

DEVELOPMENT SECURITIES (CANNOCK) LTD

MILL GREEN, CANNOCK, STAFFORDSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

JANUARY 2018



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HISTORIC BUILDING RECORDING **EIA AND HERITAGE CONSULTANCY**

TOPOGRAPHIC AND LANDSCAPE

DESK BASED ASSESSMENTS ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION

GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY

SURVEY



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SUMMARY

An archaeological Evaluation was undertaken at Mill Green, Eastern Way, Cannock, Staffordshire. The work was commissioned by Development Securities (Cannock) Limited.

The archaeological Evaluation was required to investigate the potential for archaeological remains on Site ahead of redevelopment. Planning permission has been granted by Cannock Chase District Council for Phase 1- Comprising remodelling of existing landform of the Site; erection of up to 23,758 sqm of commercial units comprising a mix of uses at ground floor, including retail, restaurants/cafes and drinking establishments and outdoor play areas and centre management suite and retail storage areas at first floor level; diversion of water courses and sewers and associated drainage works. Associated works include hard and soft landscaping, new vehicular and pedestrian access from A460/Eastern Way including underpass and formation of two pedestrian accesses to the adjoining Mill Green Nature Reserve and associated works to include formation of part of the Heritage Trail, and upgraded pedestrian and cycle route along Eastern Way, provision of temporary and permanent car and coach parking. Outline planning permission has been granted for Phase 2 - Comprising erection of up to 10,389 sqm of commercial units comprising retail uses at ground floor, erection of multi storey car park with associated access and hard/soft landscaping (all matters reserved except access).

An Environmental Statement was produced on the known historical and archaeological background of the Site and immediate vicinity. The Site was identified for evaluation due to the potential presence of a mill, this potential is based upon the Domesday Survey entry recording two watermills, the Cannock HCA identifying the likelihood of one of these being along the Ridings Brook and a "mill pond" recorded on OS mapping adjacent to the Site.

The main aims of the archaeological Evaluation were to establish the presence or absence of archaeological remains and to determine their character, date, extent and distribution. As such 21 trenches, measuring 50m in length and 2.10m in width were excavated, equating to a 2% trenching strategy, and the findings were recorded.

The archaeological Evaluation exposed very few features of archaeological significance, two linear features were exposed in the southern extent of the Site and have been identified as former field boundaries, last noted on the 1841 mapping of the Site. Modern features including field drains and potential geotechnical pits were recorded and areas of tree throws and extensive rooting were also noted. No evidence of a mill was recorded.

Based on the results of these works and previous investigations across the Site it is suggested that no activity occurred here until the clearance of a wooded area in the Medieval period.



1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Circumstances of the Project

- 1.1.1 Wardell Armstrong LLP (WA) was commissioned to undertake an archaeological Evaluation on land at Mill Green, Eastern Way, Cannock, Staffordshire, hereafter referred to as "the Site," (Site centred on NGR: SJ 9908 1011; Drawing No: BM11248-100) between the 6th and 17th of November 2017. The works were commissioned by Development Securities (Cannock) Limited (hereafter referred to as 'the client'). The Evaluation by Trial Trenching was required to inform upon the potential archaeological resource and impact upon it from redevelopment.
- 1.1.2 Planning permission has been granted for a designer outlet village development comprising: full planning permission for Phase 1- Comprising remodelling of existing landform of the Site; erection of up to 23,758 sqm (GEA) of commercial units comprising a mix of uses at ground floor, including retail, restaurants/cafes and drinking establishments (Classes A1, A3 and A4) and outdoor play areas and centre management suite and retail storage areas at first floor level; diversion of water courses and sewers and associated drainage works. Associated works include hard and soft landscaping, new vehicular and pedestrian access from A460/Eastern Way including underpass and formation of two pedestrian accesses to the adjoining Mill Green Nature Reserve and associated works to include formation of part of the Heritage Trail, and upgraded pedestrian and cycle route along Eastern Way, provision of temporary and permanent car and coach parking. Outline planning permission for Phase 2 - Comprising erection of up to 10,389 sqm (GEA) of commercial units comprising retail uses at ground floor (Class A1), erection of multi storey car park with associated access and hard/soft landscaping (all matters reserved except access) (Planning Reference: CH/15/0048).
- 1.1.3 The proposed development Site had the potential to contain a mill based on the Site location and its proximity to both water and industry and this hypothesis was further strengthened by the interpretation of a possible 'mill' pond lying adjacent to the Site. Given the limited knowledge of the archaeological resource and the potential for impact upon it by redevelopment, the Local Planning Authority, Cannock Chase District Council (CCDC) granted permission with conditions.
- 1.1.4 Condition No. 41 'Archaeology' states that "no development shall take place until a programme of archaeological work has been undertaken in accordance with a written specification which has been submitted to and approved by the local planning



authority in writing. This will include a programme for visits and inspections to observe the excavations and record finds and items of interest. The results of the archaeological work shall be submitted to the Local Planning Authority". This condition was attached in accordance with Policy CP15 of the Cannock Local Plan (CCDC 2014) and the NPPF (DCLG 2012).

- 1.1.5 The definition of an archaeological field evaluation is 'a limited programme of non-intrusive and / or intrusive fieldwork which determines the presence or absence of archaeological features, structures, deposits, artefacts or ecofacts within a specified area or Site. If such archaeological remains are present field evaluation defines their character, extent, quantity and preservation, and enables an assessment of their worth in a local, regional, national and international context as appropriate' (CIFA 2014a).
- 1.1.6 The project conformed to a brief prepared in consultation with Debbie Taylor, Cultural Heritage Consultant, of Staffordshire County Council (SCC).
- 1.1.7 A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was then produced (WA 2017) to provide a specific methodology based on the brief provided and this was approved by Debbie Taylor of SCC prior to the fieldwork taking place. This is in line with government advice as set out in Section 12 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF 2012).
- 1.1.8 The fieldwork was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited (PCA) under direct instruction and on behalf of WA who managed all stages of the work and undertook all communications.
- 1.1.9 In addition, the archaeological Evaluation by Trial Trenching conforms to the guidelines and standards laid down in the following documents:
 - Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Evaluation, Chartered Institute for Archaeologists: Reading (CIFA 2014a);
 - Code of Approved Conduct for the Regulation of Arrangements in Field Archaeology, Chartered Institute for Archaeologists: Reading (CIFA 2014b);
 - Standard and Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials, Chartered Institute for Archaeologists: Reading (CIFA 2014c);
 - Management of Archaeological Research Projects in the Historic Environment (Morphe), Historic England: London (HE 2015);



• Fieldwork Induction Manual: Operations Manual 1, Pre-Construct Archaeology, London (Taylor and Brown 2009);



2 METHODOLOGY

2.1.1 The archaeological Evaluation was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd on behalf of WA. Assisting in the completion of the fieldwork was Robin Weaver (PCA) and Iannis Kantaros (PCA). Illustrations were produced by Charlotte Faiers (PCA). Finds analysis was conducted by Berni Seddon (PCA). The project was managed by Jonathan Webster (PCA), who was also responsible for the quality of the project as well as proof reading and editing this report. The report was written and researched by Hayley James (PCA).

2.2 **Documentary Research**

2.2.1 An Environmental Statement (Ramboll 2015) with addendum (Ramboll, 2017) were produced on the known historical and archaeological background of the Site and immediate vicinity.

