LAND AT 49 MIDDLETON WAY, FEN DRAYTON, CAMBRIDGESHIRE: AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

PCA REPORT NO: R12889

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PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY

LAND AT 49 MIDDLETON WAY, FEN DRAYTON, CAMBIRIDGESHIRE

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL TRENCH EVALUATION

Quality Control

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Land at 49 Middleton Way, Fen Drayton, Cambridgeshire: An Archaeological Evaluation

Local Planning Authority:	**South Cambridgeshire**
Planning Reference:	**S/1295/16/FL**
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Site Code:	**ECB5096**
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ABSTRACT

This report describes the results of an archaeological trial trench evaluation carried out by Pre-Construct Archaeology on land at land at 49 Middleton Way, Fen Drayton, Cambridgeshire (NGR TL 3308 6777) between the 2nd and 3rd May 2017. The archaeological work was commissioned by Ian Waters 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 evaluation identified two ditches, one each in Trenches 1 and 2. Both contained small, highly abraded sherds of Earlier Iron Age pottery. Despite the condition of the pottery, the location of the site in an area of known prehistoric activity indicates that the ditches present at 49 Middleton Way are likely to be Iron Age in date.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 An archaeological trial trench evaluation was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd (PCA) on land at 49 Middleton Way, Fen Drayton, Cambridgeshire, CB25 9DU (centred on Ordnance Survey National Grid Reference (NGR) TL 3308 6777) from the 2nd to the 3rd May 2017 (Figure 1).

1.2 The archaeological work was commissioned by Ian Waters in response to an archaeological planning condition attached to the construction of two detached residential dwellings within an overall total development area of 1.7ha new residential dwellings, with associated access, car-parking and landscaping (Planning Reference S/1295/16/FL). The plot consists of an area of former nursery. A condition for planning consent requiring archaeological work has been placed on the site due to the high archaeological potential of the area.

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 One x 20m and two x 10m long trenches were excavated in and around the footprints of the new buildings.

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 area is underlain by Oxford Clay Formation - Mudstone, a sedimentary bedrock which formed approximately 156 to 165 million years ago in the Jurassic Period in a local environment previously dominated by shallow seas. This is overlain by river terrace deposits of sand and gravel, superficial deposits which formed up to 3 million years ago in the Quaternary Period in a local environment previously dominated by rivers (BGS 2017)

2.2 Topography

2.2.1 The site lies on land previously given over to horticultural nurseries. The River Ouse flows west to east approximately 2.5km to the north of the development site. A stream 300m to the south-east flows north to join the river. The site lies close to the 10m contour, the topography being 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). This archaeological and historical background has been drawn from the archaeological design brief (Stewart 2017) and the available 'grey literature' reports.

3.2 Palaeolithic to Mesolithic

3.2.1 The site lies close to the Cambridgeshire fen-edge, areas often associated with prehistoric exploitation and settlement, and as such was likely to have been favoured for settlement during the prehistoric periods.

3.2.2 The earliest activity in the area is represented by CHER 01694, which comprises Palaeolithic artefacts including an axe, a blade and a flake, unearthed at Fenstanton Road gravel pit.

3.3 Neolithic and Bronze Age

3.3.1 Further flint-work including a Neolithic spearhead (CHER 03471) and a barbed and tanged arrowhead of Bronze Age date (CHER 01797) are also recorded within the study area.

3.3.2 Four ring ditches observed on aerial photographs (CHER 08825) are interpreted as probable Bronze Age barrows.

3.4 Iron Age and Roman

3.4.1 To the south of the site (CHER 08827) cropmarks suggest the presence of two phases of enclosures, potentially of later prehistoric date. Many other cropmarks derived from Google Earth images were recorded in 2006 lying adjacent to CHER 08827. Archaeological trenching along the proposed re-routing and widening of the A14 dual carriageway found evidence of an early boundary system formed of shallow ditches and a later phase of double boundary ditches orientated on a different alignment.

3.4.2 Further cropmarks to the south of Fen Drayton may be field systems of Iron Age to Roman date (MCB 20968). Part of a Roman farmstead of the 2nd to

4th centuries AD was recorded during archaeological excavations immediately north of the site. Three probable buildings were identified, together with a metalled yard and associated features (HER CB 14806; TL 54480 60946).

3.4.3 Roman occupation and activity in the area around Fen Drayton was on a considerable scale. The substantial Roman town of Dvroliponte (later known as Cambridge), centred around Castle Hill, lies c. 5km to the south-east of the site. In the wider area, important Roman settlements have been investigated at Godmanchester, St Neots and Great Chesterford.

3.4.4 Roman-period activity is represented by the discovery of a Roman hoard (CHER 00464) in the vicinity of Fen Drayton. Other finds including Roman coins have been unearthed around the area, such as CHER 00876. Roman pottery was found at CHER 03473.

3.4.5 Roman inhumation burials have previously been found at Middleton's Farm, Fen Drayton. The evidence consisted of the skeletons of two adults and a child (CHER 03330). A further Roman inhumation has been recorded at CHER 03495.

