

**CITY OF PETERBOROUGH ACADEMY (FORMER HEReward
COMMUNITY COLLEGE), PETERBOROUGH, CAMBRIDGESHIRE**

**SCHEME OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING
AND RECORDING**

NGR: TF 20625 00025
Planning ref.: 12/00717/R3FUL
PCAS Job No.: 919
Site code: CPAM 12
Archive acc. code: pending

Report prepared for

HSP Consulting

by

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Summary

Archaeological monitoring and recording was carried out during groundworks for an access road and the new SEN building at the City of Peterborough Academy, Eastfield, Cambridgeshire.

The proposed development site lies in an area of potential archaeological importance: the site lies a little over 2km from the Bronze Age landscape identified at Flag Fen, and Peterborough itself has been a settlement from the early Saxon period.

Previous evaluation and recording on the site identified no archaeological remains, only sequences of natural and modern development layers.

This monitoring scheme revealed a ditch running approximately east-west, and a single pit, both in the northern zone of the site. No archaeological artefacts were recovered during the works, thus the features remain undated.

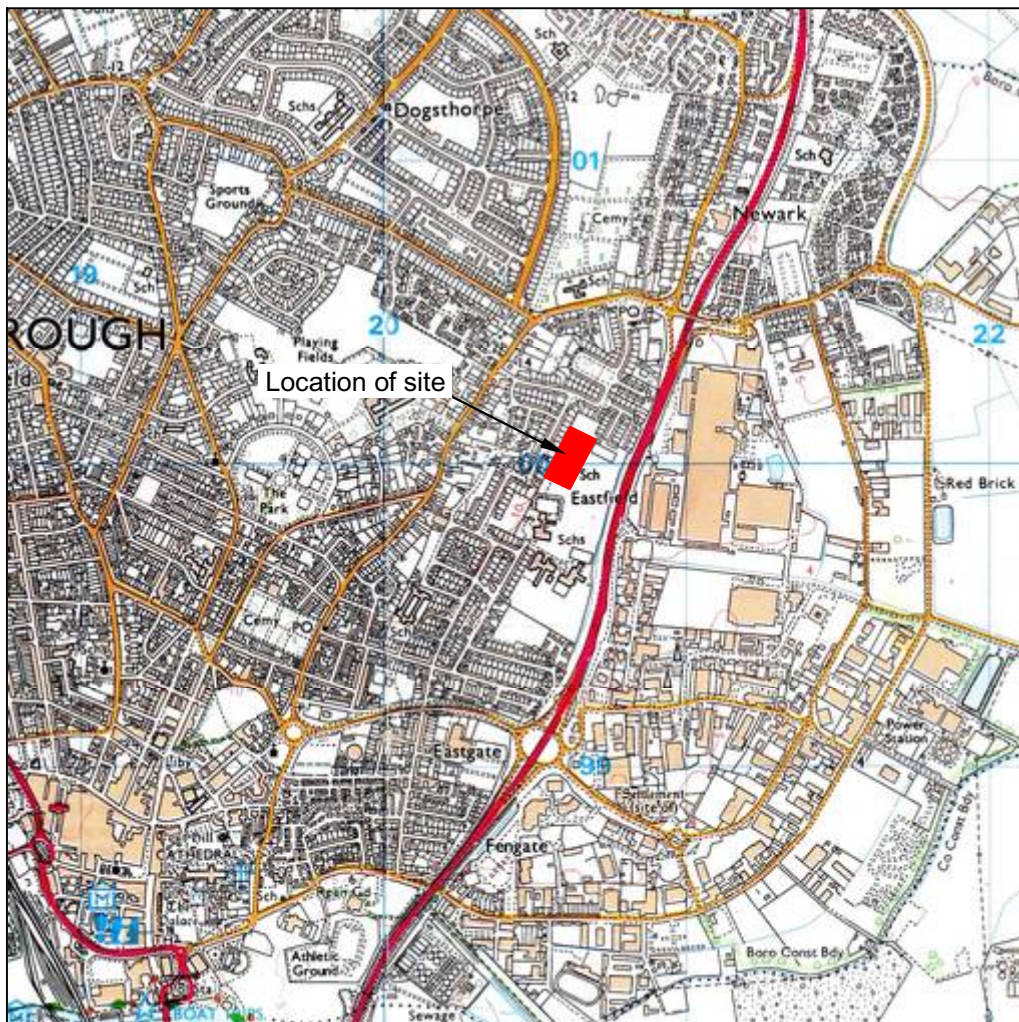


Figure 1: Site location plan at scale 1:25,000. OS mapping © Crown copyright. All rights reserved. PCAS Licence No. 100049278.