2.3 The Field Evaluation

2.3.1 The WSI (WA 2017) for the evaluation proposed the excavation of 21 trenches measuring 50m in length by 1.8m in width across the proposed development area that measured 12ha (Drawing No: BM11248-101). The trenches were placed to target potential features identified by a previously conducted Geophysical Survey which largely produced negative results (WA 2016). The placement of the trenches was designed to capture linear features and clusters of activity, regardless of their orientation and location. The remaining trenches were placed in a random grid array. The trenching strategy represented a 2% sample of the overall Site. Trench 6 had to be moved 10m due to an existing water course on Site. Trench 7 had a break of 10m to avoid the fence and shrub line. Trench 8 was moved by 3m to avoid the existing badger set. Trench 12 moved due to foliage present at the eastern end and standing water at the western end of the trench. Trench 21 was moved by 10m to avoid an oak tree and fence line.

2.3.2 The general aims of these investigations were:

- to establish the presence/absence, nature, extent and state of preservation of archaeological remains and to record these where observed;
- to establish the character of any potential features in terms of cuts, soil matrices and interfaces;
- to assess the impact of the application on the archaeological Site;



- to recover artefactual materials from as many contexts as possible to allow for a refined chronological sequence of the Site to be established;
- to recover palaeoenvironmental material to gain an understanding on Site preservations, potential and gain an understanding of formation processes;
- to provide the Local Planning Authority with a characterisation of the potential of the Site so an informed decision can be made.

2.3.3 And specifically to:

- Determine the levels of truncation across the proposed development area and test the archaeological deposit model.
- 2.3.4 Deposits considered not to be significant were removed by a 360-degree tracked mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket, under close archaeological supervision. The trial trenches were subsequently cleaned by hand and all possible features were inspected for their potential, selected deposits were excavated by hand to retrieve artefactual material and paleoenvironmental samples. All features were excavated and recorded according to professional standards using the format set out in the PCA Fieldwork Induction Manual (Operations Manual I; Taylor & Brown 2009). Overburden deposits were set aside beside each trench and examined visually for finds retrieval.
- 2.3.5 All finds encountered were retained on Site and returned to the office where they were identified, quantified and dated to period. A *terminus post quem* was then produced for each stratified context and the dates used to help determine the broad date phasing for the Site. On completion of the fieldwork, the finds were cleaned and packaged according to standard guidelines (CIFA 2014c). Please note, the following categories of materials will be discarded after a period of 6 months following the submission of this report, unless there is a specific request to retain them (and subject to the collection policy of the relevant depository):
 - where unstratified;
 - modern pottery;
 - material that has been assessed as having no obvious grounds for retention.
- 2.3.6 On completion of the investigations the evaluation trenches were reinstated by replacing the excavated material.



2.4 Recording Methodology

- 2.4.1 The limits of excavations, heights above Ordnance Datum (m OD) and the locations of archaeological features and interventions were recorded using a Leica Viva series GPS rover unit (or equivalent) with RTK differential correction, giving three-dimensional accuracy of 20mm or better. Each point was recorded in relation to the OSGB1936 geod model and coded to an internal PCA database to provide a dataset which records feature type, context number, associated drawing numbers and any other information that may be relevant.
- 2.4.2 This survey provides a three-dimensional geo-referenced visual representation of the archaeology present. Where features were determined to require more detailed illustration, these were undertaken by hand and drawn in relation to a feature specific geo-referenced baseline and drawn at an appropriate scale (usually 1:10 or 1:20) on polyester based drafting film and labelled in relation to a Site-specific drawing register.
- 2.4.3 Deposits or the removal of deposits judged by the excavating archaeologist to constitute individual events were each assigned a unique record number (often referred to within British archaeology as 'context numbers') and recorded on individual pre-printed forms (Taylor and Brown 2009). Context sheets were primarily filled in by the archaeologist who excavated the feature/deposit. All deposits recorded during the evaluation are listed in Appendix 2.
- 2.4.4 All deposits were recorded with sufficient data to allow for a full characterisation of the context and its relationships to be made and allow for future studies to query and compare the dataset with confidence.
- 2.4.5 High-resolution digital photographs were taken at all stages of the evaluation process using a Canon EOS 1300D digital SLR camera with an18.0-megapixel resolution. Digital photographs were taken of all deposits and all images will be labelled appropriately and cross-referenced in relation to a Site-specific photography register and regarded as part of the primary archive.

2.5 The Archive

2.5.1 A full professional archive has been compiled in accordance with the Archaeological Archives Forum recommendations (Brown 2011). The archive will be deposited with The Potteries Museum and Art Gallery, Stoke on Trent under accession code 2017.LH.5. Copies of the report will be sent to CCDC. The original archive can be accessed using the unique project identifier.



2.5.2 WA supports the **O**nline **A**cces**S** to the **I**ndex of Archaeological Investigation**S** (**OASIS**) project. This project aims to provide an online index and access to the extensive and expanding body of grey literature, created as a result of developer funded archaeological work. As a result, details on the findings of this project will be made available by WA as part of this national project. The project can be accessed under the unique project identifier **wardella2-305956**.



3 BACKGROUND

3.1 Geological Context

3.1.1 The underlying geology is mapped as mudstone, siltstone and sandstone, known as Pennine Middle Coal Measures. The underlying geology was formed approximately 309 to 312 million years ago in the Carboniferous Period (BGS 2016) This was underlain by superficial deposits which comprised of Devensian till, deposited during the last glacial period (BGS 2018). The overlying soils are seasonally waterlogged, reddish fine coursed loamy soils, knowns as Clifton soils (SSEW 1983). Previous Site investigations suggest that a deposit, 0.3m to 0.75m thick, of topsoil overlay a deposit of glacial sands and gravels (Ramboll 2014).

3.2 **Topography**

- 3.2.1 The Site is located on to the south and west of Mill Green and Hawks Green Nature Reserve, situated in the Cannock Chase District of Staffordshire. It is bounded by Eastern Way (A460) to the east and Lichfield Road (A5190) to the south.
- 3.2.2 The area of investigation is approximately 12 hectares in size and lies relatively level with a slight west facing incline. A stream known as Ridings Brook runs from north to south through the Mill Green Nature Reserve. A drain bounds the west of the Site, which has been previously interpreted as a possible millstream. The millstream fed a 'mill' pond to the south west of the Site, until it was backfilled after 1978 (Ramboll 2016,10).
- 3.2.3 At present the Site comprises a rough area of grassland, and the Cannock Chase Heritage Trail crosses the central part of the Site. The area is largely level, but rises to the north end of the Site.



4 HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 4.1.1 An Environmental Statement (Ramboll 2015) was produced on the known historical and archaeological background of the Site and immediate vicinity. It is not intended to repeat that information here and what follows is a brief overview of that document, for more information please refer to the original report.
- 4.1.2 The assessment identified no designated heritage assets within the Site boundary. There have been two previous archaeological investigations within the application Site. Within a 1km search area from the perimeter of the Site, five heritage assets are recorded within the local Historic Environment Record, including (MST4717), the possible Site of a Post-Medieval windmill. Three of the assets relate to industrial activity, including (MST4723), a possible Site of a Post-Medieval coal pit; (MST22045), the Site of Post-Medieval lime kilns, and (MST13072), three undated pits possibly related to Post-Medieval flax or hemp processing. Finally, (MST2216), the former course of the Cannock Extension of the Wyrley and Essington Canal, which the A460 now replaces.

4.2 **Prehistoric**

4.2.1 The Cannock district is currently believed to have only been sporadically occupied until the Bronze Age, when the landscape, which was heavily wooded, began to be cleared for arable use. There is a suggestion of potential for Bronze Age burnt mounds, due to their presence in the wider Staffordshire county, however there are none known within the 1km study area, and nothing suggests there may be any within the area of the Site.

4.3 Romano-British

4.3.1 There is little known about Romano-British settlement in this area, but it is suggested that there was a degree of continuity between the Prehistoric and Romano-British periods. There is only a single record (MST4020), of Romano-British provenance, which is a potential 1st Century AD military or settlement Site, located 980m north east of the Site.

