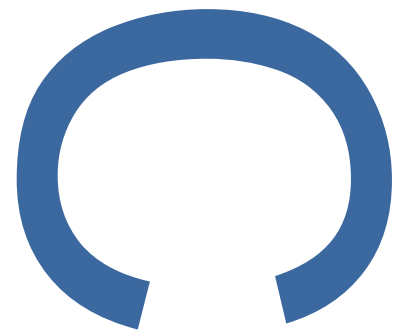


**LAND NORTH OF
10 STATION ROAD
BLUNTISHAM
CAMBRIDGESHIRE**



**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL
EVALUATION**

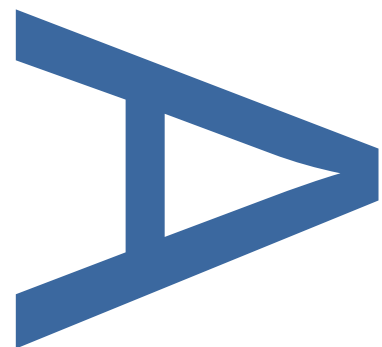
**LOCAL PLANNING AUTHORITY:
HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL**



**PLANNING APPLICATION NUMBER:
17/01015/OUT**

PCA REPORT NO: R14133

SITE CODE: ECB6224



JUNE 2020

PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY

Land North of 10 Station Road, Bluntisham, Cambridgeshire: An Archaeological Evaluation

Quality Assurance

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Stage	Name	Date
Text prepared by:	Thomas Revell	1-6-2020
Graphics prepared by:	Rosie Scales	5-6-2020
LPA approval received:	Kasia Gdaniec, CCCHET	12-11-2020
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Land North of 10 Station Road, Bluntisham, Cambridgeshire: An Archaeological Evaluation

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Written and researched by: Thomas Revell

Project Manager: Simon Carlyle

Commissioning Client: S W Highland Ltd, c/o Brown & Co

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

Tel: 01223 845522

E-mail: scarlyle@pre-construct.com

Website: www.pre-construct.com

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ABSTRACT

In May 2020, an archaeological trial trench evaluation was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd on land north of 10 Station Road, Bluntisham, Cambridgeshire. The evaluation, which was commissioned by S W Highland Ltd through their planning consultant Barford Brown & Co, was carried out in support of an outline planning application for the residential development of the site.

Of the eleven trenches excavated, only four contained archaeological features, consisting of two small ditches, two broad, shallow pits or vegetation hollows and two small pits or postholes. Stratified dating evidence was similarly sparse, being confined to a fragment of 17th-century clay tobacco pipe stem from the ditch in Trench 1 and three sherds of 13th/14th-century pottery from one of the pits in the same trench. The excavated evidence suggests that the site appears to have been quite heavily disturbed when it was used as an orchard and later, when it was grubbed out. Further disturbance, probably associated with the construction of the adjacent car park, was noted at the southern end of the site.

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 An outline planning application (planning ref. 17/01015/OUT) has been submitted to Huntingdonshire District Council (HDC) for the residential and commercial development of a plot of land to the north of 10 Station Road, Bluntisham, Cambridgeshire (NGR: TL 3659 7441; Fig. 1). Archaeological advice provided by Cambridgeshire County Council's Historic Environment Team (CCCHET), archaeological advisors to HDC, recommended that the applicant undertake a programme of archaeological evaluation of the site prior to the determination of planning permission, in accordance with *National Planning Policy Framework*, paragraphs 189 and 190 (DCLG 2018).
- 1.2 The recommendation by CCCHET was based on the results of their search of the Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record (CHER), which showed the site to be situated to the west of Bluntisham House, a Grade II* Listed building, and that archaeological remains of prehistoric, Roman, medieval and post-medieval date have been identified in the surrounding area. The scope of the programme of archaeological evaluation was outlined in a *Brief for Archaeological Evaluation* issued by CCCHET (CCCHET 2020).
- 1.3 The planning applicant, S W Highland & Co., acting through their planning consultant Barford Brown & Co., commissioned Pre-Construct Archaeology (PCA) to undertake the trial trench evaluation of the site. This consisted of the excavation of 11no. 30m trial trenches (a total of 330 linear metres, a 5% sample of the 1.2ha site; Fig. 2).
- 1.4 The project was carried out in accordance with the *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) that was prepared by PCA and approved by CCCHET prior to the commencement of fieldwork. The project also abided by *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2003) and the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct* (CIfA 2014a) and *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluation* (CIfA 2014b).
- 1.5 The project was managed in accordance with the Historic England procedural document *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE): Project Manager's Guide* (HE 2015).
- 1.6 Following Transfer of Title, the site archive, including the approved version of this report, will be deposited at the Cambridgeshire Archaeological Archive Facility.

2 SITE BACKGROUND

2.1 Site location, topography and geology

- 2.1.1 The site is located on the southwestern edge of Bluntisham, a small village that lies c. 17km north-west of Cambridge city centre and 13km east of Huntingdon town centre (Fig. 1). It covers an area of c. 1.2ha and largely consists of open grassland, with trees planted across the northern part of the site (Plate 1). The site is bounded by Station Road (A1123) to the south, gardens and arable land to the west, gardens to the east and woodland/orchard to the north.
- 2.1.2 Topographically, the site is situated on a gentle, south-facing slope overlooking the valley of the River Great Ouse, the river flowing northeastwards c. 1km to the south. To the north and north-west of the site, the ground rises towards Colne Heath, which lies at c. 31m above Ordnance Datum (aOD). Within the site, the ground descends from c. 15m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) at the site's northern edge to c. 12m aOD on Station Road.
- 2.1.3 The geology within the site consists of undifferentiated Jurassic mudstone of the West Walton Formation and Ampthill Clay Formation. No superficial deposits are mapped within the site, although Quaternary glacial deposits (diamicton) of the Oadby Member occur on the higher ground to the north and north-west of the site (BGS 2020).

