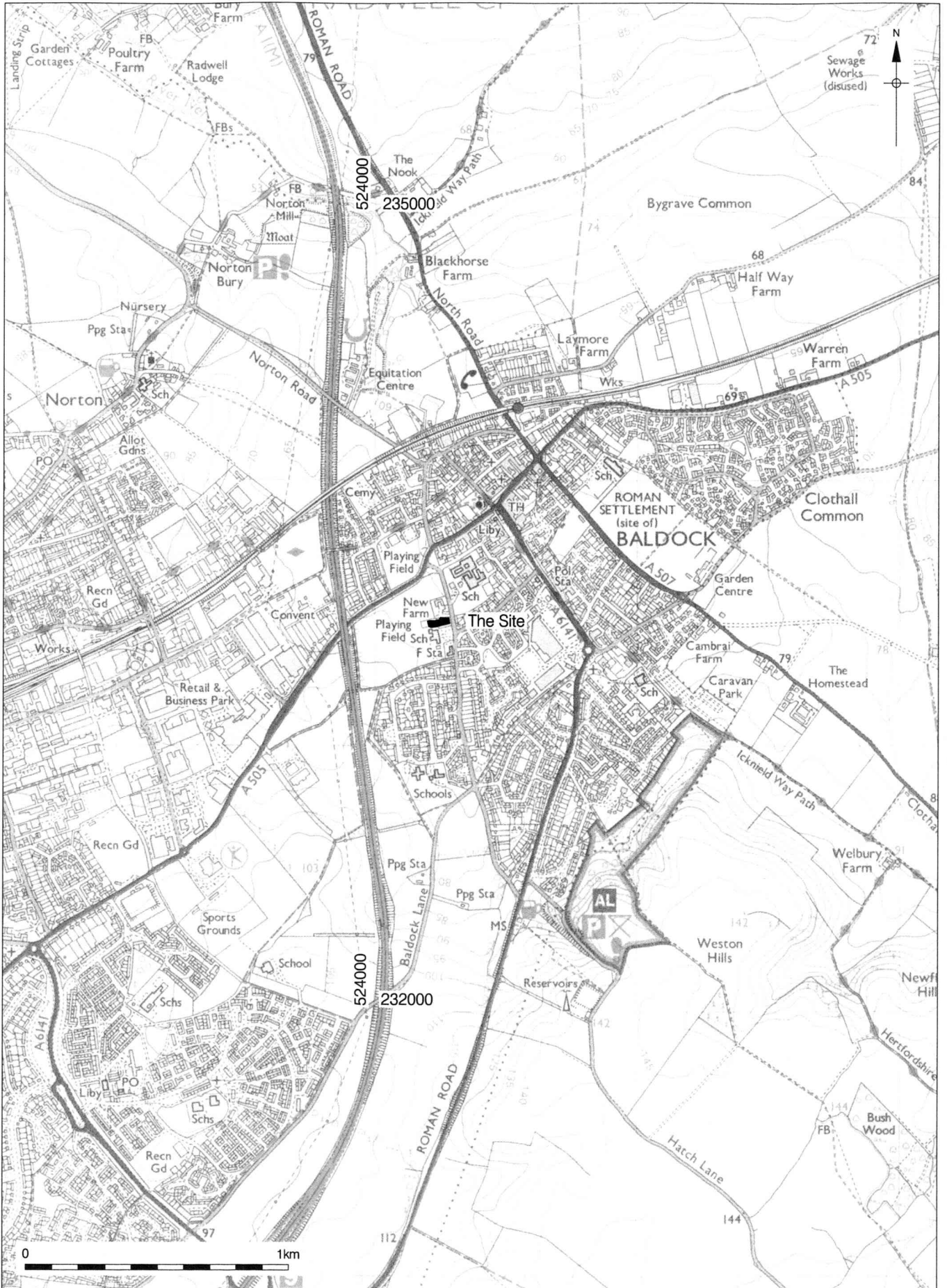
1	Context Register	20
2	Site Matrix	24
3	Oasis Data Collection Form	25

