

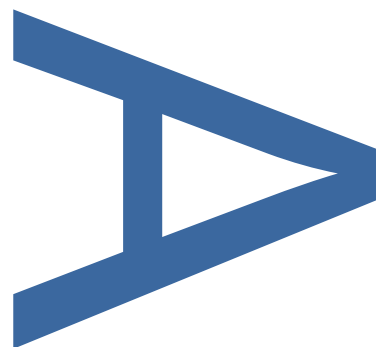
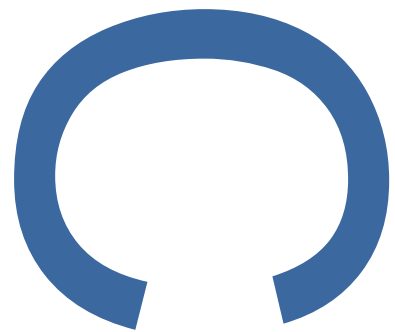
**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION
ON LAND SOUTH AND WEST OF
KESWICK, STATION ROAD, MANEA,
CAMBRIDGESHIRE**



PCA REPORT NO: R12877

SITE CODE: ECB5102

MAY 2017



PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY

Land South and West of Keswick, Station Road, Cambridgeshire:

Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation

Local Planning Authority: Fenland District Council

Planning Reference: F/YR15/0958/O

Central National Grid Reference: TL 4789 8995

Site Code: ECB5102

Report No. R12877

Written and researched by: Mary-Anne Slater

Project Manager: Peter Crawley

Commissioning Client: Mr S M Duffy and Mr D
Jackson, Executors of the late
Vera Fox

Contractor:

**Pre-Construct Archaeology
Ltd Central Office
Rectory Farm
Brewery Road
Pampisford
Cambridgeshire
CB22 3EN**

Tel: 01223 845522

E-mail: mhinman@pre-construct.com

Website: www.pre-construct.com

**©Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd
May 2017**

The material contained herein is and remains the sole property of Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd and is not for publication to third parties without prior consent.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	13
7 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	14
8 BIBLIOGRAPHY	15
9 APPENDIX 1: PLATES	18
10 APPENDIX 2: OASIS FORM	20
FIGURE 1 SITE LOCATION	16
FIGURE 2 TRENCH LOCATION	17
PLATE 1: THE SITE, VIEW NORTH-WEST	18
PLATE 2: TRENCH 1, VIEW WEST	18
PLATE 3: TRENCH 2, VIEW NORTH	19

ABSTRACT

This report describes the results of an archaeological trial trench evaluation carried out by Pre-Construct Archaeology on land south and west of Keswick, Station Road, Manea, Cambridgeshire (NGR TL 4789 8995) on the 8th May 2017. The archaeological work was commissioned by Mr S M Duffy and Mr D Jackson, Executors of the late Vera Fox, in response to a planning condition attached to the construction of four residential dwellings with associated access and landscaping. The aim of the work was to characterise the archaeological potential of the proposed development area.

Due to a number of large trees at the back of the plot, only two of the three trenches were able to be excavated. No archaeological features were present in either.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 An archaeological trial trench evaluation was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd (PCA) on land south and west of Keswick, Station Road, Manea, Cambridgeshire (centred on Ordnance Survey National Grid Reference (NGR) TL 4789 8995) on the 8th May 2017 (Figure 1).

1.2 The archaeological work was commissioned by the Executors of the late Vera Fox in response to an archaeological planning condition attached to the construction of four new residential dwellings, with associated access, car-parking and landscaping (Planning Reference F/YR15/0958/O).

1.3 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by Peter Crawley of PCA (Crawley 2017) in response to a Brief for archaeological evaluation issued by Gemma Stewart (Stewart 2017) 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 x 30m long and one x 20m evaluation trial trenches
1.6 was excavated and recorded.

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 area is underlain by Ampthill Clay Formation - Mudstone. A sedimentary bedrock which formed approximately 156 to 161 million years ago in the Jurassic Period in a local environment previously dominated by shallow seas. The upper deposits consist of Oadby Member - Diamicton. Superficial Deposits which formed up to 2 million years ago in the Quaternary Period in a local environment previously dominated by ice age conditions. (BGS 2017)

2.2 Topography

2.2.1 The site is located on the slightly higher gravel island at 3.0m OD in the village of Manea. Overall the area of the site is relatively flat. Manea is located at the heart of a well-drained fenland environment with area prone to flooding. The canalised Old Bedford River lay within 500m to the south east and flows in a north east to south west direction.

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

3.1 General

3.1.1 This archaeological and historical background has been drawn from the HER search data and the archaeological design brief (Stewart 2017) and the available 'grey literature' reports.

