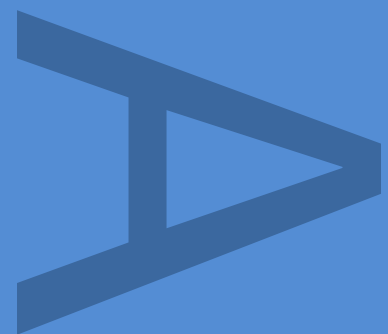


LAND AT NO.23 KNIGHT
STREET, SAWBRIDGEWORTH,
HERTFORDSHIRE, CM21 9AT:
AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL
MONITORING BRIEF

APRIL 2014




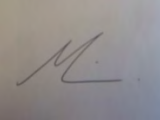
PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY
R11692

LAND AT NO. 23 KNIGHT STREET,
SAWBRIDGEWORTH, HERTFORDSHIRE, CM21 9AT

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

Quality Control

Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd	
Project Number	K3506
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Land at No. 23 Knight Street, Sawbridgeworth, Hertfordshire, CM21 9AT:

An Archaeological Monitoring Brief

Local Planning Authority: East Hertfordshire District Council

Planning Reference: 3/13/1108/FP

Central National Grid Reference: TL 483 149

Site Code: HKNS14

Report No. R11692

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CONTENTS

CONTENTS	2
ABSTRACT	3
1 INTRODUCTION	4
2 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY	5
3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND	6
4 METHODOLOGY	7
5 DISCUSSION	8
6 CONCLUSIONS	9
7 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	10
8 BIBLIOGRAPHY	11
9 APPENDIX 1: PLATES	14
10 APPENDIX 2: OASIS FORM	16
FIGURE 1 SITE LOCATION.....	12
FIGURE 2 AREAS MONITORED.....	13

ABSTRACT

This report describes the results of archaeological monitoring carried out by Pre-Construct Archaeology on land at No. 23 Knight Street, Sawbridgeworth, Hertfordshire (NGR TL 483 149) on 14th April 2014. The archaeological work was commissioned by Mr. B. Aukett in response to a planning condition attached to planning permission 3/13/1108/FP. The aim of the work was to characterise the archaeological potential of the site. The monitoring works, which focused upon the invasive groundworks for a new gable end and a two storey extension to the southern elevation and a new bay window to the western elevation, encountered no evidence of archaeological activity.

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Archaeological monitoring was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd (PCA) on land at No. 23 Knight Street, Sawbridgeworth, Hertfordshire (centred on Ordnance Survey National Grid Reference (NGR) TL 483 149) on 14th April 2014 (Figure 1; Plate 1).
- 1.2 The site lies with Area of Archaeological Significance No.166, as identified in the Local Plan. This designation includes the medieval and later settlement of Sawbridgeworth and the parish church of St. Mary, which is known to have Saxon origins.
- 1.3 The archaeological work was commissioned by Mr. B. Aukett in response to an archaeological planning condition attached planning permission for a new gable end and a two storey extension to the southern elevation and a new bay window to the western elevation (Planning Reference 3/13/1108/FP).
- 1.4 The monitoring was carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by Mary-Anne Slater of PCA (Slater 2014a).
- 1.5 The aim of the monitoring was to determine the location, date, extent, character, condition and quality of any archaeological remains on the site, to assess the significance of any such remains in a local, regional, or national context, as appropriate, and to assess the potential impact of the development proposals on the site's archaeology.
- 1.6 The monitoring was carried out on invasive groundworks associated with the foundations for the two storey extension to the south elevation, a bay window to the west elevation and a small trench for a drain extending to the east.
- 1.7 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 the Bishops Stortford Museum.

2 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

2.1 Geology

2.1.1 The geology of the site is Thanet Sand Formation and Lambeth Group Clay Silt and Sand, overlain by Lowestoft Formation - Diamicton (British Geological Survey 2014; Website 1).

2.1.2 The natural geology within the monitored extension foundations was a mid-brownish orange clay with frequent flints and moderate gravel inclusions.

