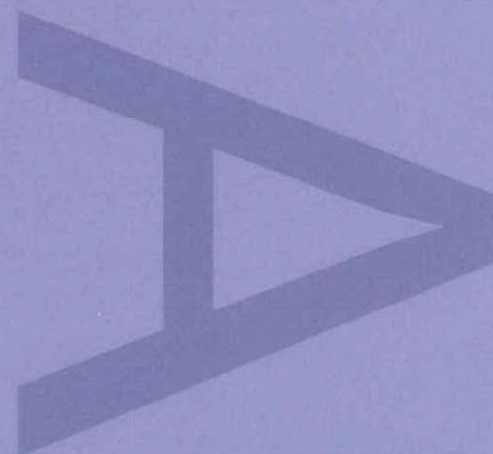
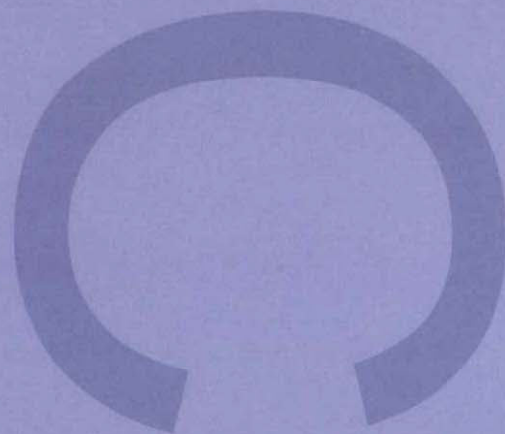
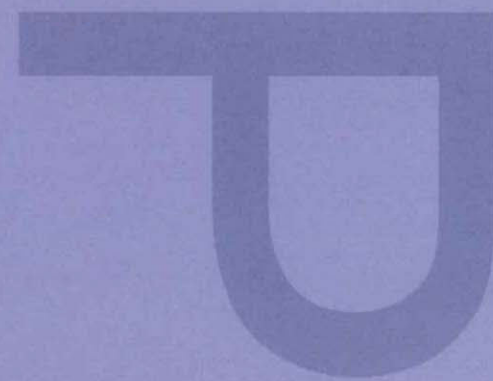


**ARCHAEOLOGICAL
EVALUATION AT
4 RUSHDEN ROAD,
SANDON,
HERTFORDSHIRE**

SITE CODE: HRRS 10

JANUARY 2010



PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY

DOCUMENT VERIFICATION

Site Name

4 Rushden Road, Sandon, Hertfordshire SG9 0QR

Type of project

Archaeological Evaluation

Quality Control

Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited Project Code			K2205
	Name & Title	Signature	Date
Text Prepared by:	Alexis Haslam		21.01.10
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Project Manager Sign-off:	Charlotte Matthews		21.01.10

Revision No.	Date	Checked	Approved

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**An Archaeological Evaluation at 4 Rushden Road,
Sandon, Hertfordshire SG9 0QR**