1 ABSTRACT

- 1.1 This report details the results of an archaeological strip, map and record investigation of the former New Farm, Weston Way, Baldock, Hertfordshire, in advance of the construction of a Children's Home. The site is centred at National Grid Reference TL 4250 3470.
- 1.2 The project was commissioned by Geoffrey Osborne Limited and Pre-Construct Archaeology undertook the fieldwork between 13th August and 5th September 2007.
- 1.3 The area of development consists of a roughly rectangular plot measuring 0.2ha. The strip, map and record investigation consisted of the observation of the ground reduction phase of development in the area comprising the three central buildings, plus a watching brief on deeper service trenches liable to impact upon natural ground.
- 1.4 The made-ground was stripped to a depth of approximately 0.5m, onto natural sandy chalk, excavations were deeper towards the western boundary due to heavy truncation in this area. A maximum depth of 1.30m and 1.70m was excavated within the areas of soakaways 1 and 2 respectively.
- 1.5 The investigation identified a late Iron Age/early Roman ditch. The area monitored appeared highly disturbed and truncated by later 19th and 20th century cuts, possibly for drainage and for footings. All features were sealed by 20th century made ground. No other archaeological features were identified.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 An archaeological strip, map and record investigation was conducted by Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited at the Former New Farm, Weston Way, Baldock, Hertfordshire, between 13th August and 5th September 2007. The work was commissioned by Geoffrey Osborne Limited. The site was project managed for Pre-Construct Archaeology by Peter Moore and supervised by the author.
- 2.2 The site is bounded to the east by Weston Way, a vocational education centre to the south, fields to the west and residential buildings to the north.
- 2.3 The National Grid Reference of the site was TL 4250 3470
- 2.4 The site was assigned the code HWES 07.
- 2.5 The maximum depth of ground reduction was 1.7m down to solid chalk in the areas of the soakaways and 0.50m down to natural sandy chalk within the footprint of the main buildings. The dimension of the area under development consists of a roughly rectangular plot measuring 0.2ha. Soakaways 1 and 2 measured 2.26m (N-S) x 11.30m (E-W) and 2.17m (E-W) x 11.25m (N-S) respectively.



Reproduced from Ordnance Survey 1:25,000. Crown Copyright 1999.

© Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd

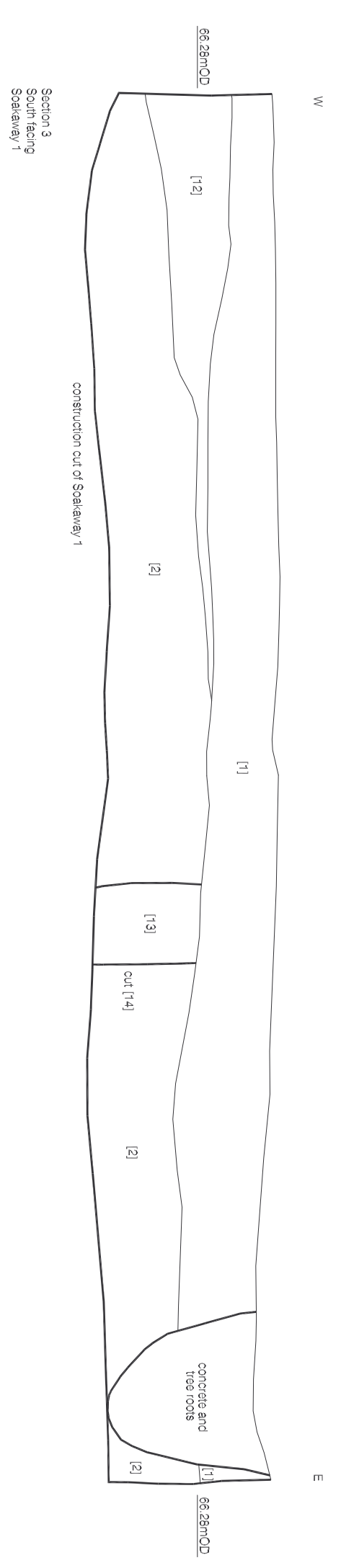
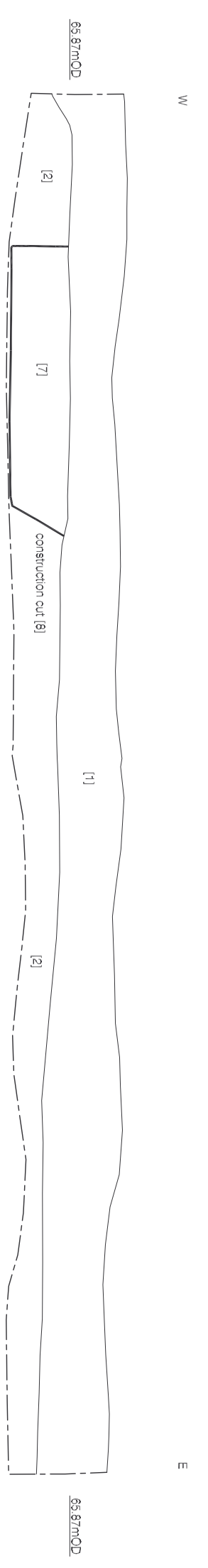
Figure 1
 Site Location
 1:20,000 at A4



© Crown copyright 2007. All rights reserved. License number PMP36110309

© Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd 2007

Figure 2
Trench Location
1:625 at A4



3 PLANNING BACKGROUND AND RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

3.1 In November 1990 the Department of the Environment issued Planning Policy Guidance Note 16 (PPG16) "Archaeology and Planning" providing guidance for planning authorities, property owners, developers and others on the preservation and investigation of archaeological remains.

