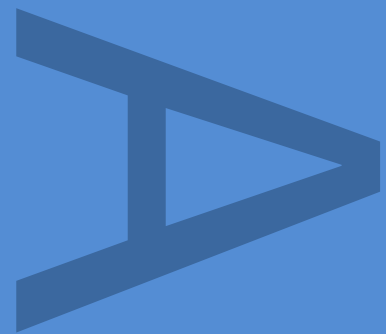


ARCHAEOLOGICAL
MONITORING AT 12 KNIGHT
STREET, SAWBRIDGEWORTH,
HERTFORDSHIRE, CM21 9AT



AUGUST 2015



PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY
R12189

**Archaeological Monitoring at 12 Knight Street, Sawbridgeworth, Hertfordshire,
CM21 9AT**

Local Planning Authority: East Hertfordshire District Council

Planning Reference: 3/15/0973/HH

Central National Grid Reference: TL 483 149

Site Code: HKNS15

Report No. R12189

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ABSTRACT

This report describes the results of archaeological monitoring carried out by Pre-Construct Archaeology at 12 Knight Street, Sawbridgeworth, Hertfordshire, CM21 9AT (NGR TL 483 149) between the 11-13th August 2015. The archaeological work was commissioned by Claire Holland in response to a planning condition attached to the extension of 12 Knight Street. The aim of the work was to ensure that any archaeological remains exposed were recorded, recovered and interpreted.

No archaeological features were observed during monitoring.

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Archaeological monitoring was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd (PCA) at 12 Knight Street, Sawbridgeworth, Hertfordshire, CM21 9AT (centred on Ordnance Survey National Grid Reference (NGR) TL 483 149) between the 11-13th August 2015 (Figure 1).
- 1.1.1 The archaeological work was commissioned by Claire Holland in response to an archaeological planning condition attached to the extension at 21 Knight Street (Planning Reference 3/15/0973/HH). The areas monitored included the removal of foundations and floor slab of the existing garage, ground reduction and other groundworks associated with the development, such as foundations and service trenches (Figure 2).
- 1.2 The monitoring was carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by Mary-Anne Slater of PCA (Slater 2015) in response to a Brief for archaeological monitoring issued by Alison Tinniswood (Tinniswood 2015) of the Natural, Historic and Built Environment Advisory Team of Hertfordshire Historic County Council.
- 1.3 The aim of the monitoring was to ensure that any archaeological remains exposed were recorded, recovered and interpreted.
- 1.4 This report describes the results of the monitoring and aims to inform the design of an appropriate archaeological mitigation strategy. The site archive will be deposited at 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. Sedimentary Bedrock formed approximately 56 to 66 million years ago during the Palaeogene Period (British Geological Survey, Website 1). The superficial deposits are Lowestoft Formation - Diamicton formed up to 2 million years ago in the Quaternary Period.

2.2 Topography

2.2.1 The site is at an elevation of between 66m and 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 General

- 3.1.1 This archaeological and historical background has been drawn from the archaeological design brief (Tinniswood 2015) and the available 'grey literature' reports documenting archaeological investigations in the area.
- 3.1.2 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, and numerous later medieval and early post-medieval buildings.
- 3.1.3 The settlement at Sawbridgeworth dates from the medieval period. Its historic core is thought to be the product of deliberate planning during the early 13th century. In 1222 Geoffrey de Say received the grant of a market to be held outside the parish church, 300m east of the London road (HER17). The marketplace and Fair Green lay on flat land at the top of the slope to the river. The location of the manor house is thought to have been somewhere on the north side of the church.
- 3.1.4 Recent archaeological investigations at 21 Knight Street identified a pair of ditches which are possibly Saxo-Norman in date, as the sherds within them included one of 5th-9th century Saxon chaff-tempered ware, one of 9th-12th century St Neots-type ware and one of 11th-12th century sandy ware (HER30858). One of the ditches may be associated with a large ditch (HER9882) found 60m to the south at Fawbert and Bernard School, which could relate to the lost manorial centre of Sayesbury.
- 3.1.5 Numbers 8-12 Knight Street were built on the site of an early 19th century police station (HER7163). The parish tithe map of 1839 shows a dwelling house on the street frontage and a rear yard lined with buildings, with a small passage giving access from Knight Street. The complex is shown on the 1880-90 Ordnance Survey map as 'Police Station', with the house on the street divided into three dwellings. By 1898 most of the buildings lining the rear yard had been demolished and by 1921 the housing currently present

on the site had been built.

4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 Monitoring

- 4.1.1 The areas monitored included the removal of the foundations and floor slab of the existing garage, all ground reduction and the groundworks associated with the development, such as foundations and service trenches. The foundation footings were excavated to a depth of 1-1.5m and the ground within the building footprint was reduced by 0.4m.
- 4.1.2 Ground reduction was carried out under archaeological supervision using a 7-ton tracked mechanical excavator fitted with a 0.4m-wide toothless ditching bucket. Deposits were removed in spits down to the level needed for construction. 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 Section drawings of 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 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 (ClfA 2014; Walker 1990; Watkinson 1981).

5 DISCUSSION & CONCLUSIONS

- 5.1 No archaeological features were seen during the monitoring of groundworks at 12 Knight Street.
- 5.2 Numbers 8-12 Knight Street were built on the site of an early 19th century police station which consisted of a dwelling house on the street frontage and a rear yard lined with buildings. By 1921 the buildings had been demolished and the houses currently on the site had been built. The construction of the house in the early 20th century, the additional extension to the rear and the garage to the south appears to have truncated any archaeology that may have been in this location.
- 5.3 Based on the results of the monitoring the potential of the site to contain any significant archaeological remains in the vicinity of the house is considered to be low.