2.2 Archaeological and historical background

- 2.2.1 There are a large number of records held by the Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record (HER) that relate to sites within 1km of the development area, although many of these are entries for Listed buildings and other historic buildings along High Street to the east of the site or at Wood End to the north. However, reference to the records, as supplied with the *Brief* (CCCHET 2020), shows that the site lies in an area of archaeological potential. The following is a summary of HER records of archaeological remains having been identified, investigated or discovered within the vicinity of the site (HER nos. in parentheses). There are no records of known archaeological remains within the site.

Prehistoric (pre-AD43)

- 2.2.2 Prehistoric flint implements, including a Neolithic flint arrowhead, have been found in a field c. 150m to the north-west of the site (03625, 01761) and further afield they have been discovered in ploughsoil c. 600m to the south-west (01759, 03626), c. 500m to the west (03622) and c. 800m to the north-west (01760, 03624, 03627). Archaeological

investigations at Barleycroft Farm, c. 800m to the south of the site, also recovered flint implements of Neolithic and Bronze Age date (01699, 03623).

2.2.3 In 2005, an archaeological excavation at 6 Rectory Road revealed a large oval pit in the centre of the site, from which was recovered a small assemblage of rusticated Bronze Age Beaker pottery, some human and animal bone, as well as hazelnut shells and some carbonised mistletoe stem, which has been radiocarbon dated to the late 3rd millennium BC (ECB2046; Burrow and Mudd 2006). Also encountered was a crouched inhumation of an older man, accompanied by a bone toggle, which has been radiocarbon dated to the Middle Iron Age, probably the 2nd century BC.

2.2.4 Evidence for Iron Age settlement in the area has been identified c. 600m to the east and north-east of the site (01722, 03930) and cropmarks shown on aerial photographs of the area of Barleycroft Farm may indicate the presence of an Iron Age enclosure (see below).

Roman (AD43-AD410)

2.2.5 Roman settlement remains, possibly those of a villa, have been identified at Barleycroft Farm, c. 700m to the south of the site. Soil stripping in this area revealed a number of features including an L-shaped length of wall, two small ash-filled pits and a large undefined feature that contained Roman pottery, several other undated ditches and square features and a number of blocks of dressed stone (06687). A Roman cremation and inhumation (00947, 01549) and Roman coins and pottery (03648) have also been found at Barleycroft Farm. An aerial photographic assessment of the area recorded cropmarks of a buried ditched enclosure and associated linear ditches that are probably Iron Age or Romano-British in date (ECB697, Cox 1996).

2.2.6 Sherds of Samian pottery were recovered during dredging works c. 600m to the south-east of the site (03566) and Roman coins have been found in gardens and fields in and around the village (e.g. 00949, 01545, 01939, 00929, 03578).

2.2.7 In 2005, an archaeological excavation at 6 Rectory Road revealed a Late Iron Age and Roman ditch system, thought to be enclosures or field boundaries. Numerous postholes were recorded, some forming clusters suggestive of post-built structures, and one of these contained a good assemblage of Gallo-Belgic pottery (ECB2046; Burrow and Mudd 2006).

Anglo-Saxon and medieval (AD410-1485)

- 2.2.8 The manor of Bluntisham was documented in the 10th century, when it was seized by Toli the Dane, who is said to have been the jarl or alderman of Huntingdon (BHO 2020). Toli was killed at the Battle of Tempsford in 917, at which point the county returned to the rule of Edward the Elder. Bluntisham later became the property of Wulfnoth Cild who sold it c. 970–75 to Bishop Æthelwold of Winchester and Brihnoth, the first Abbot of Ely, for the endowment of Ely Abbey. The sale was confirmed by King Edgar, but when he died in 975 a claim was made by the sons of Bogo de Hemingford, who believed that it was the inheritance of their uncle. Their claim was declared false at the county court, and the sale to Ely Abbey went ahead.
- 2.2.9 The village was known as Bluntersham between the 10th and 13th centuries, Blondesham in the 14th century, and Bluntysham, Bluntsome and Blunsham in the 16th century (*ibid.*). Due to the close proximity of Bluntisham and Earith, the two formed the parish of Bluntisham-cum-Earith, with the parish church in Bluntisham and a chapelry in Earith. However, the civil parish of Bluntisham-cum-Earith was dissolved in 1948 when the two were separated.
- 2.2.10 Saxon glass beads have been found in fields c. 1km to the west of the site (03661) and at Barleycroft Farm, c. 900m to the south (03662). Possible early Saxon settlement was also encountered by a watching brief during the construction of a water main at Barleycroft Farm (08335, Watson 1991).
- 2.2.11 St Mary's Church (10563) is situated c. 900m to the east of the site. Most of the fabric, including the tower, chancel, north vestry and chapel, dates to the 14th century; the nave, aisles, porches and chancel arch were rebuilt in the mid-15th century. The church was extensively restored in the 19th century.
- 2.2.12 Earthworks of medieval/post-medieval ridge and furrow ploughing have been identified from LiDAR survey and aerial photographs on the south side of Rectory Road, c. 200m to the east of the site (MCB25085).

