

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

Land at the Former Morrison's Site, Baldock Street, Royston, Hertfordshire

Planning Ref: 24/00436/FP

Site Code: ROY/BS'25

Oasis id: PRECONST1-530399

NGR: TL 35509 40666

Ref: JAC28845
April 2025

**LAND AT FORMER MORRISON'S
SITE, BALDOCK STREET,
ROYSTON, HERTFORDSHIRE: AN
ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION.
V1**

**LOCAL PLANNING AUTHORITY:
NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT
COUNCIL**

**PLANNING APPLICATION NUMBERS:
PRE-APPLICATION 24/00436/FP**

**OASIS REFERENCE: PRECONST1-
530399**

SITE CODE: ROY/BS '25

REPORT N°: R17893

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ABSTRACT

The programme of archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd. (PCA) on land at the former Morrison's, Baldock Road, Royston, Hertfordshire (NGR TL 35509 40666) on Thursday 3rd of April 2025. The works were carried out following a submission for a pre-application (planning application number: 24/00436/FP) for the development of a two-storey retirement home, including some retail space.

The historic mapping demonstrates that the study site was located on the western edge of the Post-medieval town. Until recently the western part of the site was utilised as a car park, with a former supermarket building occupying the northeastern quarter of the site. The site was considered to hold a high potential for evidence of post-medieval remains associated with the former brewery complex or the rebuilding of the site as a sweet factory prior to the construction of the Supermarket in 1982.

The evaluation did not identify any surviving archaeological deposits or remains within the scope of works. The lack of archaeological remains was due to the truncation by the previous development within the site.

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 A programme of archaeological trial trench evaluation was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd. (PCA) on land at the former Morrison's, Baldock Road, Royston, Hertfordshire (NGR TL 35509 40666) on Thursday 3rd of April 2025 (Figure 1).
- 1.2 The archaeological evaluation work was commissioned by RPS Consulting Ltd. on behalf of McCarthy Stone in response to an archaeological pre-planning condition attached to the proposed development site, (Planning Reference: 24/00436/FP). This was due to high archaeological significance of the proposed development area (PDA), and in line with *National Planning Policy Framework* 2024, Section 16 'Conserving and enhancing the historic environment'.
- 1.3 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by RPS Consulting (Halsey, C. V3, 2024) in response to a Brief for archaeological evaluation issued by Peri Horsley (Letter dated 28th May 2024; Letter ref: P01/24/0436-1) of the North Hertfordshire District Council.
- 1.4 The aim of the evaluation was to determine the location, date, extent, character, condition and quality of any archaeological remains on the site, to assess the significance of any such remains in a local, regional, or national context, as appropriate, and to assess the potential impact of the development proposals on the site's archaeology.
- 1.5 A total of two evaluation trenches of 15m length by 2m wide, were excavated and recorded. The trenches totalling a 5% of the proposed building footprint. (Figure 2).
- 1.6 This report describes the results of the evaluation and aims to inform the design of an appropriate archaeological mitigation strategy. Following Transfer of Title, the site archive will be deposited at Royston Museum, part of the North Hertfordshire District Council Museum service.

2 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

2.1 Geology

2.2 The underlying geology of the site is Holywell Nodular Chalk Formation, a sedimentary bedrock formed between 100.5 to 89.8 million years ago during the Cretaceous period. No Quaternary superficial deposits are recorded overlying the chalk at the site or in the immediate area (BGS 2025).

2.3 The made ground uncovered across the trenches was found to directly overlie the Holywell Nodular Chalk Formation and be of variable thickness, ranging from 0.2 to 0.4m below the ground level.

2.4 Topography

2.4.1 The ground level across the site is relatively level, with a surface elevation of c.64m OD.

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 3.1.1 The following archaeological background has been taken from the WSI prepared by RPS (Halsey 2024).

3.2 Previous Archaeological Investigations

- 3.2.1 An archaeological evaluation was undertaken directly to the south of the site in 2003 at Newspaper House on Upper King Street. Although the results of these investigations were not provided with the Historic Environment Record (HER), the investigations are linked to monument reference referring to a burgage plot. These notes state that a strip of land north of 37 Upper King Street preserves the boundaries of one of the medieval burgage plots of the town. This part of Royston formed part of the land granted to The Hospital of St John & St James. It is postulated that the plots were laid out by the Hospital to generate rents and encourage growth.
- 3.2.2 An archaeological watching brief was undertaken on Abbots Yard, King Street, located c.25m to the east of the site. No archaeological findings or features other than the cellar of the demolished building was noted.
- 3.2.3 A watching brief on ground works for a new block of flats on 56 Briary Lane, located c.60m to the west of the site, identified three post-medieval features thought to be associated with the post-medieval era Earls House, and an undated well. The ground was noted to be heavily disturbed.
- 3.2.4 A trial trench evaluation undertaken at 1-5 Baldock Street, located c.40m the northeast of the site, revealed evidence of late 18th century and early 19th century remains, consisting of a floor and external wall of a probable stable, post-holes, a cellar, and other structural remains.
- 3.2.5 A trial trench evaluation was also undertaken directly to the south of the site at Heath House (CgMs, 2011). Four trenches were excavated, two of which recorded late post-medieval features. These included the remains of a flint wall and a series of postholes forming a fence line. These features were associated with the later post-medieval period development of tenement plots or backyards of properties fronting onto Upper King Street.