Site Code: HRRS 10

Central National Grid Reference: TL 3204 3439

Written and Researched by Alexis Haslam

Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited, January 2010

Project Manager: Charlotte Matthews

Commissioning Client: Mary Hanson

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January 2010

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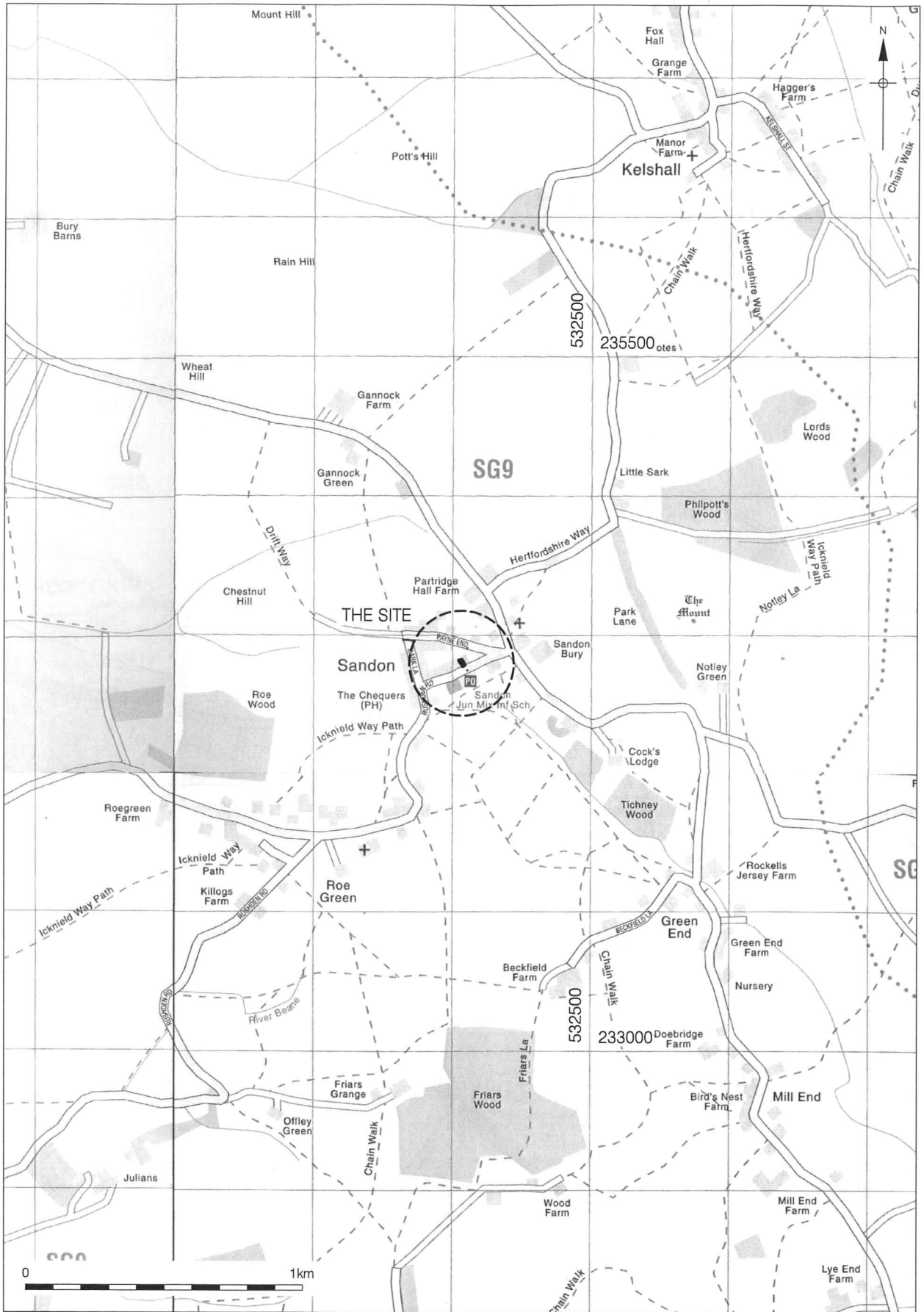
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1 ABSTRACT

- 1.1 This report details the results of an archaeological evaluation undertaken on land at 4 Rushden Road, Sandon, Hertfordshire SG9 0QR (hereafter referred to as the Site). The evaluation was commissioned by Mary Hanson in advance of a proposed development of the land and took place on the 12th January 2010. The Site was located on the northern side of Rushden Road.
- 1.2 An evaluation comprising of one trench was required by the representative of the Local Planning Authority as the Site lies within Area of Archaeological Significance (AAS) no. 122 as identified in the North Hertfordshire District Local Plan. The trench was located within the footprint of the proposed building in the centre of the Site. An additional test pit excavated by the commissioning client for geotechnical purposes was also recorded during the evaluation process. This test pit was situated to the north of the evaluation trench.
- 1.3 Whilst the evaluation trench was sealed by a tarmac driveway, the geotechnical test pit was located on an area of open lawn. Beneath both the tarmac in the evaluation trench and the topsoil in the test pit, a sequence emerged comprising of subsoil overlying the natural geological deposits of silty clay.
- 1.4 One single feature was recorded as cutting into the natural silty clay at the base of the evaluation trench. Interpreted as a natural feature created by root disturbance, a single struck flint was recovered from its fill, indicating evidence of prehistoric activity within the immediate vicinity of the Site.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 This report details the results and working methods of an archaeological evaluation undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd on land at 4 Rushden Road, Sandon, Hertfordshire, SG9 0QR. The evaluation took place on the 12th January 2010.
- 2.2 The evaluation trench was located within the footprint of the proposed building which was occupied by a tarmac driveway at the time of the evaluation. The additional test pit was situated to the north of the driveway on an area of open lawn. The Site was bounded by no. 4 Rushden Road to the east, by Rushden Road to the south, by no. 6 Rushden Road to the west and by the garden of no. 2 Rushden Road to the north.
- 2.3 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with Hertfordshire County Council's Brief (Instone 2009) and a Written Scheme of Investigation (Matthews 2009), which was approved by Andy Instone, the Planning Archaeologist for Hertfordshire County Council in advance of the work.
- 2.4 The National Grid Reference of the Site is TL 3204 3439.
- 2.5 The Site was given the code HRRS 10.
- 2.6 The project was monitored for the local planning authority by both Keith Fitzpatrick, the North Hertfordshire District Council Archaeology Officer, and by Andy Instone, the Hertfordshire County Planning Archaeologist. The project was managed by Charlotte Matthews and was supervised by the author, Alexis Haslam.