Post-medieval to modern (1485-present)

- 2.2.13 Bluntisham Baptist Church was founded in 1786 by Coxe Feary (1759 - 1822), a local farmer (MCB14968). In 2009, archaeological investigations within the churchyard revealed up to fourteen east-west aligned graves and pits to the east and south of the Sunday School/recreational building. A small assemblage of pottery, predominately of medieval and post-medieval date, clay pipe and vessel glass was recovered from the

investigation areas. Small amounts of disarticulated human skeletal remains were also recovered and were returned to the Baptist minister for reburial (MCB18136; Fletcher).

- 2.2.14 Most of the entries in the HER search area that date to this period are associated with still extant Listed buildings or the sites of former buildings that are shown on 19th and 20th-century maps of the village. Immediately to the east of the site is Bluntisham Hall, formerly The Rectory (DCB2719), and its associated gardens (12026). The two-storey house with attics dates from c. 1720, with later 18th-century wings and 19th-century additions and alterations. In the middle of the front is an old doorway, now used as a window, which was brought from Cromwell's house in St. Ives, when it was pulled down in 1848.
- 2.2.15 The former Bluntisham railway station, now a private residence, is located c. 250m to the south-west of the site. It was opened in 1878 by the Ely & St Ives Railway company. It closed to passengers in January 1931 and closed completely in October 1964 (MCB26831).

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 3.1 The aim of the evaluation, as stated in the WSI (PCA 2020, 9), was to evaluate the archaeological potential of the site by trial trenching. This was achieved through the identification, sample excavation and recording of any archaeological remains encountered by the evaluation and determining their location, extent, date, character and state of preservation. The results of the evaluation will assist CCHET in determining the nature and extent of any mitigation works that may be required.
- 3.2 One of the key objectives of the fieldwork was to establish the palaeoenvironmental potential of the site and gain an insight into the range of activities (i.e. domestic, industrial, agricultural) that were undertaken at the site in the past. However, no deposits suitable for palaeoenvironmental assessment were encountered by the evaluation.
- 3.3 To determine their significance in a local, regional and national context (as appropriate), reference has been made to the East Anglian regional research agendas:
- *Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties: 1. Resource Assessment* (Glazebrook 1997);
 - *Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties: 2. Research Agenda and Strategy* (Brown and Glazebrook 2000);
 - *Regional Research Framework for the Eastern Region* (Medlycott and Brown 2008);
 - *Research and Archaeology Revisited: A Revised Framework for the East of England* (Medlycott 2011).

4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 General

4.1.1 The archaeological evaluation consisted of the excavation of eleven 30m by 1.8m trial trenches (a total of 330 linear metres; Fig. 2).

4.2 Excavation methodology

4.2.1 The trenches were excavated using a 360° tracked mechanical excavator fitted with a 1.8m wide toothless bucket. Topsoil and subsoil were removed in spits down to the level of the undisturbed geological deposits where potential archaeological features could be observed and recorded. The spoil was stored separately in temporary bunds along each side of each trench.

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

4.3 Recording and finds recovery

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

4.3.2 All hand-excavation, investigation and recording were carried out in accordance with PCA's *Operations Manual I: Fieldwork Induction Manual* (Taylor and Brown 2009). Linear features were investigated by means of 1m-wide slots within the trenches. Where stratigraphic relationships between features could not be discerned in plan, relationship slots were also excavated and these were recorded as part of the GPS survey and noted on the relevant context sheets. Discrete features were half-sectioned, photographed and recorded by a cross-section scaled drawing at an appropriate scale (either 1:10 or 1:20).

4.3.3 Approximately 90 litres of topsoil and subsoil from either end of each trench was hand-sorted to collect finds. Other than modern (i.e. 20th century) material, the only finds recovered by this process were six sherds of abraded medieval pottery from the topsoil in Trench 6.

4.3.4 High-resolution digital photographs were taken of all relevant features and deposits and were used to keep a record of the evaluation.

4.4 **Environmental sampling**

4.4.1 Archaeological deposits were assessed in accordance with guidelines set out in *Environmental Archaeology: A Guide to the Theory and Practice of Methods from Sampling and Recovery to Post-excavation* (EH 2011), but no deposits were identified that were suitable for environmental sampling.

4.5 **Metal-detecting**

- Metal-detecting was carried out during the topsoil and subsoil stripping and throughout the excavation process. The metal detector was not set to discriminate against iron. Archaeological features and spoil heaps were scanned by metal-detector periodically. Only objects of modern date (predominately nails from pallets that had been burnt on the site) were found and were not retained for accession.

5 QUANTIFICATION OF ARCHIVE

5.1 Paper archive

Context register sheets	1
Context sheets	6
Section register sheets	1
Sections at 1:10 & 1:20	6
Trench record sheets	11
Photo register sheets	2

5.2 Digital archive

Digital photos	128
GPS survey files	2
Digital plans	1
Access database	1

5.3 Physical archive

Pottery	10 (169g)
Clay tobacco pipe (CTP)	1

6 EVALUATION RESULTS

6.1 Introduction

- 6.1.1 The archaeological evaluation consisted of the excavation of eleven 30m by 1.8m trial trenches (a total of 330 linear metres; Fig. 2). The evaluation identified two ditches and four pits. Stratified artefactual material was sparse, the only finds being three sherds of medieval pottery in pit [104] and a clay tobacco pipe stem in ditch [106]. Six abraded sherds of 13th/14th-century pottery were recovered from the topsoil in Trench 6 and a single sherd of post-medieval pottery was recovered from the topsoil in Trench 7.
- 6.1.2 There were no archaeological features in Trenches 2, 3, 4, 7, 9, 10 and 11 (Plates 6-8, 13 and 16-18). The trenches are described below in numerical order and full context descriptions and trench details are presented in Appendix 1.

