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# ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS LTD

## THE ANCIENT RAJ, KNIGHT STREET, SAWBRIDGEWORTH, HERTFORDSHIRE CM21 9AX

### ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL TRENCH EVALUATION

HER Enquiry No. 135/17

Author: Katie Lee-Smith (Fieldwork and report) Kate Higgs MA (Oxon.) (Background research)	
NGR: TL 48380 14856	Report No: 5453
District: East Herts	Site Code: AS1900
Approved: Claire Halpin MCIfA	Project No: 7217
	Date: September 2017 Revised 18 April 2018

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**OASIS SUMMARY SHEET****Project details**

Project name The Ancient Raj, Knight Street, Sawbridgeworth, Hertfordshire CM21 9AX

In September 2017 Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out a programme of archaeological trial trench evaluation of land at The Ancient Raj, Knight Street, Sawbridgeworth, Hertfordshire CM21 9AX (NGR TL 48380 14856). The evaluation was carried out compliance with a planning condition attached to planning permission for the construction of four dwellings and associated landscaping / parking following the demolition of the restaurant and garages/stores (EHDC Planning Ref. 3/16/1507/FUL). It was required based on the advice of the Hertfordshire County Council Historic Environment Advisor (HCC HEA).

The site lies within an area identified on the EHDC Local Plan as an Area of Archaeological Significance 166, which encompasses the medieval and later settlement core of Sawbridgeworth. There are a number of surviving later medieval and post-medieval buildings. The parish church and churchyard lie less than 100m to the east, and the church has Saxon origins (Hertfordshire Historic Environment Record HER 1104). Investigations in 1999 at the Faubert and Barnard school to the immediate north revealed a sizeable ditch of likely medieval date which may be the medieval manorial boundary of Sayesbury Manor (HER 9882). Furthermore recent investigations at 21 Knight Street to the north of the site revealed post-medieval, and possible Saxon and medieval, features. Investigations at 28 Knight Street revealed later post-medieval activity.

The evaluation revealed archaeological features in three trenches (Trenches 1, 3 and 4) but not the smaller trench towards the back of the site (Trench 2). The features were principally discretas (pits) and included some linears (ditches).

The majority (six) of the features were of 18<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> century date. Four features: Ditch F1016 and Pit F1018 (Trench 3), and Ditch F1012 and Pit F1014 (Trench 4), each contained one or two sherds of residual medieval (10<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>, and 12<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> century) and late medieval (15<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> century) pottery. Two features: Pits F1026 and F1029 (both Trench 1) contained late 16<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, and late 17<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> century pottery sherds.

Project dates (fieldwork) 5 – 7<sup>th</sup> September 2017

Previous work (Y/N/?)  
N Future work TBC

P. number 7217 Site code AS1900

Type of project Archaeological trial trench evaluation

Site status Within Area of Archaeological Significance 166

Current land use Former restaurant

Planned development Residential

Main features (+dates) Pits, some ditches

Significant finds (+dates) 18<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> C assemblages, sparse medieval and post-medieval sherds

**Project location**

County/ District/ Parish Hertfordshire East Herts Sawbridgeworth

HER for area Hertfordshire Historic Environment Record

Post code (if known) -

Area of site c.1200m<sup>2</sup>

NGR TL 48380 14856

Height AOD (max/ min) c.64AOD

**Project creators**

Brief issued by Hertfordshire County Council Historic Environment Team

Project supervisor/s (PO) Archaeological Solutions Ltd

Funded by Eden Rock Construction

Full title The Ancient Raj, Knight Street, Sawbridgeworth, Hertfordshire CM21 9AX.  
Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation

Authors Lee-Smith, K., & Higgs, K.

Report no. 5453

Date (of report) September 2017; revised April 2018

**THE ANCIENT RAJ, KNIGHT STREET, SAWBRIDGEWORTH,  
HERTFORDSHIRE  
CM21 9AX**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL TRENCH EVALUATION**

**SUMMARY**

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*The evaluation revealed archaeological features in three trenches (Trenches 1, 3 and 4) but not the smaller trench towards the back of the site (Trench 2). The features were principally discretas (pits) and included some linears (ditches).*

*The majority (six) of the features were of 18<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> century date. Four features: Ditch F1016 and Pit F1018 (Trench 3), and Ditch F1012 and Pit F1014 (Trench 4), each contained one or two sherds of residual medieval (10<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>, and 12<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> century) and late medieval (15<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> century) pottery. Two features: Pits F1026 and F1029 (both Trench 1) contained late 16<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, and late 17<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> century pottery sherds.*

