

**LAND AT ST JOHNS STREET,
HERTFORD, HERTFORDSHIRE,
SG14 1RX**

**AN ASSESSMENT OF AN
EVALUATION AND WATCHING
BRIEF**

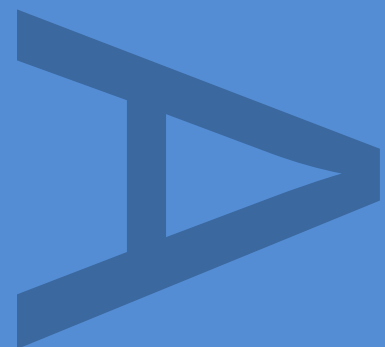
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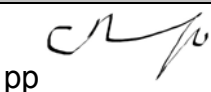

PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY

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LAND AT ST JOHNS STREET, HERTFORD,
HERTFORDSHIRE, SG14 1RX: AN ASSESSMENT
OF AN EVALUATION AND WATCHING BRIEF

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Land at St Johns Street, Hertford, Hertfordshire, SG14 1RX

An Assessment of an Evaluation and Watching Brief

Planning Application Number: 3/10/0793/FP

Local Planning Authority: East Hertfordshire District Council

Central NGR: TL32981290

Site Code: HSJS10

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Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd, June 2011

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CONTENTS

1	Abstract	4
2	Introduction.....	5
3	Planning Background.....	7
4	Geological And Topographical Background.....	10
5	Archaeological And Historical Background	11
6	Archaeological Methodology	19
7	The Archaeological Sequence	20
7.1	<i>Phase 1: Natural</i>	20
7.2	<i>Phase 2: Prehistoric (Figure 4)</i>	20
7.3	<i>Phase 3: Roman (Figure 5)</i>	20
7.4	<i>Phase 4: Medieval (Figure 6)</i>	20
7.5	<i>Phase 5: Post-Medieval (Figure 7)</i>	21
7.6	<i>Phase 6: 19th And 20th Century (Figure 8)</i>	24
8	Original And Revised Research Objectives	26
9	Contents Of The Archive.....	29
10	Importance Of The Results, Further Work And Publication Outline	30
11	Acknowledgments.....	31
12	Bibliography.....	32

APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Context Index.....	49
Appendix 2: Site Matrix	54
Appendix 3: Pottery Assessment.....	55
Appendix 4: Lithic Spot-Dating	57
Appendix 5: Faunal Assessment.....	58
Appendix 6: Ceramic Building Material Assessment	59
Appendix 7: Glass Spot-Dating	61
Appendix 8: OASIS Report Form	62
Appendix 9: Historic Environment Record Summary Sheet	65

ILLUSTRATIONS

Figure 1: Site Location	34
Figure 2: Trench Locations	35
Figure 3: Watching Brief Footings Trench.....	36
Figure 4: Phase 2: Prehistoric.....	37
Figure 5: Phase 3: Roman	38
Figure 6: Phase 4: Medieval.....	39
Figure 7: Phase 5: Post-Medieval	40
Figure 8: Phase 6: 19 th -20 th Century.....	41
Figure 9: Sections.....	42

PLATES

Plate 1: Trench 2, view S during evaluation.....	43
Plate 2: Trench 2, view NNE after trench enlargement	43
Plate 3: Trench 3, view S, after evaluation machining.....	44
Plate 4: Trench 3, view N after evaluation excavation.....	44
Plate 5: Trench 3, view N showing enlarged area	45
Plate 6: Trench 4, view E of evaluation.....	45
Plate 7: View SW of centre of WB area	46
Plate 8: View NW of northern WB area.....	46
Plate 9: View S of southern section of WB area.....	47
Plate 10: View ENE of southern arm of WB area.....	47
Plate 11: View E of southern arm of WB area.....	48
Plate 12: View N of eastern arm of WB area	48

1 ABSTRACT

- 1.1 This report details the results of an archaeological investigation undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd on land at St Johns Street, Hertford, Hertfordshire SG14 1RX (Figure 1). The central National Grid Reference for the site is TL32981290. The commissioning client was CgMs Consulting on behalf of Sandhill Homes.
- 1.2 CgMs Consulting had previously undertaken an archaeological Desk-Based Assessment for the site (Hawkins 2008), which researched the sites archaeological potential.
- 1.3 In December 2010 PCA, appointed by CgMs Consulting, undertook an archaeological watching brief during the removal of previous foundations at the site (Pullen 2010). This work demonstrated that the site retained in situ horizons in which archaeological remains could be present.
- 1.4 The fieldwork reported here was undertaken in two phases. Between 12th and 25th of January 2011 PCA undertook an evaluation at the site comprising four trenches designed to assess the presence or absence of archaeology. Immediately after this work two trenches, which contained archaeological remains of interest, were enlarged to allow targeted mitigation work. Finally, intermittently between 3rd and 15th of March 2011, PCA maintained a watching brief during the excavation of new foundations for the proposed development (Figure 2).
- 1.5 All works were designed by Duncan Hawkins of CgMs Consulting following liaison and agreement with the Development Control Archaeologist for the Local Planning Authority, Alison Tinniswood of Hertfordshire County Council.
- 1.6 The evaluation revealed that Trench 1, in the NE corner of the site, had been severely truncated in the 20th century to the level of the natural gravels. In Trenches 2, 3 and 4, however, a series of postholes, pits and linear features were observed. Because of the concentration and possible alignment of the postholes it was agreed with Alison Tinniswood that Trenches 2 and 3 would be enlarged. The Trench 2 extension revealed more of a post-medieval linear feature and one posthole. In Trench 3 possible prehistoric pits, possible medieval pits and a series of post-medieval postholes and linear features were found. The final watching brief yielded further information about features in Trench 2 and also revealed some large modern intrusions.
- 1.7 Natural sandy gravels were observed throughout the site.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 In response to a planned development on land at St Johns Street, Hertford Hertfordshire SG14 1RX (Figure 1), an archaeological evaluation and watching brief watching brief were undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd variously between 12th January and 15th March 2011. The site occupied a polygonal plot of land, centred at TL32981290 and bordered by properties named 'The Waterfront' to the north, properties fronting Mill Road to the east, Mitre Court to the west and St. Johns Street to the south.
- 2.2 CgMs Consulting had previously undertaken an archaeological Desk-Based Assessment for the site (Hawkins 2008), which researched the sites archaeological potential.
- 2.3 In December 2010 PCA undertook an archaeological watching brief during the removal of previous foundations at the site (Pullen 2010). This work demonstrated that the site retained in situ horizons in which archaeological remains could be present.
- 2.4 Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd was appointed to the project by Duncan Hawkins of CgMs Consulting, acting on behalf of the client Sandhill Homes. The fieldwork was supervised by the author, Shane Maher, and project managed by Chris Mayo. The work was monitored by the Development Control Archaeologist for the Local Planning Authority, Alison Tinniswood of Hertfordshire County Council.
- 2.5 The fieldwork was undertaken in two phases. Between 12th and 25th of January 2011 PCA undertook an evaluation at the site comprising four trenches designed to assess the presence or absence of archaeology and to determine the potential impact the planned development would have on such remains. The evaluation was undertaken in accordance with a Specification for the work (Mayo 2011a) which had been approved by Alison Tinniswood. Immediately following the evaluation two trenches were enlarged to allow targeted mitigation work, in accordance with a further approved Specification (Mayo 2011b). Finally, intermittently between 3rd and 15th of March 2011, PCA maintained a watching brief during the excavation of new foundations for the proposed development (Figure 2).
- 2.6 This project has followed the parameters and methodologies set out in:
- English Heritage, 1990, 'Management of Archaeological Projects'
 - English Heritage, 2006, 'The Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment'
 - Institute of Field Archaeologists, revised 2001, 'Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs'
 - ALGAO, 2003, 'Standards for Fieldwork in the East of England', East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 14
- 2.7 Pre-Construct Archaeology is a Registered Archaeological Organisation (number 23) with the Institute of Archaeologists.
- 2.8 This document forms an assessment report for the evaluation, mitigation work and monitoring exercise, and is designed to be submitted for approval to the Local Planning

Authority pursuant to the discharge of the client's archaeological condition. It presents the results and makes recommendations for further work to analyse and disseminate the results.

- 2.9 The completed archive for the project, comprising written, drawn and photographic records, will be deposited with the Hertford Museum under the site code **HSJS10**.

3 PLANNING BACKGROUND

3.1 National Policy

3.1.1 In March 2010 the Department of the Environment issued Planning Policy Statement 5 (PPS5) "Planning for the Historic Environment", providing guidance for planning authorities, property owners, developers and others on the preservation and investigation of heritage assets.

3.1.2 In short, government policies provide a framework which:

- Protect Scheduled Ancient Monuments;
- Protect the settings of these sites;
- Protect nationally important un-scheduled ancient monuments;
- Has a presumption in favour of in situ preservation;
- In appropriate circumstances, requires adequate information (from field evaluation) to enable informed decisions; and
- Provides for the excavation and investigation of sites not important enough to merit in situ preservation

3.1.3 In considering any proposal for development, the local planning authority will be mindful of the policy framework set by government guidance, in this instance PPS5, of existing development plan policy and of other material considerations.

3.2 Regional Policy

3.2.1 The East of England Plan (formerly the Regional Spatial Strategy), published on 12th May 2008 sets out the spatial strategy to guide development in the East of England for at least the next 20 years. The East of England Plan includes Policy ENV6 relating to the Historic Environment:

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 EXCEPTION 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

- THE WIDE VARIETY OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONUMENTS, SITES AND BURIED DEPOSITS WHICH INCLUDE MANY SCHEDULED ANCIENT MONUMENTS AND OTHER NATIONALLY IMPORTANT ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSETS.
- 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.

3.3 Local Policy

3.3.1 This investigation aims to satisfy the objectives of East Herts District Council, which fully recognises the importance of the buried heritage for which they are the custodians. The districts 'adopted local plan' (ALP) (implemented in 2007) contains policy statements in respect of protecting the buried archaeological resource.

3.3.2 Below is an extract taken from the East Herts District Council Adopted Local Plan. The ALP mirrors advice contained in the Communities and Local Government document "Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment (PPS5)". Although the ALP is currently being replaced by the Local Development Framework, the policies contained within it remain in force.

Archaeology

9.3.1 Archaeological remains form the oldest element of our built heritage and are often the only evidence of that part of our history for which no written records exist. There are over 1200 individual records of known archaeological sites and finds in the District, some of national or regional importance.

9.3.2 This is reflected in the District's 42 Scheduled Monuments, protected by law as sites of national importance. Around a further 300 sites are identified as 'Areas of Archaeological Significance' where there is particular evidence to indicate that significant remains are likely to exist.

9.3.3 The nature of archaeological evidence means that all areas of high potential may not have yet been identified. Important archaeological evidence may exist on any site, and thus may be at risk from proposed developments. The District Council, in conjunction with the County Archaeologist and relevant bodies, is determined to identify and protect all important remains through the use of appropriate policies and their implementation through the development control process.

9.3.4 PPG16 establishes how archaeological remains and interests should be taken into account by the planning system. Part A points out that remains are a finite, non-renewable resource vulnerable to damage and destruction in the development process. Part B of PPG16 requires Local Plans to include policies for the protection, preservation and enhancement of archaeological sites. Paragraph 21 of PPG16 points out that where important archaeological remains are likely to exist, it is reasonable for the planning authority to request a field evaluation be carried out prior to determining a planning application.

9.3.5 Not all surviving archaeological remains are of equal importance and Policies BH1 and BH2 reflect this hierarchy. Policy BH1 contains a presumption against development that will adversely affect a site containing archaeological remains of national importance. Where locally important archaeology is deemed by way of an assessment to be rare in regional or local terms, then the Council will decide whether to protect the site and its setting from development or to record the remains prior to development, in accordance with the provisions of Policy BH2.

BH1 Archaeology & New Development

Development will not be permitted where the Council considers that it will adversely affect archaeological sites of national importance, whether scheduled or unscheduled, and their setting.

BH2 Archaeological Evaluations and Assessments

On sites where it is demonstrated that there are remains of archaeological importance, whether of national or local significance, the applicant will be expected to provide the results of an archaeological evaluation and/or assessment prior to the determination of an application. The evaluation and/or assessment should seek to define: the nature and condition of any archaeological remains within the application site; and the likely impact of the proposed development on such features. On the basis of the results of the evaluation and/or the assessment, the Council will consider the most appropriate means of mitigating the impact of the development on the historic environment in order to achieve preservation in situ or, where this is not merited, the measures needed to secure the recording of any remains prior to development.

BH3 Archaeological Conditions and Agreements

Where development is permitted on sites containing archaeological remains, any planning permission will be subject to conditions and/or formal agreements requiring appropriate excavation and recording in advance of development and the publication of the results. The enhancement of archaeological remains and their setting will be sought by way of a planning obligation in circumstances where such works are necessary and relevant to the development

3.4 Planning Permission

- 3.4.1 The proposed development has received full planning permission from East Hertfordshire District Council (application number 3/10/0793/FP) which included a condition requiring archaeological work.
- 3.4.2 The Site lies within an Area of Archaeological Significance as detailed in the East Herts Local Plan 2007.
- 3.4.3 The site does not contain any scheduled ancient monuments or listed buildings.

4 GEOLOGICAL AND TOPOGRAPHICAL BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The British Geological Survey (1:50,000 scale; Geology Sheet No. 239) for Hertford indicates the site to be underlain by glacial gravels of Pleistocene age. These in turn overlie Cretaceous Upper Chalk. Originally the site would have been covered by glaciofluvial drift soils of the Ludford association, but these were probably largely disturbed or removed by 19th and 20th century development.
- 4.2 Prior to the redevelopment, the site lay at an elevation of between 40m and 41m OD and was broadly level. Directly to the north is an artificial basin, Hertford Marina, dug in the mid 19th century and associated with the New River, which opened in 1613. Beyond this is the original River Lea, c. 100m north of the site. The site itself occupies a position on the first gravel terrace on the south side of the Lea Valley.

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

5.1 Introduction

- 5.1.1 The following archaeological and historical background is derived from an archaeological Desk-Based Assessment produced for the site by CgMs Consulting (Hawkins 2008) and from an Archaeological Assessment Report produced by PCA for a site immediately adjacent (Boyer 2006).

5.2 Prehistoric

- 5.2.1 Evidence of early prehistoric activity (Palaeolithic to Neolithic) in the local area is sparse and comes mostly from chance finds within glacial sands and gravels.
- 5.2.2 A Palaeolithic handaxe is known from glacial sands and gravels in the churchyard of All Saints Church, Hertford, to the southwest (SMR Ref: 2073, TL328125), and two Palaeolithic handaxes, five retouched flakes and struck flakes were found in glacial gravels associated with the rivers Lea and Beane (SMR Ref: 4124, TL330125). A further Palaeolithic handaxe was recovered from a later context in Area 4 of extensive excavations at Foxholes Farm, c. 1km southeast of the site (Partridge 1989, 7). Various Palaeolithic implements are known from old gravel pits in the Hertford area, most notably from 'Ware Road pit', less than 1km ESE of the site (SMR Ref: 4127, TL336126).
- 5.2.3 A number of flint artefacts of Mesolithic date were recovered during excavations at Foxholes Farm during the 1970s and 1980s (Partridge 1989). Further down the Lea Valley Mesolithic flint assemblages have been identified at a number of sites in the valley bottom. A number of features and flint implements were found during excavations at the Glaxo site in Ware (Partridge 1981), and Rikoff's Pit, Broxbourne, for example, produced one of the most important Mesolithic assemblages in southern England (Warren et al. 1934). A Mesolithic site was also identified at Roydon Road, Stanstead Abbots, during excavation for a swimming pool in 1971 (Davies et al. 1982). Mesolithic implements have been recorded as residual finds in later contexts on excavations in areas overlooking the valley (e.g. Boyer 2004).
- 5.2.4 Following the Mesolithic period, most of the known prehistoric sites in the Hertford area have tended to be situated on crested locations on the higher ground and gravel terraces overlooking the principal river valleys (Zeepvat 1995, 4).
- 5.2.5 Four Neolithic axe heads were found during building work at 'Fair Acre' in Mangrove Road, Hertford prior to 1970. From the recorded grid reference the findspot appears to have been c. 1.2km SSE of the study site (SMR Ref: 1161, TL33121178). Evidence of widespread Neolithic occupation was also recorded at Foxholes Farm. This included a number of curious 'banana-shaped' pits containing quantities of struck flint and interpreted as working hollows (Partridge 1989, 8-9). A number of 'shaft pits', including one with a noteworthy flint assemblage were also recorded on this site, and pottery sherds dating to both the earlier and later Neolithic periods were recovered. A small quantity of struck flint, broadly dated from the Neolithic to the Bronze Age, was also found close to the Foxholes Farm site, at

Rush Green (Coles 2000).

