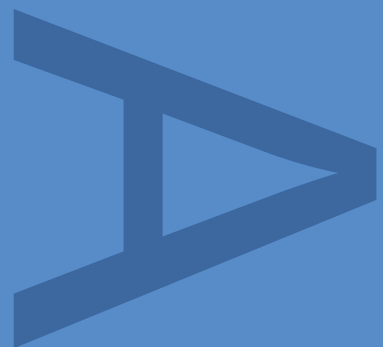


**LAND AT NO. 418A MILTON  
ROAD, CAMBRIDGE, CB4 1ST**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL  
TRENCH EVALUATION**

**HER No: ECB 4151**

**April 2014**




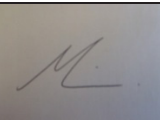
**PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY  
R11670**

LAND AT NO. 418A MILTON ROAD, CAMBRIDGE,  
CB4 1ST

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

Quality Control

Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd	
Project Number	K3151
Report Number	R11670

	Name & Title	Signature	Date
Text Prepared by:	Jonathan House		April 2014
Graphics Prepared by:	Jennifer Simonson		April 2014
Graphics Checked by:	Josephine Brown		April 2014
Project Manager Sign-off:	Mark Hinman		April 2014

Revision No.	Date	Checked	Approved

Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited  
The Granary  
Rectory Farm  
Brewery Road  
Pampisford  
Cambridgeshire  
CB22 3EN

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**

---

<b>Local Planning Authority:</b>	<b>Cambridge City Council</b>
<b>Central National Grid Reference:</b>	<b>TL 4668 6099</b>
<b>Site Code:</b>	<b>CMRC14</b>
<b>HER No.</b>	<b>ECB 4151</b>
<b>Planning Reference:</b>	<b>13/0201/FUL</b>
<b>Report No.</b>	<b>R.11670</b>
<b>Written and researched by:</b>	<b>Jonathan House April 2014</b>
<b>Project Manager:</b>	<b>Mark Hinman</b>
<b>Commissioning Client:</b>	<b>Neal Associates</b>
<b>Contractor:</b>	<b>Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd Central Office 7 Granta Terrace Stapleford Cambs, CB22 5DL</b>
<b>Tel:</b>	<b>01223 845522</b>
<b>Fax:</b>	<b>01223 845522</b>
<b>E-mail:</b>	<b>mhinman@pre-construct.com</b>
<b>Website:</b>	<b>www.pre-construct.com</b>

---

**©Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd**

**April 2014**

The material contained herein is and remains the sole property of Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd and is not for publication to third parties without prior consent. Whilst every effort has been made to provide detailed and accurate information, Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd cannot be held responsible for errors or inaccuracies herein contained.

## Contents

1	INTRODUCTION .....	4
2	GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY .....	5
3	ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND .....	6
4	ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY .....	8
5	RESULTS .....	9
6	CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS .....	10
7	ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS .....	11
8	REFERENCES .....	12
	APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT INDEX .....	16
	APPENDIX 2: PLATES .....	17
	APPENDIX 3: OASIS FORM .....	18

## Abstract

This report documents the results of an archaeological evaluation at 418a Milton Road, Cambridge, NGR TL 4668 6099. Two linear trial trenches totalling 30m were machine excavated, revealing a single ditch feature of post medieval date.

The ditch is likely to represent a field boundary which formed part of the field division that existed prior to the 20<sup>th</sup> century housing expansion.

## **1 INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 This document reports the results of an archaeological evaluation undertaken at 418a Milton Road, Cambridge (Figure 1).
- 1.2 The work was commissioned by Neal Associates in advance of residential redevelopment and the construction of new flats with associated parking and storage. The site is located within a residential area of modern/post-war housing and is presently a single housing plot occupied by a modern detached dwelling with an area of hard-standing and gardens to the front and to the rear.
- 1.3 The site is centred on OS National Grid Reference TL 4668 6099 and lies to the north-east of Cambridge city centre along the Milton Road.
- 1.4 A written scheme of investigation (WSI) for an archaeological evaluation within the proposed development area was prepared by Mark Hinman and Tom Woolhouse of Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd. (June 2013) in response to a brief issued by Dan McConnell of Cambridgeshire County Council's Historic Environment Team (May 2013, Planning Application 13/0201/FUL).
- 1.5 The desk-based assessment has established that the site was predominantly agricultural fields in the post medieval period, but gravel pits of a similar date were also widespread across the area. The site remained unbuilt on and presumably unaffected by quarrying activities through the 19<sup>th</sup> century and pre-war, being only recently developed between 1958 and 1968.
- 1.6 The work reported upon here was designed to contribute to an understanding of the character, condition, date and extent of any archaeological remains within the development area, and to provide a comprehensive appraisal of the significance of any remains within a local, regional and national context as appropriate.

