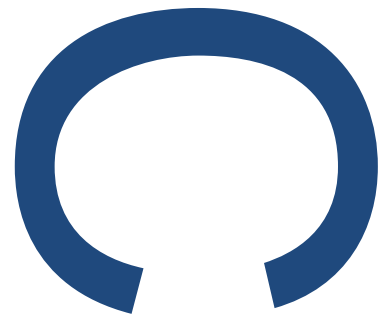
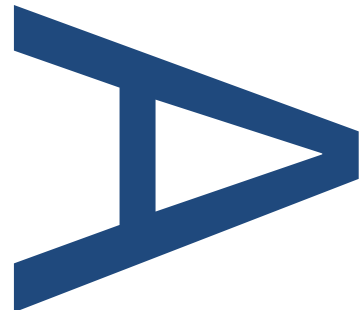


**Spring Grange, Wood End, Ardeley,  
Hertfordshire SG2 7BB**



**An Archaeological Watching Brief**



|  |  |                         |                       |
|--|--|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| <b><i>Planning reference</i></b>       | <b>3/17/2822/FUL</b>                       |                         |                       |
| <b><i>Local planning authority</i></b> | <b>East Hertfordshire District Council</b> |                         |                       |
| <b><i>PCA report no.</i></b>           | <b>R14891</b>                              | <b><i>Site Code</i></b> | <b>HSGA21</b>         |
| <b><i>PCA project no</i></b>           | <b>K7290</b>                               | <b><i>Date</i></b>      | <b>September 2022</b> |

**PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY LIMITED**

**[www.pre-construct.com](http://www.pre-construct.com)**

| Project Information      |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| Site name                | Spring Grange, Wood End, Ardeley, Hertfordshire SG2 7BB |
| Project type             | Watching Brief  |
| Site address             | Spring Grange, Wood End, Ardeley, Hertfordshire SG2 7BB |
| NGR                      | TL 3271 2539  |
| Local planning authority | East Hertfordshire District Council                     |
| Planning reference       | 3/17/2822/FUL   |
| Commissioning client     | HCUK Group  |
| Project dates            | 16 <sup>th</sup> & 17 <sup>th</sup> March 2022          |
| Archive site code        | HSGA21  |

| PCA Information     |  |                   |  |
|---------------------|--|-------------------|--|
| PCA project code    | K7290  | PCA report number | R14891   |
| PCA Project Manager | Zbigniew Pozorski  |                   |  |
| PCA office          | London   |                   |  |
| Address             | Unit 45 Brockley Cross Business Centre, 96 Endwell Road, London, SE4 2PD |                   |  |
| Telephone           | 020 7358 3925  |                   |  |
| E-mail              | zpozorski@pre-construct.com  | Internet          | <a href="http://www.pre-construct.com">www.pre-construct.com</a> |

| Quality Control           |                   |                |
|---------------------------|-------------------|----------------|
| Written by:               | Wayne Perkins     |                |
| Graphics by:              | Diana Valk        |                |
| Graphics checked by:      | Mark Roughley     |                |
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## **1 ABSTRACT**

- 1.1 This report presents the results of an archaeological watching brief conducted by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd (PCA) at Spring Grange, Wood End, Ardeley, Hertfordshire SG2 7BB in March 2022.
- 1.2 The works were related to the planning permission issued for the residential development on the site (East Hertfordshire District Council 3/17/2822/FUL).
- 1.3 The investigation was commissioned by the HCUK Group and consisted of the monitoring of intrusive groundworks related to the development.
- 1.4 The site had already been subject to both archaeological and heritage studies as well as a programme of trial trenching and historic building recording in 2021 (PCA 2021).
- 1.5 During the watching brief the earliest deposit encountered was the natural geology of brownish dark yellow clay at c.122m OD. This had been sealed by layers of subsoil and topsoil.
- 1.6 A north-west/south-east oriented ditch measuring was recorded to the south of the site. The feature was likely of medieval date, most likely of the early 14<sup>th</sup> century.
- 1.7 Outside the east door of the Spring Grange main building was an exterior yard surface composed of horn cores, animal bone and fragmentary late medieval/post-medieval CBM which appears to have been laid to make an area of hardstanding. The large quantity of horn cores suggested that either horn processing had occurred on the site or, more likely, that they had been brought in with other materials as 'hardcore' as part of a ground levelling operation. The pottery dating suggests the material was deposited in the late 16<sup>th</sup> century, possibly c. 1600 AD.

## 2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited undertook an archaeological watching brief at land at Spring Grange, Wood End, Ardeley, Hertfordshire SG2 7BB (Figure 1). The work was carried out over two days on the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> March 2022 and consisted of monitoring the ground reduction works on approach drive to Spring Grange (Trench 7), Plots 1 (Trench 10) and Plot 2 (Trench 9), two car port areas and a new access point from the main road (Trench 8) (Figures 2-3). The site is centred at NGR TL 3271 2539.
- 2.2 The works were carried out in response to a planning condition attached to the planning permission issued for the residential development on the site (East Hertfordshire District Council 3/17/2822/FUL).
- 2.3 The watching brief was undertaken following results of archaeological evaluation on the site (PCA 2021) to mitigate impact of the proposed development. The work was commissioned by the HCUK Group and overseen by Alison Tinniswood of the Historic Environment Unit of Hertfordshire County Council (HCC), archaeological advisor to East Hertfordshire District Council.
- 2.4 The work was supervised by Wayne Perkins and the project was managed by Zbigniew Pozorski, both of PCA.
- 2.5 All works were undertaken in accordance with the following documents:
- *Spring Grange, Wood End, Ardeley, Hertfordshire SG2 7BB: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief* (HCUK Group 2022)
  - *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2003)
  - *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (MoRPHE; Historic England 2015)
  - *Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) 2020)
  - *Fieldwork Induction Manual: Operations Manual*, Taylor, J & Brown, G. 2009, updated 2018 (Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd)
- 2.6 The completed archive, comprising written, drawn and photographic records will be deposited with the relevant receiving house, identified by the unique site code HSGA21.

