

**LAND AT THE RETREAT, FEWS
LANE, LONGSTANTON,
CAMBRIDGESHIRE: AN
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
EVALUATION**

FEBRUARY 2016



**PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY
R12361**

LAND AT THE RETREAT, FEWS LANE,
LONGSTANTON, CAMBRIDGESHIRE

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

Quality Control

Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd	
Project Number	K4337
Report Number	R12361

	Name & Title	Signature	Date
Text Prepared by:	Mary-Anne Slater		February 2016
Graphics Prepared by:	Ray Murphy		February 2016
Graphics Checked by:	Josephine Brown	<i>Josephine Brown</i>	February 2016
Project Manager Sign-off:	Taleyna Fletcher	<i>M.</i>	February 2016

Revision No.	Date	Checked	Approved

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

Land at The Retreat, Fews Lane, Longstanton, Cambridgeshire:

An Archaeological Evaluation

Local Planning Authority: South Cambridgeshire District Council

Planning Reference: S/1498/15/FUL

Central National Grid Reference: TL 3941 6724

Site Code/Event Number: ECB4630

Report No. R12361

Written and researched by: Mary-Anne Slater
Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd

Project Manager: Taleyna Fletcher

Commissioning Client: Mr G Caddoo

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
February 2016

The material contained herein is and remains the sole property of Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd and is not for publication to third parties without prior consent.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	5
3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND	6
4 METHODOLOGY	10
5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE	12
6 DISCUSSION & CONCLUSIONS	14
7 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	15
8 BIBLIOGRAPHY	16
9 APPENDIX 1: PLATES	20
10 APPENDIX 2: CONTEXT INDEX	24
11 APPENDIX 3: OASIS FORM	25
FIGURE 1 SITE LOCATION	17
FIGURE 2 DETAILED SITE LOCATION	18
FIGURE 3 PREVIOUS ARCHAEOLOGY	19
PLATE 1: TRENCH 1, VIEW NORTH-WEST	20
PLATE 2: TRENCH 1, VIEW SOUTH-EAST AFTER SONDAGE EXCAVATION	21
PLATE 3: TRENCH 2, VIEW SOUTH-EAST	22
PLATE 4: TRENCH 3, VIEW NORTH-EAST	23

ABSTRACT

This report describes the results of an archaeological evaluation carried out by Pre-Construct Archaeology on land at The Retreat, Fewes Lane, Longstanton, Cambridgeshire (NGR TL 3941 6724) on the 28th January 2016. The archaeological work was commissioned by Mr Gerry Caddoo in response to a planning condition attached to the construction of two residential dwellings with associated access and landscaping. The aim of the work was to characterise the archaeological potential of the proposed development area.

No archaeological activity was revealed during the evaluation. Excavations at Striplands Farm, to the north and northeast undertaken in 2005 and 2009 revealed evidence for Saxo-Norman quarrying truncated by 11th to 13th century boundary ditches, most likely representing back plots for settlement located along a street front. A large northwest-southeast boundary ditch was seen to the north of the site, which may represent a long standing boundary enclosing the settlement activity to the northeast. This may account for the lack of archaeological activity present during this investigation.

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 An archaeological trial trench evaluation was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd (PCA) on land at The Retreat, Fewes Lane, Longstanton, Cambridgeshire (centred on Ordnance Survey National Grid Reference (NGR) TL 3941 6724) on the 28th January 2016 (Figure 1).
- 1.2 A total of three trial trenches were excavated and recorded (Figure 2).
- 1.3 The archaeological work was commissioned by Mr G Caddoo 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/1498/15/FUL).
- 1.4 With a potential additional development plot to the north of the existing bungalow (design and application pending), the client, in agreement with Gemma Stewart of CCCHET instructed an additional trench to be investigated in this location.
- 1.5 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by Lawrence Morgan-Shelbourne of PCA (Morgan-Shelbourne 2016) in response to a Brief for archaeological evaluation issued by Gemma Stewart (Stewart 2015) of Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team (CCC HET).
- 1.6 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.
- 1.7 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 the West Walton Formation and Ampthill Clay Formation - Mudstone (British Geological Survey; Website 1). A Sedimentary Bedrock formed approximately 156 to 161 million years ago in the Jurassic Period when the local environment was dominated by shallow seas.

2.1.2 No superficial deposits are recorded for this area.

2.2 Topography

2.2.1 Longstanton is located 6km north-west of Cambridge, between Cambridge and St Ives. The site is approximately 5km south-east of the Great Ouse river and 10.5km north of the River Cam. The site is approximately 9m above Ordnance Datum (AOD) and is generally flat.