- 5.2.6 At the Foxholes Farm excavations abundant evidence for later prehistoric activity, both of a domestic and agricultural nature was identified. Two large circular huts with porches and two smaller circular structures dated to the Bronze Age were recorded at the site, along with a number of other post-built structures and pits. The evidence has been interpreted as suggesting an organised settlement (Partridge 1989, 10-12). Two cremation burials of Bronze Age date were also found, though they did not appear to be associated with each other, or any other features.
- 5.2.7 At Rush Green, a short distance northeast of the Foxholes Farm excavations, Evans (1892) recorded two possible Bronze Age gold bracelets. A little further afield, at Prior's Wood, Hertford Heath, some 2km to the southeast, a small quantity of Late Bronze Age axes and ingots was recovered as a result of metal detecting (Partridge 1979).
- 5.2.8 At Foxholes Farm there appears to have been a continuity of occupation from the Late Bronze Age into the Early Iron Age, and during the Middle Iron Age an enclosed settlement developed (Partridge 1989, 13-14). During the Late Iron Age two further large enclosures were constructed, and whilst they had a number of internal features there was a dearth of evidence of domestic structures. Further evidence of Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age activity comes from excavations at Mangrove Road, to the southwest of Foxholes Farm and 1km south of the study site (Boyer 2005).

5.3 Roman

- 5.3.1 From Hertford town centre, evidence for Roman occupation has been quite sparse. Roman pottery was recovered from Maidenhead Street during the 1890s. To the rear of 54 St. Andrew Street, remains of Late Iron Age and Roman date were recovered, suggested a possible small settlement (Cooper-Reade 1990). At Millbridge, next to the River Lea, Roman remains of 1st century AD date were identified, and included part of a circular enclosure and an urned cremation burial (Hillelson 1991). This may have been associated with the activity identified at St. Andrew Street.
- 5.3.2 Further evidence of Roman activity comes from the excavations at Foxholes Farm. Extensive occupation was detected here and could be divided into two broad themes. From the 2nd to 4th centuries the site was dominated by agriculture, with farms and field systems. In the 4th century industry came to prominence, with evidence of iron and bronze working coming from the site. This may have been associated with later agricultural activity, indeed a number of features identified as corn-drying ovens were located in close proximity to industrial ovens and furnaces (Partridge 1989, 15-18).
- 5.3.3 A Roman coin is recorded from the area of Wesley Avenue, Hertford, less than 1km southwest of the site. The coin, from the reign of Aurelian (AD 270-275) was recovered from an allotment in 1940 (SMR Ref: 1401, TL32551228). Another coin is also known from the area of Balls Park Road, a little under 1km southeast of the site (SMR Ref: 2069, TL335122). This has been dated to the reign of Constans (AD 337- 350).
- 5.3.4 A small Roman cemetery, probably comprising just four or five burials with associated grave

goods, is known from just south of Mangrove Hall, on land overlooking the Lea valley, less than 1km south of the study site (Caldecott 1900) (SMR Ref: 1164, TL33061214). The finds included several pottery urns and a dish, all of 4th century types. They were found whilst levelling an area for a tennis court at the end of the 19th century.

- 5.3.5 A short distance down the Lea Valley, a small Roman settlement was established at Ware, at the point where Roman Ermine Street crossed the River Lea, and which is now occupied by the Glaxo SmithKline complex. Evidence from here suggests occupation from the immediate pre-Roman period through to the immediate post-Roman period.

5.4 Saxon/Early Medieval

- 5.4.1 Sometime after the end of Roman occupation, probably between AD 500 and AD 600 the bridge across the River Lea at Ware became unusable. This bridge had been a key crossing point as it carried Ermine Street and linked London with areas further to the north. As an alternative a fording point was found at Hertford and north-south communications to and from London began to utilise this detour from Ermine Street (Kiln and Partridge 1995, 65). This probably led to the development of the first post-Roman settlement at Hertford.
- 5.4.2 In common with much of Hertfordshire, evidence for sub-Roman and early to middle Saxon settlement is scarce. However, middle Saxon activity has been recorded at Foxholes farm, with a number of sunken-featured buildings (SFBs), dated to c. AD 600-800 being present (Partridge 1989, 18-20), along with quantities of Saxon pottery. During the Saxon and early medieval periods the study site probably lay in woodland or agricultural land, within the hinterland of settlements.
- 5.4.3 The first mention of Hertford in historical texts associated with the Synod of Archbishop Theodore, which met at Hertford on 26th September 672 (Stenton 1985, 133), though there has been some debate in the past that this may have been at Hartford, now on the outskirts of Huntingdon in Cambridgeshire.
- 5.4.4 The town of Hertford was first established by Edward the Elder in AD912-13 and originally comprised two separate towns or burhs, one to the north and the other to the south of the River Lea (Westell 1931, 65). These fortified settlements were established in the early 10th century as part of Edward's campaign to conquer the Danelaw. The River Lea marked the approximate boundary of Danish controlled land to the north and Saxon land to the south. Indeed a complete Viking sword has been recovered from the River Lea, next to McMullen's brewery (Bryant and Seddon 1999, 4).
- 5.4.5 The northern burh was constructed first, in AD912. Little evidence has come to light for the laying out of streets, markets or property boundaries, and is thought likely that its primary function was a military one (Bryant and Seddon 1999, 5). There has been some evidence of domestic activity, however, with a waterlogged cess pit of 10th-11th century date excavated at Millbridge.
- 5.4.6 The southern burh was a rectangular settlement, approximately 4.5 hectares in area, centred on Salisbury Square. It would have had a regular street grid, which included the current Fore Street, Railway Street, Market Street, Church Street and Bull Plain (Bryant and

Seddon 1999, 4-5). The defences of the burhs would have comprised substantial ditches and earthen banks with wooden palisades. Excavations in the early 1970s, to the rear of 31 and 33 Railway Street revealed a large NNW-SSE aligned ditch, 2.3m deep and conjectured to have been around 6m wide. It had been backfilled during the 12th century, but its construction was probably contemporary with the establishment of the burh. The excavator suggests that the ditch was not large enough for defensive purposes and was probably a demarcation line within the southern burh rather than being the actual burh ditch (Petchey 1977).

5.4.7 There was possibly a late Saxon or early medieval cemetery in the area of the present day Shire Hall. Excavation for a water tank at 4 Market Place in 1943, for sewer works in 1975 and for renovation of the hall in 1988, all revealed human remains in this area (Bryant and Seddon 1999, 13). During the construction of the Green Dragon Hotel in Parliament Square in 1903, significant quantities of Saxo-Norman pottery were recovered. However, excavations in the same area in the early 1970s revealed only post-medieval disturbance (Petchey 1977).

5.4.8 At about the time that the burhs were established, the county of Hertfordshire was created and Hertford established as the county town and administrative centre. The county of Bedfordshire and the double burh of Bedford were similarly established a short time afterwards.

5.4.9 Hertford appears to have become a prosperous town between its establishment and the Norman Conquest of 1066, and housed a mint from the AD920s. Excavations in the 1980s at what is now the Bircherley Green Centre, less than 250m southwest of the study site, showed that settlement had extended beyond the eastern defences of the southern burh by the 11th century (Bryant and Seddon 1999, 6). The northern burh banks and ditches appear to have been levelled and filled in by the 12th century (Kiln and Partridge 1995, 105). Domesday Book indicates that Hertford was an important town, comprising 54 'houses', and was governed as a Royal Borough. Interestingly, it also mentions that Hertford comprised ten hides, which would have been a far greater area than that covered by the two burhs. A large area of hinterland must therefore have been included. A motte and bailey castle was probably erected soon after the Conquest, though it was not documented until 1141 (Bryant and Seddon 1999, 7).

5.5 Later Medieval

5.5.1 Hertford continued to prosper until the early 13th century, despite its location, away from the main thoroughfares to and from London. Extensive rebuilding of the castle in stone was carried out under Henry II from 1170 to 1175. Evidence from excavation has shown that this rebuilding extended into areas previously under domestic occupation (Petchey 1977). It is also apparent from excavation that the outer bailey was created during these works (Zeepvat and Cooper-Reade 1996). The castle was garrisoned in 1174 and further work was carried out in the 13th and 14th centuries and a gatehouse added around 1460. From the 12th to 13th centuries the development of the castle led to ribbon development to the

west (Kiln and Partridge 1995, 103). Indeed, limited evidence of occupation during the 13th to 14th centuries has come to light along West Street (Murray and Humphrey 1998).

- 5.5.2 A market probably originated in the southern burh, though it was not documented until the reign of King John in the early 13th century. This was probably located between Fore Street and Maidenhead/Railway Street. It saw fluctuating fortunes and there appears to have been encroachment of buildings into the market place by the late 16th century (Bryant and Seddon 1999, 8-9). John Speede's map of 1610 also suggests there may have been a second market on the north side of the river at Old Cross, but there is no further documentary evidence for this. A number of fairs also took place in the town. The earliest was an annual one documented for 1226, and further fairs were established in later years, though James I reduced the number back to one during his reign (Bryant and Seddon 1999, 9).
- 5.5.3 A number of religious houses were established in the town. The earliest documented religious activity may have originated as early as the 6th century and have been centred around two crosses, one at Old Cross and another in the old market place. These would have been preaching crosses and there would not have been any associated buildings (Kiln and Partridge 1995, 65-6). One of the earliest church buildings was probably that of St. Mary-the-Less located at Old Cross. Although not documented until 1218 it probably had Saxon origins, and may even have been incorporated into the northern burh defences (Kiln and Partridge 1995, 81). It appears to have been demolished at the time of the Reformation. Another church that may have had Saxon origins was that of St. Nicholas, though it was not documented until 1269. It was probably located in the area of Maidenhead Street, but was disused by 1535 and demolished by the mid 17th century (Bryant and Seddon 1999, 9-13). St. Mary's Priory and St. John's Church were also established in the early medieval period.
- 5.5.4 Other Hertford churches with medieval origins were All Saints and St. Andrews. Documentary evidence suggests that All Saints was founded in the 11th century; this being confirmed in a document dated 1189, though the current church was erected as recently as 1895. St. Andrew's Church was first mentioned in 1208, but was rebuilt in the late 19th century (Bryant and Seddon 1999, 9-13).
- 5.5.5 As early as the late 12th century Hertford experienced commercial competition following the building of a new bridge across the River Lea at Ware. This was located on a more direct north-south route from London and consequently Hertford suffered a loss of passing trade. This was partly arrested by the Hertford bailiffs penalising Ware, which led to animosity between the two towns. Trade in Hertford declined resulting from Ware's increasing success from the mid 13th century (Bryant and Seddon 1999, 15).
- 5.5.6 Despite the decline in trade Hertford remained the administrative centre of the county and the town continued to expand. It also enjoyed some level of prosperity until Elizabethan times, even housing Parliament during times of plague in 16th century London (Kiln and Partridge 1995, 114).

5.6 Post-Medieval

5.6.1 In the late 16th century Hertford suffered badly from the effects of plague and took some time to recover. However in later centuries the town again began to prosper as road links with London were improved. The rich agricultural land around the town was used to grow important crops and corn and malt could be traded through the town to the rapidly expanding London market. Along with Ware it became an important centre of the brewing and malting industry and many coaching inns were established to satisfy the increasing north-south trade. Other industries were also established in the town such as a bell foundry, built at 14 Parliament Square in 1780 and replaced by a printing works around 1830 (Bryant and Seddon 1999, 23). Trade links with the capital were further cemented by the coming of the railway in 1843.

5.7 St. Mary's Priory and the Priory Estate

5.7.1 Of significant importance to the archaeological potential of the study site are St. Mary's Priory and the Priory Estate. The Benedictine priory of St. Mary Monk (or St. Mary the Virgin) was founded between 1086 and 1093 on land between the present Priory Street and St. John's Street, now occupied by Mitre Court, less than 100m from the study site. It was established on land east of the town, which was outside the area and jurisdiction of the borough. The priory charter was confirmed between 1108 and 1123 by Henry I.

5.7.2 St. Mary's Priory was in the parish of St. John's and it is not clear whether St. Mary's and St. John's were one and the same, or two closely situated churches. Zeepvat (1995, 8) suggests that because the priory was so closely related to St. Johns, and because of the size and layout of the church, there was probably only a single building.

5.7.3 The history of the priory during the 13th and 14th centuries is little understood. It appears to have been quite prosperous during the 14th century and was extended in the 15th century, but suffered financial problems in the late 15th century. By 1525-6 the priory was occupied by the prior and only four monks. Following the dissolution in 1538 the priory was granted to Sir Anthony Denny, though the prior was still in post in 1539 and the priory probably did not finally surrender until 1540. However, it, and possibly also St. John's Church had ceased to exist by 1553, and the site was secularised, becoming the Priory Estate. Priory House, to the north and Priory Farm, to the east, were probably built at this time, most likely with stone from the defunct monastic buildings. The estate changed hands a number of times from the late 16th century onwards, with ownership being attributed to "Capt. John Townshend, RN" in the 1847 tithe award.

5.7.4 There are no records of St. John's Church between 1535 and 1622, suggesting that it was no longer in use or possibly even demolished. However it was rebuilt as a small chapel in 1629. This was short-lived and it was also demolished (Kiln and Partridge 1995, 104). In 1640 the parish of St. John's amalgamated with that of All Saints.

5.7.5 Excavations between 1988 and 1990 on the site of St. Mary's Priory and St. John's Church revealed the medieval nave of the church and numerous burials from the church and surrounding graveyard (Zeepvat 1996).

5.7.6 Priory House, located some 50m west of the study site appears to have been of 16th

- century date. It was enlarged sometime before 1733 and again before 1847. It was demolished sometime between 1890 and 1910.
- 5.7.7 The history of Priory Farm remains mostly obscure. It appears to have been broadly contemporary with Priory House and probably served as the “Home Farm” for the estate. The only tenant identified is one Charles Taylor, listed as the occupier in the 1847 tithe award. He also appears in later documents as a farmer and cattle dealer.
- 5.7.8 The earliest cartographic evidence for Priory Farm is a survey produced for Lord Townshend in 1733. It shows Priory Farm located on the west side of a road, which although unnamed, must be Mill Road. The farm occupies the same area as the former council depot, with buildings on the north and west sides of the site. A large building is located north of centre with a smaller structure midway along the east side of the site, adjacent to the road.
- 5.7.9 Andrews and Wren’s plan of Hertford, dated 1766 shows a group of buildings in the same location, though their layout appears somewhat schematic, as it differs from earlier and later maps. The land between Priory Farm and Priory House (labelled together as “The Priory” appears to have been an orchard, and Mill Road is labelled as Sow Lane.
- 5.7.10 During the late 18th and early 19th centuries the Priory Estate began to be broken up. By 1802, Cheston’s survey shows that the western part of the estate, once occupied by the medieval church and priory, had become a timber yard.
- 5.7.11 A plan of Hertford published in Turnor (1830) shows a similar arrangement of buildings to the 1733 survey, with the exception of the western range of buildings at Priory Farm, which have completely disappeared. However, these buildings reappear on a sketch plan dated 1847, are included in Andrew’s archive (1893), and appear to constitute a large T-shaped barn. A large, almost centrally placed building is identified as Priory Farm House, with gardens to the south and east. The southern part of the site is occupied by yards and sheds and Mill Road is shown as Priory Lane.
- 5.7.12 In 1853 the remainder of the estate was finally divided into plots and sold. The 1st edition Ordnance Survey map shows the study site completely changed, with the northern part of the site crossed by the Hertford Branch of the Great Northern Railway. The central part of the site has buildings on its east and west sides, labelled as “Pound” suggesting it had passed into the hands of the local authority as the town pound for stray animals. The southern part of the site has no buildings and Mill Road is labelled Dickermill Lane. The 2nd edition Ordnance Survey map of 1898 shows the railway still occupying the northern part of the site with the remainder being devoid of buildings. Mill Road is now shown as such.
- 5.7.13 In 1900 the Borough of Hertford commissioned the construction of the Mill Road Depot. The site is shown as “Corporation Depot” on the 1923 3rd edition Ordnance Survey map, and includes a number of buildings. The function of most of these is unclear, with the exception of the fire station at the southern end of the site. The Ordnance Survey map of 1963 shows most buildings on the site unchanged from 1923, except the fire station, which has been enlarged. In 1984 an application was made to demolish all the buildings. This demolition

duly took place and the buildings were replaced by those occupying the site immediately prior to the current redevelopment.

5.8 PCA Excavations in 2005

5.8.1 Between 10th June and 30th November 2005 a watching brief was carried out by Pre-Construct Archaeology at the former council depot, Mill Road, Hertford, to the immediate east of the site (Figure 2). During this work bases of a number of large postholes in N-S and E-W linear arrangements were revealed. In light of this a full excavation took place between 7th July and 2nd of August 2005. When excavated, the features consistently produced finds no later than 11th to 12th century date. It was thus thought that possibly a large medieval structure or structures were present, although a differing opinion is held by some that these remains are evidence of an arranged orchard. An earlier, smaller six-post structure was identified on the south side of the site, probably of early – middle Saxon date. Towards the northwest of the stripped area a concentration of residual prehistoric struck flint was recovered. A small number of post-medieval features were also excavated (Boyer 2006).