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Figure 1
 Site Location
 1:20,000 at A4

3 PLANNING BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The proposed development of the Site comprises of the erection of one four bedroom dwelling with two parking spaces and associated works (Ref. No.: 1/01321/09).
- 3.2 In November 1990 the Department of the Environment issued Planning Policy Guidance Note 16 (PPG16) 'Archaeology and Planning' providing guidance for planning authorities, property owners, developers and others on the preservation and investigation of archaeological remains.
- 3.3 In considering any planning application for development, the local planning authority is bound by the policy framework set by government guidance, in this instance PPG16, by current Structure and Local Plan policy and by other material.
- 3.4 The relevant Development Plan framework is provided by the East of England Plan adopted in May 2008. This Plan states:

Policy ENV 6 – The Historic Environment

In their plans, policies, programmes and proposals local planning authorities and other agencies should identify, protect, conserve and, where appropriate, enhance the historic environment of the region, its archaeology, historic buildings, places and landscapes, including historic parks and gardens and those features and sites (and their settings) especially significant in the East of England:

- the historic cities of Cambridge and Norwich;
- an exceptional network of historic market towns;
- a cohesive hierarchy of smaller settlements ranging from nucleated villages, often marked by architecturally significant medieval parish churches, through to a pattern of dispersed hamlets and isolated farms;
- the highly distinctive historic environment of the coastal zone including extensive submerged prehistoric landscapes, ancient salt manufacturing and fishing facilities, relict sea walls, grazing marshes, coastal fortifications, ancient ports and traditional seaside resorts;
- formal planned settlements of the early twentieth century, including the early garden cities, and factory villages;
- conservation areas and listed buildings, including domestic, industrial and religious buildings, and their settings, and significant designed landscapes;
- the rural landscapes of the region, which are highly distinctive and of ancient origin; and
- the wide variety of archaeological monuments, sites and buried deposits which include many scheduled ancient monuments and other nationally important archaeological assets.

8.19 National advice on the identification and protection of historic buildings, conservation areas, archaeological remains and other elements of the historic environment is set out in PPGs 15, *Planning and the Historic Environment* and 16, *Archaeology and Planning*. The Regional Environment Strategy characterises the historic environment of the East of England, identifies issues relating to the erosion of assets, and emphasises the need for more robust policies at regional level. Information on the distribution of listed buildings, scheduled monuments and conservation areas can be obtained from 'Heritage Counts', an annual digest published by English Heritage.

8.20 To conserve the wider historic environment, local authorities and other agencies should afford the highest level of protection to historic and archaeological areas, sites and monuments of international, national and regional importance. Plans and policies should ensure new development preserves or enhances historic buildings and landscapes, conservation areas and important archaeological features and their settings. Policies and programmes should work towards rescuing buildings and monuments at risk, and take an active role in promoting repair and re-use of historic buildings, especially where this would assist urban renaissance and regeneration. The landscape context and setting of buildings and settlements is an essential component of their quality and should be safeguarded in policies relating to historic assets.

8.21 In areas identified for growth and regeneration, it is important that the impact of new development on the historic environment is properly understood and considered. Historic character and significance, and the opportunities they offer, should be considered at an early stage in the development process, including master plans and planning briefs. Local Development Documents should be based on the identification, assessment, and evaluation of historic assets, their contribution to local character and diversity, and their capacity to absorb change. Policies should be founded on a robust evidence base and reflect a thorough understanding of the historic environment and enhancement opportunities through approaches such as historic environment characterisation.

- 3.5 The relevant Local Plan is provided by the North Hertfordshire District Local Plan No. 2 – Saved Policies under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act of 2004.

