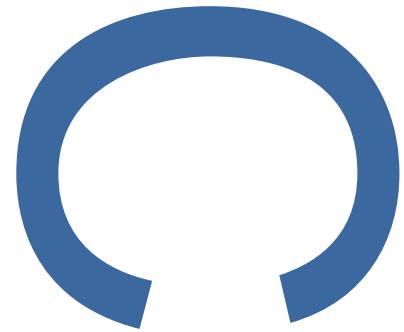


**GREENFIELD SERVICE STATION,
BALDOCK ROAD, KELSHALL,
NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE:**



**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING
BRIEF**

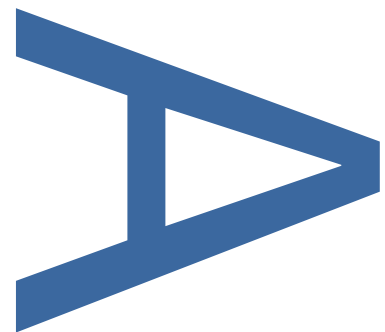
**LOCAL PLANNING AUTHORITY: NORTH
HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL**



**PLANNING APPLICATION NUMBERS:
17/02261/1**

PCA REPORT NO: 13725

SITE CODE: KEL/BR19



JUNE 2019

PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY

**GREENFIELD SERVICE STATION,
BALDOCK ROAD, KELSHALL,
NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE:**

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING
BRIEF**

Quality Control

Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd	
Project Number	K6123
Report Number	R13725

	Name & Title	Signature	Date
Text Prepared by:	Lawrence Morgan-Shelbourne		December 2018
Graphics Prepared by:	Rosie Scales		December 2018
Graphics Checked by:	Rosie Scales		December 2018
Project Manager Sign-off:	Tom Woolhouse		December 2018

Revision No.	Date	Checked	Approved

Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited
The Granary
Rectory Farm
Brewery Road
Pampisford
Cambridgeshire
CB22 3EN

Greenfield Service Station, Baldock Road, Kelshall, North Hertfordshire: An Archaeological Watching Brief

Local Planning Authority: North Hertfordshire District Council

Planning Reference: 17/02261/1

Central National Grid Reference: NGR TL 30888 38840

Site Code: KEL/BR19

Report No. R13725

Written and researched by: Lawrence Morgan-Shelbourne
Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd

Project Manager: Tom Woolhouse

Commissioning Client: Mr Thomas Highland

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

Tel: 01223 845522

E-mail: twoolhouse@pre-construct.com

Website: www.pre-construct.com

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June 2019

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ABSTRACT

Archaeological monitoring of groundworks relating to the extension of the existing service station was carried out at Greenfield Service Station, Baldock Road, Kelshall, North Hertfordshire, SG8 9NN (NGR TL 30888 38840), on the 14th and 17th of June 2019.

The watching brief did not identify any archaeological features or deposits; the majority of the watching brief area had been subject to a significant degree of truncation, presumably when the original service station was constructed.

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 A programme of archaeological monitoring was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd (PCA) on land at Greenfield Service Station, Baldock Road, Kelshall, North Hertfordshire, SG8 9NN (centred on Ordnance Survey National Grid Reference (NGR) TL 30888 38840) on the 14th and 17th of June 2019 (Figures 1 & 2; Plate 1).
- 1.2 The archaeological work was commissioned by Mr T. Highland in response to an archaeological planning condition attached to the extension of an existing service station to include a coffee shop (Planning Reference: 17/02261/1). This condition was due to the high archaeological significance of the proposed development area ('PDA').
- 1.3 The programme of archaeological monitoring was carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by Tom Woolhouse of PCA (Woolhouse 2019) in response to an archaeological planning condition requested by Simon Wood of Hertfordshire County Council's Natural, Historic and Built Environment Advisory Team (HCC NHBEAT) (email response to planning consultation dated 20/03/2019).
- 1.4 The aim of the programme of archaeological monitoring 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 as appropriate, and to assess the impact of the development on the site's archaeology.
- 1.5 The stripped watching brief area covered a total of c. 274m² (Figure 2; Plates 2–4).
- 1.6 This report describes the results of the programme of archaeological monitoring; the site archive will be deposited with North Hertfordshire District Council Museum Service.