3.4.6 Around 500m to the north-west of the site, CHER 08829 records ditches forming parts of Roman and medieval field systems. The same field system has been recorded elsewhere as MCB20414 and CB15738. Extensive quarrying in the eastern part of the field may have destroyed further evidence of associated activity.

3.4.7 To the south-west of the development, CHER 09666 records an extensive complex of features observed as cropmarks which were recorded as part of the Cambridgeshire NAIS project. The site is interpreted as an Iron Age to Roman settlement formed of linear features with rectangular and circular enclosures.

3.4.8 Closer to the centre of the Fen Drayton village, evaluation (CHER 15738) in the grounds of Wilderspin Garage revealed evidence for a Roman field system on the same alignment to those already identified from cropmarks.

Although a considerable amount of the activity was medieval, the small amount of Roman pottery recovered, of 1st–3rd century date, suggested that an as yet unidentified early to mid-Roman settlement may have existed in the vicinity. Evidence for a Roman field was later revealed by excavation in December 2003 (ECB4488). Further evidence is likely to have been disrupted by quarrying.

3.5 Anglo-Saxon and Early Medieval

3.5.1 There has been very little of Anglo-Saxon date found in the vicinity of the site. The A14 Fieldwalking survey and evaluation, Ellington to Fen Ditton, 2009 (ECB3079) recorded Middle Saxon pottery as part of multi-period find scatters.

3.5.2 The settlement of Fen Drayton was recorded in the Domesday survey of 1086. It had a taxable value of 4.5 geld units. There were 1 villager, 5 smallholders and 3 cottagers recorded in the settlement, and 2 ploughlands with resources including meadowlands. The overlordship had passed from the Saxon Edeva (the fair) in 1066 to a Norman lord Count Alan (of Brittany) by 1086. By 1086 there were 5 freemen recorded in the settlement. (Phillimore reference: 14,56)

3.6 Late Medieval and Post-Medieval

3.6.1 Medieval activity in the area is focused around Saint Mary the Virgin's Church, Fen Drayton (CB14837). The church was constructed in the 12th-century, although much of present structure dates to the early-14th-century or later. As the development site lies some way south of the historic core of the village, there is little in the way of medieval activity recorded close to it, although it is likely that some of the as yet undated cropmarks are of this date and relate to medieval arable fields.

3.6.2 Aside from the references in Domesday Book, archaeological investigations have provided some information about the medieval origins of the village. Trial trenching to the rear of Manor Farm House, High Street, Fen Drayton (MCB16295) revealed a possible ditch that may date to the medieval period. The site also appeared to provide evidence for medieval and post-medieval

agriculture and it is thought that the attribution of 'Manor' to the farm may indicate that a high-status medieval dwelling lay close to the centre of the village.

3.6.3 Multi-period remains excavated at Wilderspin Garage (MCB20414) included eleven ditches dating from the 12th–14th century. Small amounts of dating evidence were recovered from these ditches, which indicated that the core of any medieval settlement was some distance away.

3.6.4 Exploitation of the fenland resources probably formed a major component of the medieval rural economy. A series of linear features recorded from LiDAR data relate to possible medieval and post-medieval field systems (MCB 20030). Ditched enclosures and eroded medieval ridge and furrow were identified at MCB 20031.

3.6.5 A post-medieval windmill is recorded at CHER 03472, evidence derived from the 1841 Inclosure map.

3.6.6 The Post-Medieval activity largely takes the form of listed and historic buildings which are gathered towards the historic core of the village some distance to the north of the site. Of note was an 18th-century dovecot located at Dutch House CHER 10413.

3.6.7 The parks and gardens of Fen Drayton house, now built over, recorded at CHER 12082. The historical remains included a kitchen garden, glasshouse and orchard.

3.7 Undated and multi-period

3.7.1 There are several areas of largely undated field-systems and enclosures recorded within the search area. These include: CHER 08828, 08829, MCB 18446, MCB 22866. They are likely to relate to several different periods.

3.7.2 The site lay on the north edge of the area of the A14 Fieldwalking survey and evaluation, Ellington to Fen Ditton undertaken in 2009. This project unearthed several artefact scatters including Neolithic and Early Bronze Age flint, Roman and Middle Saxon pottery.

4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 Excavation and Sampling

4.1.1 The Written Scheme of Investigation for the evaluation proposed the excavation of two trial trenches, positioned across the building footprints (Figure 2). Due to one building already in progress, the second trench was divided into two and positioned as close as possible to the building.

4.1.2 Ground reduction was carried out under archaeological supervision using a 15-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. 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 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. Digital photographs were taken of all archaeological features and deposits.

4.2.5 Artefacts and ecofacts were collected by hand and assigned to the record number of the deposit from which they were retrieved, receiving appropriate care prior to removal from the site (CIfA 2014; Walker 1990; Watkinson 1981).

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 The trenches are described below in numerical order, with technical data tabulated. Archaeological features and deposits were sealed by the subsoil, unless otherwise stated. The evaluation identified two ditches, both containing abraded sherds of Earlier Iron Age pottery.

