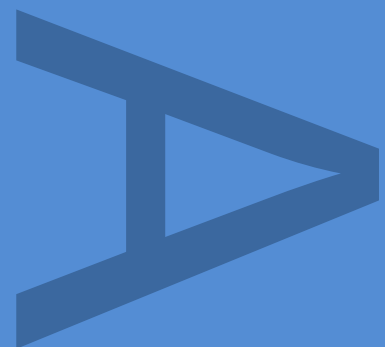


**LAND AT 249 NEWMARKET ROAD,
FORMERLY THE SEVEN STARS,
CAMBRIDGE, CAMBRIDGESHIRE, CB5
8GA: ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING**



FEBRUARY 2016

**PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY
R12380**

LAND AT 249 NEWMARKET ROAD, FORMERLY THE
SEVEN STARS, CAMBRIDGE, CAMBRIDGESHIRE,
CB5 8GA

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING

Quality Control

Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd	
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**Land at 249 Newmarket Road, Formerly The Seven Stars, Cambridge,
Cambridgeshire, CB5 8GA: Archaeological Monitoring**

Local Planning Authority: Cambridge City Council

Planning Reference: 14/0308/FUL

Central National Grid Reference: TL 4657 5900

Site Code: ECB4611

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CONTENTS

CONTENTS	2
ABSTRACT	3
1 INTRODUCTION	4
2 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY	5
3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND	6
4 METHODOLOGY	7
5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS	9
6 DISCUSSION & CONCLUSIONS	10
7 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	11
8 BIBLIOGRAPHY	12
9 APPENDIX 1: PLATES	16
10 APPENDIX 2: CONTEXT INDEX	20
11 APPENDIX 3: OASIS FORM	21
FIGURE 1 SITE LOCATION	13
FIGURE 2 AREAS MONITORED	14
FIGURE 3 SECTIONS	15
PLATE 1: EXPOSED FOUNDATION FOOTING, VIEW SOUTHEAST	16
PLATE 2: PIT [105] AND WALL 113, VIEW NORTHEAST	17
PLATE 3: PIT [107], VIEW NORTHEAST	17
PLATE 4: SERVICE TRENCH, VIEW EAST	18
PLATE 5: SECTION 3 IN SERVICE TRENCH, VIEW NORTHEAST	19

ABSTRACT

This report describes the results of archaeological monitoring carried out by Pre-Construct Archaeology on land at 249 Newmarket Road, formerly The Seven Stars, Cambridge, Cambridgeshire (NGR TL 4657 5900) between November 2015 and February 2016. The archaeological work was commissioned by Neale Associates in response to a planning condition attached to the construction of seven residential dwellings with associated access and landscaping. The aim of the work was to characterise the archaeological potential of the proposed development area.

The principal result of the monitoring was a series of probable post-medieval pits seen in the section of the foundation footing trench. Only layers of made ground were seen in the monitoring of the service trench.

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Archaeological monitoring was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd (PCA) on land at 249 Newmarket Road, formerly The Seven Stars, Cambridge, Cambridgeshire, CB5 8GA (centred on Ordnance Survey National Grid Reference (NGR) TL 4567 5900) from November 2015 to February 2016 (Figures 1-2).
- 1.2 The archaeological work was commissioned by Neale Associates in response to an archaeological planning condition attached to the construction of seven new residential dwellings, with associated access, car-parking and landscaping (Planning Reference 14/0308/FUL).
- 1.3 The monitoring was carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by Shannon Hogan of PCA (Hogan 2014) in response to a Brief for archaeological evaluation issued by Dan McConnell (McConnell 2014) of Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team (CCC HET).
- 1.4 The aim of the monitoring 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.
- 1.5 The Brief and WSI were for an archaeological evaluation of the site, comprising 40m of trenching. However, the development occurred without an evaluation being undertaken, so monitoring was all that could be carried out.
- 1.6 This report describes the results of the monitoring 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 West Melbury Marley Chalk Formation (British Geological Survey; Website 1). There are no superficial deposits recorded in this area, although archaeological investigations along Newmarket Road southwest of the development area encountered superficial river terrace sands and gravels.