3.2 In considering any planning application for development, the local planning authority is bound by the policy framework set by government guidance, in this instance PPG16, by current Structure and Local Plan policy and by other material.

3.3 The relevant Development Plan framework is provided by the draft East of England Plan (December 2004). The adopted Plan states:

"POLICY ENV5:

THE HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT:

PLANNING AUTHORITIES AND OTHER AGENCIES IN THEIR PLANS, POLICIES AND PROPOSALS WILL IDENTIFY, PROTECT, CONSERVE AND, WHERE APPROPRIATE, ENHANCE THE HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT OF THE REGION, ITS ARCHAEOLOGY, HISTORIC BUILDINGS AND AREAS AND HISTORIC LANDSCAPES, INCLUDING THOSE FEATURES AND SITES (AND THEIR SETTINGS) ESPECIALLY SIGNIFICANT IN THE EAST OF ENGLAND:

- **THE INTERNATIONALLY RENOWNED HISTORIC CITIES OF CAMBRIDGE AND NORWICH**
- **THE EXCEPTIONAL NETWORK OF HISTORIC MARKET TOWNS**
- **THE MAJOR CONCENTRATION OF MEDIEVAL CHURCHES**
- **COASTAL FORTIFICATIONS, HISTORIC PORTS AND TRADITIONAL SEASIDE RESORTS**
- **THE EARLY GARDEN CITIES OF THE 20TH CENTURY**
- **LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS – DOMESTIC AND INDUSTRIAL BUILDINGS, AND THE SETTLEMENTS AND SETTINGS WHICH DEFINE THEIR CHARACTER**
- **THE WIDER HISTORIC LANDSCAPE THAT CONTRIBUTES TO THE DISTINCTIVENESS OF THE REGION, INCLUDING SCHEDULED ANCIENT MONUMENTS AND OTHER NATIONALLY IMPORTANT ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES AND MONUMENTS.**

3.4 The relevant local development plan is provided by North Hertfordshire District Local Plan no. 2 (1996). This states:

POLICY 16:

**AREAS OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL SIGNIFICANCE AND OTHER
ARCHAEOLOGICAL AREAS**

FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL AREAS, THE COUNCIL MAY REQUIRE A PRELIMINARY EVALUATION OF ANY POTENTIAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL REMAINS BEFORE DECIDING TO PERMIT OR TO REFUSE DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS. FOR AREAS OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL SIGNIFICANCE, A PRELIMINARY EVALUATION WILL BE REQUIRED AS PART OF THE APPLICATION FOR DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS WHICH COULD DISTURB ANY POSSIBLE ARCHAEOLOGICAL REMAINS. TO ASSESS THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL VALUE OF SPECIFIC SITES, THE COUNCIL WILL SEEK EXPERT ADVICE.

IF THE SITE IS JUDGED TO BE NATIONALLY IMPORTANT, AND THE REMAINS SHOULD BE LEFT UNDISTURBED, THE COUNCIL WILL NORMALLY REFUSE DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS WHICH ADVERSELY AFFECT THE SITE OR ITS SETTING.

ON OTHER SITES, THE COUNCIL MAY PERMIT DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS WITH CONDITIONS AND/OR A FORMAL OR INFORMAL AGREEMENT, DEPENDING ON THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL VALUE, TO PROVIDE:

(I) AN EXCAVATION BEFORE DEVELOPMENT; AND/OR

(II) FACILITIES AND AN AGREED PERIOD OF TIME FOR ACCESS TO THE SITE FOR AN INVESTIGATION AND/OR FOR 'OBSERVATION' OF THE GROUNDWORKS AS DEVELOPMENT PROGRESSES BY SOMEONE APPOINTED BY THE COUNCIL; AND/OR

(III) OTHER MEASURES AS NECESSARY; AND/OR

(IV) A CONTRIBUTION FROM THE DEVELOPER TOWARDS THE FUNDING OF ANY RELEVANT INVESTIGATION.

2.33 Historic remains, early settlements and a pattern of ancient routes and Roman roads give the District particularly rich heritage of known and suspected archaeological areas. Some of the most important sites re scheduled as Ancient Monuments by the Secretary of State for the Environment. These are defined as of National Importance and require his consent for works under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979.

