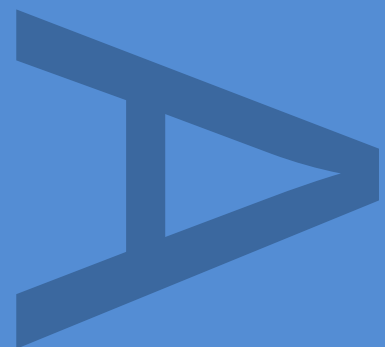


**LAND AT SPICERS LTD.
SAWSTON BYPASS, SAWSTON,
CAMBRIDGESHIRE SE1 1QN**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL
MONITORING AND RECORDING**

AUGUST-SEPTEMBER 2015



**PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY
R12219**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING & RECORDING AT
SPICERS LTD. SAWSTON BYPASS, SAWSTON,
CAMBRIDGESHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING
AND RECORDING

Quality Control

Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd	
Project Number	CSSB15
Report Number	R12219

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**Archaeological Monitoring & Recording at Spicers Ltd. Sawston Bypass,
Sawston, Cambridgeshire ©Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited, August-
September 2015.**

Local Planning Authority: South Cambridgeshire District Council

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Report No. R12219

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September 2015**

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ABSTRACT

This report describes the results of a programme of archaeological monitoring carried out by Pre-Construct Archaeology on land at Spicers Ltd, Sawston Bypass, Sawston, Cambridgeshire CB22 3JG (NGR TL 4735 4967) between 13th August and 9th September 2015. The archaeological work was commissioned by Aracaris Capital Ltd in response to an archaeological brief written by Gemma Stewart of Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team (CCCHET). The aim of the work was to monitor any groundwork likely to impact on archaeological features and deposits and investigate any areas of groundwork carried out prior to monitoring.

The monitoring identified no archaeological activity.

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 A programme of archaeological monitoring was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd (PCA) on land at Spicers Ltd, Sawston Bypass, Sawston, Cambridgeshire CB22 3JG (centred on Ordnance Survey National Grid Reference (NGR) TL 4735 4967) between 13th August and 9th September 2015 (Figure 1).
- 1.2 The archaeological work was commissioned by Aracaris Capital Ltd in response to an archaeological brief written by Gemma Stewart of Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team (CCCHET). (Stewart 2015).
- 1.3 The programme of monitoring was carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by Matthew Lees and Taleyna Fletcher of PCA (Lees and Fletcher 2015) in response to written instructions for archaeological monitoring from Gemma Stewart of Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team (CCCHET). (Stewart 2015).
- 1.4 The main aim of the project was to monitor all ground works within the proposed development area for archaeological remains and evidence for settlement and activity.
- 1.5 No archaeological remains or evidence for settlement and activity were identified.
- 1.6 This report describes the results of the archaeological monitoring. The project archive will be deposited with Cambridgeshire County Council facilities.

2 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

2.1 Geology

2.2 The underlying bedrock is recorded as the Zig Zag Chalk Formation. A Sedimentary Bedrock formed approximately 94 to 100 million years ago in the Cretaceous Period (BGS 2015).

2.3 Topography

2.4 The site is located immediately adjacent to the west of the A1301 Sawston Bypass and the London to Cambridge railway track. It is c.1.5km to the north of the Cambridgeshire village of Whittlesford and c.1.5km to the west of the Cambridgeshire village of Sawston.

2.5 Topographically, the site is broadly flat, located in the south-east corner of the Spicers Ltd. Industrial Area to the west of Sawston, which lies on the floodplain to the River Cam.

2.6 The site is located at c.20m OD.

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

3.1 The archaeological background below is taken from the WSI (Lees and Fletcher 2015).

3.2 Prehistoric

3.3 The site is located immediately adjacent to the scheduled Borough Hill, a large multivallate hillfort (DCB190). The large Iron Age hillfort is situated on a low chalk promontory surrounded to the north, south and west by the River Cam (TL4719 4949). The promontory stands about 2m-3m above the surrounding alluvium, which is sufficient to allow the hillfort to dominate the local landscape. The monument is roughly oval in plan, measuring approximately 430m east to west and 300m north to south. The circuit of defences is composed of varying arrangements of banks and ditches enclosing an area of approximately 8ha.