2.2 Topography

2.2.1 The site is located at an approximate height of 11m above Ordnance Datum (AOD) and is bordered by Newmarket Road to the southeast and by light commercial buildings and associated car parks in all other directions.

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

3.1 General

3.1.1 The proposed development area is located in an area of high archaeological potential as referenced in the brief. The site lies to the southeast of the medieval monastic precinct of Barnwell Priory (MCB 5623) in what would have been an area of rural settlement. The precise focus of the associated medieval town is not known as there have been insufficient modern developments to confirm its location. Pre-Roman pottery suggestive of earlier settlement in the vicinity has been recovered from garden plots of the residential streets on the south side of Newmarket Road (McConnell 2014).

4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 Excavation and Sampling

4.1.1 The Written Scheme of Investigation for the evaluation proposed the excavation of 40m of trial trenches, distributed across the site following the demolition of The Seven Stars Public House. Due to the construction of the development an evaluation was unable to be undertaken. Archaeological monitoring of the foundations still exposed and a service trench occurred instead (Figure 2).

4.1.2 Ground reduction was carried out under archaeological supervision using a 7-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 Field excavation techniques and recording methods are detailed in the PCA Fieldwork Induction Manual (Operations Manual I) by Joanna Taylor and Gary Brown (2009).

4.1.5 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 and section drawings of archaeological features and deposits were drawn at an appropriate scale (1:10, 1:20 or 1:50).
- 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 monitoring are listed in Appendix 2.
- 4.2.4 High-resolution digital photographs were taken at all stages of the evaluation process.

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

5.1 Post-Medieval Layers and Pits

5.1.1 All features were only seen in section (Figure 3, Section 1).

5.1.2 Layer (101) measured 4.9m long and 0.4m deep. It was comprised of mid-greyish brown clay, which contained flecks of charcoal, chalk, shell, flint and bone.

5.1.3 Pit [103] measured 0.72m wide and 0.23m deep. It had steeply sloping sides and contained a single fill (102) of mid-greyish brown silty sandy clay.

5.1.4 Pit [105] measured 1m wide and 0.25m deep. It had steeply sloping sides and contained a single fill (104) of mid-brownish grey silty sandy clay. Pit [105] was truncated by construction cut [115].

5.1.5 Pit [107] measured 0.72m wide and 0.3m+ deep. It had steeply sloping sides and contained two fills: an upper fill (106) of mid-greyish brown sandy silty clay and a lower fill (111) of mid-orangish brown silty clay sand.

5.1.6 Layer (108) measured 0.4m long and 0.16m deep. It was comprised of mid-greyish brown silty clay.

5.1.7 Layer (109) measured 0.16m wide and 0.08m deep. It was comprised of orange brown silty clay sand.

5.1.8 Layer (110) measured 0.58m wide and 0.28m+ deep. It was comprised of creamy white chalky clay.

Layer (112) measured 0.59m long and 0.24m deep. It was comprised of mid-greyish brown silty sandy clay, which contained charcoal, burnt clay, chalk and unworked flint.

6 DISCUSSION & CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1.1 Two areas were monitored following the construction of a new development on 249 Newmarket Road, Cambridge. Layers of probable post-medieval and modern made ground were seen in a service trench to the rear of the property, while a series of probable post-medieval pits and layers were seen in the section of the foundation footings along the north-eastern side of the building. The pits and layers contained no dating evidence.
- 6.1.2 The results are in keeping with the known history of this part of post-medieval Cambridge. The historic building survey of the former Seven Stars Public House revealed that it was originally constructed during the early to mid-19th century, built adjoining and in line with an early 19th century cottage (Garwood 2014). This part of Newmarket Road was previously undeveloped and the layers of made ground and pits likely relate to the construction and use of the public house and the cottage next door.
- 6.1.3 The results are of local importance.