Policy 16: Areas of Archaeological Significance and other Archaeological Areas

For Archaeological Areas, the Council may require a preliminary evaluation of any potential archaeological remains before deciding to permit or to refuse development

proposals. For Areas of Archaeological Significance, a preliminary evaluation will be required as part of the application for development which could disturb any possible archaeological remains. To assess the archaeological value of specific sites, the Council will seek expert advice. If the site is judged to be nationally important, and the remains should be left undisturbed, the Council will normally refuse development proposals which adversely affect the site or its setting. On other sites, the Council may permit development proposals with conditions and/or a formal or informal agreement, depending on the archaeological value, to provide:

- i. an excavation before development; and/or
- ii. facilities and an agreed period of time for access to the site for an investigation and/or a for 'observation' of the groundworks as development progresses by someone appointed by the Council; and/or
- iii. other measures as necessary; and/or
- iv. a contribution from the developer towards the funding of any relevant investigation.

3.6 The Site is located within Area of Archaeological Significance (AAS) no. 122 as identified in the North Hertfordshire District Local Plan. There are no Scheduled Ancient Monuments situated within the Site boundary.

4 GEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The area is characterised by glacial drift – calcareous/neutral Boulder Clay with some Clay-with-Flints overlying Chalk.
- 4.2 The archaeological evaluation confirmed that the Site was underlain by a stiff deposit of light yellow brown silty clay containing occasional inclusions of small sub-angular pebbles. The geotechnical test pit confirmed that this deposit extended beyond 1.5m in terms of thickness, with chalk inclusions becoming more frequent towards the base of the test pit.
- 4.3 The Site was broadly level and was situated at between 147.76m aOD (above Ordnance Datum) and 148.40m OD.

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 5.1 The Site lies within Area of Archaeological Significance (AAS) no. 122 as identified in the North Hertfordshire District Local Plan. This notes that Sandon is a medieval settlement recorded in the Domesday Book as *Sandone*. The medieval village is noted by the Historic Environment Record (HER2704). The Church of All Saints, which lies to the east of the Site (shown as a cross on **Figure 1**) dates from the 14th century and earthworks possibly associated with a medieval manorial site lie opposite the church. A further medieval moated site is also located at Danyells Farm. Two large ponds next to the Site are shown on Ordnance Survey mapping from the 19th century and these still largely survive. They may date to the medieval period.

6 METHODS

- 6.1 In accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation, a single evaluation trench was excavated in order to determine the location, form, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains liable to be threatened by the proposed development. A further geotechnical test pit excavated by the contractor was additionally monitored under archaeological conditions.
- 6.2 Both the evaluation and the test pit were opened up with the use of a 7.5 tonne 360° mechanical excavator using a 1.4m wide toothless ditching bucket. All machining was monitored by the archaeologist, checking for archaeological deposits and features through the made ground, topsoil and subsoil and onto the natural geological deposits. All machining was preceded by scanning for live services using a CAT scanner.
- 6.3 The evaluation trench was hand cleaned, examined and recorded in both plan and section.
- 6.4 The single context system was used for recording, developed out of the Department of Urban Archaeology Site Manual. Sections were recorded at a scale of 1:10. The evaluation trench and associated feature along with the test pit were surveyed in with the use of a GPS system. The GPS system also recorded levels across the areas of investigation.
- 6.5 Digital Photographs were taken where relevant. No unusual health and safety issues were encountered during the evaluation.