6.2 General stratigraphy

- 6.2.1 The geological substrate within the site was confirmed as mudstone of the Ampthill Clay Formation (102), its weathered, degraded surface occurring in the trenches as stiff grey or bluish-grey clay with bands of orangey-brown silty clay and isolated superficial patches of yellowish-orange sandy gravel. The overlying subsoil (101) was thin and intermittent and was only encountered in two trenches (Trenches 1 and 11), where it was recorded as mid greyish-brown silty clay with a thickness of no more than 0.2m. The topsoil (100) was friable, dark greyish-brown clayey silt with an average thickness of 0.3m.
- 6.2.2 In Trench 10, near the road in the southern part of the site, the geological substrate was overlain by a layer of made-ground up to 0.42m thick. This disturbance, and the absence of subsoil in most of the trenches, suggests that the original land surface may have been extensively disturbed, possibly when the orchard was grubbed out.

6.3 Trench 1

- 6.3.1 In the northern part of the trench was the north-west terminal of ditch [106], which was aligned north-west to south-east, measured 0.35m wide by 0.12m deep (Fig. 3, Section 2; Plates 2 and 4) and was filled with firm, mid greyish-brown silty clay (105). The ditch contained a fragment of 17th-century clay tobacco pipe stem.
- 6.3.2 Approximately 1.2m to the north of the ditch was pit or vegetation hollow [104], which measured 1.85m wide by 0.18m deep (Fig. 3, Section 1; Plate 3) and was filled with compact, mid greyish-brown, silty clay (103). The full extent of the pit was not determined as it extended beyond the trench to the east. The pit contained three

sherds of 13th to mid-14th century pottery, although the poor condition of the pottery suggests that it could be residual material in a later feature.

6.3.3 Pit [108] was located c. 2.5m to the south of ditch [106] and measured 2.3m wide by 0.18m deep (Fig. 3, Section 3; Plate 5). There were no finds in its fill, which was firm, mid greyish-brown silty clay (107). The full extent of the pit was not determined as it extended beyond the trench to the east.

6.4 Trench 5

6.4.1 Near the centre of the trench was a small pit [503], which measured 0.6m long by 0.4m wide by 0.14m deep (Fig. 3, Section 5; Plates 9 and 10). It was filled with compact, dark brownish-grey silty clay (502) and contained no finds.

6.5 Trench 6

6.5.1 Near the centre of the trench was a small pit [603], which measured 0.45m long by 0.4m wide by 0.05m deep (Fig. 3, Section 6; Plates 11 and 12). There were no finds in its fill, which was firm, compact, dark brownish-grey silty clay (602).

6.5.2 Six abraded sherds of medieval pottery were recovered from the topsoil.

6.6 Trench 8

6.6.1 Passing through the southern end of the trench on a north-west to south-east alignment, ditch [803] measured 0.55m wide by 0.4m deep (Fig. 3, Section 4; Plates 14 and 15). There were no finds in its fill, which was friable, mid greyish-brown silty clay (802).

7 THE FINDS

7.1 Post-Roman pottery by Chris Jarrett

Introduction

- 7.1.1 A total of ten sherds (169g) of pottery were recovered by hand from three contexts. The sherds date solely to the medieval period (10 estimated number of vessels (ENV)). The pottery is in a very fragmentary state and includes abraded material and as the majority of the pottery was found in the topsoil, then the greater part of the assemblage was most likely to have been deposited under tertiary conditions.

Methodology

- 7.1.2 The pottery was quantified by sherd count (SC), estimated number of vessels (ENV) and weight. The assemblage was examined macroscopically and microscopically using a binocular microscope (x20), and recorded in a spreadsheet format file by fabric, form and decoration. The medieval pottery sherd was classified according to Spoerry (2016). The pottery is discussed as an index.

Contextual analysis

- 7.1.3 The distribution of the pottery is shown in Table 1 below.

Discussion and potential

- 7.1.4 The assemblage is of little significance as the material is small in quantity, fragmentary and has little meaning. The pottery has only the potential to date the deposit it was recovered from. The pottery, however, does have the potential to demonstrate medieval activity on the study area. There are no recommendations for further work on the material. As Bluntisham is not mentioned in the survey of medieval pottery for Cambridgeshire (Spoerry 2016) then it is recommended that the pottery is retained for the archive.

Table 1. Distribution of the pottery quantified by sherd count (SC), estimated number of vessels (EN V) and weight in grams (Wt)

Pottery type	Code	Date range	SC	ENV	Wt	Form
Fill [103], Pit [104], spot date: 1200–1350						
Colne Medieval ware	CONM	AD 1200–1350	1	1	4	Unidentified
South-West Cambridgeshire Sandy ware	SCAMSW	AD 1050–1250	2	2	13	Unidentified
Total			3	3	117	
Topsoil [600], Trench 6, spot date: 1200–1350						
Colne Medieval ware	CONM	AD 1200–1350	1	1	81	Jug
Colne Medieval ware	CONM	AD 1200–1350	1	1	4	Unidentified
East Anglian redwares	EAR	AD 1200–1400	1	1	5	Unidentified
South-West Cambridgeshire Sandy ware	SCAMSW	AD 1050–1250	1	1	13	Jar
South-West Cambridgeshire Sandy ware	SCAMSW	AD 1050–1250	1	1	4	Unidentified
Sandy shelly ware Date:	SSHW	AD 1150–1500	1	1	4	Unidentified
Total			6	6	111	
Topsoil [700], Trench 7, spot date: 1550-1900						
Glazed red earthenware	GRE		1	1	41	Bowl or dish
Total			3	3	117	

7.2 Clay tobacco pipe by Chris Jarrett

- 7.2.1 A single clay tobacco pipe stem, measuring 22mm in length, with a maximum diameter of 7mm and a wide bore, is partially burnt, dates to the 17th century and was found in fill (105), cut [106].
- 7.2.2 The clay tobacco pipe stem has no significance and the only potential of the item is to date the context it was found in. There are no recommendations for further work on the item, which can be discarded.