### 3 PLANNING BACKGROUND

3.1 Planning permission was granted for the erection of 2 dwellings and 2 car ports, formation of access points, boundary walls and ancillary development; refurbishment of a listed building, incorporating single storey extension, new ground floor window openings on West and East elevations, external steps and canopy added to south elevation, replacement entrance porch on West elevation with timber porch; car port extension to Bothy (East Hertfordshire District Council Planning Ref: 3/17/2822/FUL).

3.2 Planning decision issued on the 29<sup>th</sup> of September 2020 contains archaeological condition (No 12) and it reads as follows:

*No development or groundworks shall take place until the applicant, or their agents, or their successors in title, has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The development shall thereafter be carried out in accordance with the approved scheme, and this condition will only be discharged when the required archaeological reports are submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.*

*Reason*

*The programme is required to be undertaken prior to the commencement of the development to secure the protection of and proper provision for any archaeological remains in accordance with Policies HA1 and HA3 of the East Herts District Plan 2018 and the National Planning Policy Framework.*

3.3 Following programme of archaeological evaluation (PCA 2021) a watching brief investigation has been requested by HCC as a measure to mitigate impact of the proposed development. Subsequently, relevant written scheme of investigation (WSI: specification) has been prepared (HCUK 2022) and approved by HCC.

## **4 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY**

- 4.1 The site is located in Wood End village, Ardeley, Stevenage and comprises two, currently unoccupied, residential buildings close to its western extent and an open 'lawn' area with a pond to the east of them (Figures 1-2). The site's boundaries are defined by Mentley Lane to the south, agricultural land to the north and east and residential buildings to the west.
- 4.2 The site is relatively level throughout with elevation ranging from 124m to 126m AOD (Above Ordnance Datum).
- 4.3 The underlying geology of the site is mapped as Hollywell Nodular Chalk Formation and New Pit Chalk Formation – Chalk. Superficial geological deposits are also mapped as overlying the bedrock geology; Lowestoft Formation – Diamicton consisting of chalky till mottled with outwash clay, sand, silt and gravel (BGS online).
- 4.4 During the recent evaluation (PCA 2021) the natural deposit sequence found on the site consisted of clay overlain by subsoil and topsoil. The clay was present at a height of between 121.08 m AOD and 123.32m OD.

## **5 ARCHEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

- 5.1 The archaeological and historical potential of the site is described in detail in the Desk Based Assessment (Archaeology Collective 2017) and Written Scheme of Investigation (HCUK 2022) and is not repeated here. The following is taken from the non-technical summary of the above report:
- 5.2 The assessment has confirmed that the application site contains only a single designated heritage asset, Spring Grange, which is a grade II listed building.
- 5.3 The application site does not contain any other designated heritage assets in the form of registered parks or gardens, world heritage sites or scheduled monuments.
- 5.4 The application site falls within the Wood End “Area of Archaeological Significance” as recognized by East Herts District Council, and as such is potentially subject to archaeological evaluation being required pre-determination of any planning applications.
- 5.5 There are no previously recorded non-designated heritage assets within the application site. Evidence of the Hertfordshire Historic Environment Record suggests that the application site had a negligible to low potential for the survival of significant prehistoric remains, a negligible potential for Roman remains, and low potential for significant remains from the medieval to modern periods.
- 5.6 The recent evaluation on the site (PCA 2021) has revealed linear features of late prehistoric period (mostly Late Iron Age) located in the eastern part of the site, evidence of late medieval activity in the area and remains of the post-medieval occupation.



## 6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

- 6.1 The works monitored consisted of the groundworks connected with construction of a new car port and new access areas onto the site which required ground reduction (Figure 2). All intrusive groundworks were monitored by the PCA supervisor.
- 6.2 The works were carried out within approach drive to Spring Grange (Trench 7), Plots 1 (Trench 10) and Plot 2 (Trench 9), two car port areas and a new access point from the main road (Trench 8) (Figures 2-3).
- 6.3 The ground reduction process was undertaken by mechanical excavator under the supervision of the PCA Supervisor. The ground was reduced in horizontal spits of 100mm. Once the archaeological/geological horizon was reached, it was cleaned by hand. Representative sections were hand-excavated and drawn, and the bases of the trenches cleaned in order to define any archaeological layers or features.
- 6.4 The trenches were hand planned digitally using Geomax equipment and sections were recorded by hand at a scale of 1:10 or 1:20 for each trench. Where possible, artefactual objects were recovered for dating. All archaeological deposits were recorded on *pro forma* context sheets and a full photographic record was compiled. Excavated area and spoil heaps were scanned with metal detector in search of artefacts.
- 6.5 The recording system adopted during the investigations were fully compatible with those presented within PCA's Site Manual (Taylor & Brown 2009, updated 2018). The site archive was organised to be compatible with other archaeological archives produced in the Hertfordshire.
- 6.6 It is intended that the completed archive produced during the evaluation, comprising written, drawn and photographic records, will eventually be deposited with the appropriate local museum under the site code HSGA21.