3.4 A rectilinear enclosure (MCB16940) was identified during geophysical survey at Borough Hill, roughly 400m to the west of the site and adjacent to the multivallate enclosure (TL4968 4951). It has been suggested that these enclosures may have formed an earlier complex that preceded the multivallate defences of Borough Hill. An evaluation was undertaken to investigate the defences and rectangular enclosure, however no conclusive non-residual dating was recovered. Traces of an undated burial were recovered from the base of the plough soil in this area.

3.5 A further lozenge shaped enclosure (MCB16941) and associated linear anomalies were identified during geophysical survey at Borough Hill, around 50m to the southwest of the site (TL 4714 4961) that were apparently cut by the outermost ditch of the hillfort. It has been suggested that these enclosures may have formed an earlier complex that preceded the multivallate defences.

3.6 Residual finds dated to the Mesolithic (MCB15821) have been recovered approximately 460m to the west of the site; however the earliest activity recorded is a possible ditch containing pottery sherds assigned to the Early-

mid Neolithic period. A number of sub-circular hollows and a shallow ditch along the eastern side of the site contained pottery dated to the Late Neolithic to early Bronze Age.

3.7 Anglo-Saxon

3.8 An Anglo Saxon S-shaped brooch (MCB4982/4983) was found c.800m to the south-east of the site (TL48 49).

3.9 Five Anglo Saxon Sunken Featured Buildings (SFB) (MCB15821) were identified c.460m to the west of the site at Borough Hill. A number of the SFB's contained internal postholes and pits for possible hearths; a large amount of Saxon pottery was recovered from all the features.

3.10 Medieval

3.11 Medieval Earthworks (MCB13240) evidencing an early medieval settlement focussed on the church and manor in Whittlesford were identified c.850m to the south of the site near The Moat House, Whittlesford (TL 474 487).

3.12 Medieval remains (MCB15821) were uncovered across the western and northern areas of the site at Borough Hill. Large enclosures formed from several ditches were present across the area along with drainage and boundary ditches. Into the post-medieval period the land was still divided by boundary ditches and enclosures.

4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 Overview

4.2 Machining and Site Planning

4.3 A 12 tonne tracked mechanical excavator with a toothless ditching bucket was used (Plate 1). The overlying topsoil (1) deposit was excavated down to the archaeological horizon or the natural geological horizon (3), whichever came first.

4.4 Exposed archaeological features and deposits were cleaned as necessary to define them using hand tools.

4.5 Metal-detecting was carried out on all stripped deposits throughout the evaluation process and all archaeological features and spoil heaps were surveyed by metal-detector as they were encountered.

4.6 Recording and Sampling

4.7 Field excavation techniques and recording methods are detailed in the PCA Fieldwork Induction Manual (Operations Manual I) by Joanna Taylor and Gary Brown (2009).

4.8 Individual deposits were recorded as written records on PCA Pro-forma context sheets.

4.9 High-resolution digital photographs were taken at all stages of the evaluation process.

4.10 A metal detector was used during excavation to enhance finds recovery.

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

5.1 Overview

5.2 No archaeological features or finds were identified.

6 THE FINDS

6.1 Overview

6.2 No archaeological finds were identified or retrieved.

7 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

- 7.1 The monitoring concentrated on the stripping of the sites' topsoil (Plates 1-4), and on trenches dug to place drain pipes (Plate 5), as these works would impact on any potential archaeology.
- 7.2 Despite the proximity of the site to the Scheduled Borough Hill, no archaeological features were identified and no finds retrieved. This is possibly due to previous landscaping of the site due to the current warehouse building construction.