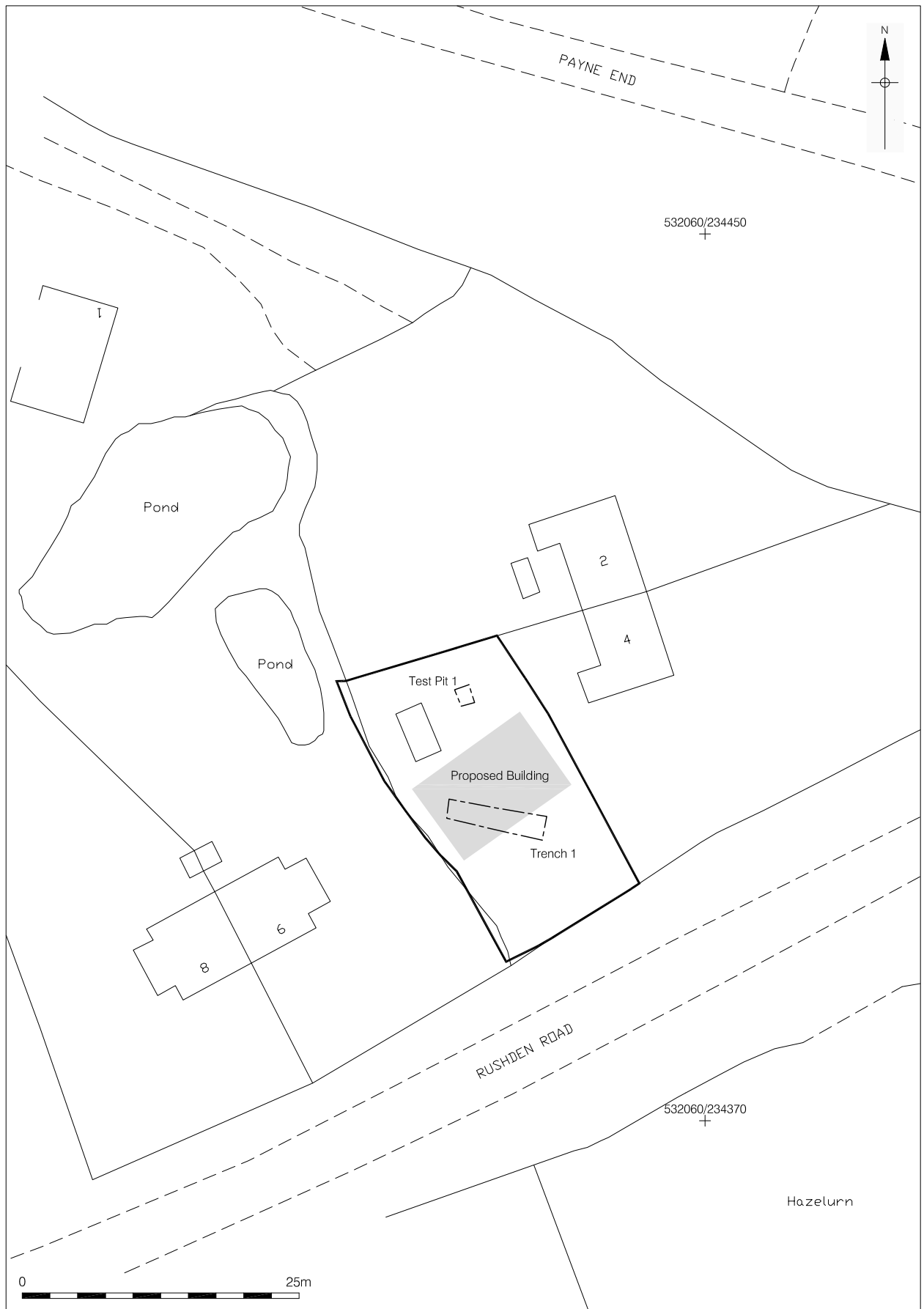


Figure 2
Trench Location
1:500 at A4

7 ARCHAEOLOGICAL PHASE DISCUSSION

7.1 Evaluation Trench

Phase 1 – Natural Geological Deposits

- 7.1.1 The evaluation trench measured 8m in length from east to west and 2m in width from north to south. The earliest deposit encountered at the base of the trench was the natural geological deposit [1], which was recorded as a stiff deposit of light yellow brown silty clay with occasional inclusions of small sub-angular pebbles. The clay was recorded at between 147.71m aOD and 147.94m aOD.

Phase 2 – Undated Root Disturbance

- 7.1.2 Cutting into the natural geological deposit at the eastern end of the trench was a sub oval cut [4] with concave sides and a flat base at a highest level of 147.76m aOD. Measuring 1.04m in diameter and 0.15m in depth as exposed, this feature extended beyond the southern limit of the excavation and was filled by a soft deposit of light blue greenish grey silty clay [3], containing occasional small sub-angular pebbles. A single piece of struck flint was recovered from this context, suggesting that the feature was prehistoric in origin. The presence of bio-turbation and roots within the fill of the context indicated that the feature may have been created by root action however, and that the struck flint was likely to have been residual.

Phase 3 – Subsoil

- 7.1.3 Sealing [3] was the subsoil [2], a soft deposit of mid grey brown silt sand clay with occasional inclusions of charcoal and CBM (ceramic building material) flecks along with small sub-angular pebbles. Recorded in section only, this deposit measured up to 0.25m in thickness at a highest level of 148.33m aOD.

Phase 4 – Modern

- 7.1.4 Sealing [2] was the modern make-up and tarmac forming the driveway to No. 4 Rushden Road. Measuring up to 0.28m in thickness, this modern overburden was recorded at a highest level of 148.40m aOD.