5.2 Trench 1

5.2.1 Trench 1 contained one potentially Earlier Iron Age ditch, aligned northeast-southwest.

5.2.2 Ditch [107] (Plate 6, Figure 3, Section 2) was located at the southern end of the trench and was truncated by a land drain. It was 1.40m wide and 0.35m deep with moderately sloping sides and a concave base. It had a single fill of mid-orangish brown clayey silt (106). One sherd (1g) of Earlier Iron Age pottery was present.

TRENCH 1	**Figures 2-3**		**Plates 2, 6**	
Trench Alignment: N-S	Length: 8.20m		Level of Natural (m OD): 10.58-10.88	
Deposit	**Context No.**		**Average Depth (m)**	
			S End	**N End**
Topsoil	(100)		0.29	0.17
Subsoil	(101)		0.29-0.52	0.17-0.31
Natural	(102)		0.52+	0.31+
Summary Trench 1 was located close to the north-eastern boundary of the site. The trench contained one potentially Earlier Iron Age ditch, truncated by a land drain.				

5.3 Trench 2

5.3.1 The trench contained one potentially Earlier Iron Age ditch, aligned north-south.

5.3.2 Ditch [105] (Plate 5, Figure 4, Section 1) was 1.09 m wide and 0.52m deep with steep sides and a narrow, concave base. It had two fills: a lower fill of light orangey-brown sandy clayey silt (104), which contained possible

Mesolithic-Early Neolithic flint flakes, and an upper fill of mid orangey-brown sandy clayey silt (103), which contained three sherds (3g) of Earlier Iron Age pottery and three pieces of Mesolithic-Early Neolithic flints.

TRENCH 2	**Figures 2, 4**		**Plate 3, 5**	
Trench Alignment: NW-SE	Length: 10m		Level of Natural (m OD): 10.89-10.95	
Deposit	**Context No.**		**Average Depth (m)**	
			NW End	**SE End**
Topsoil	(100)		0.31	0.39
Subsoil	(101)		0.31-0.57	0.39-0.58
Natural	(102)		0.57+	0.58+
Summary Trench 2 was located in the west of the site. There was one potentially Earlier Iron Age ditch in this trench, along with a land drain and a modern service pipe.				

5.4 Trench 3

5.4.1 No archaeological features were present in this trench.

TRENCH 3	**Figure 2**		**Plate 4**	
Trench Alignment:NW-SE	Length: 10m		Level of Natural (m OD): 10.98-11.16	
Deposit	**Context No.**		**Average Depth (m)**	
			NW End	**SE End**
Topsoil	(100)		0.19	0.24
Subsoil	(101)		0.19-0.38	N/A
Natural	(102)		0.38+	N/A
Summary Trench 3 was located in the west of the site. No archaeological features were present. A land drain was in the southeastern end of the trench.				

6 THE FINDS AND ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

6.1 Flint

By Barry Bishop (pers. comm.)

Context (103)

6.1.1 This contains 3 struck pieces:

- Flake in a slightly chipped condition of dark grey translucent flint. c. 60% of its dorsal covered with a rough but weathered cortex but also a number of parallel flake scars indicating that the flake was detached from an opposed platformed blade core. It measures 44mm long by 34mm wide and is 4mm thick

- A non-prismatic blade in a slightly chipped condition of dark grey translucent flint. It is well struck, its proximal end is missing and it has orthogonal dorsal flake scars and a slightly hinged distal termination. There is some rather irregular slightly invasive edge chipping along its right lateral margin which looks post-depositional but could be use-wear damage. It measures >39mm long by 20mm wide sand is 4mm thick

- A non-prismatic blade in a slightly chipped condition of semi-translucent speckled dark grey flint. It is well struck with an abraded striking platform, orthogonal dorsal scars and a hinged distal termination. It measure 32mm long by 16mm wide and is 4mm thick.

6.1.2 These are all technologically homogeneous and come from systematic blade-based reduction which can be dated to the Mesolithic or Early Neolithic period.

Context (104)

6.1.3 Sample <1> for context (104) produced four struck flakes all measuring less than 10mm in maximum dimension and a flake fragment measuring 6mm across. Such diminutive pieces are produced in quantity during knapping and although not easily dateable they do suggest that knapping had

occurred in the vicinity of the feature. One of the flakes looks like a platform trimming flake which would also be consistent with a Mesolithic or Early Neolithic date.

6.2 The Prehistoric Pottery
By Sarah Percival

6.2.1 A total of four sherds weighing 4g were collected from ditch [107] in Trench 1 and ditch 105 in Trench 2 (Table 1). All the sherds are of Earlier Iron Age date. The pottery sherds are very small and in poor condition.

Trench	Feature	Feature type	Context	Fabric	Quantity	Weight (g)
1	107	Ditch	106	F1	1	1
2	105	Ditch	103	Q1	1	1
			104	F1	1	1
				Q1	1	1
Total					**4**	**4**

Table 1: Quantity and weight of pottery by feature

Methodology

6.2.2 The assemblage was analysed in accordance with the Prehistoric Ceramic Research Group General Policies and Guidelines for Analysis and Publication (revised 3rd edition, PCRG 2010). The total assemblage was studied and a full catalogue was prepared. The sherds were examined using a handheld lens (x10 magnification). Vessel form was recorded; R representing rim sherds, B base sherds, D decorated sherds, U undecorated body sherds, C complete vessels and P for complete profiles. The sherds were counted and weighed to the nearest whole gram. Decoration, surface treatment, residues and abrasion were also noted.