2.2 Topography

2.2.1 The site is at an elevation of approximately 67m above Ordnance Datum (OD). Sawbridgeworth mainly occupies an area of high ground to the north, sloping down towards the Rib Valley in the south and the River Stort in the east.

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The site lies in an area of known archaeological significance, designated as Area of Archaeological Significance No. 166 in the Local Plan. This designation includes the medieval and later settlement of Sawbridgeworth and the parish church of St. Mary, which is known to have Saxon origins.
- 3.2 The settlement at Sawbridgeworth dates from the medieval period, its historic core, in the area of Bell, Church and Knight Street, is thought to be the product of deliberate planning during the early 13th century. Accordingly the area had a high potential for archaeological activities of a medieval and post-medieval date and, based on nearby discoveries, a potential for prehistoric activity along the Stort River Valley.
- 3.3 Whilst no archaeological remains are known from within the site, the Sawbridgeworth Parish Tithe Map and Award of 1839 shows a large house (of unknown date) occupying the street frontage of the plots now occupied by No.'s 21 and 23 Knight Street. This building had been demolished by the later 19th century and the current house was built on the site in the later twentieth century.
- 3.4 Previous archaeological evaluation of No. 21 Knight Street uncovered two undated pits and three medieval/post-medieval ditches aligned east-west which may represent plot boundaries associated with the 13th century planning of the historic core (Slater 2014b).
- 3.5 The Sawbridgeworth Parish Tithe Map and Award of 1839 also indicates that the site formed part of a field recorded as 'Sayes Garden Field'. In 1700 this field was recorded as the site of the medieval manor of Sawbridgeworth. In addition, archaeological investigations immediately to the south of the site at the Fawbert and Barnard School identified a large ditch of probable medieval date which may be part of the medieval manorial boundary.

4 METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 The work comprised archaeological monitoring during the excavation of the foundation trenches for the extensions to the south and west elevations and drains associated with the south elevation extension.
- 4.2 The level of archaeological investigation varied in different areas of the site and was dependent on the construction impact levels across the development area. Machine excavation of the structure foundations was monitored under close archaeological supervision, as the construction impact depth exceeded the natural geology and thus any potential archaeology. However the impact depth of the drain trench was minimal and failed to exceed the lower extent of the topsoil, thus was not monitored as closely.
- 4.3 Ground reduction was carried out under archaeological supervision using a 7-ton tracked mechanical excavator fitted with a 1m-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.
- 4.4 All aspects of the investigation were conducted in accordance with The Institute for Archaeologist's Code of Conduct and the Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations (2008), and the relevant English Heritage Guidance on Environmental Archaeology (EH 2011). Field excavation and recording techniques are detailed within the PCA Fieldwork Induction Manual (Operations Manual I) by Joanna Taylor and Gary Brown (2009). Metal-detecting was carried out during the topsoil and subsoil stripping and throughout the excavation process. Archaeological features and spoil heaps were scanned by metal-detector. Only objects of modern date were found and were not retained for accession.
- 4.5 A full high resolution digital photographic record of the work was kept.

5 DISCUSSION

- 5.1 No archaeological features, deposits or structures were discovered during the monitoring of the site. A modern conservatory demolished in advance of the extension to the south elevation had 1m deep concrete foundations which lay directly over undisturbed natural geology. In the area of the bay window to the west elevation the topsoil and subsoil lay directly above natural geology.

6 CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1 No archaeology was found within the development area. The WSI for this site suggested that it was within the historic core of medieval Sawbridgeworth and may have formed part of the medieval manor. It is possible that medieval remains were once present on the site of No. 23 Knight Street, but were subsequently truncated by the construction of the current buildings on the site.
- 6.2 Based on the results of the evaluation, the potential of the site to contain further significant archaeological remains is considered to be low.

7 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

7.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd would like to thank Mr. B. Aukett for commissioning the work. PCA are also grateful to Alison Tinniswood of the Natural, Historic & Built Environment Advisory Team of Hertfordshire County Council for monitoring the work. The author would like to thank Mark Hinman of PCA for managing the work and Jennifer Simonson for producing the figures.