7.2 Test Pit

Phase 1 - Natural

- 7.2.1 The geotechnical test pit measured 1.4m from east to west and 1.5m from north to south. The earliest deposit encountered at the base of the pit was the natural geological deposit [7] which was identical to context [1] recorded in the evaluation trench. Observed at a highest level of 147.34m aOD, [7] extended up to at least 1.5m

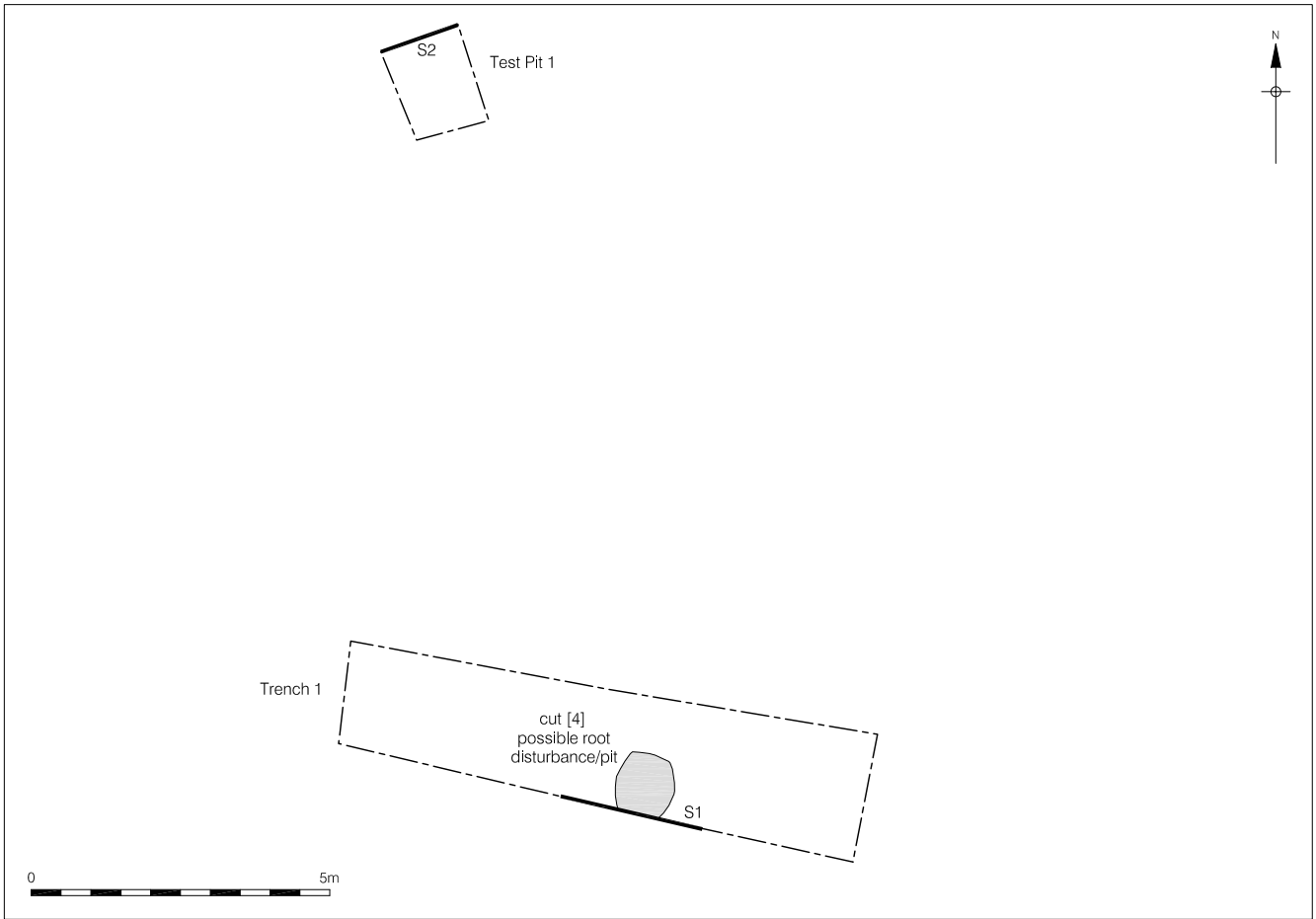
in thickness, with flecks of chalk becoming more frequent within the deposit towards the base of the test pit.

