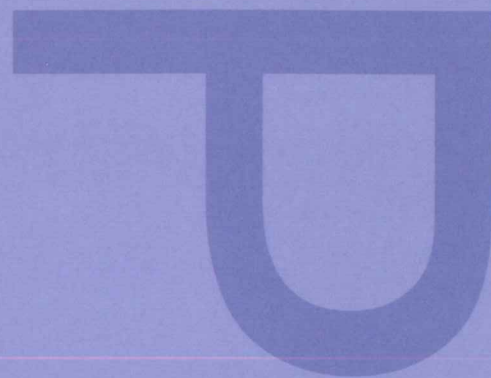
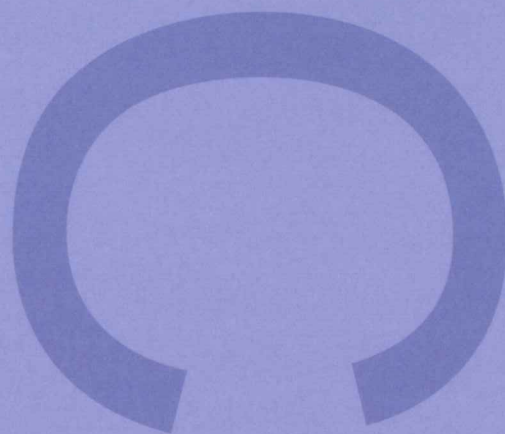


CHESTERFORD PARK,
LITTLE CHESTERFORD,
ESSEX

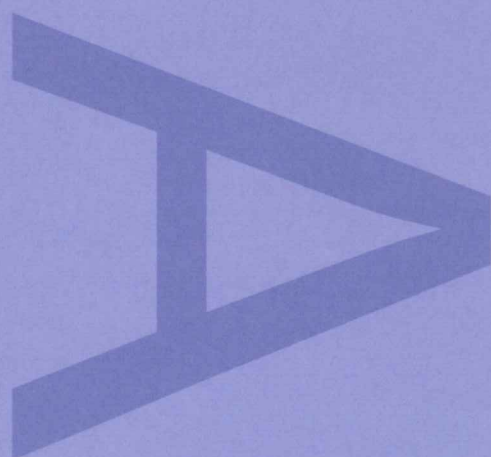


WATCHING BRIEF



NOVEMBER 2004

LCRP 04

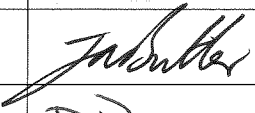



PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY

CHESTERFORD PARK LITTLE CHESTERFORD, ESSEX

WATCHING BRIEF

Quality Control

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Watching Brief

Site Code: LCRP 03

Central National Grid Reference: TL 5348 4195

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November 2004

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1 ABSTRACT

- 1.1 This report details the working methods and results of an archaeological Watching Brief at Chesterford Park, Little Chesterford, Essex. It was conducted from 1st to 4th December 2003; 29th January to 16th April 2004, and 6th May to 4th June 2004. The Watching Brief consisted of observations and recording during the excavations of three large areas, numerous services trenches and other groundworks. Pre-Construct Archaeology were commissioned to undertake the work by CgMs Consulting Ltd on behalf of their clients Churchmanor Estates.
- 1.2 The watching brief was part of a programme of archaeological work on the site which has included three areas of evaluation, an excavation, and other phases of watching brief.
- 1.3 The earliest finds from the site included a scatter of Bronze Age flints. Several Iron Age ditches, presumably representing field systems were recorded. Later ditches were also recorded mostly from the Post-Medieval period, although several undated ditches may have had earlier origins.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd as part of a program of archaeological work at Chesterford Park, Little Chesterford, Essex. The watching brief was conducted between the 1st and 4th December 2003; 29th January and 16th April 2004, and 6th May and 4th June 2004 during excavation groundworks in advance of the development of new areas in Chesterford Park. The work was commissioned by Jim Hunter of CgMs Consulting on behalf of his clients Churchmanor Estates. The site is located towards the summit of a prominent hill, c.2km east of the village of Little Chesterford.
- 2.2 The watching brief follows previous archaeological work during 2003 which included a watching brief on the route of the access road to the northwest of the development area conducted by Cambridge Archaeological Unit¹. This was followed by three phases of evaluation by Pre-Construct Archaeology; Area A in the western part of the development zone in advance of the construction of the Central Facilities Building; Area B in the south-western part of the site where the Balancing pond was to be located² and Area C in the eastern part of the site to be occupied by the Medivir Building³. An excavation and watching brief, also by Pre-Construct Archaeology followed the evaluation of the Medivir building plot in Area C⁴.
- 2.3 The Watching Brief detailed in this report involved the monitoring of excavations in three main areas; the Central Facilities (Area A); the Balancing Pond (Area B) and during works associated with the construction of a new road, Park Drive South (Area D). In addition, the excavation of service trenches and other ground works were also monitored. These excavations included CCTV cable trench around the southern perimeter of the site, a multiple service trench and road demolition trench both in the southern part of the site and a gas rising main trench to the north. The locations of all these areas and trenches are shown on Figure 2.
- 2.4 Groundworks in Area A and the CCTV cable trenches was undertaken by Haymills while works in Area B and D and the Gas rising main were conducted by Jacksons Engineering.

¹ Tipper 2003

² Bishop 2003 a

³ Bishop 2003 b

⁴ Boyer 2004

- 2.5 Area A was previously used as a playing field, area B was previously under arable cultivation, and area D was largely covered by grass. These areas are located towards the summit of a prominent hill upon which Chesterford Park is situated, c.2km east of the village of Little Chesterford.
- 2.6 The Watching Brief was conducted by Mary Ellen Crothers and Pete Boyer, and the project was managed by David Divers, for Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd. The works were monitored by Jim Hunter (CgMs) on behalf of Churchmanor Estates, and by Richard Havis for Essex County Council
- 2.7 The watching brief continued to use the same site code LCRP 03 which was used in previous phases of work on the site by Pre-Construct Archaeology.

