



KDK ARCHAEOLOGY LTD



ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION:
LAND TO THE REAR OF THE FOREBURY SUB-STATION
SAWBRIDGEWORTH
HERTFORDSHIRE

on behalf of Rambledale Ltd



NGR: TL 4845 1494

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KDK: 068/SFS/2

August 2014

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Site Data

<i>KDK project code:</i>	068/SFS		
<i>OASIS ref:</i>	kdkarcha1-184084	<i>OASIS ref:</i>	kdkarcha1-184084
<i>County:</i>	Hertfordshire		
<i>Village/Town:</i>	Sawbridgeworth		
<i>Civil Parish:</i>	Sawbridgeworth		
<i>NGR (to 8 figs):</i>	TL 4845 1494		
<i>Present use:</i>	Former electricity sub-station		
<i>Planning proposal:</i>	Construction of a 4-bedroom dwelling with associated garage		
<i>Local Planning Authority:</i>	East Hertfordshire Council		
<i>Planning application ref/date:</i>	3/14/0732/FP		
<i>Client:</i>	E. Cochrane		
<i>Contact name:</i>	E. Cochrane Rambledale Ltd 7C Northgate End Bishops Stortford Hertfordshire CM23 2ET		
<i>KDK project code:</i>	068/SFS		

Quality Check

<i>Primary Author:</i>	David Kaye BA Alfa	<i>Date:</i>	11 th August 2014
<i>Edited/Checked By:</i>	Karin Kaye MA Alfa	<i>Date:</i>	12 th August 2014
<i>Revisions:</i>		<i>Date:</i>	

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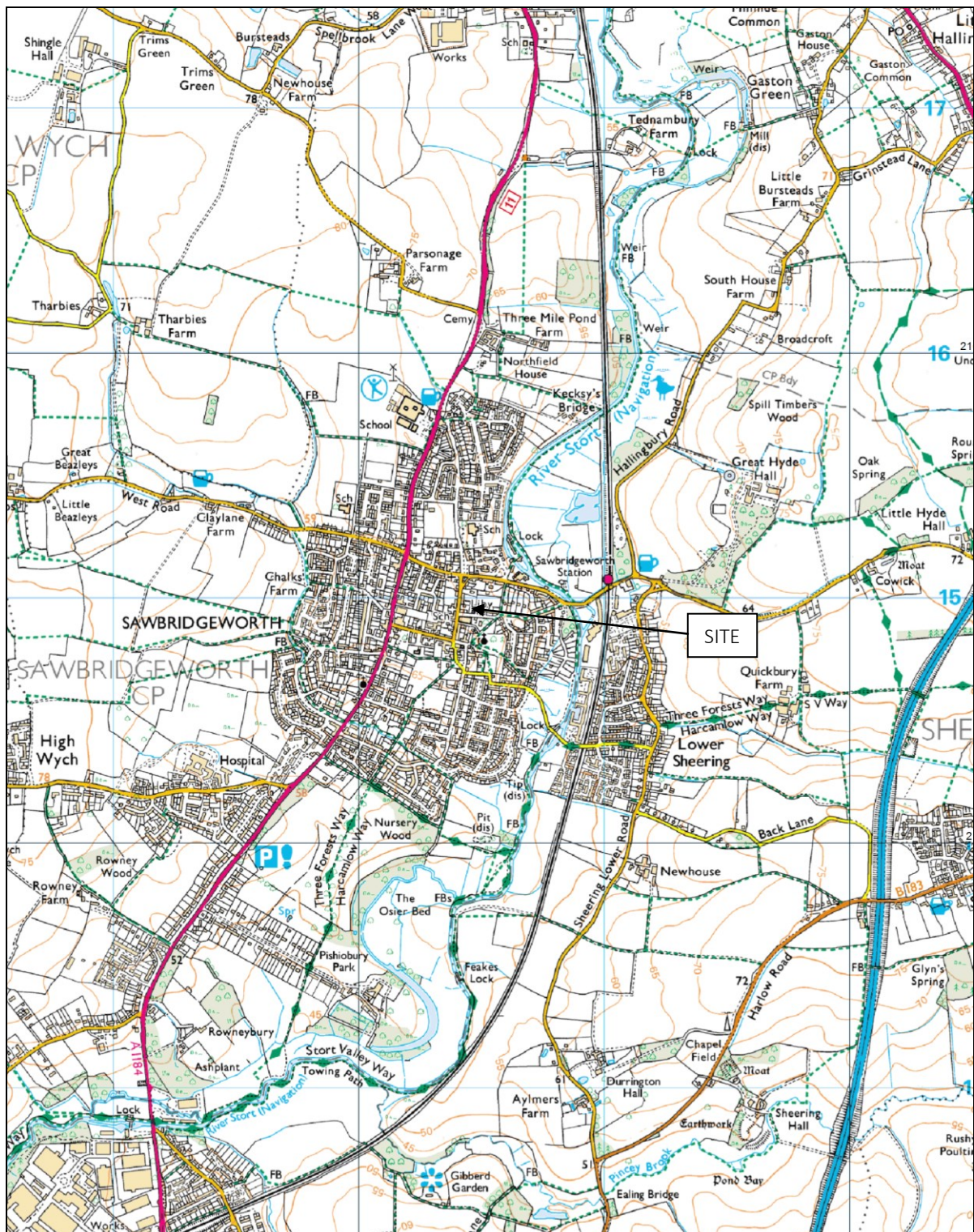


