

**THE STOCKS, MAIN STREET,
MOWSLEY, LEICESTERSHIRE, LE17
6NT**

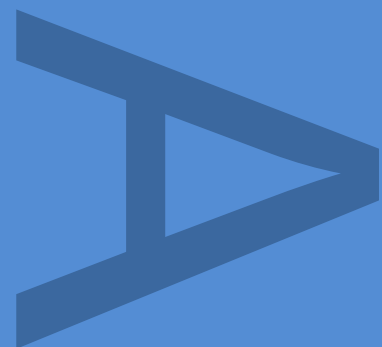
**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING
BRIEF**

**LOCAL PLANNING AUTHORITY:
HARBOROUGH DISTRICT COUNCIL**

PCA REPORT NO: 11439

SITE CODE: X.A26.2013

JULY 2013



PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY

DOCUMENT VERIFICATION



THE STOCKS, MAIN STREET, MOWSLEY,
LEICESTERSHIRE, LE17 6NT

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

Quality Control

Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd	
Project Number	K3059
Report Number	R11439

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Revision No.	Date	Checked	Approved
1			

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An Archaeological Watching Brief

Local Planning Authority: Harborough District Council

Central National Grid Reference: SK 464658 289046

Site Code: X.A26.2013

Report No: R11439

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1 ABSTRACT

- 1.1 This report details the working methods and results of an archaeological watching brief undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited at The Stocks, Main Street, Mowsley, Leicestershire LE17 6NT (Figure 1). The watching brief was conducted on the 13th of April 2013 and was commissioned by Mr & Mrs Turner.
- 1.2 The watching brief established that a late 19th-early 20th century garden soil survived above a sequence of underlying natural deposits. No further archaeological features or finds were identified.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited (PCA) was commissioned by Mr & Mrs Turner (the property owners) to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the excavation of foundations for a two-storey rear extension and single-storey side extension at The Stocks, Main Street, Mowsley, Leicestershire, LE17 6NT (Figure 1).
- 2.2 The site is located within the historic core of the linear settlement of Mowsley, on the west side of Main Street, opposite the Village Hall, which is located to the south of the church of St. Nicholas. The existing property of The Manor lies to the north, separated by a grassed access lane leading to fields to the west, and The Shambles. The site is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) SK 464658 289046.
- 2.3 A Written Scheme of Investigation (PCA 2013), detailing the method by which the watching brief would be undertaken, was prepared prior to the commencement of fieldwork in accordance with a Brief set by the County Archaeology Office for Leicestershire, and in accordance with the Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* (IfA 2008).
- 2.4 The watching brief was undertaken on the 13th of April 2013. The aim of the watching brief was to identify and record any surviving archaeological remains and/ or deposits that would have been impacted upon by the groundworks.
- 2.5 Following approval of the project by the Local Planning Authority, the completed archive comprising written, drawn and photographic records will be deposited with the Leicestershire Museums Service (LMS).
- 2.6 Site records were compiled using the unique site code X.A26.2013.

3 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

Geology

- 3.1 The solid geology of the site is characterised by the bedrock formation of Dyrham Formation-Siltstone and Mudstone of the Jurassic. The overlying superficial deposits are of Mid Pleistocene-Diamicton - outwashes of sand and gravels of the Quaternary Period (data from the British Geological Survey website).

Topography

- 3.2 The subject site is located in the centre of the linear village settlement of Mowsley, on the west side of Main Street, opposite Chapel Lane and the Village Hall. The site of the development is broadly level at 155m AOD, set within the rear garden of the existing property.

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Introduction

- 4.1 The archaeological and historical background of this site was presented in the Written Scheme of Investigation (PCA 2013); the following text is a summary of that information.

Prehistoric & Romano-British

- 4.2 The earliest evidence of activity within the environs of Mowsley is represented by two artefacts of prehistoric and Roman date. A Mesolithic secondary bladelet was recovered during excavations in 2011 at The Old Rectory (LRHER MLE: 20509), to the south of the site. A late 2nd century Roman coin of Crispina was found during the removal of soil in an old quarry south of Manor Farm (LRHER MLE: 7900), situated to the south-west of the site.