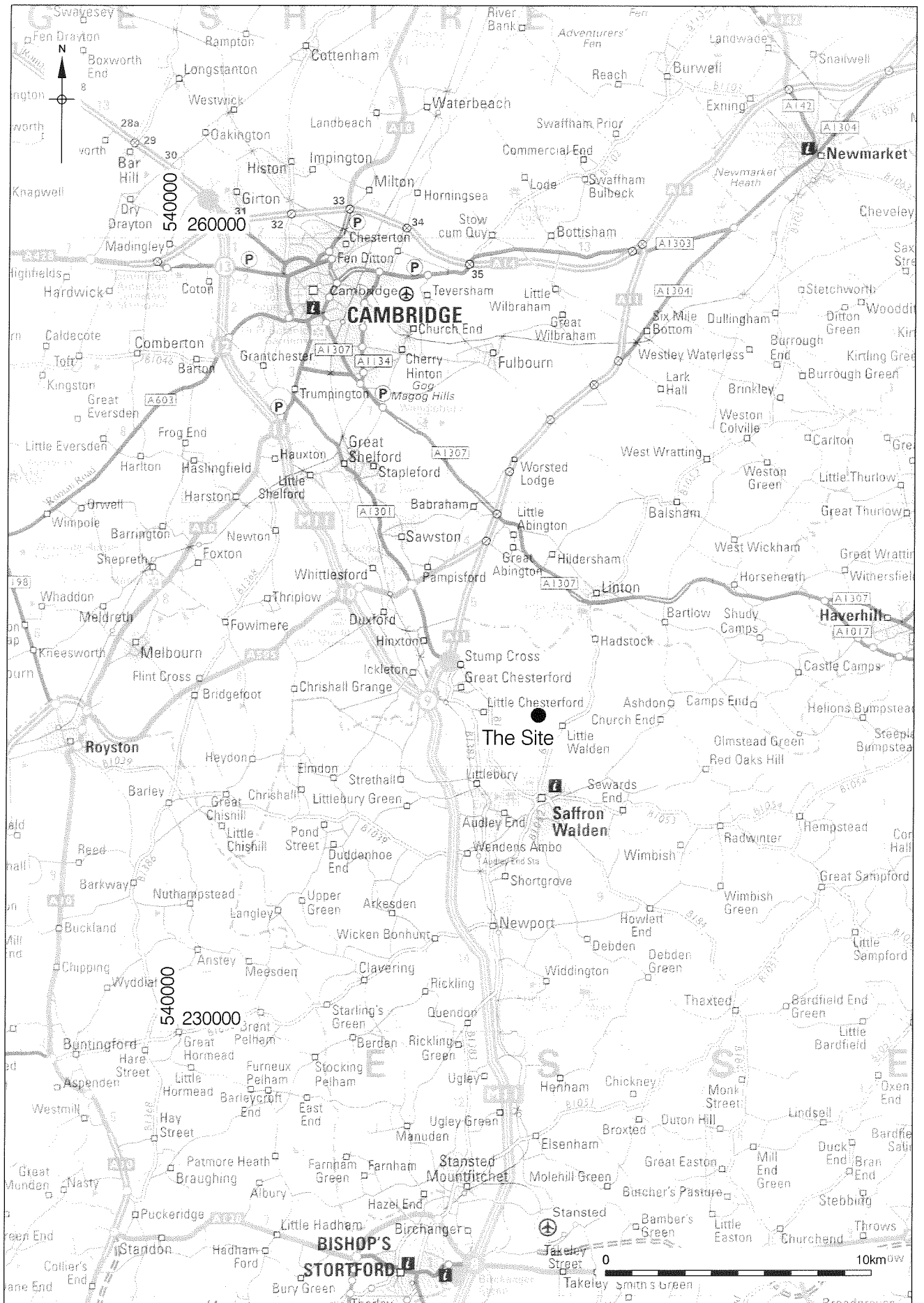
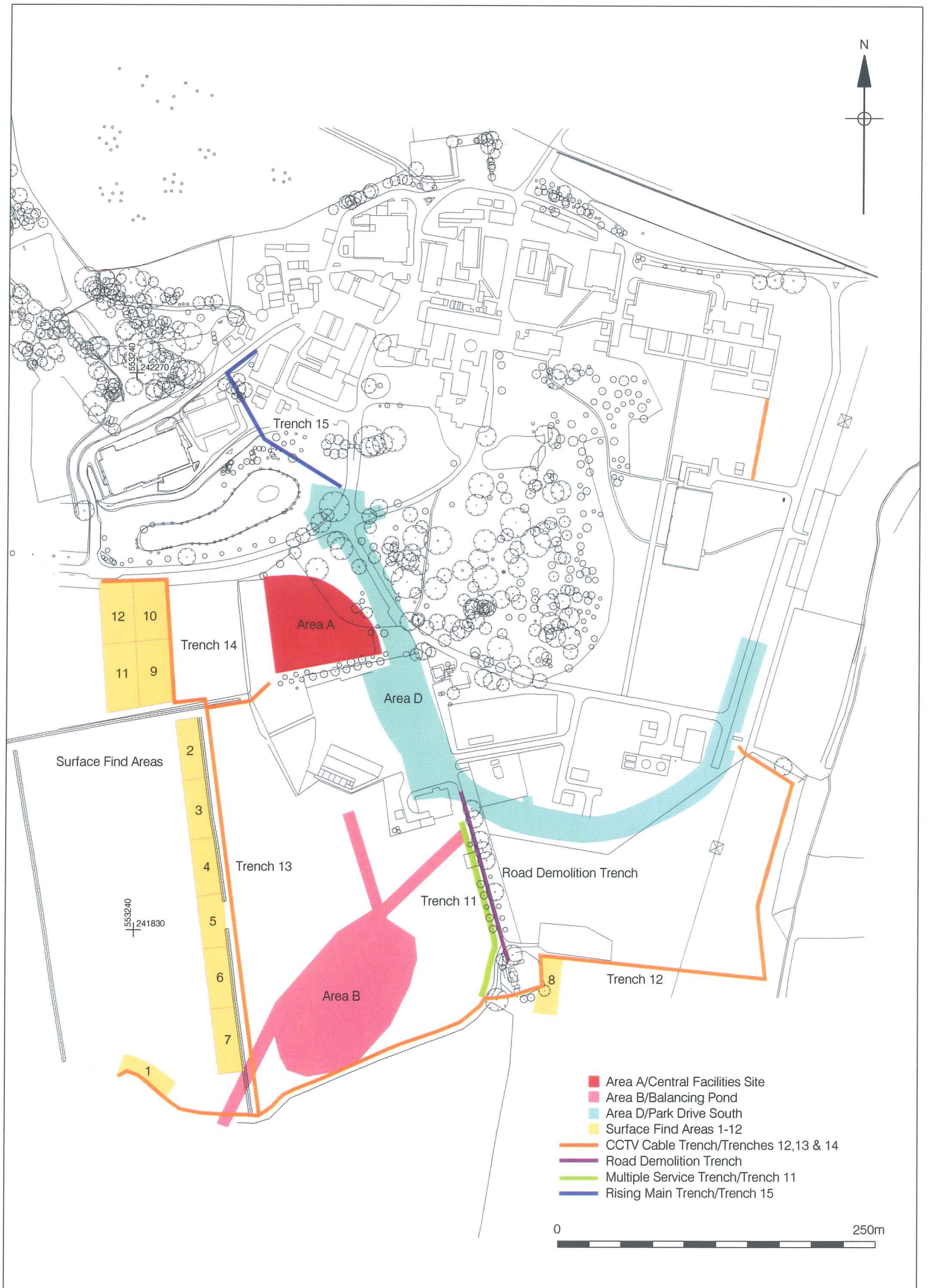


Figure 1
 Site Location
 1:200,000



3 PLANNING BACKGROUND

3.1 An archaeological investigation of the site was required because of policies contained within and in accordance with central government guidance on archaeology and planning (Planning Policy Guidance Notes 16: Archaeology and Planning), the Essex County Structure Draft Deposit Plan (February 1998) and the Uttlesford District Local Plan.

3.2 National guidance for the need to archaeologically evaluate a site of potential archaeological significance is given in Planning Policy Guidance Notes 16 Archaeology and Planning:

The applicant should be required to undertake a field evaluation to establish the nature and complexity of the surviving archaeological deposits. This should be completed prior to a planning decision being made. This evaluation will enable due consideration to be given to the archaeological implications and may lead to proposals for mitigation of disturbance and/or the need for further investigation.

3.3 The Essex County Structure Draft Deposit Plan contains the following policy:

Policy HC 6:

Development proposals which would materially affect a site of archaeological importance will be considered against the following requirements:-

Where important archaeological sites and monuments, whether scheduled or not, and their settings, are affected by a proposed development they should be preserved in situ.

Where there are grounds for believing that a proposed development would affect important archaeological sites and monuments, developers will be required to arrange for an archaeological field evaluation to be carried out before the planning application can be determined, to assess the character and extent of the archaeological remains, and to allow an informed and reasonable planning decision to be made.

In circumstances where preservation is not possible or merited then development will not be permitted until the developer has ensured that satisfactory provision has been made for a programme of archaeological investigations and recording prior to the commencement of the development commensurate with the archaeological significance of the site.