6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

- 6.1 The excavation of four trenches within the curtilage of the proposed development was designed in the Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation (Mayo 2011a), (see Figure 2). The evaluation trenches had the following dimensions:
- Trench 1 measured 19.06m by 1.8m and 1.2m deep, aligned ENE-WSW
 - Trench 2 measured 20.61m by 1.8m and 1.0m deep, aligned NW-SE
 - Trench 3 measured 20.90m by 1.8m and 1.2m deep, aligned N-S
 - Trench 4 measured 21.20m by 1.8m and 1.0m deep, aligned ENE-WSW
- 6.2 Prior to excavation the perimeter of each trench was marked using survey spray paint and then scanned using a cable avoidance tool (CAT). The trenches were excavated with a 360° mechanical excavator fitted with a flat-bladed bucket under the supervision of an archaeologist. Excavation progressed through modern material until archaeological horizons were observed.
- 6.3 All deposits were recorded on proforma context sheets. Trench plans and sections were drawn at a scale of 1:20 and 1:10 respectively, located onto trench baselines. These were then surveyed using a GPS surveying system at which time a temporary benchmark was also established, with a height of 40.22m OD beside the welfare facilities to the south of Trench 4. A photographic record was also kept of all the trenches in colour / monochrome slide and digital formats.
- 6.4 All features were investigated using hand tools so that a minimum sample of 50% of pits and postholes, and 20% of linear features was excavated. This percentage was increased if the excavated sample did not yield dating evidence.
- 6.5 Once the evaluation trenches had been opened a site inspection was made by Alison Tinniswood, who requested that Trenches 2 and 3 be enlarged to allow a further understanding of the nature of the remains within them. Therefore these trenches were enlarged by machine to increase their dimensions as follows:
- Trench 2 increased in size by 6m NE-SW and 5m NW-SE
 - Trench 3 increased in size by up to 5m E-W and 11m N-S
- 6.6 Including the trench extensions, each trench therefore encompassed the following areas:
- Trench 1 34.30m²
 - Trench 2 63.24m²
 - Trench 3 80.60m²
 - Trench 4 35.08m²
- 6.7 Following completion of the evaluation fieldwork, a watching brief was then undertaken during construction groundworks within the areas of the site identified as having the greatest archaeological potential or in the areas in which further information was hoped for. This led to the monitoring of the excavation of footings for the western range of buildings within the new development (Figures 2 and 3).

7 THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE

7.1 Phase 1: Natural

- 7.1.1 The underlying natural strata was recorded in all interventions. It was a loose, light brown yellow, sandy gravel [20], [28], [32], [68], [129], [130], [134] and [136] recorded at heights ranging between 39.32m OD in Trenches 2 and 4 and 38.85m OD in Trench 1.
- 7.1.2 In Trench 2 the gravel was seen to be overlain by a truncated deposit of loose, light reddish brown, gravelly sand [125] (see Figure 9, Section 15), recorded at 38.72m OD

7.2 Phase 2: Prehistoric (Figure 4)

- 7.2.1 In Trench 3 three possible prehistoric features were observed cutting the natural.
- 7.2.2 Cut [12], a possible pit or tree-throw, sub-rounded in shape with slightly irregularly sloped sides and a concave base, was observed at 39.11m OD. It measured 2.14m N-S by 1.98m E-W and was 0.82m deep. It was filled by a slightly friable, mid orangey brown, silty sand [11].
- 7.2.3 Possible pit cut [98] was sub-rounded in shape, with steeply sloping sides and a flat base. It was observed at 39.08m OD and had dimensions 1.41m N-S by 1.37m E-W and 0.82m deep. It was filled by friable, dark greyish brown, silty sand [97]. Five fragments of struck flint and a fragment of daub were recovered from this deposit.
- 7.2.4 Cut [100], a possible pit or posthole, was sub-rounded in shape with steeply sloping sides and a slightly concave base. It was recorded at 38.91m OD and measured 0.97m N-S by 0.99m E-W and 0.4m deep. It contained a friable, dark greyish brown, silty sand [99] which yielded one fragment of worked flint.

7.3 Phase 3: Roman (Figure 5)

- 7.3.1 In Trench 4 were found three possible Roman features cut into the natural, each of which had similar fills.
- 7.3.2 Pit [22] was observed at 39.25m OD measuring 1.2m N-S by 0.9m E-W and 0.45m deep (see Figure 9, Section 13). It was filled by a loose, light to mid grey brown, silty sandy gravel deposit [21].
- 7.3.3 Posthole [24] was observed at 39.32m OD measuring at least 0.3m N-S by 0.6m E-W and 0.25m deep. It was filled by a loose, mid grey brown, silty sandy gravel deposit [23] from which a fragment of grog-tempered pot, considered as possibly Roman, was recovered.
- 7.3.4 Posthole or pit [26] was observed at 39.25m OD measuring 1.02m N-S by 0.8m E-W and 0.20m deep. It contained a loose mid grey brown silty sandy gravel deposit [25] from which a fragment of abraded sandwich fired fine sandy ware, spot dated as Roman although undiagnostic, was recovered.

7.4 Phase 4: Medieval (Figure 6)

- 7.4.1 Eight possible medieval features were recorded within Trench 3.
- 7.4.2 Cut [115], a possible pit, was sub-oval in shape with gradually sloping sides and a concave

- base. This was observed at 39.28m OD measuring 2.1m N-S by 1.6m E-W and 0.45m deep. A deposit of firm to loose mid grey brown silty sandy gravels [114] filled it.
- 7.4.3 Cut [115] was truncated by pit [108], sub-oval in shape with steep to gradually sloping sides and a concave base. It was found at 39.28m OD measuring 2.2m N-S by 1.5m E-W and 0.42m deep. It was filled by a deposit of soft, light brown grey, gravelly sandy silt [107], which contained one fragment of early medieval sandy ware and ten pieces of struck flint. The pottery was spot dated 1000-1200, whilst CBM also found dates from 1180 to 1700.
- 7.4.4 A sub-circular posthole [110], with steeply sloping sides and a concave base, was observed at 39.23m OD truncating pit [108] (see Figure 9, Section 14). It measured 0.8m N-S by 0.7m E-W and 0.78m deep. This was filled by a deposit of firm, mid brown grey sandy silty gravel [109] which was found to contain ceramic building material (CBM), which had a date range of 1180 to 1450.
- 7.4.5 An E-W aligned linear feature [96], with near vertical sides and a flat base, truncated [107] (see Figure 9, Section 14). It was recorded at 39.22m OD and measured 0.4m N-S by 1.2m E-W and 0.21m deep. It was filled by a deposit of soft, mid to dark brownish grey sandy silt [95] which yielded fragments of early medieval sandy ware, the fragmented sherds of one jar, a fragment of Quartz and igneous ware. The context was spot dated 1000-1200.
- 7.4.6 Cut [112], a possible pit, was irregular in shape, due to later truncation, with gently sloping sides (see Figure 9, Section 14). This was observed at 39.24m OD measuring 1.5m N-S by 1.0m E-W and at least 0.73m deep. Filling this was a deposit of friable, dark greyish brown, silty gravelly sand [111], observed to be 0.34m thick. It was sealed by a deposit of soft, light brown grey, gravelly silty sand [113], measuring 1.5m N-S by 1.0m E-W and 0.43m thick. One fragment of worked flint and a fragment of CBM were recovered from context [113]; the CBM was dated from 1135 to 1600.
- 7.4.7 A sub-circular posthole [38], with gently sloping sides and a slightly concave base, was observed at 39.08m OD truncating the natural [32]. Measuring 0.8m N-S by 0.8m E-W and 0.25m deep, it was filled by a deposit of soft, mid grey brown silty sandy gravel [37]. A sub-circular posthole [36], with gently sloping sides and a concave base, was observed at 39.08m OD truncating [38]. This measured 0.4m N-S by 0.4m E-W and 0.45m deep. It was filled by a deposit of loose mid grey brown silty sandy gravel [35] and was found to contain CBM which is dated from 1240 to 1450. Cattle bone was also present.
- 7.4.8 A sub-circular posthole [34], with a concave base, was observed at 39.07m OD truncating the natural [32]. It measured 0.86m N-S by 0.84m E-W and 0.4m deep. It was filled by a deposit of loose, mid grey brown sandy gravel [33], from which a fragment of CBM was recovered, dating from 1135 to 1220.
- 7.5 Phase 5: Post-Medieval (Figure 7)**
- 7.5.1 A series of possible post-medieval features truncated the natural in Trench 2.
- 7.5.2 A sub-oval pit [123] measuring 1.64m N-S by 1.3m E-W and 0.55m deep was observed cutting deposit [125] at 38.98m OD (see Figure 9, Section 15). It was filled by a deposit of firm, mid brown grey, sandy gravel [124].

- 7.5.3 Cut [52], an undated posthole, was observed at 39.15m OD cutting the natural [68]. It measured 0.54m N-S by 0.56m E-W and 0.16m deep and was filled by a deposit of soft, light grey brown sandy silt [51], which contained CBM dating from 1180-1600. Truncating this, a shallow linear [46], aligned roughly N-S with a concave base, was observed between 39.15m OD and 39.07m OD. This measured 4.2m N-S by 0.4m E-W and 0.1m deep. Filling this, a deposit of soft, light brown grey, sandy silt [45] was found to contain a fragment of CBM which also dates from 1180-1600.
- 7.5.4 Posthole [117] was observed at 38.99m OD, measuring 0.58m N-S by 0.66m E-W and 0.18m deep, cutting [68]. This was filled by a deposit of loose, mid to dark grey brown, sandy silty gravel [116].
- 7.5.5 Cut [62], a posthole, was observed at 39.19m OD measuring 0.3m N-S by 0.48m E-W and 0.12m deep. This was filled by a deposit of soft light brownish silty sand [61].
- 7.5.6 An irregular shaped linear feature [60/119/121], aligned NE to SW with a concave base, truncated posthole [62] and pit [123]. This was observed at 39.30m OD measuring 2.3m N-S by 4.96m E-W and 0.85m deep. Filling this were three fills (see Figure 9, Sections 11 and 15); primary was a deposit of light brown grey sandy gravelly silt [63/124], with a thickness of 0.34m. Secondary was a deposit of light to mid brown grey gravelly silty sand [59/120] with a thickness of 0.8m. A fragment of CBM, dating from 1180 to 1600, was recovered from deposit [59]. Finally, the tertiary fill was a deposit of, mid grey brown, silty sandy gravels [118] with a thickness of 0.25m. A fragment of residual worked flint and cattle bone was recovered from [118].
- 7.5.7 Posthole cut [44] was observed at 39.14m OD measuring 0.6m N-S by 0.6m E-W and 0.3m deep. It was filled by deposit [43], which was similar in composition to fill [61]. The feature was truncated by posthole [42] at 39.14m OD measuring 0.7m N-S by 0.58m E-W and 0.25m deep. This was filled by a soft, light brown grey, silty sand [41], from which a fragment of CBM was recovered, dating from 1180 to 1600 along with cattle bone.
- 7.5.8 Linear [46] was truncated by two postholes, [48] and [50]. Posthole [48] was observed at 39.07m OD measuring 0.32m N-S by 0.36m E-W and 0.14m deep. Its fill was a soft mid to dark grey brown sandy silt [47]. Cut [50] was sub-oval in shape and was observed at 39.07m OD measuring 0.3m N-S by 0.6m E-W and 0.15m deep. This was filled by [49] which was similar in composition to [41].
- 7.5.9 A possible posthole [40] was observed at 39.18m OD measuring 0.66m N-S by 0.76m E-W and 0.44m deep. This was filled by [39], similar in composition to [41]. A fragment of CBM dating from 1180 to 1800 was recovered from this deposit.
- 7.5.10 A possible pit [54], sub-oval in shape, was observed at 39.15m OD measuring 1.1m NW to SE by 0.56m NE to SW and 0.24m deep. This was filled by [53], similar in composition to [41], and containing cattle bone.
- 7.5.11 Posthole [56], sub-oval in shape, was observed at 39.28m OD measuring 0.66m NW to SE by 0.43m NE to SW and 0.15m deep. This was filled by [55], which was similar in composition to [41].

- 7.5.12 Posthole [58] was observed at 39.28m OD measuring 0.48m N-S by 0.5m E-W and 0.2m deep. This was filled by [57], similar in composition to [41].
- 7.5.13 Posthole [67] was observed at 39.07m OD measuring 0.46m N-S by 0.4m E-W and 0.18m deep. This was filled by [66], similar in composition to [41].
- 7.5.14 In Trench 3 a series of postholes, roughly aligned NW to SE, two possible cart ruts and two small linear features were found.
- 7.5.15 A shallow E-W aligned linear feature [72] was observed cutting the natural [32] at 38.96m OD. The feature had irregular sloping sides and a concave base and was found to measure 0.6m N-S by 3.54m E-W and 0.27m deep. This was filled by a deposit of mid greyish brown silty gravelly sand [71]. Linear cut [74] was observed laying parallel to, and north of, [72] at 38.96m OD. It truncated possible medieval pit [115]. The feature had irregular sloping sides and a concave base and was found to measure 0.6m N-S by 2.62m E-W and 0.17m deep. It was filled by deposit [73], similar in composition to [71], from which a piece of CBM dating from 1180 to 1600 was recovered. The features have been tentatively interpreted as cart ruts, and are included here by their stratigraphic relationship with earlier features.
- 7.5.16 A shallow linear feature [16] was observed at 39.20m OD, was roughly aligned E-W, and had gently sloping sides and an almost flat base. It measured 0.87m N-S by 1.65m E-W and 0.17m deep. It was filled by a deposit of friable mid orange brown silty sand [15].
- 7.5.17 Shallow linear feature [106], a possible rootlet or animal burrow, with very shallow sides and a concave base, was observed at 39.06m OD to be roughly aligned NW to SE. It measured 1.94m NW to SE by 0.30m SW to NE and 0.10m deep. It was filled by a deposit of mid to dark brownish grey silty gravelly sand [105]. CBM from this context is dated from 1180 to 1700.
- 7.5.18 Cart ruts [72] and [74] were truncated by a sub-circular posthole [76] at 38.83m OD, which measured 1.06m N-S by 1.24m E-W and 0.53m deep. Filling this was a deposit of firm, mid to dark grey brown, gravelly silty sand [75]. A sherd of late medieval/ transitional redware recovered from the deposit was spot dated 1400-1600, although CBM also found is dated from 1600 to 1800.
- 7.5.19 Shallow linear [106] was truncated by two sub-circular postholes [90] and [102]. Posthole [90], observed at 39.07m OD had steep sides with a concave base and measured 0.8m N-S by 1.04m E-W and 0.27m deep. Filling this was a deposit of firm, mid to dark grey brown gravelly silty sand [89] (similar to [75]). A sherd of post-medieval redware and a sherd of post-medieval black-glazed redware were recovered from [89], dating from 1580–1700, and concurring well with CBM from the same context dating from 1600-1850.
- 7.5.20 A sub-rounded posthole [78], with steeply sloping sides and a concave base, was observed truncating the natural [32] at 38.88m OD. It measured 0.82m N-S by 0.62m E-W and 0.33m deep, and was filled by [77], a deposit similar in composition to [75], which contained a fragment of CBM dating from 1660 to 1750.
- 7.5.21 A sub-rounded posthole [80], with steeply sloping sides and a concave base, was observed truncating medieval pit [114] at 38.86m OD. This measured 0.80m N-S by 0.82m E-W and

- 0.26m deep. It was filled by [79], a deposit similar in composition to [75], and found to contain a fragment of CBM. This is dated from 1180 to 1700.
- 7.5.22 Posthole [82] was observed, truncating possible prehistoric pit [98] and medieval pit [114], at 38.94m OD. It was sub-circular in shape with steeply sloping sides and a concave base. It measured 0.74m N-S by 0.92m E-W and 0.32m deep, was filled by [81], a deposit similar in composition to [75], and was found to contain one fragment of residual worked flint.
- 7.5.23 Posthole [84] was observed at 38.92m OD truncating medieval pit [108]. It was found to be sub-circular in shape with steeply sloping sides and a concave base. This was found to measure 0.5m N-S by 0.64m E-W and 0.30m deep. It was filled by [83], a deposit similar in composition to [75].
- 7.5.24 Posthole [86] was observed at 39.02m OD also truncating medieval pit [107]. It was sub-circular in shape with steeply sloping sides and a concave base and measured 0.73m N-S by 0.62m E-W and 0.27m deep. It was filled by [85], a deposit similar in composition to [75]. CBM recovered from context [85] is dated from 1630 to 1800.
- 7.5.25 Postholes [78], [80], [82], [84], [86], [90] and [102] are grouped together in this phase by the similarity of their fills and the fact that they formed an alignment running NW to SE.
- 7.5.26 A sub-circular posthole [94], with steeply sloping sides and a concave base, was observed at 39.22m OD truncating possible medieval feature [96]. It measured 0.56m N-S by 0.40m E-W and 0.25m deep. This was filled by a deposit of firm, dark brown grey sandy silt [93].
- 7.5.27 A sub-circular posthole [104], with gradually sloping sides and a concave base, was observed at 39.03m OD truncating the natural [32]. It measured 1.06m N-S by 0.65m E-W and 0.15m deep. This was filled by a deposit of firm, mid brown grey sandy silt [103] containing CBM dated from 1135 to 1600.
- 7.5.28 An irregular shaped cut [18], with irregularly sloped sides and uneven base, was observed truncating the natural [32] at 39.07m OD. It measured 1.32m northeast to southwest by 1.2m northwest to south east and 0.42m deep. Filling this was a deposit of slightly friable, mid grey brown gravelly sand [17]. This feature could be a possible treethrow.
- 7.5.29 The watching brief during construction groundworks exposed two cuts, [128] and [133], to the southeast of Trench 2 truncating the natural. Cut [128] was observed 0.86m below ground level to be 1.14m E-W and 0.34m deep. This was filled by a deposit of mid grey brown sandy silt [127]. Cut [133] was observed 1.1m below ground level to be 0.6m N-S and 0.42m deep. This was filled by [132], similar in composition to [127]

7.6 Phase 6: 19th and 20th Century (Figure 8)

- 7.6.1 In Trench 1 a dumped deposit of late 20th century material [19] sealed the natural strata.
- 7.6.2 In Trench 2 a soft, mid to dark grey brown, gravelly silty sand [65] was observed, between 39.58m OD and 39.48m OD to be 0.3m thick, sealing the possible post-medieval features. This was sealed by a deposit of late 20th century made ground [64], observed between 40.09m OD and 40.05m OD and with a thickness of 0.6m (see Figure 9, Section 11). Sheet asbestos was observed within this deposit.
- 7.6.3 In Trench 3 a circular posthole [14], with gradually sloping sides and a slightly concave

base, was observed at 39.08m OD truncating the natural [32]. It measured 0.58m N-S by 0.55m E-W and 0.21m deep. This was filled by a deposit of friable, dark brown sandy silt [13] which was found to contain pot, glass, CBM and bone. The pot sherd was late medieval/ transitional redware, spot dated 1400 – 1600. The CBM was a fragment of tile dated from 1660-1800, meaning the pot sherd was probably residual. A soft, mid to dark brown, gravelly silty sand [31] was observed, between 39.49m OD and 39.47m OD to be 0.4m thick, sealing these features. In turn this was sealed by a deposit of late 20th century made ground [30], observed between 40.10m OD and 39.94m OD to be 0.6m thick.

