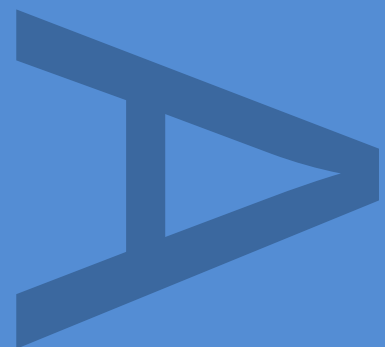


**48 STATION ROAD, STEEPLE
MORDEN, CAMBRIDGESHIRE,
SG8 0NP: AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL
EVALUATION**

DECEMBER 2015

Rev 1



**PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY
R12297**

48 STATION ROAD, STEEPLE MORDEN,
CAMBRIDGESHIRE, SG8 0NP

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

Quality Control

Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd	
Project Number	K4297
Report Number	R12297

	Name & Title	Signature	Date
Text Prepared by:	Mary-Anne Slater		November 2015
Graphics Prepared by:	Jennifer Simonson		November 2015
Graphics Checked by:	Josephine Brown	<i>Josephine Brown</i>	November 2015
Project Manager Sign-off:	Taleyna Fletcher	<i>Taleyna Fletcher</i>	November 2015

Revision No.	Date	Checked	Approved

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

48 Station Road, Steeple Morden, Cambridgeshire, SG8 0NP:

An Archaeological Evaluation

Local Planning Authority: South Cambridgeshire District Council

Planning Reference: S/2216/14/FL

Central National Grid Reference: TL 2859 4181

Site Code: ECB4613

Report No. R12297

Written and researched by: Mary-Anne Slater

Project Manager: Taleyna Fletcher

Commissioning Client: Partners in Planning and Architecture

Contractor: Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd
Central Office
The Granary
Rectory Farm
Brewery Road
Pampisford
Cambridgeshire
CB22 3EN

Tel: 01223 845522

E-mail: tfletcher@pre-construct.com

Website: www.pre-construct.com

©Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd

December 2015

The material contained herein is and remains the sole property of Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd and is not for publication to third parties without prior consent.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

CONTENTS	2
ABSTRACT	3
1 INTRODUCTION	4
2 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY	6
3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND	7
4 METHODOLOGY	8
5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE	10
6 CONCLUSIONS	11
7 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	12
8 BIBLIOGRAPHY	13
9 APPENDIX 1: PLATES	17
10 APPENDIX 2: CONTEXT INDEX	19
11 APPENDIX 3: OASIS FORM	20
FIGURE 1 SITE LOCATION	14
FIGURE 2 TRENCH LOCATION	15
FIGURE 3 TRENCH LOCATION WITH BUILDING PLAN	16
PLATE 1: TRENCH 1, VIEW SOUTH	17
PLATE 2: TRENCH 1, VIEW WEST	18

ABSTRACT

This report describes the results of an archaeological evaluation carried out by Pre-Construct Archaeology on land at 48 Station Road, Steeple Morden, Cambridgeshire (NGR TL 2859 4181) on the 30th November 2015. The archaeological work was commissioned by Partners in Planning and Architecture in response to a planning condition attached to the construction of two detached residential dwellings with associated access and landscaping. The aim of the work was to characterise the archaeological potential of the proposed development area.

The construction of the proposed buildings had already commenced prior to PCAs appointment and therefore evaluation of the site was limited to the remaining available areas.

One T-shaped trench was excavated, but no archaeological features were present.

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 An archaeological trial trench evaluation was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd (PCA) on land at 48 Station Road, Steeple Morden, Cambridgeshire, SG8 0NP (centred on Ordnance Survey National Grid Reference (NGR) TL 2859 4181) on the 30th November 2015 (Figure 1).
- 1.2 The archaeological work was commissioned by Partners in Planning and Architecture in response to an archaeological planning condition attached to the construction of two new residential dwellings, with associated access, car-parking and landscaping (Planning Reference S/2216/14/FL).
- 1.3 The construction of the proposed buildings had already commenced prior to PCAs appointment to undertake the work. It was agreed by Andy Thomas and Gemma Stewart of CCCHET with the client at a meeting on the site that evaluation trenches must still be investigated prior to any further development taking place. Trench locations were agreed in this site meeting which were submitted in the approved WSI (Morgan-Shelbourn 2015) however, when the archaeological investigations commenced it was found that due to the presence of overhead cables, excavation of the proposed trench along the front of the site would not be possible.
- 1.4 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by Lawrence Morgan-Shelbourne of PCA (Morgan-Shelbourne 2015) in response to a Brief for archaeological evaluation issued by Gemma Stewart (Stewart 2015) of Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team (CCC HET).
- 1.5 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.
- 1.6 A total of one T-shaped trench was excavated and recorded.