4.4 Early Medieval

4.4.1 Little is known about the Early Medieval period in this area, with evidence largely present in the form of place-names and isolated findspots. Cannock comes from the Old English *cnocc* meaning Hillock (Mills, 2011). An entry in the Domesday Book of 1086 refers to the Manor of Cannock, and states that it had two associated watermills.



The Cannock HCA suggests one of these mills could be on the Ridings Brook, to the west of the Site, however, the cartographic evidence does not directly suggest this.

4.5 Medieval

4.5.1 The Cannock area was predominantly open fields during the Medieval period. There is suggestion that the Site lies within a Medieval deer park. Parks Farm (MST11300), is shown on the 1841 Tithe map as being east of the Site, and the accompanying tithe award lists several plots within the Site, which have the word 'Park' within the name. The bishop of Cannock had a park at Cannock in 1274, and claimed the right to hunt deer that had come from the king's forest on that land, seeming likely that the application area was within the deer park.

4.6 **Post-Medieval**

- 4.6.1 A late 18th century County map shows a watermill, Cannock Mill, a Grade II Listed Building (1060220), to the south of the development area. The mill dates to between the eighteenth and seventeenth centuries. The mill was formerly part of a complex including a farmstead (MST14129), situated to the west of the Site. The Ordinance Survey Surveyor's Drawing (OSD) map of 1817 shows a courtyard, which could relate to the buildings of this farmstead.
- 4.6.2 The OSD map also depicts the application Site as abutting the mill pond (MST17319) of Cannock Mill. The Tithe award of 1841 shows the application area lay within open fields. These fields were cultivated, except for Plot 802 which was pasture
- 4.6.3 During the Post-Medieval period, Cannock saw an increase in industrialisation. Within the study area, several industrial premises were identified including a brewery approximately 260m west of the Site, a gasworks approximately 250m southwest of the application Site, and brick and tile works (MST11288, MST11289, MST11299 and MST11304). In addition, three other locations relating to coal mining were recorded such as Mid Cannock Colliery (MST11302) at Rumer Hill, and Cannock and Leacroft Colliery (MST5790) approximately 370m southeast of the application Site. A further colliery (MST22044), was located approximately 440m northeast of the application Site, which had closed by 1889.

4.7 Modern

4.7.1 The development area saw very little change in the first half of the twentieth century.

Between 1938 and 1952, a field boundary was removed within the Site to allow for the construction of two detached houses to the immediate south of the application



Site. By 1978, all field boundaries within the area had been removed, which is representative of advancing mechanical farming methods.

4.8 **Conclusion**

- 4.8.1 There was a low potential for any Prehistoric to Early Medieval archaeology within the development area.
- 4.8.2 From the cartographic evidence, the Site was situated in open fields throughout the Medieval period. Although a number of farms such as The Parks (MST11300) are within close vicinity, so there was potential that evidence of field boundaries may be found.
- 4.8.3 Given that Post-Medieval period activity and development in the wider Cannock area increased and that (MST4723), (MST22045), and (MST13072) are all within the boundaries of the Site there was a strong suggestion for evidence of Post-Medieval industrial activity.



5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION RESULTS

5.1.1 The following discussion of the archaeological sequence has been structured to review the findings by feature type, and therefore comparable trenches have been combined. Where archaeological features of significance were excavated, these trenches have been discussed individually. The intention is to provide an over view of the findings, their interpretation will be discussed in section 6.

5.2 Trenches 1, 2, 5, 9, 10, 11, 12 and 15

- 5.2.1 Trenches 1 and 2 were located in the northern extent of the Site. Trench 1 was excavated to 50m long running on a northeast to southwest orientation, and Trench 2 to 49m in length on a north to south alignment. Trench 5 was situated in the northeast, and was 50m in length on an east to west orientation. Trenches 11 and 12 were in the south east of the Site, Trench 11 was excavated to 51.5m in length on a north to south alignment, and Trench 12 to 51.0m in length and on an east north-east to west south-west alignment. Trench 15 was positioned to the west of the Site and orientated north to south and was 50m in length. Trench 12 was moved slightly due to foliage at the eastern end and standing water at the western end.
- 5.2.2 All the aforementioned trenches comprised of a variable natural substrate predominantly with a sandy silt composition. A representative section of Trench 1 can be seen in Drawing No: BM11248-102, to demonstrate the typical stratigraphy. The natural substrate was observed to be a yellowish or orange brown in colour. The natural was of a moderate to firm compaction, and occasional to frequent rounded pebbles and irregularly shapes stones, with a clear soil horizon. The natural substrate in Trench 5 (502) was slightly different, and had a pinkish yellow brown colour, with pale grey areas, and Trenches 9 and 10 had a grey hue to the natural, with areas of yellowish-orange, (9002) and (1002) respectively. Overlaying the natural substrate, a uniform topsoil regarding colour and composition was observed. The topsoil is recorded as a very dark greyish brown sandy silt, with occasional small stones. The topsoil was heavily affected by rooting and had a loose compaction, with a clear clarity of horizon. The depth of the topsoil did vary slightly between these trenches and was as follows: in Trenches 1 and 12, contexts (101) and (1201), were both an average thickness of 0.37m, the topsoil in Trench 5, (501) was between 0.24m and 0.27m, (202) thick, the topsoil in Trench 2 was between 0.45m and 0.49m thick, in Trench 11 the topsoil deposit, (1101), was between 0.36m and 0.41m thick, in Trench 15 (1501), was on average 0.30m thick, in Trench 9 (9001) the topsoil was between 0.40m and



- 0.31m thick and in Trench 10 (1001) was between 0.43m and 0.53m thick.
- 5.2.3 Frequently seen within these trenches were two styles of field drainage; either drainage ditches or ditches containing ceramic pipes, an example of the ceramic pipes can be seen in Plate 1. The ceramic land drain pipes seem to be very common across the Site and were recorded in all the trenches within this section, and additionally in Trench 19. The drainage ditches were described as having a very dark grey sandy silt fill, very similar to the topsoil (Plate 2). Sondage interventions were excavated across two of the potential drainage ditches in Trench 5 in order to characterise this feature type. The two ditches had vertical sides and were filled by a singular loosely compacted deposit. Two further sondages were excavated into dark topsoil filled linear features, interpreted as field drains in Trench 15. A similar profile was noted for these features, characterised by having steep to vertical sides. This was again ratified in Trenches 9, 10 and 6, where an additional four sondage interventions were excavated across four linear features containing a dark topsoil-like fill; two further linear features in Trench 10, one in Trench 6 and one in Trench 9, all were exposed to have similar profiles containing similar deposits (Plate 3).
- 5.2.4 No significant archaeological features or deposits of archaeological interest were recorded across these trenches. No residual finds were recovered from any of the deposits recorded within these trenches.

5.3 Trenches 7 and 8

- 5.3.1 Trenches 7 and 8 are both located in the western portion of the Site, towards the Mill Green and Hawks Green Nature Reserve area. Trench 7 was excavated in two sections, one at 30m in length and the other at 10m in length, leaving a 10m break to avoid the existing fence line. Trench 8 was moved 3m to the north of its planned location to avoid interference with the badger sett on Site, and was excavated to 50m in length.
- 5.3.2 Both Trenches 7 and 8 were orientated on an east to west alignment. The stratigraphic sequence remained consistent comprising of topsoil overlying the natural substrate, a representative illustration of the stratigraphy in trench 7 can be seen in Drawing No: BM11248-103.
- 5.3.3 The natural substrate in Trenches 7 and 8 was of a mottled orange brown colouring, (702) (802) respectively. Both (702) and (802) were recorded as of a silty sand composition with frequent round small stones and a moderate to firm compaction. The soil horizon clarity was clear across both trenches. Overlaying the natural substrate is a dark greyish brown topsoil of a sandy silt composition, recorded as (701)



- and **(801)** respectively. The topsoil in Trench 7 **(701)** was recorded between 0.26m to 0.37m thick and **(801)** recorded between 0.54m to 0.56m thick.
- 5.3.4 Both Trenches 7 and 8 were blank of archaeological features or deposits of archaeological interest. No residual finds were recovered from any of the deposits recorded within these trenches.