Figure 1: General location (scale 1:25,000)



Summary

In July 2014 KDK Archaeology undertook an archaeological evaluation on land to the rear of The Forebury substation, Sawbridgeworth, Hertfordshire as a condition of planning permission for the development of the site. Two small trenches were excavated within the footprint of the new buildings, revealing only a modern ditch in Trench 1.

1 Introduction

1.1 In July 2014 KDK Archaeology Ltd undertook an archaeological evaluation on land to the rear of The Forebury substation, Sawbridgeworth, Hertfordshire. The project was commissioned by Eddie Cochrane of Rambledale Ltd, and was carried out according to a Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by KDK (Kaye 2014), and approved by Hertfordshire County Council Historic Environment Unit (HCCHEU), archaeological advisor (AA) to the local planning authority (LPA), East Hertfordshire Council. The relevant planning application reference is 3/14/0732/FP.

1.2 *Planning Background*

This evaluation has been required under the terms of National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) as a condition of planning permission for the development of the site.

1.3 *The Site*

Location & Description

The development site is located in the historic core of the town and parish of Sawbridgeworth, which falls within the administrative district of East Hertfordshire Council (Fig. 1). The site lies on the northern side of The Forebury, to the west of the town library and opposite Fawbert & Barnard Infants' School. It is a rectangular plot of land which has residential properties to the west and north, and an electricity substation to the south (Fig. 2).

Proposed Development

The proposed development comprises the construction of a 4-bedroom dwelling with associated garage (Fig. 3).



Figure 2: Site location (scale 1:1250)