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The site lies within an Area of Archaeological Significance as identified in the North Hertfordshire District Council Local Plan. This comprises an extensive prehistoric and later landscape. The Hertfordshire Historic Environment Record (HER) notes that the site also lies next to the A505, which follows the route of the Icknield Way, a medieval and later road, parts of which may date from prehistoric times (HER 4182).
- 2.2 Numerous archaeological features and finds are recorded close to the site. These include cropmarks which probably show prehistoric and later field and enclosure systems, and potential settlement sites, as well as find spots of artefacts (e.g. HER 1237, 2227, 2419, 2472, 4767, 4820 and 15733). A Late Pre-Roman Iron Age enclosure (HER MHT1029) is visible as a cropmark on the east side of Combe Bottom, 250m east-north-east of the site. It was excavated in 1977, revealing postholes of two timber structures. Finds of other Late Iron Age material in the vicinity have been reported to the Portable Antiquities Scheme.
- 2.3 Cropmarks of several ring-ditches, probably Neolithic to Bronze Age burial mounds, are located in the landscape immediately around the site, including one 240m north-west and a group of several 300m to the south. These form part of a wider major complex of prehistoric burial mounds and other monuments on Therfield Heath, centred c. 3.5km north-east of the site, but extending west towards the site.

3 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

3.1 Geology

3.2 The site lies on the boundary between the New Pit and Holywell Chalk Formations; no superficial geological deposits are recorded in the area (British Geological Survey 2019). These deposits were present during the course of the watching brief as (102), a pure blocky chalk with rare flint inclusions. Where it survived, the original upper extent of this deposit had been subject to weathering, creating pale yellowy-brown mottling (Plate 5). The natural was directly overlain by the topsoil (100), a light to mid-greyish-brown sandy silt.

3.3 Topography

3.4 The site is at an elevation of c. 75m OD, at the foot of a south-west to north-east chalk escarpment which rises, fairly steeply at first, then more gradually, to an elevation of around 160m OD (above Ordnance Datum) c. 2km south of the site. The area affected by the groundworks ranged in elevation from 75.9m OD in the south to 73.5m OD in the north, a fall of 2.4m. There are no watercourses in the immediate vicinity of the site. Historically, most settlements in the area were focused on the spring-line further to the north.

3.5 The site is located to the south of the A505 Royston to Baldock Road, c. 1.3km north-east of the Hamlet of Odsey. The site is bounded to the east, south and west by open fields.

4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 General

4.2 Ground reduction during the watching brief was carried out using a 21-ton 360° tracked mechanical excavator, used to strip the area of the proposed building to a maximum depth of 2.9m below modern ground level. Topsoil and other overburden deposits of low archaeological value were removed in spits down to the proposed level of the building foundations under archaeological supervision (Plate 6). The machine strip was initially halted at the interface of the overburden with the natural, in order for any potential archaeology to be observed. Due to the presence of a power cable orientated across the middle of the site and other site constraints, the area was stripped in three stages, with the eastern portion being excavated first.

4.3 Exposed surfaces were cleaned by trowel and hoe as appropriate and all further excavation was undertaken manually using hand tools.

4.4 Recording and Finds Recovery

4.4.1 The limits of excavations, heights above Ordnance Datum (m OD) and the locations of archaeological features and interventions were recorded using a Leica GS014 GPS rover unit with RTK differential correction, giving three-dimensional accuracy of 20mm or better.

4.4.2 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, deposits and groups are entirely arbitrary and in no way reflect the chronological order in which events took place. All features and deposits identified during the watching brief are listed in Appendix 2. Artefacts recovered during the watching brief

were assigned to the record number of the deposit from which they were retrieved.

- 4.4.3 Metal-detecting was carried out during the stripping of the overburden and throughout the excavation process. Spoil heaps were scanned by metal-detector periodically. Only objects of modern date were found and were not retained for accession.
- 4.4.4 High-resolution digital photographs were taken of all relevant features and deposits and were used to keep a record of the excavation process.