Description

6.2.3 The assemblage comprises three undecorated body sherds and a rim from a small bead rim jar or bowl. Two fabrics are present (Table 1). Fabric F1 contains common fine white angular flint in a sandy clay matrix whilst Q1 is sandy containing dense rounded quartz grains.

Discussion

6.2.4 The pottery is likely to date to the earlier Iron Age, around 800-350BC (Brudenell 2012).

6.3 The Animal Bone
By Karen Deighton

6.3.1 Animal collected by hand and from an environmental sample residue (mesh sizes 2mm and 10mm) from an evaluation was recorded as follows:

Context [103] cut [105]

6.3.2 Multiple fragments of cattle mandibular molar

Sample 2 context [106] cut [107]

6.3.3 2 small indeterminate fragments of mammal bone

6.4 Environmental Assessment
Kate Turner

Introduction

6.4.1 This report summarises the findings of the rapid assessment of two bulk samples taken during the excavation of land at 49 Middleton Way, Fen Drayton. These samples were taken from two boundary ditches, the context information for which is given in table 1.

6.4.2 The aim of this assessment is to:

- Give an overview of the contents of the assessed samples;

- Determine the environmental potential of these samples;

- Establish whether any further analysis is necessary.

Context No.	Cut	Context type	Context category	Trench number	Interpretation
104	105	Fill	Ditch	2	Fill of [105] boundary ditch
106	107	Fill	Ditch	1	Fill of [107] boundary ditch

Table 1: Context information for environmental samples

Methodology

6.4.3 Two sixteen-litre bulk samples were processed using the flotation method; material was collected using a 300µm mesh for the light fraction and a 1mm mesh for the heavy residue. The heavy residue was then dried, sieved at 1, 2 and 4mm and sorted to extract artefacts and ecofacts. The abundance of each category of material was recorded using a non-linear scale where '1' indicates occasional occurrence (1-10 items), '2' indicates occurrence is fairly frequent (11-30 items), '3' indicates presence is frequent (31-100 items) and '4' indicates an abundance of material (>100 items).

6.4.4 The light residue (>300 µm), once dried, was scanned under a low-power binocular microscope to quantify the level of environmental material, such as seeds, chaff, charred grains, molluscs and charcoal. Abundance was recorded as above. A note was also made of any other significant inclusions, for example roots and modern plant material.

Results and Discussion

Residues

6.4.5 The heavy residues were relatively poor in environmental material. A small amount of wood charcoal was identified in sample <1>; however, pieces were highly fragmented and too small for species to be determined. Both samples <1> and <2> were found to contain low concentrations of fragmented marine shell (<10 pieces), which could be identified as Ostrea edulis (Colchester native oyster) in sample <1>, with sample <2> additionally containing small pieces of terrestrial snail shell (of indeterminable species). This sample also yielded a small amount of fragmented bone. Cultural artefacts, in the form of low frequencies of pottery and/or struck flint were additionally present in both samples.

6.4.6 A full account of the material reported in the residues is given in Table 2.

Sample No.	1	2
Context No.	104	106
Feature No.	105	107
Volume of bulk (liters)	16	16

Volume of flot (milliliters)	4	30
Method of processing	F	F
HEAVY RESIDUE		
Charcoal		
Charcoal <2mm		
Charcoal 2-4mm	1	
Charcoal >4mm		
Molluscs		
Ostrea edulis (frags)	1	
Terrestrial shell (frags)		1
Marine shell (frags)		1
Other material		
Bone fragments		1
Pottery		1
Burnt flint	1	
Struck flint	1	

Table 2: Assessment of environmental residues

Key: 1- Occasional, 2- fairly frequent, 3- frequent, 4- abundant

Flots

6.4.7 Both of the processed samples produced flots, of four and thirty millilitres in volume respectively. Preservation of environmental remains was limited; a small amount of wood charcoal was present in both samples, however no significantly sized pieces were recorded. Both samples also contained weed seeds though, again, material densities were low (<20 specimens per sample). Observed taxa include brambles (Rubus sp.), nightshade (Solanum sp.), nettles/dead-nettles (Urtica sp./Lamium sp.), fat-hen (Chenopodium sp.) and birch (Betula sp.) in sample <1>, and brambles and fat-hen/goosefoots in sample <2>. A single charred grass seed was additionally reported in sample <1>.

6.4.8 Sample <2> contained a moderate concentration of terrestrial and freshwater mollusc shells, of the genera Planorbis sp., Vallonia sp., Vertigo sp., and Lymnaea sp., as well as several specimens of Candidula intersecta, an introduced species that was not identified in the British Isles until the

medieval period.