6 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 6.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd would like to thank Claire Holland for commissioning the work. PCA are also grateful to Alison Tinniswood of the Natural, Historic and Built Environment Advisory Team of Hertfordshire Historic County Council for her advice and for monitoring the work. The author would like to thank Shannon Hogan for managing the project and PCA's CAD department for preparing the figures.

7 BIBLIOGRAPHY

7.1 Printed Sources

Chartered Institute for Archaeologist's 2014, Standard and Guidance for the Collection, Documentation, Conservation and Research of Archaeological Materials (University of Reading)

Slater, M. 2015, Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Monitoring at 12 Knight Street, Sawbridgeworth, Hertfordshire (Unpublished, Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd.)

Tinniswood, A. 2015, Design Brief for Archaeological Monitoring (Unpublished Historic Environment Unit, Hertfordshire County Council).

7.2 Websites

1) <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>. Date accessed 10/08/2015



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 17/08/15 JS

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

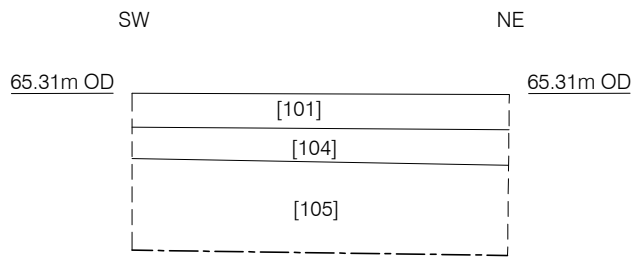


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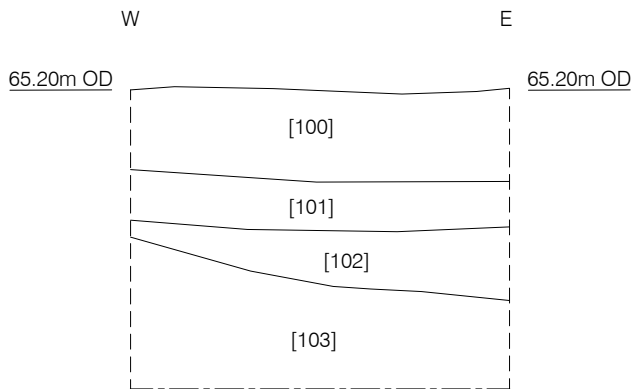
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Figure 2
Areas Monitored
1:400 at A4



Section 1
Southeast Facing



Section 2
South Facing



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Figure 3
Sections 1 & 2
1:20 at A4

8 APPENDIX 1: PLATES



Plate 1: The site prior to groundworks, view north-east



Plate 2: Initial ground reduction, view north



Plate 3: Western foundation footing, view south



Plate 4: Southern foundation footing, view east



Plate 5: Section through southern foundation footing, view south



Plate 6: Section 2 in northern foundation footing, view north



Plate 7: The site following ground reduction, view north-west

9 APPENDIX 2: CONTEXT INDEX

Context	Cut	Type	Category	Interpretation
100	N/A	Layer	Topsoil	Garden soil
101	N/A	Layer	Made ground	Made ground
102	N/A	Layer	Made ground	Demolition/levelling?
103	N/A	Layer	Natural	Natural geology
104	N/A	Layer	Made ground	Made ground
105	N/A	Layer	Made ground	Made ground

10 APPENDIX 3: TABLE OF ATTENDANCE

Date	Staff	Works monitored
11/08/2015	M Slater	Initial ground reduction
12/08/2015	M Slater	Monitoring of northern and western foundation footings
13/08/2015	M Slater	Monitoring of southern foundation footings

11 APPENDIX 4: OASIS FORM

OASIS ID: preconst1-220823

Project details

Project name Archaeological Monitoring at 12 Knight Street, Sawbridgeworth, Hertfordshire, CM21 9AT

Short description of the project This report describes the results of archaeological monitoring carried out by Pre-Construct Archaeology at 12 Knight Street, Sawbridgeworth, Hertfordshire, CM21 9AT (NGR TL 483 149) between the 11-13th August 2015. The archaeological work was commissioned by Claire Holland in response to a planning condition attached to the extension of 12 Knight Street. The aim of the work was to ensure that any archaeological remains exposed were recorded, recovered and interpreted. No archaeological features were observed during monitoring.

Project dates Start: 11-08-2015 End: 13-08-2015

Previous/future work No / Not known

Any associated project reference codes HKNS15 - Sitecode

Type of project Recording project

Site status (other) Area of Archaeological Significance

Current Land use Residential 1 - General Residential

Monument type NONE None

Significant Finds NONE None

Investigation type "Watching Brief"

Prompt Planning condition

Project location

Country England

Site location HERTFORDSHIRE EAST HERTFORDSHIRE SAWBRIDGEWORTH
 12 Knight Street

Postcode CM21 9AT

Study area 40.00 Square metres

Site coordinates TL 483 149 51.8125585443 0.151570053068 51 48 45 N 000 09 05
 E Point

Project creators

Name of Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd.
Organisation

Project brief Alison Tinniswood
originator

Project design Mark Hinman
originator

Project Shannon Hogan
director/manager

Project supervisor Mary-Anne Slater

Type of Private Client
sponsor/funding
body

Project archives

Physical Archive Bishop's Stortford Museum
recipient

Physical Archive ID HKNS15

Physical Contents "none"

Digital Archive Bishop's Stortford Museum
recipient

Digital Archive ID HKNS15

Digital Contents "none"

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

Paper Archive Bishop's Stortford
recipient

Paper Archive ID HKNS15

Paper Contents "none"

Paper Media "Context sheet","Report","Section"
available

Project bibliography

1

Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Publication type

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

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