3.3 Prehistoric

- 3.3.1 No Palaeolithic archaeological remains have been found within the direct vicinity of site.
- 3.3.2 Evidence for Mesolithic activity has been limited to five tranchet axes, and a bone harpoon recorded c 800m to the southwest of the site.
- 3.3.3 Given the paucity of evidence for Palaeolithic and Mesolithic remains within the study area, the site's potential to contain remains from these periods can reasonably be regarded as low.
- 3.3.4 Evidence for Neolithic activity consists of a flint axe and a polished axe head recorded c 800m to the southwest of the site. Two possible Late Neolithic or Bronze Age round barrows are recorded c 900m to the southwest of the site on Therfield Heath. One of these was excavated in 1885 and found to contain a cremation burial. These two burial mounds are now designated as a scheduled ancient monument.
- 3.3.5 A circular crop mark within the garden of Royston Vicarage, located c 500m to the west of the site, has also been thought to represent the remains of a possible round barrow. The feature was investigated in 1988 but identified little more than a post-medieval plough soil. However, the feature did not appear to be of geological or biological origin and was considered too large to be a 'fairy ring' (i.e., a feature created by a circular ring of mushrooms). A single struck flake, probably of Late Neolithic to Early Bronze Age was recovered from the topsoil, suggesting the feature may well be the remains of a round barrow.
- 3.3.6 The route of Ickniel Way (a prehistoric trade route), lies directly to the north of the site, and runs west to east through the centre of Royston, following the modern-day course of Baldock Road. This ancient trackway has been thought to have been in existence since the Neolithic period and continued in use into the Roman period.
- 3.3.7 Overall, there has been limited evidence for Neolithic and Bronze Age archaeological remains. Therefore, the site's potential to contain evidence of

remains and features dating to these periods can be regarded as low.

3.4 Iron Age and Roman

- 3.4.1 Iron Age finds within the study area comprise three coins of Cunobelinus (one gold and two bronze), a bronze coin of Tasciovanus and a gold stater; and a large Late Iron Age beaker displaying metopic (panelled) decoration, recorded c 800m to the southwest of the site.
- 3.4.2 The historic core of Royston is centred on the junction of two Roman roads. Icknield Way, previously mentioned, follows an east to west route through the centre of the town, while Ermine Street follows a south to north route, c.50m to the east of the site. Ermine street, which forms the Roman highway from London to York, was constructed by the Roman Army shortly after the conquest of southern Britain in AD 43-45.
- 3.4.3 Evidence for Roman features has been limited within the study area. Two parallel ditches of Roman date were identified during a watching brief on Therfield Heath, located c.400m to the west of the site. Features indicative of a broad bank, with ditches either side, were recorded during archaeological investigations at Green Drift, c.400m to the north of the site. One of the ditches contained a small assemblage of local Roman coarse pottery wares.
- 3.4.4 The HER notes a possible Roman burial mound on Kneeworth Street, located on the east side of Ermine Street, c.400m to the north of the site. The mound contained nine burials, a knife, spear, and coins, although none of these finds were dated. It has been possible that the feature may have been a Roman barrow reused in the Saxon period. Evidence of Roman occupation has also been noted near Briary Lane, c.275m to the south of the site, although the exact details of these antiquarian finds are unknown.
- 3.4.5 Other evidence of Roman activity has been limited to chance finds, many of which contain little detail on the exact provenance, location, and circumstances of their discovery. Roman coins, one of which depicts Agrippina and Nero (AD 54-59); cremation urns including two bronze pins; the bust of a Roman lady in bronze, and a small Roman green glass bottle with two reeded handles, were

found c.800m to the southwest of the site.

- 3.4.6 Approximately 900m to the west of the site 18th century documentary sources suggested the location of a Roman military camp, just to the south of Icknield Way.
- 3.4.7 Although the evidence for Roman activity within the vicinity of the site has been sparse, the site is located near to the junction of two Roman thoroughfares: Icknield Way, and Ermine Street. This road junction may have formed a focus for Roman activity, and therefore the site's potential to contain evidence of Roman remains can be regarded as low to moderate.

3.5 Anglo-Saxon and Medieval

- 3.5.1 The HER records six Saxon bronze fibulae found c.900m to the southwest of the site.
- 3.5.2 Royston is not recorded in the Domesday Book of 1086, and it appears the town developed around the crossroads of Icknield Way and Ermine Street during the 12th century with the establishment of the Augustinian Priory of St John the Baptist and St Thomas. The site of the priory lies c.170m to the east of the site. The priory was founded in 1163 and dissolved in 1537. It was founded by the Lord of Newsells Eustace de Mere, who built a chapel between 1164 and 1179. In 1184 it was raised to the status of a priory; originally dedicated to St John the Baptist, it was rededicated to include St Thomas of Canterbury (Thomas a Becket, assassinated in 1170). Its founding charter included manorial rights, and from 1189 Richard I granted the Priory the right to hold a market on the fourth day of each week and to have a fair throughout Whitsun week. A further fair was granted in 1242. These fairs and markets would have attracted trade and encouraged the growth of the town.
- 3.5.3 Royston parish church is the only remaining part of the monastic establishment. The building known as the Priory is apparently an enlarged Georgian house and was probably built on part of the site of the domestic quarters. A long wall in the Memorial Gardens is apparently 'remains of the nave south wall'.