8 BIBLIOGRAPHY

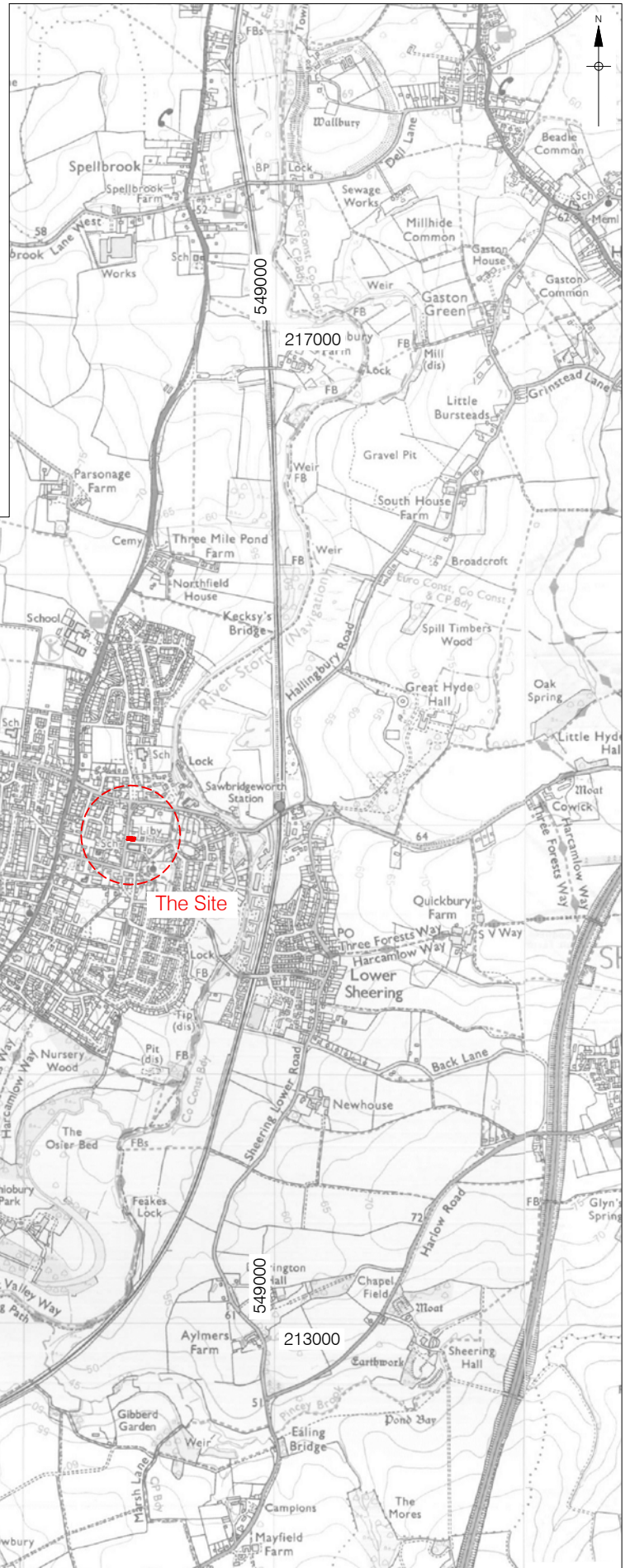
8.1 Printed Sources

Slater, M. 2014a, Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Monitoring at No. 23 Knight Street, Sawbridgeworth, Hertfordshire, CM21 9AT (unpublished, Pre-Construct Archaeology)

Slater, M. 2014b, No. 21 Knight Street, Sawbridgeworth: An Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation (unpublished report 11657, Pre-Construct Archaeology)

