

**LAND ADJACENT TO
HASLEMERE, MAIDSTONE
ROAD, STAPLEHURST, KENT
TN12 0RE**

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL
MONITORING EXERCISE**

JULY 2008

PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY



DOCUMENT VERIFICATION

**LAND ADJACENT TO HASLEMERE, MAIDSTONE
ROAD, STAPLEHURST, KENT TN12 0RE**

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING EXERCISE

Quality Control

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**Land Adjacent to Haslemere, Maidstone Road, Staplehurst, Kent TN12
0RE: An Archaeological Monitoring Exercise**

**Site Code: KLAH 08
Central National Grid Reference: TQ 7845 4522**

**Written and Researched by Neil Hawkins
Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited, July 2008**

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Commissioning Client: Mr J. Fuller

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CONTENTS

1	Abstract	3
2	Introduction	4
3	Planning Background And Research Objectives	7
4	Archaeological And Historical Background	9
5	Methodology	10
6	Geology And Topography	11
7	Archaeological Sequence.....	12
8	Conclusions	14
9	The Archive	14
10	Critique	15
11	Acknowledgements	15
12	Bibliography.....	16
	Appendix 1: Context Descriptions	17
	Appendix 2: Kent Notification Form	18
	Appendix 3: Kent Smr Form	21
	Appendix 4: OASIS Form	22
	Appendix 5: Plates.....	24
	Figure 1: Site Location.....	5
	Figure 2: Trench Location.....	6
	Figure 3: Sections.....	13

1 ABSTRACT

- 1.1 This report details the results and working methods of an archaeological watching brief undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited at land adjacent to Haslemere, Maidstone Road, Staplehurst, Kent TN12 0RE.
- 1.2 The archaeological work was implemented in advance of the proposed construction of a single detached dwelling, and constituted the monitoring of foundation trenches associated with the new development.
- 1.3 No archaeological features were encountered throughout the trenches. Only topsoil sealing natural deposits were recorded. The area of the site appears to have been stripped, most likely during the demolition of the building that previously existed on the site.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 An archaeological watching brief was conducted by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd. on land adjacent to Halsmere, Maidstone Road, Staplehurst, Kent TN12 0RE (Figure 1), in advance of a proposed development. The work had been required by a condition attached to planning permission (MA/07/0831) which stated that:
9. *No development shall take place until a written programme and specification for an archaeological watching brief shall be undertaken by a suitably qualified archaeologist and shall ensure that the excavation is observed and items of interest and finds are recorded. The approved programme and specification shall be implemented as part of the development.*
Reason: To ensure that features of archaeological interest are properly examined and recorded in accordance with policy ENV18 of the Maidstone Borough-Wide Local Plan 2000.
- 2.2 The watching brief was conducted on the 21st July 2008, and was commissioned by Mr J. Fuller. All works followed a methodology (Mayo 2008) approved by County Archaeologist, Mr Adam Single.
- 2.3 The investigation constituted the monitoring of foundation trenches associated with the new development (Figure 2). No archaeological evidence was encountered throughout the trenches with only topsoil and natural deposits recorded.
- 2.4 The National Grid Reference of the site centre is TQ 7845 4522.
- 2.5 The site was given the unique code KLAH 08.
- 2.6 The monitoring was undertaken by Neil Hawkins with the project managed by Chris Mayo for Pre-Construct Archaeology.