## 1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In September 2017 Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out a programme of archaeological trial trench evaluation of land at The Ancient Raj, Knight Street, Sawbridgeworth, Hertfordshire CM21 9AX (NGR TL 48380 14856; Figs. 1 - 2). The evaluation was carried out in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning permission for the construction of four dwellings and associated landscaping / parking following the demolition of the restaurant and garages/stores (EHDC Planning Ref. 3/16/1507/FUL). It was required based on the advice of the Hertfordshire County Council Historic Environment Advisor (HCC HEA).

1.2 The evaluation represents the first stage of the condition. If remains are present HCC HEA may advise the LPA that further work is required to comply with the condition.

1.3 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with the requirements of Hertfordshire County Council Historic Environment Advisory Team (HCC HEAT), and a specification compiled by AS (dated 9<sup>th</sup> June 2012). It conformed to the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Evaluation* (2014), and the document *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2003).

1.4 The objectives of the evaluation were to determine the location, date, extent, character, condition significance and quality of any archaeological remains liable to be threatened by the proposed development.

### *Planning policy context*

1.5 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF 2012) states that those parts of the historic environment that have significance because of their historic, archaeological, architectural or artistic interest are heritage assets. The NPPF aims to deliver sustainable development by ensuring that policies and decisions that concern the historic environment recognise that heritage assets are a non-renewable resource, take account of the wider social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits of heritage conservation, and recognise that intelligently managed change may sometimes be necessary if heritage assets are to be maintained for the long term. The NPPF requires applications to describe the significance of any heritage asset, including its setting that may be affected in proportion to the asset's importance and the potential impact of the proposal.

1.6 The NPPF aims to conserve England's heritage assets in a manner appropriate to their significance, with substantial harm to designated heritage assets (i.e. listed buildings, scheduled monuments) only permitted in exceptional circumstances when the

public benefit of a proposal outweighs the conservation of the asset. The effect of proposals on non-designated heritage assets must be balanced against the scale of loss and significance of the asset, but non-designated heritage assets of demonstrably equivalent significance may be considered subject to the same policies as those that are designated. The NPPF states that opportunities to capture evidence from the historic environment, to record and advance the understanding of heritage assets and to make this publicly available is a requirement of development management. This opportunity should be taken in a manner proportionate to the significance of a heritage asset and to impact of the proposal, particularly where a heritage asset is to be lost.

## **2 DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE**

2.1 The site lies to the rear of the eastern side of Knight Street within the historic settlement core of Sawbridgeworth. It comprised until recently the Ancient Raj Indian Restaurant and outbuildings/parking area; accessed from a lane leading off Knight Street. To the west of the site is a car park and the rear of properties fronting Knight Street. The buildings had been recently demolished prior to the trial trench evaluation taking place.

## **3 TOPOGRAPHY, GEOLOGY AND SOILS**

3.1 Sawbridgeworth is situated on the western bank and valley slope of the River Stort, which flows to the immediate east of the town. The site is 480m to the west of the River Stort. It lies at approximately 66m AOD, with the surrounding relief sloping slightly down to the east and the river.

3.2 The solid geology of the area comprises Boulder Clay and drift geology of river gravels and alluvial deposits (BGS 2015). Soils of the area comprise those of the Melford Association, which comprises typical argillic brown earths of fairly deep deposits of well-drained loamy soil (SSEW 1983).

## **4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

### *Prehistoric*

4.1 The only known prehistoric findspot comprises a flint found close to the River Stort and along Sheering Mill Lane, 450m to the north-east (HER 2128). Within the wider Sawbridgeworth area the later prehistoric period is represented by a Neolithic causewayed enclosure located in Pishiobury Park, just south of the town and the possible site of a Neolithic burial mound or 'long barrow' located east of Mill Fields

and to the north of the town (Seddon & Bryant 1999). The significant Iron Age feature from the Sawbridgeworth area comprises Wallbury hill fort, which is a scheduled double banked and ditched earthwork enclosure located to the east of the River Stort.

### *Romano-British*

4.2 There is substantial evidence for Roman settlement within the Stort Valley, and Sawbridgeworth is located between the two small Roman towns of Bishop's Stortford and Harlow (Seddon & Bryant 1999). A Roman villa is known at Little Hallingbury to the east, and numerous Romano-British remains have been recovered from Pishiobury Park, just south of the town. However, no Roman remains have been found within the vicinity of the site.