## **2 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY**

- 2.1 The underlying bedrock of the proposed site consists of a grey chalk bedrock, overlain in the south-east parishes of the district by glacial boulder clay, deposited by retreating glaciers at the end of the last ice age.
- 2.2 The soils of the general area are of the Milton association (SSEW 1983). This consists of deep permeable calcareous fine loamy soils, often affected by groundwater. The area of the PDA has since the 1950s been part of a large housing development, accordingly little other information on the soil types is available.
- 2.3 The site lies on lower and intermediate river terrace gravels along the slopes of the Cam river valley to the north-east of Cambridge city centre. The site resides along the 10m contour, the topography being generally flat with a gradual slope away to the south-east and towards the River Cam.

### **3            ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

- 3.1            Cambridgeshire County Council (henceforth CCC) maintains a database of known sites of archaeological or historical significance known as an Historic Environment Record (HER). Numerous HER records exist for the area surrounding the current site and the most significant are summarised below. The full set of results from the HER search are detailed in the desk-based assessment (Garwood 2013).
- 3.2            Evidence for prehistoric activity in the general area of the site is considerable. Chance finds of tools from the Palaeolithic period have been uncovered very close to the site, specifically immediately north of the site at 377 Milton Road and within the Milton Road gravel pits. Two Late Bronze Age hoards were found c.100m to the south of the site at the former Browns Gravel pits (CHER 5452 Site 6) and Iron Age pits were also uncovered close to this site, along Green End Road (CHER 5452a Site 8).
- 3.3            Roman occupation of the general area was on a considerable scale. The town of Dvroliponte (later known as Cambridge) lies only 2.5km to the west of the site and other smaller Roman settlements lie nearby. The majority of the entries in the Cambridge HER within the study area relate to chance finds, and only one site has been uncovered during archaeological investigation (CB 14647, site 22).
- 3.4            The evidence for Anglo-Saxon activity close to the site is relatively scarce. All three sites that have a Saxon provenance lie to the south and notably further toward the course of the River Cam and the historic core of Chesterton along the High Street. Evidence of inhumation burial was recovered from Swan's Gravel Pit, Chesterton (CHER 5540 Site 16) while a presumably ritual deposition of a Scramasax (sword) was dredged from the River Cam (CHER 5223 Site 15). Possibly the most significant and conclusive evidence of later Saxon settlement in the area was uncovered during investigations at the former Yorkshire Public House in the High Street, Chesterton. This uncovered settlement activity, in the form of property boundaries, land divisions, domestic pitting and the establishment of the street frontage, dating to the Saxo-Norman period of the 11-13th century.



- 3.5 The evidence of medieval activity within the study area is distinctive in character and mainly takes the form of medieval agriculture, with extant earthworks and evidence relating to ridge and furrow agriculture. A small area of extant ridge and furrow survives between Milton Rd and Hawkins Rd and behind the Dunn Nutrition Unit, c. 300m to the south-west. Though these earthworks are not well-defined they comprised two to three furrows spaced c. 25yds apart on an SW – NE alignment (**CHER 10106 Site 19**). A series of linear features, which were interpreted as the remnants of ridge and furrow were uncovered to the east of the site during an evaluation at the Cambridge Business Park (Cowley Park) (**MCB 15918 Site 21**) while further evidence of medieval ridge and furrow was uncovered during an investigation at Woodhead Drive (**MCB 19896 Site 22**) where an evaluation comprising three trial trenches revealed two undated furrow ditches that were most likely medieval in date.
- 3.6 Taken together, this previous work suggested that the current site had low to moderate potential to contain archaeological remains.