## **7 THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS**

### **7.1 Natural Geology**

#### 7.1.1 Trenches 7 & 8

7.1.2 The earliest deposit encountered was the drift geology composed of [702] / [804], a brownish dark yellow clay with inclusions of moderate sub-angular flint nodules and rounded pebbles with occasional flecks of chalk. It was recorded at 123.32m OD in Trench 7 at the west of the site and at 121.11m OD in Trench 8.

7.1.3 The subsoil [803] / [901] / [1001] was composed of a friable, greyish dark brown silty clay interface with the drift geology below and was generally c.0.20m thick.

7.1.4 Ground reduction in Trenches 9, 10 and car port (west) and car port (east) did not attain the depth required to expose the natural.

### **7.2 Archaeological remains**

#### 7.2.1 Trench 7

7.2.2 In Trench 7 immediately outside the east door of the main Spring Grange building and area of hardstanding [700] composed of compacted fragmentary horn cores, animal bone, pottery and CBM was uncovered (Plates 1-3, Figures 3-4). It was contained within a shallow cut or edge [701] which measured 3.50m x 0.90m and was 0.08m deep. It was linear in plan and had gradual sides and a flat base, recorded at 123.59m OD. Fragments of late medieval/early post-medieval pottery (Appendix 4) and late medieval/post-medieval roof tiles were recovered from this deposit (Appendix 2).

#### 7.2.3 Trench 8

7.2.4 Trench 8 was an excavation for a new access area from the road situated further away from the main building itself. The gateway will give access onto the proposed car ports located in the north of the site.

7.2.5 Due to torrential rain and wet conditions on site during excavation the presence of a ditch [802] was only picked up in section (Plate 4). Once the section had been cleaned it was seen to be 1.14m wide and 0.29m deep and recorded at 121.15m OD. The fill [801] was composed of a friable greyish mid brown clayey silt. Fragments of medieval pottery were recovered from the ditch.

7.2.6 Trenches 9 & 10, Car ports (west & east) (Plates 5-7)

7.2.7 Ground reduction in the above areas did not attain the natural and only the topsoil was removed to reveal the subsoil below. No archaeological remains were present in any of the above areas.

## 8 RESEARCH QUESTIONS

### 8.1 General Aims and Objectives

The written scheme of investigation (HCUK 2022) highlighted a set of general aims and objectives of the evaluation:

#### 8.1.1 The general aims of the archaeological investigation through strip, map and sample and trial trenching were:

To determine the presence or absence of archaeological deposits or remains,

#### 8.1.2 A ditch roughly aligned north-east to south-west, possibly a drainage/boundary ditch, was present in the south of the site in Trench 8 – although located very close to the previously found linear features dating to the Late Iron Age (PCA 2021) the ditch contained medieval pottery dating the feature to c. 1200-1350 AD.

#### 8.1.3 Immediately adjacent to the Spring Grange main building in Trench 7 a yard surface or area of hard-standing composed of fragmentary horn core waste, animal bone, CBM and pottery was recorded. The material dates to late medieval/early post-medieval period, and likely deposited in late 16<sup>th</sup> century/c. 1600 AD.

To record the character, date location and preservation of any archaeological remains on site.

#### 8.1.4 A linear feature (ditch) and possible yard surface, described above, were recorded.

To record the nature and extent of any previous damage to archaeological deposits or remains on site.

#### 8.1.5 Truncation on site was reduced to vehicle movement on site and any prior ploughing or ground levelling that had occurred in the past, otherwise preservation of the archaeological resource was good.

### 8.2 The specific aims of the investigation were:

To mechanically excavate the development areas around Spring Grange and the Bothy and the trial trenches to expose the surface of any underlying archaeological horizon or the natural ground,

#### 8.2.1 The area between the main building and Bothy was designated as Trench 7. Only the yard surface [700] was present, along with the scar for evaluation Trench 4 and remains of pit [406]. No further finds were recovered nor archaeological features present.

To clean the base and representative sections of the trench and record them in both plan and representative section;

#### 8.2.2 Representative sections were drawn of Trench 9 (Plot 2) and Trench 10 (Plot 1) as ground reduction had not been deep enough to attain the natural geology.

To identify and record the character of any remains on site,

8.2.3 Archaeological features were restricted to yard surface [700] and ditch [802].

To partially excavate any identified archaeological features so as to ascertain their extent, form, function and where possible date,

8.2.4 Both yard surface [700] and ditch [802] were subject to an archaeological investigation to record their nature, composition and dimensions.

## 9 CONCLUSIONS

- 9.1 In the event two archaeological features were recorded.
- 9.2 The ditch [802] in Trench 8 was likely to have been a boundary or drainage ditch; the latter is more likely as it was relatively wide and shallow. Its fill contained several different ceramic types, suggesting that it was not too distant from domestic activity centred around the main building to the west. The pottery is of medieval origins, and the suggested deposition date would have been in the early 14<sup>th</sup> century.
- 9.3 The area of hard standing [700] composed of fragmentary horn cores, animal bone, CBM and pottery was likely a remnant of early post-medieval activity on the site and an attempt to create a yard or a path surface or to fill in an uneven surface. The finds recovered suggest early post-medieval date for this occurrence, very likely c. 1600 AD, and it could have been related to the use of the site for domestic purposes.
- 9.4 The surface of crushed materials appears to have been associated with later phases of the building's life. The large quantity of horn cores present suggests that either the original farm bred cattle and processed them on site or that horns were supplied to the farm for the processing and working of horn-based products. It is entirely reasonable to assume that the horn cores arrived along with other 'hardcore' material for ground raising or consolidation. The use of horn core waste in structural elements is not uncommon in the post-medieval period, particularly in urban centres such as London in proximity to horn-working centres (Yeomans 2008: 130).
- 9.5 No further evidence regarding the Late Iron Age ditches uncovered during the prior evaluation phase was present. The findings of the watching brief showed mainly post-medieval activity on the site.