- 1.7 This report describes the results of the evaluation and aims to inform the design of an appropriate archaeological mitigation strategy. The site archive will be deposited at Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeology Store.

2 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

2.1 Geology

2.1.1 The underlying geology of the site is comprised of the Zig Zag Chalk Formation (British Geological Survey; Website 1). A Sedimentary Bedrock formed approximately 94 to 100 million years ago in the Cretaceous Period.

2.1.2 No superficial deposits are recorded for the site.

2.2 Topography

2.2.1 The site lies to the south of Steeple Morden village, approximately 6km to the west of Royston. The centre of the site is located at c. 53m above Ordnance Datum (AOD) and gently slopes towards the north-east.

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

3.1 General

3.1.1 The site lies in the historic South Cambridgeshire village of Steeple Morden. This archaeological and historical background has been drawn from the WSI (Morgan-Shelbourne 2015), the archaeological design brief (Stewart 2015) and a search of the Cambridgeshire HER.

3.2 Prehistoric

3.2.1 A possible Bronze Age round barrow and linear feature (MCB19196) are visible as cropmarks 750m to the west of the site.

3.3 Roman

3.3.1 Roman pottery finds (HER02283) were recorded at Steeple Morden Primary School, 900m to the north of the site. Cropmarks west of the Primary school (HER 09188), comprising a linear feature and a small enclosure may also relate to these finds. A large number of Roman features were identified at Hay Street (CB15028), 950m to the north of the site, which were interpreted as representing settlement.

3.4 Medieval

3.4.1 The former site of Morden house (HER02269) is located 900m to the north of the study site, although there are no visible remains. The nearby Church of Saint Peter and Saint Paul (HER02277), 750m north of the site also has a medieval core, notably the c13th north arcade and c14th interior and south arcade. Late medieval features (MCB16273) were also identified at Cheyney Street, 900m to the north of the site, where ditches, pits and postholes were recorded in an evaluation trench, including a possible large pond or quarry pit.

3.5 Post-Medieval

3.5.1 Sandersons Mill, a post-medieval example (HER02274) is located 200m to the north-west of the site. The Steeple Morden c19th Methodist Chapel (MCB17135) is located 900m to the north of the site, in the centre of Steeple Morden where it had an attendance of almost half the population towards the end of the 19th century.

4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 Excavation and Sampling

- 4.1.1 The Written Scheme of Investigation for the evaluation proposed the excavation of three 10m trial trenches, distributed across the site but avoiding the recently constructed standing buildings (Figure 2). Due to construction work taking place prior to the evaluation, remedial action was taken and one T-shaped trench was positioned in the only available space which avoided live services and a soakaway (Figure 3). Trench 3 was not able to be excavated due to recently installed live services.
- 4.1.2 Ground reduction was carried out under archaeological supervision using a 7-ton tracked 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. Exposed surfaces were cleaned by trowel and hoe as appropriate and all further excavation was undertaken manually using hand tools. Overburden deposits were set aside beside each trench and examined visually and with a metal-detector for finds retrieval.
- 4.1.3 Metal-detecting was carried out during the topsoil and subsoil stripping and throughout the excavation process. Spoilheaps were scanned by metal-detector as they were encountered/ created.
- 4.1.4 The artefact contents of the ploughsoil was examined as part of the evaluation using a programme of bucket sampling. 90 litres of topsoil and 90 litres of subsoil were hand sorted at the northern end of the north-south arm of the trench and at the western end of the east-west arm of the trench. No artefacts were recovered during this exercise.
- 4.1.5 Field excavation techniques and recording methods are detailed in the PCA Fieldwork Induction Manual (Operations Manual I) by Joanna Taylor and Gary Brown (2009).