- 7.6.4 Also in Trench 3 a sub-circular posthole [70], with near vertical sides and a slightly concave base, was observed at 39.11m OD truncating possible prehistoric feature [12]. It measured 0.68m N-S by 0.83m E-W and 0.43m deep. This was filled by a deposit of friable dark grey brown sandy silt [69] and found to contain, glass, metal, CBM, struck flint, oyster shell and bone (equine). The CBM and glass give a date for the fill from 1750 to 1800.
- 7.6.5 Another posthole [88] which was found in Trench 3 at 39.09m OD was left unexcavated owing to the presence of distinctly modern material within its upper fill [87].
- 7.6.6 In Trench 4 a soft, mid to dark brown, gravelly silty sand [65] was observed, between 39.56m OD and 39.52m OD to be 0.3m thick, sealing the possible Roman features. This was sealed by a deposit of late 20th century made ground [29], observed between 40.22m OD and 40.07m OD and with a thickness of 0.5m.
- 7.6.7 During the construction watching brief a ploughsoil deposit [126/131/135] was observed between 0.6m and 0.8m below ground level. This was sealed by recent levelling deposits.

8 ORIGINAL AND REVISED RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

8.1 The written schemes of investigation (Mayo 2011a & b), prepared before the commencement of archaeological work, raised a number of research objectives that may be addressed by the project.

8.2 To confirm or disprove the results of the geotechnical site investigation and watching brief.

8.2.1 The evaluation, enlarged investigation areas and watching brief have confirmed the findings of the watching brief conducted by PCA in 2010 (Pullen), that natural gravels at the site were overlain by a ploughsoil horizon. The natural terrace gravels were recorded at heights ranging between 39.32m OD in Trenches 2 and 4 and 38.85m OD in Trench 1.

8.2.2 The conclusions of an earlier geotechnical study at the site, which suggested widespread truncation and the presence of substantial thicknesses of made ground, have been shown to be erroneous.

8.3 To establish the presence, location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quantity of any archaeological remains if present.

8.3.1 Archaeological remains were observed in three of the four trenches. The excavation of Trench 1 and the monitoring of the foundation footings showed the area in the north of site had suffered heavy truncation from the 20th century onwards to the natural gravels. Archaeological deposits were concentrated in the middle, western and southern parts of site.

8.3.2 Possible prehistoric pits were observed in Trench 3. Worked flint recovered from them within secured contexts was spot dated between the Mesolithic and the Bronze Age, although the assessment of the finds led the lithic specialist to comment that most are rather chipped suggesting a high degree of residuality (Appendix 5).

8.3.3 Two pot sherds were recovered from two of the three postholes in Trench 4. One of these is dated to the Roman period whilst the other is considered to be either Roman or perhaps medieval.

8.3.4 Medieval features were observed towards the eastern edge Trench 3. A small linear feature, aligned roughly E-W, was found to contain sherds of early medieval sandy ware dated 1000-1200, from one jar, and one sherd of Quartz and igneous ware dated from the 5th – 7th century AD. Two possible pits were also observed, one of which was found to contain early medieval sandy ware dated 1000-1200.

8.3.5 Possible post-medieval features were observed in Trenches 2 and 3.

8.3.6 Twelve postholes, two linear features and a possible pit were observed in Trench 2. The postholes seem to be aligned roughly NW to SE (but this may be due to the alignment of the trench itself), suggesting that they may form part of a structure, possibly associated with St Mary's Priory or the priory estate. Nine of these postholes had similar fills suggesting that they were contemporary. A shallow linear feature aligned roughly N-S may or may not be

associated with the postholes. The irregularly shaped linear feature may be a drainage or enclosure ditch, possibly associated with the priory or estate. An irregular shaped pit could possibly be a natural feature, possibly a treebole.

- 8.3.7 Four linear features, fifteen postholes and one irregularly shaped feature were observed in Trench 3. Two of these linear features lie parallel to one another and were aligned roughly E-W. Their irregular edges and bases are consistent with them being cart ruts. The postholes are aligned roughly NW to SE, a similar alignment to those in Trench 2. Again this suggests that they are part of a structure maybe a barn other building associated with the priory or estate. Eight of the postholes had similar fills again suggesting that they might be contemporary. A shallow linear feature in the south of Trench 3 is probably the base of a small ditch that had been truncated or ploughed out. Two possible natural features were also observed, one of which have been the result of root action and the other a possible treethrow.
- 8.3.8 A deposit of ploughsoil was observed in all but the most northern areas of the site. This seems to date from the 19th to the 20th centuries.
- 8.3.9 The uniform upper level of the cut features suggests that a certain level of horizontal truncation has taken place across site, from agricultural activity (e.g. ploughing) or more modern actions, like the development of the railway to the north of site and the development of the Corporation Depot.
- 8.3.10 The presence of worked flint, spot dated to between the Mesolithic and Bronze Age suggests that there has been prehistoric activity on near to the site.
- 8.3.11 The presence of Roman pot sherds from two secure contexts in Trench 4 suggests that there has been Roman activity in the area, although the pot could be residual.
- 8.3.12 The concentration of medieval pot, most of it from one vessel in Trench 3, suggests that this may not be residual and that these features are medieval in date. Also the sherd of quartz and igneous ware hints at possible Saxon activity in the vicinity. On the adjacent site (HMIL05) a sherd of Early Saxon Charnwood Forest-type ware was identified containing granitic tempering and inclusions of dark mica (Sudds forthcoming).
- 8.3.13 Post-medieval activity is mainly in the form of northwest to southeast aligned postholes. This suggests the presence of structures or boundaries possibly associated with the priory or priory estate. The presence of possible structures on the adjacent site (HMIL05) shows that there had been considerable activity on and around the site, possibly due to the proximity of the River Lea and its transport links.
- 8.3.14 The quantity of animal bone recovered from the features corroborate, by virtue of the small size of animals from which they came, the pre-18th century dating of many of the features from Phases 4 and 5.
- 8.3.15 Assessment of the ceramic building material has raised the possibility of kiln-working being present in the vicinity. A number of pieces recovered from posthole [70] are noted to include 18th to 19th century vitrified glazed brick.

8.4 In the light of the findings from the investigation, a set of Revised Research Objectives can be designed to influence the preparation of this site for public dissemination, as follows:

8.5 Are the possible prehistoric pits similar to others found in the area, or are the finds residual?

8.5.1 The pits associated with Phase 2 were found to contain lithic artefacts with wide date ranges (i.e. Mesolithic to Bronze Age) suggesting that the features may be of a later date and that the flint could be residual. This possibility should be explored by comparison with contemporary sites in the vicinity.

8.6 What are the function of the aligned postholes, are they associated with the priory or later estate?

8.6.1 It was unsurprising to find aligned postholes, as similar alignments of postholes were recorded on the adjacent Mill Road site (HMIL05). Comparing both sites and their posthole alignments with the course of the River Lee could provide an idea of how the site developed in the medieval and post-medieval periods and how this relates to the priory and the later estate.

8.7 Is there evidence for kiln-working in the vicinity of the site in the late post-medieval period?

8.7.1 Although contained within only one feature, a quantity of vitrified and glazed CBM from posthole [70] is considered to perhaps represent some local manufacture of fired materials. Can such industry be reconciled elsewhere in the local archaeological or historic record?

9 CONTENTS OF THE ARCHIVE

9.1 Paper Records

Context Sheets	136 sheets
Sample Sheets	7 sheets
Plans	28 sheets
Sections	10 sheets

9.2 Photographic

Colour 35mm exposures	84
B&W 35mm exposures	84
Digital photographs	39

9.3 Artefacts

Pot	½ box
CBM	1 ½ boxes
Bone	½ box
Lithic	⅓ box
Glass	3 small bags

10 IMPORTANCE OF THE RESULTS, FURTHER WORK AND PUBLICATION OUTLINE

- 10.1 The evaluation revealed that in the NE corner of the site, in the area of Trench 1, there had been severe truncation in the 20th century to the level of the natural gravels. In Trenches 2, 3 and 4, however, a series of postholes, pits and linears were observed. The final watching brief yielded further information about features in Trench 2 and also revealed some large modern intrusions.
- 10.2 Natural sandy gravels were observed throughout the site.
- 10.3 The investigation has shown the presence of features attributable to the prehistoric, Roman, medieval and post-medieval periods at the site, although it should be noted that the prehistoric lithics may be residual.
- 10.4 Roman activity in the vicinity is generally sparse and therefore it may be considered that the presence of three possible Roman features may provide further information about activity in this area. The discovery of only three possible features and two pieces of possible Roman pottery (although undiagnostic) does, however, limit any meaningful conclusions and indeed the pottery, like the flints, may be residual.
- 10.5 The main bulk of the features at the site are attributable to the medieval and post-medieval periods, which is unsurprising given the nature of the archaeology recorded on the adjacent Mill Road site. Pits, linears and postholes formed evidence for possible settlement structures and activity. The archaeology should, when considered in tandem with the adjacent site, provide further information about the medieval and post-medieval development of the site.
- 10.6 The artefactual remains from the site are not extensive in number and not considered to be unusual, meaning that substantial further work on the archive is not recommended. Many of the features recorded were found to be undated and have therefore been grouped by alignment or similarity of fills, rather than secure dating.
- 10.7 The site is considered to be only of local significance.
- 10.8 It is considered that this site would be suitably published by means of a short note within a local journal, such as Hertfordshire Archaeology and History. PCA has recently submitted to that journal the publication text for the adjacent project at Mill Road, which is due for publication in Volume 17. An enquiry made to Dr Isobel Thompson, of the Historic Environment Record, Historic Environment Unit at Hertfordshire County Council has led to the suggestion that the St Johns Street site could be published as an addendum to the Mill Road paper. Such a note would include a synopsis of the setting and background to the site and the project, and the archaeological results in the context of the work undertaken by PCA at the Mill Road site. It would be illustrated with feature plans and photographs.

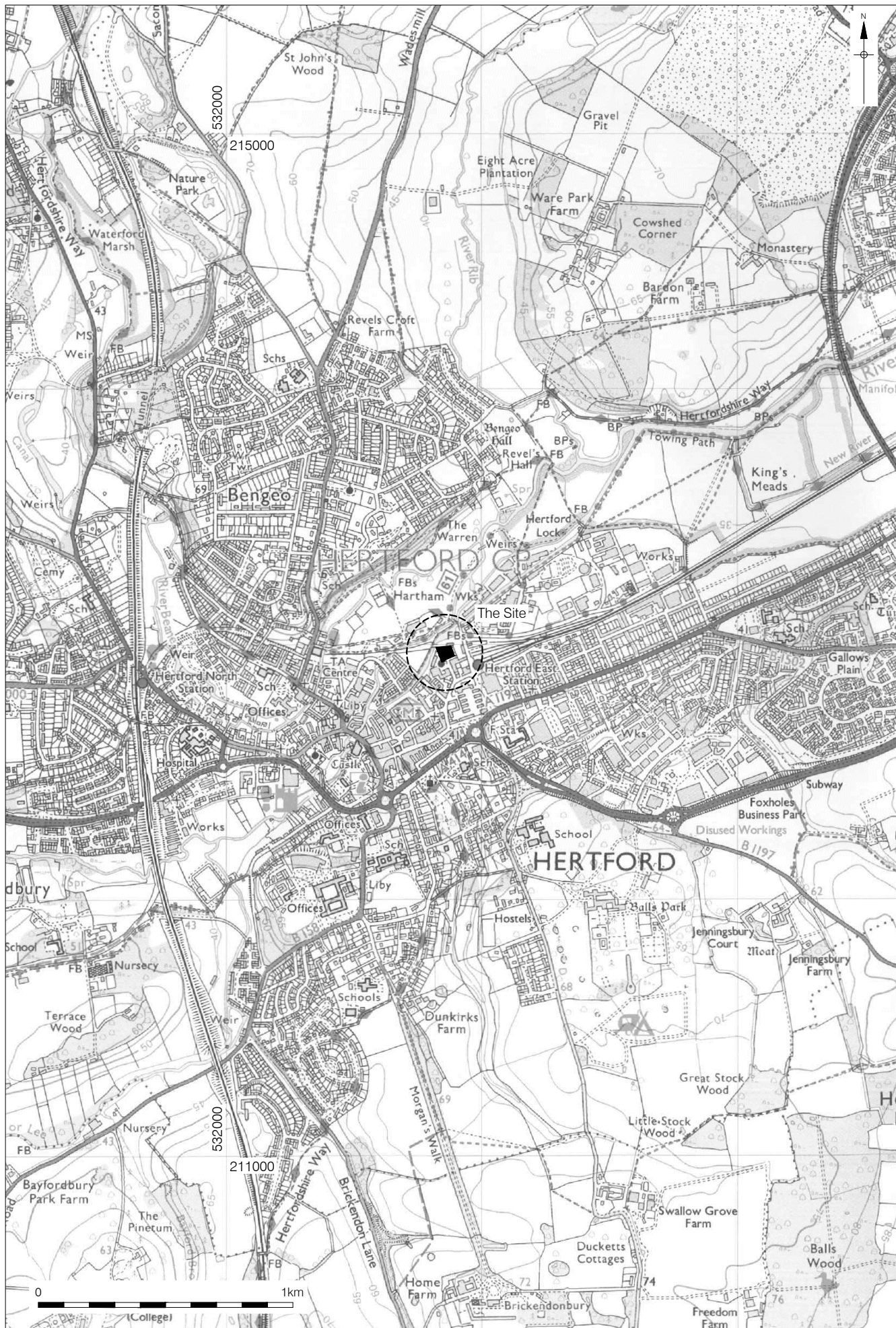
11 ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

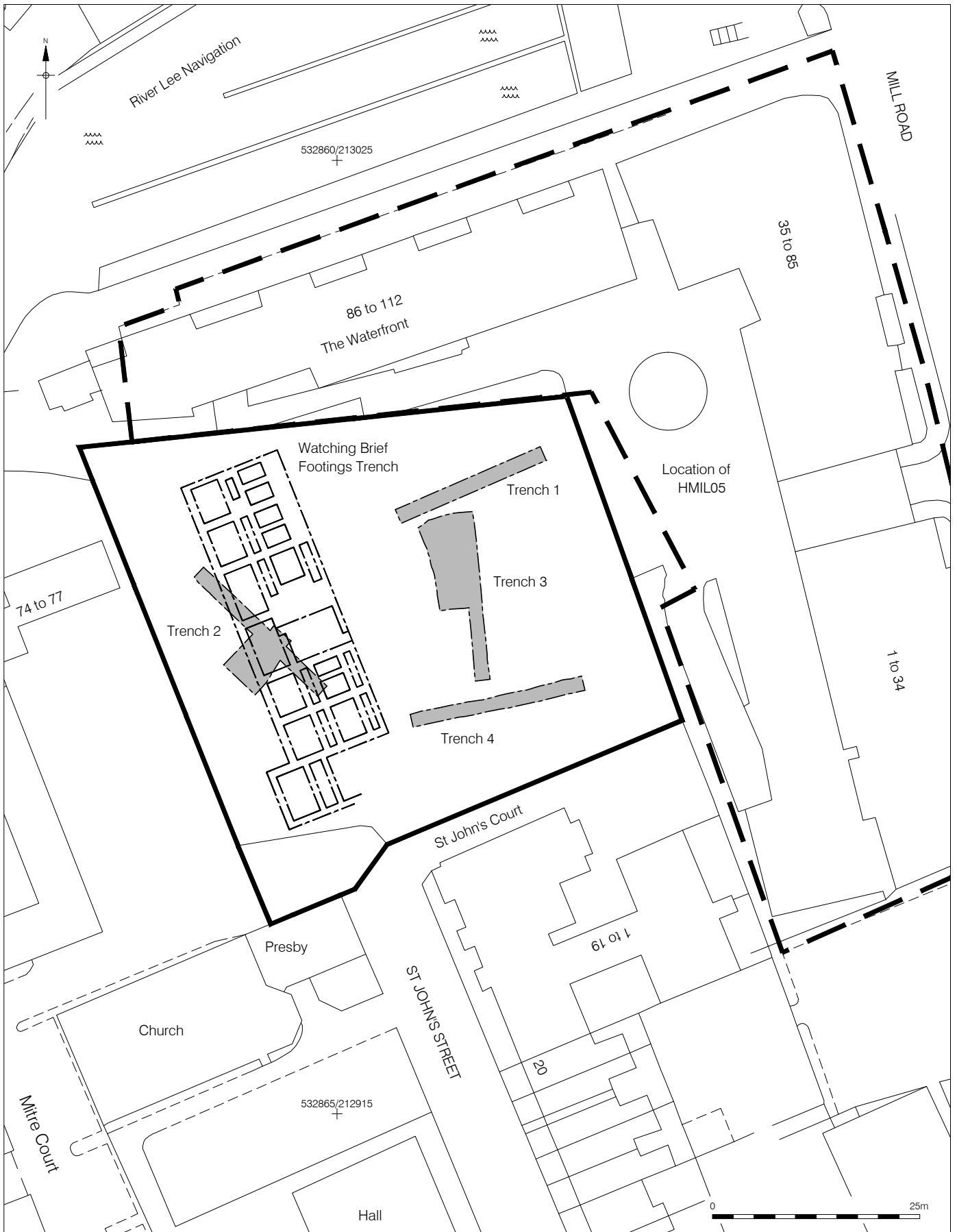
- 11.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd would like to thank Duncan Hawkins of CgMs Consulting for commissioning this archaeological work, and Alison Tinniswood of Hertfordshire County Council who monitored the project.
- 11.2 We would also like to express our thanks to Sandhill Homes, and particularly Nick Cooper, for funding and facilitating the work.
- 11.3 The author would like to thank Chris Mayo for project managing the site and editing this report, Alison Tigg for processing the survey data, Jennifer Simonson for the illustrations, Sophie White for logistical support, and Alexander Pullen, Anne Marie Flowers and Mathew Edmonds for their hard work on site.