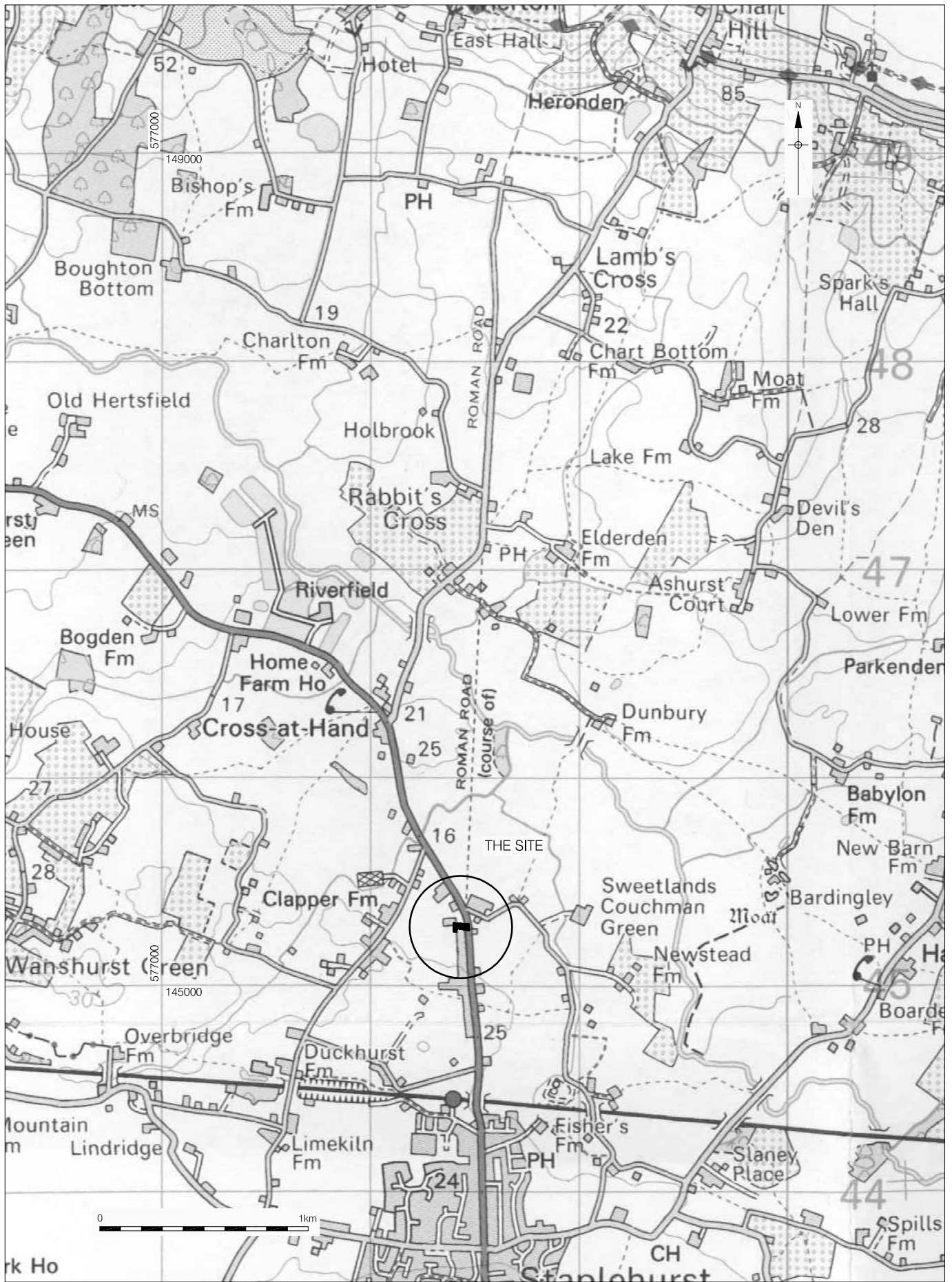


Figure 1
Site Location
1:25,000 at A4



Figure 2
Trench Location
1:625 at A4

3 PLANNING BACKGROUND AND RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

3.1 Planning Background

3.1.1 The study aims to satisfy the objectives of Maidstone Borough Council, which fully recognises the importance of the buried heritage for which they are the custodians. The council operates to the Kent and Medway Structure Plan 2006, which contains policy statements in respect of protecting the buried archaeological resource.

3.2 Kent and Medway Structure Plan 2006 Policy QL7: Archaeological Sites

The archaeological and historic integrity of scheduled ancient monuments and other important archaeological sites, together with their settings, will be protected and, where possible, enhanced. Development which would adversely affect them will not be permitted.

Where important or potentially important archaeological remains may exist, developers will be required to arrange for archaeological assessment and/or field evaluation to be carried out in advance of the determination of planning applications.

Where the case for development affecting an archaeological site is accepted, the archaeological remains should be preserved in situ. Where preservation in situ is not possible or justified, appropriate provision by record will be required.

3.3 The site lies within an Archaeological Priority Zone, as defined within the UDP. There are no Listed Buildings on the site.

3.4 Research Objectives

3.4.1 The Specification prepared by Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited (Mayo 2008), under guidance and approved by the Kent County Archaeologist, proposed that consideration should be given to all periods but highlights the possibility of encountering remains relating to the adjacent Roman road.

3.4.2 The following research aims were addressed during the course of the archaeological investigation:

- Is there any evidence of prehistoric activity on the site?
- Is there any evidence of Roman activity on the site? More particularly is there any evidence of Roman roadside activities?