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

3.1 General

3.1.1 The site lies in an area of known archaeological significance, as recorded in the Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record (HER). Several phases of evaluation and excavation have been conducted at Striplands Farm, to the north of the site. This archaeological and historical background has been drawn from the WSI (Morgan-Shelbourne 2016), the archaeological design brief (Stewart 2015) and the available 'grey literature' reports documenting the adjacent archaeological investigations.

3.2 Prehistoric

3.2.1 A large number of Late Bronze Age to Early Iron Age features were identified at Striplands Farm (MCB16340), 250m north of the site. These features included ditches, pits, postholes and notably roundhouses, a cremation and pit wells. One of these wells contained a preserved wooden step. This was given further significance by the presence of a series of large pits which contained worked and unworked wood, including a log ladder and two axe hafts. A further excavation identified an exceptionally large circular Bronze Age pit well, 8.5m in diameter. This was waterlogged and contained further log ladders and a roughed out wood trough.

3.2.2 A small number of Late Bronze Age pits, as well as an Iron Age enclosure and roundhouses were identified west of Longstanton High Street (MCB20298), as well as considerable amounts of archaeology of later periods.

3.3 Roman

3.3.1 At Striplands Farm (HER08298), 900m north of the site, a large Roman settlement was uncovered. The remains encompassed the core of the settlement as well as an outlying paddock, inhumation and corn drying oven. Other parts of this settlement (MCB16341) contained rectangular enclosures and clay extraction pits.

3.4 Saxo-Norman

3.4.1 The Roman settlement at Striplands Farm (HER08298) continued into the

Saxon period, with gullies and artefact scatters being present. Further sporadic activity on the Farm was also identified such as at (MCB16339), where a grubenhaus was discovered. An open area was subsequently excavated (MCB16342) which identified large amounts of quarry pits, boundary ditches and midden deposits, which were interpreted as representing backyard plots. This activity increased to the north, where pit-wells were also discovered. One of these contained a worked wood rail, yoke and wheel felloe. The southern area (ECB1889) of this settlement is located adjacent to the site, and was dominated by Saxo-Norman remains consisting of quarry pits and successive phases of boundary ditches containing large quantities of pottery and animal bone suggestive of settlement back plot activity.

- 3.4.2 Other activity connected with the development of the village was identified 200m to the south of the site (MCB17804), where Saxo-Norman gullies, forming plot boundaries were discovered.

3.5 Medieval

- 3.5.1 Frequent medieval activity can be seen within the search area. These include settlement sites such as that of a former manor house (HER00298), 1km to the south of the site which was demolished in the 15th century. Other now demolished structural evidence can be seen as Hatton's Farm (HER10096), 700m to the east of the site where a medieval windmill mound and associated ancillary building remains was excavated. The windmill here stood until the late 18th century for a period of over 400 years.
- 3.5.2 Other medieval structures within the search area are still extant, such as the All Saints Church (HER0351), 1km south of the site which was rebuilt in the 14th century following a fire in 1349. The churchyard of this structure also contains a medieval cross (HER03512a).
- 3.5.3 Just south of the church lies 'The Manor' house (HER10296), within the grounds of which lie several earthworks, which may represent an earlier medieval manor, possible Tonys Fee or Walwyns Manor. Further still to the south lies a still extant Manor House (Her10305), which contained elements

of a medieval hall house within its predominantly 19th century fabric. Pottery dating to the 14th century was found under the current floor levels. This Manor is believed to be the historic Cheyneys Manor based on research done by the current owners.

3.6 Post-Medieval

- 3.6.1 The post-medieval remains identified within the search area are generally less largescale than the preceding Roman and early medieval remains. Notable examples include the Fishpond Cottages (HER03322), located 900m to the north of the site where a small moat surrounds the cottages to the south and east, and the Black Bull Public House (HER10300), located 600m to the south of the site, which dates in part to the mid 17th century. The pub has a small open area to its rear which contains possible earthworks, which cannot be dated.
- 3.6.2 Old Farm, Streplands Farm and Halton Farm (HER10304), 200m to the north-east of the site all had earthworks, ponds and possible infilled water channels surrounding them that are believed to be of a post-medieval date.
- 3.6.3 Hatton House (HER12157), 400m to the north-east of the site is a 19th century manor house, now built over. The surrounding area is believed to be a small area of pasture grounds or gardens shown on the pre-Inclosure map of 1813, an area that is slightly expanded to 22ha by 1838 when it is referred to as a park.
- 3.6.4 RAF Oakington (CB15144), located 1km to the south-east of the site was established as a WWII Bomber airfield, and contains headquarters, pillboxes and other military buildings.
- 3.6.5 Home Farm (MCB15906), located 400m to the south of the site contained early post-medieval ditch systems, which may have been created in order to contain the rising flood risk in this area after the 14th century.
- 3.6.6 Post medieval features were discovered at Area 7 of the Longstanton Bypass (MCB18157), 800km south-west of the site. These comprised of ditches and gullies and are likely to represent agricultural activity.