## **10 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

- 10.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd would like to thank HCUK Group for commissioning the work.
- 10.2 The author would also like to thank Zbigniew Pozorski for managing the project and editing this report, Diana Valk for the CAD illustrations, Amparo Valcarcel for CBM report and Keving Rielly for animal bone report.

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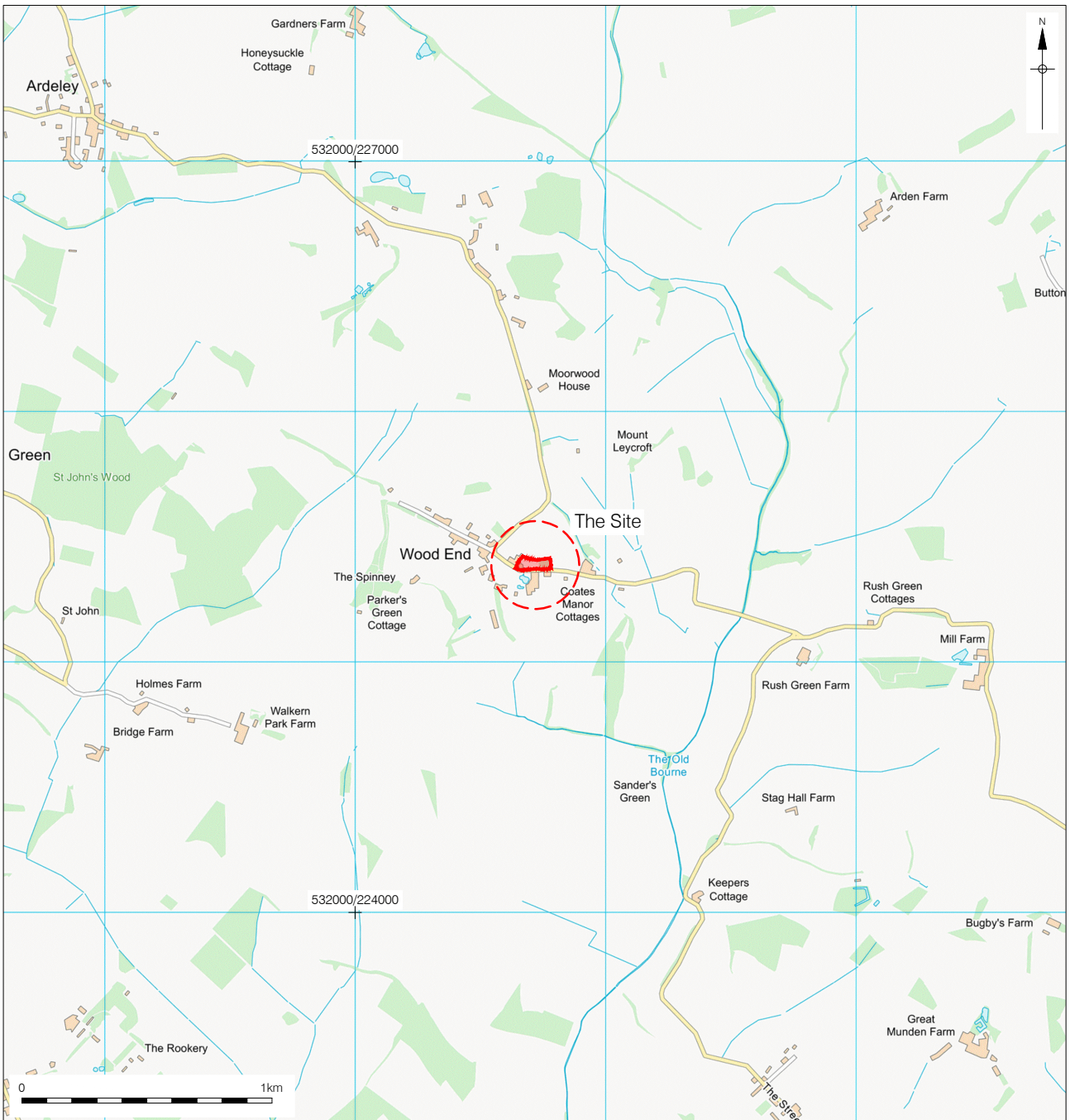
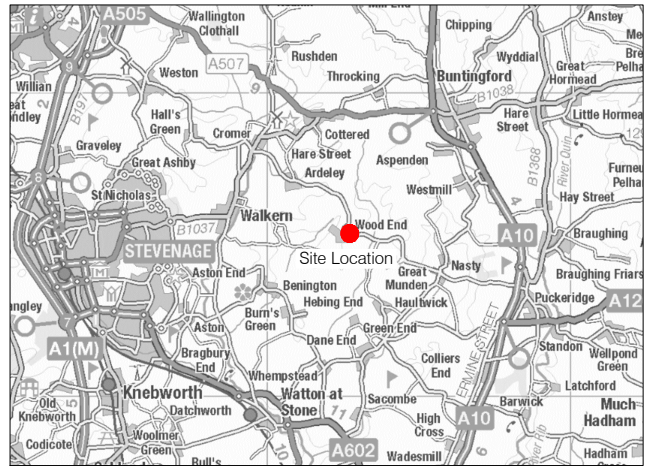
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### Online Resources

British Geological Survey (Geology Viewer online)