3.4 The local development plan policy framework is provided by the Uttlesford District Local Plan (Adopted 1995) and contains the following policy:

Policy DC 10- Ancient Monuments and Sites of Archaeological Importance

Where important archaeological sites and monuments, whether scheduled or not, and their settings, are affected by a proposed development, there will be a presumption in favour of their preservation in situ. In situations where there are grounds for believing that sites, monuments or their settings would be affected developers will be required to arrange for an archaeological field assessment to be carried out before the planning application can be determined thus enabling informed and reasonable planning decision to be made. In circumstances where preservation is not possible or feasible, then development will not be permitted until satisfactory provision has been made for a programme of archaeological investigation and recording prior to commencement of the development.

4 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

- 4.1 Underlying geology consists of Cretaceous Chalk overlain by glacially derived Boulder Clay.
- 4.2 The development areas investigated during the watching brief lay on the top and upper southern and western slopes of a hill, which is the highest point in Essex at about 108m OD.
- 4.3 Area A was previously used as a sports pitch which slopes down to the west; the River Cam flowing c.2km to the west of the site. Area B comprised a field previously utilized for arable agriculture situated on a south west facing slope, also falling away to the river Cam. The most prominent topographical feature consists of a dry valley sloping down to the southwest where the Balancing pond was to be located. Further to the southwest it begins to flow, joining with the River Cam in the vicinity of Springwell Farm, immediately to the south of Little Chesterford.
- 4.4 Area D (Park Drive South), located in the central and south-eastern parts of the site was a relatively level area but began sloping downwards to the south.

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

5.1 GENERAL

- 5.1.1 Jim Hunter of CgMs has detailed the archaeological and historical background of the area⁵ which indicates that there may be archaeological deposits within the site itself and in the wider vicinity. Archaeological evaluation has confirmed that some features of archaeological interest do indeed survive on the site⁶.

5.2 PREHISTORIC

- 5.2.1 There are no records in the SMR of activity in the Palaeolithic either on the site or in the near vicinity, though Mesolithic flint cores, blades and flakes were found c. 400m to the south of the site at TL 520 415 (SMR 4832).
- 5.2.2 There have been finds from the later prehistoric periods in the vicinity, though none from the site itself. Topsoil stripping of an area to the northwest of the development site, along the access road, subsequent to the desk-based assessment, recorded Iron Age ditches and pits⁷.
- 5.2.3 Late Bronze Age pottery was found at TL 5365 4270 (SMR 4853) some 300m north of the site, and more than 1km north of the site, at TL 535 437, an Iron Age coin dated 65 – 54 BC was found (SMR 4874).
- 5.2.4 Fieldwalking located a small scatter of prehistoric pottery 700m north of the site on a flat area of Paddock Wood at TL 5384 4310 (SMR 4826). Prehistoric settlement appears to have been attracted to elevated sites such as Paddock Wood, and the current site appears to lie in such a location. During a previous evaluation within Chesterford Park, c. 300m to the west of the current site⁸, Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age pottery was recovered from a medieval ditch. Whilst this material was clearly residual, it does point to late prehistoric activity in the area.

5.3 ROMAN

- 5.3.1 There are no records of Roman remains on the site itself. The Roman settlement of Great Chesterford lies 2.5km to the northwest of the current site. This developed from a 1st century AD fort, into a walled town. There are several indications of Roman settlement in the more immediate vicinity.

⁵ Hunter 2000

⁶ Bishop 2003 a & b

⁷ Tipper 2003

⁸ Bishop 2003 a

5.3.2 At Emmanuel Wood (TL 530 415), 700m southwest of the current site, Roman finds were made, including pottery, brick and a quernstone, and a bronze mirror with an incised curvilinear pattern on the back was found at TL 5335 4350 (SMR 4873) some 400m north of the site. At TL 5384 4310 a scatter of Roman pottery, tile and brick, 100m in diameter was located (SMR 4845), and fieldwalking at Paddock Wood located a small scatter of Roman pottery. Two 2nd century AD brooches have been found by metal detector users (SMR 17701 and 17702) at TL 5359 4269 and TL 5368 4262. The course of a Roman road is posited from TL 518 423 to TL 556 340, running from Chesterford to Dunmow

5.4 **SAXON/EARLY MEDIEVAL**

5.4.1 There is little evidence for Saxon or early medieval activity in the immediate vicinity

5.5 **LATER MEDIEVAL**

5.5.1 There is a medieval complex (possibly a castle) at TL 530 415, Emanuel Wood (SMR 4768). It is suggested that the manor house of Manhall Manor was located here and Domesday Book records a settlement of two households.

5.5.2 At Paddock Wood a medieval moat and house were excavated in the 1970s. The site is now a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SMR 4758).

5.6 **POST-MEDIEVAL**

5.6.1 The earliest map that shows the area of the site in any detail is that of 1744, which shows a substantial farmhouse and outbuildings as well as a lake. Emanuel Wood extended onto the current site at this time.

5.6.2 By the time of the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1877, Little Chesterford Park had been built, with its house and substantial parklands. Just outside the proposed development site there is an icehouse (TL 532 422) in the woods to the northwest of the site.

5.6.3 The grounds of the park have witnessed development since the late 19th century, firstly as a farming estate and latterly as a research establishment. This has invariably involved new buildings, roads and landscaping at various times resulting in the current layout.

6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

- 6.1 The watching brief was conducted during all excavation groundworks which may have had an impact on previously undisturbed archaeological remains. An archaeologist was in attendance during all such groundworks to record any archaeological remains encountered.
- 6.2 All works will be undertaken in accordance with the local Essex Archaeological Guidelines on Standards and Practices in Archaeological Fieldwork, and those issued by the Institute of Field Archaeologist. English heritage guidelines and 'Management of Archaeological Projects'⁹ were also observed.
- 6.3 When archaeological deposits were encountered, these were generally recorded stand methodologies. Individual descriptions of all archaeological strata and features were entered onto *pro-forma* recording sheets. The archaeological deposits and features were assigned individual context numbers. Drawings of the deposits and features were made in plan at a scale of 1:20 and in section at a scale of 1:10 as appropriate. A photographic record of the investigations was also prepared.
- 6.4 The nature of the works in the investigation areas shown in figure 2 are described below:
- 6.4.1 **Area A (Central Facilities Site):** In this area the ground level was reduced by about 0.7m until construction formation level was reached. Topsoil was removed first and then subsoil using a 360° tracked mechanical excavator equipped with a 2m wide toothless ditching bucket. Natural deposits were only exposed in the northern part of the area.
- 6.4.2 **Area B (Balancing Pond):** Excavation works in this area involved the remodelling of the dry valley to create a large pond measuring c. 110m NE-SW by c. 65m NW-SE. Three large pipe trenches were also excavated for a surface water drainage system. These trenches varied in depth between 3.10m and 4.85m.
- 6.4.3 **Area C (Park Drive South):** In this area, excavation works involved the excavation of numerous trenches associated with the construction of a new road. The excavations in this area varied between 1.2m and 2.0m in depth.

- 6.4.4 **CCTV cable trench:** This trench around the western, southern and eastern peripheries of the park was about 1.2km long, between 1.00m and 1.35m deep and 0.60m wide. Where archaeological features were encountered, individual stretches of the trench were given trench numbers for identification (Trenches. 12-14) continuing the sequence from the evaluation phase of the project.
- 6.4.5 **Multiple Service trench:** This north-south orientated trench in the southern part of the site was c.5.0m wide, 1.40m deep and 90m long. This area was also identified as Trench 11.
- 6.4.6 **Road Demolition trench:** Excavations associated with the demolition and removal of an existing road running adjacent to the Multiple Service Trench.
- 6.4.7 **Gas Rising Main trench:** This trench (also identified as Trench 15) was excavated in the northern part of the site between the buildings which presently occupy that part of the site. It was 150m long, between 0.40m and 0.60m wide, and 1.40m deep.
- 6.5 In addition, surface finds were recovered from the areas through which the trenches were dug. The areas where these finds were recovered, in the south-western part of the site, were numbered 1-12 to locate these finds (see Fig. 2).
- 6.6 The complete archive, comprising written, drawn and photographic records and artefactual material from the Evaluation, Excavation and Watching Brief will be deposited with the Saffron Walden Museum under the site code of LCRP 03.