3.2 Palaeolithic to Mesolithic

3.2.1 The site is located close to the edge of what was once a 'fen island' and, as such, would have had easy access to rich resources of water, fish, wildfowl, reeds for thatch, and peat for fuel. Such locations were favoured for settlement during all historical periods and particularly during prehistory.

3.2.2 A possible Palaeolithic implement, recovered from Papworth's Pit (CHER 05981) in Manea represents the earliest recorded evidence close to the development site. The fen deposits are known to be much later than the Palaeolithic period, although many of the gravel islands which project through the peat and silt are of Palaeolithic date. The gravels are supported by a layer of clay representing the old ground surface, were isolated finds of this date and the remains of the earliest post-glacial fauna can be found.

3.2.3 Two Mesolithic flints, comprising a blade and a flake, were found at Rutlands Farm (CHER 05971). A Mesolithic mace is recorded at CHER 05978. Neolithic polished flint implements have also been recorded in Manea (CHER 05981a).

3.3 Neolithic and Bronze Age

3.3.1 There are a number of Bronze Age finds from the vicinity of Manea. These include CHER 05862, a Bronze Age halberd; CHER 02012, a Neolithic to Late Bronze Age scraper tool; CHER 05861, a Bronze Age axe; CHER 05864, Bronze Age flints; and CHER 05981b, a Bronze Age vessel. The finds logged at CHER 02012 were located a little over 20m to the east of the development.

3.3.2 CHER 05969 records the presence of a Bronze Age barrow. The barrow

has been observed as a ploughed-out feature with associated visible pot sherds on the field surface.

Iron Age and Roman

- 3.3.3 Iron Age pottery has been recovered at CHER 05864A and CHER10899 and indicates that the gravel island at Manea continued to be used throughout the prehistoric period.
- 3.3.4 The Iron Age fortification at Stonea Camp is 4km north-west of Manea.
- 3.3.5 The Roman settlement at Stonea Grange, 4km north-west of the site, is thought to have been the administrative centre for a large, imperially-owned agricultural estate focused on the Cambridgeshire Fenland.
- 3.3.6 A Roman settlement site on the gravel island at Manea was recorded at CHER 05864B approximately 600m to the south east. Iron Age pottery has been discovered at the same location which indicated that this settlement site may have stretched back to at least the Iron Age. It was initially unearthed as part of the Fenland Survey project.
- 3.3.7 A further area of possible Roman settlement CHER 06048 was located approximately 500m to the south west on another part of the gravel island which comprises Manea. Finds here included pottery (including samian ware), 'native' wares, bronze cooking pots, metal ornaments and numerous coins, though much of the material is in private hands and has not been fully analysed.
- 3.3.8 Further major finds of Roman date are two recorded pewter hoards found at The Poplars, Manea (CHER 05867) and CHER 05868 each to the east of the development. That recovered at CHER 05868 was approximately 100m to the south west. Further Roman coins and sherds were found at CHER 05981c.

3.4 Anglo-Saxon and Early Medieval

- 3.4.1 There is very little of Anglo-Saxon date recorded around the study area.

CHER 05866 records the position of a possible Anglo-Saxon inhumation burial, dated on the basis of associated amber and glass beads, although an Early Bronze Age date is also possible.

3.5 Late Medieval and Post-Medieval

3.5.1 There is no corresponding reference of Manea within the Domesday survey of 1086 indicating that any settlement was small and probably confined to simple and isolated farms or cottages. Correspondingly there has been little of medieval date found in proximity to the development.

3.5.2 Find spots of this date include a bronze finger ring of medieval date CHER 05970.

3.5.3 Archaeological evaluation was undertaken within Manea. Two pits containing a few fragments of medieval pottery were identified on land off Williams Way MCB19940. Features also included Post-medieval and modern ditches with an associated pit. Finds consisted of 13 sherds of pottery, with two sherds dated to the 12th-13th centuries and animal bone. At 10-12 School Lane MCB20289 an evaluation uncovered evidence of post-medieval boundary ditches and gullies with a similar type and date of activity observed at MCB20808.

3.5.4 A Charles Mont monument CHER 05893 has been recorded at Manea. It provides physical evidence for the connections of Manea to the plans which Charles I had in 1638 to build a town, in the vicinity of Manea. This was to be the capital of the newly drained middle level. The town was to be called Charlemont, the design for which was drawn up by the king. A canal was to connect the town to the River Ouse and a Royal Palace was to be built on site. The mound is likely to date to this period. This site is located approximately 600m south of the development and associated activity is unlikely to extend within the development area.

3.5.5 Later historical activity included evidence for a 19th century kiln (CHER 05864C) and a windmill CHER 05989. A further post-medieval tower windmill was recorded at CHER 08175.