6.4.9 In terms of other ecofacts, a small amount of insect remains were reported in both samples, along with a moderate concentration of insect eggs/worm cases in sample <1>. Both samples also contained low to moderate amounts of root material, which may be an indicator of bioturbation; this is further suggested by the small amount of modern grass fragments present in sample <1>.

6.4.10 A full account of the material reported in the flots is given in table 3.

Sample No.		1	2
Context No.		104	106
Feature No.		105	107
Volume of bulk (liters)		16	16
Volume of flot (milliliters)		4	30
Method of processing		F	F
FLOT RESIDUE			
Charcoal			
Charcoal >1mm		1	
Charcoal <1mm		2	2
Frags. of ID size		X	X
Seeds			
Betula sp.	Birch	1	
Chenopodium album	Fat-hen	1	1
Chenopodium sp.	Goosefoots		1
Lamium sp.	Dead-nettles	1	
Solanum sp.	Nightshades	1	
Rubus sp.	Brambles	1	1
Urtica sp.	Nettles	1	
Charred seeds			
Poaceae undiff (small)	Grasses		1
Other plant macrofossils			
Roots		2	3
Modern grasses		1	
Molluscs			
Candidula intersecta	Terrestrial		□

Sample No.		1	2
Context No.		104	106
Feature No.		105	107
Volume of bulk (liters)		16	16
Volume of flot (milliliters)		4	30
Method of processing		F	F
Lymnaea sp. (juveniles)	Freshwater		□
Planorbis sp.	Freshwater		□
Vallonia sp.	Terrestrial		□
Vertigo sp.	Terrestrial		□
Juveniles (no sp. ID)			□
Other remains			
Insect remains		1	1
Insect eggs/worm cases		3	

Table 3: Assessment of environmental flots

Key: 1- Occasional, 2- fairly frequent, 3- frequent, 4- abundant

Conclusions and Recommendations for Further Work

6.4.11 In summary, neither of the assessed residues contained a significant amount of environmental or cultural material. There is little in this assemblage to suggest how the site functioned on a day-to-day basis, or pinpoint any particular domestic of industrial use. As a result no further analysis is recommended, however a summary of this assessment should be included in any subsequent site publications.

7 DISCUSSION & CONCLUSIONS

7.1 The evaluation identified two ditches, aligned north-south and northeast-southwest.

7.2 Mesolithic-Early Neolithic

7.2.1 Ditch [105] in Trench 2 contained residual flints of a Mesolithic-Early Neolithic date. Whilst not in situ, they indicated activity during the Mesolithic-Early Neolithic period in this area.

7.3 Iron Age

7.3.1 The evaluation identified two ditches, both containing highly abraded sherds of Earlier Iron Age pottery. Despite the poor condition of the pottery it is still likely that both of the ditches date to the Iron Age, due to the high presence of prehistoric activity in the area around Fen Drayton. There are numerous cropmarks in the vicinity of the site, some of which have been interpreted as Iron Age in date; however they have not yet been excavated.

7.4 Conclusions

7.4.1 Two ditches of potential Iron Age date were recorded during evaluation at 49 Middleton Way. Despite the abraded condition of the pottery sherds, an Iron Age date for these ditches is in keeping with the presence of other potential Iron Age cropmarks around Fen Drayton.

8 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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9.2 Websites

1) http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html. Date accessed 03/09-14