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- 3.5.4 An archaeological evaluation undertaken to the south of the church uncovered substantial stone foundations, apparently part of the cloister, and at least four burials. The burials were in two distinct groups, one being within the cloister, the other representing a lay cemetery. The building remains suggested several phases of alteration and rebuilding. The investigations also revealed evidence of possible medieval pits within the precinct and some evidence that the area of the priory cloister may have been deliberately terraced prior to its construction.
- 3.5.5 Two other religious foundations were established in the town during the medieval period, the Hospital of St Nicholas for people with leprosy, and the Hospital of St John and St James. The Hospital of St Nicholas, located c.200m to the north of the site, was founded in c.1200, and consisted of a chapel and lodgings for the people with leprosy. The hospital was granted a fair by 1212, but by 1359 the hospital was merely a chapel appropriated to the hospital of St John and St James.
- 3.5.6 The Hospital of St John & St James located c.40m to the east of the site, was founded in 1224 by Richard Argentine. The hospital became a free chapel in 1486 but was still called (in name only) a hospital in 1535. Suppressed in 1547, it was used as a dwelling house before 1610. In 1959 four medieval inhumation burials, located c.60 m to the west of the site, from a cemetery which may be associated with the priory, were found nearby in Briary Lane. The four coffined inhumations consisted of three adults and one child.
- 3.5.7 There are also mid-20th century reports of the discovery of an Anglo-Saxon knife found near three skeletons in Briary Lane. Monitoring groundworks for a new building at the north end of Briary Lane, just to the north of this location, noted only features associated with the 18th-20th century gardens of Earls Hill House, and an undated well. The HER also notes that the site of the hospital may have been partly excavated during the redevelopment of the Phillips Brewery site in the 1980's. The former Phillips Brewery was located within the site boundary, although the exact details of the findings are unknown.
- 3.5.8 The HER also suggests that the site once formed part of the burgage plots
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(medieval tenements) laid out by the Hospital of St John & St James, to generate rents and encourage growth. The extent of these burgage plots and the layout of the medieval town is shown on Figure 3 of the DBA (Smith & Ransom, 2001). This plan also illustrates the site of the Priory, and the probable extent of the medieval town and associated market. The map demonstrates that the southern boundary of the site aligns with one of the burgage plot boundaries running east to west.

- 3.5.9 The HER records the discovery of a medieval timber-framed building just within the site's northern boundary. The evidence also included household pottery, cooking pots, as well as a few pig and cow bones. The exact location of the findings is uncertain, but they were encountered during the development of the supermarket in 1982.
- 3.5.10 Royston is known for a very unusual feature, which comprises an artificial subterranean cavern hollowed out of the natural chalk beneath the existing road on Melbourn Street, located 200m to east of the site. The cavern was thought to have been infilled in the late medieval period and accidentally rediscovered in 1742 when worker erecting a bench for the butter market in Mercat House (since demolished), discovered a millstone closing the entrance to a narrow vertical shaft. The shaft, now sealed beneath the modern road surface, descended some 4.8m to enter the cave about halfway up the northwestern side. The cave itself is a manufactured bell-shaped chamber measuring c.5.2m in diameter at the base, and some 7.7m in height.
- 3.5.11 The cavern has six recesses near the bottom, and numerous carvings, mostly of a religious nature, on the walls. These are stylistically 13th-14th century, but are considered unique in western Europe, with comparable examples only found in Czechoslovakia and Palestine. 'Putholes' for timbers suggest it had an upper story, and the cavern may have been used as a hermitage in the 16th century. When it was rediscovered in 1742, objects found in the debris filling the cave included a human skull, a few bones, fragments of a drinking cup and a piece of brass. It has been suggested that the cave may relate to the Knights Templar order. The evidence for this is iconographic, as the images include

what may be figures of knights and others that may have a connection with them. Today the site is a Scheduled Ancient Monument (Ref: 1015594).

- 3.5.12 In summary, the data suggests that during the medieval period the site lay within the medieval core of Royston. The site once formed part of a burgage plot associated with the Hospital of St John and St James. Previous archaeological investigations undertaken on the site, as part of the redevelopment of the site for the supermarket in the 1980's, found the remains of medieval buildings along the northern portion of the site. However, details on these investigations are extremely sparse, and so the exact location and nature of the remains is uncertain. Prior to considering the extent of previous ground disturbance across the site, the site's potential to contain evidence of medieval archaeological remains can be regarded as moderate to high, particularly along the northern edge of the site, where medieval properties fronting onto Baldock Street can be expected to occur. Evidence of Saxon activity within the study area is limited, and therefore the site's potential to contain evidence of Saxon remains can be regarded as low.

3.6 Post-medieval and Modern

- 3.6.1 3.6.1 The location of the town, on the crossing of the Old North Road (Ermine Street) and the Icknield Way, meant that many travellers passed through, especially from the north-east. Royston was a day's journey from London by stagecoach, so many travellers would have spent their last night on the road in the town. Many inns were established to cater for this trade. In 1603 King James I spent the night in Royston on his way south following his accession.
- 3.6.2 King James had a close association with the town and established a royal hunting lodge known as the Old Palace in 1604. The Palace, parts of which survive today, lies c.150m to the northeast of the site. The surviving remnant of King James's Palace is an early 17th century hunting lodge called the 'Kings Lodgings', a rectangular building incorporating 18th and 19th century alterations. The building originally extended into the middle of Kneesworth Street but was partly demolished in the 1700's. A 16th century jettied house to the south in Kneesworth Street was part of the palace outbuildings. The building

still retains the old wooden door frame and open roof, with the interior altered. North of the palace are the brick wall remains of the old stables. The core of the Palace was provided by two inns bought by King James in 1604: The Cock, on the east side of Kneesworth Street, and The Greyhound, a pre-Reformation inn. The King enlarged the accommodation, for people and horses, dogs, and hawks, and spent £4000 on building and buying nearby property between 1604 and 1611.