⁹ English Heritage, 1990

7 THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE

7.1 AREA A (Central Facilities) Figure 3

The earliest deposit in this area was a greyish brown silt-clay with patches of chalk fragments [420]. This natural deposit, recorded approximately 0.70m below the modern ground surface was overlain by a 0.47m thick silty clay subsoil [419]. Natural deposits sloped down to wards the south and were consequently not uncovered in the southern part of Area A.

Three ditches were found cutting into the natural deposits. Two parallel NW-SE ditches, [472] and [474] (both approximately 2.0m wide) recorded near the north-west corner of Area A may equate to the possible prehistoric and medieval ditches found in evaluation Trench 1¹⁰ although no dating evidence was recovered from either feature during the Watching Brief. A third ditch [476] about 1.0m wide traversed the area on a north-south alignment but produced no dating evidence. All three ditches were filled with a silty clay, closely resembling the subsoil [419]. The only other feature in the northern part of the area was a small undated pit or rocked-out post hole [422] filled with a greyish-brown silty clay [421].

Cut through the subsoil deposit further to the south in Area A was a N-S, ditch [406] which was 1.28m wide and 0.48m deep. A re-cut of this ditch [404], was found to contain a late post-medieval ceramic pipe (Fig. 5; Section 30). This ditch was also recorded in Trench 2 of the evaluation.¹¹

A 0.35m thick layer of silty clay topsoil [418] covered the area.

7.2 AREA B (Balancing Pond)

Only naturally deposited layers and late post-medieval made ground were recorded in this area. The trench on the south-west side of the pond, revealed a layer of sandy silt [417] at least 0.6m thick at a depth of 2.70m. This was overlain by a 1.40m thick layer of silty clay with frequent inclusions of chalk and flint [416] which was sealed by a 1.30m depth of made ground.

The trenches on the north-east of the pond revealed silty boulder clay at least 0.3m thick at a depth of 2.10m. This was overlain by a 0.10m thickness of sand and then a 1.0m thick layer of silty clay, sealed by a 0.50m thick layer of the silty clay subsoil

¹⁰ Bishop 2004 a

¹¹ Bishop 2004 a

found elsewhere on the site. A 0.30m thickness of topsoil and redeposited material overlay the subsoil.

7.3 AREA D (Park Drive South)

Weathered silty clay natural was recorded at a depth of 0.72m and was overlain by a 0.44m thickness of silty clay subsoil, over which was topsoil and redeposited material about 0.3m thick. No archaeological features, deposits or finds were revealed in this area.

7.4 MULTIPLE SERVICE TRENCH: Figure 4

Trench 11

Silty boulder clay [478] was seen in the northern end of the trench at a depth of 0.68m at a level of 101.75m OD descending to 101.02m OD in the southern end at a depth of 0.84m. Isolated patches of sand and gravel [429] up to 0.17m thick were found between the boulder clay and a layer of weathered silty clay natural [477] at the northern end of this trench. Two E-W ditches [424] and [428] cut this upper natural deposit (Fig. 5; Sections 37 & 38). Ditch [424] was 0.15m deep by about 0.93m wide and its silty clay fill contained Iron Age pottery. Ditch [428] was 0.32m deep by about 1.03m wide and was also filled with silty clay but produced no pottery. Both ditches were sealed by a silty clay subsoil [425].

At the southern end of the trench cutting through subsoil [477] was ditch [439] measuring 3.93m wide by at least 1.0m deep (Fig. 5 Section 39). There was no dating evidence from this feature although it was likely to have been relatively late as early dated ditches on the site generally appear to be sealed by the subsoil layer. Its silty clay fill, which was not too dissimilar to the subsoil layer, produced no finds. This ditch was cut by several other features including cut [435] which was 0.54m deep and 1.43m wide; and [437] which was 0.19m deep and 0.45m wide. It was not possible to establish if these features were linear or pits, but their relatively dark silty clay fills also suggests they were post-medieval. Two further features, [431] which was 0.37m deep and 0.80m wide, and [433] which was 0.27m deep and 0.56m wide, were recorded cutting into [437]. The loose nature of these fills suggests these upper features were probably relatively modern. No dating evidence was recovered from any of these features at the southern end of the trench.

7.5 CCTV CABLE TRENCH: Figure 4

7.5.1 Trench 12

Natural silty boulder clay [446] was recorded at 0.98m depth. This was overlain by a 0.48m thick layer of weathered natural silty clay [445], which was in turn overlain by 0.12m of silty clay subsoil [441]. Ditch [444] which was cut into the subsoil, was 0.47m

deep and 1.35m wide (Fig. 5: Section 40). Although the ditch's relationship with the subsoil may suggest a relatively late date for this feature, a small sherd of Iron Age pottery was recovered from its fill [449].

7.5.2 Trench 13

The trench was dug to a depth of 1.05m, revealing weathered natural silty clay with frequent chalky inclusions [453] at a depth of 0.34m. This was cut by two E-W ditches; [448] which was 0.37m deep and 0.82m wide and ditch [450], 0.26m deep by 1.30m wide. Ditch [448] contained two prehistoric struck flints and ditch [450] produced a sherd of Iron Age pottery. The ditches were sealed by a 0.24m thickness of silty clay subsoil [452], which was in turn overlain by 0.16m of silty clay topsoil [451] (Fig. 5; Section 41 & 42).

7.5.3 Trench 14

This trench was dug to a depth of approximately 1.0m, and as with trench 13, was not deep enough to view the silty boulder clay. Weathered natural silty clay was observed at a depth of 0.30m. This was overlain by 0.26m of silty clay subsoil. Although no archaeological features were seen in this trench, Late Bronze Age and Roman pottery was found within the spoil removed from the trench.

7.6 GAS RISING MAIN TRENCH: Figure 3

7.6.1 Trench 15

The earliest deposit in this trench was an orange-brown clay-silt layer [468] observed at a depth of 0.77m which may represent a colluvial deposit. Cut into layer [468] was a linear feature [467] which was at least 0.65m deep with near vertical sides, and over 0.80m wide. The feature contained three silty fills but no finds were recovered. It was sealed by a 0.27m thick dark brown-grey silty layer [463], overlain by a 0.20m thick dark yellow-brown silt [462], both possibly representing further colluvial action. This was overlain by a 0.60m thick layer of silty topsoil [461] (Fig. 5: Section 43). The recent landscaping in this part of the site suggests, the topography included a type of valley in this area, which has been subject to several phases of silting. Although no stratified finds were recovered from this trench, a large amount of struck flint was collected from the excavated spoil; the material probably dating from the Bronze Age.

7.7 ROAD DEMOLITION TRENCH: Figure 4

An E-W ditch [470] at the northern end of this area was 1.1m wide by 0.54m deep. It was recorded cutting into natural [416] which had been reduced to a level of 103.8m OD; all the overlying deposits having been removed during demolition works. The

ditch contained several sherds of pottery suggesting an early Iron Age date for this feature.