1.0 Introduction

Pre-Construct Archaeological Services Ltd. (PCAS) was commissioned by HSP Consulting to carry out a scheme of archaeological monitoring and recording during groundworks on land at the former Hereward Community College, Reeves Way, Eastfield, Peterborough, PE1 5LQ, for the new City of Peterborough Academy.

The monitoring was conducted to mitigate any remaining archaeology on the site; previous work included the monitoring of five geotechnical test pits and the excavation of three archaeological evaluation trenches. Results from this work are recorded under PCAS site codes **HCPM 12 / CPAE12**; and PCAS job numbers 876/906.

2.0 Site location and description (figs. 1 & 2)

Peterborough is a Cathedral City and Unitary Authority Area in the County of Cambridgeshire. The proposed development site, located on the site of the former Hereward Community College, is situated to the north-east of Peterborough city centre, off the south-eastern side of Reeves Way. The existing college buildings form a rectangular complex, aligned roughly north-northeast to south-southwest, on the western side of the college grounds, which are bounded to the north and west by residential developments, to the east by the Frank Perkins Parkway (A1139) and to the south by a sports field. The site covers an area of approximately 250m by 75m (1.875 ha.) and is centred on NGR TF 20625 00025 (see **Fig. 1**).

3.0 Geology and topography

Local drift geology of River Terrace deposits is widespread in the general area of the site, but the school buildings and their immediate environs are recorded as standing on an exposed solid geology of Kellaways Clay (BGS, 1984).

The site is on level ground at c. 6.8m AOD (Spalding and Brown, 2007).

4.0 Planning background

In May 2012 an application was registered with Peterborough City Council (PCC) for the '*Refurbishment and development of the former Hereward school buildings and site to create the new City of Peterborough Academy,*' (5LQ12/00717/R3FUL). Full planning permission for the development was granted on the 13th July 2012. An archaeological planning condition (C23), attached to the permission, stipulated that:

No ground works shall take place/commence until a programme of archaeological work including a monitoring and recording brief of all groundwork and evaluation by trial trenching and a Written Scheme of Investigation has been submitted to, and approved by, the local planning authority in writing. The Scheme shall thereafter the scheme shall be implemented as agreed.

Reason: to secure the obligation on the planning applicant or developer to mitigate the impact of their scheme on the historic environment when preservation in situ is not possible, in accordance with Planning Policy statement 5 Planning for the Historic Environment and Policy CS17 of the adopted Peterborough Core Strategy DPD.

5.0 Archaeological and historical background

Human occupation and activity in the Peterborough area date back to the Bronze Age, when settlements such as Flag Fen, to the east of the city, arose on islands of firm ground within the wetlands of the Nene valley. Bronze Age flint artefacts have been discovered at three sites within the vicinity of the college, including the Roundhouse Close site, some 750m to the south-east, which featured a Bronze Age ring-ditch and a large cemetery. Fragments of field systems ascribed to the Bronze Age have been recorded to the east of the college (Peterborough HER refs. 02823, 02999, 50658, 51245/6), (PCAS 2012).

Iron Age settlements have been recorded to the east and north of the college (HER refs. 08194, 10595, 51351). The projected course of the Car Dyke canal, believed to be of Roman origins, runs along the eastern boundary of the college grounds (HER ref. 02227). Several Roman findspots have been recorded nearby, chiefly in a small group to the west of the Car Dyke, associated with a small settlement in Dogsthorpe (HER refs. 02969, 02984, 02987, 02988, 03892), (PCAS 2012).

The first settlement on the site of the City of Peterborough was a Saxon village called *Medehamstede*. An abbey was built here in c. 655 AD, but in 870 AD it was plundered by Danish raiders and abandoned, (PCAS 2012).