2.34 Development proposals are potential threats to all early remains. Therefore, the need is to preserve the most important sites and to make as accurate and comprehensive a record as possible of other areas before the remains are destroyed. In this way, the most significant are kept for the benefit of present and future generations while the records of the other areas help build an understanding of the past.

2.35 Recent efforts have brought together developer and archaeological interests, and a Code of Practice (revised 1988) has been published. A further initiative, in common with many other parts of the country, has been a welcome increase in archaeological investigations in the County. The Council commends these initiatives but wishes to clearly indicate its level of concern about specific areas in North Hertfordshire.

3.5 The investigation aimed to determine, as far as was reasonably possible, the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains liable to be threatened by the proposed development. The investigation also sought to clarify the extent of existing disturbance and intrusions and hence assess the degree of archaeological survival of buried deposits and any surviving structures of archaeological significance.

3.6 Within these parameters, and given the archaeological and historical background, the investigation presented the opportunity to address a number of research themes:

- Is there any prehistoric activity or settlement on the site?
- What does it tell us about the contemporary organisation of the landscape, settlements, ritual sites and the economy?
- Is this site a Roman burial ground?
- Does it relate to the location of a road or settlement?
- Is there any evidence for Saxon activity?
- How does the site relate to the medieval core of Baldock?
- Is there an early post-medieval predecessor to the “New Farm”?

4 GEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The underlying geology comprises calcareous sand (Dry Valley Deposits), which overlies cretaceous chalk.
- 4.2 A site investigation was carried out by Ground Investigation Services in February 2007¹. The results of the survey are summarized below.
- 4.3 One borehole and six test pits were carried out. Made ground was encountered within each test location to depths of between 0.55m (TP1) to 1.60m (TP4). Within the area of the existing barns the deposit generally comprises an upper layer of concrete, tarmac and gravel, overlying layers of clayey gravel and chalk, with varying amounts of brick fragments and carbonaceous deposits (TPs 1, 2 and 3). These upper layers are underlain by a light brown sandy clay with some to much chalk and flint gravel with a little brick and carbonaceous deposits.
- 4.4 Within the field area the deposit described in the site investigation as 'made ground' generally comprises layers of brown, occasionally light brown, clayey sand with some to much chalk and flint gravel. The layer was up to 1m thick and in the field area was sealed by topsoil and grass. Given the history of the site, the layer in the field area is likely to represent a ploughsoil.
- 4.5 Dry Valley Deposits were present in all the investigations, beneath the made ground. The deposit consisted of a medium dense light brown/buff slightly clayey calcareous sand with much fine medium coarse chalk fragments and some fine medium flint gravel. This was interpreted as natural drift geology. The deposit became thicker towards the west of the site (up to 1.2m thick), whereas in the east it was c. 0.80m thick.
- 4.6 The Middle Chalk, which forms the 'solid geology' underpinning the site, was revealed at depths of between 1.65m (TP2 in the east) and 2.80m (TP4 in the west). The formation comprised a structureless chalk composed of subangular fine medium coarse to cobbly, gravel sized, white weathered moderately weak fragments, with much matrix of firm white silt sized fragments.
- 4.7 The site investigations suggested that the eastern part of the site is partially truncated by the current and previous buildings, and that the made ground is of later post-medieval date. In the field, the made ground is undated and may represent a ploughsoil or perhaps colluvium. The chalk slopes in this area down from east to west, whereas in the east of the site the chalk is relatively flat. The presence of thicker Dry Valley Deposits in this area suggests that a valley may have been aligned north-south, to the west of the site.

¹ Ground Investigation Services 2007

- 4.8 Dry Valley Deposits were observed during the watching brief at levels of 66.37m OD, sloping downwards to 65.35m OD towards the east. Chalk was observed from 64.44m OD.

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

GENERAL OVERVIEW

- 5.1 Baldock has a rich historical and archaeological background, with a particular concentration of Iron Age, Roman and medieval archaeology.

PREHISTORIC

- 5.2 Very few finds of Paleolithic or Mesolithic date have been found in the Baldock area.
- 5.3 During the course of an evaluation in 2005 a complete Bronze Age collared urn was found in the yard of the "New Farm", representing a Bronze Age cremation (HER 13146). Furthermore, a contemporary cremation is noted to the east of the site (SMR 10077), and ring ditches to the immediate west (SMR 2343, 2336), and south (SMR 1296).
- 5.4 Baldock was part of an extensively occupied landscape from the Neolithic to the Iron Age. Unexcavated barrow cemeteries dominate the landscape around Baldock, the occupation however is believed to have Neolithic origins. Numerous features were found during excavations at Clothall Common, to the east of the subject site².