7.8 SURFACE FINDS

While watching the excavation of the Haymills CCTV cable trench, the opportunity was taken to collect some surface finds nearby. Each small area where finds were recovered was assigned a number, with 12 areas in total (see Fig. 2). Small quantities of undiagnostic flints were recovered from Areas 1, 5, 7 & 11 while fragments of burnt flint were found in Areas 8 & 9, possibly indicating activity from prehistoric periods from the Mesolithic to Bronze Age. Late Bronze Age to Early Roman pottery was recovered from Area 2 and Roman pottery was recovered from Areas 3, 9 & 11. Medieval pottery was also found in Area 9.

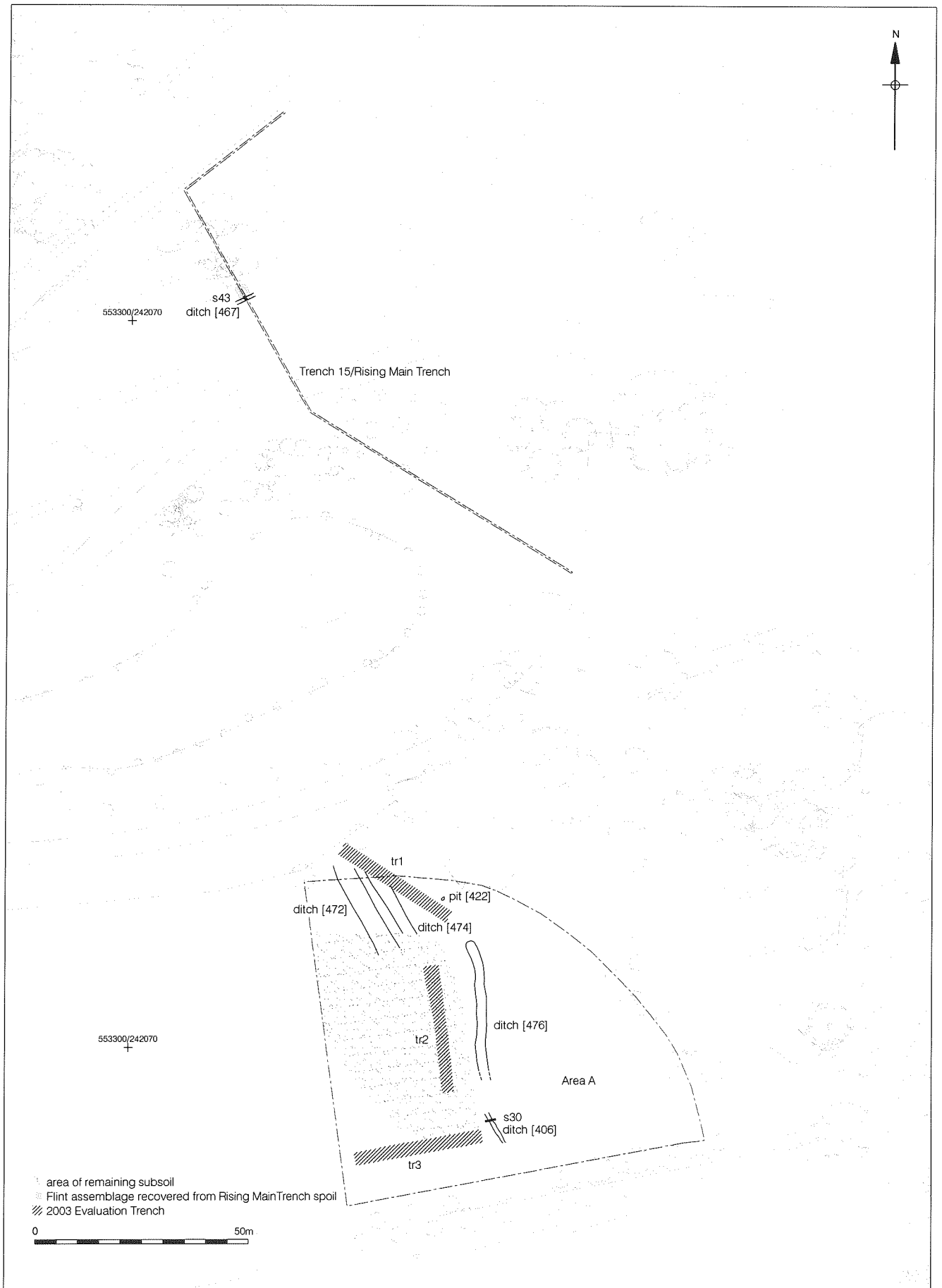
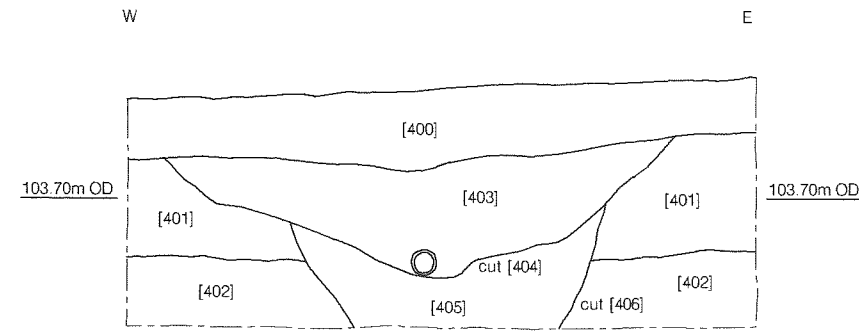


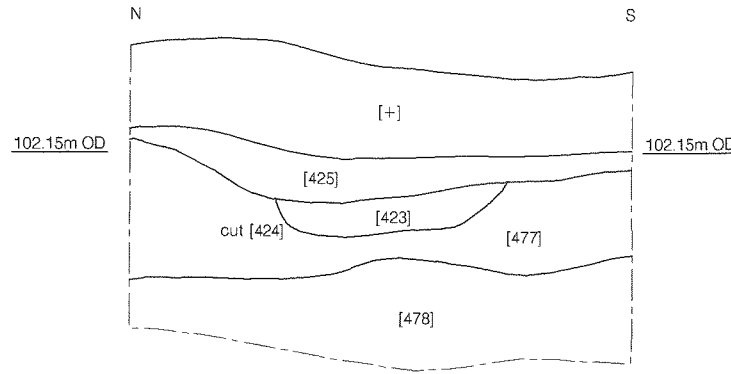
Figure 3
 Plan of Archaeological features in
 Area A and Rising Main Trench
 1:1250



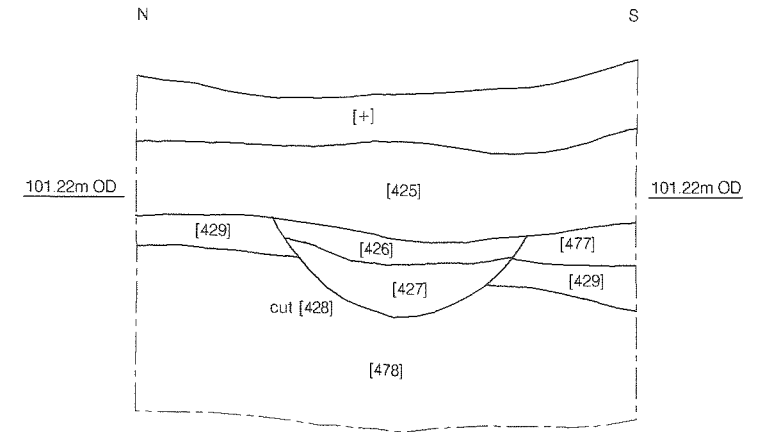
Figure 4
 Plan of archaeological features in
 southern end of site
 1:1250