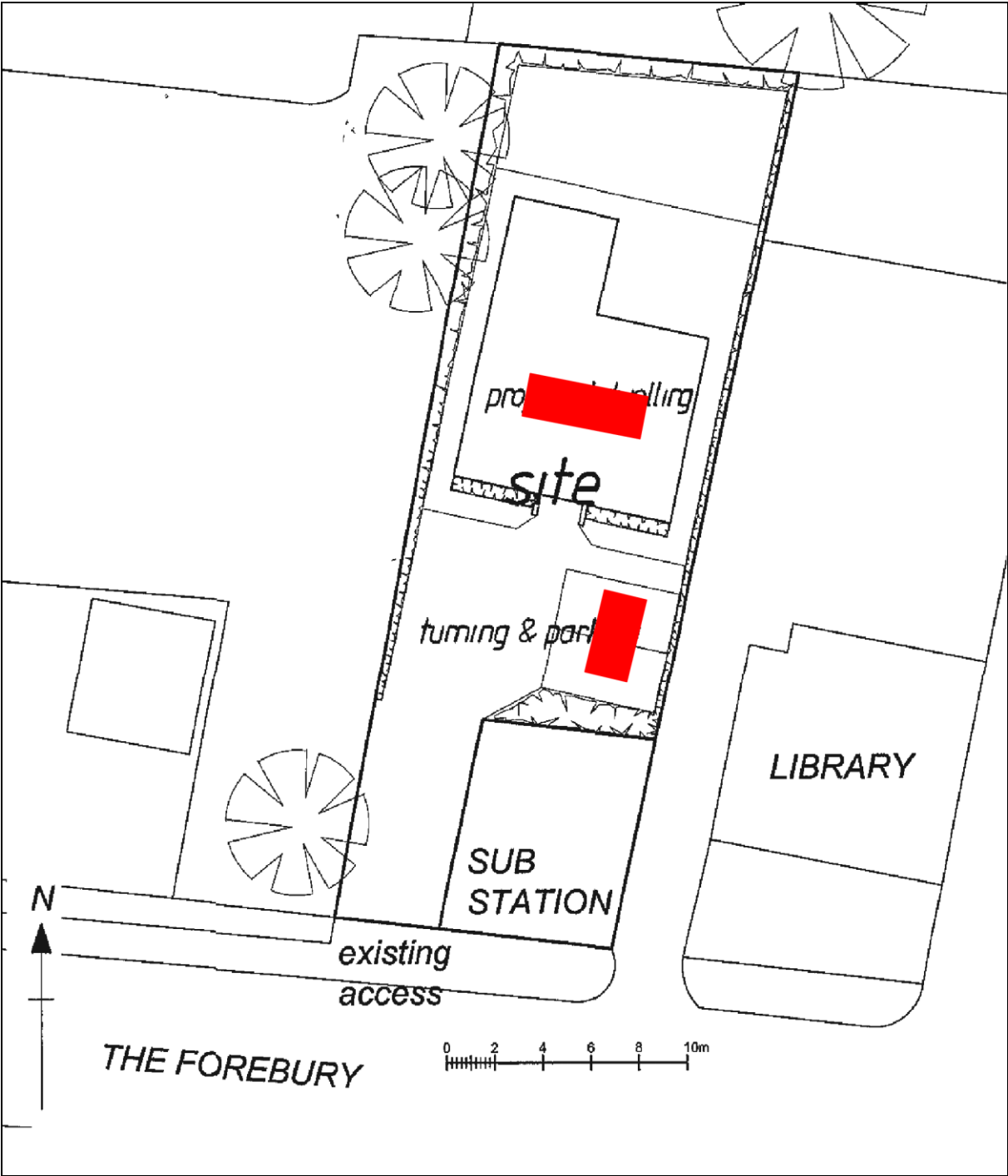


Figure 3: Trench location plan (scale 1:250)



2 Aims & Methods

2.1 The aims of this evaluation as defined in the approved WSI (Kaye 2014), were:

- To investigate the location, extent, nature and date of any archaeological features or deposits that may be present on the proposed development site
- To establish the integrity and state of preservation of any archaeological features or deposits that may be present on the proposed development site

2.2 *Methods*

In line with the agreed requirements, the methods used were as follows:

A 5m long trench was excavated within the footprint of the new dwelling and another c.3.50m in length to evaluate the site of the proposed garage.