4.2 Recording Methodology

- 4.2.1 Trench locations and heights above Ordnance Datum (m OD) were recorded using a Leica 1200 GPS rover unit with RTK differential correction, giving three-dimensional accuracy of 20mm or better.
- 4.2.2 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 on individual pre-printed forms (Taylor and Brown 2009). 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]. The record numbers assigned to cuts and deposits are entirely arbitrary and in no way reflect the chronological order in which events took place. All features and deposits recorded during the evaluation are listed in Appendix 2.
- 4.2.3 High-resolution digital photographs were taken at all stages of the evaluation process and black and white record shots were taken. Digital photographs were taken of all deposits.

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE

5.1 Trench 1

5.1.1 No archaeology was present in this trench.

TRENCH 1	Figures 2-3	Plates 1-2	
Trench Alignment: North-South/East-West	Length: 15m	Level of Natural (m OD): 50.81-50.84m	
Deposit	Context No.	Average Depth (m)	
		W End	N End
Made Ground	+	0.09m	N/A
Topsoil	(100)	0.24m	0.18m
Subsoil	(101)	0.7m	0.47m
Natural	(102)	0.7m+	0.47m+
Summary			
Trench 1 was T-shaped and located between the already constructed houses. No archaeology was present in this trench.			

6 CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1.1 The evaluation identified no evidence for archaeological activity on land at 48 Station Road, Steeple Morden. Despite the construction and demolition of a bungalow on the site and the construction of the present residential dwellings, subsoil was still present, indicating that any historic truncation was unlikely.

7 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 7.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd would like to thank David Mead of Partners in Planning and Architecture for commissioning the work and operating the excavator. PCA are also grateful to Gemma Stewart of Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team. The author would like to thank Taleyna Fletcher for managing the project, Stephanie Emra for her hard work on site and finally PCA's CAD department for preparing the figures.

8 BIBLIOGRAPHY

8.1 Printed Sources

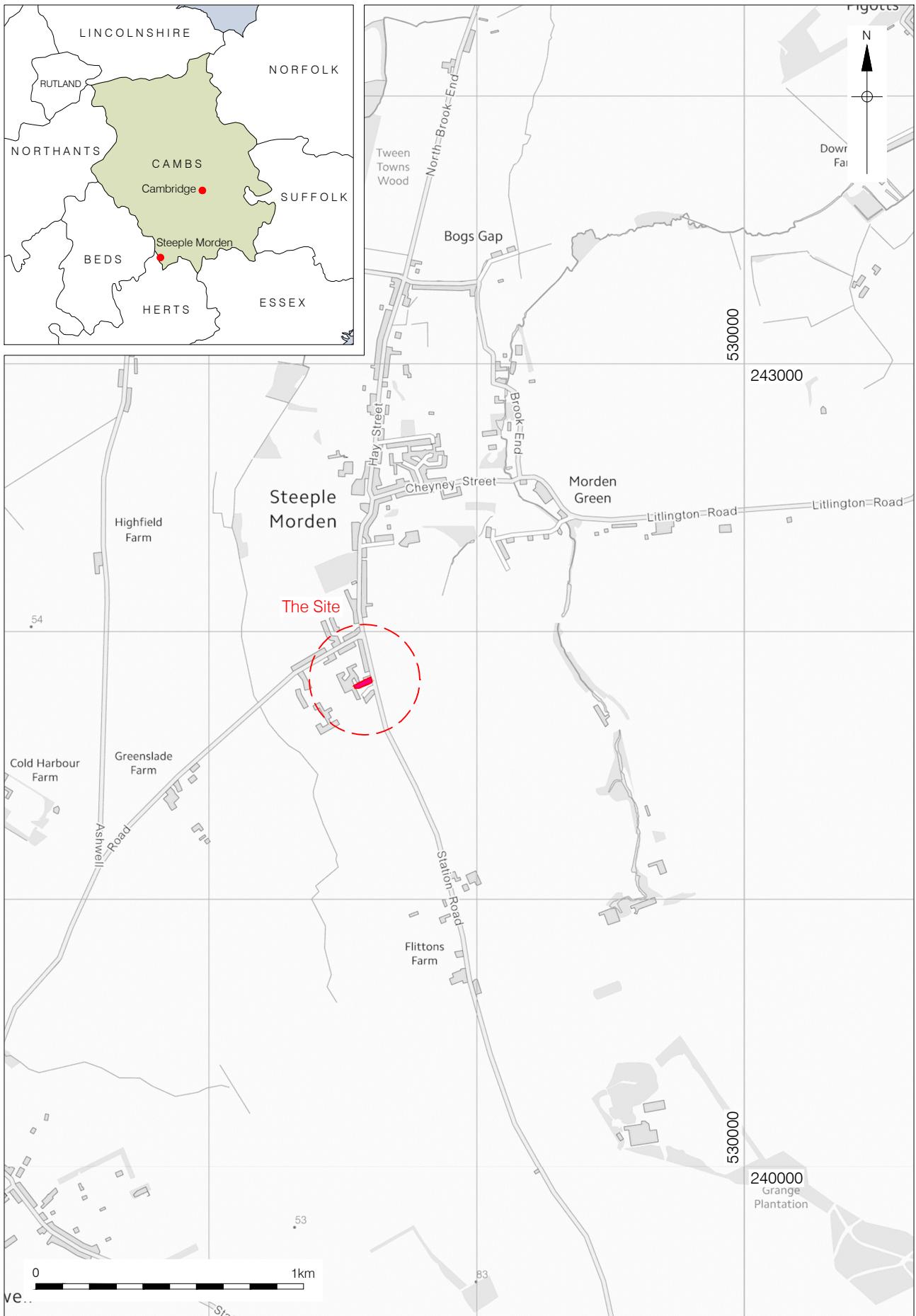
Stewart, G. 2015 Brief for Archaeological Evaluation: 48 Steeple Road, Steeple Morden. Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team (unpublished)