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Figure 2
 Trench Location
 1:625 at A4

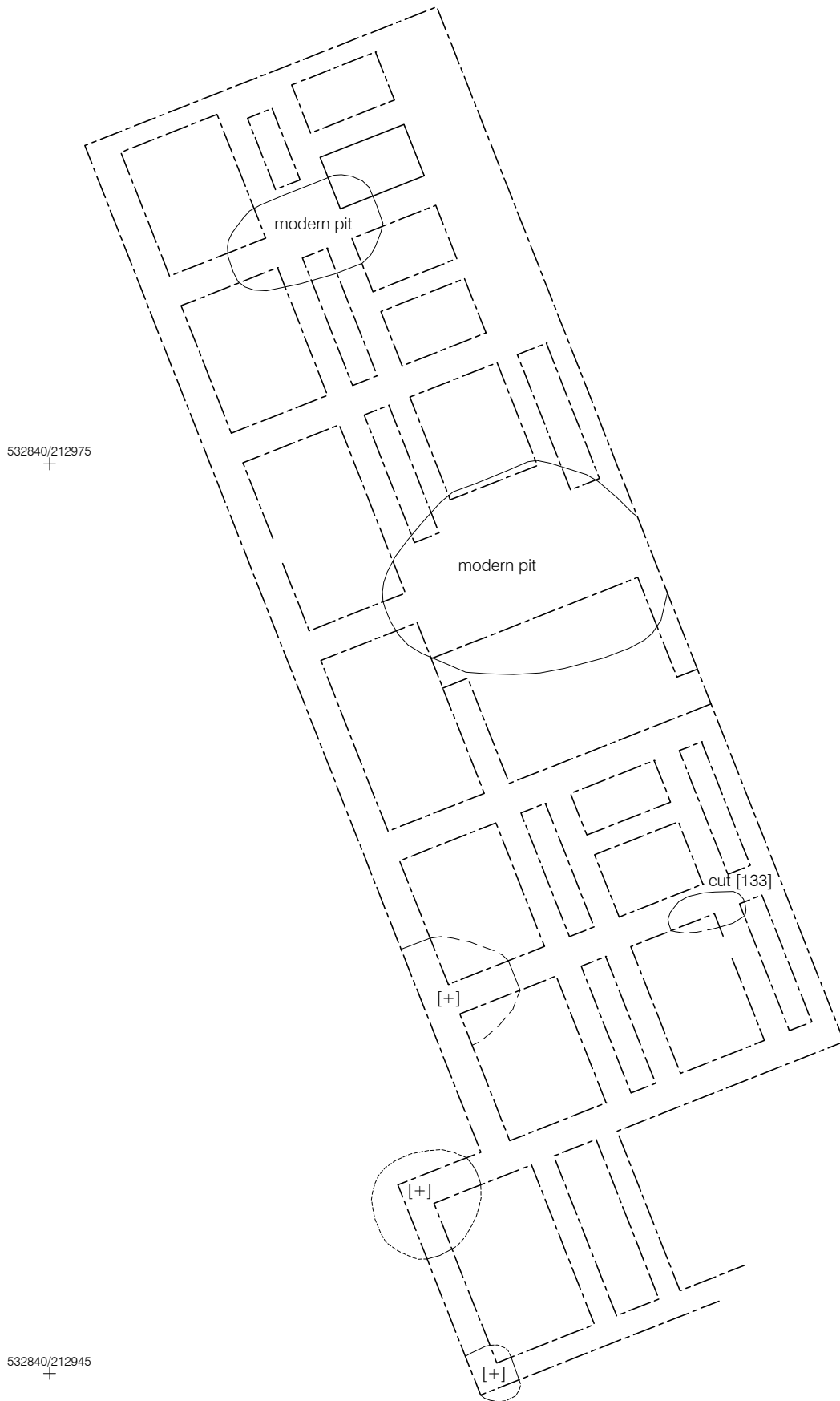
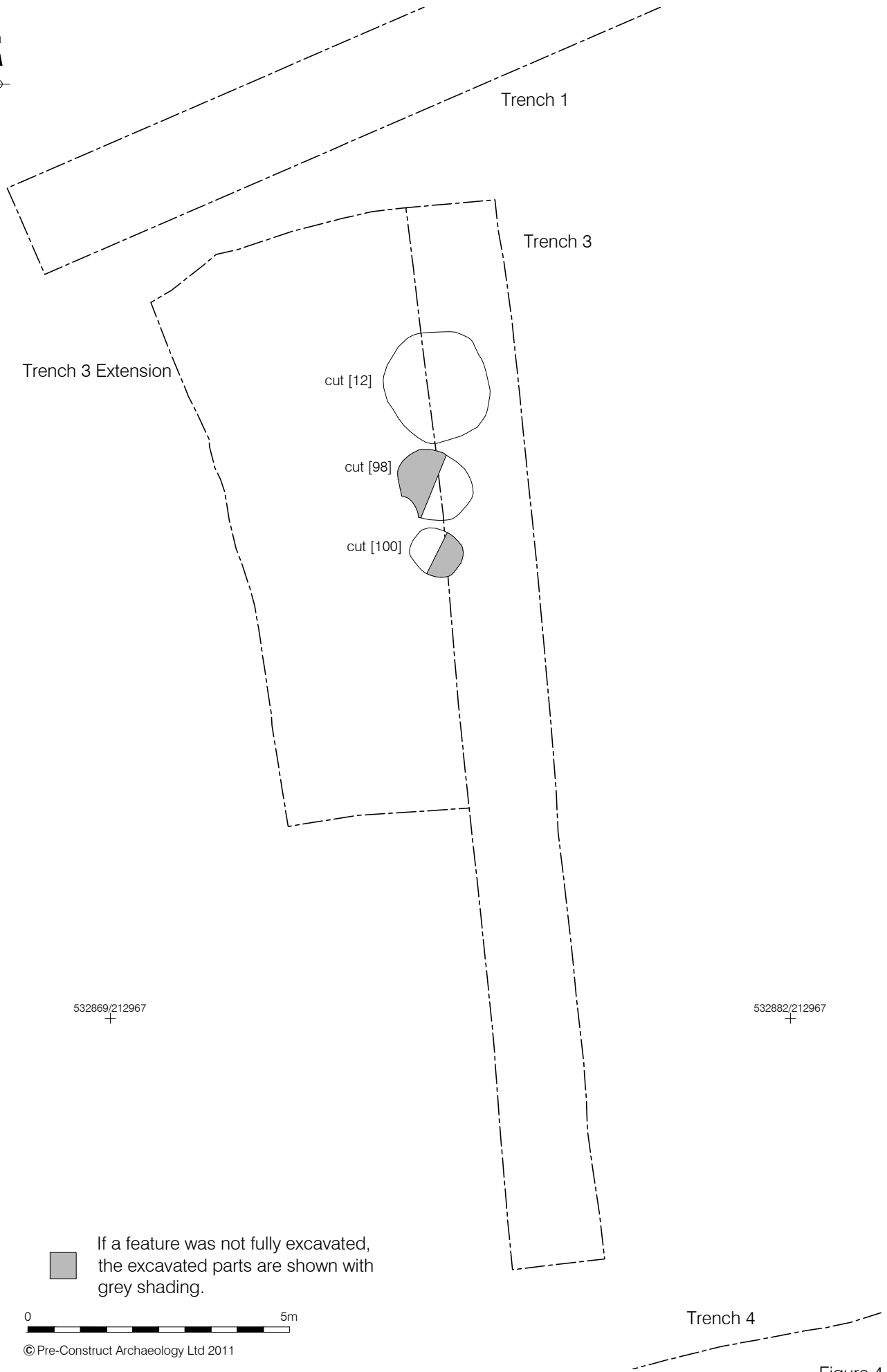


Figure 3
Watching Brief Footings Trench
1:200 at A4



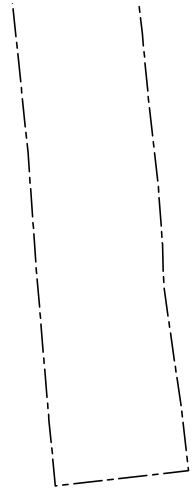
0 5m

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Figure 4
Phase 2: Prehistoric
1:100 at A4



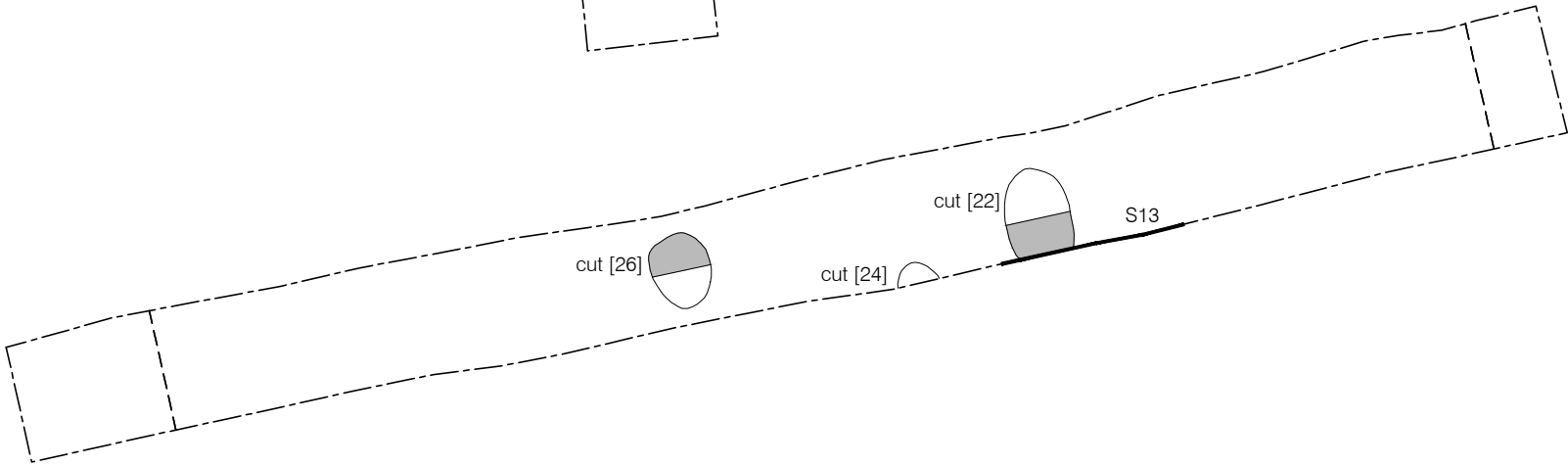
532869/212963
+



Trench 3

532886/212963
+

Trench 4



If a feature was not fully excavated,
the excavated parts are shown with
grey shading.



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Figure 5
Phase 3: Roman
1:100 at A4

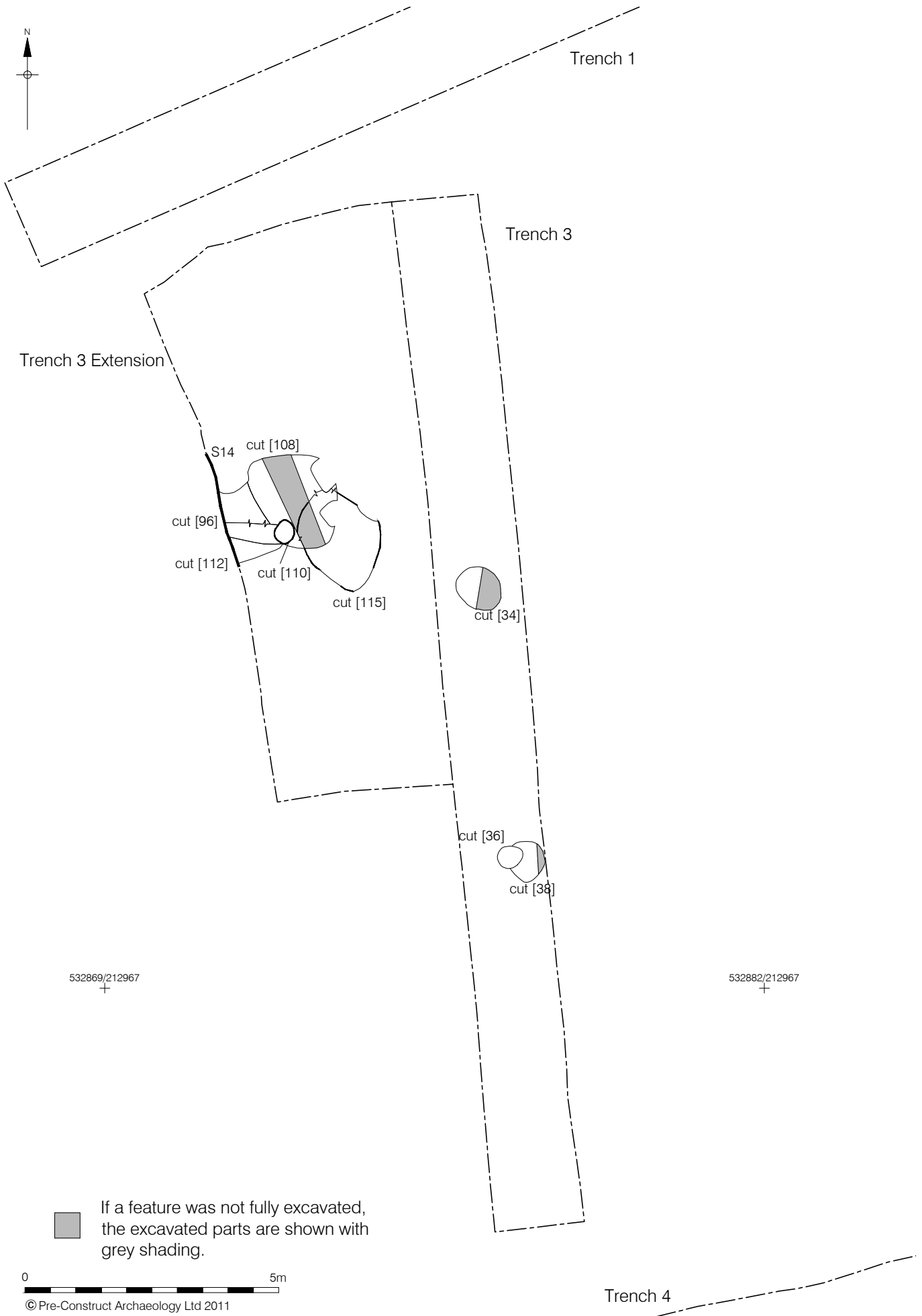
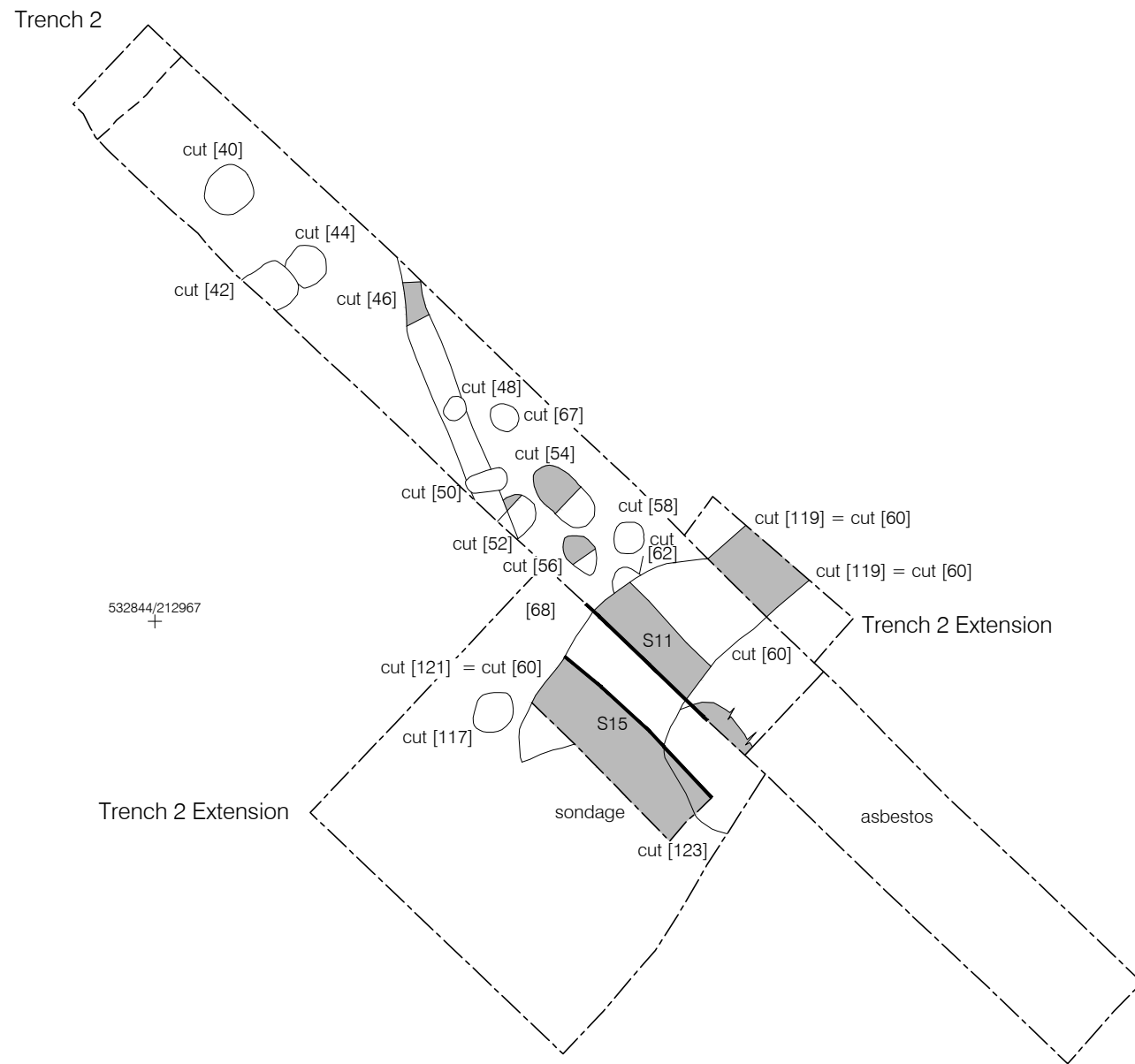