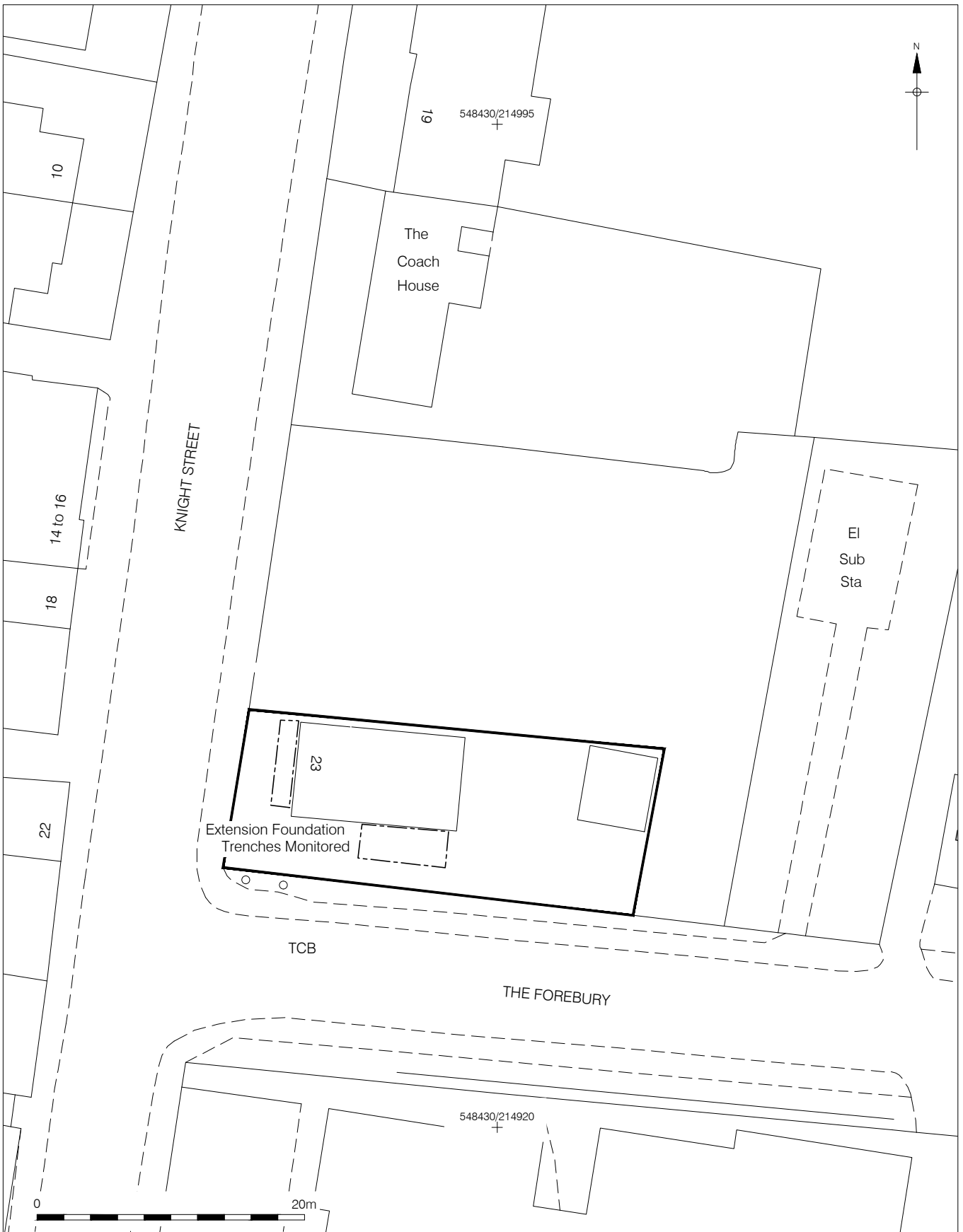
8.2 Websites

1) British Geological Survey 2014 Geology of Britain Viewer
<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html?location=IP9%203DG>.
Date accessed 15th April 2014



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



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Figure 2
 Detailed Site Location Showing Areas Monitored
 1:400 at A4