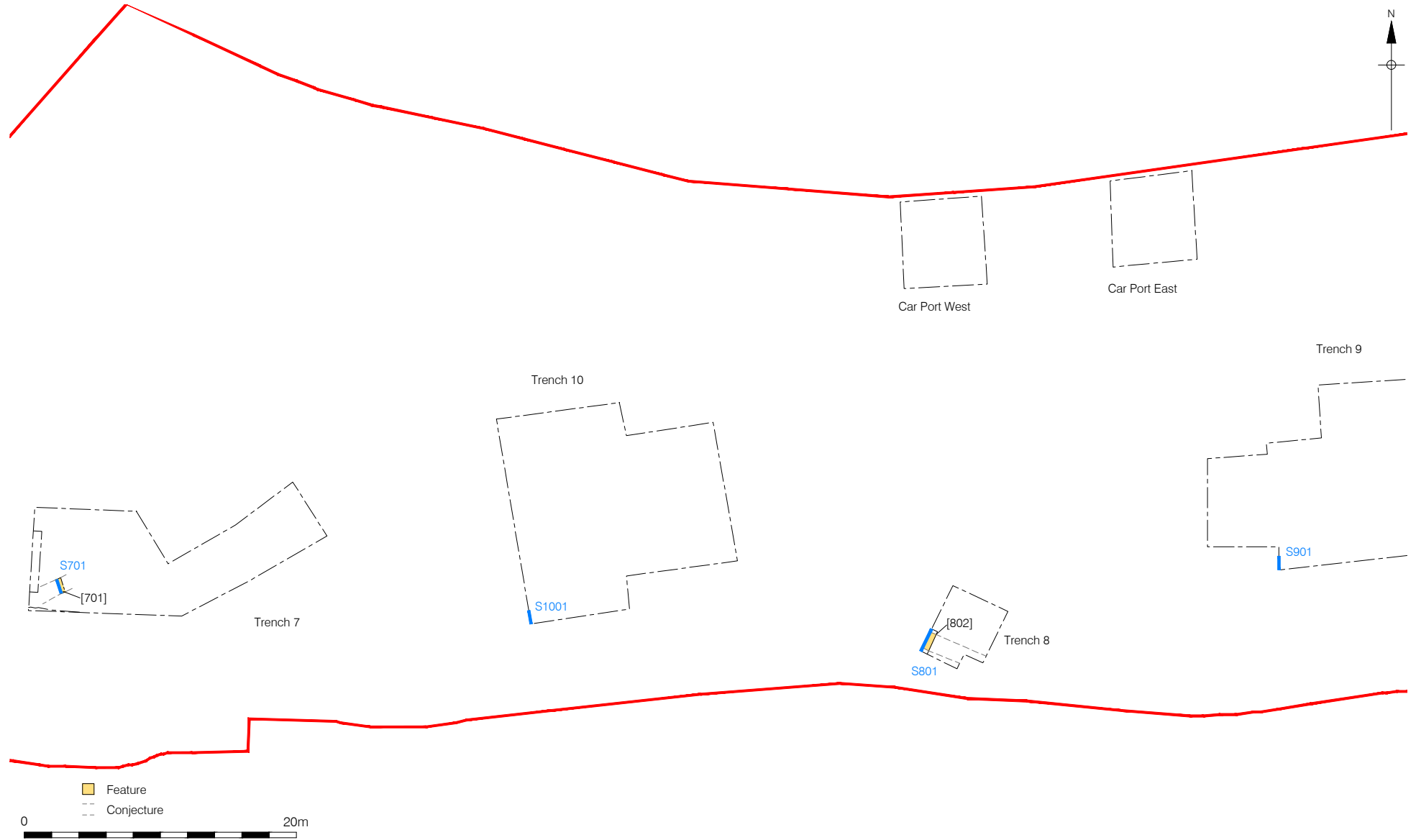
[Geology of Britain viewer | British Geological Survey \(BGS\)](#)

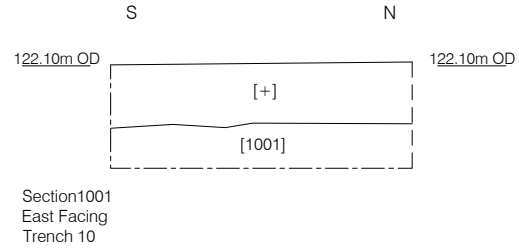
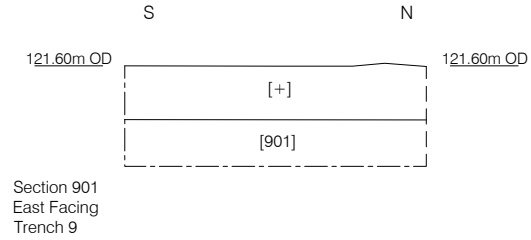
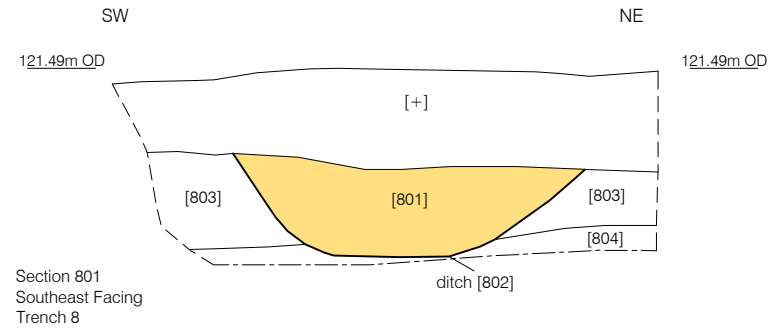
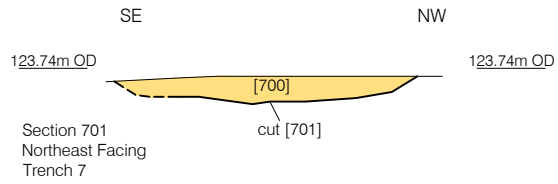
[Accessed 18-03-2022]