Figure 6
Phase 4: Medieval
1:100 at A4



 If a feature was not fully excavated, the excavated parts are shown with grey shading.

0  5m

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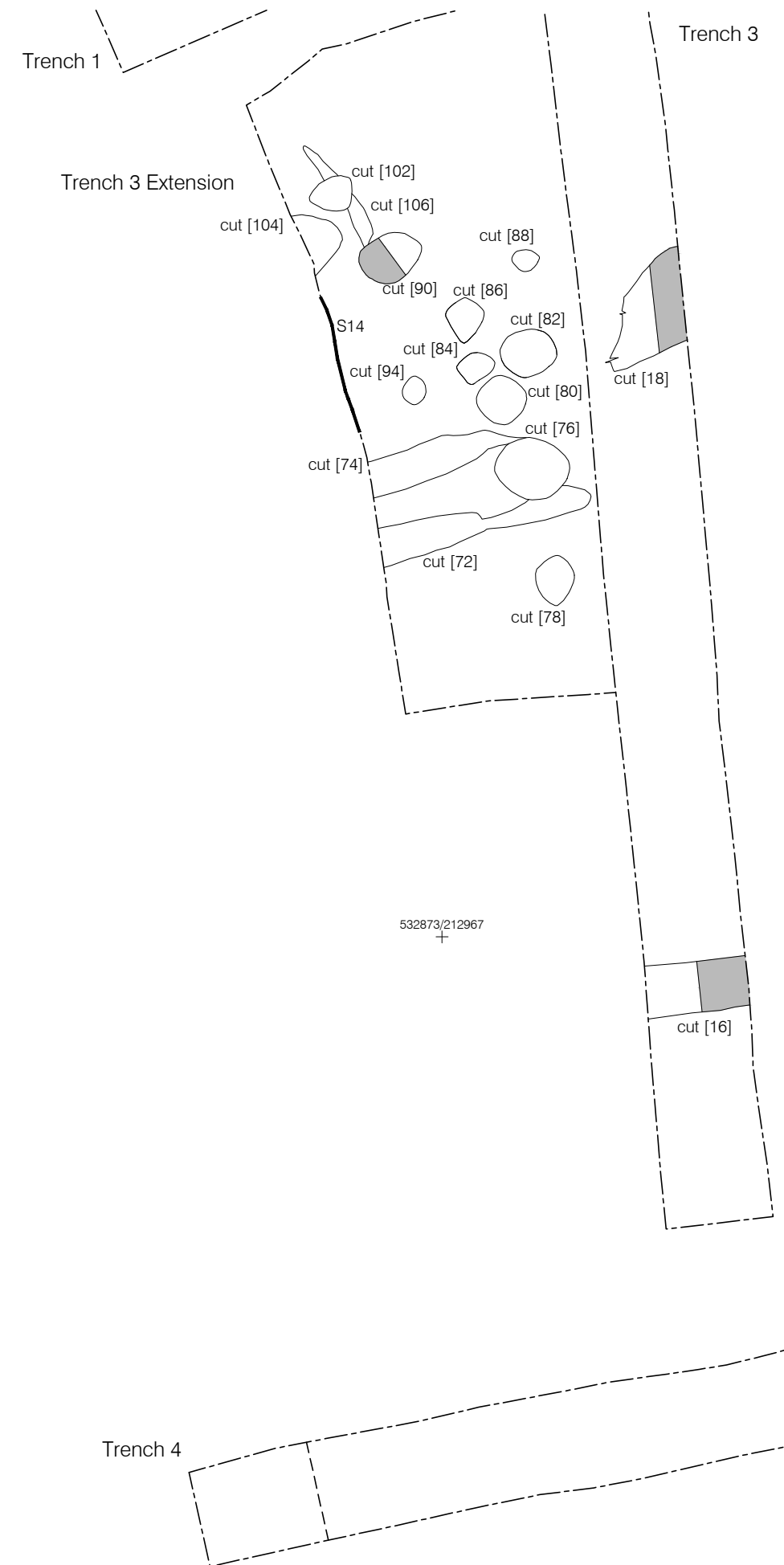


Figure 7
Phase 5: Post Medieval
1:100 at A3

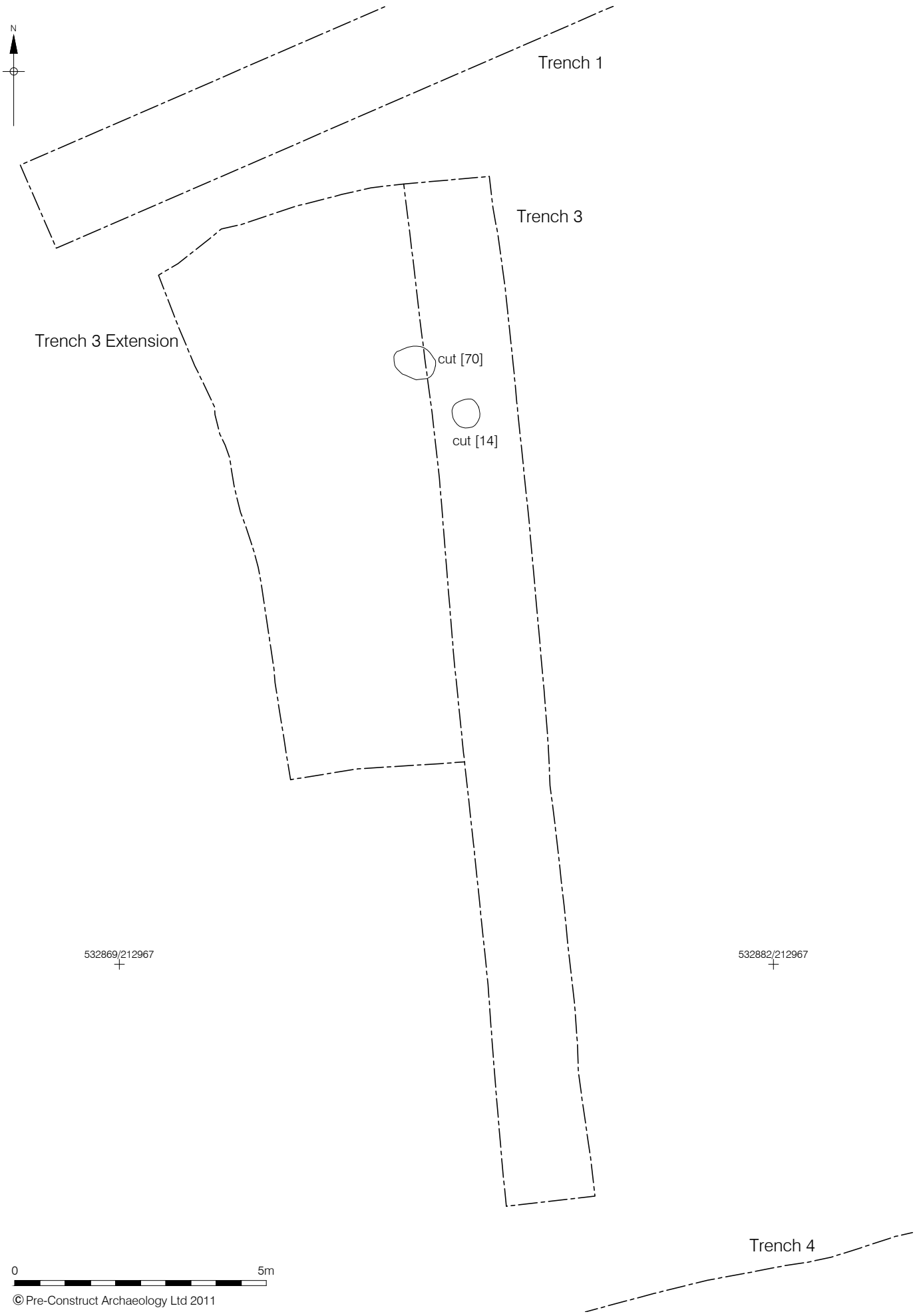


Figure 8
Phase 6: 19th-20th Century
1:100 at A4

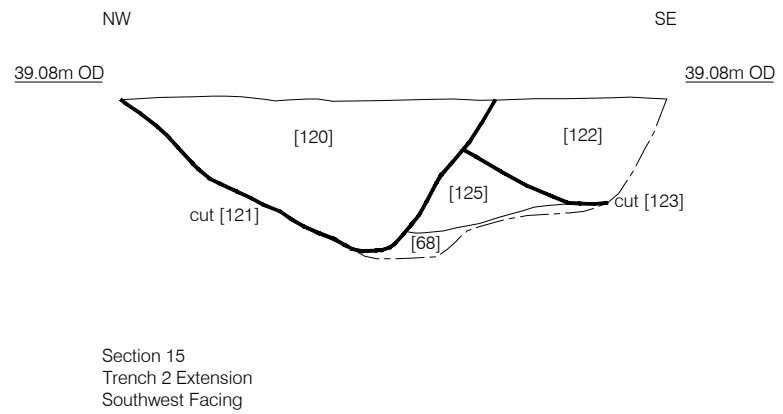
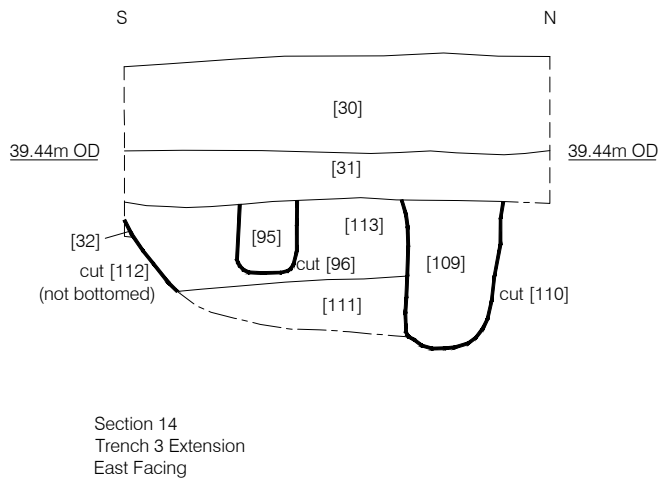
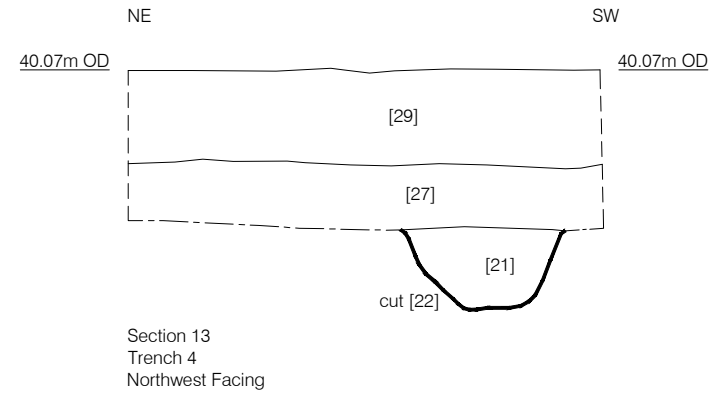
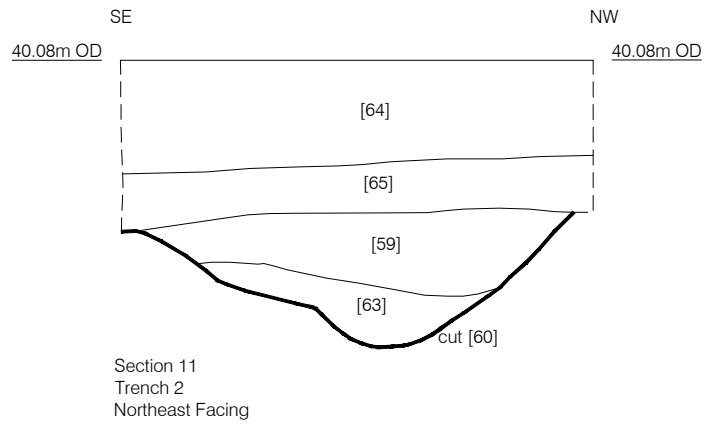


Figure 9
Sections
1:40 at A4

Plates



Plate 1: Trench 2, view S during evaluation



Plate 2: Trench 2, view NNE after trench enlargement



Plate 3: Trench 3, view S, after evaluation machining



Plate 4: Trench 3, view N after evaluation excavation



Plate 5: Trench 3, view N showing enlarged area



Plate 6: Trench 4, view E of evaluation



Plate 7: View SW of centre of WB area



Plate 8: View NW of northern WB area



Plate 9: View S of southern section of WB area



Plate 10: View ENE of southern arm of WB area



Plate 11: View E of southern arm of WB area



Plate 12: View N of eastern arm of WB area

13 APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT INDEX

Contexts 1-10 were assigned to the first watching brief undertaken at the site by PCA, reported elsewhere (Pullen 2010).