5.4 **Trenches 13, 16 and 17**

- 5.4.1 Trench 13 was located in the eastern portion of the Site, and was excavated to 51m in length. Trenches 16 and 17 were situated in the western side of the Site, and were excavated to 50m in length and 51.5m in length respectively. All three trenches were orientated east to west.
- 5.4.2 The stratigraphic sequence remained consistent across all three trenches comprising of a topsoil layer overlying the natural substrate, a representative section of Trench 16 is depicted in Drawing No: BM11248-102. There was a slight variation within the natural substrate; Trench 13 showed a yellowish pink and orange firm sandy clay natural, with a moderate amount of pebbles and gravels (1302), whereas the natural substrate in Trenches 16 and 17 was a greyish orange brown to orange yellow brown, with moderate to frequent rounded stones, and had been extensively affected by rooting activity throughout, contexts (1602) and (1702) respectively.
- 5.4.3 Present in all three trenches was evidence of bioturbation. Trench 16 particularly had a high concentration of tree throws along the entire length of the trench. There was a concentration of extensive bioturbation activity in the eastern half of Trench 17, with identifiable tree throws extending for 30m from the eastern end of the trench, but the natural substrate was affected by rooting to some extent for the entire length of Trench 17. A tree throw was recorded in the west end of Trench 13. Overlaying this rooting activity within the natural substrate was a comparable topsoil in all trenches, with slight variation in thickness.
- 5.4.4 The topsoil was all a very dark grey sandy silt, with a loose compaction, occasional small stones and a clear soil horizon clarity. In trench 13 the topsoil (1301) was 0.38m on average, in Trench 17 the topsoil (1701) was 0.30m thick and in Trench 16 the topsoil (1601) was 0.28m in thickness. The only finds retrieved from these deposits were from (1301) comprising two fragments of modern pottery and fragments of modern glass.



5.5 **Trenches 3,6, 14 and 18**

- 5.5.1 Trench 3 was located in the northern extent of the Site, aligned east to west, and excavated to 50m in length. Trench 6 was situated in the east of the Site, near to the Site access point, and was orientated north-northeast to south-southwest and excavated to a total length of 46.2m. The length of Trench 6 was limited to avoid a water course running through the Site, and to avoid other trenches. Trench 14 was located in the southeast section of the Site, orientated east to west and was excavated to 50.50m in length. Trench 18 was in the western corner of the Site, orientated north east to south west and was excavated to 51m in length. Trench 18 had to be moved to avoid an established hedgerow.
- 5.5.2 All four trenches comprised the same stratigraphic sequence that has been outlined previously; topsoil overlaying the natural substrate. The natural substrate throughout these four trenches remained largely consistent; a firmly compacted yellowish orange brown silty sand, moderate to frequent gravels, and moderate quantities of rounded stones, with a clear soil horizon. The natural substrate in Trench 3 was very waterlogged (302), and where waterlogging had occurred it was softer in compaction. In all of these trenches pink coloured features were observed, and tended to be roughly linear. A sondage was excavated in one linear 19m from the eastern end of Trench 3. The feature had straight vertical sides and had been cut through the natural substrate (302), and was also visible cutting the topsoil in section (Plate 4). The linear feature contained a singular fill of pink slightly gritty silty clay. All evidence suggested this was a modern backfilled feature, such a potential geotech pit or trench. Two very similar features were recorded in in Trenches 6 and 14, which also contained singular fills of a similar compacted pink fill, characterised by the sondage in Trench 3.

5.6 **Trench 19**

- 5.6.1 Trench 19 was situated in the southeastern portion of the Site, towards the hedge line that serves as a boundary between the land and the A5190 Lichfield Road. The trench was excavated to a total of 50.2m in length.
- 5.6.2 The trench was aligned north to south and the stratigraphic sequence comprising a very dark grey loosely compacted sandy silt topsoil overlying a moderately compact yellow- orange and greyish yellow silty sand natural substrate, context number (1902). The natural substrate was cut by [1904], an east to west aligned linear feature (Drawing No: BM11248-103). The linear was 2.09m wide, and varied from 0.28m to 0.29m deep. The edges of [1904] were gradually sloped onto a flat base. [1904] was



- filled by **(1905)**, a mid-dark grey brown silty sand. The fill was very loosely compacted and had frequent rounded stones, and very infrequent charcoal (Plate 5).
- 5.6.3 10m from the northern end of Trench 19, (1902) is cut by a modern ceramic pipe that is aligned northeast to southwest. In the southern extent of the trench an area of mid grey pink deposit was present. This seemed to cut through (1901), with a very straight edge, suggesting this would be a modern feature or Geotech pit, similar features were observed in other trenches, which would support this finding.

5.7 **Trench 20**

- 5.7.1 Trench 20 was located in the southeastern area of the Site and was excavated to a total of 50m in length.
- The trench was aligned north-northwest to south-southeast, and the stratigraphic sequence comprised of a moderately compacted yellowish orange and greyish yellow silty sand natural substrate (2002). Cut into the natural substrate (2002) a linear feature [2004], running on an east to west alignment was exposed 3.2m from the northern end of the trench, the linear feature had gradually sloping edges onto a concave to flat base (Drawing No: BM11248-104). The feature was quite shallow, at between 0.08m and 0.14m deep, and was 1.82m wide (Plate 6). [2004] contained a singular fill of a mid-grey brown loosely compacted sandy silt (2005), which had frequent rounded stones, and within the fill a small fragment of modern bottle glass was observed, which was recorded but not retained due to evidently modern origin. 21m from the northern end of the trench, a small east to west orientated linear feature was observed. This was filled by a pink grey deposit similar to that observed in the Trench 19, and was interpreted as a modern feature. Overlying the natural substrate and [2004] was a grey black silty sand topsoil (2001). The topsoil was moderately compacted with occasional small stones and a clear soil horizon, at a thickness of 0.35m. Within the topsoil, two fragments of pottery were retrieved, which will be discussed in further detail in Section 5.5. Between 32m and 38m from the north end of the trench, an area of heavily disturbed grey and yellow sandy silt, with soft compaction and visible rooting was observed cutting though topsoil (2001). 40m from north end of the trench was an area of pink deposit, interpreted as a Geotech trench, or similar modern feature, this was exposed as cutting through the topsoil (2001). 43m from the northern end of the trench two potential postholes were exposed which were spaced 1.5m apart. The potential postholes were sample excavated and recorded, showing that both contained a fill similar to (2001), with occasional small



pebbles. The post holes were recorded as uniform at 0.35m in diameter. Once excavated, it was clear these were modern backfilled postholes.

5.8 **Trench 21**

- 5.8.1 Trench 21 was located to the south of the Site. The trench was moved 10m to the west to avoid an existing oak tree and fence line. It was also reduced in total length to 49m, to mitigate any potential issues with the proximity to Trench 20.
- 5.8.2 The trench was orientated east to west, and was excavated to the top of the moderately compacted yellow orange and greyish yellow silty sand which is the natural substrate (2102). There was an area of mid to light grey glaying, which is likely to relate to a waterlogged area that has reacted with the rooting activity.
- 5.8.3 Cut in to the natural substrate (2102) was a linear feature [2104]. This feature was running on a north east to south west alignment. The edges were gradually sloped onto a flat to slightly concave base (Drawing No: BM11248-105). This linear feature was 1.21m wide, and between 0.16m and 0.17m deep (Plate 7). [2104] was filled by a mid-orange brown sandy silt, with a moderate compaction and frequent rounded pebbles (2105).
- 5.8.4 At 20m from the eastern end of the trench, a mid grey deposit was observed, with a darker grey centre and occasional rounded pebbles. This was investigated and characterised as a natural feature. A comparable deposit was also observed at 35m from the eastern end of the trench, also interpreted as a natural feature.