Anglo-Saxon

- 4.3 The place-name 'Mowsley' may have Anglo-Saxon origins and it is likely that it began to develop as a notable settlement in the 11th century. Domesday Book (AD 1086) records (31, 1) that Gunfrid of Chocques held 3 carucates of land in Mowsley from the king. He had 1 plough in lordship, with 1 slave. Four villagers with 2 smallholders also had 1 plough. There was also 8 acres of meadow. The estate was valued at 20s; it was noted that the land was formerly 'waste'. One Theodbert held the land from Gunfrid. A second reference relates to the land of Gerbert, who held 4 carucates in Mowsley. It is recorded that there were 3 ploughs, now 1 villager and 10 acres of meadow. It was formerly valued at 5s, now 12d. (Williams and Martin 2003, 644-5).

Medieval

- 4.4 During the medieval period Mowsley (MLE 10416) developed around the late 13th century church of St. Nicholas (LREHR: 1061483). In 2005, during building works to the south of the site, two east to west aligned inhumations were discovered in the grounds of The Old Rectory (MLE: 17723), along with a medieval ditch (MLE: 17724). A hollow way of potential medieval date is situated to the east of the church (MLE: 19747). Further evidence for medieval activity is represented to the west of the site by the medieval earthworks of linear field ditches and rectangular enclosures (MLE: 2146), and also by the mid-14th century fishponds that survive to the north of Manor Farm (MLE: 2148), west of the site. Cartographic and documentary sources note a windmill in the village that was owned by Leicester Abbey in 1338 (MLE: 2146).

Post -Medieval

- 4.5 Several Grade II Listed post-medieval buildings still survive within Mowsley, including an early post-medieval cottage of late 16th or 17th century date located south-east of the church (MLE: 12874). A house containing 17th century cruck-frame construction was identified encased in brick on Main Street and is currently known as Mill Stone House (LREHR: 1360745). Later post-medieval buildings surviving in the village which have characteristics worthy of

preservation include The Old Bake House (MLE: 16305), Pump Cottage (LREHR: 1188145), The Manor House (LREHR: 1294903) and The Cottages & garden wall (MLE: 12877 & 12878). A single penny of Elizabeth I was found south of Manor Farm (MLE: 18673) and brick and roofing tile of post-medieval date was encountered in an excavation at The Old Rectory (MLE: 20510).

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

- 5.1 The watching brief fieldwork was designed to monitor all groundworks associated with the two-storey rear extension and single-storey side extension at The Stocks, Main Street, Mowsley.
- 5.2 The groundworks monitored by the archaeological watching brief consisted of the foundations for the above works, covering an overall area of some 104.5m² and extending to a maximum depth of 1.70m below modern ground level.
- 5.3 The aim of the archaeological work was to define the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains. The watching brief also aimed to clarify the nature and extent of existing disturbances and intrusions and hence assess the degree of survival of archaeological deposits of whatever period.
- 5.4 All excavation was undertaken by a 5-ton tracked machine using a flat bladed ditching bucket and a toothed bucket, monitored under archaeological supervision.
- 5.6 Deposits and structures were recorded using the PCA *pro forma* 'Context Recording Sheet'. Trench plans were drawn at a scale of 1:50; representative sections at a scale of 1:20. The locations of the trenches were surveyed using GPS and TST survey equipment.
- 5.7 A full photographic record was made, including digital, black and white prints and 35mm colour transparencies. Finds were collected according to standard retrieval methods as outlined in the Written Scheme of Investigation (PCA 2013).