Morgan-Shelbourne, L. 2015 Written Scheme of Investigation for a Trenched Archaeological Evaluation on Land at 48 Station Road, Steeple Morden, Cambridgeshire. Pre-Construct Archaeology (unpublished)

8.2 Websites

1) British Geological Survey (Accessed 03/12/2015)

<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>

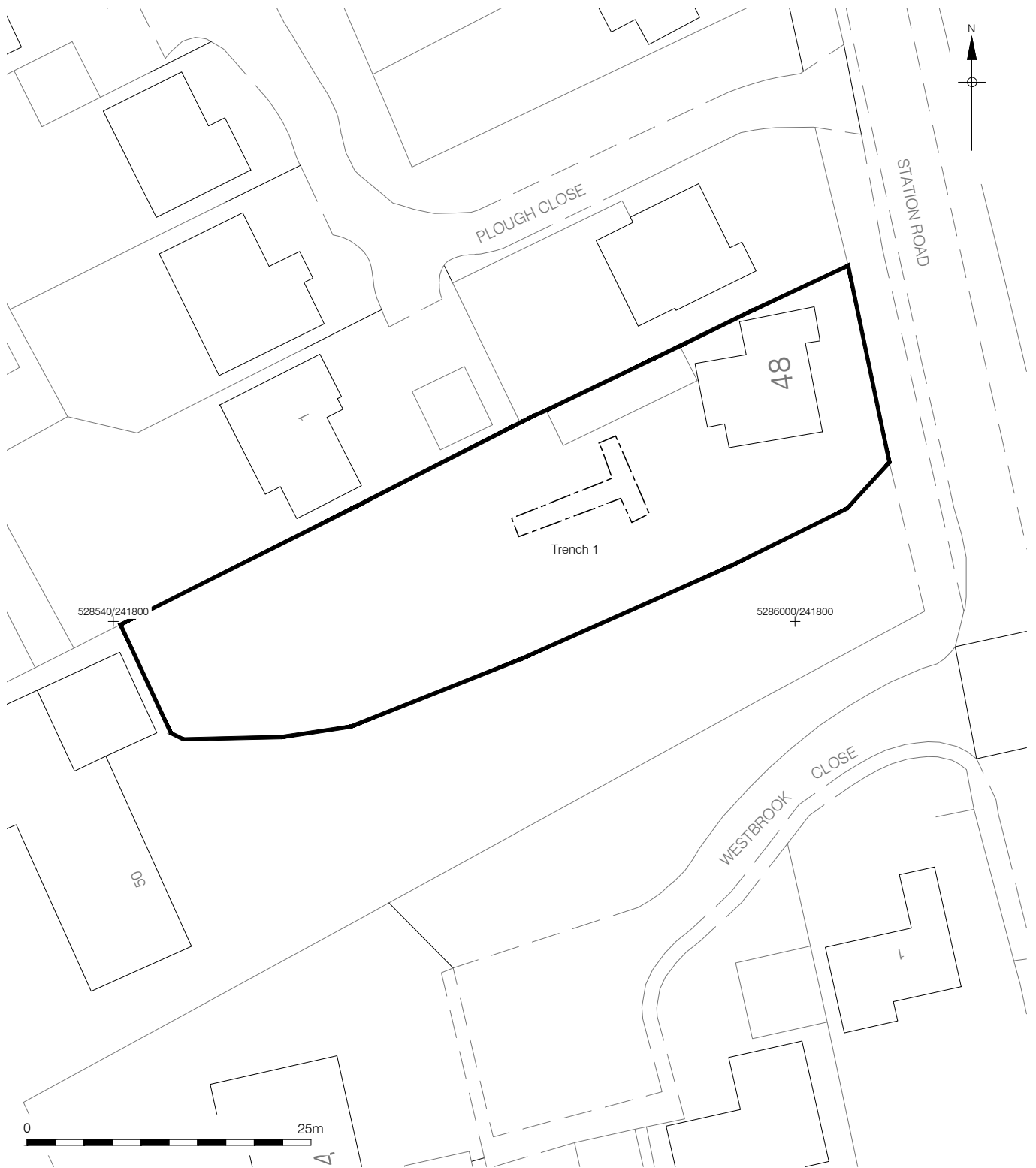


Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2014

© Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd 2015

02/12/15 RM

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



© Crown copyright 2015. All rights reserved. License number PMP36110309
© Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd 2015
02/12/15 RM