## **4            ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY**

- 4.1            The archaeological specification for this site states that 40m of linear trial trenches were to be excavated.
- 4.2            The trenching was carried out under archaeological supervision using a JCB wheeled mechanical excavator fitted with a 1.8m wide toothless ditching bucket. Topsoil and subsoil deposits were removed in spits down to the level of the undisturbed natural geological deposits where potential archaeological features could be observed and recorded. Stripped topsoil and subsoil were stored separately for later reinstatement.
- 4.3            Heights above ordnance datum (10m AOD), and the locations of archaeological features and interventions were recorded using a Leica 1200 GPS rover unit.
- 4.4            Deposits, or the removal of deposits, judged by the excavating archaeologist to constitute individual events were each assigned a context number and recorded on individual pre-printed forms. Archaeological events recognised by the deposition of material are signified in this report by round brackets (thus), whilst events constituting the removal of deposits are referred to here as 'cuts' and signified by square brackets [thus]. The record numbers assigned to cuts and deposits are entirely arbitrary and in no way reflect the chronological order in which events took place. Artefacts recovered during excavation were assigned to the record number of the deposit from which they were retrieved.
- 4.5            Metal detecting was carried out during the stripping operation and archaeological features and spoil were scanned.
- 4.6            High resolution digital photographs were taken throughout the fieldwork, and were used to keep a record of the evaluation.

## **5 RESULTS**

- 5.1 Two trenches were excavated with the development area; Trench 1 was excavated to the rear of the former property, while Trench 2 was excavated for the most part within the foot print of the now demolished prior residential structure.

### **Trench 1**

- 5.2 The trench contained both topsoil and subsoil deposits, the topsoil (100) measured 0.45m in depth and was consistent in thickness throughout the trench. The subsoil (101) measured 0.3m at the northern end of the trench, and 0.24m at the southern end of the trench.

- 5.3 A single archaeologically significant feature was encountered within the trench, the feature consisted of a single ditch [103] running on a north-east, south-west alignment (Fig. 3, Section 1). The ditch measured 1.18m in width, and 0.1m in depth. The ditch contained a single fill (104), a mid- reddish brown, sandy silt, which contained brick fragments and a sherd of late post medieval pot.

### **Trench 2**

- 5.4 Trench 2 contained both topsoil and subsoil deposits. Though demolition material was present throughout the trench, the associated truncation and prior residential structure did not impact into the underlying gravels. The eastern end of the trench contained topsoil measuring 0.31m in depth, and a subsoil measuring 0.3m in depth. The western end of the trench contained a layer of demolition material measuring 0.23m, below which a buried topsoil deposit was present measuring 0.28m, overlying a subsoil of 0.32m in depth, the demolition material was deeper where previous underground services, and wall foundations had been present.
- 5.5 No significant archaeological features or deposits were present within the trench.

## **6 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 6.1 The site area is known to be open fields prior to the early 20th century housing expansion. The single ditch feature which was identified during the evaluation is likely to represent part of this field division, or drainage. The depth of soils on the site would suggest an extensive period of cultivation, consistent with extensive agricultural farming practices in the Cambridge hinterland. The depth of soil continued under the structure demolished as part of this development, suggesting the depth of soil was not a result of later back garden activity, but instead related to earlier cultivation.

## **7 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

- 7.1 PCA would like to thank Neal Associates for commissioning and funding the archaeological work. PCA are also grateful to Dan McConnell of Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team for monitoring the work. Figures accompanying this report were prepared by Jennifer Simonson of PCA's CAD Department.

## 8

## REFERENCES

Garwood, A. 2013. No. 418a Milton Road, Cambridge CB4 1<sup>ST</sup>: An Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessment (unpublished, Pre-Construct Archaeology).

Hinman, M. 2014. Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation of 418a Milton Road, Cambridge, Cambridgeshire CB4 1ST (unpublished, Pre-Construct Archaeology).

McConnell, D. 2014. Brief for Archaeological Evaluation, 418a Milton Road, Cambridge, Cambridgeshire CB4 1ST (unpublished, Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team).