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

5.1 No archaeological features or deposits were present in the monitored area.

6 DISCUSSION & CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1 The watching brief did not identify any archaeological features or deposits.
- 6.2 During mechanical ground reduction, it soon became clear that the slope to the rear of the existing service station does not represent the 'original' topography but has been heavily cut into during the original construction of Greenfield Service Station.
- 6.3 During this process the level of the natural deposits, at least in the area that was subject to the current monitoring, had been severely truncated, and any pre-existing topsoil and subsoil deposits entirely removed. The 'topsoil' encountered during the watching brief was extremely thin and mainly composed of imported soil and bark mulch. Based on the weathering of the upper portion of the natural deposits, visible in the face of the service station cut, the level of the slope directly to the south of the service station area has not been affected by any truncation. Although outside the area of the current watching brief, the area of the service station directly to the west, which is currently covered by vegetation, also slopes at a less severe gradient and therefore may also have been subject to less past truncation.

7 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

7.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd would like to thank Mr T. Highland for commissioning and funding the work. PCA are also grateful to Simon Wood of Hertfordshire County Council's Natural, Historic and Built Environment Advisory Team for monitoring the work. The project was managed for PCA by Tom Woolhouse and was supervised by Lawrence Morgan-Shelbourne. Figures accompanying this report were prepared by Rosie Scales of PCA's CAD Department.

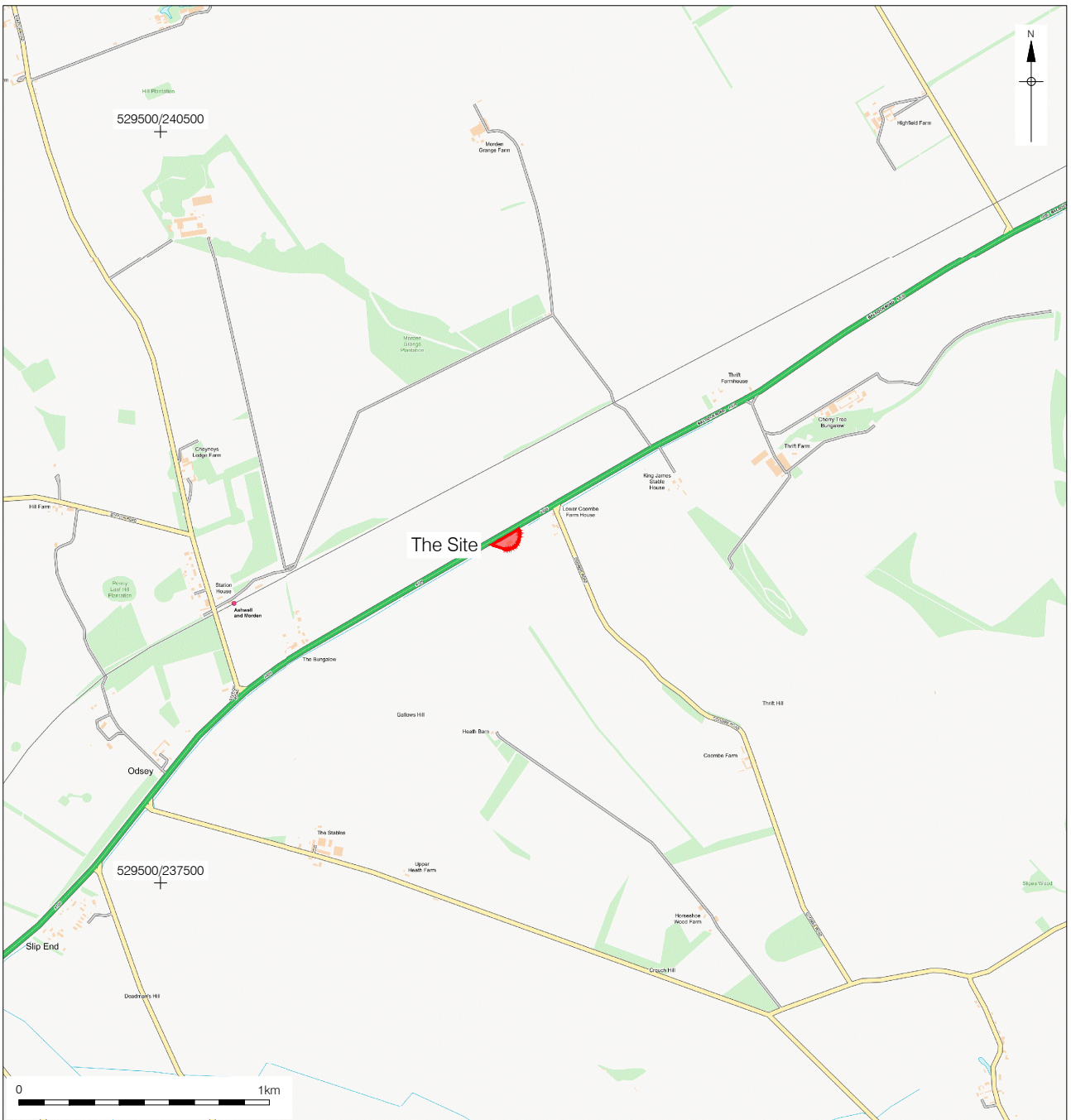
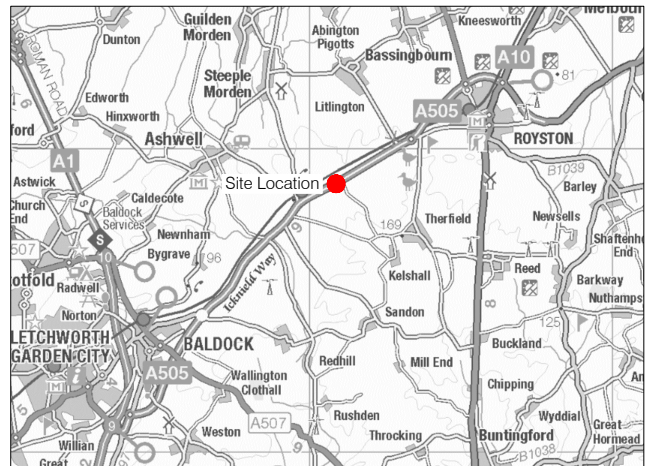
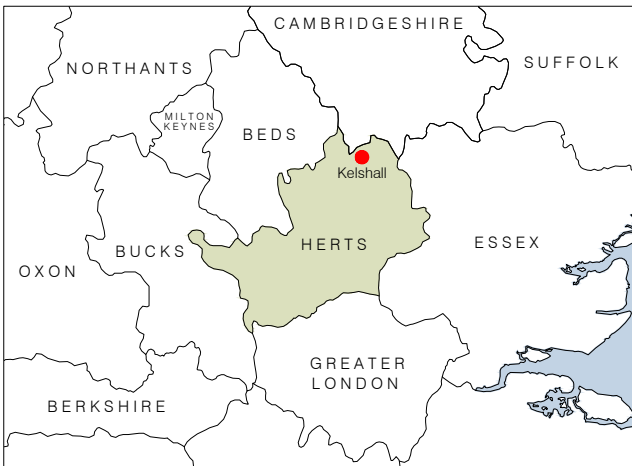
8 BIBLIOGRAPHY