A new abbey was built in 972 AD, and the walled settlement that grew up around it was known as 'St. Peter's burgh' (a 'burgh' being a fortified town). The early medieval town lay to the west of the abbey, but following a disastrous fire in 1116, the abbey was completely rebuilt and the abbot laid out a new, planned town to the west of it (Lambert, n.d.). During the medieval period, the college site lay within the agricultural hinterland of the town, and remained so until the area was developed in the 20th century; the Frank Perkins Parkway was constructed in 1976 (Spalding and Brown, 2007).

6.0 Site Investigation Background

In July 2007, monitoring of trial pits and an evaluation consisting of seven trenches were undertaken along the western perimeter of the Hereward Community College, following the compilation of a detailed desk-based assessment and targeted geophysical survey. The trial pitting produced negative evidence. However, the archaeological evaluation revealed an undated shallow pit and a group of undated postholes. These were sealed by a buried soil, which was overlain by bank material possibly associated with the Roman Car Dyke or the construction of the Frank Perkins Parkway in the 1970s (Spalding and Brown, 2007).

In 2012, a programme of test-pit monitoring was conducted on the site, under the PCAS site code **HCPM11**. Five soakaway test pits (pits 1-5) and four 'CPR' test pits (A, B, C & D) were excavated. This was followed by a programme of archaeological monitoring conducted on the site during topsoil and overburden stripping, in preparation for new areas of hard standing associated with proposed storage units and temporary site compound.

Three evaluation trial trenches were excavated concurrently on the site in July 2012, under the PCAS site code **CPAE12**. Two trenches (T1 and T2) were excavated within the footprint of the proposed new SEN block; a third trench (T3) was excavated within the footprint of the proposed new E1 link block (see **Fig. 2**).

No archaeological features, deposits or finds were observed during the monitoring of the geotechnical test pits or CPR pits; or within any of the three evaluation trial trenches. A small undated pit [004] was identified to the north of trial trench 1 during topsoil stripping. The largely negative results at the site are similar to those obtained in 2007 and confirm the low level of archaeology on the site.

7.0 Methodology

All groundworks associated with the development of three buildings, SEN, E1 and E2, were to be monitored. All the monitored excavations of the road strip and buildings were completed using a 360 JCB excavator fitted with a 650mm toothed bucket (due to ground conditions).

All features and deposits seen were recorded on standard PCAS recording sheets, and the progress of the groundworks noted on a standard PCAS site diary sheet. Sample sections were drawn at intervals at a scale of 1:20, and plotted on a base plan. A colour slide and digital photographic record was maintained: a selection from this is reproduced as Appendix 1.

The monitoring took place in August 2012 and included observing groundworks on the SEN building in the north of the site.

8.0 Results (fig. 3 & 4)

A single ditch was identified during the monitoring:

Natural limestone brash substrate 008 was identified at a depth of 1.3m, becoming bedded with increasing depth. This was overlain by compact orange-brown clay silt natural with frequent gravel inclusions 002, the Kellaways Clay identified in previous recording schemes.

At the northern end of the site, groundworks for the new SEN building identified part of a single linear feature [006] aligned approximately east-west and cut into 002. This ditch had moderately sloping sides and a flat base. It contained a sandy clay fill (005).

Overlying the area and ditch 006 was a mid orange-grey deposit 007, interpreted as subsoil and redeposited natural, mixed as a result of landscaping of the former playing field. The uppermost layer of dark brown silty-loam topsoil (001) covered the area.

No finds were recovered from any context during this scheme of monitoring and recording.

Unfortunately the groundworks for buildings E1 and E2 were not monitored. The former building previously included Trench 3 of the evaluation and monitored geotechnical test-pits 3 and 4, which were all archaeologically negative.

9.0 Conclusion

Part of a single undated ditch was identified during monitoring on the SEN building in the north of the site. Evaluation Trenches 1 and 2 were previously excavated in this area: they contained no features but a single undated pit was identified to the north of Trench 1 (PCAS 2012). As both features are undated, their purpose remains uncertain.

10.0 Effectiveness of methodology

The methodology employed during this project achieved its primary objective, ensuring that any archaeological remains that might have been present on the site would not have been destroyed unrecorded, while causing the minimum of disruption to the construction process.

11.0 Acknowledgements

PCAS Ltd would like to thank HSP Consulting for this commission; and Rebecca Casa Hatton, the Archaeological Advisor for PCC for her guidance throughout the project.

12.0 Site Archive

The project archive is currently held at the offices of PCAS Ltd. in Saxilby, Lincolnshire while being prepared for deposition, and will be deposited with the Peterborough Museum and Art Gallery.