## PLATES



*Plate 1: Trench 7, view to south-west, scale 1m. Surface or path [700] composed of waste horn cores, fragmentary CBM and pottery*



*Plate 2: Trench 7, view to south-west, scale 1m. Surface or path [700] composed of waste horn cores, fragmentary CBM and pottery*





*Plate 3: Trench 7, view to north, scale 1m. Surface or path [700] composed of waste horn cores and fragmentary CBM*



*Plate 4: Trench 8, Section 801, view to north-west, scale 1m. Boundary or drainage ditch [802]*





*Plate 5: Car port (west), view to south-east, scale 1m. Ground reduction did not attain the underlying geology*



*Plate 6: Trench 9, view to north-east, scale 1m. Ground reduction did not attain the underlying geology*





*Plate 7: Trench 9, Section 901, view to west, scale 1m. Ground reduction did not attain the underlying geology*

## APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT INDEX

| Context | Type  | Description  | Interpretation                        | Length | Width | Depth/<br>thickness | Levels<br>m OD | Phase |
|---------|-------|--|---------------------------------------|--------|-------|---------------------|----------------|-------|
| 700     | Fill  | Fragmentary horn cores, animal bone, CBM & pottery in a matrix of greyish clayey silt                          | Fill of path cut [701]                | 3.84   | 1.14  | 0.08                | 123.74         | 2     |
| 701     | Cut   | Linear in plan, gradual sides and flattened 'U' base   | Outside yard surface or hard standing | 3.84   | 1.14  | 0.08                | 123.74         | 2     |
| 702     | Layer | Firm brownish dark yellow silty clay with sub angular flint nodules, rounded pebbles and flecks of white chalk | Drift geology                         | -      | -     | -                   | 121.15         | 1     |
| 801     | Fill  | Friable greyish mid brown clayey silt  | Fill of ditch [802]                   | 1.80   | 1.14  | 0.29                | 121.15         | 2     |
| 802     | Cut   | Linear in plan, gradual to sharp sides and concave   | Drainage or boundary ditch base       | 1.80   | 1.14  | 0.29                | 121.15         | 2     |
| 803     | Layer | Friable greyish mid brown clayey silt  | Subsoil                               | -      | -     | 0.31                | 121.15         | 1     |
| 804     | Layer | Firm brownish dark yellow silty clay with sub angular flint nodules, rounded pebbles and flecks of white chalk | Drift geology                         | -      | -     | -                   | 120.92         | 1     |
| 901     | Layer | Friable greyish mid brown clayey silt  | Subsoil                               | -      | -     | -                   | 121.38         | 1     |
| 1001    | Layer | Friable greyish mid brown clayey silt  | Subsoil                               | -      | -     | -                   | 121.90         | 1     |



## APPENDIX 2: BUILDING MATERIAL ASSESSMENT

By Amparo Valcarcel

### Introduction and Methodology

One bag of ceramic building material was recovered from a watching brief at Spring Grange, Ardeley, Hertfordshire HSGA21. The application of a 1kg masons hammer and sharp chisel to each example was undertaken to ensure that a small fresh fabric surface was exposed. The fabric was examined at x20 magnification using a long arm stereomicroscope or hand lens (Gowland x10).

The fabric and material were compared with the one identified by Kevin Hayward in a previous archaeological evaluation.

### Ceramic Building Material

Two peg tiles were collected from fill [700] of cut [701] in Trench 7. The fabric 2271v had the classic reduced core of medieval to early post-medieval peg tiles from London, this, and the fact that there is coarse moulding sand would suggest that these date from 1400-1800.

### Distribution

| Context | Fabric | Form  | Frag | Date range of material |      | Latest dated material |      | Spot date | Mortar Spot date |
|---------|--------|---|------|------------------------|------|-----------------------|------|-----------|------------------|
| 700     | 2271   | Thick late medieval to early post medieval peg tile fragments | 2    | 1400                   | 1800 | 1400                  | 1800 | 1500-1800 | No mortar        |

### Review and Potential

A summary of the findings from the small building material assemblage from Spring Grange, Ardeley, Hertfordshire HSGA21 show evidence of late medieval to early post-medieval peg tile fragments from Trench 7 (700). The material has no significance at a local level because the majority of the finds are residual and fragmentary. The assemblage consists of ceramic types and forms common. The ceramic building material has only the potential to date the contexts it was recovered from. There are no recommendations for further work on the finds.

### Bibliography

Hayward, K. 2021. The ceramic building material and fired clay. Unpublished PCA report.

## **APPENDIX 3: ANIMAL BONE ASSESSMENT**

By Kevin Rielly

### **Introduction**

The site is located at the north-eastern perimeter of the village of Wood End, just opposite Highbury Farm, this 3 km east of Stevenage. A previous evaluation in this area provided evidence for late prehistoric, late medieval and post-medieval occupation (Grden 2021). The present ground monitoring work provided further evidence for post-medieval activity, this within the previous evaluation trenches 7 and 8. A small quantity of animal bones was hand recovered from Trench 7, these in addition to those recovered at the evaluation stage of this project (Deighton 2021).