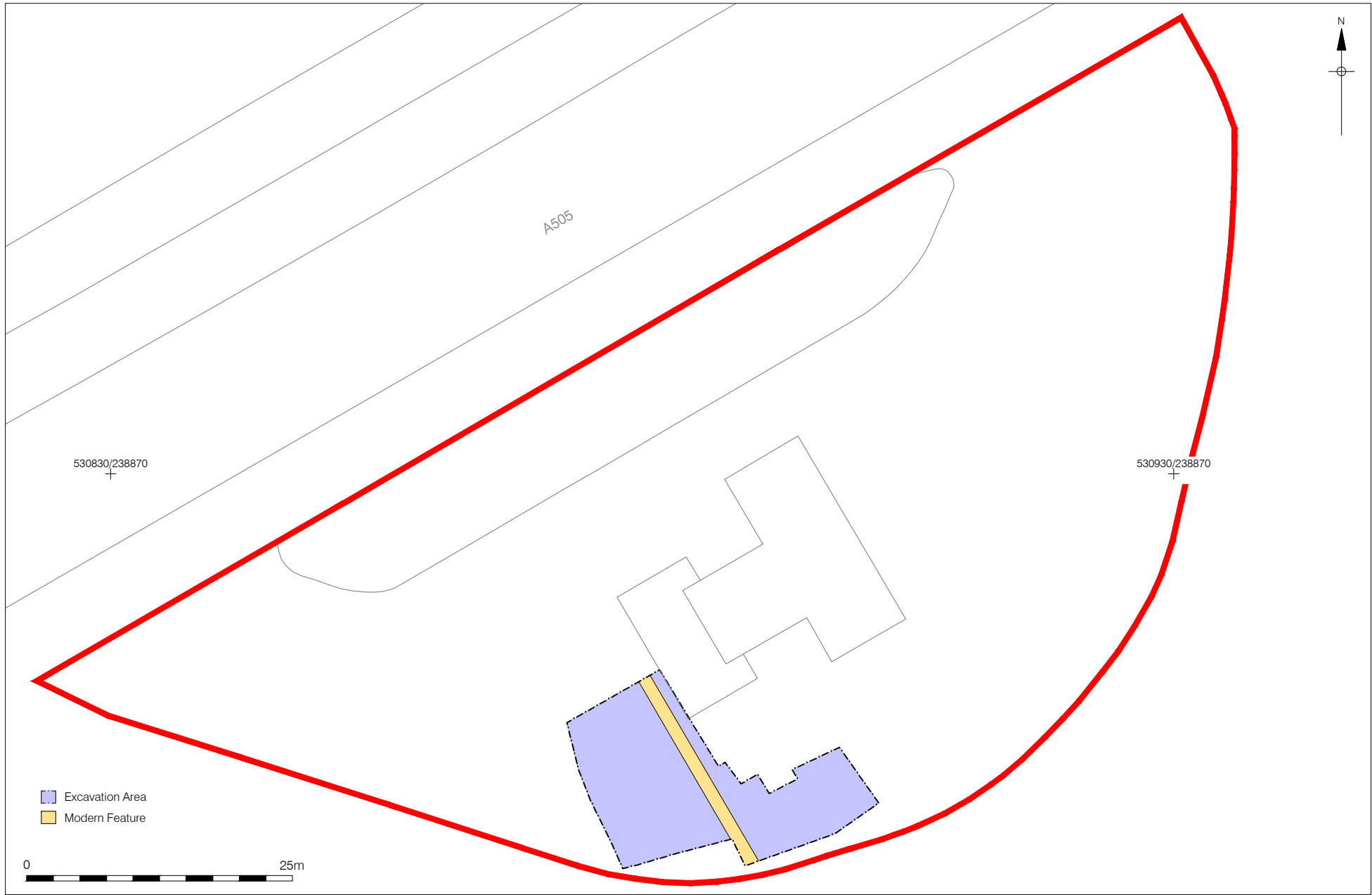
8.1 Printed Sources

Woolhouse, T. 2018. Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Monitoring of Groundworks at Greenfield Service Station, Baldock Road, Kelshall, North Hertfordshire. PCA: Unpublished

8.2 Websites

1) British Geological Survey 2019. Geology of Britain Viewer <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>. Accessed 19/06/2019





9 APPENDIX 1: PLATES



Plate 1: The site, view north-east



Plate 2: The watching brief area, south-eastern third, view south-west



Plate 3: The watching brief area, south-western third, view north-east



Plate 4: The watching brief area, north-western third, view south-west



Plate 5: Section through natural deposits, south edge of watching brief area, view south-east



Plate 6: Machining, view south

10 APPENDIX 2: CONTENTS INDEX

Context	Cut	Type	Category	Depth (m)	Description	Period	Period Number
100	100	Layer	Topsoil	0.22	Moderate-loose, mid-greyish-brown sandy silt	modern	8
102	102	Layer	Natural	2.9+	Compact white chalk, weathering to upper surface		

11 APPENDIX 3: OASIS FORM

OASIS ID: preconst1-356284

Project details

Project name Greenfield Service Station, Baldock Road, Kelshall, North Hertfordshire: An Archaeological Watching Brief

Short description of the project A programme of archaeological monitoring of groundworks relating to the extension of the existing service station was carried out at Greenfield Service Station, Baldock Road, Kelshall, North Hertfordshire, SG8 9NN (NGR TL 30888 38840), on the 14th and 17th of June 2019. The watching brief did not identify any archaeological features or deposits; the majority of the watching brief area had been subject to a significant degree of truncation, presumably when the original service station was constructed.