- Is there any evidence of medieval activity on the site?
- Are there any post-medieval remains on the site?
- Identify and record any modern truncation on the site

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The brief information below was collated from the ADS website and limited research of the archives held by Pre-Construct Archaeology.
- 4.2 The area of the site lies adjacent to Maidstone Road, which is aligned on the Roman road from Rochester to Hastings via Maidstone (Margary 1957). This was one of a series running north-south in the area with the purpose of crossing the Weald. A section of Roman road c. 2.40m wide and 0.20m thick was recorded in 1995 further to the north in Chart Sutton (Kent Archaeological Society newsletter 32/Autumn 1995).
- 4.3 The town of Staplehurst, to the south of the site, has a rich history dating back to Saxon period. The name Staplehurst derives from the Saxon words post, staple, and wood, hurst. The church in the town was built around 1150 and in the 14th century weavers from Flanders settled and spread throughout the area teaching the local population how to turn wool into broadcloth (<http://www.villagenet.co.uk/highweald/villages/staplehurst.php>).
- 4.4 Very few archaeological investigations have been undertaken in the vicinity of the site. However the remains of medieval buildings have been found locally (*pers comm.* Adam Single).

5 METHODOLOGY

- 5.1 The fieldwork was designed to assess the presence or absence of significant archaeological remains, which may require further investigation. The watching brief monitored the excavation of all footings associated with the new development, over an L-shaped area measuring approximately 19.5m east-west by 17.0m north-south (Figure 2).
- 5.2 A mechanical excavator fitted with a flat ditching bucket was employed to undertake the excavation work with an archaeologist in attendance. Features identified within the trenches were cleaned and investigated by hand. Investigation was limited to identifying the extent and nature of the deposits and to recover dating evidence.
- 5.3 All archaeological features (stratigraphical layers, cuts, fills, structures) were recorded in plan and in section as necessary using standard recording methods. A photographic record was also taken as appropriate.
- 5.4 A spot height on Maidstone Road, 17.20m OD, was used to extrapolate Ordnance Datum levels onto the site; therefore all levels referenced in this report are approximated.
- 5.5 The work was undertaken following English Heritage (GLAAS) guidelines (English Heritage 1998).

6 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

- 6.1 The British Geological Survey 1:50,000 Series Sheet 304 (Tenterden) indicates that the site is underlain by Weald Clay.

- 6.2 The site is located directly to the west of Maidstone Road, which lies at c. 17.20m OD in this area. The area of the site is slightly lower than this, c. 0.30m, and had an irregular topography.

7 ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE

7.1 Summary

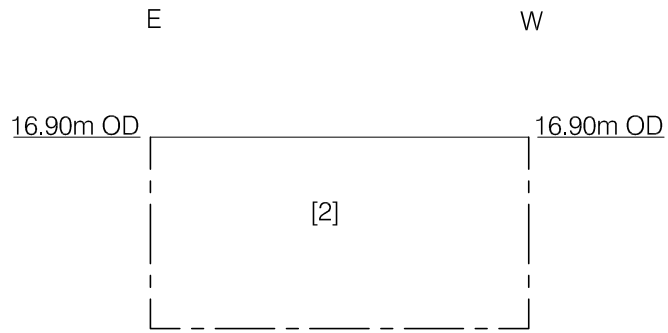
7.2 The same sequence was seen across the site and consisted of natural weathered weald clay [2] overlain by a mid brown grey sandy silt topsoil [1], 0.30m thick. The watching brief monitored the excavation of all footings associated with the new development, over an L-shaped area measuring approximately 19.5m east-west by 17.0m north-south (Figure 2).

7.3 Phase 1

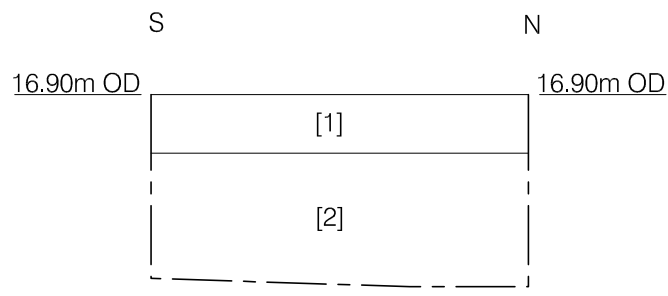
7.3.1 The natural weathered weald clay was continuous throughout the trenches at a level of c. 16.90m OD sloping slightly down towards the west at c. 16.60m OD.

7.4 Phase 2

7.4.1 Sealing the natural clay in the western end of the trenches was a modern topsoil 0.30m thick at a level of c. 17.20m OD.