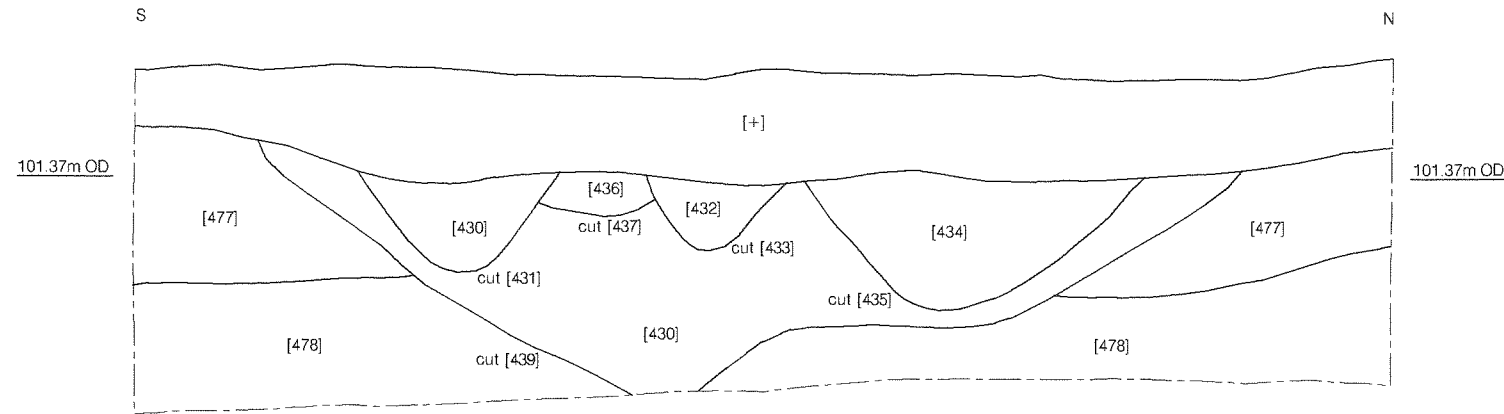
Section 30
South Facing
Area A



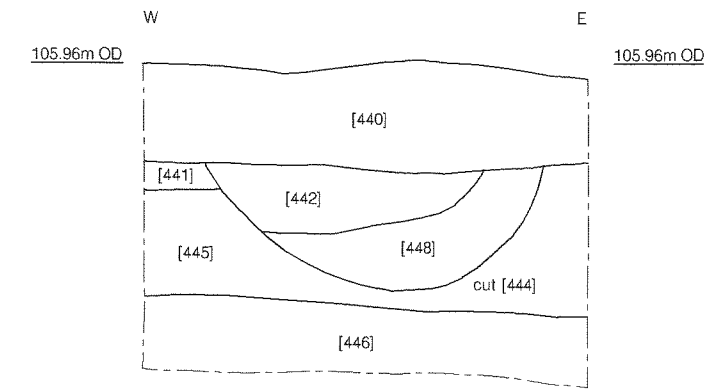
Section 37
West Facing
Trench 11/Multiple Service Trench



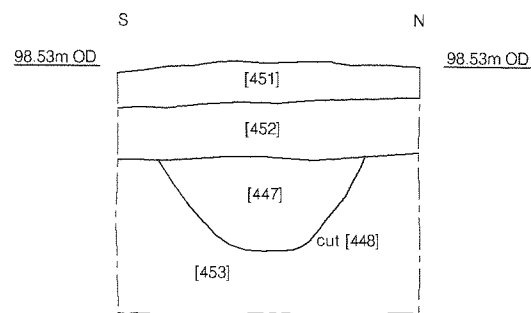
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Trench 11/Multiple Service Trench



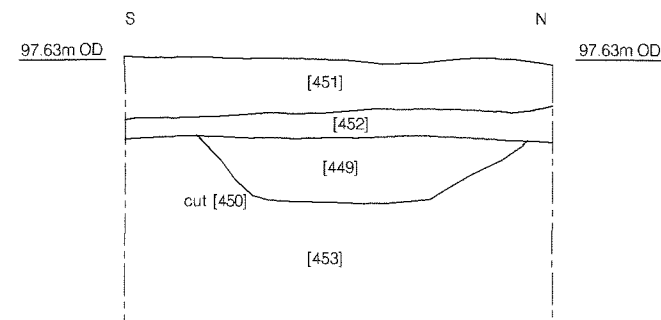
Section 39
East Facing
Trench 11/Multiple Service Trench



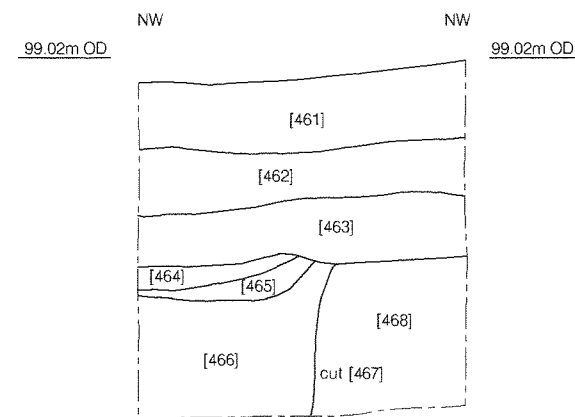
Section 40
South Facing
Trench 12/CCTV Cable Trench



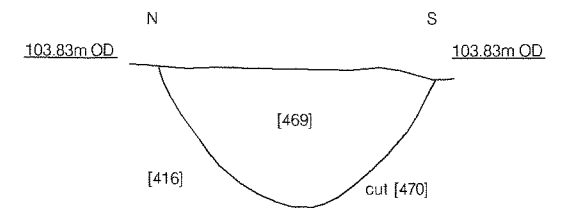
Section 41
East Facing
Trench 13/CCTV Cable Trench



Section 42
East Facing
Trench 13/CCTV Cable Trench



Section 43
North East Facing
Trench 15/Rising Main Trench



Section 44
West facing
Road Demolition Trench



Figure 5
Sections 30 & 37 - 44
1:30

8 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

8.1 PREHISTORIC

The evidence for prehistoric activity on the site is represented by a series of ditches, five of which contained only prehistoric finds, mainly Iron Age pottery. Several more ditches, which produced no dating evidence may also date from this period. In addition, prehistoric activity on the site was evidenced by a group of unstratified Bronze Age flints found in the northern part of the site and Late Bronze Age to Iron Age pottery recovered mostly from the south-western part of the site. Although there was little evidence to suggest prehistoric settlement on the site, the ditches are indicative of field systems and land management.

8.2 ROMAN

Some unstratified Roman material was also recovered, possibly suggesting the site continued to be exploited into the Roman period,

8.3 SAXON

A few sherds of organic tempered pottery had initially been suspected of being Saxon but re-examination of these sherds has resulted in an Iron Age date being assigned. There is therefore no evidence for Saxon activity on the site.

8.4 MEDIEVAL

Evidence for medieval activity is restricted to a very few surface finds in Area 9 and a ditch in Area A which may have been the continuation of a probable medieval ditch recorded during the evaluation on the site. There is very little to suggest that there was any kind of settlement in the area from this period.

8.5 POST-MEDIEVAL

Post-medieval activity is largely represented by field drainage systems that have been encountered on all phases of the project.

8.6 CONCLUSIONS

8.6.1 The results of the watching brief have provided further evidence for late prehistoric activity on the site with field systems being developed during the Iron Age although there was no evidence for settlement in the vicinity. While some Roman pottery was recovered, there was little evidence for occupation or land use during the historic period until the later Post-Medieval ditches were recorded, although it is possible that some of these later ditches had earlier origins.