- 3.6.3 The 1766 Andrews and Dury Map of Hertfordshire shows the site occupying the western edge of the town with Icknield Way shown just to the north of the site. The 1799 Ordnance Survey Map, and the 1822 Bryant Map of Hertfordshire still depicts the site lying within the western edge of the town core.
- 3.6.4 By 1877 the site had changed with the establishment of a brewery across most of the site, with the rear gardens of the properties facing onto Back Street located to the south of the site. The brewery was established in 1725 by Robert Phillips, with whose family it was associated with until the early 20th century. The Phillips family resided at Earls Hill House located to the west of the site.
- 3.6.5 The brewery later became known as the Royston Brewery. It had three malthouses, although none were on the brewery site. One malthouse was located just on the other side of Baldock Street. One was in Kneesworth Street, and the third was a multi-story malthouse with its own siding opposite the railway station.
- 3.6.6 By the 1890's the site had developed into a large complex of buildings, when it was called 'J & J E Phillips Ltd'. It caught fire in August 1909 but re-opened in February 1910. In 1949 the operation was taken over by J W Green of Luton. Part of the complex may have dated from 1765. A bell bearing this date was found after the 1909 fire. The brewery was completely rebuilt in the 1960's, when it became a sweet factory under the ownership of Barratt & Co, although part of a 19th century red brick building and the 18th century brewer's house remains.
- 3.6.7 The 1898 and 1937-38 Ordnance survey mapping depicts the complex of

brewery buildings, which remained unchanged during this period. The 1971 map shows the sweet factory and depicts a reconfiguration of the factory layout following the 1960's rebuild. By 1985 the former buildings associated with the brewery and the sweet factory had been demolished. The western part of the site was now utilised as a car park, with the large supermarket building now occupying the northeastern quarter of the site.

- 3.6.8 The historic mapping demonstrates that the study site was located on the western edge of the Postmedieval town. From the mid 1700's the land started to become developed as part of the Phillips Brewery. By the 1890's most of the site was occupied by a complex of buildings associated with the brewery, which remained in existence until the site was redeveloped in the 1960's as a sweet factory. Considering the available information, the site is considered to hold a high potential for evidence of post-medieval remains associated with the former brewery complex. Modern remains associated with the rebuilding of the site as a sweet factory are also likely to survive.

4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 General

- 4.1.1 The archaeological evaluation comprised of two 2m x 15m trial trenches, totalling a 5% of the proposed building footprint. These were distributed evenly across the site to provide a representative sample of the development area. Due to onsite constraints Tr2 was slightly relocated from the original programmed position (Figure 2).
- 4.1.2 The evaluation was undertaken according to the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) *Standard for archaeological field evaluation* (CIfA 2023a), *Universal guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (CIfA 2023b), and the *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (CIfA 2020).

4.2 Excavation methodology

- 4.2.1 Ground reduction during the evaluation was carried out using a 14 ton 360° tracked mechanical excavator was used to strip the excavation area. Topsoil and other overburden of low archaeological value was removed in spits down to the level of the undisturbed natural geological deposits where potential archaeological features could be observed and recorded.
- 4.2.2 Exposed surfaces and representative trench sections were cleaned by hand, to enhance deposits and stratigraphy prior to photographing.

4.3 Recording and Finds Recovery

- 4.3.1 The limits of excavations, heights above Ordnance Datum (m OD) and the locations of archaeological features and interventions were recorded using a Geomax GPS rover unit with RTK differential correction, giving three-dimensional accuracy of 20mm or better.
- 4.3.2 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 with PCA's bespoke digital recording system using terminology defined in PCA's

excavation manual (Taylor and Brown 2018) and linked to a Geographical Information System (QGIS) used to interrogate the data.

4.3.3 Archaeological processes recognised by the deposition of material are signified in this report by round brackets (thus), while events constituting the removal of deposits are referred to here as 'cuts' and signified by square brackets [thus]. Where more than one slot was excavated through an individual feature, each intervention was assigned additional numbers for the cutting event and for the deposits it contained (these deposits within cut features being referred to here as 'fills'). The record numbers assigned to cuts, deposits and groups are entirely arbitrary and in no way reflect the chronological order in which events took place.

4.3.4 Cameras with an APS-C or larger sensor and with a resolution of no less than 10 megapixels were used. Images are of archival quality, non-proprietary RAW (.DNG) or .TIFF files. Suitable horizontal and vertical scales were used as appropriate. Digital photographs were taken of all trenches, archaeological features, and deposits.

4.4 Sampling Strategy

4.4.1 As no archaeological deposits were uncovered no sampling or hand digging was carried out. No artefacts recovered during excavation.

4.5 Environmental Sampling

4.5.1 As no archaeological deposits were uncovered no bulk samples were taken to extract and identify micro- and macro-botanical remains.

5 QUANTIFICATION OF ARCHIVE

5.1 Paper Archive

Context register sheets	1
Photo register sheets	1

5.2 Digital Archive

Digital photos	56
GPS survey files	1
Digital plans	1
GIS project inc all context and trench data	1
Access database	1

5.3 Physical Archive

5.3.1 No physical archive to deposit.

6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS BY TRENCH

6.1 Introduction

- 6.1.1 The trenches (Figure 3) are described below in numerical order, with technical data tabulated. The natural geology was sealed by modern deposited. The principal result of the fieldwork was the confirmation of a lack of archaeological features present within the excavated area. No datable artefactual material was recovered, and no archaeological deposits were found.

6.2 Overburden and Natural Geological Deposits

- 6.2.1 On both trenches a homogenous layer of 0.15m of concrete with tiling on top was recorded (101).
- 6.2.2 Underneath the building floor a levelling layer mixed of hardcore, sand, and concrete was encountered (102). This deposit ranges in depth between 0.2 and 0.40m.
- 6.2.3 The natural geology was bedrock chalk formation (103).