### *Anglo-Saxon*

4.3 The place-name Sawbridgeworth has pre-Conquest origins and is judged to derive from the Old English '*Sabrixte worde*', meaning the '*farm of Sæbeorht*'; an Anglo-Saxon name (Gover *et al.* 1938, 194). The Saxon period is generally poorly represented in Hertfordshire, yet the archaeological evaluation at No. 21 Knight Street, 120m to north-west of the site, recorded a pair of ditches (HER 30858; Slater 2014). Both ditches may be Saxo-Norman in date, as sherds within them included a sherd of 5<sup>th</sup> - 9<sup>th</sup> century Saxon chaff-tempered ware, a sherd of 9<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup> century St Neots-type ware, and a sherd of early medieval sandy ware (11<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> century). A segment of one ditch was large enough to suggest that it might have been associated with a substantial ditch (HER 9882) found 60m to the south at Fawbert and Bernard Infants' School, which may relate to the lost manorial centre of Sayesbury.

### *Medieval*

4.4 The site lies within the historic settlement core of Sawbridgeworth and within an area identified on the EHDC Local Plan as an Area of Archaeological Significance No. 166. The Area encompasses the medieval and later settlement of Sawbridgeworth with a number of surviving later medieval and post-medieval buildings. The Grade I listed parish church of St Mary the Great and churchyard lie less than 100m to the east of the site (HER 1104). The church dates to the 13<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> centuries with 19<sup>th</sup> century restorations notably in 1856 – 59.

4.5 The manor of Sawbridgeworth is first mentioned in the Domesday Survey, when it had been granted to Geoffrey de Mandeville by William the Conqueror (Morris 1976). In 1222, a market at Sawbridgeworth was granted to Geoffrey de Say, marking the beginning of the prosperity of the town, which had developed along the London to Newmarket road. Monitoring of the site of an extension at



Fawbert and Barnard Infants' School to the immediate north of the site recorded a substantial ditch over 10m long, at least 5m wide and an estimated depth of 3m, which was orientated north-east to south-westwards (HER 9882). Documentary evidence indicates that this was the approximate position of Sayesbury, the medieval manor of Sawbridgeworth, which disappeared at an early date.

4.6 The site lies within the historic core of Sawbridgeworth, which is described as a small medieval and later market town with unusual plan (HER 17), with Knight Street to the west and Church Street to the south both known to comprise medieval roads (Seddon & Bryant 1999). Medieval burgages associated with Church Street lie within the southern section of the site, which therefore lay within the extent of the medieval town. A surviving burgage plot boundary has also been identified along the western boundary of the site's southern section, namely the boundary between what is now Nos. 2 and 5 Church Street (*ibid.*).

4.7 A number of extant medieval standing buildings are located within the vicinity of the site. No. 2 Church Street, which stands to the immediate south-west of the site, is a Grade II listed late medieval timber-framed hall house (HER 9538). Nos. 21 – 23 Bell Street are also Grade II listed and comprise a 15<sup>th</sup> century hall house, divided into two properties in the 19<sup>th</sup> century (HER 9537), whilst Fair Green House is a Grade II listed high-status timber-framed late 15<sup>th</sup> or early 16<sup>th</sup> century house with complex later development (HER 9653). A post hole in the garden behind Nos. 21 - 23 Bell Street also contained one sherd of 13<sup>th</sup> - 14<sup>th</sup> century Harlow ware pottery (HER 13144).

#### *Post-medieval and later*

4.8 The River Stort was canalised in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century and was an important route for the transportation of malted barley from Sawbridgeworth and Sheering to the malhouses in the capital (Seddon & Bryant 1999). The existing local malting industry became the principal industry of the town, and by the early 20<sup>th</sup> century malhouses mainly occupied the eastern part of Sawbridgeworth. A large number of post-medieval and later mills and maltings are recorded in the vicinity of the site (HERs 5391, 5807, 6274, 6275, 6276, 6277, 9417, 9418 & 18288), including early 19<sup>th</sup> century malhouses that once stood at Nos. 7 – 9 Church Street and to the immediate south-east of the site (HER 9423).