5.9 Archaeological Finds and Paleoenvironmental Sampling

5.9.1 All deposits were inspected for their artefactual and paleoenvironmental potential, unfortunately in this instance no deposits were suitable for paleoenvironmental sampling.



6 FINDS ASSESSMENT

6.1.1 The archaeological finds were notably sparse. Most of the finds retrieved were from the topsoil. Two fragments of what appear to be Post-Medieval to modern pottery were found in (2001); a blue and white glazed fragment and a wall sherd with a black glaze on one side. A further two fragments of pottery were recovered from (1301); a plain white fragment and a blue and white modern fragment, a piece of modern glass was also recorded, with the number '4' pressed in to it, which is likely the base of a vessel. Finally, a medium sized piece of modern ceramic building material was retrieved from (1803), the pink clay fill of one of the potential Geotech pits.



7 SYNTHYSIS

- 7.1.1 The vast majority of features and anomalies that were identified during this evaluation can be characterised in to three categories: modern features, natural features and Post-Medieval boundary features. As detailed in sub section 4.10, there were two trenches that were entirely devoid of any features whatsoever. This is completely understandable given that the area was heavily wooded in the Prehistoric period, with little evidence for Romano-British or Early Medieval activity. The cartographic evidence was also suggestive that the area has been open fields since at least 1841. Therefore, it is entirely reasonable to think these trenches, in particular, Trenches 7 and 8, could be positioned on swathes of land that have mostly remained untouched.
- 7.1.2 The natural features have been characterised as tree throws and indication of prior vegetation in the area. This are typified by the anomalies seen in Trenches 16, 17 and 13, although they are also observed in other trenches such as Trenches 1, 2 and 5. Several of these features were characterised as having 'banana' shaped fills, irregular edges and compliant with the identification chart (BCAS 1996). This interpretation is further bolstered by the presence of high rooting activity and the disturbance to the topsoil and natural substrates by the bioturbation. Again, this interpretation is supported by the cartographic evidence, which shows the presence of trees and shrubs on the land through recent history. The existence of trees and shrubs on pasture land is not to be unexpected, and is an entirely plausible interpretation of the past landscape.
- 7.1.3 The modern features comprised of three different features; geotech pits, drainage ditches and clay pipes. The geotech pits were recognisable by the light pink fills, and appear to be cutting both the topsoil and the natural substrate. Given that the fill of a potential geotech pit in trench 18 had modern ceramic building material depoSited within it, it seems reasonable to suggest these features are entirely modern.
- 7.1.4 A number of slots were excavated into the dark topsoil filled linear features, and it was determined that these are likely to be modern drainage ditches. The sides were vertical and regular, suggesting they had been excavated by a machine. The fact that they were filled by what seemed to be very similar to the topsoil, also suggests these are likely to be quite modern. In addition to these drainage features, commonly found in many of the trenches were ceramic clay pipes, which were clearly a modern intrusion.



7.1.5 The linear features in Trenches 19, 20 and 21 were all investigated with a slot excavated across them to determine the profile and character of the feature. They were largely wide and shallow features and the fills did not contain any artefactual material. Their distribution and orientation match the field boundaries seen on maps dating back to 1841 and it is very likely these are Post-Medieval in date, based upon the cartographic evidence.



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APPENDIX 1:

PLATES

Plate 1; Trench 1, facing north east. Modern clay pipe, 2 1m scales.



Plate 2; Trench 4, facing west. Dark linear feature in foreground, 2 1m scales.



Plate 3; slot across dark linear, trench 10. 2 1m scales.



Plate 4; potential Geotech pic, trench 3, 1m scale



Plate 5; Trench 19 linear [1904], east south-east facing section, 1m scale



Plate 6; Trench 20 linear [2004], east facing section. 1m scale.



Plate 7; Trench 21 linear [2104] south west facing section, 1m scale

APPENDIX 2:

TRENCH AND CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Length: 50m Width: 2.15m Orientation: NE-SW

Depth: 54m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
100	Unstratified	N/A	N/A	Unstratified finds located around trench area.
101	Topsoil	Loose dark greyish brown sandy clay loam with occasional rounded pebbles.	0.45 - 0.49 m	Heavily disturbed by root action. Very clear horizon clarity.
102	Natural substrate	Loose mid orange brown sandy silt loam with occ. sub-angular and sub-rounded stones/gravels	N/A	

Trench 2

Length: 49 m Width: 2.15 m Orientation: North – South

Depth: 0.45 m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
200	Unstratified	N/A	N/A	Unstratified finds located around trench area.
201	Topsoil	Loose dark greyish brown, silty sand loam.	0.45-0.49m	Fine grained. It's heavily disturbed by root action.
202	Natural substrate	Loose mid yellowish /orangish brown sandy silt loam.	N/A	

Trench 3

Length: 50 m Width: 2.4 m Orientation: East-West

Depth: 0.60 m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
300	Unstratified	N/A	N/A	Unstratified finds located around trench area.
301	Topsoil	Firm to loose greyish black silty sand loam with occ. small stones	0.26-0.32m	Heavily disturbed by root action. Good clarity.
302	Natural substrate	Firm yellowish orange brown orange, with smaller areas of pink silty clay.	N/A	It's firm but very waterlogged and soft.

Length: 50m Width: 2.10m Orientation: NNE-ESE

Depth: 0.79m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
400	Unstratified	N/A	N/A	Unstratified finds located around trench area.
401	Topsoil	Loose dark greyish brown sandy clayey loam with occ. rounded pebbles.	0.50m	Heavily disturbed by root action.
402	Natural substrate	Compact mid to light orange brown sandy clay deposit with occ. rounded pebbles.	N/A	Clear horizon.

Trench 5

Length: 50m Width: 2.4m Orientation: E-W

Depth: 0.48m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
500	Unstratified	N/A	N/A	Unstratified finds located around trench area.
501	Topsoil	Loose greyish black silty sandy loam with pebble-sized rounded stones.	0.24-0.27m	Good clarity of horizon.
502	Natural substrate	Pink yellowish brown and pile grey areas of silty sand and silty sandy clay geology; with pebble-sized rounded stones and gravel unsorted. Some areas of soft pink clay with occ. small stones.	N/A	

Length: 46.2m Width: 2.4m Orientation: NNE-SSW

Depth: 0.46m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
600	Unstratified	N/A	N/A	Unstratified finds located around trench area.
601	Topsoil	Loose greyish black and dark brown silty sand loam, with small stones.	0.36-0.43m	Heavily disturbed by humic substances and root action. Good horizon gravity.
602	Natural substrate	Firm orange yellowish orange and pile greyish brown silty sand geology, with frequent gravel.	N/A	

Trench 7

Length: 40m Width: 2.3m Orientation: E-W

Depth: 0.68m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
700	Unstratified	N/A	N/A	 Unstratified finds located around trench area.
701	Topsoil	Loose dark greyish brown sandy silt loam, with good horizon gravity.	0.54-056m	Heavily disturbed by root and humic action.
702	Natural substrate	Soft but firm mottled orange brown and yellowish silty clay geology, with frequent pebble-sized rounded stones.	N/A	

Length: 50m Width: 2.20m Orientation: E-W

Depth: 0.51m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
800	Unstratified	N/A	N/A	Unstratified finds located around trench area.
801	Topsoil	Friable mid to dark blackish brown fine grained sandy silt loam, with occ. stones.	0.26-0.37m	Heavily disturbed by root action, although distinct layer clarity.
802	Geology	Loose mid orange brown sandy silt loam, with frequent rounded pebbles. To the east edge of the trench, becomes mottled grey with clayey composition.	N/A	

Trench 9

Length: 50m Width: 2.2m Orientation: E-W

Depth: 0.71m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
900	Unstratified	N/A	N/A	 Unstratified finds located around trench area.
901	Topsoil	Loose greyish black silty clay loam, with occ. rounded stones.	0.31-0.40m	Heavily disturbed by humic substances and root action. Clear horizon.
902	Natural substrate	Firm pile grey and mid orange silty sand layer, with moderate pebble sized rounded stones.	N/A	Clear horizon and mid root disturbance. Clear horizon.