6.3 Trench 1

- 6.3.1 Trench 1 was aligned approximately north-east to south-west and located close to the store front, by Baldock Street. The trench also contained a modern waste disposal shaft/ pipe in the centre, which had affected the surrounding natural geology on which it was embedded as some irregular hardcore infilled depressions were found.

TRENCH 1		Plate 1-3	
Trench Alignment: NE-SW	Length: 15m	Level of Natural (m OD): 62.33-62.45m	
Deposit	Context No.	Maximum Depth (m)	
		NE End	SW End
Tile and Concrete	(101)	0.15m	0.15m
Levelling layer (Hardcore)	(102)	0.20m	0.40m
Natural	(103)		

6.4 Trench 2

- 6.4.1 Trench 2 was aligned approximately north to south and located parallel to

Princes Mews. The trench was heavily disturbed and constraint as a column/ pillar foundation was found within its centre. Surrounding it a set of transversal beams had affected a third of the trench. The surrounding natural geology on which it was embedded showed no archaeological deposits.

TRENCH 2			Plate 4-6	
Trench Alignment: N-S	Length: 15m	Level of Natural (m OD): 62.37-62.52m		
Deposit	Context No.	Maximum Depth (m)		
		N End	S End	
Concrete	(101)	0.15m	0.15m	
Levelling layer (Hardcore)	(102)	0.20m	0.25m	
Natural	(103)			

7 THE FINDS AND ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

- 7.1.1 A no archaeological layer or deposits were encountered no material evidence was retrieved.

8 DISCUSSION

- 8.1.1 The lack of surviving natural superficial deposits, such as topsoil and subsoil, as well as the shallow depth at which the natural geology was found indicates a full truncation of any previous archaeological deposits present on the site of development.
- 8.1.2 This truncation may be further evidenced by the modification of the North-South slope visible topographically outside the site on Princes Mews road. However, this gradual sloping is less apparent within the Former Morrisons footprint.

9 CONCLUSIONS

- 9.1.1 The evaluation did not identify any surviving archaeological deposits or remains within the scope of works. The lack of archaeological remains may be due to truncation by construction works associated with the former supermarket.

10 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 10.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd. would like to thank RPS for commissioning the work on behalf of McCarthy Stone. PCA are also grateful to Hertfordshire County Council for monitoring the work on behalf of the Local Planning Authority. The project was managed for PCA by Mark Hinman and was supervised by Ana Bordona Foz. The author would like to thank the site team: Daniel Percy for their hard work. Figures accompanying this report were prepared by PCA's Graphics Department.

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RPS, Archaeological Desk Based Assessment. Land at the former Morrison's site, Baldock Street, Royston, Hertfordshire. 2023