7 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

7.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd would like to thank Neale Associates for commissioning the work. PCA are also grateful to Andy Thomas of Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team for his advice and for monitoring the work. The author would like to thank Mark Hinman for managing the project and PCA's CAD department for preparing the figures.

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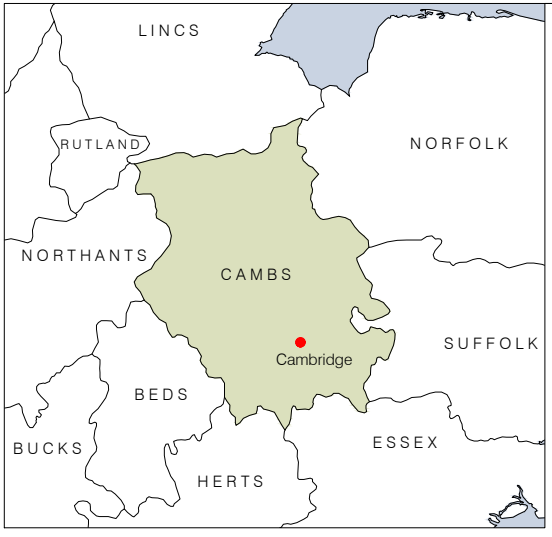
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8.2 Websites

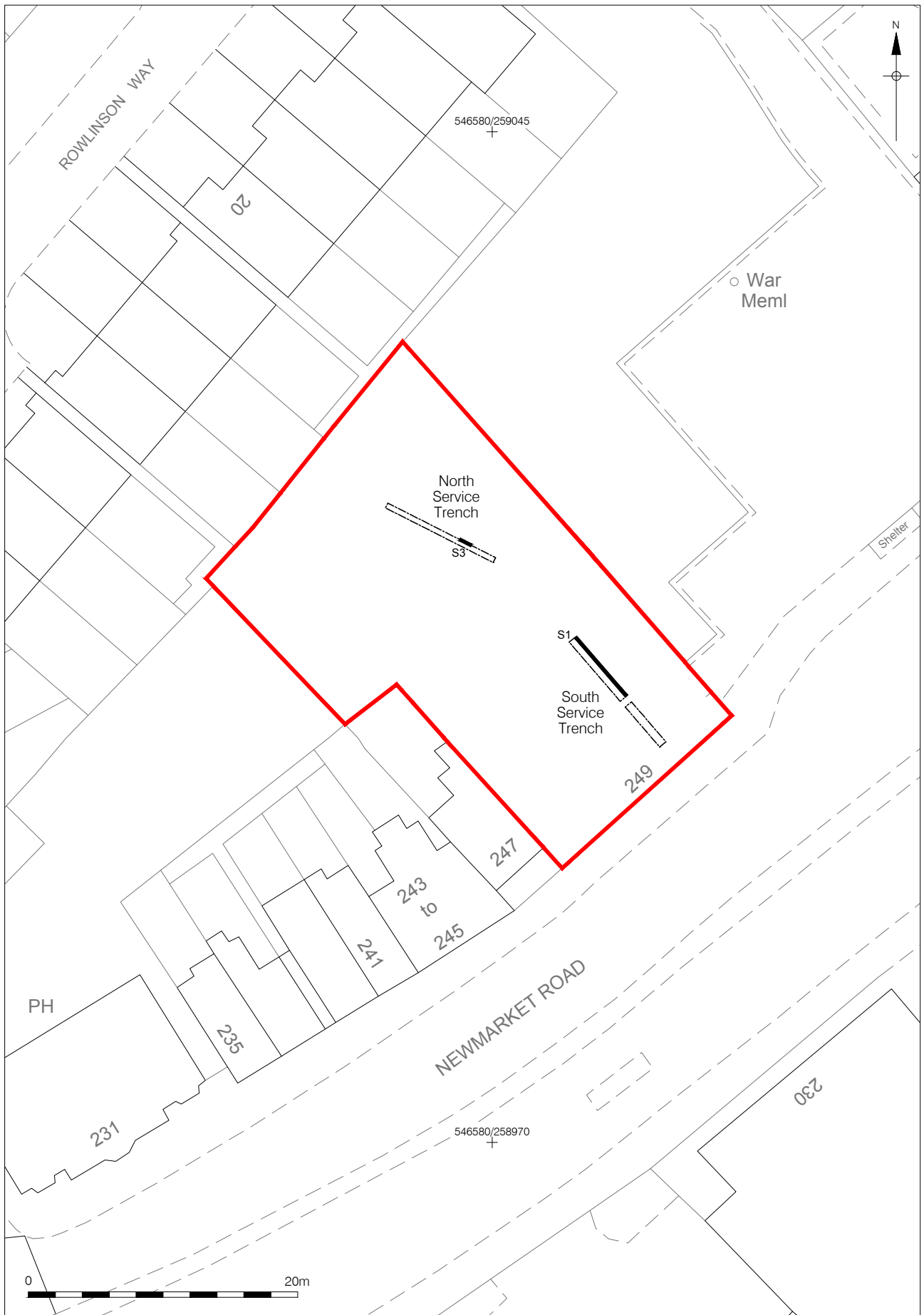
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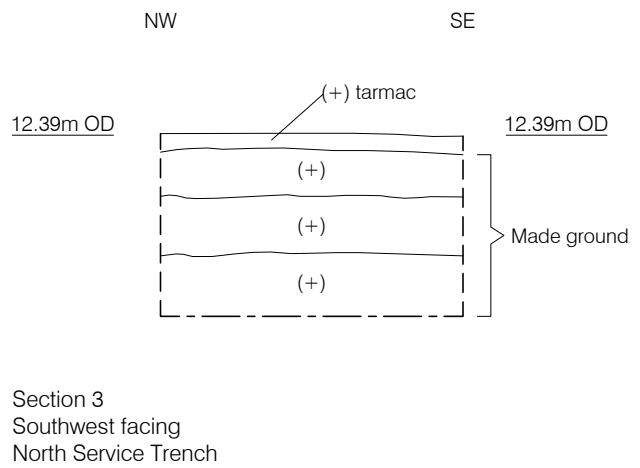
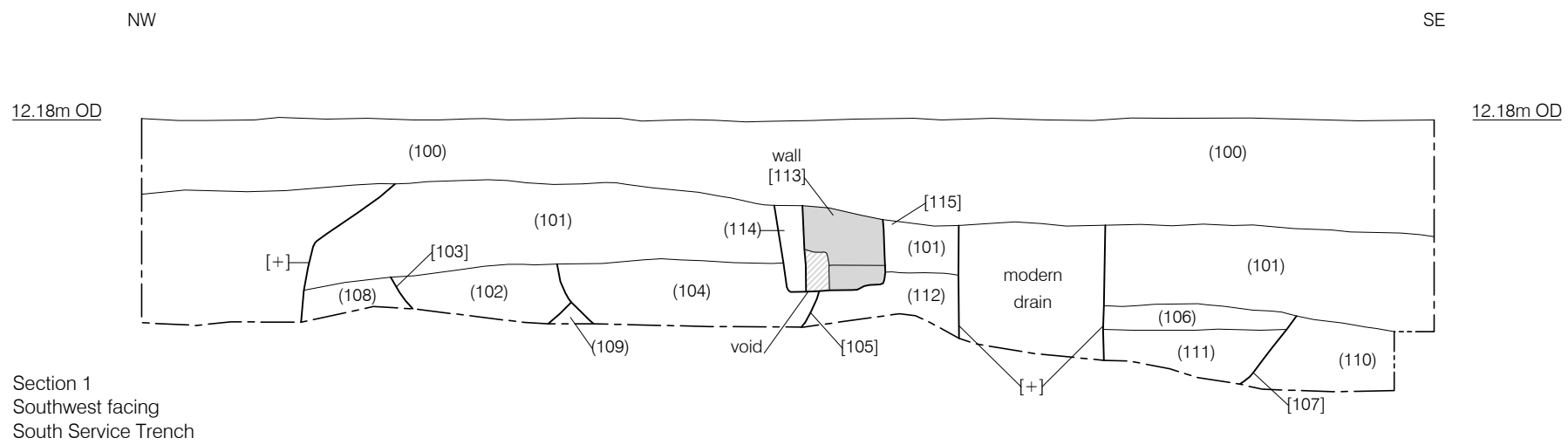
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Figure 1
Site Location
1:2,000,000 & 1:25,000 at A4