2.3 *Standards*

The work conformed to the following requirements:

- The brief
- The relevant sections of the Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard & Guidance Notes* (IFA 2008a)
- The Institute for Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct* (IFA 2013)
- Current English Heritage guidelines (EH 2006,2008)
- The Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers East of England Region *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (ALGAO 2003)



3 Archaeological and Historical Background

- 3.1 Although human activity from the prehistoric and Roman periods is well attested within the Stort Valley, Sawbridgeworth itself has no archaeological evidence pre-dating the Saxon period. Documentary evidence indicates that it was an important late Saxon manor that may have functioned as an ecclesiastical or trading centre. The medieval core of the town appears to have been laid out in the early 13th century and the medieval burgage plots are still in evidence. The development site is thought to be close to the location of Sayes Manor, which appears not to have survived the 15th century.

3.2 **Prehistoric** (before 600BC)

A number of Mesolithic stone tools have been found in the area of Sawbridgeworth, these finds indicate small transient family groups exploiting the landscape during the period (Seddon & Bryant 1999: 2).

The Neolithic period sees the first people to live in permanent or semi-permanent habitations with the introduction of farming, and the Sawbridgeworth area has a good representation of evidence from this period. The most important Neolithic remains are of an early causewayed enclosure to the south of the town consisting of three rows of ditches c.130m long, each interrupted with causeways. These enclosures are associated with various activities, providing a focal point for rituals, ceremonies and local trading (Seddon & Bryant 1999: 2).

To the north of town is a long barrow, which has no datable evidence, but the presence of four burials within the mound indicates a Neolithic date. The evidence could suggest multiple contemporary small settlement sites around these Neolithic monuments (*ibid*: 3).

A probable Neolithic farming settlement was found during excavations of the Rowney Farm housing development in 1935-7. Enough was recorded to suggest that the settlement covered a larger area than the housing development. The same site also provided evidence of Bronze Age occupation with pottery and a ditch (*ibid*).

3.3 **Iron Age** (600BC-AD43)

To the east of the River Stort is a substantial Iron Age monument known as Wallbury hill fort, which is a double banked and ditched earthwork enclosure covering 1.3 hectares. There is no evidence of occupation within the enclosure, but a small cemetery nearby has been dated to the later Iron Age. It is believed that the River Stort was a boundary between two Iron Age tribes, the Trinovantes in the east and the Catuvellauni to the west, which suggests that the Wallbury hill fort could have played an important multifunctional role for defence, ceremonies and a meeting-place for the two tribes (Seddon & Bryant 1999: 3).

Further Late pre-Roman Iron Age was found at the Rowney Farm excavations, where two hearths, pottery and a small rubbish pit with oxen and boar bones and an iron nail were discovered (*ibid*).

3.4 **Roman** (AD43-c.450)

Although there is no archaeological evidence for Roman occupation within Sawbridgeworth, considerable evidence exists for Roman settlement in the Stort Valley. Sawbridgeworth is situated in the middle of two Roman towns; Bishops Stortford and Harlow and within a wider landscape of Roman villas and sites. A Roman villa is known at Little Hallingbury to the east and a probable villa or temple site was discovered at Spelbrook Farm 2km north of the town.



Burial evidence is known from Pishiobury Park, where two probable cremations were found in cinerary urns 2m deep. The Rowney Farm excavations revealed a Roman cemetery of the 3rd or 4th century AD, comprising of mostly females burials. (Seddon & Bryant 1999 :4).

3.5 **Saxon** (c.450-1066)

Much early Saxon evidence in Hertfordshire comes from documentary sources, and only a single Saxon find has been found in Sawbridgeworth from the Saxon period; an iron arrowhead discovered in Pishiobury Park (Seddon & Bryant 1999 :4). However, the name Sawbridgeworth derives from `Sabrixte worde` which comes from the Old English of Saebeorht + *worth*: enclosure of a man called Saebeorht (Mills 1991: 286).

The Domesday Survey of 1086 records Sawbridgeworth as having been held by Esgar the Staller before the Conquest. It was a large estate of 24½ hides that was worth £60.