8 DISCUSSION

- 8.1.1 Despite the favourable topography of the site for past settlement and the proximity of Bluntisham Hall immediately to the east, no significant archaeological remains were encountered by the evaluation. Of the eleven trenches excavated, only four (Trenches 1, 5, 6 and 8) contained archaeological features, consisting of two small ditches, two broad, shallow pits or vegetation hollows and two small pits or postholes. Stratified dating evidence was similarly sparse, being confined to a fragment of 17th-century clay tobacco pipe stem from the ditch in Trench 1 and three sherds of 13th/14th-century pottery from one of the pits in the same trench.
- 8.1.2 The condition of the pottery from the pit/vegetation hollow was poor, so it is likely that it is residual material in a later feature. Six abraded sherds of pottery of the same date were recovered from the topsoil in Trench 6, so the likelihood of medieval pottery finding its way into later features is relatively high, especially as the site appears to have been quite heavily disturbed when the site was used as an orchard and later, when it was grubbed out.
- 8.1.3 In Trench 11, at the southern end of the site there, was a thick deposit of made-ground directly overlying the geological substrate, demonstrating that this area had been extensively disturbed, probably during the construction of the adjacent car park.

9 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 9.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd would like to thank S W Highland Ltd for commissioning and funding the work through their planning consultant Barford Brown & Co. and Kasia Gdaniec of Cambridgeshire County Council's Historic Environment Team for monitoring the work on behalf of the Local Planning Authority.
- 9.2 The fieldwork was supervised by Thomas Revell, assisted by Rory Fisher and Ryan Wilding. The report was written by Thomas Revell, with a contribution from Chris Jarrett (finds), and the figures were prepared by Rosie Scales. The project was managed for PCA by Simon Carlyle.