12 FIGURES

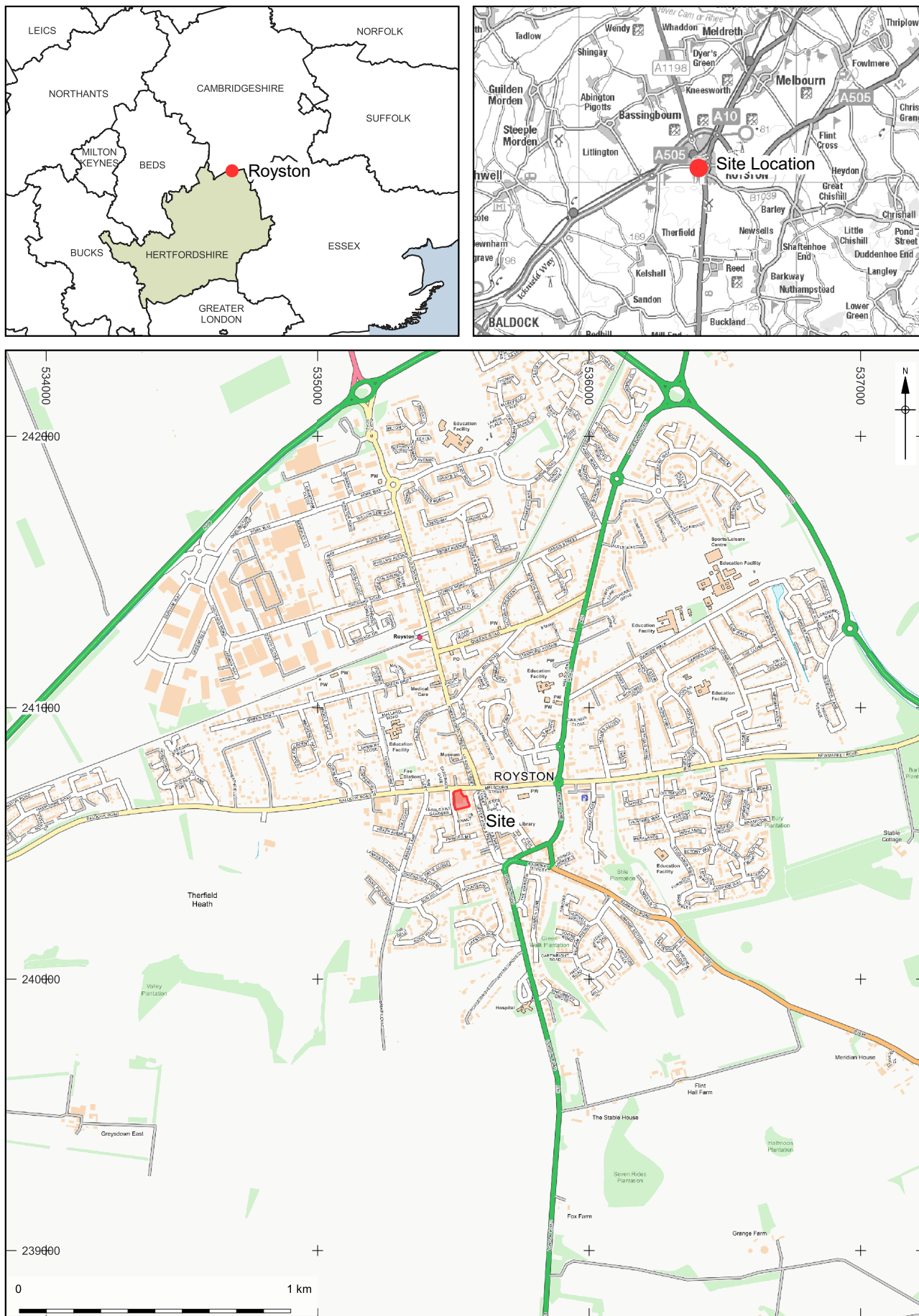


Figure 1
Site Location
1:2,000,000, 1:250,000, 1:20,000 at A4

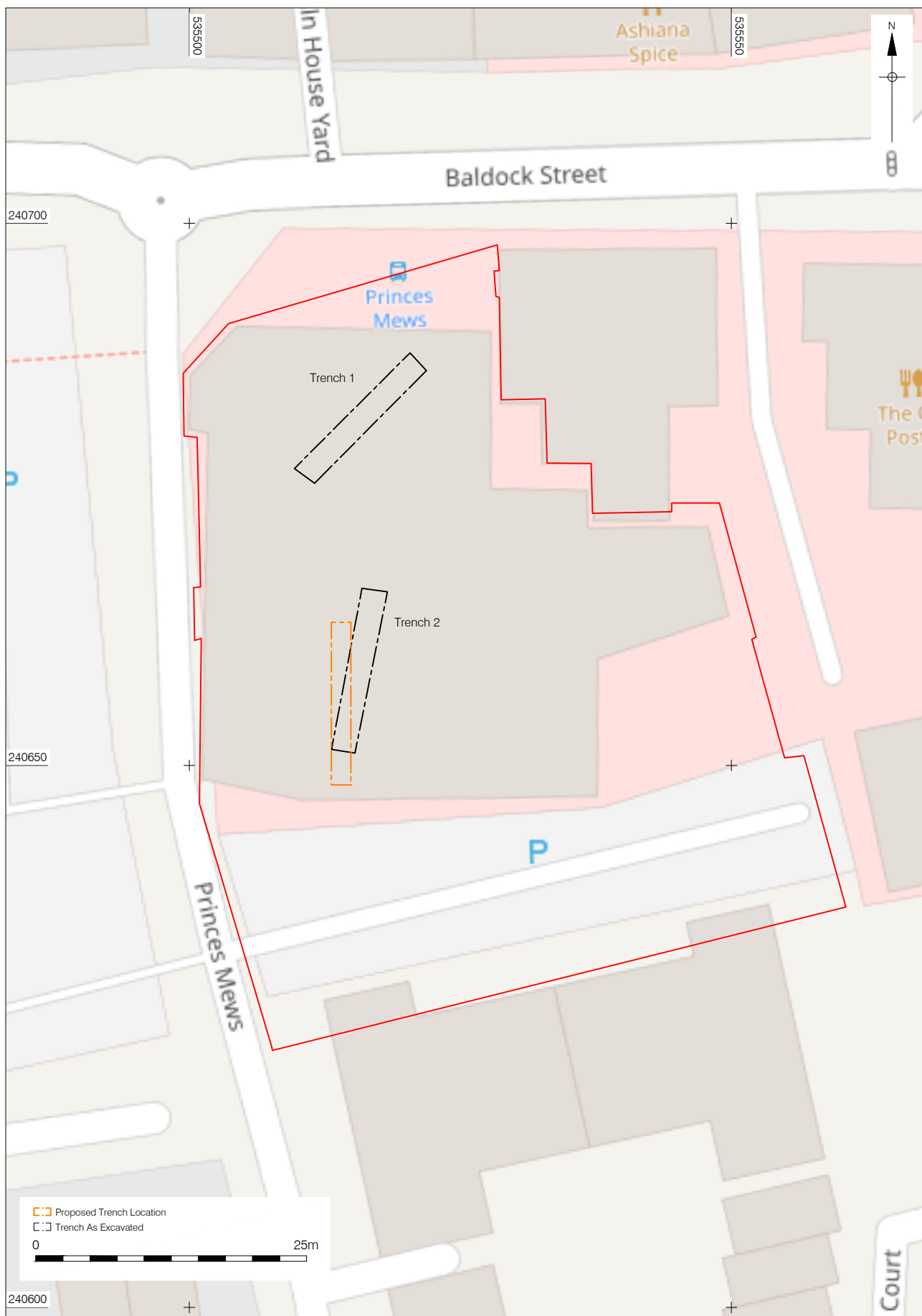


Figure 2
Proposed Trench Location
1:500 at A4