ROMAN

- 5.5 The local power base shifted during the late Iron Age from the hillfort at Arbury Banks to the vicinity of Baldock. Numerous cropmarks indicate the landscape was likely to have been densely occupied by single farmsteads scattered over a wide area. The subject site lies to the west of the designated Iron Age settlement area, as defined by the Hertfordshire County Council's Extensive Urban Survey (EUS). However, numerous ditches and pits are noted surrounding this locus point (ie SMR 6826). The area encompassing Roman Baldock is likely to have expanded, and spot finds of Roman material are noted from the immediate east and west of the subject site³.
- 5.6 At its maximum extent the Roman community at Baldock reached 40ha during the 2nd century AD. It is suggested that Baldock remained essentially a Late Iron Age settlement serving as a local market and religious centre, yielding large numbers of religious and ritual finds of this date. The location of cemeteries indicate the town boundaries, except the western extent, and therefore in the locale of the study site. One possibility is that a predominance of farmsteads in this region meant that no definitive western boundary existed⁴.

SAXON AND MEDIEVAL

- 5.7 The Roman settlement began to diminish from the 4th century AD and little is known of the area during this period. It has no separate entry in the *Domesday* and it is

² Thompson, 2002

³ *ibid*

⁴ *ibid*

surmised that Baldock lay within the manor of Weston at this time. The modern town developed from a medieval market town, which is believed to have been a planned settlement, laid out by the Knights Templar on land granted by the earl of Pembroke, Gilbert de Clare, before 1148⁵.

POST-MEDIEVAL

- 5.8 Baldock is thought to have continued much as it did in the medieval period, with expansion beginning to occur during the late 16th century. This expansion increased over the 18th and particularly during the 19th centuries.
- 5.9 The opening of the Royston and Hitchin railway in 1850 brought an end to the previously flourishing coaching trade in Baldock. Industries such as barley-growing, malting, brewing and lime production however remained. The 'New Farm' of the subject site was a triple-range malting plant and was thought to have been constructed after 1859. This was a 'model farm' belonging to the estate of the Pryors⁶.

⁵ ibid
⁶ ibid

6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

- 6.1 The areas to be reduced were laid out by the groundwork contractors in accordance with the proposed development plan. The ground reduction for the proposed development was machine excavated by the contractors using a toothless ditching bucket, in spits of no more than 0.25m depth. Where necessary, further investigation of features was carried out by hand.
- 6.2 The attendant archaeologist monitored all ground reduction so that any archaeological deposits could be excavated and recorded stratigraphically.
- 6.3 Individual descriptions of all archaeological strata and features excavated and / or exposed were entered onto pro-forma recording sheets. All plans and sections of archaeological deposits were recorded on polyester based drawing film, the plans being drawn at a scale of 1:50 and 1:20 as appropriate and the sections at 1:20. The recording system used was "single context".

7 ARCHAEOLOGICAL PHASE DISCUSSION

PHASE 1- NATURAL

- 7.1 Natural drift geology comprised a loose white-yellow sandy chalk, and probably equates to the Dry Valley Deposit noted during the site investigation given its depth and location below the made ground. The Natural was identified as deposit [2] from 66.37m OD to the west, sloping down to 65.42m OD to the east. Natural was observed in all areas and in Soakaway 2 overlay solid chalk geology [28] at 64.44m OD. Across the site, natural deposits were heavily truncated and disturbed.

PHASE 2 – LATE IRON AGE/EARLY ROMAN

- 7.2 Extending SW-NE across the area a ditch was observed as cut [4], filled by [3]. Its maximum width was 1.76m (N-S) and approximately 20.80m in length (E-W) was observed. Due to heavy truncation, the ditch fill was also identified as deposits [33], [31] and [37]. The fill comprised a soft yellow-brown clayey-fine sandy-silt, becoming increasingly clay rich towards the east. The deposit contained chalk flecks, occasional small and medium flint nodules and occasional small to medium pottery fragments. These fragments were dated as late Iron Age/early Roman. The fill appeared consistently homogenous, suggestive of silting or colluvial action, being well sorted with few large inclusions. A number of slots were cut through the ditch to ascertain its depth and profile; these identified its base as sloping from 64.66m OD to 64.09m OD, from west to east respectively, before rising again to 64.72m OD. The cut appeared to have steep sides with a pointed base, and a maximum observed depth of 0.90m.