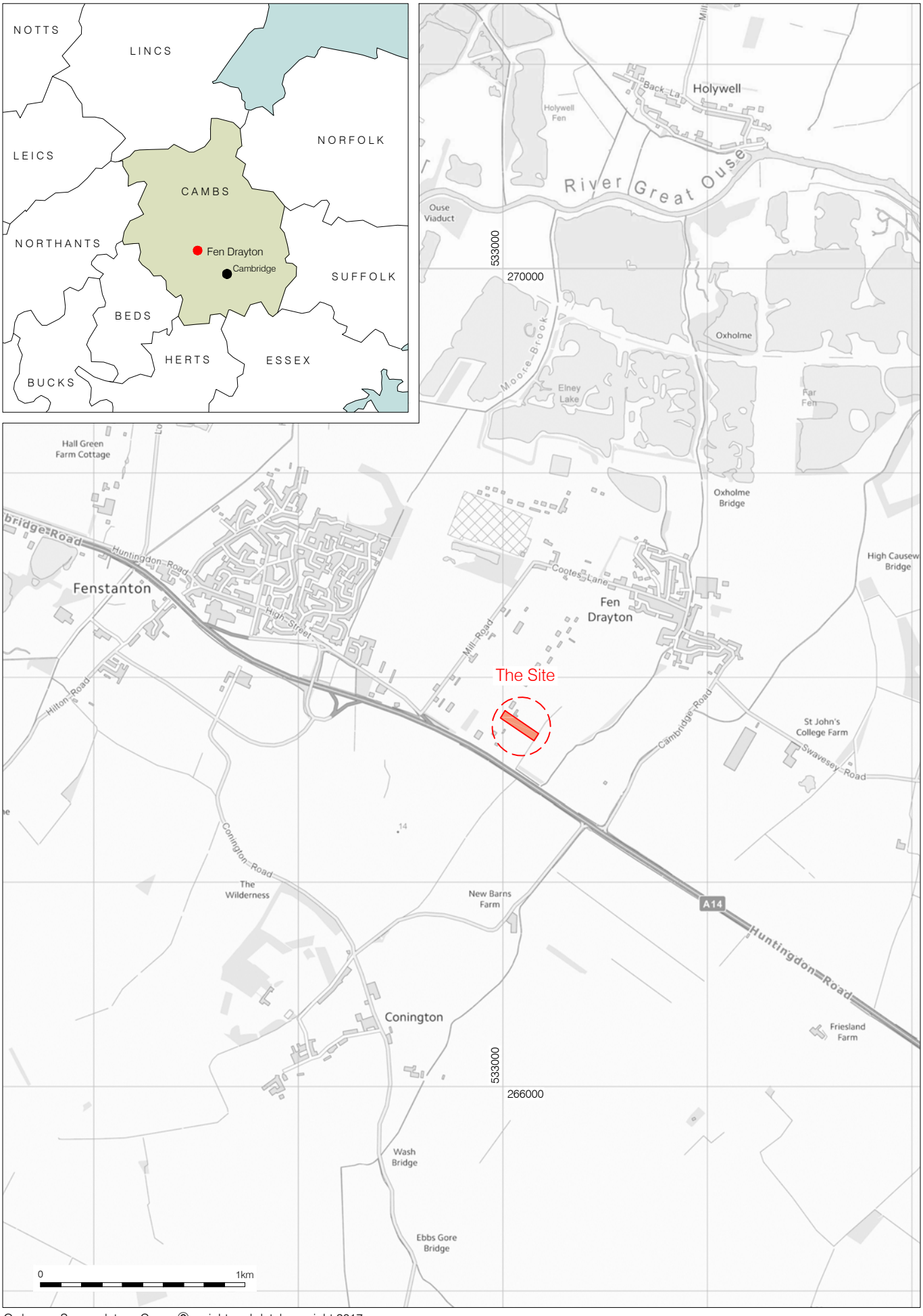

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Figure 1
Site Location
1:2,000,000 & 1:20,000 at A4