6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE

6.1 Phase 1: Natural Deposits (Figure 3; Plate1)

6.1.1 The earliest deposits encountered during the watching brief were a sequence of tapering sands, gravels and clay. The earliest natural deposit was yellowish friable fine sand [106] that was sealed by yellowish-grey firm clay [105]. This was overlain by friable yellowish-brown gravel-rich sand [104]. Above this was a deposit of friable oxidised or iron-stained sand [103] that was sealed by friable-loose yellowish-brown sandy gravel [102]. These deposits are interpreted as the natural geological out-washed gravels of the Mid Pleistocene-Diamicton. The upper deposit [102] was broadly level at 154.82m AOD. The underlying natural deposits [103]-[106] were level across the majority of the site at 154.09m AOD, but sloped downwards towards the western limits of the excavation at a height of 153.95m AOD.

6.1.2 The Mid Pleistocene-Diamicton sand and gravels recorded throughout the area of investigation are consistent with the mapped underlying superficial geology as described by the British Geological Survey for this area.

6.2 Phase 2: Modern (Figure 3; Plate 1)

6.2.1 Overlaying the upper natural deposit [102] was a moderately compact, dark brown sandy silty layer [101]. It contained occasional water-worn quartz pebbles and small quantities of fragmented brick and coal/clinker pieces. No dateable artefactual material was recovered although within the surrounding cultivated garden borders associated with this layer were several small fragments of mid-late Victorian pottery that consisted of White wares (EA10) and Midlands Black glazed wares (EA2).

7 CONCLUSIONS AND RESEARCH AIMS

7.1 General Conclusions

- 7.1.1 The aim of the watching brief was to monitor all ground works associated with the construction of the two-storey rear extension and single-storey side extension, and to record any archaeological features and/ or deposits that may have been present.
- 7.1.2 The watching brief established that 0.30m thick late 19th-early 20th century garden soil survived above a sequence of underlying natural deposits.

7.2 Research Aims

- 7.2.1 The principal research question for this fieldwork was to confirm the presence or absence of any Saxon or medieval features or deposits relating to the origins and early development of the settlement at Mowsley.

However, no evidence of any pre-Victorian activity was identified during the Watching Brief.

7.3 Archive Destination

- 7.3.1 Upon completion of the project, the archive will be deposited with Leicestershire Museum Service under the unique site code X.A26.2013.

7.4 Confidence

- 7.4.1 PCA considers that the archaeological watching brief was completed in accordance with all relevant guidelines, best-practice documents and the approved Written Scheme of Investigation.
- 7.4.2 The work was undertaken in good weather conditions.
- 7.4.3 We consider that the results detailed in this report are reliable. We are confident that the methodology allowed identification of any archaeological and natural features that were contained within the excavated trenches.

8 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Acknowledgements

Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd would like to thank the client and landowner Mr & Mrs Turner for commissioning the work. Thanks are also extended to Teresa Hawtin, Senior Planning Archaeologist of the Planning & Historic and Natural Environment Team, Leicestershire County Council.

PCA Credits

Fieldwork and Report: Kevin Trott

Project Manager: Kevin Trott

CAD: Jennifer Simonson

9 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Online Sources

British Geological Survey website: <http://www.bgs.ac.uk>; for geological information.

APPENDIX 1: PLATES



Plate 1: General site section of [101]-[106], facing south (Scales 2 & 1m)



Plate 2: General view of excavated foundations, facing east (Scales 2 & 1m)

APPENDIX 2: CONTEXT INDEX

Context	Section	Type	Description	Highest Level mOD	Lowest Level mOD	Phase
101	1	Layer	Garden Soil	155.10	154.80	2
102	1	Deposit	Natural sandy gravel	154.80	154.90	1
103	1	Deposit	Natural sand	154.90	154.72	1
104	1	Deposit	Natural sand	154.72	154.48	1
105	1	Deposit	Natural clay	154.48	154.28	1
106	1	Deposit	Natural sand	154.28	152.58	1