Site Code	Context No.	Trench No.	Plan	Section	Type	Description	Phase	Highest Level	Lowest Level	Sample No.	Findings
HSJS10	11	3	12	N/A	Fill	Fill of [12]	2	39.11m OD	N/A	4	Flint
HSJS10	12	3	12	N/A	Cut	Large pit	2	39.11m OD	38.31m OD	N/A	N/A
HSJS10	13	3	N/A	N/A	Fill	Fill of [14]	6	39.08m OD	N/A	N/A	Glass, CBM, bone, pot
HSJS10	14	3	Tr3	N/A	Cut	Possible posthole	6	39.08m OD	38.87m OD	N/A	N/A
HSJS10	15	3	Tr3	N/A	Fill	Fill of linear [16]	5	39.20m OD	N/A	N/A	N/A
HSJS10	16	3	Tr3	N/A	Cut	Shallow linear cut	5	39.20m OD	39.08m OD	N/A	N/A
HSJS10	17	3	Tr3	12	Fill	Fill of linear [18]	5	39.07m OD	38.99m OD	1	N/A
HSJS10	18	3	Tr3	12	Cut	Possible pit	5	39.07m OD	38.67m OD	N/A	N/A
HSJS10	19	1	N/A	10	Layer	Modern made ground	6	40.13m OD	39.97m OD	N/A	N/A
HSJS10	20	1	Tr1	10	Layer	Natural sandy gravels	1	39.13m OD	38.85m OD	N/A	N/A
HSJS10	21	4	Tr4	13	Fill	Fill of posthole [21]	3	39.25m OD	39.23m OD	N/A	N/A
HSJS10	22	4	Tr4	13	Cut	Possible posthole	3	39.25m OD	38.80m OD	N/A	N/A
HSJS10	23	4	Tr4	N/A	Fill	Fill of posthole [24]	3	39.32m OD	N/A	N/A	Pot
HSJS10	24	4	Tr4	N/A	Cut	Cut of posthole	3	39.32m OD	30.07m OD	N/A	N/A
HSJS10	25	4	Tr4	N/A	Fill	Fill of [26]	3	39.25m OD	N/A	N/A	Pot
HSJS10	26	4	Tr4	N/A	Cut	Cut of posthole	3	39.25m OD	39.05m OD	N/A	N/A
HSJS10	27	4	N/A	13	Layer	Ploughsoil	6	39.56m OD	39.52m OD	N/A	N/A
HSJS10	28	4	Tr4	13	Layer	Natural sandy gravels	1	39.32m OD	39.20m OD	N/A	N/A
HSJS10	29	4	N/A	13	Layer	Modern made ground	6	40.22m OD	40.07m OD	N/A	N/A
HSJS10	30	3	N/A	12, 14	Layer	Modern made ground	6	40.10m OD	39.94m OD	N/A	N/A
HSJS10	31	3	N/A	12, 14	Layer	Ploughsoil	6	39.49m OD	39.47m OD	N/A	N/A
HSJS10	32	3	Tr3, 12, 98	12, 14	Layer	Natural sandy gravels	1	39.12m OD		N/A	N/A
HSJS10	33	3	Tr3	N/A	Fill	Fill of [34]	5	39.07m OD	N/A	N/A	CBM
HSJS10	34	3	Tr3	N/A	Cut	Possible posthole	5	39.07m OD	38.67m OD	N/A	N/A
HSJS10	35	3	N/A	N/A	Fill	Fill of [36]	5	39.08m OD	N/A	N/A	CBM, flint

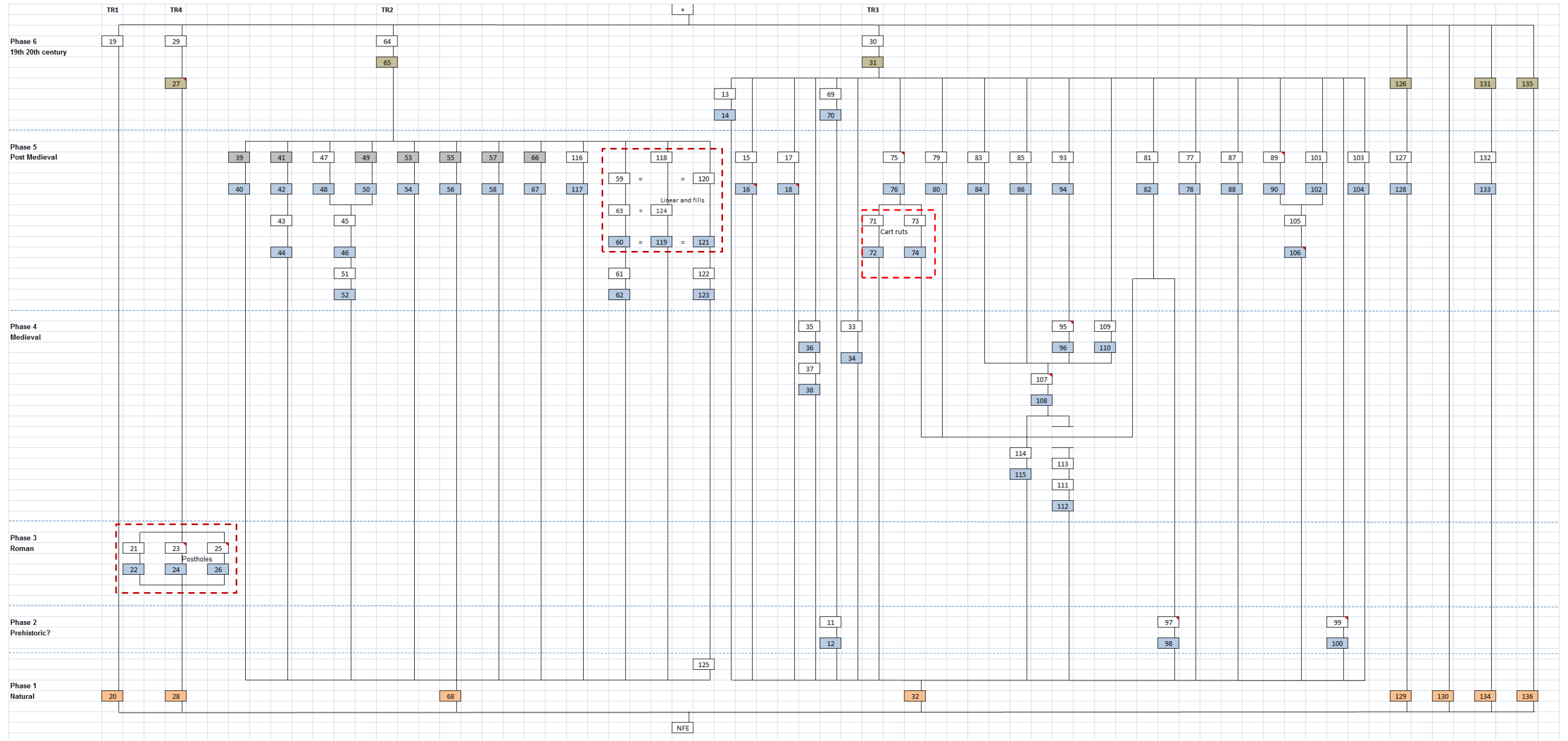
Site Code	Context No.	Trench No.	Plan	Section	Type	Description	Phase	Highest Level	Lowest Level	Sample No.	Findings
HSJS10	36	3	Tr3	N/A	Cut	Possible posthole	5	39.08m OD	38.63m OD	N/A	N/A
HSJS10	37	3	Tr3	N/A	Fill	Fill of [38]	5	39.08m OD	N/A	N/A	N/A
HSJS10	38	3	Tr3	N/A	Cut	Possible posthole	5	39.08m OD	38.83m OD	N/A	N/A
HSJS10	39	2	Tr2	N/A	Fill	Fill of [40]	5	39.18m OD	N/A	N/A	N/A
HSJS10	40	2	Tr2	N/A	Cut	Possible posthole	5	39.18m OD	38.74m OD	N/A	N/A
HSJS10	41	2	Tr2	N/A	Fill	Fill of [42]	5	39.14m OD	N/A	N/A	CBM, bone
HSJS10	42	2	Tr2	N/A	Cut	Possible posthole	5	39.14m OD	38.89m OD	N/A	N/A
HSJS10	43	2	Tr2	N/A	Fill	Fill of [44]	5	39.14m OD	N/A	N/A	N/A
HSJS10	44	2	Tr2	N/A	Cut	Possible posthole	5	39.14m OD	38.84m OD	N/A	N/A
HSJS10	45	2	Tr2	N/A	Fill	Fill of linear [46]	5	39.07m OD	N/A	N/A	Metal, CBM
HSJS10	46	2	Tr2	N/A	Cut	Shallow linear cut	5	39.07m OD	38.97m OD	N/A	N/A
HSJS10	47	2	Tr2	N/A	Fill	Fill of [48]	5	39.07m OD	N/A	N/A	N/A
HSJS10	48	2	Tr2	N/A	Cut	Possible posthole	5	39.07m OD	38.93m OD	N/A	N/A
HSJS10	49	2	Tr2	N/A	Fill	Fill of [50]	5	39.07m OD	N/A	N/A	N/A
HSJS10	50	2	Tr2	N/A	Cut	Possible posthole	5	39.07m OD	38.92m OD	N/A	N/A
HSJS10	51	2	Tr2	N/A	Fill	Fill of [52]	5	39.15m OD	N/A	N/A	CBM, flint
HSJS10	52	2	Tr2	N/A	Cut	Possible posthole	5	39.15m OD	38.99m OD	N/A	N/A
HSJS10	53	2	Tr2	N/A	Fill	Fill of [54]	5	39.15m OD	N/A	N/A	CBM, bone
HSJS10	54	2	Tr2	N/A	Cut	Possible posthole/ Pit	5	39.15m OD	38.91m OD	N/A	N/A
HSJS10	55	2	Tr2	N/A	Fill	Fill of [56]	5	39.28m OD	N/A	N/A	N/A
HSJS10	56	2	Tr2	N/A	Cut	Possible posthole	5	39.28m OD	39.13m OD	N/A	N/A
HSJS10	57	2	Tr2	N/A	Fill	Fill of [59]	5	39.28m OD	N/A	N/A	N/A
HSJS10	58	2	Tr2	N/A	Cut	Possible posthole	5	39.28m OD	39.08m OD	N/A	N/A
HSJS10	59	2	Tr2	11	Fill	Fill of linear [60]	5	39.30m OD	39.18m OD	N/A	CBM, flint
HSJS10	60	2	Tr2	11	Cut	Linear cut	5				
HSJS10	61	2	Tr2	N/A	Fill	Fill of [62]	5	39.19m OD	N/A	N/A	N/A
HSJS10	62	2	Tr2	N/A	Cut	Possible posthole	5	39.19m OD	N/A	N/A	N/A
HSJS10	63	2	Tr2	11	Fill	Fill of linear [60]	5	39.01m OD	38.83m OD	2	Bone
HSJS10	64	2	N/A	11	Layer	Modern made ground	6	40.09m OD	40.05m OD	N/A	N/A
HSJS10	65	2	N/A	11	Layer	Ploughsoil	6	39.58m OD	39.48m OD	N/A	N/A
HSJS10	66	2	Tr2	N/A	Fill	Fill of [67]	5	39.07m OD	N/A	N/A	N/A
HSJS10	67	2	Tr2	N/A	Cut	Possible posthole	5	39.07m OD	38.89m OD	N/A	N/A

Site Code	Context No.	Trench No.	Plan	Section	Type	Description	Phase	Highest Level	Lowest Level	Sample No.	Findings
HSJS10	68	2	Tr2	11, 15	Layer	Natural sandy gravels	1	39.33m OD	38.97m OD	N/A	N/A
HSJS10	69	3	N/A	N/A	Fill	Fill of [70]	5	39.11m OD	N/A	N/A	Metal, bone, glass, flint, worked stone, shell
HSJS10	70	3	70	N/A	Cut	Possible posthole	5	39.11m OD	38.70m OD	N/A	N/A
HSJS10	71	3	N/A	N/A	Fill	Fill of wheel rut [72]	5	38.96m OD	38.92m OD	N/A	N/A
HSJS10	72	3	70	N/A	Cut	Wheel rut	5	38.96m OD	38.83m OD	N/A	N/A
HSJS10	73	3	N/A	N/A	Fill	Fill of wheel rut [74]	5	38.96m OD	38.95m OD	N/A	CBM, flint
HSJS10	74	3	70	N/A	Cut	Wheel rut	5	38.96m OD	38.79m OD	N/A	N/A
HSJS10	75	3	N/A	N/A	Fill	Fill of [76]	5	38.83m OD	N/A	N/A	Bone, CBM, flint, pot, metal
HSJS10	76	3	70	N/A	Cut	Possible posthole	5	38.83m OD	38.30m OD	N/A	N/A
HSJS10	77	3	N/A	N/A	Fill	Fill of [78]	5	38.88m OD	N/A	N/A	CBM, bone
HSJS10	78	3	70	N/A	Cut	Possible posthole	5	38.88m OD	38.55m OD	N/A	N/A
HSJS10	79	3	N/A	N/A	Fill	Fill of [80]	5	38.86m OD	N/A	N/A	CBM, bone
HSJS10	80	3	70	N/A	Cut	Possible posthole	5	38.86m OD	38.60m OD	N/A	N/A
HSJS10	81	3	N/A	N/A	Fill	Fill of [82]	5	38.94m OD	N/A	N/A	Flint
HSJS10	82	3	70	N/A	Cut	Possible posthole	5	38.94m OD	38.62m OD	N/A	N/A
HSJS10	83	3	N/A	N/A	Fill	Fill of [84]	5	38.92m OD	N/A	N/A	N/A
HSJS10	84	3	70	N/A	Cut	Possible posthole	5	38.92m OD	38.62m OD	N/A	N/A
HSJS10	85	3	N/A	N/A	Fill	Fill of [86]	5	39.02m OD	N/A	N/A	CBM, bone, flint
HSJS10	86	3	70	N/A	Cut	Possible posthole	5	39.02m OD	38.75m OD	N/A	N/A
HSJS10	87	3	70	N/A	Fill	Fill of [88]	5	39.09m OD	39.04m OD	N/A	CBM, glass
HSJS10	88	3	70	N/A	Cut	Possible posthole, not excavated, modern?	5	39.09m OD	39.04m OD	N/A	N/A
HSJS10	89	3	70	N/A	Fill	Fill of [90]	5	39.07m OD	N/A	N/A	CBM, pot
HSJS10	90	3	70	N/A	Cut	Possible posthole	5	39.07m OD	38.80m OD	N/A	N/A
HSJS10	91	Void	Void	Void	Void	Void	Void	Void	Void	Void	Void
HSJS10	92	Void	Void	Void	Void	Void	Void	Void	Void	Void	Void
HSJS10	93	3	N/A	N/A	Fill	Fill of [94]	5	39.22m OD	N/A	N/A	N/A
HSJS10	94	3	70	N/A	Cut	Possible small posthole	5	39.22m OD	38.97m OD	N/A	N/A

Site Code	Context No.	Trench No.	Plan	Section	Type	Description	Phase	Highest Level	Lowest Level	Sample No.	Findings
HSJS10	95	3	N/A	14	Fill	Fill of [96]	4	39.23m OD	39.21m OD	N/A	Pot, flint, daub
HSJS10	96	3	70	14	Cut	Small linear	4	39.23m OD	38.84m OD	6	N/A
HSJS10	97	3	98	N/A	Fill	Fill of [98]	2	39.08m OD	38.99m OD	3	Daub, flint
HSJS10	98	3	98	N/A	Cut	Possible prehistoric pit	2	39.08m OD	38.26m OD	N/A	N/A
HSJS10	99	3	98	N/A	Fill	Fill of [100]	2	38.91m OD	38.87m OD	N/A	Flint
HSJS10	100	3	98	N/A	Cut	Possible prehistoric pit	2	38.91m OD	38.51m OD	N/A	N/A
HSJS10	101	3	N/A	N/A	Fill	Fill of [102]	5	39.06m OD	N/A	N/A	N/A
HSJS10	102	3	70	N/A	Cut	Possible posthole	5	39.06m OD	38.83m OD	N/A	N/A
HSJS10	103	3	N/A	N/A	Fill	Fill of [104]	5	39.03m OD	N/A	N/A	CBM, flint, bone
HSJS10	104	3	70	N/A	Cut	Possible posthole	5	39.03m OD	38.88m OD	N/A	N/A
HSJS10	105	3	N/A	N/A	Fill	Fill of [106]	5	39.06m OD	N/A	N/A	Metal, CBM, flint
HSJS10	106	3	70	N/A	Cut	Small linear	5	39.06m OD	38.96m OD	N/A	N/A
HSJS10	107	3	98, 108	N/A	Fill	Fill of [108]	4	39.28m OD	39.06m OD	5	Pot, flint
HSJS10	108	3	98, 108	N/A	Cut	Possible prehistoric pit	4	39.28m OD	38.64m OD	N/A	N/A
HSJS10	109	3	70	14	Fill	Fill of [110]	5	39.23m OD	39.22m OD	N/A	CBM
HSJS10	110	3	70	14	Cut	Possible posthole	5	39.23m OD	38.44m OD	N/A	N/A
HSJS10	111	3	N/A	14	Fill	Fill of [112]	2	38.84m OD	38.76m OD	7	N/A
HSJS10	112	3	98, 112	14	Cut	Possible prehistoric pit	2	39.24m OD	38.51m OD	N/A	N/A
HSJS10	113	3	N/A	14	Fill	Fill of [112]	2	39.24m OD	39.19m OD	N/A	CBM, flint
HSJS10	114	3	98, 115	N/A	Fill	Fill of [115]	4	39.28m OD	38.86m OD	N/A	N/A
HSJS10	115	3	98, 116	N/A	Cut	Possible medieval pit	4	39.28m OD	38.49m OD	N/A	N/A
HSJS10	116	2	Tr2	N/A	Fill	Fill of [117]	5	38.99m OD	N/A	N/A	N/A
HSJS10	117	2	Tr2	N/A	Cut	Possible posthole	5	38.99m OD	38.81m OD	N/A	N/A
HSJS10	118	2	Tr2	N/A	Fill	Fill of [119]	5	38.94m OD	38.86m OD	N/A	Flint
HSJS10	119	2	Tr2	N/A	Cut	Linear cut same as [60]	5	38.94m OD	38.57m OD	N/A	N/A
HSJS10	120	2	Tr2	15	Fill	fill of [121]	5	39.00m OD	38.98m OD	N/A	Flint
HSJS10	121	2	Tr2	15	Cut	Linear cut same as [60]	5	39.00m OD	38.20m OD	N/A	N/A
HSJS10	122	2	Tr2	15	Fill	Fill of [123]	5	38.98m OD	38.94m OD	N/A	N/A
HSJS10	123	2	Tr2	15	Cut	Possible pit	5	38.98m OD	38.43m OD	N/A	N/A
HSJS10	124	2	Tr2	N/A	Fill	Fill of [119]	5	38.94m OD	38.69m OD	N/A	N/A

Site Code	Context No.	Trench No.	Plan	Section	Type	Description	Phase	Highest Level	Lowest Level	Sample No.	Findings
HSJS10	125	2	Tr2	15	Layer	Possible natural gravelly sand	1	38.72m OD	38.28m OD	N/A	N/A
HSJS10	126	WB	WB	17	Layer	Ploughsoil	6			N/A	N/A
HSJS10	127	WB	WB	17	Fill	Fill of [128]	5			N/A	N/A
HSJS10	128	WB	WB	17	Cut	Possible posthole	5			N/A	N/A
HSJS10	129	WB	WB	17	Layer	Natural sandy gravels	1			N/A	N/A
HSJS10	130	WB	WB	16	Layer	Natural sandy gravels	1			N/A	N/A
HSJS10	131	WB	WB	18	Layer	Ploughsoil	6			N/A	N/A
HSJS10	132	WB	WB	18	Fill	Fill of [133]	5			N/A	N/A
HSJS10	133	WB	WB	18	Cut	Possible Pit	5			N/A	N/A
HSJS10	134	WB	WB	18	Layer	Natural sandy gravels	1			N/A	N/A
HSJS10	135	WB	WB	19	Layer	Ploughsoil	6			N/A	N/A
HSJS10	136	WB	WB	19	Layer	Natural sandy gravels	1			N/A	N/A

14 APPENDIX 2: SITE MATRIX



15 APPENDIX 3: POTTERY ASSESSMENT

By Berni Sudds, Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd

Quantity

Total number of boxes: Less than 1.