13.0 Bibliography

British Geological Survey, 1984, *Peterborough: England and Wales 1:50,000 Series sheet 158, Solid and Drift Edition*. BGS, Keyworth, Nottingham.

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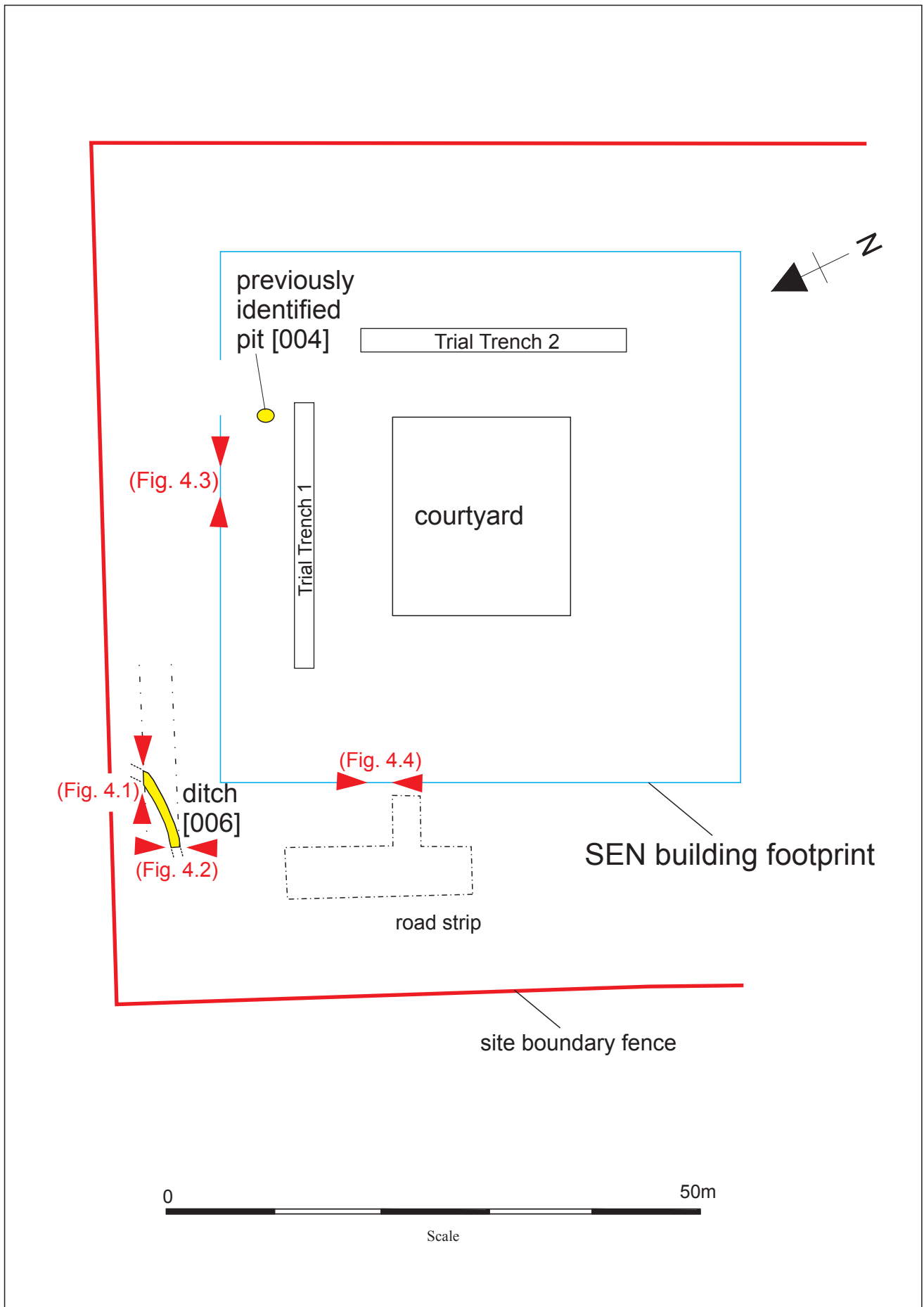
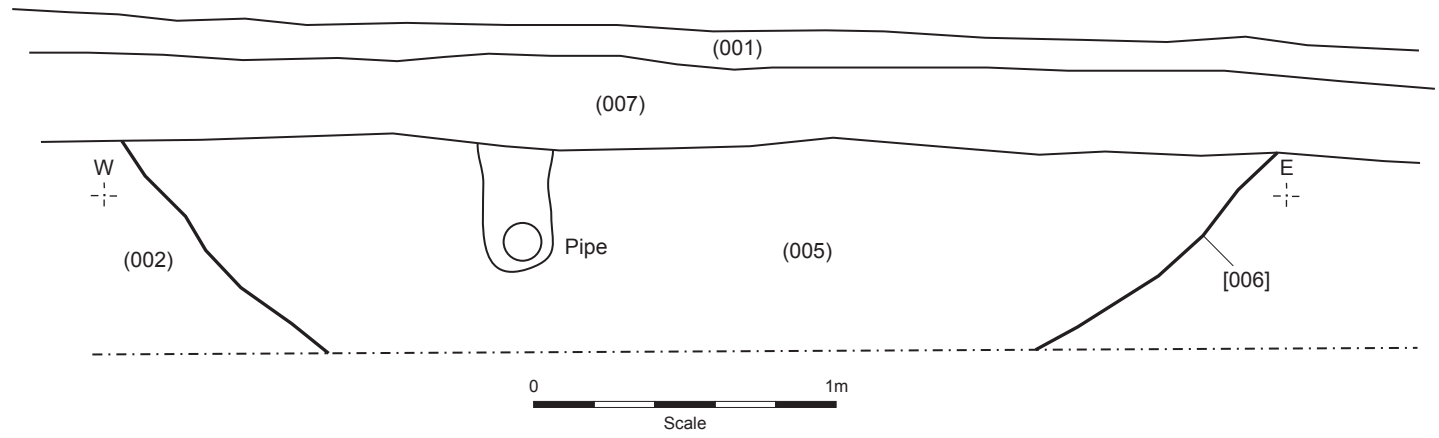
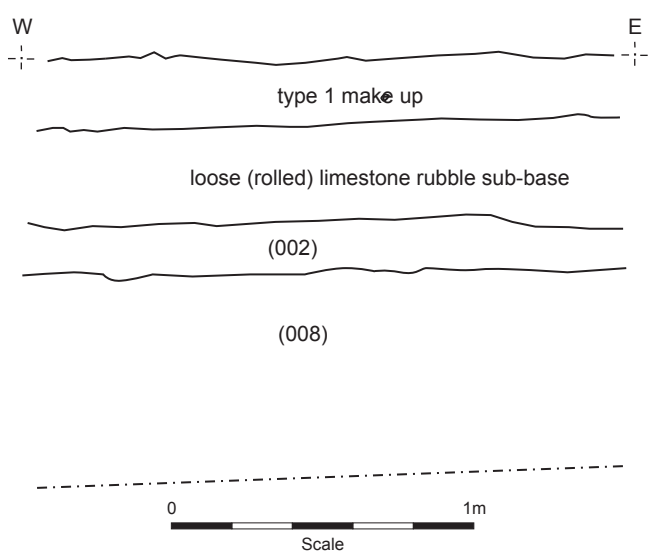