PHASE 3 - UNDATED

- 7.3 A mid yellow-brown fine sandy silt was observed as deposits [27], [12], [5] and [6]. This was identified in patches from 66.54m OD to the north-west, sloping to 65.67m OD to the south-east, and contained moderate inclusions of chalk flecks, and was therefore undated. These deposits were equated and considered to represent a sub-soil, directly overlying natural chalk [2].

PHASE 4 - LATE 19TH CENTURY/EARLY 20TH CENTURY

- 7.4 Ditch fill [3] was heavily truncated by late 19th/early 20th century features of uncertain purpose. Cut [10] was filled by a brick lining [11] suggestive of drainage. Other cuts [8], [21], [19], [16], [23], [30] and [36] were filled by rubble deposits containing late 19th century pot fragments and glass. Many of the truncations were concentrated around the areas of ditch fill. It is possible that during landscaping for the barn and farmyard buildings the softer soil of the ditch fill was utilised deliberately, in preference of cutting through the harder chalk.

- 7.5 Sealing all excavation areas was a layer of made ground identified as deposit [1]. This was formed of rubble, frequent CBM, pottery and glass fragments and suggests large scale remodeling/levelling of the area during the post-medieval period.

8 INTERPRETATIONS AND CONCLUSIONS

- 8.1 The archaeological strip, map and record investigation was intended to identify and record archaeological material during the ground reduction phase of the redevelopment of land prior to the construction of a Children's Home. The principal objective was to determine the presence or otherwise of any archaeological activity on site.
- 8.2 The natural drift geology on site was found to consist of sandy chalk, overlying solid chalk, and was observed in trench 1 and within the footprints of Soakaways 1 and 2 as deposit [2]. Natural solid geology was observed in Soakaway 2 only, as deposit [28].
- 8.3 Cutting natural sandy chalk a ditch aligned NE-SW was observed, with approximately 20m in length exposed. Few finds were contained within the fill, however fragmentary pottery sherds inferred a late Iron Age/early Roman date.
- 8.4 Also sealing natural were a series of deposits interpreted to be sub-soil. No dating evidence however was retrieved from these layers, and their relationship to the ditch was obscured by modern truncations.
- 8.5 The area under observation appeared to have suffered from heavy truncation and redevelopment during the post-medieval period. The ditch was truncated by a series of cuts of unknown function. All cuts were filled by a comparable rubble material, suggesting a late 19th/early 20th century date. These were sealed by a layer of made ground, which incorporated redeposited natural chalk, giving further evidence of the landscaping of the area.
- 8.6 No other archaeologically significant deposits were observed on site.
- 8.7 In terms of the original research questions posed of the investigation, it may be inferred that a lack of prehistoric, Saxon or medieval material may be due to the truncation of these deposits during the construction of the new farm. It may also be possible that the area under investigation lay outside the core settlement area, and was therefore utilised for pasture land or other activities leaving similarly little archaeological trace. The location of the ditch does present some positive evidence of previous land divisions, and organisation of the late Iron Age landscape. This feature is likely to have continued beyond the limit of excavation to both the south-west and north-east, and such evidence may be more valuable when viewed in a wider context and when compared with the late Iron Age landscape of Baldock in general. A map illustrating the Late Iron Age settlement of the town documents the central settlement area with numerous finds of ditches around the periphery, and therefore in comparable locations to the subject site.

9 ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

- 9.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited would like to thank Barry Coomber, Peter Cain and Alex Mally of Geoffrey Osborne Limited for commissioning the work. Thanks also to Andy instone and Alison Tinniswood for monitoring the work on behalf of the Historic Environment Unit, Hertfordshire County Council.
- 9.2 The author would like to thank Hayley Baxter for the illustrations and Peter Moore for his project management and editing.

10 BIBLIOGRAPHY

Ground Investigation Services 2007 *Proposed Children's Home, Weston Way, Baldock, Hertfordshire-report on site investigation* unpublished client report

Thompson, I, 2002, *Baldock Extensive Urban Survey Project: Assesment Report*, Hertfordshire County Council and English Heritage