9 APPENDIX 1: PLATES

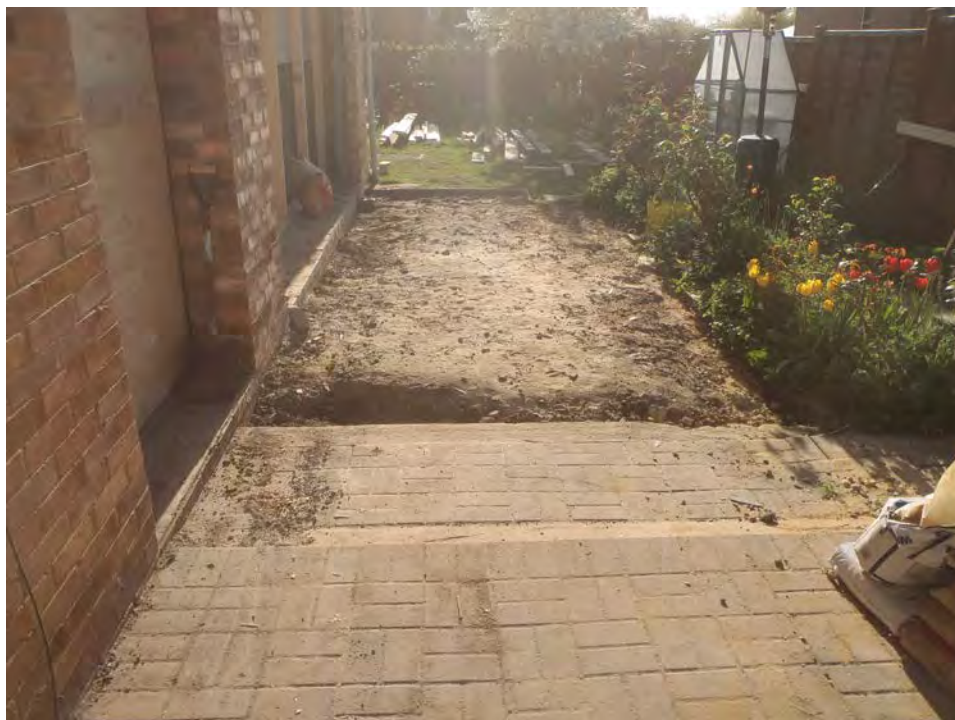


Plate 1: The site of new gable end and two storey extension to the south elevation, view east



Plate 2: South elevation (no archaeological features), view east



Plate 3: West elevation, view north (no archaeological features)

10 APPENDIX 2: OASIS FORM

OASIS ID: preconst1-177214

Project details

Project name	No.23 Knight Street, Sawbridgeworth: An Archaeological Monitoring Brief
Short description of the project	This report describes the results of archaeological monitoring brief carried out by Pre-Construct Archaeology on land at No. 23 Knight Street, Sawbridgeworth, Hertfordshire (NGR TL 483 149) on 14th April 2014. The archaeological work was commissioned by Mr. B. Aukett in response to a planning condition attached to planning permission 3/13/1108/FP. The aim of the work was to characterise the archaeological potential of the site. The monitoring works, which focused upon the invasive groundworks for a new gable end and two storey extension to the south elevation and a new bay window to the west elevation, encountered no evidence for archaeological activity.
Project dates	Start: 14-04-2014 End: 14-04-2014
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	HKNS14 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Residential 1 - General Residential
Development type	Small-scale extensions (e.g. garages, porches, etc.)
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project location

Country	England
Site location	HERTFORDSHIRE EAST HERTFORDSHIRE SAWBRIDGEWORTH 23

Knight Street, Sawbridgeworth

Postcode CM21 9AT

Project creators

Name of Organisation Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd.

Project brief originator Alison Tinniswood

Project design originator Mr. B. Aukett

Project director/manager Mark Hinman

Project supervisor Mary-Anne Slater

Type of sponsor/funding body Private Client

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists? No

Digital Archive recipient Bishop's Stortford Museum

Digital Archive ID HKNS14

Digital Media available "Images raster / digital photography"

Paper Archive recipient Bishop's Stortford

Paper Archive ID HKNS14

Paper Media available "Report"

Project

bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
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