4.9 The area surrounding the site incorporates a large number of post-medieval and early modern buildings, many of which are Grade II listed. For example, along Knight Street to the west is The Market House at No. 42 Knight Street, which is a substantial 16<sup>th</sup> century timber-framed house on the corner with Bell Street, with attached malting (HER 9420). An early 19<sup>th</sup> century police station complex on Knight Street was largely demolished by 1898 and replaced by housing

in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century (HER 7163). To the south-east on Vantorts Road stands a 17<sup>th</sup> century poorhouse, used as a school in the 19<sup>th</sup> century and then a church house (HER 9414). In contrast, the modern period is poorly represented, with only the Fire Station at No. 5 Church Street, which was built in 1905 - 06, recorded in the immediate vicinity (HER 17937).

### *Cartographic evidence*

4.10 Medieval burgages associated with Church Street lie within the southern section of the site, and a surviving burgage plot boundary has also been identified along the western boundary of the site's southern section, namely the boundary between what is now Nos. 2 and 5 Church Street (Seddon & Bryant 1999). The site formed part of the grounds associated with the maltings at Nos. 7 - 9 Church Street, which dated to the early 19<sup>th</sup> century.

4.11 The 1<sup>st</sup> edition Ordnance Survey map, which dates to 1879 (Fig. 3), records the presence of malthouses to the immediate east of the site, and records the site as predominantly undeveloped. Three small structures, possibly cottages, stood within the northern section of the site, and appear represent dwellings sited to the rear of Knight Street.

4.12 The Ancient Raj Restaurant dated to the 20<sup>th</sup> century, probably the 1980s. The property was previously known as the *Country Garden Restaurant*, which is first documented in 1986 (East Herts Planning Portal). By 1996, the property was known as *Tandoori Knights*, and the restaurant is not listed as The Ancient Raj until as late as 2014.

## **5 METHODOLOGY**

5.1 HCC HEA required trial trenches to be excavated across the site. Four trenches were excavated, two each 10m x 1.8m (labelled Trenches 1 and 3), and two trenches were 5m x 1.8m (labelled Trenches 2 and 4 (Fig.3).

5.2 The surfacing, topsoil, subsoil and overburden were mechanically excavated under close archaeological supervision. Exposed surfaces were cleaned by hand and examined for archaeological features. Deposits were recorded using *pro forma* recording sheets, drawn to scale, and photographed as appropriate. Excavated spoil was searched for finds and the trenches were scanned by a metal detector.

## 6 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS

6.1 The individual trench description is presented below:

### Trench 1 Figs. 2 & 4 - 5

Sample section 1A 0.00 – 65.42m AOD		
0.00-0.58m	L1004	Made Ground. Friable, dark grey brown silty sand
0.58m+	L1001	Natural. Friable, mid orange brown silty sand with gravel

Sample section 1B 0.00 – 65.35m AOD		
0.00-0.38m	L1004	Made Ground
0.38m+	L1001	Natural. As above

*Description: Trench 1 contained Pits F1007, F1020, F1022, F1026 and F1029. A modern drain was present. The pits contained 18<sup>th</sup>, and 18<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> century pottery.*

Five pits were recorded and are tabulated below:-

F No.	Fill	Plan/ profile (dimensions)	Fill description	Relationship	Spot Dates
F1007	L1008	Sub-circular, moderately sloping sides, concave base (0.40+ x 0.33m x 0.12m).	Friable, dark grey brown silty sand	-	18 <sup>th</sup> – 19 <sup>th</sup> C pottery (3; 17g), CBM (91g)
F1020	L1021	Sub-circular. Steep sides, base unseen (1.76 x 0.51 x ?m)	Friable, dark grey brown silty sand	Cut by F1029 & F1026	18 <sup>th</sup> – 19 <sup>th</sup> C pottery (2; 295g)
F1022	L1025 (Upper)	Sub-circular. Steep sides concave base (1.78 x 0.60+ x 0.72m)	Friable, pale yellow brown silty sand	Cut by F1026	
-	L1024	-	Friable, dark grey brown silty sand	-	
	L1023 (Basal)		Friable, mid grey brown silty sand with moderate sub angular and rounded stones	-	
F1026	L1027	Sub-circular. Steep sides concave base (1.26 x 0.60+ x 0.63m)	Friable, mid grey brown silty sand with frequent sub angular and rounded stones	Cut by F1029 Cut F1020 & F1022	18 <sup>th</sup> C pottery (20; 334)
-	L1028	-	Friable, dark grey brown silty sand with frequent charcoal		
F1029	L1030	Sub-circular. Steep sides concave base (1.58 x 0.50+ x 0.55m)	Friable, mid grey brown silty sand with moderate sub angular stones	Cut F1026	18 <sup>th</sup> – 19 <sup>th</sup> C pottery (17; 188g)