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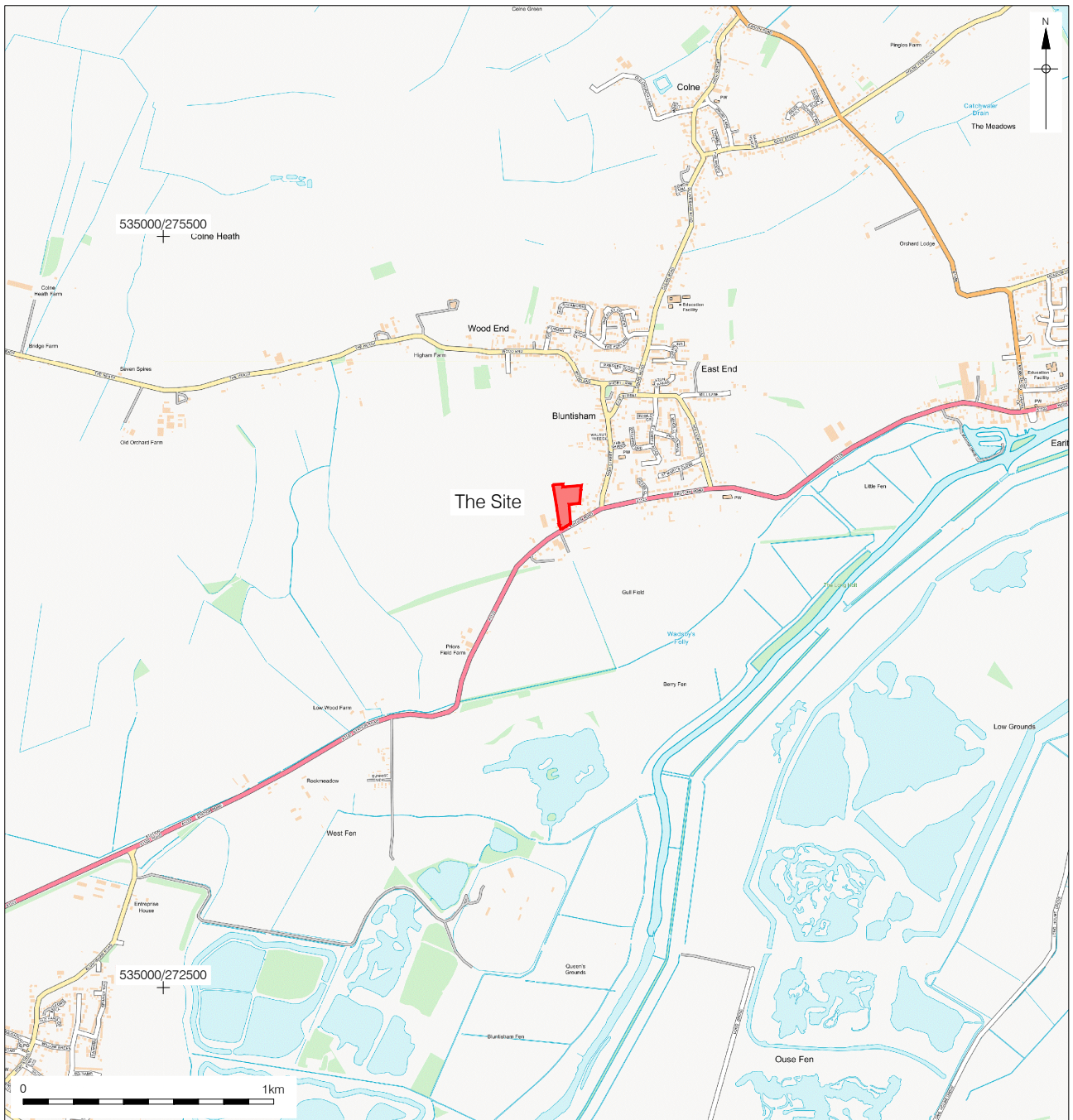
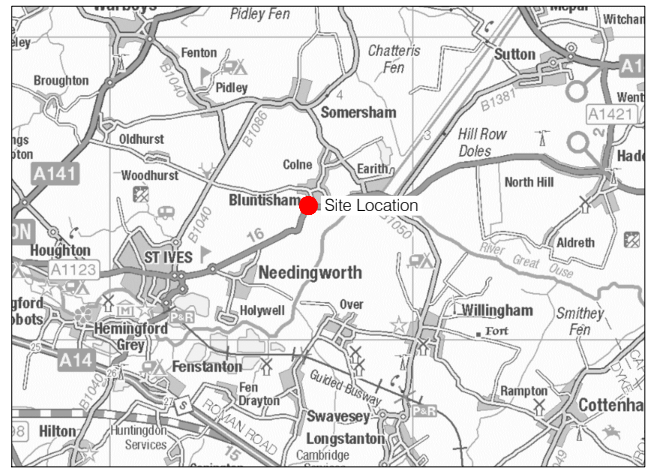
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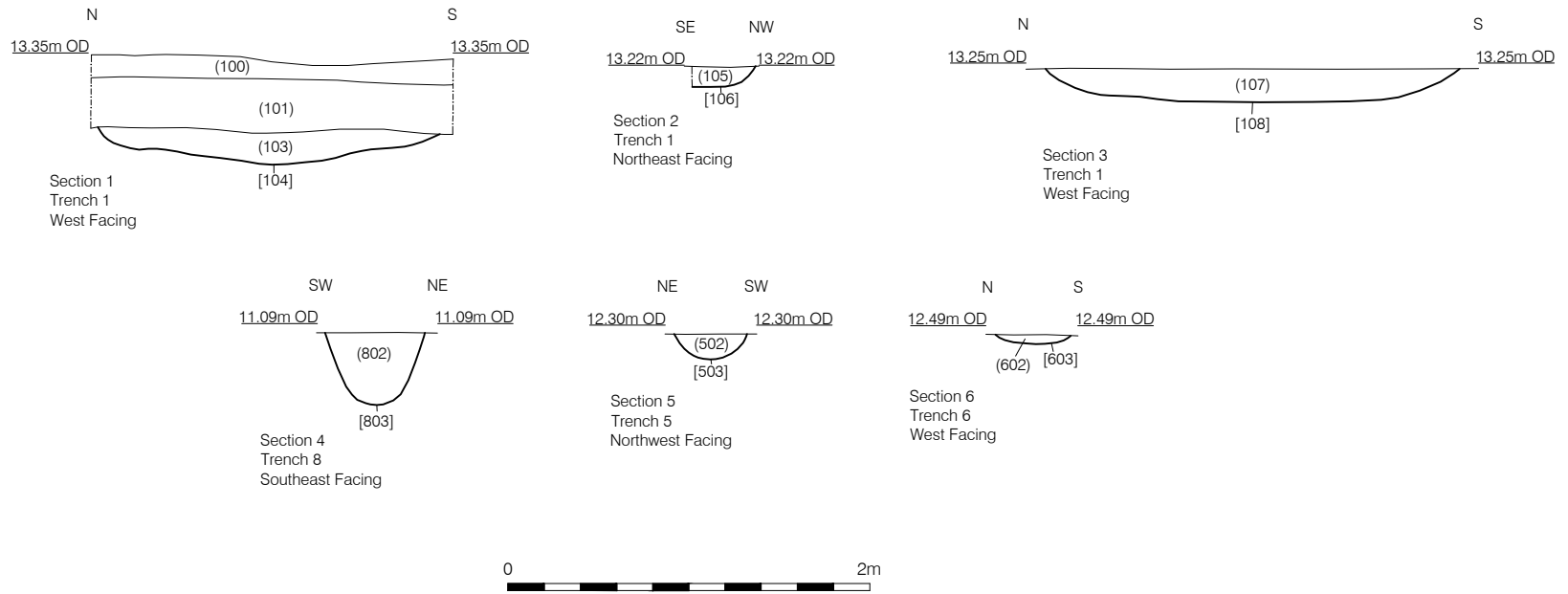
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PLATES



Plate 1: General view of the site, looking south



Plate 2: Trench 1, looking south



Plate 3: Pit [104], Trench 1, looking east



Plate 4: Ditch [106], Trench 1, looking east



Plate 5: Pit [108], Trench 1, looking east



Plate 6: Trench 2, looking west



Plate 7: Trench 3, looking south



Plate 8: Trench 4, looking west



Plate 9: Trench 5, looking south



Plate 10: Pit [503], Trench 5, looking south-east



Plate 11: Trench 6, looking east



Plate 12: Pit [603], Trench 6, looking east



Plate 13: Trench 7, looking south-west



Plate 14: Trench 8, looking south



Plate 15: Ditch [803], Trench 8, looking north-west



Plate 16: Trench 9, looking north-west



Plate 17: Trench 10, looking south-east



Plate 18: Trench 11, looking south-west

APPENDIX 1: TRENCH DETAILS AND CONTEXTS INDEX

Trench	1	End 1	End 2
Alignment	N-S	Topsoil depth (m)	0.3
Trench length (m)	30	Subsoil depth (m)	0.2
Max machine depth (m)	0.5	Natural depth (m OD)	13.36