Phase 3 – Subsoil

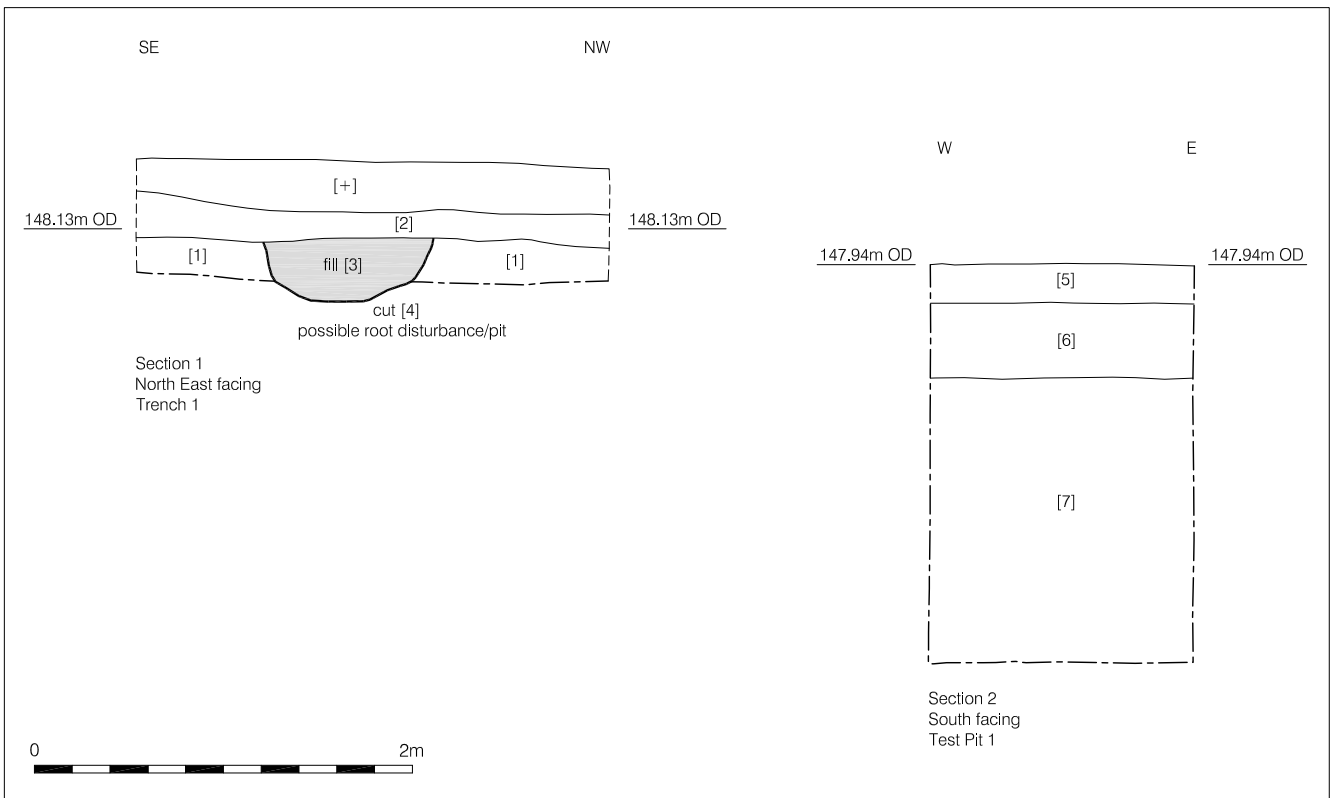
- 7.2.2 Overlying [7] was subsoil [6] which was identical to the subsoil recorded in the evaluation trench. Recorded at a highest level of 147.74m aOD this deposit measured up to 0.4m in thickness.

Phase 4 – Modern

- 7.2.3 Topsoil [5] sealed [6] at 148.06m aOD and was described as a loose, dark brown grey deposit of sand silt clay. Inclusions comprised occasional small sub-angular stones and occasional root disturbance.



Trench Plan and Section Locations
1:125 at A4



8 INTERPRETATION AND CONCLUSIONS

- 8.1 One of the principal objectives of the archaeological evaluation was to determine the presence or absence of archaeological activity of any period. As the site is situated within an Area of Archaeological Significance an evaluation was required.
- 8.2 In total only one cut feature was recorded as cutting into the natural geological deposits within the trench. This feature contained a single struck flint, but with evidence of both bio-turbation and root disturbance recorded within the fill of this cut, it was most likely to have been created as a direct result of root action. The presence of the struck flint does however provide evidence of prehistoric activity within the immediate vicinity of the Site.
- 8.3 Other than contexts [3] and [4], this evaluation has confirmed that there are no archaeological deposits and features predating the 19th century within the trench.
- 8.4 The natural geological deposit within the site was a stiff light yellow brown silty clay with occasional inclusions of small sub-angular pebbles.