- 3.5.6 There are several historic buildings located around the village. MCB22924 refers to the site of the former Catherine Wheel public house. Many other buildings recorded are of less relevance for the current evaluation and include several other public houses.
- 3.5.7 Of most relevance for the current site was MCB22938 which records the position of the Cricketers' Arms beer house illustrated on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map (1885). This was located immediately south of the proposed development. A 19th-century Methodist chapel was recorded at MCB17182.
- 3.5.8 Saint Nicholas' Church, Manea CHER10565 was entirely rebuilt in the 19th-century in a 13th-century style, although the earlier structure was of 18th-century date.

4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 Excavation and Sampling

4.1.1 The Written Scheme of Investigation for the evaluation proposed the excavation of three trial trenches, positioned to target the proposed development (Figure 2). Due to constraints imposed by large trees at the back of the plot, only two trenches were able to be excavated.

4.1.2 Ground reduction was carried out under archaeological supervision using a 8-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.

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).

4.2 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.

- 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 No archaeological features were present in Trench 1.

TRENCH 1	Figure 2		Plate 2	
Trench Alignment: E-W	Length: 30m	Level of Natural (m OD): 1.98-2.20		
Deposit	Context No.	Average Depth (m)		
		W End	E End	
Topsoil	(100)	0.23	0.20	
Subsoil	(101)	0.23-0.31	0.20-0.33	
Natural	(102)	0.31+	0.33+	
Summary				
Trench 1 was located close to the eastern boundary of the site. No archaeological features were present.				

5.2 Trench 2

5.2.1 No archaeological features were present in Trench 2.

TRENCH 2	Figure 2		Plate 3	
Trench Alignment: N-S	Length: 20m	Level of Natural (m OD): 2.22-2.31		
Deposit	Context No.	Average Depth (m)		
		N End	S End	
Topsoil	(100)	0.24	0.12	
Subsoil	(101)	0.24-0.36	0.12-0.25	
Natural	(102)	0.36+	0.25+	
Summary				
Trench 2 was located close to the northern boundary of the site. No archaeological features were present.				

6 DISCUSSION & CONCLUSIONS

6.1.1 The evaluation at Station Road identified no evidence for archaeological activity. From the little subsoil present and the shallow depth of the trenches it may be possible that the site had previously been landscaped as part of the garden of Keswick.

7 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

7.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd would like to thank Buckles Solicitors LLP for commissioning the work and LK Construction for operating the excavator. PCA are also grateful to Kasia Gdaniec of Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team for her advice and for monitoring the work. The author would like to thank Peter Crawley for managing the project and PCA's CAD department for preparing the figures.

8 BIBLIOGRAPHY

8.1 Printed Sources

Crawley, P. 2017 Written Scheme of Investigation for a Programme of Archaeological Evaluation on Land South and West of Keswick, Station Road, Manea. Pre-Construct Archaeology (unpublished)

Stewart, G. 2017 Brief for Archaeological Evaluation, Land South and West of Keswick, Station Road, Manea. Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team (unpublished)

8.2 Websites

1) <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>. Date accessed 09/05/2017