APPENDIX 3: OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM

OASIS ID: preconst1-152212

Project details

Project name	The Stocks, Main Street, Mowsley, Leicestershire
Short description of the project	An Archaeological Watching Brief at The Stocks, Main Street, Mowsley, Leicestershire.
Project dates	Start: 13-04-2013 End: 13-04-2013
Previous/future work	No / No
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Local Authority Designated Archaeological Area
Current Land use	Residential 1 - General Residential
Investigation type	"Recorded Observation"
Prompt	Research

Project location

Country	England
Site location	LEICESTERSHIRE HARBOROUGH MOWSLEY The Stocks
Postcode	LE17 6NT
Study area	104.50 Square metres
Site coordinates	SK 464658 289046 52 -1 52 51 19 N 001 18 35 W Point
Lat/Long Datum	Unknown
Height OD / Depth	Min: 154.00m Max: 155.00m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	PCA Midlands
Project originator brief	Leicestershire County Archaeology Office
Project originator design	Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd
Project director/manager	Kevin Trott
Project supervisor	Kevin Trott
Type of sponsor/funding body	Private Client

Name of sponsor/funding body
Mr and Mrs Turner

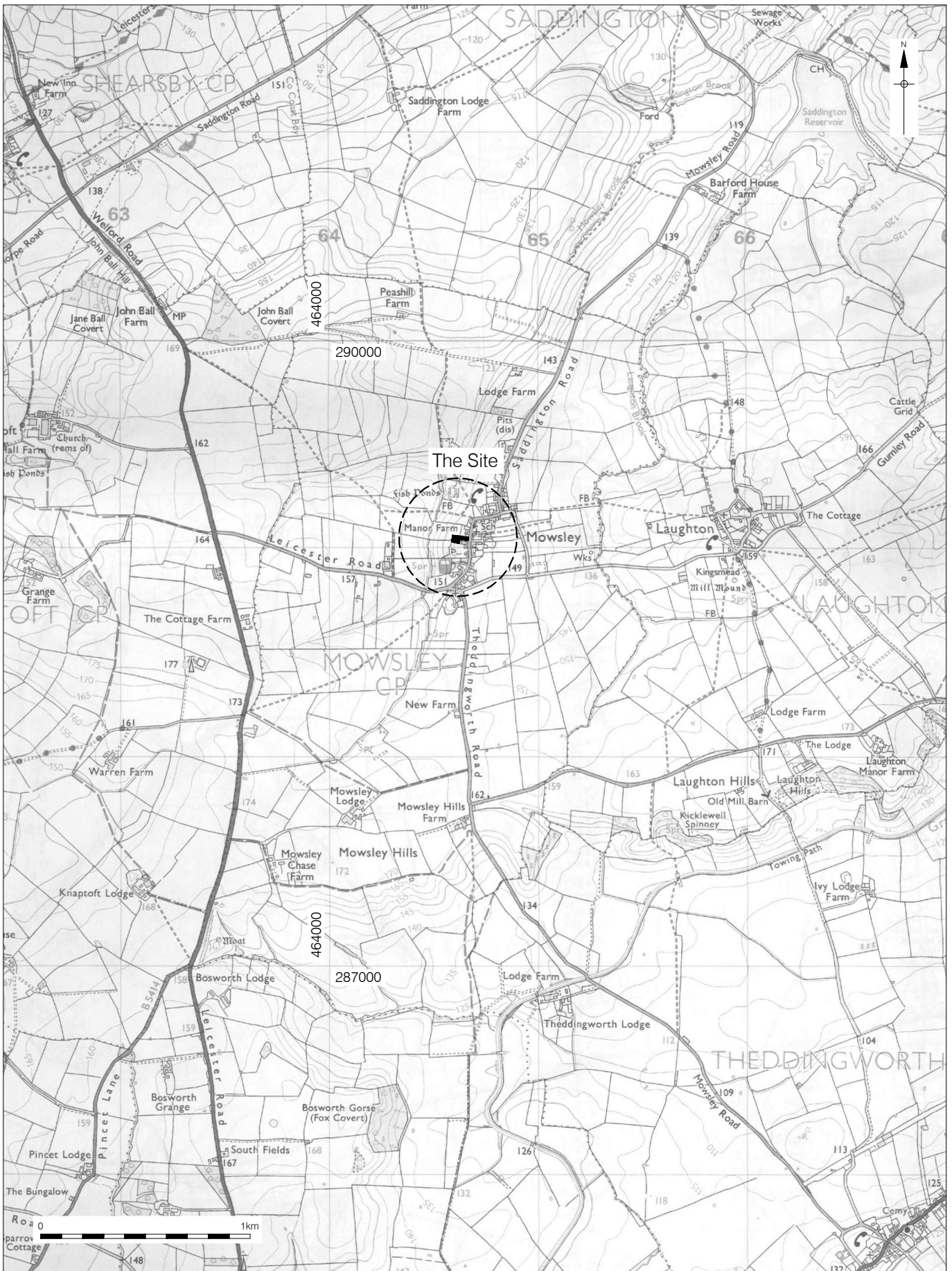
Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	Archive	No
Physical Archive recipient	Archive recipient	Leicestershire Museums Service
Digital Archive recipient	Archive recipient	Leicestershire Museums Service
Digital Archive ID		X.A26.3013
Digital Media available	Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Archive recipient	Leicestershire Museums Service
Paper Archive ID		X.A26.3013
Paper Media available	Media available	"Context sheet","Correspondence","Drawing","Photograph","Plan","Report","Section","Unpublished Text"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type		Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title		Land to the rear of The Stocks, Main Street, Mowsley, Leicestershire: An Archaeological Watching Brief
Author(s)/Editor(s)		K Trott
Other bibliographic details		R 11439
Date		2013
Issuer or publisher	or	Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited

Entered by		Kevin Trott (ktrott@pre-construct.com)
Entered on		5 June 2013



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Figure 1
 Site Location
 1:25,000 at A4

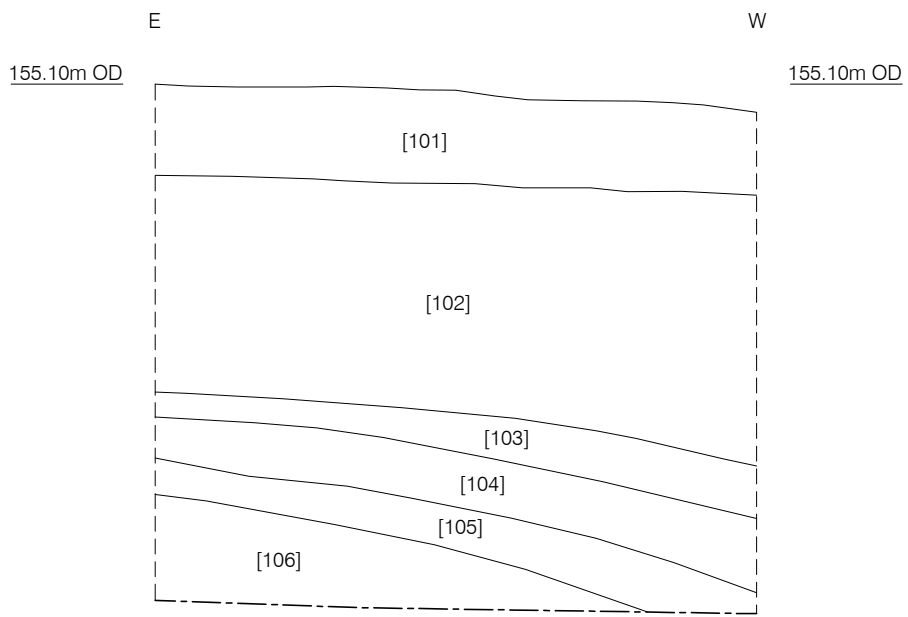


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Figure 2
Trench Location
1:500 at A4



Section 1
North Facing

0 1m

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Figure 3
Section
1:25 at A4

PCA

PCA SOUTH

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