Summary of archaeological features

Two pits and one ditch

Context	Cut	Type	Category	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description
100	0	Layer	Topsoil	0	0	0.3	Friable, dark grey brown, clayey silt, occasional stones
101	0	Layer	Subsoil	0	0	0.2	Firm, mid grey brown, silty clay
102	0	Layer	Natural	0	0	0	Firm, blue-grey clay with orange sand and gravel
103	104	Fill	Pit	1	1.85	0.18	Compact, mid greyish brown, silty clay, occasional chalk and small stones
104	104	Cut	Pit	1	1.85	0.18	Sub-circular, moderate sloping sides, flat base
105	106	Fill	Ditch	1	0.35	0.12	Firm, mid greyish brown, silty clay, occasional small stones and chalk
106	106	Cut	Ditch	1	0.35	0.12	Linear, moderate sloping sides, concave base, NW-SE aligned
107	108	Fill	Pit	0.88	2.3	0.18	Firm, mid greyish brown, silty clay, occasional small stones and chalk

108	108	Cut	Pit	0.88	2.3	0.18	Sub-circular, gentle sloping sides, flat base
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Trench	2		End 1	End 2
Alignment	E-W	Topsoil depth (m)	0.3	0.3
Trench length (m)	30	Subsoil depth (m)	0	0
Max machine depth (m)	0.3	Natural depth (m OD)	12.79	12.47

Summary of archaeological features

No archaeological features

Context	Cut	Type	Category	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description
200	0	Layer	Topsoil	0	0	0.3	Friable, dark grey brown, clayey silt, occasional stones
201	0	Layer	Natural	0	0	0	Firm, blue-grey clay with orange sand and gravel

Trench	3		End 1	End 2
Alignment	N-S	Topsoil depth (m)	0.35	0.3
Trench length (m)	30	Subsoil depth (m)	0	0
Max machine depth (m)	0.35	Natural depth (m OD)	12.47	12.01

Summary of archaeological features

No archaeological features

Context	Cut	Type	Category	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description
300	0	Layer	Topsoil	0	0	0.35	Friable, dark grey brown, clayey silt, occasional stones
301	0	Layer	Natural	0	0	0.35	Firm, blue-grey clay with orange sand and gravel

Trench	4		End 1	End 2
Alignment	E-W	Topsoil depth (m)	0.4	0.3
Trench length (m)	30	Subsoil depth (m)	0	0
Max machine depth (m)	0.4	Natural depth (m OD)	11.82	11.87

Summary of archaeological features

No archaeological features

Context	Cut	Type	Category	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description
400	0	Layer	Topsoil	0	0	0.4	Friable, dark grey brown, clayey silt, occasional stones
401	0	Layer	Natural	0	0	0	Firm, blue-grey clay with orange sand and gravel

Trench	5		End 1	End 2
Alignment	N-S	Topsoil depth (m)	0.3	0.3
Trench length (m)	30	Subsoil depth (m)	0	0
Max machine depth (m)	0.3	Natural depth (m OD)	12.43	11.95

Summary of archaeological features

One pit

Context	Cut	Type	Category	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description
500	0	Layer	Topsoil	0	0	0.3	Friable, dark grey brown, clayey silt, occasional stones
501	0	Layer	Natural	0	0	0	Firm, blue-grey clay with orange sand and gravel
502	503	Fill	Pit	0.6	0.4	0.14	Compact, dark brownish grey, silty clay, frequent roots and rare coal
503	503	Cut	Pit	0.6	0.4	0.14	Sub-circular, moderate sloping sides, concave base

Trench	6	End 1	End 2
Alignment	E-W	Topsoil depth (m)	0.3 0.4
Trench length (m)	30	Subsoil depth (m)	0 0
Max machine depth (m)	0.4	Natural depth (m OD)	12.47 12.1

Summary of archaeological features

One pit

Context	Cut	Type	Category	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description
600	0	Layer	Topsoil	0	0	0.4	Friable, dark grey brown, clayey silt, occasional stones
601	0	Layer	Natural	0	0	0	Firm, blue-grey clay with orange sand and gravel
602	603	Fill	Pit	0.45	0.4	0.05	Compact, dark brownish grey, silty clay, frequent roots
603	603	Cut	Pit	0.45	0.4	0.05	Sub-circular, moderate sloping sides, concave base

Trench	7		End 1	End 2
Alignment	NE-SW	Topsoil depth (m)	0.35	0.3
Trench length (m)	30	Subsoil depth (m)	0	0
Max machine depth (m)	0.35	Natural depth (m OD)	11.9	11.79

Summary of archaeological features

No archaeological features

Context	Cut	Type	Category	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description
700	0	Layer	Topsoil	0	0	0.35	Friable, dark grey brown, clayey silt, occasional stones
701	0	Layer	Natural	0	0	0	Firm, blue-grey clay with orange sand and gravel

Trench	8	End 1	End 2
Alignment	N-S	Topsoil depth (m)	0.3
Trench length (m)	30	Subsoil depth (m)	0
Max machine depth (m)	0.4	Natural depth (m OD)	11.63