Appendix 1 Context Register

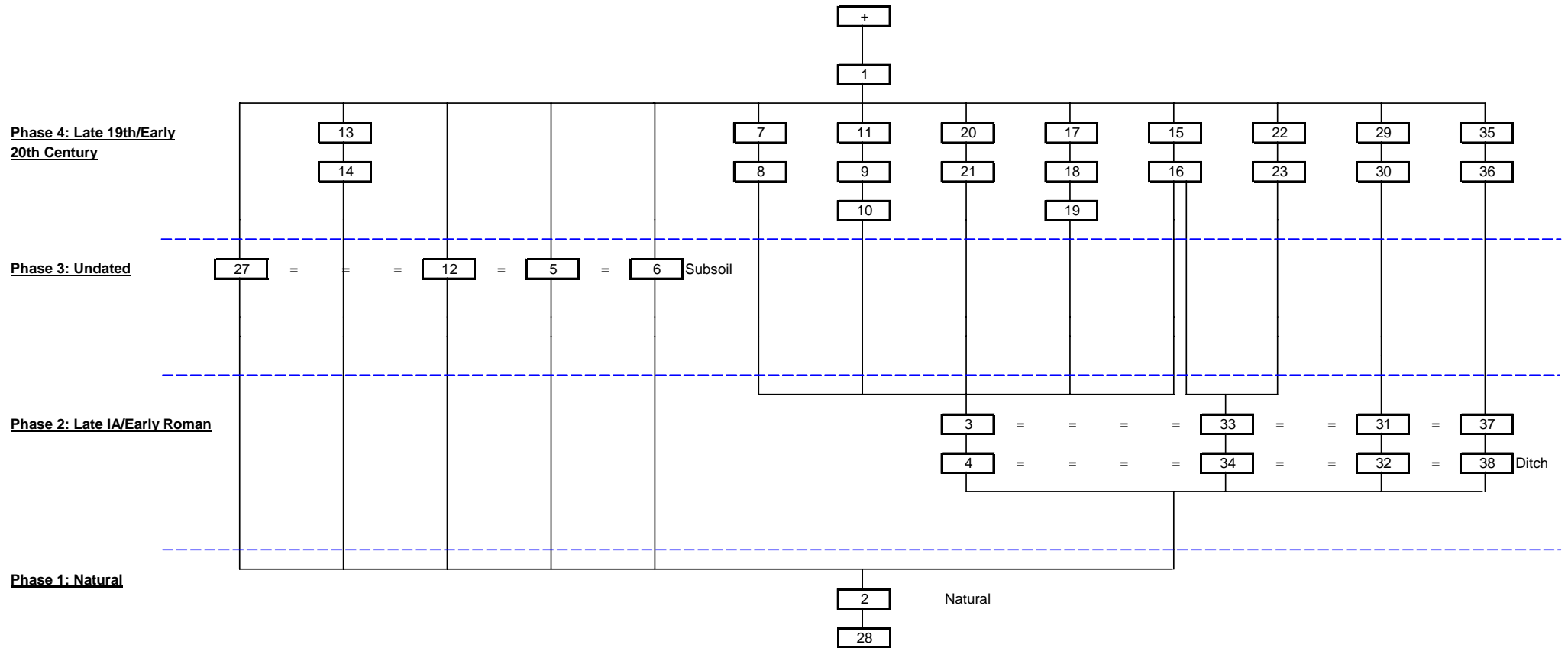
Context Number	Trench	Plan Number	Section Number	Phase	Type	Description	Highest	Lowest
1	1		1,2,3	4	Layer	C20th Made ground	66.88	
2	1, Soak 1, 2	Soak 1, 2, [4]	1,2,3,4	1	Natural	Natural sandy chalk	66.37	
3	1	4	1	2	Fill	Soft, clayey, sandy, silt with chalk flecks: Fill of [4]	66.25	
4	1	4	1	2	Cut	Ditch cut	66.25	64.1
5	1		1	3	Layer	Brown-black, clay-sand-silt: Subsoil	66.29	
6	1		1	3	Layer	Brown-black, clay-sand-silt: Subsoil	66.27	
7	1		2	4	Fill	Brown-grey coarse sandy silt and rubble, fill of [8]	65.89	65.4
8	1		2	4	Cut	Linear constr cut for late C19th barn	65.89	65.4
9	1	11		4	Fill	Yellow-grey sandy-silt, backfill of drain		

Context Number	Trench	Plan Number	Section Number	Phase	Type	Description	Highest	Lowest
						[10]		
10	1	11		4	Cut	Cut for late C19th drain?		
11	1	11		4	Masonry	Brick-lined drain		
12	Soak 1		3	3	Layer	Mid orange-brown, clay-sand-silt: Subsoil	66.54	
13	Soak 1		3	4	Fill	Grey-brown sandy, clay fill of [14]	66.34	
14	Soak 1		3	4	Cut	Poss cut for wall	66.34	65.5
15	1			4	Fill	Yellow-brown sandy-silt fill of [16]		
16	1			4	Cut	Irregular post-med cut		
17	1			4	Fill	Grey-brown, sandy silt fill of [19]		
18	1			4	Fill	Yellow-brown sandy-clayey-silt fill of [19]		
19	1	4		4	Cut	Cut for post-med drain?		

