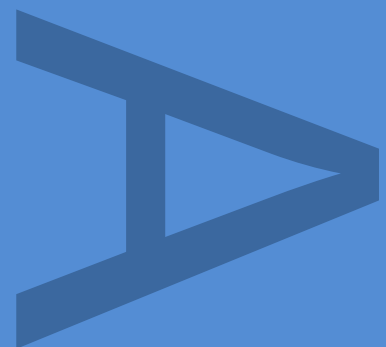


**LAND BETWEEN 7 STATION
ROAD AND CEDAR COURT,
SOHAM, CAMBRIDGESHIRE: AN
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
EVALUATION**

MAY 2016



**PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY
R12485**

LAND BETWEEN 7 STATION ROAD AND CEDAR COURT, SOHAM, CAMBS

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

Quality Control

Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd	
Project Number	K4498
Report Number	R12485

	Name & Title	Signature	Date
Text Prepared by:	Mary-Anne Slater		May 2016
Graphics Prepared by:	Jennifer Simonson		May 2016
Graphics Checked by:	Josephine Brown	<i>Josephine Brown</i>	May 2016
Project Manager Sign-off:	Taleyna Fletcher	<i>Taleyna Fletcher</i>	May 2016

Revision No.	Date	Checked	Approved

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

Land between 7 Station Road and Cedar Court, Soham, Cambridgeshire:

An Archaeological Evaluation

Local Planning Authority: East Cambridgeshire District Council

Planning Reference: 15/01475/FUL

Central National Grid Reference: TL 5927 7337

Site Code/Event Number: ECB4715

Report No. R12485

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

Project Manager: Taleyna Fletcher

Commissioning Client: Peter Audus

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

May 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The material contained herein is and remains the sole property of Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd and is not for publication to third parties without prior consent.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	8
5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE	10
6 DISCUSSION & CONCLUSIONS	11
7 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	12
8 BIBLIOGRAPHY	13
9 APPENDIX 1: PLATES	16
10 APPENDIX 2: CONTEXT INDEX	19
11 APPENDIX 3: OASIS FORM	20
FIGURE 1 SITE LOCATION	14
FIGURE 2 TRENCH LOCATION	15
PLATE 1: TRENCH 1, VIEW SOUTH-EAST	16
PLATE 2: TRENCH 1, VIEW SOUTH-WEST SHOWING MADE GROUNDS (100)- (102).....	17
PLATE 3: WELL 103, VIEW SOUTH-WEST	17
PLATE 4: WELL 103, INTERNAL VIEW	18

ABSTRACT

This report describes the results of an evaluation carried out by Pre-Construct Archaeology on land between 7 Station Road and Cedar Court, Soham, Cambridgeshire (NGR TL 5927 7337) on the 6th May 2016. The archaeological work was commissioned by Peter Audus 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.

The principal result of the evaluation was the discovery of an 18th-19th century brick lined well which had been sealed by over 1m of dumped soil and made ground.

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 An archaeological trial trench evaluation was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd (PCA) on land between 7 Station Road and Cedar Court, Soham, Cambridgeshire (centred on Ordnance Survey National Grid Reference (NGR) TL 5927 7337) on the 6th May 2016 (Figure 1).
- 1.2 The archaeological work was commissioned by Peter Audus 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 15/01475/FUL).
- 1.3 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by Taleyna Fletcher of PCA (Fletcher 2016) in response to a Brief for archaeological evaluation issued by Gemma Stewart (Stewart 2016) of Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team (CCC HET).
- 1.4 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.
- 1.5 A total of one 10m trench was excavated and recorded.
- 1.6 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 Chalk of the West Melbury Marly Chalk Formation (British Geological Survey; Website 1). Sedimentary bedrock formed approximately 94 to 100 million years ago in the Cretaceous Period when the local environment was dominated by warm chalk seas.

2.1.2 No superficial deposits are recorded for this area.

2.2 Topography

2.2.1 The site lies at around 9m above Ordnance Datum (AOD).

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

3.1 General

- 3.1.1 The following archaeological background is taken from the WSI (Fletcher 2016) which was compiled from a search of the Cambridgeshire HER which accompanied the Brief.
- 3.1.2 Archaeological investigations undertaken at 38 Station Road have revealed evidence of Saxo-Norman occupation evidence (Historic Environment Record reference MCB14110 / CHER 11985). Four possible beam slots and a further possible foundation trench were discovered during an evaluation prior to the construction of four new houses. The accompanying pottery suggests a date between the 10th and 12th c. AD. The orientation of the features discovered fits in with the alignment of Saxo-Norman features encountered during previous evaluations. In addition a couple of possible prehistoric or Roman ditch features were discovered.
- 3.1.3 Saxo-Norman structures were also identified to the north at 9-13 Pratt Street (MCB14041 / CHER11932). In three trial trenches (totalling 55m) linear and curvilinear ditches, pits and postholes were identified. Although finds were limited, because of the level of the water table, pottery recovered suggests a date between the 10th and 12th c. A.D. In addition late 19th or 20th c. rubbish pits were found.
- 3.1.4 To the south is 12th century Saint Andrew's Church (MCB8591) as well as Saxon burial ground (MCB8592).
- 3.1.5 To the south east at the former Church Hall site on the High Street, archaeological investigations have revealed evidence of Iron Age and Roman settlement comprising a possible high status, late Iron Age to early Roman period settlement (MCB18184). This was represented by a ditched enclosure, with some evidence for associated structures. The same site also contained significant evidence for Saxon and medieval settlement (MCB18185).
- 3.1.6 There are a number of listed buildings within close proximity to the site,