Length: 50m Width: 2.3m Orientation: NE-SW

Depth: 0.63m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
1000	Unstratified	N/A	N/A	Unstratified finds located around trench area.
1001	Topsoil	Loose greyish black sandy silt loam, with occ. small stones.	0.43-0.53m	Heavily disturbed by root action. Clear horizon.
1002	Natural substrate	Loose orange yellow to greyish yellow, sand and silty sand layer, moderate unsorted gravel stones.	N/A	

Trench 11

Length: 51.5m Width: 2.2m Orientation: N-S

Depth: 0.51m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
1100	Unstratified	N/A	N/A	Unstratified finds located around trench area.
1101	Topsoil	Loose greyish black sandy silt layer, with occ. small stones.	0.36-0.41m	
1102	Natural substrate	Loose silty sand and silty clayey sand, yellowish orange and orange brown with pile grey glaying in parts. Occ. to moderate rounded pebbles and gravels.	N/A	

Length: 51 m Width: 2.10m Orientation: ENE-WSW

Depth: 0.60m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
1200	Unstratified	N/A	N/A	Unstratified finds located around trench area.
1201	Topsoil	Loose greyish black sandy silt loam, with occ. small stones.	0.37m	Heavily affected by root and humic action.
1202	Natural substrate	Moderate (compaction) yellowish orange silty sand geology with occ. stone stones.	N/A	

Trench 13

Length: 51m Width: 2.2m Orientation: E-W

Depth: 0.47m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
1300	Unstratified	N/A	N/A	Unstratified finds located around trench area.
1301	Topsoil	Loose greyish black sandy silt loam, with occ. small stones.	0.38m	Good clarity of horizon.
1302	Natural substrate	Firm yellowish pink and orange sandy clay geology with moderate gravels and pebbles.	N/A	

Length: 50.50m Width: 2.3m Orientation: E-W

Depth: 0.41m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
1400	Unstratified	N/A	N/A	Unstratified finds located around trench area.
1401	Topsoil	Loose greyish black sandy silt loam, with occ. small stones.	0.37m	
1402	Natural substrate	Firm yellowish orangey brown orangey brown - to - pink geology, with moderate rounded pebbles.	N/A	Good clarity of horizon.

Trench 15

Length: 50m Width: 2.10m Orientation: N-S

Depth: 0.51m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
1500	Unstratified	N/A	N/A	Unstratified finds located around trench area.
1501	Topsoil	Loose greyish black sandy silt loam, with occ. small stones.	0.37m	Good clarity of horizon.
1502	Natural substrate	Firm orangey brown and orangey brown - to - mid pink geology, with pile grey glaying in parts; and moderate pebble sized stones sorted to the orange material.	N/A	Affected by tree roots and manganese (brownish orange).

Length: 50m Width: 2.10m Orientation: E-W

Depth: 0.48m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
1600	Unstratified	N/A	N/A	Unstratified finds located around trench area.
1601	Topsoil	Loose greyish black sandy silt loam, with occ. small stones.	0.28m	Good clarity of horizon.
1602	Natural substrate	Firm greyish orange to orangey yellow silty sand layer moderate to frequent rounded pebbles.	N/A	Heavily disturbed by root action; mixed with (1601) throughout.

Trench 17

Length: 51.50m Width: 2.10m Orientation: E-W

Depth: 0.47m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
1700	Unstratified	N/A	N/A	-
1701	Topsoil	Loose greyish black sandy silt loam, with occ. large cobbles and occ. small stones.	0.30m	Good clarity of horizon.
1702	Natural substrate	Firm greyish orangey brown silty sand, with moderate pebbles and small cobbles of rounded stones throughout.	N/A	Disturbed by root action. Good horizon clarity.

Length: 51m Width: 2.10m Orientation: NE - SW

Depth: 0.42m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
1800	Unstratified	N/A	N/A	Unstratified finds located around trench area.
1801	Topsoil	Loose greyish black sandy silt loam, with occ. small stones.	0.25m	Good clarity of horizon
1802	Natural substrate	Firm yellowish orange brown -to- yellowish brown, with pink areas, sandy clay loam. Also, moderate pebble- sized stones throughout.	N/A	Clear horizon clarity.
1803	Fill	Firm mid pink sandy clay, with occasional rounded stones. This context is frequent seen on Site. This fill overlays (1801). 1 modern tile/brick were the only artifact recorded, which suggest a modern date.	Unknown	(1803) is a fill of a modern geotechnical or other linear feature running with NNE-SSW orientation.

Trench 19

Length: 50.20m Width: 2.10m Orientation: N-S

Depth: 0.60m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
1900	Unstratified	N/A	N/A	Unstratified finds located around trench area.
1901	Topsoil	Loose greyish black sandy silt loam, with occ. small stones.	0.49m	Good horizon gravity.
1902	Natural substrate	Moderate (compaction) yellowish orange and greyish yellow silty sand clay.	N/A	
(1903)	Deposit	Firm mid grey orange silty sandy clay, with moderate rounded unsorted pebbles. Also, occ. orange colored patches of manganese.	Unknown	This deposit overlays (1901) and truncated by modern wheel ruts. Same as (2003).
[1904]	Cut of a linear	[1904] is a cut of a linear running with E-W orientation. The	0.32m	

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
		excavated profile shows a linear feature, that measured 1.20m in width, with gradual sides, which slopes onto a concave to flat base.		
(1905)	Fill of [1904]	Very loose mid grey brown sandy silt fill, which contains occasional -to- frequent pebbles, rounded small to large size stones and frequent charcoal flecks.	0.32m	