Context Number	Trench	Plan Number	Section Number	Phase	Type	Description	Highest	Lowest
20	1			4	Fill	Grey-brown clay-silty-sand, fill of [21]		
21	1	4		4	Cut	Post-med cut		
22	1			4	Fill	Soft, brown-grey clay-sand-silt, fill of [23]		
23	1	4		4	Cut	Post-med cut		
24	VOID				VOID	VOID		
25	VOID				VOID	VOID		
26	VOID				VOID	VOID		
27	Soak 2		4	3	Layer	Yellow-brown, sandy silt: subsoil	65.67	
28	Soak 2		4	1	Natural	Chalk: solid	64.44	64.3
29	1			4	Fill	Fill of [30]; post-med rubble/dump		
30	1			4	Cut	Post-med cut		
31	1			2	Fill	Fill of [31], yellow-brown, sandy-clayey-silt	65.3	

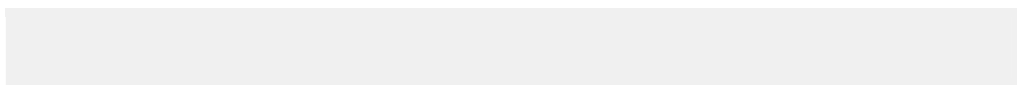
Context Number	Trench	Plan Number	Section Number	Phase	Type	Description	Highest	Lowest
32	1			2	Cut	Ditch cut	65.3	64.9
33	1			2	Fill	Fill of [34] same as [31]		
34	1			2	Cut	Ditch cut		
35	1			4	Fill	Sandy silt/rubble: fill of [36]	65.22	
36	1			4	Cut	Irregular post-med cut	65.22	
37	1			2	Fill	Yellow-brown, sandy-clayey-silt: fill of [38]	65.22	
38	1			2	Cut	Ditch cut	65.22	64.7

Appendix 2 Site Matrix



Appendix 3 OASIS Form

OASIS ID: preconstr1-33026



Project details

Project name Weston Way, Baldock

Short description of the project An archaeological strip, map and record investigation of the former New Farm, Weston Way, Baldock, Hertfordshire, was carried out in advance of the construction of a Children's Home. The area of development measured 0.2ha. The strip, map and record investigation consisted of the observation of the ground reduction phase of development in the area comprising the three central buildings, plus a watching brief on deeper service trenches liable to impact upon natural ground. The investigation identified a late Iron Age/early Roman ditch. The area monitored appeared highly disturbed and truncated by later 19th and 20th century cuts, possibly for drainage and for footings. All features were sealed by 20th century made ground. No other archaeological features were identified.

Project dates Start: 13-08-2007 End: 05-09-2007

Previous/future work No / Not known

Any associated project reference codes HWES07 - Sitecode

Type of project Recording project

Site status	None
Current use	Land Vacant Land 1 - Vacant land previously developed
Monument type	DITCH Late Iron Age
Investigation type	'Watching Brief'
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16

Project location

Country	England
Site location	HERTFORDSHIRE NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE BALDOCK Weston Way, Baldock
Postcode	SG7
Study area	0.20 Hectares
Site coordinates	TL 4250 3470 51.9919937866 0.075670410948 51 59 31 N 000 04 32 E Point
Height OD	Min: 65.42m Max: 66.37m

**Project
creators**

Name of Organisation Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd

Project brief originator Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd

Project design originator Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd

Project director/manager Peter Moore

Project supervisor Amelia Fairman

Type of sponsor/funding body Private company

Name of sponsor/funding body Geoffrey Osborne Ltd

**Project
archives**

Physical Archive recipient	Local museum
Physical Archive ID	HWES07
Physical Contents	'Ceramics'
Digital Archive recipient	Local museum
Digital Archive ID	HWES07
Digital Media available	'Database','Text'
Paper Archive recipient	Local Museum
Paper Archive ID	HWES07
Paper Media available	'Context sheet','Drawing','Map','Plan','Report','Unpublished Text'

Entered by Helen Clough (hclough@pre-construct.com)

Entered on 22 October 2007



P C A

PRE - CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY LIMITED

UNIT 54

BROCKLEY CROSS BUSINESS CENTRE

96 ENDWELL ROAD

BROCKLEY

LONDON SE4 2PD

TEL: 0207 732 3925 0207 639 9091

FAX: 0207 639 9588

EMAIL: info@pre-construct.com

PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY LIMITED (NORTHERN OFFICE)

UNIT 19A

TURSDALE BUSINESS PARK

DURHAM DH6 5PG

TEL: 0191 377 1111

FAX: 0191 377 0101

EMAIL: info.north@pre-construct.com