mostly located on Pratt Street and Churchgate Street to the east. The closest located building to the site is the Vicarage, a Grade II Listed 19th century house on Churchgate St (DCB914) and its associated coach house and stables (DCB690).

4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 Excavation and Sampling

- 4.1.1 The Written Scheme of Investigation for the evaluation proposed the excavation of one 10m trench, positioned across the footprint of the proposed buildings (Figure 2).
- 4.1.2 Ground reduction was carried out under archaeological supervision using a JCB excavator fitted with a 1.8m-wide toothless ditching bucket. The trench was machine excavated to a depth of 1.1m, 19th(?) century made ground was still present. An open brick lined well was revealed and no further excavation occurred.
- 4.1.3 Overburden deposits were set aside beside each trench and examined visually and with a metal-detector for finds retrieval.
- 4.1.4 Metal-detecting was carried out during the stripping and throughout the excavation process. The trench and spoilheaps were scanned by metal-detector as they were encountered/ created.
- 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 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 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.

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE

5.1 Trench 1

5.1.1 Trench 1 contained an 18th-19th century brick well.

TRENCH 1	Figure 2	Plates 1-4
Trench Alignment: NW-SE	Length: 10m	Max Machine Depth (m OD): 1.1m
Deposit	Context No.	Average Depth (m)
		NW End
Made ground – modern	(100)	0.19m
Made ground – bricks	(101)	0.19-0.25m
Made ground – soil	(102)	0.25-1m+
Summary		
Trench 1 contained an 18 th -19 th century brick well sealed by a dump of soil.		

6 DISCUSSION & CONCLUSIONS

6.1.1 One trench was excavated within the footprint of the proposed development. Post-19th century made ground was still present at a depth of 1.1m, sealing an 18th-19th century brick built well. No further excavation of this trench was undertaken. The houses on the north side of Station Road date from a similar period in Soham's expansion and the well was likely related to the occupation of Station Road during the 19th century.

6.1.2 The results are of local importance.

7 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

7.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd would like to thank Peter Audus for commissioning the work. PCA are also grateful to Gemma Stewart of Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team for her advice and for monitoring the work. The author would like to thank Taleyna Fletcher for managing the project. The author would also like to thank Sam Corke for his hard work, and finally PCA's CAD department for preparing the figures.

8 BIBLIOGRAPHY

8.1 Printed Sources

Fletcher, T. 2016 Written Scheme of Investigation for a Program of Archaeological Evaluation on Land between 7 Station Road and Cedar Court, Soham, Cambridgeshire. Pre-Construct Archaeology (unpublished)

Stewart, G. 2016 Brief for Archaeological Evaluation: Land between 7 Station Road and Cedar Court, Soham. Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team (unpublished)