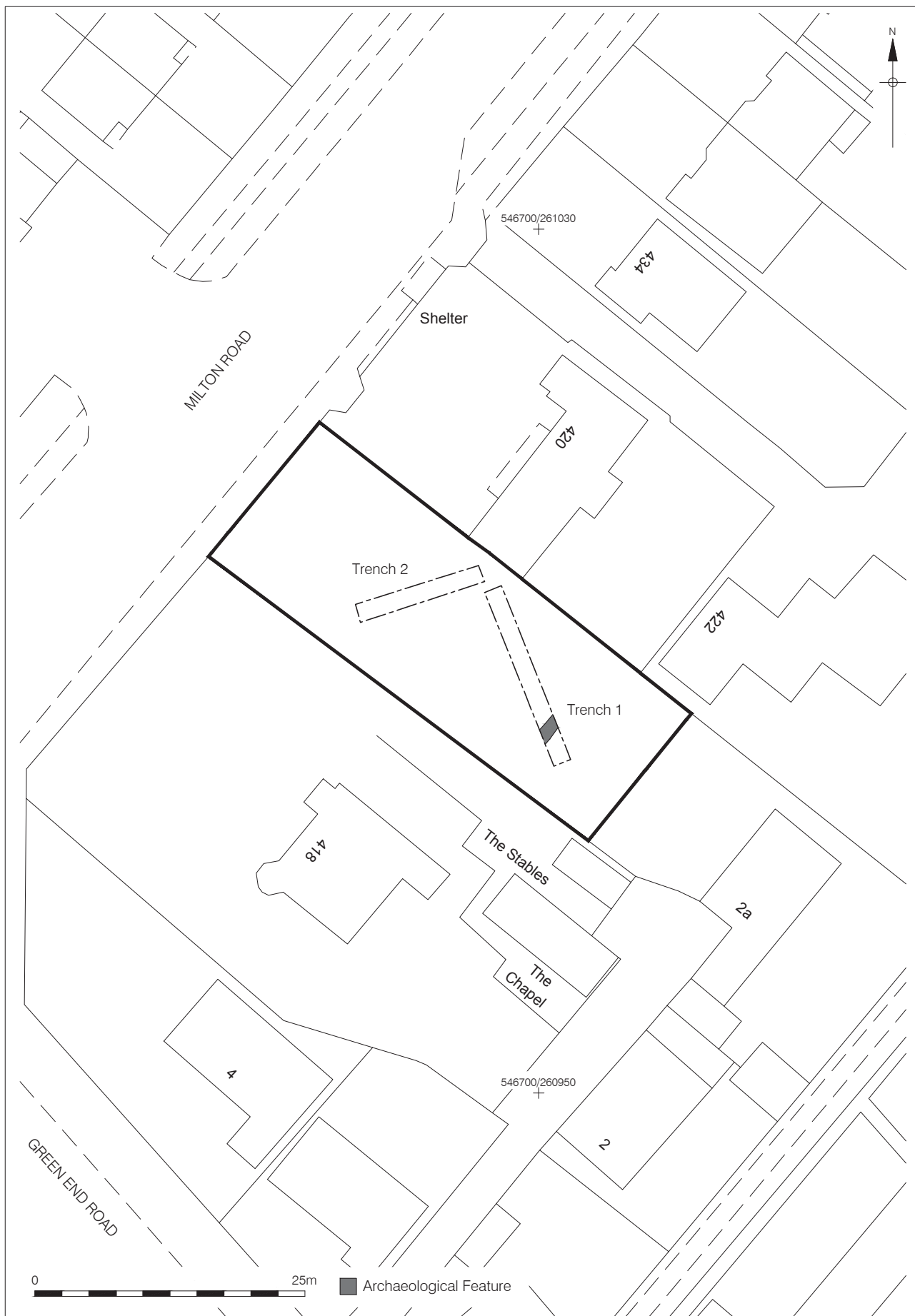




© Crown copyright 2007. All rights reserved. License number 36110309  
 © Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd 2014  
 26/03/14 JS

Figure 1  
 Site Location  
 1:20,000 at A4





© Crown copyright 2013. All rights reserved. License number PMP36110309  
 © Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd 2014  
 26/03/14 JS