3.6 **Medieval** (1066-1500)

The manor was subsequently awarded to Geoffrey de Mandeville and with a post-Conquest value of £50 it was regarded as the most valuable estate in Hertfordshire at the time (Seddon & Bryant 1999: 5). The manor had land for 40 ploughs and meadow for 20 ploughs, pasture for livestock, woodland for 300 pigs, and a mill held by a tenant named Kip. In demesne were 15 hides and land for 10 ploughs with enough for 2 more. There were 50 villans, 4 sokemen and a priest who collectively had land for 28 ploughs. There was a reeve who had ½ a hide and a priest who had 1 hide (Williams & Martin 2002: 386). Such was the size and value of the estate that it may have been an important trading centre or ecclesiastical or important residence (Seddon & Bryant 1999: 5).

The manor came to be known as Sayesbury manor, from the de Say family who inherited it from the Mandevilles in 1189. Despite being a viable and growing estate in the 13th century, the manor house was ruinous by 1404 (Seddon & Bryant 1999: 6). The location of the manor has been postulated on documentary, cartographic and topographical evidence. In the 17th century Chauncy described the manor as being 'situated upon the side of the hill between the town and the river...tho' this house has been demolished for a long time, yet part of the foundation thereof may be seen in a field at this day called Sayes Garden'. Sayes Garden Field was north of The Forebury, which is shown on the Ordnance Survey map of 1880 as being a footpath (HER 9882).

The manor inevitably became sub-divided to form a number of smaller manors, the most important one of which was Pishiobury Manor, which was first mentioned c.1144, and was included in the Manor of Sawbridgeworth until the end of the 13th century (*ibid*).

The layout of the town suggests it was deliberately planned by Geoffrey de Say in the 13th century. In 1222 he gained a grant for a market (HER 9533), which was held to the west of the church and not on a busy thoroughfare as was usually the case. The reason for this deviation in layout is still unclear, but as a result the market remained small (Seddon & Bryant 1999: 6). The surviving burgage plot boundaries show a certain amount of uniformity in plan and size, especially along Knight Street and Bell Street, These streets also hold the highest concentration of surviving 15th and 16th century medieval buildings in Sawbridgeworth (Seddon & Bryant 1999: 7).

To the south east of the development site lies the parish church of Mary the Great (HER 1104), which has its origins in the 13th and 14th centuries. Despite some 19th century



restoration work it is of special interest as it is typical of the county and much of its medieval fabric remains relatively unaltered.

Archaeological evidence for medieval Sawbridgeworth includes the discovery of a posthole containing a sherd of 13th-14th century Harlow ware pottery, predating the 15th century house at 21-23 Bell Street (HER 13144) and an unusual silver hammered groat of Edward III, minted c.1351-61 to the southwest of the development site (HER 24154). The most significant discovery, however, was made to the south of the development site where excavations in the grounds of Fawbert & Barnard School revealed a substantial ditch over 10m long, at least 5-6 m wide and with an estimated depth of 3m, orientated NE-SW (HER 9882). The ditch contained domestic refuse, which could not be dated, but the ditch is thought to be associated with Sayesbury Manor and was aligned towards Sayes Garden Field to the north of The Forebury.

3.7 ***Post-Medieval*** (1500-1900)

Post-medieval development saw the construction of a number of malthouses in the 18th and 19th centuries and residential and other development in areas such as Station Road. A poorhouse was established in 1722 in Church House, which dates from the 17th century. It served as a school in the 19th century and later as a church house (HER 9414).

Archaeological investigations have revealed an 18th century boundary ditch to the northeast of the development site (HER 15231) and the remains of a late 18th – early 19th century wall behind No.19 Bell Street to the west (HER 13145).

3.8 ***Modern*** (1900-present)

Despite the fact that Sawbridgeworth was incorporated within the railway system in the mid-19th century, subsequent development has been restrained resulting in a high survival of historic buildings and possibly also archaeological remains (Seddon & Bryant 1999: 22).



4 Results

Introduction

Two trenches were excavated using a tracked 8-ton 360 Kobota with a 1.8m wide toothless ditching bucket within the footprint of the proposed dwelling and garage to a total area of c.17m². Only one feature was found in Trench 1; Trench 2 was blank.