3.6.7 The Cambridge and St Ives dismantled railway (MCB19611) is located to the north of Longstanton. The station was located next to the Impington boundary but closed in 1970 prior to its demolition.

4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 Excavation and Sampling

- 4.1.1 The Written Scheme of Investigation for the evaluation proposed the excavation of three 15m trenches, distributed across the footprint of the proposed development (Figure 2). Due to space restrictions on site, Trenches 1 and 3 were unable to be excavated to the full length and had to be repositioned slightly.
- 4.1.2 Ground reduction was carried out under archaeological supervision using a 14-ton 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. 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. Archaeological features and 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 one end of each of the three trenches. 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).
- 4.1.6 All features were investigated and recorded in order to properly understand the date and nature of the archaeological remains on the site and to recover sufficient finds assemblages to assess the chronological development and socio-economic character of the site over time.

4.2 Recording Methodology

- 4.2.1 The limits of excavations, heights above Ordnance Datum (m OD) and the locations of archaeological features and interventions were recorded using a Leica 1200 GPS rover unit with RTK differential correction, giving three-dimensional accuracy of 20mm or better.
- 4.2.2 Manual plans of archaeological features and deposits were drawn at an appropriate scale (1:100).
- 4.2.3 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. Artefacts recovered during excavation were assigned to the record number of the deposit from which they were retrieved.
- 4.2.4 High-resolution digital photographs were taken at all stages of the evaluation process.

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 The trenches are described below in numerical order, with technical data tabulated. Trenches 1 and 3 were both devoid of archaeology, while Trench 2 contained one modern ditch and a land drain.

5.2 Trench 1

5.2.1 Trench 1 contained no archaeology. A sondage was machine excavated to ensure the clay was not a deposit sealing earlier archaeology. Natural clay was seen to a depth of approximately 1m.

TRENCH 1	Figure 2		Plates 1-2	
Trench Alignment: NW-SE	Length: 13m	Level of Natural (m OD): 8.5m		
Deposit	Context No.	Average Depth (m)		
		NW End	SE End	
Topsoil	(100)	0.25m	0.3m	
Subsoil	(101)	0.25-0.58m	0.3-0.58m	
Natural	(102)	0.58m+	0.58m+	
Summary				
Trench 1 was located close to the north-western boundary of the site.				
No archaeological features were present.				

5.3 Trench 2

5.3.1 No archaeological features were present in Trench 2. A modern ditch and a land drain were in the southern end of the trench.

TRENCH 2	Figure 2		Plate 3	
Trench Alignment: NW-SE	Length: 17m	Level of Natural (m OD): 8.63m		
Deposit	Context No.	Average Depth (m)		
		N End	S End	
Topsoil	(100)	0.38m	0.41m	
Subsoil	(101)	0.38-0.57m	0.41-0.5m	
Natural	(102)	0.57m+	0.5m+	
Summary				

Trench 2 was located in the south of the site.
 No archaeological features were present.

5.4 Trench 3

5.4.1 No archaeological features were present in Trench 3.

TRENCH 3		Figure 2	Plate 4	
Trench Alignment: NW-SE		Length: 9m	Level of Natural (m OD): 8.62m	
Deposit		Context No.	Average Depth (m)	
			NW End	SE End
Topsoil		(100)	0.3m	0.3m
Subsoil		(101)	0.3-0.38m	0.35m
Natural		(102)	0.38m+	0.35m+
Summary Trench 3 was located towards the north-east corner of the site. No archaeological features were present.				