8.6.2 While the results of this investigation are of limited archaeological significance, they are of local interest and should be included in the short note to be published in Essex Archaeology and History which will summarise all phases of archaeological work on the site¹².

¹² Boyer 2004 paragraph 9.3.1

9 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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10 ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd would like to thank Jim Hunter of CgMs Ltd for commissioning the archaeological work on behalf of his clients, John Harvey of Churchmanor Estates. The author would like to thank David Divers, the project manager and Hayley Baxter for the illustrations. The author would also like to thank Peter Boyer and Fiona Keith-Lucas for their input in the early stages of the Watching Brief. Thanks also to the site contractors Haymills and Jacksons for their help and cooperation on site, especially their surveying teams for help in locating sections and features

APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT INDEX

Context No.	Type	Description	Trench No.
400	Layer	Topsoil	Area A
401	Layer	Subsoil	Area A
402	Layer	Natural	Area A
403	Fill	Fill of field drain ditch [404]	Area A
404	Cut	Cut of field drain ditch	Area A
405	Fill	Fill of ditch [406]	Area A
406	Cut	Cut of ditch	Area A
407	Layer	Topsoil	Area B
408	Layer	Natural	Area B
409	Layer	Natural	Trial pit A
410	Layer	Weathered Natural	Trial pit A
411	Layer	Clay Natural and Chalk	Trial pit A
412	Layer	Natural in S.32	Area D
413	Layer	Weathered Natural in S.33	Area D
414	Layer	Boulder Clay Natural in S.33	Area D
415	Layer	Made ground in S.34	Area B
416	Layer	Boulder clay natural in S.34	Area B
417	Layer	Hillwash in S.34	Area B
418	Layer	Topsoil	Area A
419	Layer	Subsoil	Area A
420	Layer	Weathered Natural	Area A
421	Fill	Fill of pit [422]	Area A
422	Cut	Cut of small pit/rocked-out post hole	Area A
423	Fill	Fill of ditch [424]	Trench 11
424	Cut	Cut of ditch	Trench 11
425	Layer	Subsoil	Trench 11
426	Fill	Secondary fill of ditch [428]	Trench 11
427	Fill	Primary fill of ditch [428]	Trench 11
428	Cut	Cut of ditch	Trench 11
429	Layer	Orange gravel layer in S.38	Trench 11
430	Fill	Fill of ditch [431]	Trench 11
431	Cut	Cut of ditch in S.39	Trench 11
432	Fill	Fill of ditch [433]	Trench 11
433	Cut	Cut of ditch in S.39	Trench 11
434	Fill	Fill of ditch [435]	Trench 11
435	Cut	Cut of ditch in S.39	Trench 11
436	Fill	Fill of ditch [437]	Trench 11
437	Cut	Cut of ditch in S.39	Trench 11
438	Fill	Fill of ditch [439]	Trench 11
439	Cut	Cut of ditch in S.39	Trench 11
440	Layer	Topsoil	Trench 12
441	Layer	Subsoil	Trench 12
442	Fill	Secondary fill of ditch [444]	Trench 12
443	Fill	Primary fill of ditch [444]	Trench 12
444	Cut	Cut of ditch in S.40	Trench 12
445	Layer	Weathered natural	Trench 12
446	Layer	Boulder clay natural	Trench 12
447	Fill	Fill of ditch [448]	Trench 13
448	Cut	Cut of ditch in S.41	Trench 13
449	Fill	Fill of ditch [450]	Trench 13

450	Cut	Cut of ditch in S.42	Trench 13
451	Layer	Topsoil	Trench 13
452	Layer	Subsoil	Trench 13
453	Layer	Weathered natural	Trench 13
454	Layer	Topsoil	Trench 15
455	Layer	Backfill	Trench 15
456	Layer	Old topsoil	Trench 15
457	Layer	Subsoil	Trench 15
458	Fill	Fill of ditch [459]	Trench 15
459	Cut	Cut of ditch	Trench 15
460	Layer	Weathered natural	Trench 15
461	Layer	Topsoil S.44	Trench 15
462	Layer	Mixed layer - Landscaping?	Trench 15
463	Layer	Subsoil S.44	Trench 15
464	Fill	Top fill of ditch [467]	Trench 15
465	Fill	Secondary fill of ditch [467]	Trench 15
466	Fill	Primary fill of ditch [467]	Trench 15
467	Cut	Cut of ditch [467]	Trench 15
468	Layer	Hillwash	Trench 15
469	Fill	Fill of ditch [470]	Road
470	Cut	Cut of ditch	Road
471	Fill	Fill of ditch [472]	Area A
472	Cut	Cut of ditch	Area A
473	Fill	Fill of ditch [474]	Area A
474	Cut	Cut of ditch	Area A
475	Fill	Fill of ditch [476]	Area A
476	Cut	Cut of ditch	Area A
477	Layer	Weathered natural	Trench 11
478	Layer	Boulder clay natural	Trench 11

APPENDIX 2:

LITHIC ASSESSMENT

Barry John Bishop

INTRODUCTION

The watching brief produced 51 struck flints and 56g of burnt flint/stone fragments. This report quantifies and describes the material, offers some comments on its significance and recommends any further work required. No statistically based technological, typological or metrical analyses were attempted and a more detailed examination may alter or amend any of the interpretations offered here.

RAW MATERIAL

All of the struck flint was manufactured from a translucent black or brown flint retaining a weathered chalky cortex of variable thickness, with frequent pre-flaking thermal scars also present. It was obtained from derived sources, most probably either from nodules embedded within the glacial till that covers the site, or deposits of mass wastage of chalk that infill the chalk hills in the area.

CONDITION

Mostly of the struck flint was rather chipped and abraded, as would be expected from material recovered from plough zone contexts. The flakes from context [447] were also in a similar condition, suggesting that these may have been residually deposited within the feature.

THE ASSEMBLAGE

Context [447]

Fragment of burnt sandstone, one flake fragment and a rather chipped recorticated flake.

Surface Finds, Area 1

Two flakes, a blade-like flake and a mostly cortical blade-like flake

Surface Finds, Area 5

Single broad flake

Surface Finds, Area 7

Single flake fragment

Surface Finds, Area 8

One fragment of burnt flint weighing 15g

Surface Finds, Area 9

Three fragments burnt flint weighing 6g.

Surface Finds, Area 11

Single, mostly cortical, blade-like flake

Surface Finds, north end of Trench 15

Forty-one flakes and flake fragments and a possible blade core. Two fragments of burnt flint weighing 35g.

DISCUSSION

The largest assemblage was recovered from around the northern end of Trench 15. These were in a very chipped and abraded condition, and many have very pronounced bulbs of percussion and prominent ripple marks, suggesting that some may be the production of accidental fracture, such as through plough damage. Although some pieces possibly of 'accidental' manufacture still provides the greatest density of flintwork from the site. The condition of the assemblage and the lack of particularly diagnostic pieces makes dating somewhat problematic. The possible blade core may be most typical of Mesolithic or Early Neolithic industries, although it was rather crudely manufactured and could easily be later in date. Overall considerations of the technological characteristics of this assemblage would suggest that the most likely date for the majority of this material would be the Bronze Age, and the quantities involved may tentatively suggest the presence of settlement-type activities in the vicinity, possibly associated with the various prehistoric ditches recorded around the rest of the site

The rest of the assemblage was recovered in small quantities from various locations. No diagnostic pieces were present although on technological grounds the material appeared very variable, possibly dating from between the Mesolithic the Bronze Age and suggestive of persistent but very low-key activity occurring throughout these periods.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Due to its size and lack of chronologically diagnostic artefacts, this report is all that is required of the material for the purposes of the archive and no further analytical work is proposed. The material does contribute to the body of evidence for prehistoric activity in the area and a short description of the assemblage, incorporating the lithic material found during earlier stages of the project (Bishop 2003), should be included in any published account of the fieldwork.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Bishop, B.J. 2003 Excavations at the Medvir Site, Chesterford Park, Little Chesterford, Essex: Lithic Assessment. Pre-Construct Archaeology Unpublished Manuscript.