Section 1
North Facing



Section 2
East Facing



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Figure 3
Sample Section from Trench 1
1:40 at A4

8 CONCLUSIONS

- 8.1 The watching brief revealed a stratigraphic sequence of natural weathered weald clay overlain by topsoil, consistent with the known underlying geology in the area.
- 8.2 No archaeological evidence was encountered for any period during the monitoring exercise. It is suspected that the area under development had been disturbed during the demolition of the previous structure 'Bullycroft' in this position, thought to have occurred some time previously.

9 THE ARCHIVE

9.1 PAPER RECORDS

Type		Quantity
Records	Contexts	2
	Plans	1
	Sections	2
Photographs	Colour slides (35mm)	20
	Black and White prints (35mm)	20
	Digital photographs	15

9.2 THE FINDS

- 9.2.1 No artefacts were seen or recovered during the watching brief.

9.3 ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLES

- 9.3.1 No environmental samples were recovered during the watching brief.

9.4 DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE

- 9.3.1 The site archive is currently being stored at PCAs offices in Brockley, London. It will eventually be deposited with the local museum.

10 CRITIQUE

- 10.1 The methodology employed during the watching brief was considered to be completely appropriate as a mitigation measure against any perceived loss of archaeology. All below ground impacts required for the new development were monitored under good climate conditions. No archaeology was found during the investigation.

11 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 11.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited would like to thank Mr J. Fuller for commissioning the work, and Adam Single of Kent County Council for monitoring it on behalf of the LPA.
- 11.2 The author would like to thank Mr J. Fuller and family for their assistance and cooperation on site, Jennifer Simonson for the drawings and Chris Mayo for his project management and editing.

12 BIBLIOGRAPHY

English Heritage Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service 1998 *Archaeological Guidance Papers: 1 Written Schemes of Investigation; 2 Desk-Based Assessments; 3 Standards and Practices in Archaeological Fieldwork in London; Archaeological Reports; 5 Evaluations.*

<http://www.villagenet.co.uk/highweald/villages/staplehurst.php>

Margary, I 1957 *Roman Roads in Britain: Vol. I.* The Bowering Press, London


Mayo, C 2008 *Method Statement for an Archaeological Watching Brief at Land Adjacent to Haslemere, Maidstone Road, Staplehurst, Kent TN12 0RE* Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited unpublished report

APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Context	Phase	Type	Description
1	2	Layer	Topsoil
2	1	Layer	Natural weathered Weald Clay

APPENDIX 2: KENT NOTIFICATION FORM

Fieldwork Notification Form

<i>Archaeological Contractor's logo (optional)</i>	Kent Archaeology Fieldwork Notification Form		
(Section A and B to be filled in and sent either digitally or by fax to KCC Heritage Conservation Group (01622 221636) in advance of start of fieldwork. Section C to be completed and sent at end of fieldwork. Section D to be filled in and sent with completed report.)			
SECTION A - PROJECT DETAILS			
Site/Project Name:	Land adjacent to Haslemere Maidstone Road, Staplehurst Kent TN12 0RE	NGR:	TQ 7845 4522
Site Address:	Land adjacent to Haslemere, Maidstone Road, Staplehurst, Kent TN12 0RE		
Archaeological Contractor (inc name and address of project contact):	Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited, Chris Mayo, Unit 40, Brockley Cross Business Centre, 96 Endwell Road, Brockley, London SE4 2PD		
Commisioning Body/Client:	Mr J. Fuller		
Development Proposals/Reason for Fieldwork:	Housing	Planning Reference:	Maidstone Borough Council MA/07/0831
SECTION B - COMMENCEMENT OF FIELDWORK			
Type of Archaeological Fieldwork:	Watching Brief	Site Supervisor:	Neil Hawkins
		Site Contact Details:	To be confirmed
Specification for Works?:	Method statement provided to KCC		
Local Museum Notified:	Date:	Site Code:	KLAH 08
Local Arch Soc Notified:	Date:		
START DATE:	21/07/2008	ANTICIPATED DURATION:	1 day

Fieldwork Notification Form

I (archaeological contractor) confirm that all necessary provision has been made for the resources to complete the archaeological fieldwork, post-excavation analysis and reporting in accordance with the agreed specification.

Name: Chris Mayo

On behalf of: Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited

Signed: _____ **Date:** 09/07/2008

SECTION C - COMPLETION OF FIELDWORK

Date Fieldwork Completed:	21/07/2008	Was fieldwork monitored by KCC/EH/Other? Who? Adam Single
Further Fieldwork Anticipated:	No	

Brief summary of archaeological finds: (Continue on separate sheet if necessary)

None. No archaeological features were encountered throughout the trenches. Only topsoil sealing natural deposits were recorded. The area of the site appears to have been stripped, most likely during the demolition of the building that previously existed on the site

Agreed Reporting Stages and Program:

Watching Brief report to be submitted to KCC.