Fig. 3. Detailed site plan of features relating to the SEN building (scale 1:500)

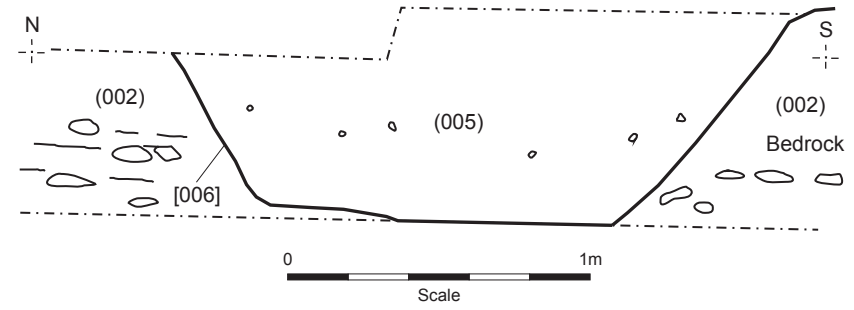
4.1



4.3



4.2



4.4

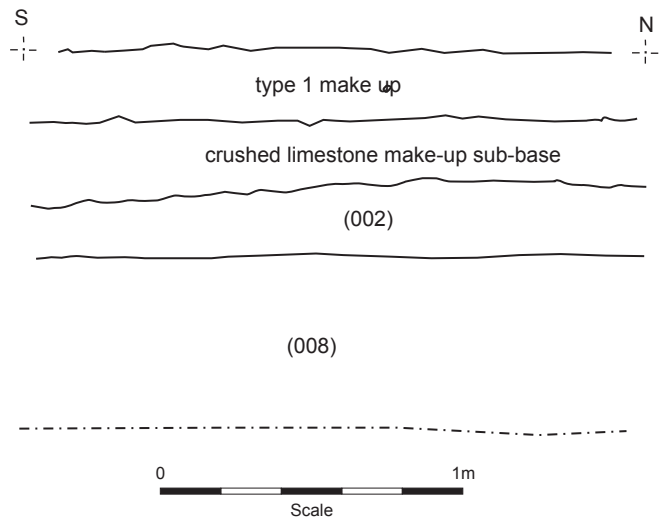


Fig. 4. Section drawings relating to Fig 3 (scale 1:25).

Appendix 1: Colour Plates



1: Area of SEN building prior to excavation, looking northeast



2: Road strip, looking southwest



3: Ditch 006, looking southeast



4: South-facing section of ditch 006



5: Western SEN foundations, looking N



6: Sample section, SEN building

Appendix 2: CPAM 12 Context Summary

Context No.	Site Code	Type	Description	Finds/Dating
001	CPAM12	Layer	Dark brown silty loam, friable with occasional small stones. Clear horizon removed by machine from site boundary and area of temporary compound	-
002	CPAM12	Layer	Natural Kellaways Clay: Orange-brown clay silt, compact with frequent gravel inclusions.	-
003	CPAE12	Fill	Previously excavated fill of 004.	-
004	CPAE12	Cut	Previously excavated pit.	-
005	CPAM12	Fill	Mid to dark greyish brown sandy clay, occasional small rounded pebbles, natural flint, chalk/mortar flecks and charcoal flecks. Single fill of 006.	-
006	CPAM12	Cut	Ditch running	-
007	CPAM12	Layer	Mid orangey grey mixed topsoil and redeposited natural. Result of landscaping on former playing field. Below 001	-
008	CPAM12	Layer	Off white – cream limestone brash, becoming bedded with increasing depth. Below 002.	-

Appendix 3: Oasis Summary Form

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

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OASIS ID: preconst3-155720

Project details

Project name	City of Peterborough Academy, Eastfield, Peterborough, Cambridgeshire
Short description of the project	Archaeological monitoring completed during groundworks for the new City of Peterborough Academy, on the site of the former Hereward Community College, Cambs. A single pit, and c. 5.5m of a ditch were identified. No artefacts were recovered.
Project dates	Start: 02-08-2012 End: 15-08-2012
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	CPAM 12 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	5LQ12/00717/R3FUL - Planning Application No.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 15 - Other
Monument type	NONE None
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF

Project location

Country	England
Site location	CAMBRIDGESHIRE PETERBOROUGH PETERBOROUGH City of Lincoln Academy, Eastfield, Peterborough
Postcode	PE1 5LQ

Study area 1.88 Hectares
Site coordinates TF 20625 00025 52 0 52 35 03 N 000 13 09 W Point
Height OD / Depth Min: 7.00m Max: 7.00m

Project creators

Name of Organisation Pre-Construct Archaeological Services Ltd
Project brief originator City/Nat. Park/District/Borough archaeologist
Project design originator Pre-Construct Archaeological Services Ltd
Project director/manager Will Munford
Project supervisor S A Savage
Type of sponsor/funding body Developer

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists? No
Digital Archive recipient Peterborough Museum
Digital Contents "none"
Digital Media available "Images raster / digital photography", "Text"
Paper Archive recipient Peterborough Museum
Paper Contents "none"
Paper Media available "Context sheet", "Diary", "Drawing", "Notebook - Excavation", ' Research', ' General Notes', "Photograph", "Plan", "Section", "Unpublished Text"
Entered by Alison Lane (alison@pre-construct.co.uk)
Entered on 25 July 2013

OASIS:

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