6 DISCUSSION & CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1.1 No archaeological activity was seen at The Retreat, Fewes Lane. A sondage was machine excavated in Trench 1 to determine that the natural clay was not a capping deposit sealing earlier archaeology.
- 6.1.2 Previous excavations at Striplands Farm (Patten and Evans 2005; Hutton 2009) revealed evidence for dense Iron Age to post-medieval activity (Figure 3). Excavations to the east of The Retreat revealed a large Iron Age enclosure ditch which extended beyond the eastern edge of excavation. A series of Mid-Late Saxon ditches were truncated by Saxo-Norman quarrying, which in turn were truncated by 11th to 13th century boundary ditches. These ditches most likely represented back plots for settlement located along a street front. A large northwest-southeast boundary ditch was seen to the north of The Retreat, which may represent a long standing boundary enclosing the settlement activity to the northeast. This may account for the lack of archaeological activity seen at the site. Any continuation of this boundary ditch would have been just to the east of the investigation area.
- 6.1.3 The lack of archaeological activity in this evaluation was unexpected, but it still contributes to the overall picture of the development of Longstanton village. The settlement was situated to the northeast of this site and the large northwest-southeast boundary ditch excavated at Striplands Farm in 2005 demarcated the extent of the medieval village. The results are of local importance.

7 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 7.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd would like to thank Mr & Mrs Caddoo for commissioning the work and Anthill Plant Hire for operating the excavator. PCA are also grateful to Gemma Stewart of Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team for monitoring the work. The author would like to thank Taleyna Fletcher for managing the project and PCA's CAD department for preparing the figures.

8 BIBLIOGRAPHY

8.1 Printed Sources

Hutton, J. 2009 Further Excavations at Striplands Farm, Longstanton, Cambridgeshire (II) (Cambridge Archaeological Unit unpublished)

Patten, R. and Evans, C. 2005 Striplands Farm, West Longstanton, Cambridgeshire: An Archaeological Excavation (Cambridge Archaeological Unit unpublished)

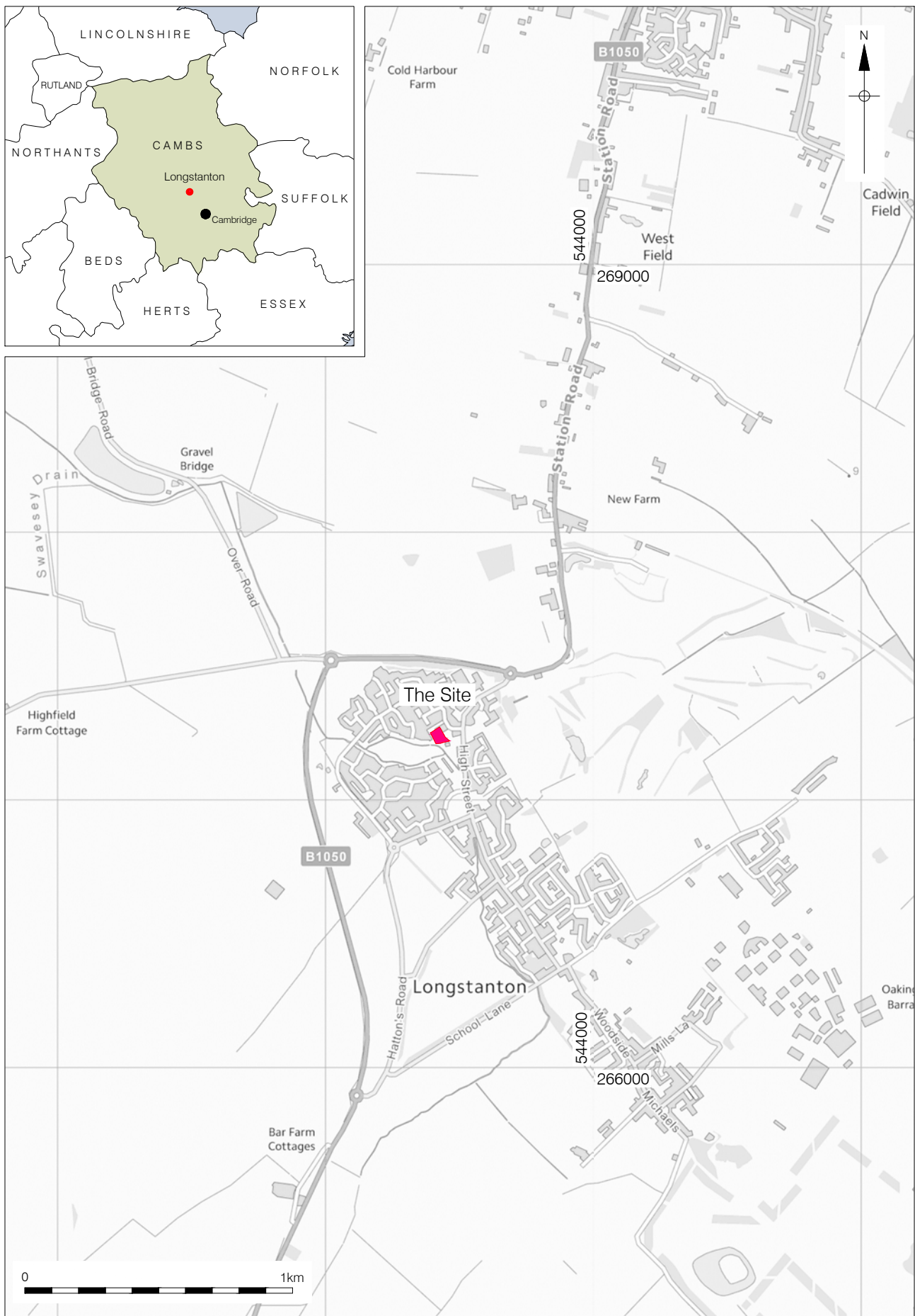
Stewart, G. 2015 Brief for Archaeological Evaluation: The Retreat, Fewes Lane, Longstanton (Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team)