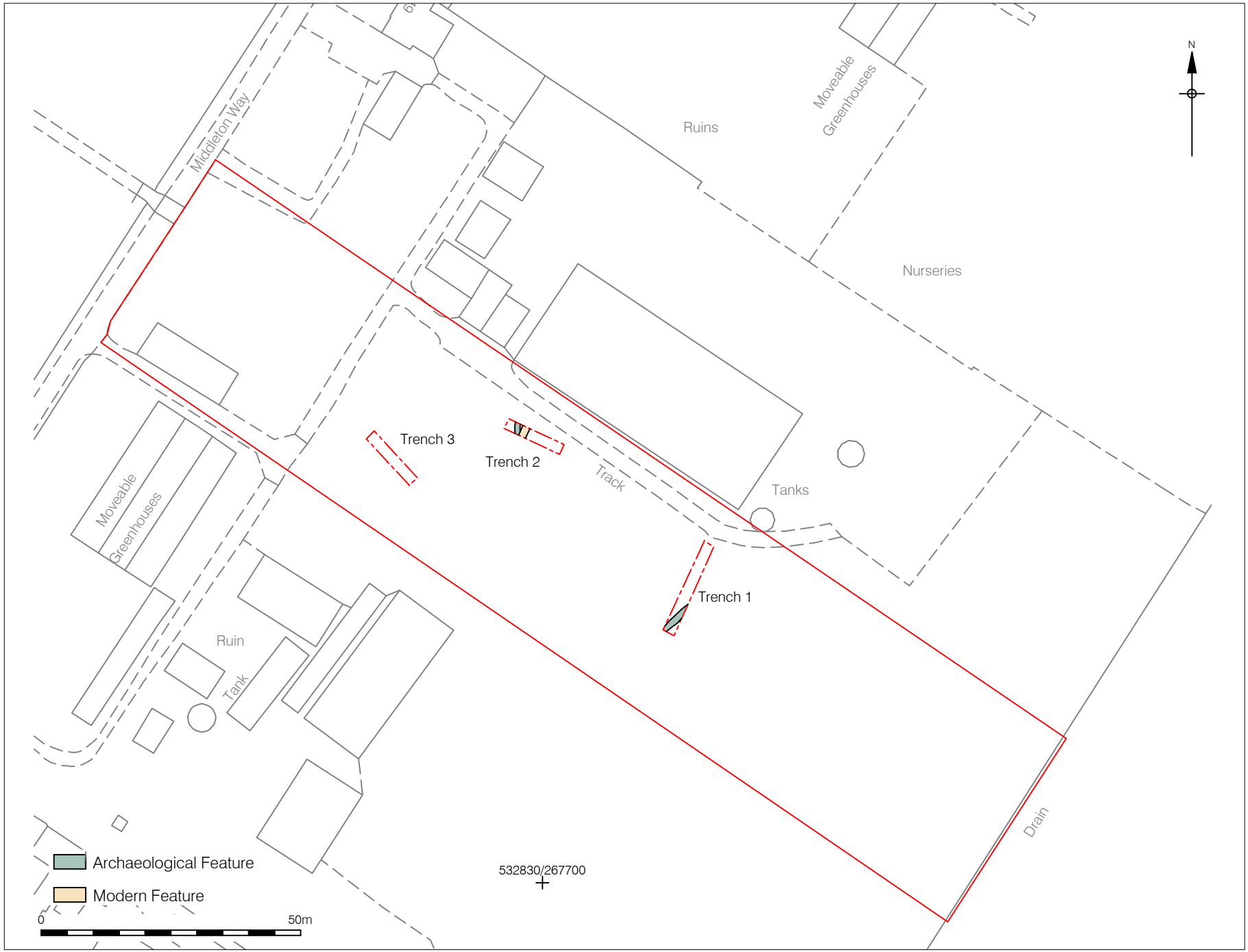

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Figure 2
Trench Location Plan
1:1,000 at A4