Project dates Start: 14-06-2019 End: 17-06-2019

Previous/future work No / Not known

Any associated project reference codes KEL/BR19 - Sitecode

Type of project Recording project

Site status None

Current Land use Industry and Commerce 3 - Retailing

Investigation type "Watching Brief"

Prompt Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16

Project location

Country England

Site location HERTFORDSHIRE NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE KELSHALL
Greenfield Service Station, Baldock Road, Kelshall, North Hertfordshire

Postcode SG8 9NN

Study area 274 Square metres

Site coordinates TL 30888 38840 52.032063746498 -0.091782950694 52 01 55 N 000
05 30 W Point

Height OD / Depth Min: 0.22m Max: 2.9m

Project creators

Name of
Organisation PCA

Project brief
originator Simon Wood

Project design
originator Tom Woolhouse

Project
director/manager Tom Woolhouse

Project supervisor Lawrence Morgan-Shelbourne

Name of
sponsor/funding body Mr T. Highland

Project archives

Physical Archive
Exists? No

Digital Archive
recipient North Hertfordshire District Council Museum Services

Digital Media
available "Survey","Text"

Paper Archive
recipient North Hertfordshire District Council Museum Services

Paper Media
available "Context sheet","Photograph","Plan","Report","Survey "

Project bibliography

1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title Greenfield Service Station, Baldock Road, Kelshall, North Hertfordshire: An Archaeological Watching Brief

Author(s)/Editor(s) Morgan-Shelbourne, L

Date 2019

Issuer or publisher PCA Central

Place of issue or
publication Pampisford

Description c. 23 page, A4, bound, front and back covers, 2 figures, 6 plates.

Entered by Lawrence Morgan-Shelbourne (lmorgan-shelbourne@pre-construct.com)

Entered on 19 June 2019

12 APPENDIX 4: HERTS HER SUMMARY FORM

Site name and address: Greenfield Service Station, Baldock Road, Kelshall, North Hertfordshire, SG8 9NN		
County: Hertfordshire	District: North Hertfordshire	
Village/Town: -	Parish: Kelshall	
Planning application reference: 17/02261/1		
HER Enquiry reference: tbc		
Client name, address, and tel. no.: Mr Thomas Highland		
Nature of application: Planning condition		
Present land use: Service Station		
Size of application area: c. 274m ²	Size of area investigated: c.274m ²	
NGR (to 8 figures): TL 3088 3884		
Site code (if applicable): KEL/BR19		
Site director/Organisation: Lawrence Morgan-Shelbourne/Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd		
Type of work: Watching Brief		
Date of work: 19.06.2019	Start: 17.06.2019	Finish: 17.06.2019
Location of finds & site archive/Curating museum: North Hertford District Museums		
Related HER Nos:	Periods represented: -	
Relevant previous summaries/reports:		
<p>Summary of fieldwork results:</p> <p>A programme of archaeological monitoring of groundworks relating to the extension of the existing service station was carried out at Greenfield Service Station, Baldock Road, Kelshall, North Hertfordshire, SG8 9NN (NGR TL 30888 38840), on the 14th and 17th of June 2019.</p> <p>The watching brief did not identify any archaeological features or deposits; the majority of the watching brief area had been subject to a significant degree of truncation, presumably when the original service station was constructed.</p>		
Author of summary: L. Morgan-Shelbourne	Date of summary: 19.06.2019	

PCA

PCA CAMBRIDGE

THE GRANARY, RECTORY FARM
BREWERY ROAD, PAMPISFORD
CAMBRIDGESHIRE CB22 3EN

t: 01223 845 522

e: cambridge@pre-construct.com

PCA DURHAM

THE ROPE WORKS, BROADWOOD VIEW
CHESTER-LE-STREET
DURHAM DH3 3AF

t: 0191 377 1111

e: durham@pre-construct.com

PCA LONDON

UNIT 54, BROCKLEY CROSS BUSINESS CENTRE
96 ENDWELL ROAD, BROCKLEY
LONDON SE4 2PD

t: 020 7732 3925

e: london@pre-construct.com

PCA NEWARK

OFFICE 8, ROEWOOD COURTYARD
WINKBURN, NEWARK
NOTTINGHAMSHIRE NG22 8PG

t: 01636 370 410

e: newark@pre-construct.com

PCA NORWICH

QUARRY WORKS, DEREHAM ROAD
HONINGHAM
NORWICH NR9 5AP

T: 01603 863 108

e: norwich@pre-construct.com

PCA WARWICK

UNIT 9, THE MILL, MILL LANE
LITTLE SHREWLEY, WARWICK
WARWICKSHIRE CV35 7HN

t: 01926 485 490

e: warwick@pre-construct.com

PCA WINCHESTER

5 RED DEER COURT, ELM ROAD
WINCHESTER
HAMPSHIRE SO22 5LX

t: 01962 849 549

e: winchester@pre-construct.com