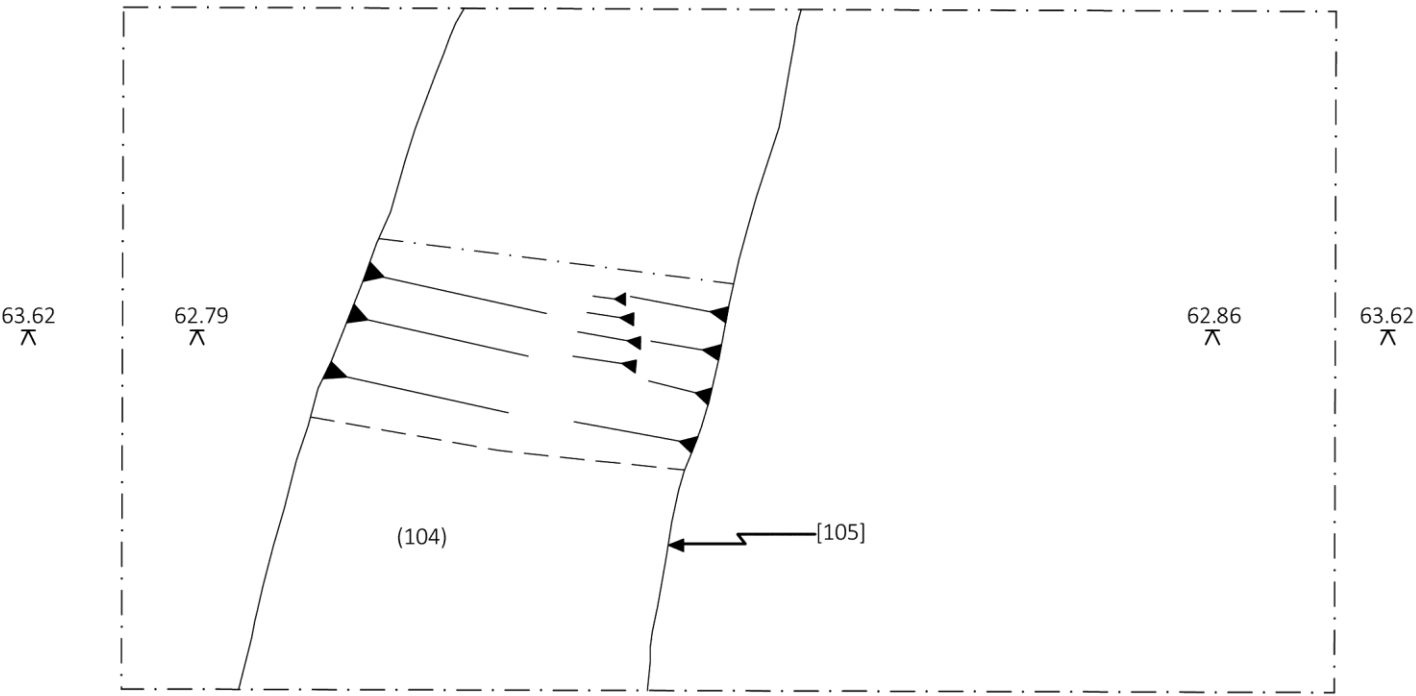
Trench 1 (Fig. 4: Plates 1-2)

Trench 1 was 3.5m long and under the proposed garage in a north – south orientation. It was opened to a depth of c.0.75m, and the stratigraphy consisted of 0.2m of topsoil overlying a mid-brown, silty clay subsoil c.0.4m deep. Under this was a mixture of made ground and gravel at least 0.15m deep.

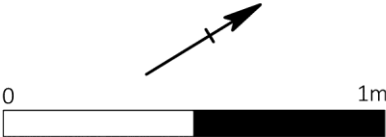
The one feature revealed was a possible ditch [105] 0.1.05m wide and 0.5m deep, running on a NW–SE alignment (Plate 2). The southern edge of the ditch was more clearly defined, having a 45° convex profile, whilst the northern side was quite irregular.