### **Methodology**

The bone was recorded to species/taxonomic category where possible and to size class in the case of unidentifiable bones such as ribs, fragments of longbone shaft and the majority of vertebra fragments. Recording follows the established techniques whereby details of the element, species, bone portion, state of fusion, wear of the dentition, anatomical measurements and taphonomic including natural and anthropogenic modifications to the bone were registered.

### **Description of faunal assemblage**

A total of 18 bones were hand recovered from the fill (700) of cut (701) in Trench 7. All were identified as cattle, including 7 horncores and 7 skull fragments as well as a scapula, humerus and 2 femurs. The horncores and skull pieces are undoubtedly associated, the former notably all from the left side and thus representing at least 7 skulls. 2 out of the 7 horncores are from subadult individuals and thus aged 2 to 3 years, while all the others are adult, so in excess of 7 years. While incomplete, their size at the base would suggest they are all within the shorthorn 'type', that is with a length no larger than 220mm. In addition, they would appear to represent a mix of cows and oxen (horncore information after Armitage 1982).

### **Conclusions and recommendations for further work**

This small collection is nonetheless of some interest, notably due to the concentration of cattle horncores. It is perhaps significant that the previous excavations in this area also provided a cattle horncore alongside a skull fragment, these dated to the post-medieval era (see Deighton 2021). Such horncores may represent butchers or possibly industrial/craft waste. The latter interpretation is perhaps more likely as the remains of seven cattle would not be surprising associated with a scalding house (abattoir) in a small town but surely unusual for such a small hamlet. However, this concentration would not be unusual in a craft establishment representing waste either from a tanyard or a hornworking establishment. The inclusion of younger horncores may well lend towards the former workshop as hornworkers tended to go for older (larger) horns. Small rural tanyards were certainly present in various

parts of post-medieval England, often dependent on the availability of cattle as well and/or bark (used in the tanning process), from nearby oak woods (after Clarkson 1966, 38).

The conclusions highlighted in this report should certainly be included with any publication report, however, no further work can be recommended for these bones.

## References

- Clarkson, L, A, 1967 The Leather Crafts in Tudor and Stuart England, *Agricultural History Review*, 15, 25-46
- Deighton, K, 2021 The Animal Bone from Spring Grange, Wood End, Ardeley, Herts (HSGA21), unpublished report for Pre-Construct Archaeology
- PCA, 2021 An Archaeological Evaluation at Spring Grange, Wood End, Ardeley, Herts SG2 7BB, Unpublished Report by Pre-Construct Archaeology, Report No. R14634

## APPENDIX 4: POTTERY ASSESSMENT

By Chris Jarrett

### Introduction and Methodology

A total of 16 sherds (309g) of pottery was collected solely by hand from the archaeological work and was recovered from two contexts. The pottery dates to both the medieval and early post-medieval periods and is listed in an index below. The pottery is in a good condition, but in a fragmentary state, although diagnostic sherds are present. The pottery was quantified by sherd count, ENV and weight.

### Index

Context [700]

Essex late medieval transitional redware, 1350–1600. Unidentified form. 1 sherd, 1 ENV, 5g. Body sherd with an internal splashed 'orange' glaze. Reddish-brown fired.

Essex late medieval transitional redware, 1350–1600. Unidentified form. 1 sherd, 1 ENV, 6g. Body sherd, hard orange ware, thin walled.

Essex late medieval transitional redware, 1350–1600, Unidentified form. 1 sherd, 1 ENV, 8g, Body sherd with an internal good clear glaze, but encrusted with fine particles. Reddish-brown fired.

Essex late medieval transitional redware, 1350–1600,. Unidentified form. 1 sherd, 1 ENV, 23g, Body sherd, pale brown surfaces, internal partially laminated surface.

Essex late medieval transitional redware, 1350–1600. Unidentified form. 2 sherds, 1 ENV, 123g, Shoulder sherds with an external incised horizontal line and a thin green glaze. Body sherd with knife trimming on the lower wall. Reduced dark grey, piebald orange and brown exterior. Jar or jug.

Essex late medieval transitional redware, 1350–1600. Jar. 1 sherd, 1 ENV, 13g. Rim sherd: everted, short, simple type rim with a rounded top. External clear glaze drip.

Essex-type post-medieval fine redware, 1580–1700. Rounded mug. 1 sherd, 1 ENV, 3g. Rim sherd: simple, short, upright type, short concave neck and shoulder. Internal and external glaze.

Essex-type post-medieval fine redware with green glaze, 1580–1700. Unidentified form. 1 sherd, 1 ENV, 6g.. Everted neck, narrow angular carinated shoulder, internal and external green glaze.

The group of pottery recovered from deposit [700] is dominated by late medieval transitional-type redware which dates more so to the late 15th-16th century. The occurrence of a rounded mug in Essex-type post-medieval fine redware, besides a carinated form in the green -glazed version of the redware, suggests a late 16th-century/c. 1600 deposition date.

## Context [801]

Essex unsourced sandy orange ware, 1200–1550. Unidentified form. 1 sherd, 1 ENV, 14g. Unglazed body sherd. Sandy, micaceous, sparse organics fabric.

Hedingham-type ware, 1150–1250. Unidentified form. 1 sherd, 1 ENV, 17g. Unglazed body sherd, ?jug.

Hedingham-type ware, 1150–1250. Unidentified form. 2 sherds, 1 ENV, 15g. Unglazed body sherds with external combed horizontal band decoration. ?Jug

South Hertfordshire-type greyware, 1170–1350. Unidentified form. 2 sherds, 1 ENV, 24g. Body sherd/shoulder. Sandy reduced ware with mostly grey quartz. Thin, patchy external olive glaze.