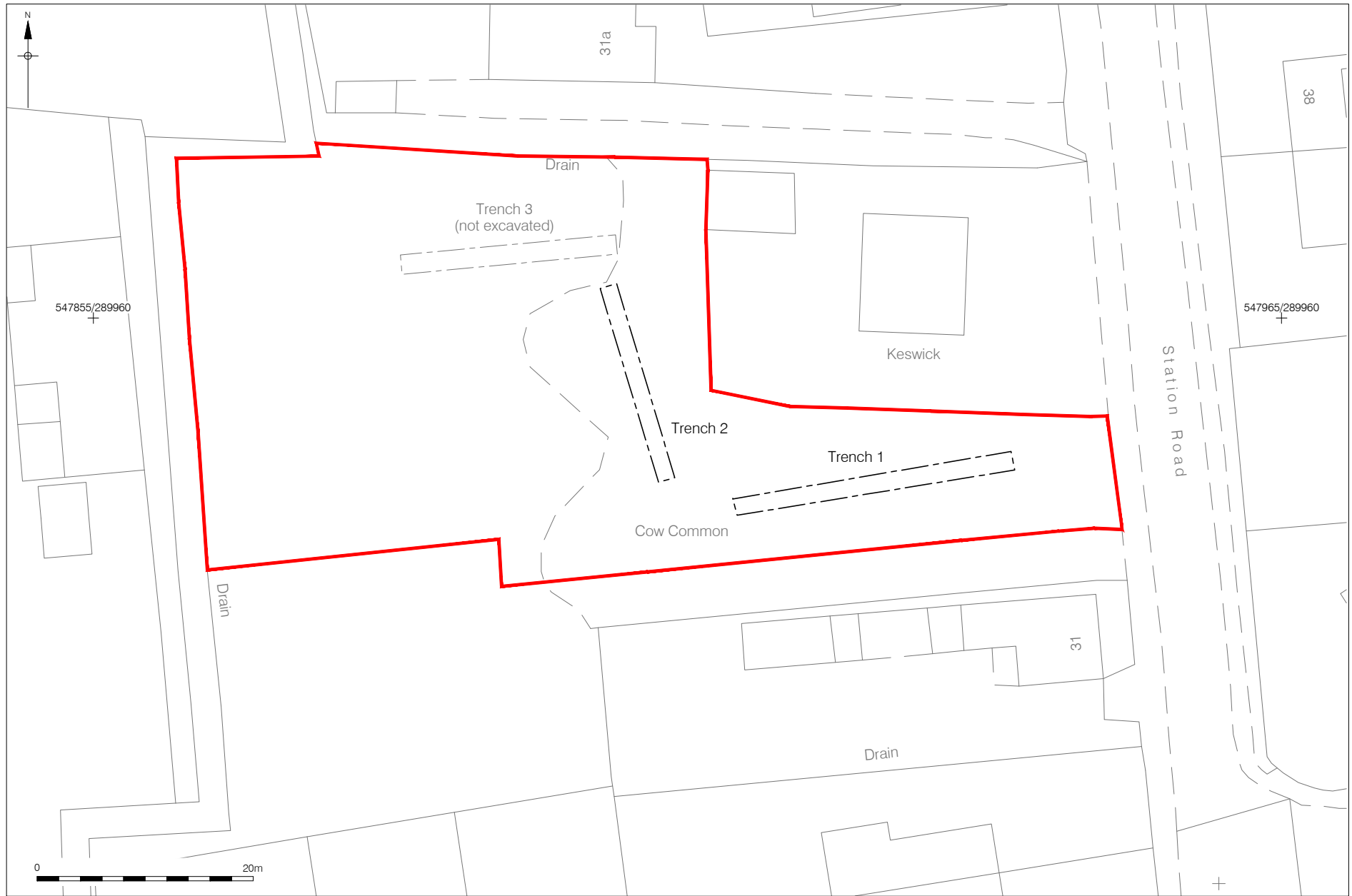


© Crown copyright 2015. All rights reserved. License number 36110309

© Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd 2017

11/05/17 JB

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



9 APPENDIX 1: PLATES



Plate 1: The site, view north-west



Plate 2: Trench 1, view west



Plate 3: Trench 2, view north

10 APPENDIX 2: OASIS FORM

OASIS ID: preconst1-284588

Project details

Project name Land South and West of Keswick, Station Road, Manea, Cambridgeshire: Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation

Short description of the project This report describes the results of an archaeological trial trench evaluation carried out by Pre-Construct Archaeology on land south and west of Keswick, Station Road, Manea, Cambridgeshire (NGR TL 4789 8995) on the 8th May 2017. The archaeological work was commissioned by Buckles Solicitors LLP in response to a planning condition attached to the construction of four residential dwellings with associated access and landscaping. The aim of the work was to characterise the archaeological potential of the proposed development area. Due to a number of large trees at the back of the plot, only two of the three trenches were able to be excavated. No archaeological features were present in either.

Project dates Start: 08-05-2017 End: 08-05-2017

Previous/future work No / No

Any associated project reference codes ECB5102 - Sitecode

Type of project Field evaluation

Site status None

Monument type N/A None

Significant Finds N/A None

Methods & "Sample Trenches" techniques

Development type Rural residential

Prompt Planning condition

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

Project location

Country England
Site location CAMBRIDGESHIRE FENLAND MANEA Land South and West of Keswick, Station Road, Manea
Study area 0 Square metres
Site coordinates TL 4789 8995 52.486997730411 0.178303649485 52 29 13 N 000 10 41 E Point

Project creators

Name of Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited

Organisation

Project brief Gemma Stewart
originator

Project design Peter Crawley
originator

Project Peter Crawley
director/manager

Project supervisor Mary-Anne Slater

Project archives

Physical Archive No
Exists?

Digital Archive Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeology Store
recipient

Digital Archive ID ECB5102

Digital Contents "none"

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

Paper Archive Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeology Store
recipient

Paper Archive ID ECB5102

Paper Contents "none"

Paper Media "Context sheet","Report"
available

Project bibliography

1

Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Publication type

Title Land South and West of Keswick, Station Road, Cambridgeshire:
Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation

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

Date 2017

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