Total sherd count: 112 sherds (10 vessels).

Total number or contexts producing pottery: 7 contexts.

- 15.1 The small assemblage of pottery presented for analysis includes material of Roman, Saxon, medieval and post-medieval date. By sherd count the majority are medieval in date, although this figure is skewed by the highly fragmented remains of a single vessel from one deposit.

Context	Description	SC (ENV)	Date	Context spot date
13	Late medieval/ transitional redware ?Modern ceramic wall tile (burnt)	1 (1) 1 (1)	1400 – 1600 19 th – 20 th century	19 th – 20 th century
23	Un sourced grog-tempered sherd.	1 (1)	Undated	Roman/ medieval?
25	Oxidised sandy ware	1 (1)	?Roman	Roman
75	Late medieval/ transitional redware	1 (1)	1400 – 1600	1400 – 1600 (very hard; possibly later post-medieval)
89	Post-medieval redware (unglazed; ?early) Post-medieval black-glazed redware	1 (1) 1 (1)	1580 – 1900 1580 – 1700	1580 – 1700
95	Early medieval sandy ware. Fragmented sherds of one jar with sagging base (sooted). Quartz and igneous ware	103 (1) 1 (1)	1000 – 1200 5 th – 7 th century	1000 – 1200
107	Early medieval sandy ware.	1 (1)	1000 – 1200	1000 – 1200

Table 1: Pottery by context. SC = sherd count/ ENV = estimated number of vessels

- 15.2 An abraded sandwich fired fine sandy ware was recovered from context [25] that has been provisionally spot dated as Roman. Similarly, the grog-tempered sherd from [23] may also be of Roman date but the firing and surface appearance is also consistent with a later date. Grog-temper cannot, however, be paralleled in the local medieval fabric corpus. Both of these sherds should be shown to a Roman specialist familiar with the region.
- 15.3 The quartz and igneous tempered sherd from [95] is of interest as it dates to the Early Saxon period and contains inclusions of non-local origin, namely granite. On the adjacent site (HMIL05) a sherd of Early Saxon Charnwood Forest-type ware was identified containing granitic tempering and inclusions of dark mica (Sudds, forthcoming). This fabric is thought to derive from a source in the area surrounding the Mountsorrel granodiorite in Leicestershire (Williams and Vince 1997, 214). More recently, however, igneous or metamorphic tempered material of Saxon date has been identified on a number of sites in the south-east Midlands

area that has been attributed to more localised sources. In these cases the granite appears to be derived from erratic rocks and till drift. Dark mica is not obvious in the example from site but the coarse angular quartz inclusions are more characteristic of contemporary pottery observed by the author in southern Leicestershire, Northamptonshire and northern Cambridgeshire. A date for this sherd from the 5th to 7th century is most likely.

- 15.4 The early medieval sandy ware is characteristic of local and regional production during the 11th and 12th century and as such can be well paralleled in the vicinity. The majority of the sherds appear to be from a single fragmented jar (context [95]).

References

- Sudds, B., forthcoming. 'The Saxon pottery' in P. Boyer 'Archaeological Watching Brief and Excavation at the Former Council Depot, Mill Road, Hertford'. Hertfordshire Archaeology.
- Williams, D. and Vince, A.G. 1997. 'The characterization and interpretation of Early to Middle Saxon granitic tempered pottery in England', *Medieval Archaeology*, 41, 214-21.

16 APPENDIX 4: LITHIC SPOT-DATING

By Barry Bishop

- 16.1 The lithic finds from the site form a mixed assemblage with Mesolithic through to Early Bronze pieces present. Most are rather chipped suggesting a high degree of residuality.
- 16.2 No further work is considered necessary for this assemblage.

Context	No.	Type	Date	Notes
11	1	Core	Meso	Opposed platformed blade core
11	1	Flake	BA	
35	1	Flake	Meso/ENeo	
51	1	Flake	Meso-EBA	
69	1	Flake	Undated	
69	1	Flake	Undated	fragment
69	1	Retouched	Meso	Concave retouch on both edges of blade. Backed blade, cf Meche-de-foret but no tip
73	1	Blade	Meso/ENeo	medial segment
73	1	Flake	Undated	
75	0	Natural		
81	1	Flake	Meso/ENeo	Blade-like
85	1	Flake	Meso-EBA	
95	1	Flake	Meso-EBA	
95	2	Flake	Undated	Small chips
97	1	Flake	Meso-EBA	
97	1	Flake	Undated	
97	3	Flake	Undated	Decortication
99	1	Flake	Meso-EBA	
103	1	Flake	Undated	Decortication
103	0	Natural		Natural
105	0	Natural		Natural
107	4	Blade	Meso/ENeo	
107	1	Flake	Meso/ENeo	Blade-like
107	4	Flake	Undated	Decortication
107	1	Retouched	Neo-EBA	Flake fragment with invasive bifacial flaking, probably an arrowhead
113	1	Flake	Meso-EBA	
118	1	Core	Meso/ENeo	
118	1	Flake	Meso-EBA	
120	1	Flake	Meso/ENeo	Blade-like
120	1	Flake	Undated	Decortication
unstrat	1	Retouched	BA	Cortical Scraper

17 APPENDIX 5: FAUNAL ASSESSMENT

By Kevin Rielly, Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd

- 17.1 A small quantity of bones were recovered, all in good condition and minimally fragmented. When referring to size (apart from horses), large tends to suggest post-medieval domesticates. All of the other bones come from smaller animals, most probably pre 18th century. All the articular end fragments have fused epiphyses with the exception of the cattle proximal humerus from [13].
- 17.2 No further work is considered necessary for this assemblage.

Context	Comments
13	Cattle proximal humerus fragment, unfused, signifying an age less than 3.5yrs; sheep-size longbone fragment.
35	Cattle radius shaft piece
41	Cattle skull piece; cattle-size indeterminate fragment
53	Cattle proximal radius
63	Cattle proximal metacarpus
69	Equid distal humerus from medium-sized animal i.e. a11-13h
73	Sheep/goat adult maxillary molar
75	Equid proximal scapula, small animal <11 hands; sheep/goat proximal metacarpus
77	Cattle-size longbone shaft fragment
79	Cattle metatarsus shaft piece
85	Sheep/goat humerus and metatarsus shaft pieces.
103	Cattle distal femur.
118	Cattle maxilla with full adult dentition

18 APPENDIX 6: CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIAL ASSESSMENT

By Kevin Hayward, Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd

- 18.1 There is no Roman element to the assemblage unless you bracket the daub from 95 and 97 into this period. Assemblage dominated by medieval peg tile fabrics most abraded but have coarse moulding sand and the early 2272 very coarse quartz group (1135-1220) especially between [33] [59] Bricks are local variants of Post Great Fire Bricks in the main [69] [75] [77] sometimes with pan tile post 1630. One large group [69] has more modern 18th-19th century vitrified glazed brick suggesting some sort of kiln working.
- 18.2 No further work is considered necessary for this assemblage, although consideration of the possibility of kiln working in the vicinity of the site may be worthwhile at the publication stage.

Context	Fabric	Form	Size	Date range of material	Latest dated material	Spot date
13	2586 3032V	Coarse moulding sand peg tile no glaze Possible local variant of post Great Fire brick	5	1180	1900	1660-1800
33	2272	Medieval peg tile unglazed	1	1135	1220	1135-1220+
35	2587	Peg tile	1	1240	1450	1240-1450+
39	2586	Peg Tile	1	1180	1800	1180-1800
41	2586	Peg Tile abraded cms	1	1180	1800	1180-1600
45	2586	Abraded peg tile	2	1180	1800	1180-1600
51	2586 2272	Abraded peg tile coarse moulding sand	5	1135	1800	1180-1600
59	2586 2272	Abraded peg tile coarse moulding sand	7	1135	1800	1180-1600
69	3101 3033 local 3047 Local pan tile fabric	Mortar lime cream brown Glazed thick narrow well made brick Paving brick Pan tile early post-medieval peg tile	14	1400	1800	1750-1850
73	2586 2272	Abraded peg tile coarse moulding sand	8	1135	1800	1180-1600
75	3039 2586 2272	Mottled brick intermediate early post Great Fire	5	1135	1800	1600-1800
77	2272 3032v	Post Great Fire brick local variant and medieval peg tile	3	1135	1900	1660-1750
79	2586	Peg tile coarse moulded sand	2	1180	1800	1180-1700

85	2279 2586 3046	Pan Tile Peg Tile fine moulding sand early post medieval brick	8	1180	1850	1630-1800
87	2586	Peg Tile	3	1180	1800	1180-1700
89	3120 2586	Peg tile fine moulding sand Cornish Slate	5	1180	1900	1600-1850
95	3102	Burnt Daub	1	1500bc	1660	1500bc-1660
97	3102	Burnt Daub	5	1500bc	1660	1500bc-1660
103	2586 2272	Coarse moulding sand unglazed medieval early post- medieval Peg Tile	8	1135	1800	1135-1600
105	2586	Peg Tile	3	1180	1800	1180-1700
107	2586	Peg Tile	1	1180	1800	1180-1700
109	2586	Glazed medieval peg tile	1	1180	1800	1180-1450
113	2272 2586	Coarse moulding sand unglazed medieval early post- medieval Peg Tile	4	1135	1800	1135-1600

19 APPENDIX 7: GLASS SPOT-DATING

By Chris Jarrett, Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd

Context	Sherd Count	Spot-date
[13]	5 sherds	Late 17 th – 19 th century
[69]	1 sherd	18 th / 19 th century
[87]	1 sherd	18 th / 19 th century

20 APPENDIX 8: OASIS REPORT FORM

OASIS ID: preconst1-98759

Project details

Project name	An Evaluation and Watching Brief on Land at St Johns Street, Hertford, Hertfordshire, SG14 1RX
Short description of the project	The fieldwork reported here was undertaken in two phases. Between 12th and 25th of January 2011 PCA undertook an evaluation at the site comprising four trenches designed to assess the presence or absence of archaeology. Immediately after this work two trenches, which contained archaeological remains of interest, were enlarged to allow targeted mitigation work with the agreement of the. Finally, intermittently between 3rd and 15th of March 2011, PCA maintained a watching brief during the excavation of new foundations for the proposed development. All works were designed by Duncan Hawkins of CgMs Consulting following liaison and agreement with the Development Control Archaeologist for the Local Planning Authority, Alison Tinniswood of Hertfordshire County Council. The evaluation revealed that Trench 1, in the NE corner of the site, had been severely truncated in the 20th century to the level of the natural gravels. In Trenches 2, 3 and 4, however, a series of postholes, pits and linears were observed. Because of the concentration and possible alignment of the postholes it was agreed with Alison Tinniswood that Trenches 2 and 3 would be enlarged. The Trench 2 extension revealed more of a post-medieval linear feature and one posthole. In Trench 3 four possible prehistoric pits, two possible medieval pits and a series of post-medieval postholes and three post-medieval linear features were found. The final watching brief yielded further information about features in Trench 2 and also revealed some large modern intrusions. Natural sandy gravels were observed throughout the site.
Project dates	Start: 12-01-2011 End: 15-03-2011
Previous/future work	Yes / No
Any associated project reference codes	HSJS10 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Vacant Land 1 - Vacant land previously developed
Monument type	PIT Late Prehistoric
Monument type	PIT Medieval
Monument type	GULLEY Medieval
Monument type	DITCH Post Medieval
Monument type	POST HOLE Post Medieval
Monument type	POST HOLE Roman
Monument type	PIT Roman
Significant Finds	POT Early Medieval
Significant Finds	POT Medieval
Significant Finds	POT Roman
Significant Finds	CBM Post Medieval
Significant Finds	CORE Mesolithic
Significant Finds	BLADE Early Neolithic
Significant Finds	FLAKE Bronze Age
Methods & techniques	'Targeted Trenches'

Development type	Urban residential (e.g. flats, houses, etc.)
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project location

Country	England
Site location	HERTFORDSHIRE EAST HERTFORDSHIRE HERTFORD Land at St Johns Street, Hertford, Hertfordshire, SG14 1RX
Postcode	SG14 1RX
Study area	2862.35 Square metres
Site coordinates	TL 3298 1290 51.7984492125 -0.07131983867850 51 47 54 N 000 04 16 W Point
Lat/Long Datum	Unknown
Height OD / Depth	Min: 38.86m Max: 39.33m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd
Project brief originator	CgMs Consulting
Project design originator	Chris Mayo
Project director/manager	Chris Mayo
Project supervisor	Shane Maher
Type of sponsor/funding body	Consultant
Name of sponsor/funding body	CgMs Consulting

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Hertford Museum
Physical Contents	'Animal Bones','Ceramics','Environmental','Glass','Worked stone/lithics'
Digital Archive recipient	Hertford Museum
Digital Contents	'Stratigraphic','Survey'
Digital Media available	'Images raster / digital photography','Images vector','Spreadsheets','Text'
Paper Archive recipient	Hertford Museum
Paper Contents	'Environmental','Stratigraphic'
Paper Media available	'Context sheet','Diary','Drawing','Photograph','Plan','Section'

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Land at St Johns Street, Hertford, Hertfordshire, SG14 1RX: An Assessment of an Evaluation and Watching Brief
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Maher, S.
Date	2011

Issuer or publisher	Pre-Construct Archaeology
Place of issue or publication	London
Description	A4, ring bound report with a blue cover
Entered by	Chris Mayo (cmayo@pre-construct.com)
Entered on	7 June 2011

21 APPENDIX 9: HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD SUMMARY SHEET

<u>Site name and address:</u> Land at St Johns Street, Hertford, Hertfordshire, SG14 1RX		
<u>County:</u> Hertfordshire	<u>District:</u> East Hertfordshire	
<u>Village/Town:</u> Hertford	<u>Parish:</u> Hertford	
<u>Planning application reference:</u> 3/10/0793/FP		
<u>HER Enquiry reference:</u>		
<u>Client name, address, and tel. no.:</u> CgMs Consulting, Morley House, 26 Holborn Viaduct, London EC1A 2AT 020 7832 1481 On behalf of Sandhill Homes		
<u>Nature of application:</u> Demolition of existing redundant industrial building and replacement with a development of 13 no. town houses with associated parking and gardens		
<u>Present land use:</u> The site is sub rectangular in shape with an area of approximately 0.30ha. The site is occupied by a large industrial 'shed' type structure formerly occupied by a tool manufacturing company. An above ground tank is located on the east of the site.		
<u>Size of application area:</u> 0.3ha	<u>Size of area investigated:</u> c250m2	
NGR (to 8 figures): TL32981290		
Site code (if applicable): HSJS10		
Site director/Organization: Shane Maher, Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd.		
Type of work: Evaluation with enlarged targeted areas and watching brief during construction groundworks		
Date of work:	Start: 12-01-2011	Finish: 15-03-2011
Location of finds & site archive/Curating museum: Currently at PCAs offices in Brockley SE4 2PD. Will eventually be deposited with Hertford Museum		
Related HER Nos:	Periods represented: Prehistoric, Roman, Medieval, Post-medieval	
Relevant previous summaries/reports: Pullen, A. G. 2010. 'Land At St Johns Street, Hertford, Hertfordshire SG14 1RX: Summary Report On An Archaeological Watching Brief', unpublished report for PCA		
Summary of fieldwork results: The evaluation revealed that Trench 1, in the NE corner of the site, had been severely truncated in the 20th century to the level of the natural gravels. In Trenches 2, 3 and 4, however, a series of postholes, pits and linears were observed. Because of the concentration and possible		

alignment of the postholes it was agreed with Alison Tinniswood that Trenches 2 and 3 would be enlarged. The Trench 2 extension revealed more of a post-medieval linear feature and one posthole. In Trench 3 some possible prehistoric pits, possible medieval pits and a series of post-medieval postholes and linear features were found. The final watching brief yielded further information about features in Trench 2 and also revealed some large modern intrusions. Natural sandy gravels were observed throughout the site.

Author of summary: Chris Mayo

Date of summary: 7th June 2011

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