APPENDIX 3:

POTTERY ASSESSMENT

Berni Sudds

QUANTITY

Total number of boxes: 1.

Total sherd count: 42 sherds.

Total number or contexts producing pottery: 4 contexts.

METHODOLOGY

The numerical pottery codes for Essex have been used to classify the post-Roman ceramics (Cunningham 1985; Cotter 2000). The prehistoric and unsourced Roman ceramics have been given a provisional mnemonic code. The fabric codes and common names are listed below in date order. The material was quantified for each context by fabric, vessel form and decoration using sherd count (with fresh breaks discounted) and estimated vessel numbers. A ceramic database cataloguing these attributes has been generated using Microsoft Access 2000.

FABRICS

Ware	Code	Date range
Coarse flint and occasional to moderate sand	CFLS	Late Bronze Age – Early Iron Age
Fine flint and occasional to moderate sand	FFLS	Late Bronze Age - Iron Age
Fine sand, iron ore, occasional grog/ silt	FS	Iron Age
Fine sand, occasional to moderate organics, rare flint	ORG	Iron Age
Fine sand and grog	GROG	Late Iron Age – Early Roman
Unsourced reduced coarseware	RCOAR RED	Roman
Unsourced oxidised coarseware	RCOAR OX	Roman
Samian ware	SAMIAN	Roman
Black burnished ware	BBW	Roman
Sandy orange ware	21	13 th – 14 th century
Flowerpot	51B	1800 - 1900

Table 1: Ware types identified.

DISCUSSION

The small assemblage recovered includes material of prehistoric, Roman, medieval and post-medieval date. The majority was retrieved through surface collection, although four deposits produced a small number of sherds dating from the Late Bronze Age to Iron Age. The condition of the entire assemblage, including the stratified material, is poor.

Stratified groups

CONTEXT	FABRIC	FORM	SC	ENV	COMMENTS	ED	LD
423	FS		4	1	Body sherds. Grog or silt inclusions.	IA	
423	ORG		1	1	Thick base sherd.	IA	
442	ORG		1	1	Small body sherd.	IA	
449	FS		1	1	Small body sherd.	IA	
469	CFLS	Jar	1	1	Upright rim sherd. ?Fingertip impression to base of neck.	LBA	EIA
469	CFLS		6	5	Body sherds.	LBA	EIA
469	FFLS		2	1	1x fresh break.	EIA	
469	ORG		1	1	Small abraded sherd.	IA	

In the absence of diagnostic sherds and with small assemblages it can be difficult to distinguish between handmade pottery of Iron Age and Saxon date. The use of fire cracked flint as levigation is generally indicative of a prehistoric date but sand and moderate organic inclusions were commonly used as temper in both the Iron Age and Saxon period. Similar difficulties were encountered at Harston, five miles to the north west, where intense occupation of both periods was identified (Last 2001). On balance, however, the presence of sand and organic fabrics at Chesterford Park, alongside distinctive coarse and fine flint tempered products, some with diagnostic form and decoration, suggests the handmade group is likely to be entirely of prehistoric date.

Containing small abraded body and base sherds deposits [423], [442] and [449] can be only broadly dated to the Iron Age on basis of fabric. Deposit [469] contains coarse and fine flint tempered examples in addition to an organic tempered sherd. Here the combination of fabric and a diagnostic rim with fingertip decoration provisionally indicate an early Iron Age date.

Surface finds

SMP	FABRIC	FORM	SC	ENV	Comments	ED	LD
AREA 3	51B	Flowerpot	1	1	Body sherd.	1800	1900
AREA 2	GROG	Jar	1	1	Shoulder sherd. Cordon around the base of the neck.	LIA	Early Roman
AREA 2	FFLS		2	2	Small abraded sherds.	IA	IA
AREA 2	CFLS		1	1	Very small sherd.	LBA	EIA
AREA 3	RCOAR RED	?Bowl/ dish	1	1	Small rim sherd.	Roman	
AREA 7	51B	Flowerpot	1	1	Body sherd.	1800	1900
AREA 8	51B	Flowerpot	4	3	Base sherds.	1800	1900
AREA 9	51B	Flowerpot	1	1	Body sherd.	1800	1900
AREA 9	21		1	1	Body sherd.	1200	1400
AREA 9	RCOAR OX	Bowl	1	1	Dog bowl type.	Roman	
AREA 9	SAMIAN	Bowl	5	1	Rim and body sherds.	Roman	
AREA 10	51B	Flowerpot	1	1	Body sherd.	1800	1900
AREA 11	BBW	Jar	1	1	Rim sherd.	Roman	
AREA 14	FFLS		1	1	Body sherd with fingertip impressions. 2x adjacent/ small sherd.	LBA	EIA
AREA 14	RCOAR RED	Jar	1	1	Hooked jar rim.	Roman	
AREA 14	RCOAR RED		1	1	Fresh breaks. ?BBW.	Roman	
AREA 14	RCOAR RED		1	1	?Roman coarseware fabric.	Roman	

RECOMMENDATIONS

The small assemblage of pottery recovered is of mixed date and is in relatively poor condition. The stratified material appears to indicate the presence of activity of Iron Age date in vicinity. The group is too small, however, to determine the nature of activity represented.

The unstratified assemblage is comprised of small and abraded assemblages of prehistoric, Roman, medieval and post-medieval date, again suggesting little more than the presence of activity of this date range in area. Additional analysis should include comparison of the pre-

historic material with the regional type-fabric series in order to confirm and potentially narrow the provisional dating put forward. The remainder of the assemblage merits no further work.

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APPENDIX 4

OASIS HER form

OASIS ID: preconst1-4594

Project details

Project name	Chesterford Park
Short description of the project	Watching Brief at Chesterford Park, Little Chesterford, Essex was conducted during groundworks across much of the site between December 2003 and June 2004. The watching brief was part of a programme of archaeological work on the site which has included three areas of evaluation, an excavation, and other phases of watching brief. The earliest finds from the site included a scatter of Bronze Age flints. Several Iron Age ditches, presumably representing field systems were recorded. Later ditches were also recorded mostly from the Post-Medieval period, although several undated ditches may have had earlier origins.
Project dates	Start: 01-12-2003 End: 04-06-2004
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	LCRP 03 - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Industry and Commerce 2 - Offices
Current Land use	Woodland 6 - Parkland
Monument type	FIELD SYSTEM Iron Age
Monument type	FIELD SYSTEM Post Medieval
Significant Finds	FLAKES Bronze Age
Significant Finds	POT SHERDS Iron Age
Investigation type	'Watching Brief'
Prompt	Planning condition

Project location

Country	England
Site location	ESSEX UTTLESFORD GREAT CHESTERFORD Chesterford Park
Study area	20 Hectares
National grid reference	TL 53480 41950 Point
Height OD	Min: 90m Max: 103m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd
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Project brief originator	CgMs Consultants Ltd
Project design originator	David Divers
Project director/manager	David Divers
Project supervisor	Mary Ellen Crothers
Sponsor or funding body	Churchmanor Estates

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Chesterford Park, Little Chesterford, Essex: Watching Brief
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Crothers, M. E.
Date	2004
Issuer or publisher	Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited
Place of issue or publication	London
Description	Watching Brief report, A4 document

Entered by	David Divers (ddivers@pre-construct.com)
Entered on	5 November 2004