Figure 2  
 Trench Location  
 1:500 at A4



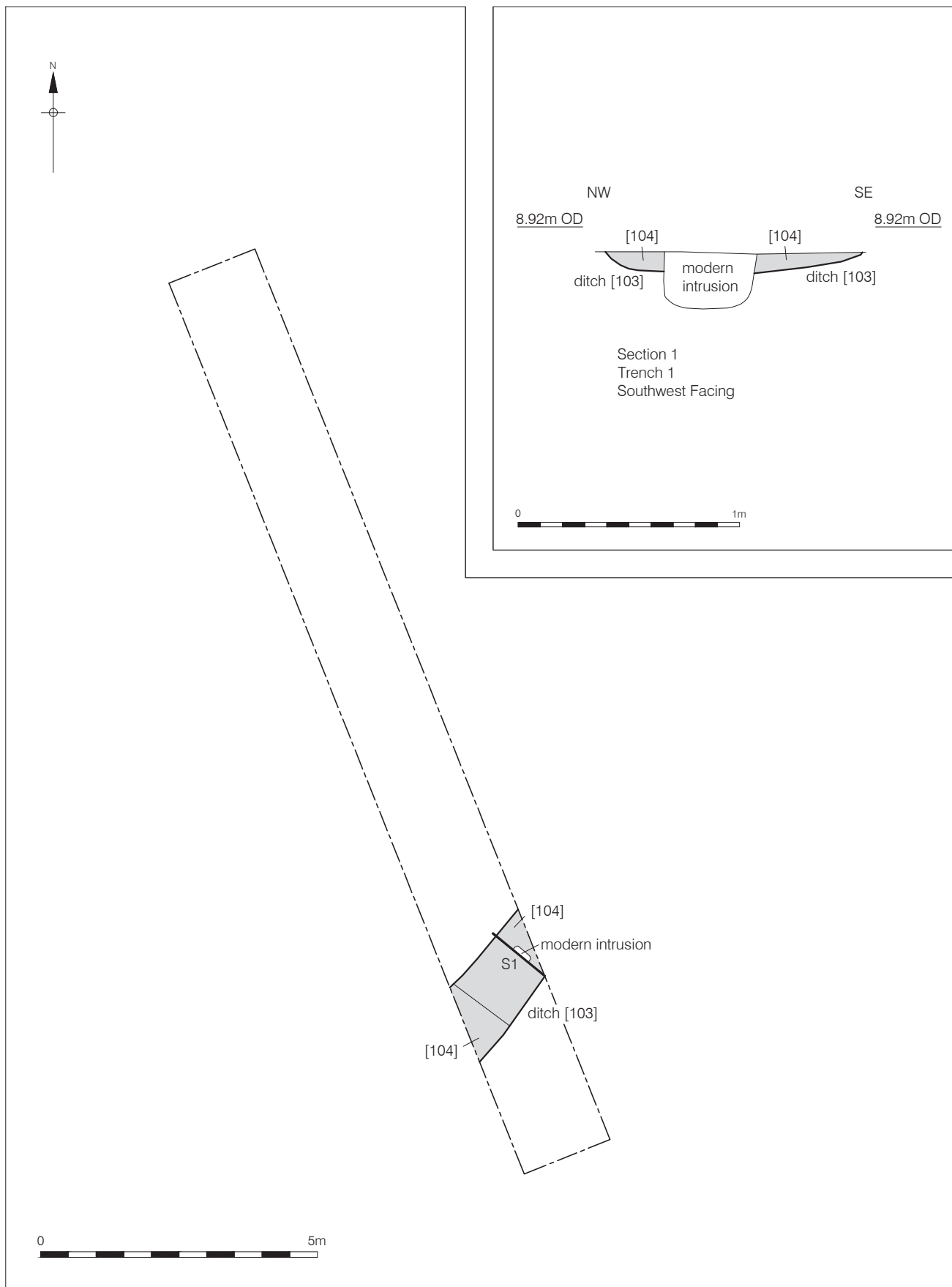


Figure 3  
Trench 1 Plan and Section  
Plan 1:100; Section 1:25 at A4

## APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT INDEX

Context	Cut	Type	Category	Period	Trench Number
100	-	Layer	Topsoil	-	1, 2
101	-	Layer	Subsoil	-	1, 2
102	-	-	Natural	-	1, 2
103	103	Cut	Ditch	Post medieval	1
104	103	Fill	Ditch	Post medieval	1