8 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 8.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd would like to thank Aracaris Capital Ltd for commissioning the work and Gemma Stewart of Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team (CCCHET) for her advice and monitoring the work. The author would like to thank Mark Hinman for managing the project and to the CAD department of PCA for the graphics.

9 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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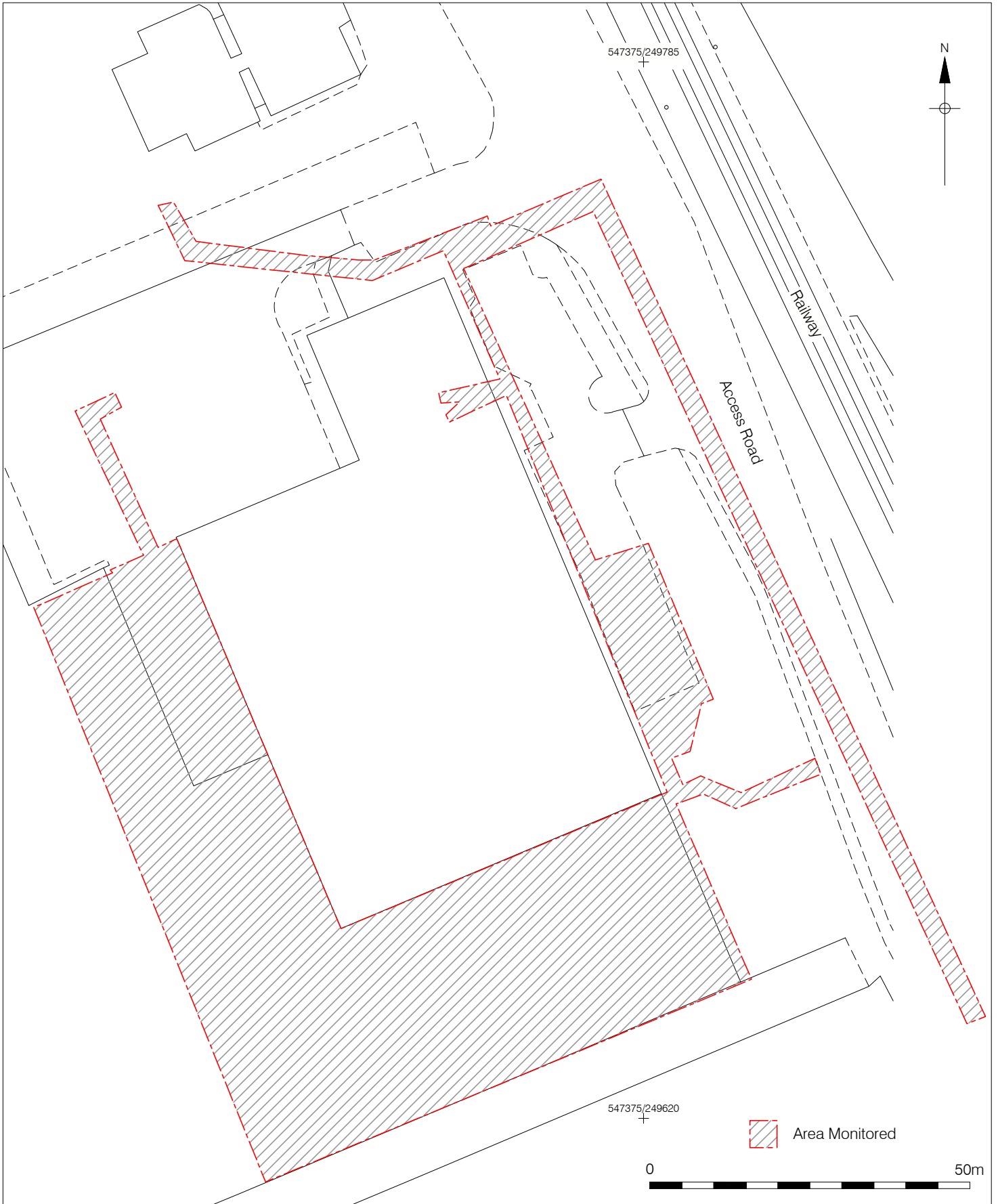
(<http://www.bgs.ac.uk/discoveringGeology/geologyOfBritain/viewer.html>)