Morgan-Shelbourne, L. 2016 Written Scheme of Investigation for a Program of Archaeological Evaluation at The Retreat, Fewes Lane, Longstanton (Pre-Construct Archaeology unpublished)

8.2 Websites

1) British Geological Survey (Accessed 29/01/2016)

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



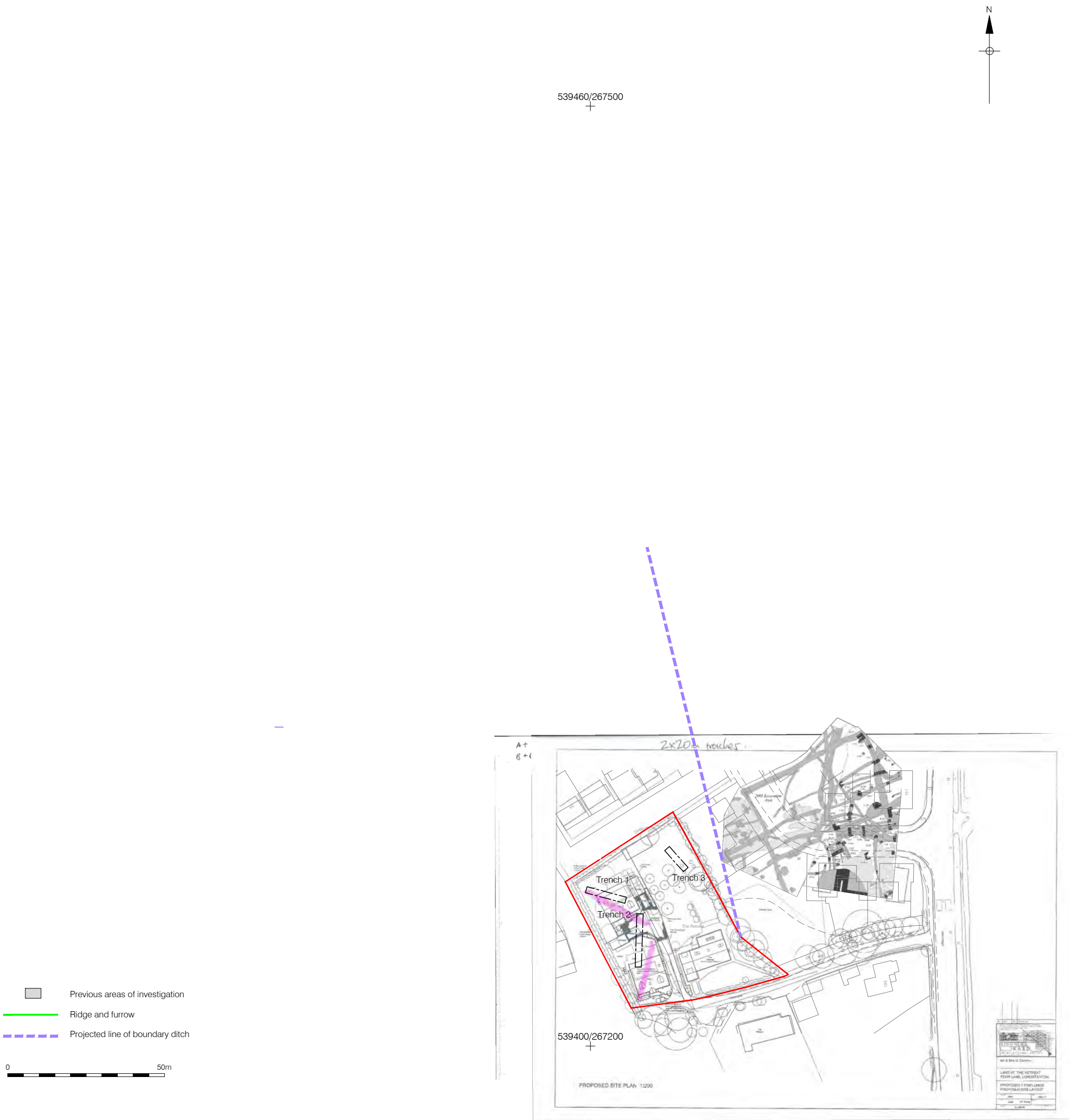
Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2016

© Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd 2016

15/02/16 RM

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





Archaeological Features taken from Figure 2, Further Excavations at Stripland Farm, CAU, 2009
 © Crown copyright 2016. All rights reserved. License number PMP36110309
 © Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd 2016
 15/02/16 RM

Figure 3
 Detailed Site Location Showing previous phases of Archaeology in the Area
 1:1,000 at A3

9 APPENDIX 1: PLATES



Plate 1: Trench 1, view north-west



Plate 2: Trench 1, view south-east after sondage excavation



Plate 3: Trench 2, view south-east



Plate 4: Trench 3, view north-east

10 APPENDIX 2: CONTEXT INDEX

Context	Cut	Type	Category	Interpretation	Trench Number
100	-	Layer	Topsoil	Overburden	1-3
101	-	Layer	Subsoil	Overburden	1-3
102	-	Layer	Natural	Natural Geology	1-3

11 APPENDIX 3: OASIS FORM

OASIS ID: preconst1-241068

Project details

Project name Land at The Retreat, Fews Lane, Longstanton, 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 The Retreat, Fews Lane, Longstanton, Cambridgeshire (NGR TL 3941 6724) on the 28th January 2016. The archaeological work was commissioned by Mr and Mrs Caddoo in response to a planning condition attached to the construction of two residential dwellings with associated access and landscaping. The aim of the work was to characterise the archaeological potential of the proposed development area. No archaeological activity was seen during the evaluation. Excavations at Striplands Farm, to the north and northeast, in 2005 and 2009 revealed evidence for Saxo-Norman quarrying truncated by 11th to 13th century boundary ditches, most likely representing back plots for settlement located along a street front. A large northwest-southeast boundary ditch was seen to the north of the site, which may represent a long standing boundary enclosing the settlement activity to the northeast. This may account for the lack of archaeological activity seen at The Retreat.

Project dates Start: 28-01-2016 End: 28-01-2016

Previous/future work No / Not known

Any associated project reference codes ECB4630 - Sitecode

Type of project Field evaluation

Site status None

Current Land use Other 5 - Garden

Monument type NONE None

Significant Finds	NONE None
Methods techniques	& "Sample Trenches"
Development type	Urban residential (e.g. flats, houses, etc.)
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project location

Country	England
Site location	CAMBRIDGESHIRE SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE LONGSTANTON The Retreat, Fewes Lane, Longstanton
Postcode	CB24 3DP
Study area	0.1 Hectares
Site coordinates	TL 3941 6724 52.285178533886 0.04403868623 52 17 06 N 000 02 38 E Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited
----------------------	-----------------------------------

Project originator	brief Gemma Stewart
--------------------	---------------------

Project originator	design Lawrence Morgarn-Shelbourne
--------------------	------------------------------------

Project director/manager	Taleyna Fletcher
--------------------------	------------------

Project supervisor	Mary-Anne Slater
--------------------	------------------

Project archives

Physical Archive No
 Exists?

Digital Archive Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeology Store
 recipient

Digital Archive ID ECB4630

Digital Contents "none"

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

Paper Archive Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeology Store
 recipient

Paper Archive ID ECB4630

Paper Contents "none"

Paper Media "Context sheet","Plan","Report"
 available

Project bibliography
 1

Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Publication type

Title Land at The Retreat, Fewes Lane, Longstanton, Cambridgeshire: An
 Archaeological Evaluation

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

Date 2016

Issuer or publisher Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited

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