## APPENDIX 2: PLATES



Plate 1: Trench 1 taken from the north



Plate 2: Trench 2 taken from the east

## APPENDIX 3: OASIS FORM

### OASIS ID: preconst1-176716

#### Project details

Project name	Land at No. 418a Milton Road, Cambridge, CB4 1ST, An Archaeological Evaluation
Short description of the project	This report documents the results of an archaeological evaluation at 418a Milton Road, Cambridge. Two linear trial trenches totalling 30m were machine excavated, revealing a single ditch feature of post medieval date.
Project dates	Start: 25-03-2014 End: 25-03-2014
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	CMRC14 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	ECB4151 - HER event no.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Monument type	DITCH Post Medieval
Significant Finds	CERAMIC Post Medieval
Methods & techniques	"Sample Trenches"
Development type	Urban residential (e.g. flats, houses, etc.)
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS
Position in the planning process	Pre-application

#### Project location

Country	England
Site location	CAMBRIDGESHIRE CAMBRIDGE CAMBRIDGE Land at No. 418a Milton Road, Cambridge, CB4 1ST
Postcode	CB4 1ST
Study area	506.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TL 4668 6099 52.2271251913 0.147837095588 52 13 37 N 000 08 52 E Point
Lat/Long Datum	Unknown
Height OD / Depth	Min: 9.00m Max: 10.00m

#### Project creators

Name of Organisation	PCA
Project brief originator	Cambridgeshire County Council
Project design originator	Mark Hinman
Project director/manager	Mark Hinman
Project supervisor	Jonathan House
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body	Neal Associates

---

### Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeology Store
Physical Archive ID	CMRC14
Physical Contents	"Ceramics"
Digital Archive recipient	Cambridgeshire County Council
Digital Archive ID	CMRC14
Digital Contents	"none"
Digital Media available	"Survey", "Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeology Store
Paper Archive ID	CMRC14
Paper Contents	"none"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Drawing", "Plan", "Report"

---

### Project bibliography

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	418a Milton Road, Cambridge, CB4 1ST, An Archaeological Evaluation
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Jonathan House
Other bibliographic details	R.11670
Date	2014
Issuer or publisher	PCA

Place of issue or  
publication

Pampisford

Description

Grey Lit Report

---

Entered by

Sian O'Neill (SO'Neill@pre-construct.com)

Entered on

8 April 2014



# PCA

---

## **PCA SOUTH**

UNIT 54  
BROCKLEY CROSS BUSINESS CENTRE  
96 ENDWELL ROAD  
BROCKLEY  
LONDON SE4 2PD  
TEL: 020 7732 3925 / 020 7639 9091  
FAX: 020 7639 9588  
EMAIL: [info@pre-construct.com](mailto:info@pre-construct.com)

---

## **PCA NORTH**

UNIT 19A  
TURSDALE BUSINESS PARK  
DURHAM DH6 5PG  
TEL: 0191 377 1111  
FAX: 0191 377 0101  
EMAIL: [info.north@pre-construct.com](mailto:info.north@pre-construct.com)

---

## **PCA CENTRAL**

THE GRANARY, RECTORY FARM  
BREWERY ROAD, PAMPISFORD  
CAMBRIDGESHIRE CB22 3EN  
TEL: 01223 845 522  
FAX: 01223 845 522  
EMAIL: [info.central@pre-construct.com](mailto:info.central@pre-construct.com)

---

## **PCA WEST**

BLOCK 4  
CHILCOMB HOUSE  
CHILCOMB LANE  
WINCHESTER  
HAMPSHIRE SO23 8RB  
TEL: 01962 849 549  
EMAIL: [info.west@pre-construct.com](mailto:info.west@pre-construct.com)

---

## **PCA MIDLANDS**

17-19 KETTERING RD  
LITTLE BOWDEN  
MARKET HARBOROUGH  
LEICESTERSHIRE LE16 8AN  
TEL: 01858 468 333  
EMAIL: [info.midlands@pre-construct.com](mailto:info.midlands@pre-construct.com)

---