Figure 2
Trench Location
1:500 at A4

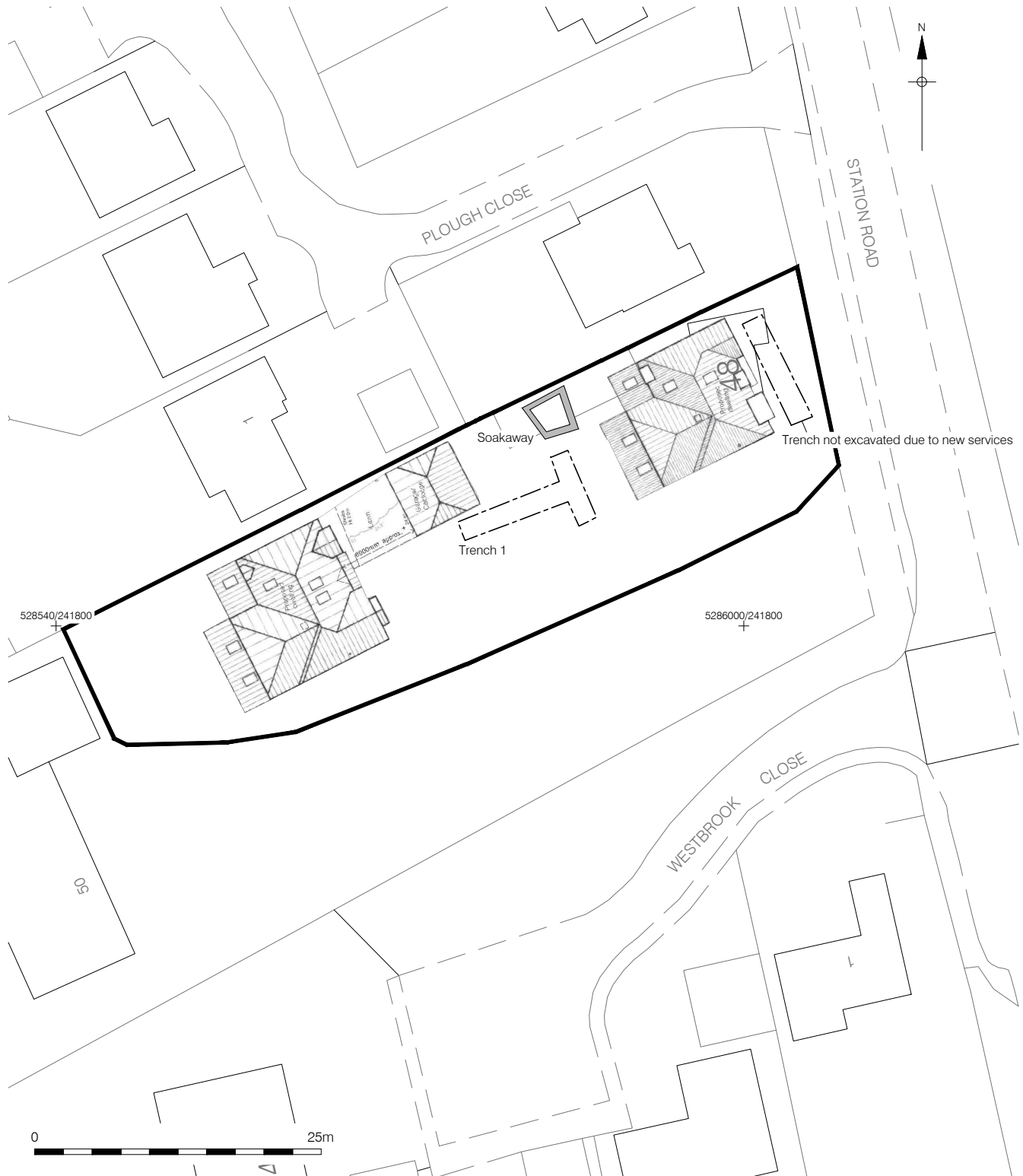


Figure 3
 Trench Location showing new development
 1:500 at A4

9 APPENDIX 1: PLATES



Plate 1: Trench 1, view south



Plate 2: Trench 1, view west

10 APPENDIX 2: CONTEXT INDEX

Context	Cut	Type	Category	Interpretation	Trench Number
100	-	Layer	Topsoil	Overburden	1
101	-	Layer	Subsoil	Overburden	1
102	-	Layer	Natural	Natural Geology	1

11 APPENDIX 3: OASIS FORM

OASIS ID: preconst1-232876

Project details

Project name 48 Station Road, Steeple Morden, Cambridgeshire: An Archaeological Evaluation

Short description of the project This report describes the results of an archaeological evaluation carried out by Pre-Construct Archaeology on land at 48 Station Road, Steeple Morden, Cambridgeshire (NGR TL 2859 4181) on the 30th November 2015. The archaeological work was commissioned by Partners in Planning and Architecture in response to a planning condition attached to the construction of two detached residential dwellings with associated access and landscaping. The aim of the work was to characterise the archaeological potential of the proposed development area. One T-shaped trench was excavated, but no archaeological features were present.

Project dates Start: 30-11-2015 End: 30-11-2015

Previous/future work No / Not known

Any associated project reference codes ECB4613 - Sitecode

Type of project Field evaluation

Site status None

Current Land use Residential 1 - General Residential

Monument type NONE None

Significant Finds NONE None

Methods & techniques "Sample Trenches"

Development type Small-scale (e.g. single house, etc.)

Prompt Planning condition

Position in the After full determination (eg. As a condition)
planning process

Project location