Length: 50m Width: 2.10m Orientation: NNW-SSE

Depth: 0.45m

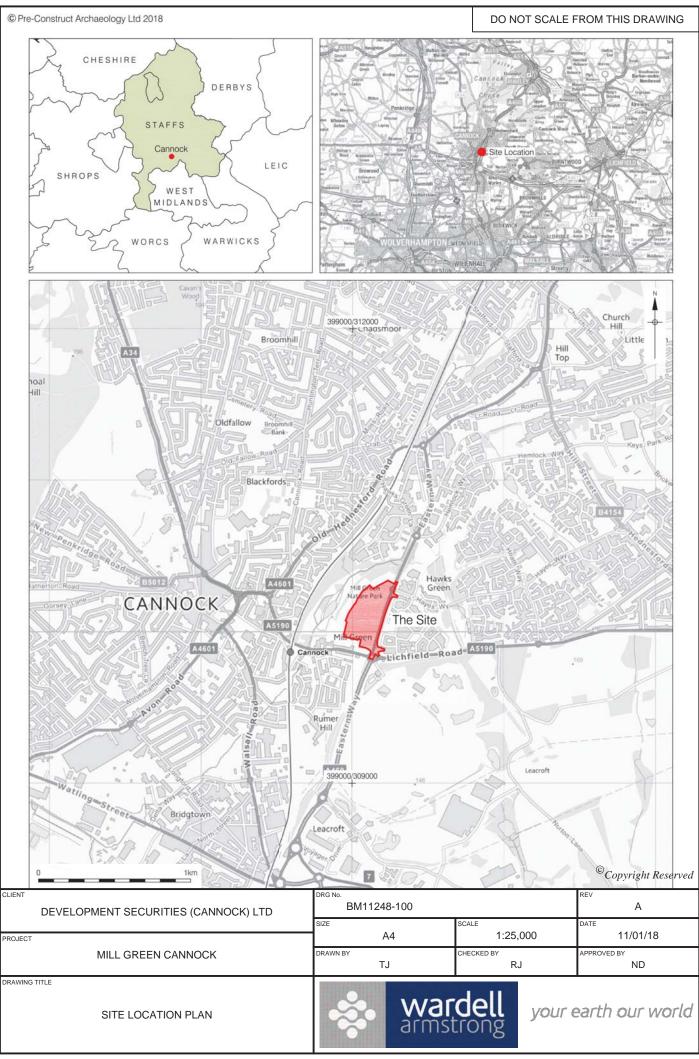
Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
2000	Unstratified	N/A	N/A	Unstratified finds located around trench area.
2001	Topsoil	Loose greyish black sandy silt loam, with occ. small stones.	0.30-0.35m	Good horizon gravity.
2002	Natural substrate	Moderate (compaction) yellowish orange and greyish yellow silty sandy clay.	N/A	Good horizon gravity.
(2003)	Fill of linear [2004]	Very loose mid grey brown sandy silt fill, which contains occasional -to- frequent rounded pebbles and 1 piece of modern green bottle glass.	0.12m	This deposit overlays (2001); same as (2003).
[2004]	Cut of a linear	[2004] is a cut of a linear running with E-W orientation. The excavated profile shows a shallow linear feature with gradual sides, which slopes onto a concave to flat base.	0.12m	

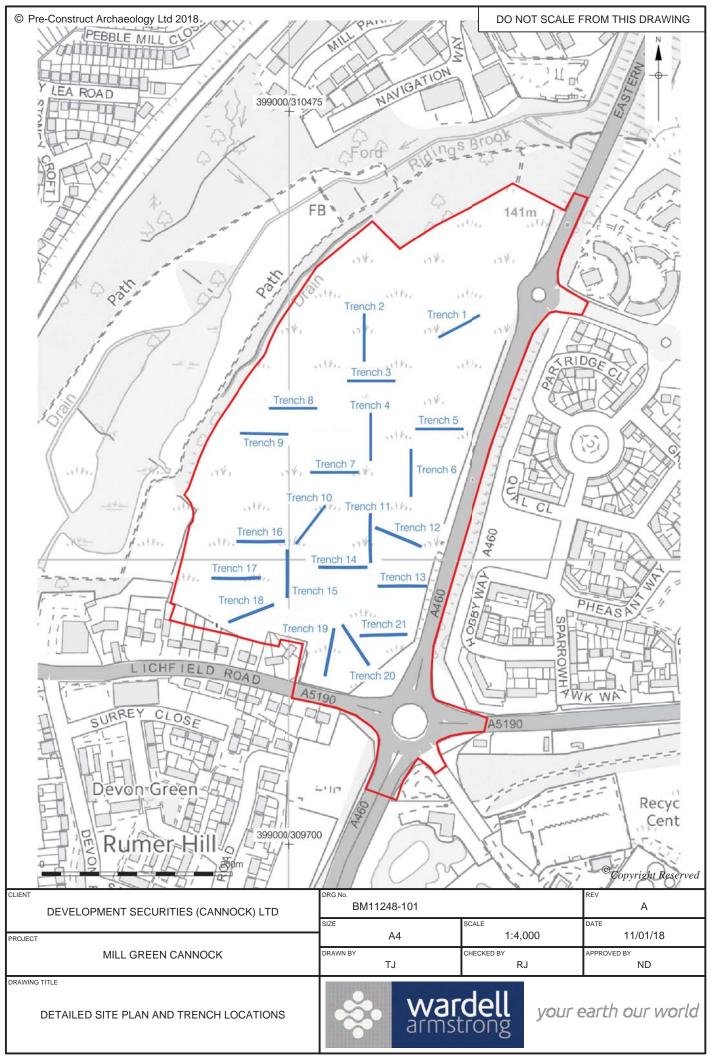
Length: 49m Width: 2.10m Orientation: E-W

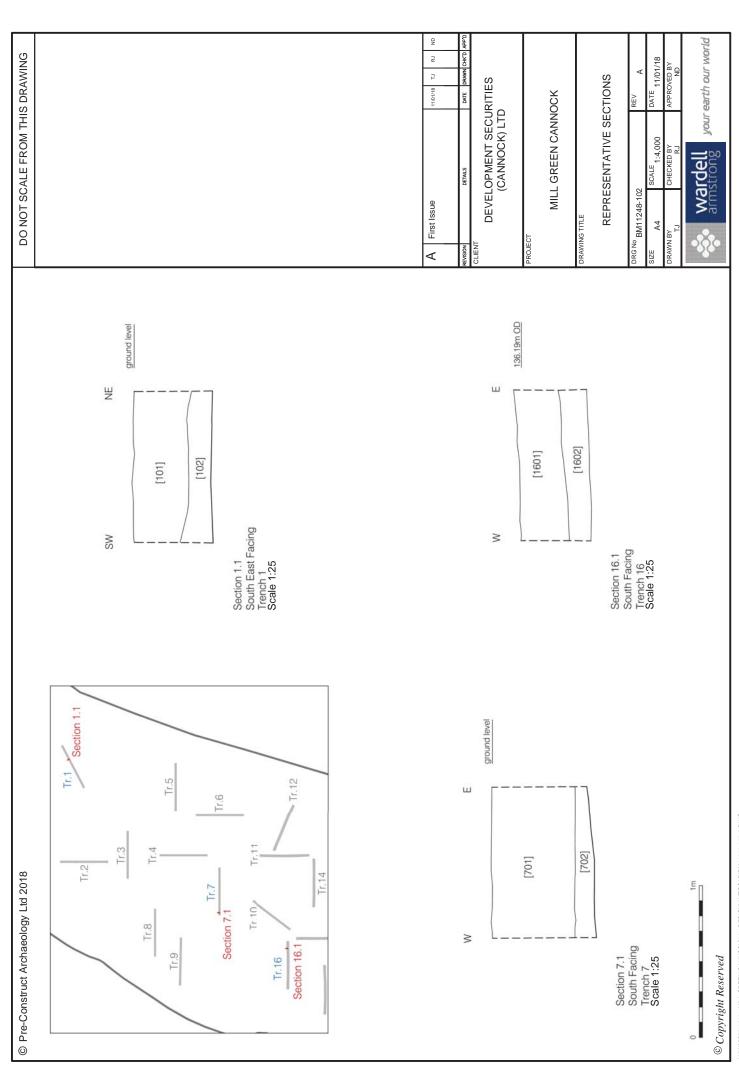
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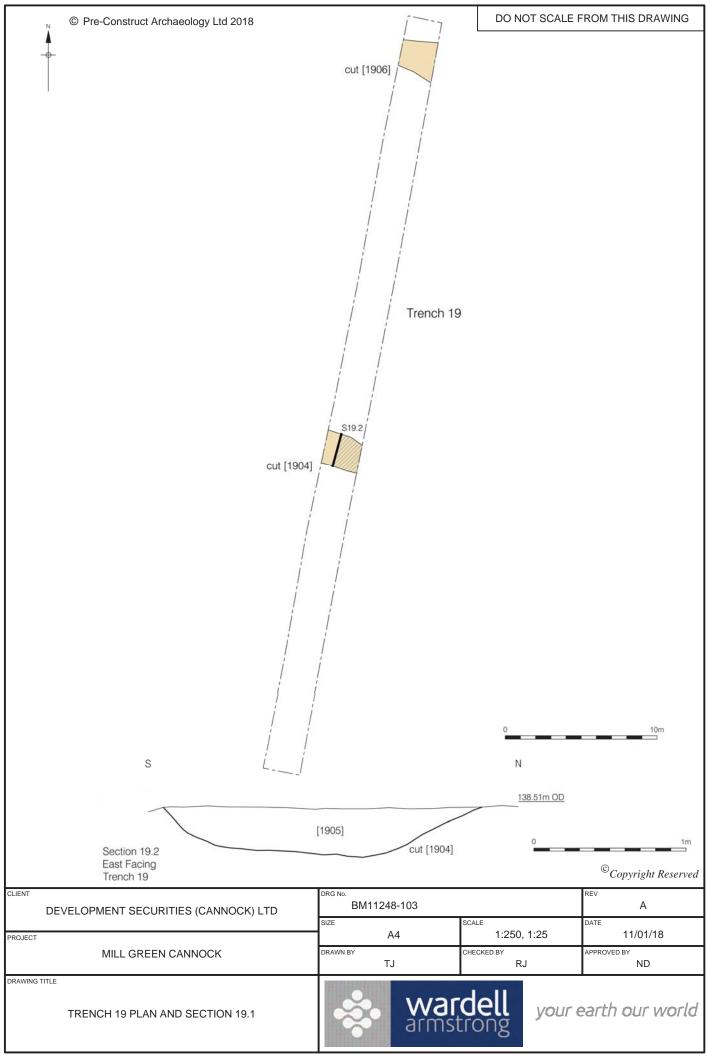
Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
2100	Unstratified	N/A	N/A	Unstratified finds located around trench area.
2101	Topsoil	Loose greyish black sandy silt loam, with occ. small stones.	0.30-0.35m	Good horizon gravity.
2102	Natural substrate	Firm yellowish orange and greyish yellow silty sand geology, with moderate pebbles. Also firm yellowish pink silty sand banding to the western edge of the trench.	N/A	Good horizon gravity. Occasional patches of mid -to- pile glaying, probably related to waterlogged roots.
(2103)	Fill of linear [2104]	Very loose mid grey brown sandy silt fill, which contains occasional -to- frequent rounded pebbles and 1 piece of modern green bottle glass.	0.16m	This deposit overlays (2001); same as (2003).
[2104]	Cut of a linear	[1904] is a cut of a linear running with NE-SW orientation. The excavated profile shows a quite wide linear (2.10m in width), with gradual – to- steep concaved sides which slopes onto a flat base.	0.16m	