Name: Chris Mayo

On behalf of: Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd

Signed: _____ **Date:** 06/08/2008

SECTION D - COMPLETION OF POST-EXCAVATION ANALYSIS & REPORTING

Reports Submitted (Titles)	Copies to: (Number)						Digital Copies
	KCC	LPA	Arch Soc	Client	EH	Other	
Land Adjacent to Haslemere, Maidstone Road,	1	1	1	1			1 to KCC

Kent County Council

Staplehurst, Kent TN12 0RE:							
An Archaeological Monitoring Exercise							
SMR Data							
SMR Summary Form?	Y	Notes:					
Digital images?	Y	N					
Digital Mapping Data?	N						
Location and Destination of Archive:	Local Museum						
Name:	Chris Mayo						
On behalf of:	Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd						
Signed:						Date:	06/08/2008

APPENDIX 3: KENT SMR FORM

Kent County Council SMR summary form

Site name: Land adjacent to Haslemere, Maidstone Road, Staplehurst, Kent TN12 0RE	
Site Address Land adjacent to Haslemere, Maidstone Road, Staplehurst, Kent TN12 0RE	
Summary No archaeological features were encountered throughout the trenches. Only topsoil sealing natural deposits were recorded. The area of the site appears to have been stripped, most likely during the demolition of the building that previously existed on the site.	
District/Unitary Maidstone	Parish: Staplehurst
Period(s): Natural only	
NGR: (centre of site : 8 figure) TQ 7845 4522 (NB if large or linear site give multiple NGRs)	
Type of Archaeological work (delete) Watching Brief	
Date of Recording 21 st July 2008	
Unit undertaking recording Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd	
Geology Weald Clay	
Title and author of accompanying report Hawkins, N. 2008 'Land Adjacent to Haslemere, Maidstone Road, Staplehurst, Kent TN12 0RE: An Archaeological Monitoring Exercise', unpub rep for Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd	
Summary of fieldwork results (begin with earliest period first, add NGRs where appropriate) No archaeological features were encountered throughout the trenches. Only topsoil sealing natural deposits were recorded. The area of the site appears to have been stripped, most likely during the demolition of the building that previously existed on the site.	
Location of Archive/Finds: Currently at PCAs offices in Brockley prior to deposition with local museum.	
Contact at Unit: Chris Mayo	Date 6 th August 2008

APPENDIX 4: OASIS FORM

OASIS ID: preconst1-45822

Project details

Project name	An Archaeological Watching Brief at Land adjacent to Haslemere, Maidstone Road, Staplehurst, Kent, TN12 0RE
Short description of the project	An Archaeological Watching Brief at Land adjacent to Haslemere, Maidstone Road, Staplehurst, Kent, TN12 0RE. Monitoring exercise of strip footings encountered natural clay overlain by topsoil
Project dates	Start: 21-07-2008 End: 21-07-2008
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	KLAH 08 - Sitecode
Site status	Local Authority Designated Archaeological Area
Current Land use	Vacant Land 1 - Vacant land previously developed

Project location

Country	England
Site location	KENT MAIDSTONE STAPLEHURST An Archaeological Watching Brief at Land adjacent to Haslemere, Maidstone Road, Staplehurst, Kent, TN12 0RE
Postcode	TN12 0RE
Study area	2800.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 7845 4522 51.1777546806 0.553320270214 51 10 39 N 000 33 11 E Point
Height OD	Min: 16.60m Max: 16.90m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd
Project brief originator	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
Project design originator	Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd
Project director/manager	Chris Mayo
Project supervisor	Neil Hawkins

Type of sponsor/funding body Landowner

Name of sponsor/funding body Mr J. Fuller

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists? No

Digital Archive recipient Local museum

Digital Media available 'Text'

Paper Archive recipient Local Museum

Paper Media available 'Context sheet','Drawing','Matrices','Photograph','Plan','Report','Section','Unpublished Text'

Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title An Archaeological Watching Brief at Land adjacent to Haslemere, Maidstone Road, Staplehurst, Kent, TN12 0RE

Author(s)/Editor(s) Hawkins, N.

Date 2008

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Entered on 22 July 2008

APPENDIX 5: PLATES



Plate 1: View west



Plate 2: View south

P C A

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