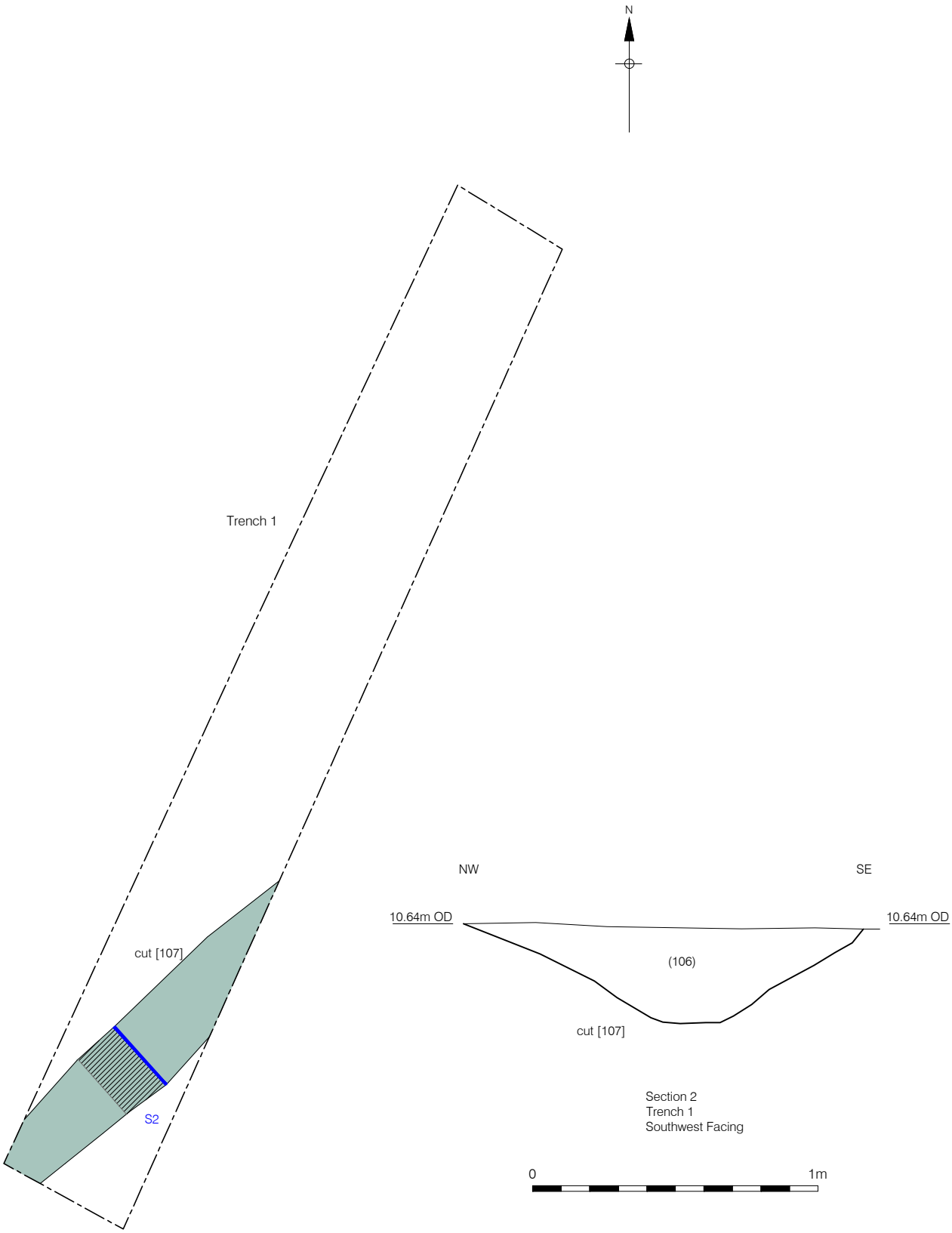

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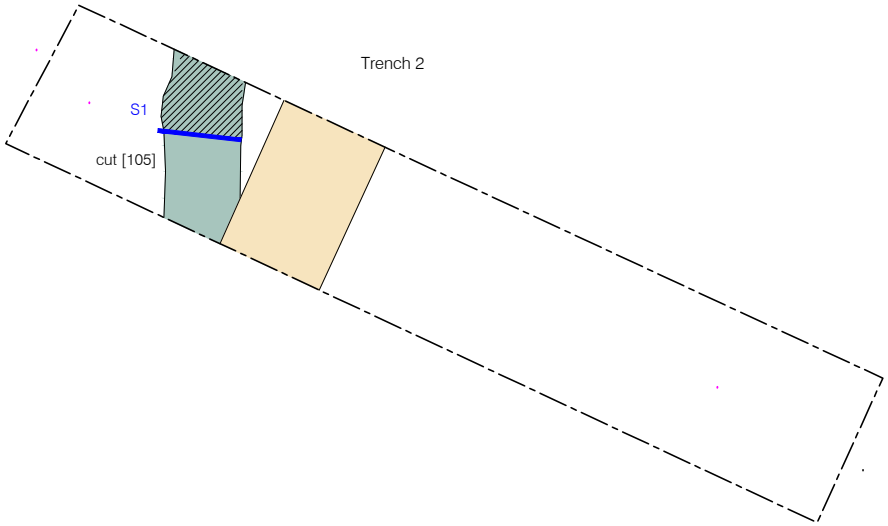
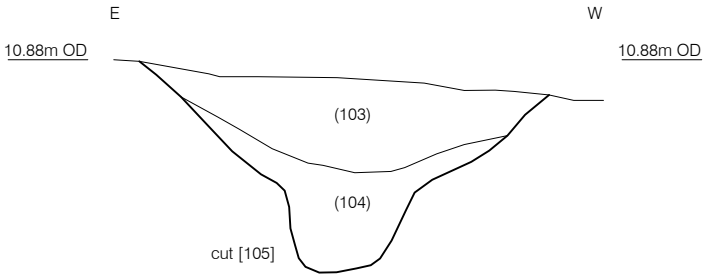
Figure 3
Plan and Section of Trench 1
Plan 1:100 and Section 1:20 at A4





Section 1
Trench 2
North Facing

Archaeological Feature
Modern Feature
Excavated Slot

0 5m

0 1m

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Figure 4
Plan and Section of Trench 2
Plan 1:100 and Section 1:20 at A4

10 APPENDIX 1: PLATES

Plate 1: The site upon arrival, view south

Plate 2: Trench 1, view north

Plate 3: Trench 2, view south-east

Plate 4: Trench 3, view south-east

Plate 5: Ditch [105], view south

Plate 6: Ditch [107], view north-east

11 APPENDIX 2: CONTEXT INDEX

Context	Cut	Type	Category	Interpretation	Trench Number
100	-	Layer	Topsoil	Overburden	-
101	-	Layer	Subsoil	Overburden	-
102	-	Layer	Natural	Natural Geology	-
103	105	Fill	Ditch	Fill of [105]	2
104	105	Fill	Ditch	Fill of [105]	2
105	105	Cut	Ditch	Boundary Ditch	2
106	107	Fill	Ditch	Fill of [107]	1
107	107	Cut	Ditch	Boundary Ditch	1

12 APPENDIX 3: OASIS FORM

OASIS ID: preconst1-285230

Project details	
Project name	Land at 49 Middleton Way, Fen Drayton, Cambridgeshire: An Archaeological 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 at land at 49 Middleton Way, Fen Drayton, Cambridgeshire (NGR TL 3308 6777) between the 2nd and 3rd May 2017. The archaeological work was commissioned by Ian Waters 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 evaluation identified two ditches, one each in Trenches 1 and 2. Both contained small, highly abraded sherds of Earlier Iron Age pottery. Despite the condition of the pottery, the location of the site in an area of known prehistoric activity indicates that the ditches present at 49 Middleton Way are likely to be Iron Age in date.
Project dates	Start: 02-05-2017 End: 03-05-2017
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	ECB5096 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Current Land use	Cultivated Land 1 - Minimal cultivation
Monument type	DITCH Early Iron Age
Monument type	DITCH Early Iron Age
Significant Finds	POTTERY Early Iron Age

Methods & techniques	"Sample Trenches"
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 SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE FEN DRAYTON Land at 49 Middleton Way, Fen Drayton
Study area	0 Square metres
Site coordinates	TL 3308 6777 52.291514208623 -0.048503155369 52 17 29 N 000 02 54 W Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited
Project brief originator	Gemma Stewart
Project design originator	Peter Crawley
Project director/manager	Peter Crawley
Project supervisor	Mary-Anne Slater

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeology Store
Physical Archive ID	ECB5096

Physical Contents	"Animal Bones","Ceramics","Worked stone/lithics"
Digital Archive recipient	Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeology Store
Digital Archive ID	ECB5096
Digital Contents	"none"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Survey","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeology Store
Paper Archive ID	ECB5096
Paper Contents	"none"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Report","Section"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Land at 49 Middleton Way, Fen Drayton, Cambridgeshire: An Archaeological Evaluation
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Slater, M.
Date	2017
Issuer or publisher	Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd
Place of issue or publication	Cambridge

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