9 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 9.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited would like to thank Mary Hanson for commissioning the work. Thanks are also due to Keith Fitzpatrick (North Hertfordshire District Council Archaeology Officer) and Andy Instone (Hertfordshire County Planning Archaeologist) for monitoring the evaluation on behalf of the Local Planning Authority.
- 9.2 The author would like to thank Richard Archer for all of his assistance on the site and for the surveying; Hayley Baxter for the illustrations and Charlotte Matthews for her project management and editing.

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Limited unpublished report

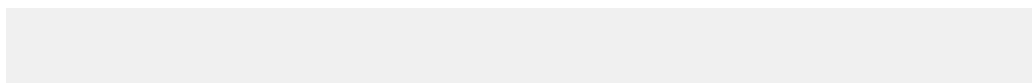
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2010)

APPENDIX 1 – CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Site Code	Context	Phase	Type	Trench. No.	Samp. No.	Sec. No.	Description
HRRS 10	1	1	Layer	Eval	-	1	Natural
HRRS 10	2	3	Layer	Eval	-	1	Subsoil
HRRS 10	3	2	Fill	Eval	1	1	Fill of [4]
HRRS 10	4	2	Cut	Eval	-	1	Root Disturbance
HRRS 10	5	4	Layer	TP	-	2	Topsoil
HRRS 10	6	3	Layer	TP	-	2	Subsoil
HRRS 10	7	1	Layer	TP	-	2	Natural

APPENDIX 2 – OASIS FORM

10.1 OASIS ID: preconst1-70481



Project details

Project name 4 Rushden Road, Sandon, Hertfordshire

Short description of the project An archaeological evaluation was undertaken on land at 4 Rushden Road, Sandon, Hertfordshire on the 13th January 2010. In total one trench was excavated and a further geotechnical test pit excavated by the contractor was monitored under archaeological supervision. A single feature interpreted as a root disturbance was recorded in the evaluation trench. One residual piece struck flint was recovered from the fill of this feature.

Project dates Start: 12-01-2010 End: 12-01-2010

Previous/future work No / Not known

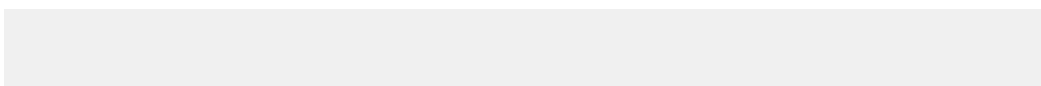
Any associated project reference codes HRRS 10 - Sitecode

Type of project Field evaluation

Site status (other) Area of Archaeological Significance

Current Land use Other 15 - Other

Monument type	NATURAL FEATURE Uncertain
Significant Finds	LITHIC IMPLEMENT Uncertain
Methods & techniques	'Sample Trenches','Targeted Trenches','Test Pits'
Development type	Small-scale (e.g. single house, etc.)
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)



Project location

Country	England
Site location	HERTFORDSHIRE NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE SANDON 4 Rushden Road, Sandon Hertfordshire
Postcode	SG9 0QR
Study area	96.42 Square metres
Site coordinates	TL 3204 3439 51.9917995514 -0.07671409515010 51 59 30 N 000 04 36 W Point

Height OD / Depth Min: 147.34m Max: 147.94m

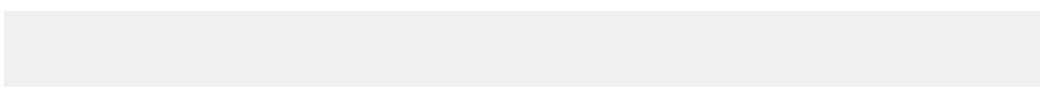
Project creators

Name of Organisation	PCA
Project brief originator	PCA
Project design originator	Andy Instone
Project director/manager	Charlotte Matthews
Project supervisor	Alexis Haslam
Type of sponsor/funding body	Private Client

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Local museum
----------------------------	--------------

Physical Contents	'Worked stone/lithics'
Digital Archive recipient	Local museum
Digital Contents	'Stratigraphic','Survey'
Digital Media available	'Spreadsheets','Survey','Text'
Paper Archive recipient	Local Museum
Paper Media available	'Context sheet','Correspondence','Photograph','Report','Section','Survey','Unpublished Text'



Project bibliography 1

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Title	An Archaeological Evaluation at 4 Rushden Road, Sandon, Hertfordshire SG9 0QR
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