Trench 2 (Fig.4: Plate 3)

Trench 2 had a large number of cables in the east end running through its 0.3m of topsoil and similar depth of subsoil. They ran in a north-south direction, limiting the area of undisturbed strata that could be observed. However, the 3.5 linear meters that could be recorded contained no archaeological features cut into the mixed gravel natural.



Plan of Trench 1 Scale 1:20



East facing section of Ditch [105] Scale 1:10



Figure 4: Trench 1 Plan & Ditch [105] section (scale as shown)



Plate 1: Trench 1, facing north



Plate 2: Trench 1: Linear feature [105], facing northwest



Plate 3: Trench 2, facing east



5 Conclusions

The only feature uncovered was a possible ditch [105] in Trench 1 which was initially considered to have been associated with the ditch (HER 9882) revealed in the school grounds opposite the development site on the site of Sayes Manor. However, the location and alignment of the Sayes Manor ditch was such that any association between the two features would have been unlikely. On balance, and given that the site has been heavily affected by the construction of the substation, it is more likely that this is a modern feature. The natural geology was not reached in Trench 1, but a combination of the depth of over burden, small size of the trench, and tightness of the site generally, meant that stepping and deepening the trench would have been impractical.

However, given the depths involved it seems quite likely that the natural may have been breached to some degree, and that any potential archaeological features would have been either truncated or destroyed.



6 Acknowledgements

KDK Archaeology is grateful to Eddie Cochrane for commissioning this report and for his assistance on site. The help of Mark Saunders of Brace-Turner on site is also duly acknowledged. Thanks are also due to Isobel Thompson and Alison Tinniswood of Hertfordshire County Council Historic Environment Unit for providing historic environment records and monitoring the project respectively.

The fieldwork was carried out by David Kaye BA AlfA and Caroline Baigent. The report was written by David Kaye and Lydia Breeze-Chilcott MSc and edited by Karin Kaye MA MIFA.

7 Archive

7.1 The project archive will comprise:

1. Written Scheme of Investigation
2. Initial report
3. Trench recording sheets
4. Sample records
5. Finds records
6. Finds
7. Site drawings
8. Client's site plans
9. List of photographs
10. B/W prints & negatives
11. Specialist reports
12. CDROM with copies of all digital files.

7.2 The archive will be deposited with Bishops Stortford Museum.



8 References

Standards & Specifications

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- EH 1991 *The Management of Archaeological Projects, 2nd edition*. London: English Heritage
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- IFA 2008 Institute for Archaeologists' *Code of Approved Practice for the Regulation of Contractual Arrangements in Field Archaeology* Reading: Institute for Archaeologists
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- Kaye, K. & Breeze-Chilcott, L. 2014 *Written Scheme of Investigation: Land to the Rear of The Forebury Substation, Sawbridgeworth, Hertfordshire* KDK Archaeology 068/SFS/1
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Books and Historical Sources

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- Medlycott, M (ed) 2011 *Research and Archaeology Re-visited: a revised framework for the East of England* East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 24
- Mills, A.D. 1991 *A Dictionary of English Place Names* Oxford: Oxford University Press



Seddon, V & Bryant, S. 1999 *Extensive Urban Survey Project Assessment Report: Sawbridgeworth*
Hertfordshire County Council

Williams, A & Martin GH 2002 *Domesday Book: a complete translation* London: Penguin

Online Sources

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



Appendix 1: Photograph List

SITE NO/CODE: 068/SFS			Site Name: Land r/o The Forebury Substation, Sawbridgeworth, Herts
Shot	B&W	Digital	Subject
1	x	x	Trench 1: view north
2		x	Trench 1: view north
3	x	x	Trench 2: view east
4	x	x	Trench 2: view east
5	x	x	Trench 1: feature [105], view northwest
6	x	x	Trench 1: feature [105], view northwest