South Hertfordshire-type greyware. 1170–1350. Jug. 1 sherd, 1 ENV, 52g. Strap handle, central ridge with a groove on each side decorated with three horizontal lines of random point stabbing that can penetrate through the whole handle thickness.

The pottery types recorded in deposit [801] were contemporaneous during the period c. 1200–1350, although the absence of highly decorated wares and the occurrence of plain, largely unglazed pottery suggests an early 14<sup>th</sup> -century deposition date. The occurrence of a glazed south Hertfordshire-type greyware sherd is somewhat unusual although glazed vessels in this pottery type are not unknown from production sites, e.g., Chandlers Cross, Nettleden, Tilehouse Street, Hitchin and elsewhere (Blackmore and Pearce 2010, 131)

## Significance, potential and recommendations for further work

The pottery is of significance for demonstrating later medieval activity on the study area. The pottery has the potential for dating the context it was recovered from and indicates that drinking forms were an important activity on the study area. There are no recommendations for further work on the pottery, although this small assemblage should be archived in the hope of the miscellaneous wares being better identified in the future and therefore give a better understanding of the supply of medieval pottery to this area of east Hertfordshire.

## Reference

Blackmore, L. and Pearce, J. 2010, *Medieval coarsewares of the London area. A dated type-series of London medieval pottery part 5: shelly-sandy ware and the greyware industries*. Museum of London Archaeology Monograph 49

## APPENDIX 5: OASIS FORM

### Summary for preconst1-505462

|                                   |   |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| OASIS ID (UID)                    | preconst1-505462  |
| Project Name                      | Watching Brief at Spring Grange   |
| Sitename                          | Spring Grange   |
| Activity type                     | Watching Brief  |
| Project Identifier(s)             | HSGA21  |
| Planning Id                       | 3/17/2822/FUL, 3/17/2822/FUL  |
| Reason For Investigation          | Planning: Between application and determination   |
| Organisation Responsible for work | Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd   |
| Project Dates                     | 16-Mar-2022 - 17-Mar-2022   |
| Location                          | Spring Grange<br>NGR : TL 32710 25390<br>LL : 51.9112404862205, -0.072066958605362<br>12 Fig : 532710,225390  |
| Administrative Areas              | Country : England<br>County : Hertfordshire<br>District : East Hertfordshire<br>Parish : Ardeley  |
| Project Methodology               | Watching Brief during construction groundworks. The work was carried out over two days on the 16th and 17th March 2022 and consisted of monitoring the ground reduction works on approach drive to Spring Grange (Trench 7), Plots 1 (Trench 10) and Plot 2 (Trench 9), two car port areas and a new access point from the main road (Trench 8).  |
| Project Results                   | <p>During the watching brief the earliest deposit encountered was the natural geology of brownish dark yellow clay at c.122m OD. This had been sealed by layers of subsoil and topsoil.</p> <p>A north-west/south-east oriented ditch measuring was recorded to the south of the site. The feature was likely of medieval date, most likely of the early 14th century.</p> <p>Outside the east door of the Spring Grange main building was an exterior yard surface composed of horn cores, animal bone and fragmentary late medieval/post-medieval CBM which appears to have been laid to make an area of hardstanding. The large quantity of horn cores suggested that either horn processing had occurred on the site or, more likely, that they had been brought in with other materials as 'hardcore' as part of a ground levelling operation. The pottery dating suggests the material was deposited in the late 16th century, possibly c. 1600 AD.</p> |
| Keywords                          | Boundary Ditch - POST MEDIEVAL - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types   |
| Funder                            |   |
| HER                               | Hertfordshire HER - unRev - STANDARD  |
| Person Responsible for work       |   |
| HER Identifiers                   |   |
| Archives                          |   |

# PCA

## **PCA CAMBRIDGE**

THE GRANARY, RECTORY FARM  
BREWERY ROAD, PAMPISFORD  
CAMBRIDGESHIRE CB22 3EN  
t: 01223 845 522  
e: [cambridge@pre-construct.com](mailto:cambridge@pre-construct.com)

## **PCA DURHAM**

THE ROPE WORKS  
BROADWOOD VIEW  
CHESTER-LE-STREET  
DURHAM DH3 3AF  
t: 0191 377 1111  
e: [durham@pre-construct.com](mailto:durham@pre-construct.com)

## **PCA LONDON**

UNIT 54, BROCKLEY CROSS BUSINESS CENTRE  
96 ENDWELL ROAD, BROCKLEY  
LONDON SE4 2PD  
t: 020 7732 3925  
e: [london@pre-construct.com](mailto:london@pre-construct.com)

## **PCA NEWARK**

OFFICE 8, ROEWOOD COURTYARD  
WINKBURN, NEWARK  
NOTTINGHAMSHIRE NG22 8PG  
t: 01636 370410  
e: [newark@pre-construct.com](mailto:newark@pre-construct.com)

## **PCA NORWICH**

QUARRY WORKS, DEREHAM ROAD  
HONINGHAM  
NORWICH NR9 5AP  
T: 01223 845522  
e: [cambridge@pre-construct.com](mailto:cambridge@pre-construct.com)

## **PCA WARWICK**

2 PLESTOWES BARN, HAREWAY LANE  
BARFORD, WARWICK  
WARWICKSHIRE CV35 8DD  
t: 01926 485490  
e: [warwick@pre-construct.com](mailto:warwick@pre-construct.com)

## **PCA WINCHESTER**

5 RED DEER COURT, ELM ROAD  
WINCHESTER  
HAMPSHIRE SO22 5LX  
t: 01962 849 549  
e: [winchester@pre-construct.com](mailto:winchester@pre-construct.com)