**Trench 2** Figs. 2 & 4 - 5

Sample section 2A 0.00 – 64.58m AOD		
0.00-0.02m	L1003	Gravel
0.02-0.18m	L1002	Tarmac
0.18–0.45m	L1004	Made Ground. As above, Trench 1
0.45-0.68m	L1000	Subsoil. Friable, mid grey brown silty sand.
0.68m+	L1001	Natural. As above, Trench 1.

Sample section 2B 0.00 – 64.60m AOD		
0.00-0.02m	L1003	Gravel. As above
0.02-0.13m	L1002	Tarmac. As above
0.13-0.36m	L1004	Made Ground. As above, Trench 1
0.36-0.67m	L1000	Subsoil. As above
0.67m+	L1001	Natural. As above, Trench 1.

*Description: Trench 2 contained no archaeological features or finds. It was traversed by a plastic pipe*

**Trench 3** Figs. 2, 4 & 6

Sample section 3A 0.00 – 64.51m AOD		
0.00-0.32m	L1005	Demolition rubble
0.32– 0.58m	L1006	Demolition rubble
0.58-0.69m	L1017	Fill of Pit F1016
0.69m+	L1001	Natural. As above, Trench 1.

Sample section 3B 0.00 – 64.53m AOD		
0.00-0.33m	L1005	Demolition rubble
0.33-0.77m	L1006	Demolition rubble
0.77m+	L1001	Natural. As above, Trench 1.

*Description: Trench 3 contained Pit F1018 and Ditch F1016. A modern drain, F1010, also traversed the trench. Pit F1018 contained late post-medieval / early modern (late 18<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> century) CBM and a residual sherd of medieval (late 13<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> century) pottery. Ditch F1016 contained a sherd of 15<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> century pottery, a residual sherd of medieval (10<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> century) pottery and late post-medieval / early modern (late 18<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> century) CBM (1125g).*

Pit F1018 was sub-circular in plan (3.00+ x 0.70+ x 0.12m). It had moderately sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1019, was a friable, mid grey brown silty sand with moderate sub-angular and

rounded stones. It contained a residual sherd of medieval (late 13<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> century) pottery, CBM (1340g), animal bone (33g) and a clay pipe fragment (1; 3g). F1018 was cut by F1010, a modern drain.

Ditch F1016 was linear in plan (10.00+ x 0.71+m x 0.17m+), orientated N/S. It had moderately sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1017, was a friable, dark grey brown silty sand. It contained a sherd of 15<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> century pottery, a residual sherd of medieval (10<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> century) pottery, CBM (1125g), animal bone (187g) and oyster shell (14g). F1016 was cut by F1010, a modern drain.

#### **Trench 4** Figs. 2, 4 & 6

Sample section 4A 0.00 – 64.14m AOD		
0.00 - 0.02m	L1002	Tarmac
0.02 – 0.24m	L1004	Made Ground. As above, Trench 1
0.24 – 0.42m	L1000	Subsoil. As above, Trench 2
0.42m+	L1001	Natural. As above, Trench 1

Sample section 4B 0.00 – 64.12m AOD		
0.00 - 0.02m	L1002	Tarmac
0.02 – 0.26m	L1004	Made Ground. As above, Trench 1
0.26 - 0.38m	L1000	Subsoil. As above, Trench 2.
0.38m+	L1001	Natural. As above, Trench 1.

*Description: Trench 4 contained Ditch F1012 and Pit F1014. Each feature contained sparse (1 – 2 sherds) of residual medieval (late 12<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> century) pottery. Ditch F1012 was cut by Pit F1014 and it contained modern glass.*

Pit F1014 was sub-circular in plan (1.10 x 1.00+ x 0.35m). It had moderately sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1015, was a friable, mid grey brown silty sand with occasional stones. It contained a residual sherd medieval (late 12<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> century) pottery (1; 22g) and animal bone (36g). F1014 cut Ditch F1012.

Ditch F1012 was linear in plan (2.20 x 1.51 x 0.62m), orientated E/W. It had moderately sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1013, was a friable, mid reddish brown silty sand with occasional stones. It contained two sherds of residual medieval (late 12<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> century) pottery (2; 33g), animal bone (305g) and oyster shell (15g) and glass (9g). F1012 was cut by Pit F1014.