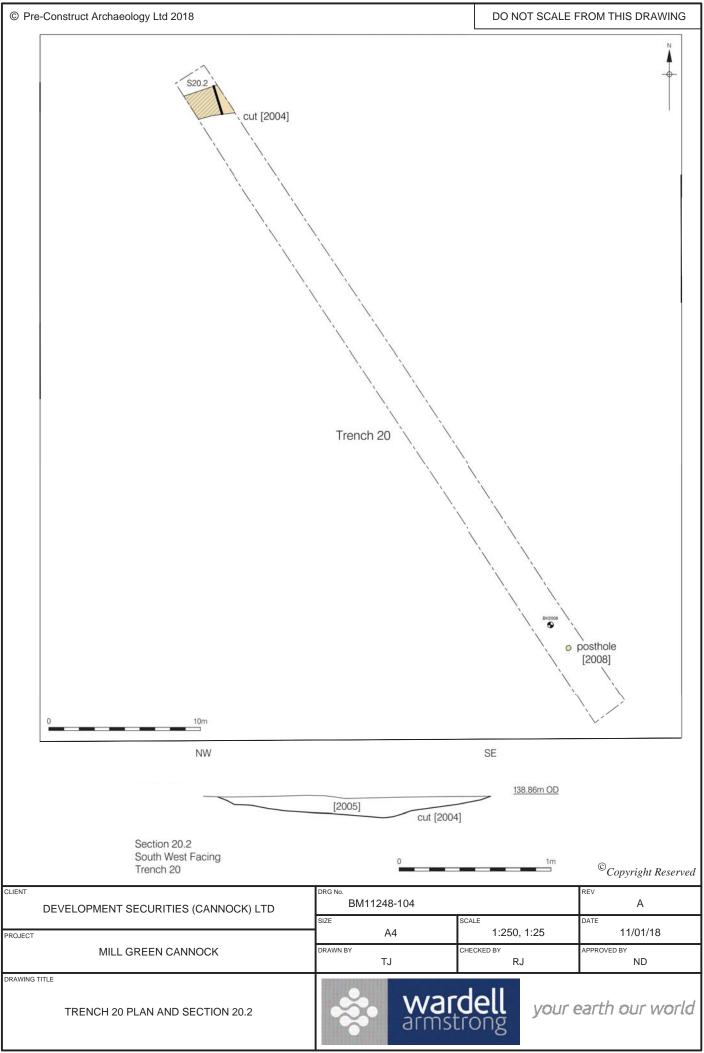


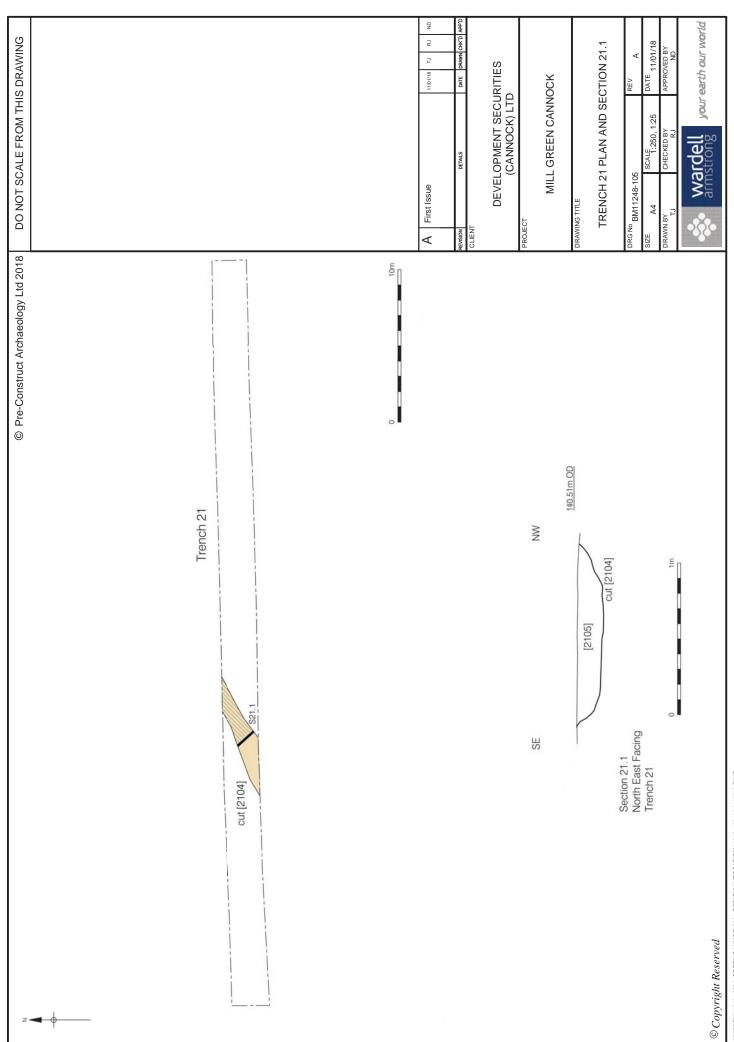












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