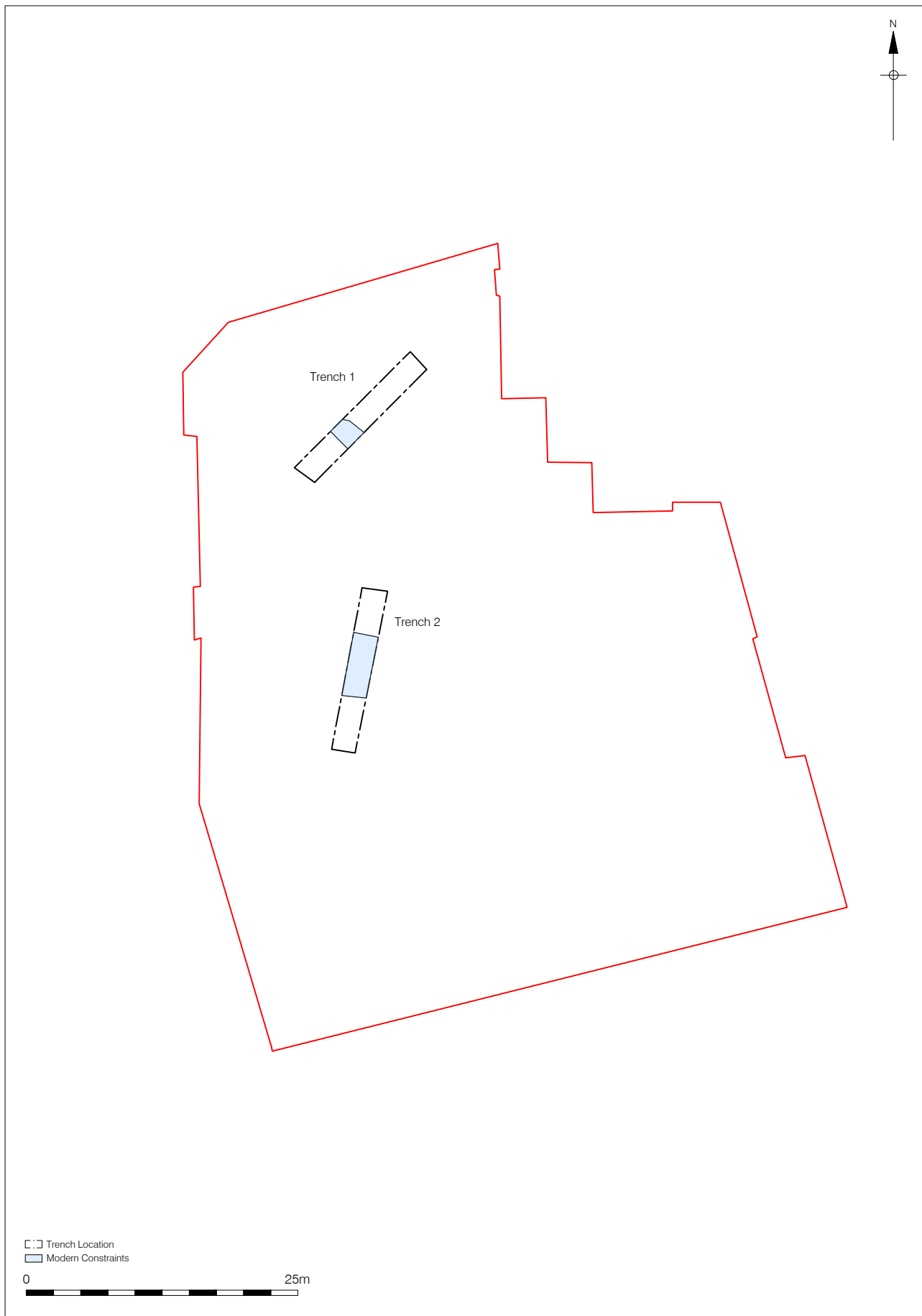


Figure 3
Detailed Trench Plan
1:500 at A4

13 PLATES



Plate 1: Trench 1, view Southwest



Plate 2: Trench 1, View Northeast



Plate 3: Trench 1, view Northwest



Plate 4: Trench 2; view North.