8.2 Websites

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

Accessed 06/06/2016

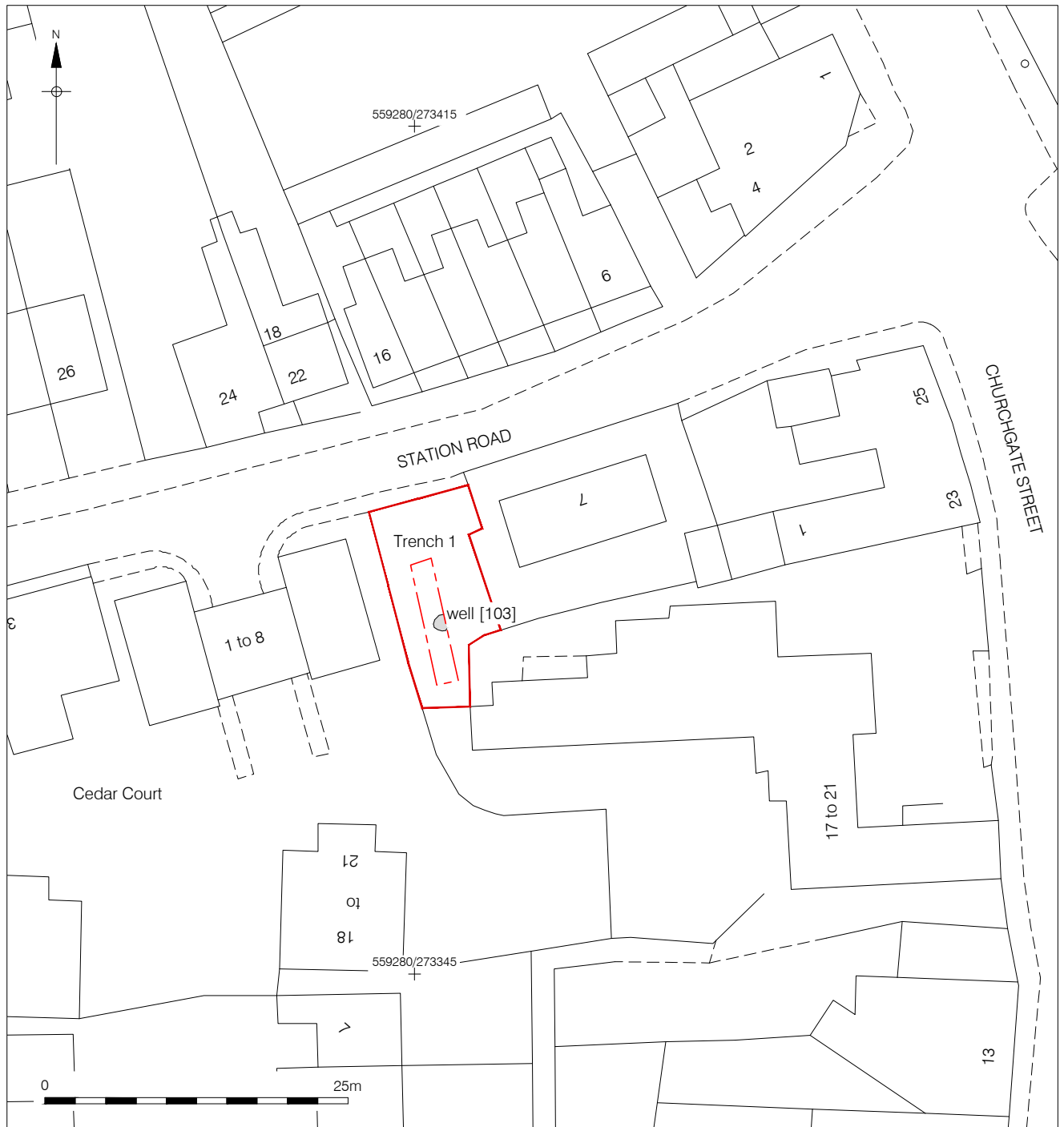


Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2014

© Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd 2015

05/11/15 JS

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



© Crown copyright 2016. All rights reserved. License number PMP36110309
 © Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd 2016
 13/05/16 JS

Figure 2
 Trench Location
 1:500 at A4

9 APPENDIX 1: PLATES



Plate 1: Trench 1, view south-east



Plate 2: Trench 1, view south-west showing made grounds (100)-(102)



Plate 3: Well 103, view south-west



Plate 4: Well 103, internal view

10 APPENDIX 2: CONTEXT INDEX

Context	Cut	Type	Category	Interpretation	Trench Number
100	N/A	Layer	Made ground	Modern made ground	1
101	N/A	Layer	Made ground	Modern brick layer	1
102	N/A	Layer	Made ground	Post-19 th century soil dump	1
103	N/A	Structure	Well	18 th -19 th century well	1

11 APPENDIX 3: OASIS FORM

OASIS ID: preconst1-250883

Project details

Project name Land between 7 Station Road and Cedar Court, Soham: An Archaeological Evaluation

Short description of the project This report describes the results of an evaluation carried out by Pre-Construct Archaeology on land between 7 Station Road and Cedar Court, Soham, Cambridgeshire (NGR TL 5927 7337) on the 6th May 2016. The archaeological work was commissioned by Peter Audus 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. The principal result of the evaluation was the discovery of an 18th-19th century brick lined well which had been sealed by over 1m of dumped soil and made ground.

Project dates Start: 06-06-2016 End: 06-06-2016

Previous/future work No / Not known

Any associated project reference codes ECB4715 - Sitecode

Type of project Field evaluation

Site status None

Current Land use Vacant Land 2 - Vacant land not previously developed

Monument type WELL Post Medieval

Significant Finds N/A 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 EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE SOHAM
Land between 7 Station Road and Cedar Court, Soham

Postcode CB7 5FL

Study area 107 Square metres

Site coordinates TL 5927 7337 52.33483750326 0.337882390799 52 20 05
N 000 20 16 E Point

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

Type of Private Developer
sponsor/funding
body

Project archives

Physical Archive No

Exists?

Digital Archive Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeology Store
recipient

Digital Archive ID ECB4715

Digital Contents "none"

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

Paper Archive Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeology Store
recipient

Paper Archive ID ECB4715

Paper Contents "none"

Paper Media "Context sheet", "Report"
available

Project bibliography 1

Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Publication type

Title Land between 7 Station Road and Cedar Court, Soham,
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