Country England

Site location CAMBRIDGESHIRE SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE STEEPLE
MORDEN 48 Station Road, Steeple Morden

Postcode SG8 0NP

Study area 0.1 Hectares

Site coordinates TL 2859 4181 52.059293408011 -0.124148392217 52 03 33 N 000
07 26 W Point

Height OD / Depth Min: 50.81m Max: 50.84m

Project creators

Name of Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited
Organisation

Project brief Gemma Stewart
originator

Project design Taleyna Fletcher
originator

Project Taleyna Fletcher
director/manager

Project supervisor Mary-Anne Slater

Project archives

Physical Archive No
Exists?

Digital Archive Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeology Store
recipient

Digital Archive ID ECB4613

Digital Contents "none"

Digital Media "Images raster / digital photography", "Survey", "Text"
available

Paper Archive Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeology Store
recipient

Paper Archive ID ECB4613

Paper Contents "none"

Paper Media "Report"
available

Project bibliography

1

Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Publication type

Title 48 Station Road, Steeple Morden, Cambridgeshire, SG8 0NP: An
Archaeological Evaluation

Author(s)/Editor(s) Slater, M.

Date 2015

Issuer or publisher Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd

Place of issue or Cambridge
publication

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

PCA NORTH

UNIT 19A
TURSDALE BUSINESS PARK
DURHAM DH6 5PG
TEL: 0191 377 1111
FAX: 0191 377 0101
EMAIL: 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

PCA WEST

BLOCK 4
CHILCOMB HOUSE
CHILCOMB LANE
WINCHESTER
HAMPSHIRE SO23 8RB
TEL: 01962 849 549
EMAIL: 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