Summary of archaeological features

One ditch

Context	Cut	Type	Category	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description
800	0	Layer	Topsoil	0	0	0.4	Friable, dark grey brown, clayey silt, occasional stones
801	0	Layer	Natural	0	0	0	Firm, blue-grey clay with orange sand and gravel
802	803	Fill	Ditch	1	0.55	0.4	Friable, mid greyish brown, silty clay, occasional small stones
803	803	Cut	Ditch	1	0.55	0.4	Linear, steep sloping sides, concave base, NW-SE aligned

Trench	9	End 1	End 2
Alignment	NW-SE	Topsoil depth (m)	0.35 0.3
Trench length (m)	30	Subsoil depth (m)	0 0
Max machine depth (m)	0.35	Natural depth (m OD)	11.19 11.33

Summary of archaeological features

No archaeological features

Context	Cut	Type	Category	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description
900	0	Layer	Topsoil	0	0	0.3	Friable, dark grey brown, clayey silt, occasional stones
901	0	Layer	Natural	0	0	0	Firm, blue-grey clay with orange sand and gravel

Trench	10		End 1	End 2
Alignment	NW-SE	Topsoil depth (m)	3	0.3
Trench length (m)	30	Subsoil depth (m)	0	0
Max machine depth (m)	0.72	Natural depth (m OD)	10.57	11.09

Summary of archaeological features

No archaeological features

Context	Cut	Type	Category	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description
1000	0	Layer	Topsoil	0	0	0.3	Friable, dark grey brown, clayey silt, occasional stones
1001	0	Layer	Made Ground	0	0	0.42	Compact, dark grey brown, silty clay, frequent brick and stones
1002	0	Layer	Natural	0	0	0	Firm, blue-grey clay with orange sand and gravel

Trench	11		End 1	End 2
Alignment	NE-SW	Topsoil depth (m)	0.3	0.3
Trench length (m)	30	Subsoil depth (m)	0.2	0.1
Max machine depth (m)	0.5	Natural depth (m OD)	10.69	10.91

Summary of archaeological features

No archaeological features

Context	Cut	Type	Category	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description
1100	0	Layer	Topsoil	0	0	0.3	Friable, dark grey brown, clayey silt, occasional stones
1101	0	Layer	Subsoil	0	0	0.2	Firm, mid grey brown, silty clay
1102	0	Layer	Natural	0	0	0	Firm, blue-grey clay with orange sand and gravel

APPENDIX 2: OASIS FORM

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

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OASIS ID: preconst1-395404

Project details

Project name	Land North of 10 Station Road, Bluntisham, Cambridgeshire: An Archaeological Evaluation
Short description of the project	In May 2020, an archaeological trial trench evaluation was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd on land north of 10 Station Road, Bluntisham, Cambridgeshire. The evaluation, which was commissioned by S W Highland Ltd through their planning consultant Barford Brown and Co, was carried out in support of an outline planning application for the residential development of the site. Of the eleven trenches excavated, only four contained archaeological features, consisting of two small ditches, two broad, shallow pits or vegetation hollows and two small pits or postholes. Stratified dating evidence was similarly sparse, being confined to a fragment of 17th-century clay tobacco pipe stem from the ditch in Trench 1 and three sherds of 13th/14th-century pottery from one of the pits in the same trench. The excavated evidence suggests that the site appears to have been quite heavily disturbed when it was used as an orchard and later, when it was grubbed out. Further disturbance, probably associated with the construction of the adjacent car park, was noted at the southern end of the site.
Project dates	Start: 25-05-2020 End: 28-05-2020
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	ECB6224 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Grassland Heathland 5 - Character undetermined
Monument type	DITCH Uncertain
Monument type	PIT Uncertain
Significant Finds	POT Roman
Significant Finds	POT Medieval
Significant Finds	CBM Post Medieval
Significant Finds	CTP Post Medieval
Methods & techniques	""Sample Trenches""
Development type	Landowner pre-sale planning application (outline)
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS
Position in the planning process	Between deposition of an application and determination

Project location

Country	England
Site location	CAMBRIDGESHIRE HUNTINGDONSHIRE BLUNTISHAM LAND NORTH OF 10 STATION ROAD BLUNTISHAM CAMBRIDGESHIRE
Postcode	PE28 3PA
Study area	1.2 Hectares
Site coordinates	TL 3659 7441 52.350316069401 0.005630983572 52 21 01 N 000 00 20 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 12m Max: 15m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited
Project brief originator	CCC Historic Environment Team
Project design originator	Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited
Project director/manager	Simon Carlyle
Project supervisor	Tom Revell
Type of sponsor/funding body	Client
Name of sponsor/funding body	S W Highland Ltd

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeological Archive Facility
Physical Archive ID	ECB6224
Physical Contents	"Ceramics"
Digital Archive recipient	Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeological Archive Facility
Digital Archive ID	ECB6224
Digital Contents	"Ceramics","Survey"
Digital Media available	"Database","Images raster / digital photography","Survey","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeological Archive Facility
Paper Archive ID	ECB6224
Paper Contents	"Ceramics"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Report","Section","Unpublished Text"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Land North of 10 Station Road, Bluntisham, Cambridgeshire: An Archaeological Evaluation
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Revell, T.
Other	R14133

bibliographic
details

Date	2020
Issuer or publisher	PCA
Place of issue or publication	Cambridge
Description	A4 format, 48 pages, 3 figs and 18 plates
Entered by	Simon Carlyle (scarlyle@pre-construct.com)
Entered on	16 November 2020

OASIS:

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

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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