Plate 5: Trench 2; view South

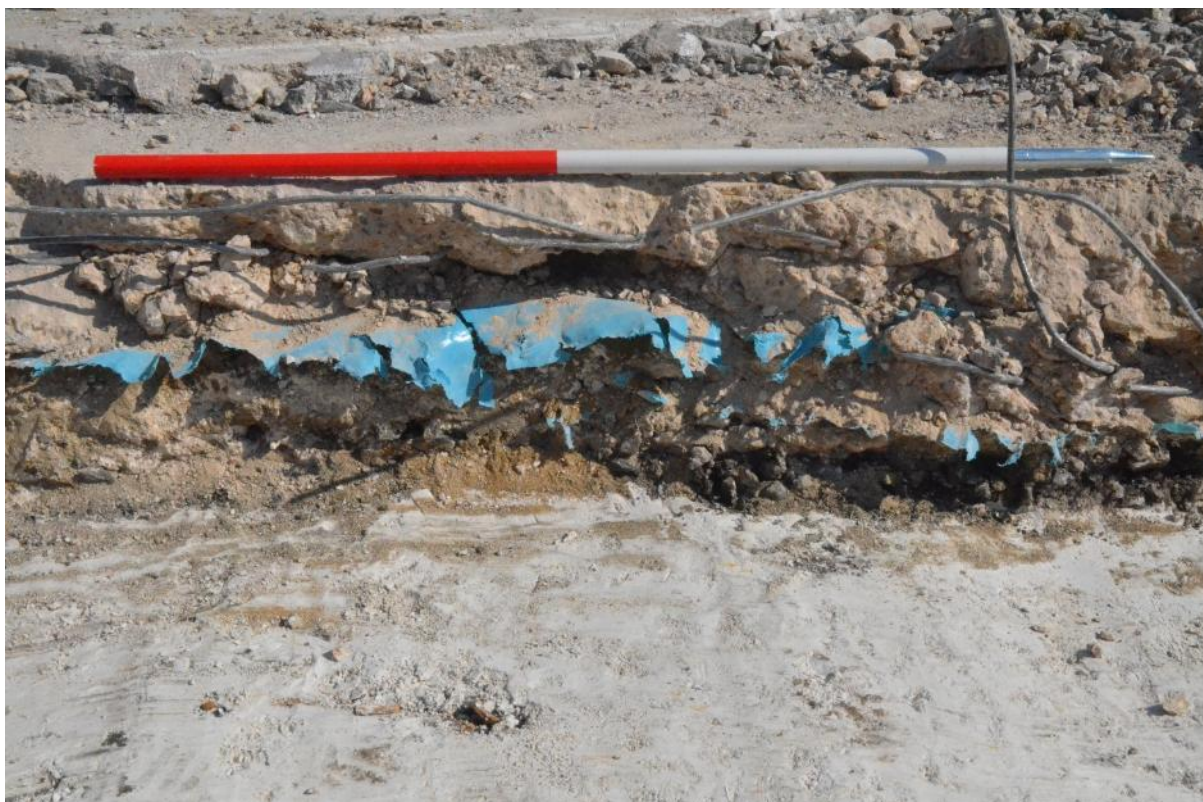


Plate 6: Trench 2; view East

14 APPENDIX 1: OASIS FORM

OASIS Summary for preconst1-530399

OASIS ID (UID)	preconst1-530399
Project Name	Evaluation at Land at Former Morrison's site, Baldock Street, Royston
Sitename	Land at Former Morrison's site, Baldock Street, Royston
Sitecode	
Project Identifier(s)	Land at Former Morrison's site, Baldock Street, Royston
Activity type	Evaluation
Planning Id	24/00436/FP
Reason For Investigation	Planning: Pre application
Organisation Responsible for work	Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd
Project Dates	03-Apr-2025 - 03-Apr-2025
Location	Land at Former Morrison's site, Baldock Street, Royston NGR : TL 35509 40666 LL : 52.04782817054891, -0.025373511304888 12 Fig : 535509,240666
Administrative Areas	Country : England County/Local Authority : Hertfordshire Local Authority District : North Hertfordshire Parish : Royston
Project Methodology	An Archaeological Evaluation was carried out by PCA on land at the former Morrison's site, Baldock Street, Royston, Hertfordshire. The evaluation consisted of 2 trenches, 15m by 2m in size, placed within the footprint of the proposed new build. The evaluation will be undertaken following the above ground demolition of the existing building. The trenches constituted a 5% sample of the proposed new building footprint.
Project Results	The programme of archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd. (PCA) on land at the former Morrison's, Baldock Road, Royston, Hertfordshire (NGR TL 35509 40666) on Thursday 3rd of April 2025. The works were carried out following a submission for a pre-application (planning application number: 24/00436/FP) for the development of a two-storey retirement home, including some retail space. The historic mapping demonstrates that the study site was located on the western edge of the Post-medieval town. Until recently the western part of the site was utilised as a car park, with a former supermarket building occupying the northeastern quarter of the site. The site was considered to hold a high potential for evidence of post-medieval remains associated with the former brewery complex or the rebuilding of the site as a sweet factory prior to the construction of the Supermarket in 1982. The evaluation did not identify any surviving archaeological deposits or remains within the scope of works. The lack of archaeological remains was due to the truncation by the previous development within the site.
Keywords	
Funder	Private or public corporation RPS
HER	Hertfordshire HER - unRev - STANDARD
Person Responsible for work	M Hinman
HER Identifiers	

Archives	Documentary Archive, Digital Archive - to be deposited with Royston and District Museum;
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Report generated on: 10 Apr 2025, 12:32

15 APPENDIX 2: HERTS HER SUMMARY FORM

Site name and address: Land at Former Morrisons site, Baldock Street, Royston, Hertfordshire		
County: Hertfordshire		District: North Hertfordshire
Village/Town: Royston		Parish: Royston
Planning application reference: 24/00436/FP		
HER Enquiry reference: XXX		
Client name, address, and tel. no.: McCarthy Stone		
Nature of application: Residential Development		
Present land use: Former Morrison's shop		
Size of application area: 0.5 ha		Size of area investigated: 60m2
NGR (to 8 figures): TL 35509 40666		
Site code (if applicable): ROY/BS '25		
Site director/Organisation: Ana Bordona Foz/ PCA		
Type of work: Evaluation		
Date of work:	Start: 3/4/2025	Finish: 3/4/2025
Location of finds & site archive/Curating Museum: Royston Museum		
Related HER Nos:	Periods represented: None	
Relevant previous summaries/reports:		
Summary of fieldwork results: The programme of archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd. (PCA) on land at the former Morrison's, Baldock Road, Royston, Hertfordshire (NGR TL 35509 40666) on Thursday 3rd of April 2025. The works were carried out following a submission for a pre-application (planning application number: 24/00436/FP) for the development of a two-storey retirement home, including some retail space. The historic mapping demonstrates that the study site was located on the western edge of the Post-medieval town. Until recently the western part of the site was utilised as a car park, with a former supermarket building occupying the northeastern quarter of the site. The site was considered to hold a high potential for evidence of post-medieval remains associated with the former brewery complex or the rebuilding of the site as a sweet factory prior to the construction of the Supermarket in 1982. The evaluation did not identify any surviving archaeological deposits or remains within the scope of works. The lack of archaeological remains was due to the truncation by the		

previous development within the site.

Author of summary: Ana Bordona Foz

Date of summary: 09/04/2025



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