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Figure 2
 Detailed Site Plan showing Areas Monitored and Section Locations
 1:400 at A4



9 APPENDIX 1: PLATES



Plate 1: Exposed foundation footing, view southeast



Plate 2: Pit [105] and Wall 113, view northeast



Plate 3: Pit [107], view northeast





Plate 5: Section 3 in service trench, view northeast

10 APPENDIX 2: CONTEXT INDEX

Context	Cut	Type	Category
100	N/A	Layer	Made ground
101	N/A	Layer	Unknown
102	N/A	Fill	Pit
103	N/A	Cut	Pit
104	N/A	Fill	Pit
105	N/A	Cut	Pit
106	N/A	Fill	Pit
107	N/A	Cut	Pit
108	N/A	Layer	Unknown
109	N/A	Layer	Unknown
110	N/A	Layer	Unknown
111	N/A	Fill	Pit
112	N/A	Layer	Unknown
113	N/A	Structural	Wall foundation
114	N/A	Fill	Structural
115	N/A	Cut	Structural
116	N/A	Layer	Made ground
117	N/A	Layer	Unknown
118	N/A	Layer	Unknown
119	N/A	Layer	Tarmac
120	N/A	Layer	Made ground
121	N/A	Layer	Made ground
122	N/A	Layer	Made ground

11 APPENDIX 3: OASIS FORM

OASIS ID: preconst1-243696

Project details

Project name Land at 249 Newmarket Road, Formerly The Seven Stars, Cambridge, Cambridgeshire, CB5 8GA: Archaeological Monitoring

Short description of the project This report describes the results of archaeological monitoring carried out by Pre-Construct Archaeology on land at 249 Newmarket Road, formerly The Seven Stars, Cambridge, Cambridgeshire (NGR TL 4657 5900) between November 2015 and February 2016. The archaeological work was commissioned by Neale Associates in response to a planning condition attached to the construction of seven residential dwellings with associated access and landscaping. The aim of the work was to characterise the archaeological potential of the proposed development area. The principal result of the monitoring was a series of probable post-medieval pits seen in the section of the foundation footing trench. Only layers of made ground were seen in the monitoring of the service trench.

Project dates Start: 01-11-2015 End: 16-02-2016

Previous/future work Yes / No

Any associated project reference codes ECB4611 - Sitecode

Type of project Recording project

Site status None

Current Land use Residential 1 - General Residential

Monument type PIT Uncertain

Investigation type "Watching Brief"

Prompt Planning condition

Project location

Country England
Site location CAMBRIDGESHIRE CAMBRIDGE CAMBRIDGE 249 Newmarket Road, Formerly The Seven Stars, Cambridge, Cambridgeshire, CB5 8GA
Postcode CB5 8GA
Study area 0 Square metres
Site coordinates TL 4657 5900 52.209274265822 0.145365492444 52 12 33 N 000 08 43 E Point

Project creators

Name of Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited
Organisation

Project brief Andy Thomas
originator

Project design Shannon Hogan
originator

Project Mark Hinman
director/manager

Project supervisor Clare Jackson

Project supervisor Mary-Anne Slater

Project archives

Physical Archive No
Exists?

Physical Archive Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeology Store
recipient

Digital Archive Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeology Store
recipient

Digital Archive ID ECB4611

Digital Contents "none"

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

Paper Archive Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeology Store
recipient

Paper Archive ID ECB4611

Paper Contents "none"

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

Project bibliography

1

Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

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