Appendix 4: KDK OASIS Sheet

PROJECT DETAILS			
Project Name:	Land r/o The Forebury Substation, Sawbridgeworth, Hertfordshire	OASIS reference:	kdkarcha1-184084
Short Description:	In July 2014 KDK Archaeology undertook an archaeological evaluation on land to the rear of The Forebury substation, Sawbridgeworth, Hertfordshire as a condition of planning permission for the development of the site. Two small trenches were excavated within the footprint of the new buildings, revealing only a modern ditch in Trench 1.		
Project Type:	Evaluation		
Previous work: (eg. SMR refs)	None	Site status: (eg. none, SAM, listed)	None
Current land use:	Former electricity substation	Future work: (yes/no/unknown)	Unknown
Monument type:	N/A	Monument period:	N/A
Significant finds: (artefact type & period)	N/A		
PROJECT LOCATION			
County:	Hertfordshire	OS reference: (8 figs min)	TL 4845 1494
Site address: (+ postcode if known)	Land r/o The Forebury Substation, Sawbridgeworth, Hertfordshire CM21 9BD		
Study area: (sq. m. / ha)	369 sq m	Height OD: (metres)	65mAOD
PROJECT CREATORS			
Organisation:	KDK Archaeology Ltd		
Project brief originator:	Herts CC	Project design originator:	Kaye K & Breeze-Chilcott L
Project Manager:	David Kaye	Director/Supervisor:	David Kaye
Sponsor / funding body:	Rambledale Ltd		
PROJECT DATE			
Start date:	29 th July 2014	End date:	29 th July 2014
PROJECT ARCHIVES			
	Location (Accession no.)	Content (eg. pottery, animal bone, files/sheets)	
Physical:	Bishops Stortford Museum	None	
Paper:		Field drawings & sheets, WSI, report, photographs etc	
Digital:		1 CD	
BIBLIOGRAPHY (Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report)			
Title:	Archaeological Evaluation: Land to the Rear of The Forebury Substation, Sawbridgeworth, Hertfordshire		
Serial title & volume:	KDK Archaeology Ltd Report ref. 068/SFS/2		
Author(s):	David Kaye BA Alfa Lydia Breeze-Chilcott MSc		
Page nos	21	Date:	11 th August 2014



Appendix 5: Hertfordshire Historic Environment Record Sheet

Site name and address: Land r/o The Forebury Substation, Sawbridgeworth, Hertfordshire CM21 9BD		
County: Hertfordshire	District: East Herts	
Village/Town: Sawbridgeworth	Parish: Sawbridgeworth	
Planning application reference: 3/14/0732		
Client's name, address, & tel. no: E. Cochrane, Rambleside Ltd, 3 Pishiobury Mews, Sawbridgeworth, Herts. CM21 0AP		
Nature of application: Construction of a 4-bedroom dwelling with associated garage		
Present land use: Former electricity substation		
Size of application area: 369 sq m	Size of area investigated: 15sq m	
NGR (to 8 figures): TL 4845 1494	Site code: 068/SFS	
Site director: David Kaye	Organization: KDK Archaeology Ltd	
Type of work: Evaluation		
DATE OF WORK:	Start: 29 th July 2014	Finish: 29 th July 2014
Curating museum: Bishops Stortford		
Related HER nos: None		Periods represented: Modern
Relevant previous summaries/reports: Hunn, J. 1999 Fawbert & Barnard School, Sawbridgeworth, Herts: an archaeological monitoring & recording report. RNO 347		
Summary of fieldwork results: In July 2014 KDK Archaeology undertook an archaeological evaluation on land to the rear of The Forebury substation, Sawbridgeworth, Hertfordshire as a condition of planning permission for the development of the site. Two small trenches were excavated within the footprint of the new buildings, revealing only a modern ditch in Trench 1.		
Author: David Kaye & Lydia Breeze-Chilcott	Date: 11 th August 2014	