Accessed 12/08/15



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



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Figure 2
Area Monitored
1:800 at A4

10 APPENDIX 1: PLATES



Plate 1: Post excavation of southern area of site, looking east.



Plate 2: Post stripping of topsoil, southern area, looking northeast



Plate 3: Topsoil stripping, western area, looking north



Plate 4: North facing section in western area, showing topsoil (1), subsoil (2) and natural (3).



Plate 5: Excavation of drainage trench in western area, looking north

11 APPENDIX 2: CONTEXT INDEX

Context	Type	Comment	Thickness
(1)	Layer	Topsoil	0.3m – 0.4m
(2)	Layer	Subsoil – a layer of light grey clay with very occasional chalk fragments overlying the natural chalk (3).	0.15m – 0.3m
(3)	Layer	Geological natural – a creamy white chalk layer.	0.5m – 0.9m+

12 APPENDIX 3: OASIS FORM

OASIS ID: preconst1-223374

Project details

Project name	Archaeological Monitoring and Recording at Spicers Ltd. Sawston Bypass, Sawston, Cambridgeshire, CB22 3JG
Short description of the project	This report describes the results of a programme of archaeological monitoring carried out by Pre-Construct Archaeology on land at Spicers Ltd, Sawston Bypass, Sawston, Cambridgeshire CB22 3JG. The aim of the work was to monitor any groundwork likely to impact on archaeological features and deposits and investigate any areas of groundwork carried out prior to monitoring. The monitoring identified no archaeological activity.
Project dates	Start: 13-08-2015 End: 09-09-2015
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	CSSB15 - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Industry and Commerce 4 - Storage and warehousing
Monument type	NONE None
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"

Prompt

Project location

Country	England
Site location	CAMBRIDGESHIRE SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE SAWSTON Spicers Ltd, Sawston Bypass, Sawston, Cambridgeshire
Postcode	CB22 3JG
Study area	0 Square metres

Site coordinates TL 4735 4967 52.125234744331 0.152722438211 52 07 30 N 000 09
09 E Point

Lat/Long Datum Unknown

Height OD / Depth

Project creators

Name of Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd

Organisation

Project brief Cambridge HET
originator

Project design Matthew Lees and Taleyra Fletcher
originator

Project Mark Hinman
director/manager

Project supervisor Clare Jackson

Type of Private company
sponsor/funding
body

Name of Aracaris Capital Ltd
sponsor/funding
body

Project archives

Physical Archive No
Exists?

Physical Archive Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeology Store
recipient

Digital Archive recipient

Digital Media "Database", "Images raster / digital photography"
available

Paper Archive Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeology Store
recipient

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

Project bibliography

1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Archaeological Monitoring and Recording at Spicers Ltd. Sawston Bypass, Sawston, Cambridgeshire
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Jackson, C.
Date	2015
Issuer or publisher	Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd
Place of issue or publication	Cambridge
Description	A4 spiral bound
OASIS ID:	preconst1-223374

13 APPENDIX 4: ATTENDANCE

Date	Staff	Works monitored
13/08/15	S. Porter	Recording of southern area excavation and topsoil strip in western area
18/08/15	S. Porter	Topsoil strip
03/09/15	S. Porter	Topsoil strip and excavation of drainage trench.
04/09/15	S. Porter	Excavation of drainage trench
07/09/15	C. Jackson	Continued excavation of drainage trench.
08/09/15	C. Jackson	Continued excavation of drainage trench.
09/09/15	C. Jackson	Continued excavation of drainage trench.

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