## 7 CONFIDENCE RATING

7.1 It is not felt that any factors inhibited the recognition of archaeological features or finds.

## 8 DEPOSIT MODEL

8.1 Uppermost were made ground deposits (L1004 (Trench 1); L1002 – L1004 (Trenches 2 and 4); and L1005 – L1006 (Trench 3). These deposits were 0.38 – 0.77m thick). In Trench 2 Subsoil L1000 was preserved and it comprised a friable, mid grey brown silty sand (0.23m thick). Below the made ground deposits and Subsoil L1000 was the natural, L1001, a friable, mid orange brown silty sand with gravel. The latter was 0.38 - 0.77m below the present day ground surface.

## 9 DISCUSSION

9.1 The recorded features are tabulated:

Trench	Context	Description	Spot Date
1	F1007	Pit	18 <sup>th</sup> – 19 <sup>th</sup> C
	F1020	Pit	18 <sup>th</sup> – 19 <sup>th</sup> C
	F1022	Pit	-
	F1026	Pit	18 <sup>th</sup> C
	F1029	Pit	18 <sup>th</sup> – 19 <sup>th</sup> C
3	F1010	Drain	Modern
	F1016	Ditch	Late 18 <sup>th</sup> – 19 <sup>th</sup> C CBM Residual medieval (late 10 <sup>th</sup> – 12 <sup>th</sup> C) pottery sherd and residual 15 <sup>th</sup> – 16 <sup>th</sup> C pottery sherd
	F1018	Pit	Late 18 <sup>th</sup> – 19 <sup>th</sup> C CBM Residual medieval (late 13 <sup>th</sup> – 14 <sup>th</sup> C) pottery sherd
4	F1012	Ditch	Modern. Residual medieval (late 12 <sup>th</sup> – 14 <sup>th</sup> C) pottery sherd
	F1014	Pit	Modern. Residual medieval (late 12 <sup>th</sup> – 14 <sup>th</sup> C) pottery sherd

9.2 The evaluation revealed archaeological features in three trenches (Trenches 1, 3 and 4) but not the smaller trench towards the back of the site (Trench 2). The features were principally discrettes (pits) and included some linears (ditches).

9.3 The majority (six) of the features were of 18<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> century date. Four features: Ditch F1016 and Pit F1018 (Trench 3), and Ditch F1012 and Pit F1014 (Trench 4), each contained one or two sherds of residual medieval (10<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>, and 12<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> century) and late medieval (15<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> century) pottery. Two features: Pits F1026 and

F1029 (both Trench 1) contained late 16<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, and late 17<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> century pottery sherds (Pottery Report Appendix 2).

9.4 Pit F1014 cut Ditch F1012. The latter contained glass derived from a modern shrimp paste pot, and therefore the medieval sherds contained in these features is interpreted as being residual.

9.5 The site lies within an area identified on the EHDC Local Plan as an Area of Archaeological Significance 166. The Area encompasses the medieval and later settlement core of Sawbridgeworth. There are a number of surviving later medieval and post-medieval buildings in Sawbridgeworth. The parish church and churchyard lie less than 100m to the east, and the church has Saxon origins (Hertfordshire Historic Environment Record HER 1104). Investigations in 1999 at the Faubert and Barnard school to the immediate north revealed a sizeable ditch of likely medieval date which may be the medieval manorial boundary of Sayesbury Manor (HER 9882). Furthermore recent investigations at 21 Knight Street to the north of the site revealed post-medieval, and possible Saxon and medieval, features. Investigations at 28 Knight Street revealed later post-medieval activity.

9.6 The 1879 OS map depicts the site as being part of a pair of maltings on 7-9 Church Street, and the map shows small buildings at the northern end of the site (Fig.3). Little further development is known until the current restaurant and outbuildings were constructed in the 1980s. The evaluation accords with this evidence as it recorded pits and two ditches but no building remains.

9.7 Sawbridgeworth seems to have been a planned settlement of the early 13<sup>th</sup> century, developing in the medieval and post-medieval periods. The site would have formed part of a medieval burgage plot on Knight Street. The sparse sherds of medieval pottery found during the evaluation are reflective of the early history of the site.

## **DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE**

Archive records, with an inventory, will be deposited with Bishop's Stortford Museum. The archive will be quantified, ordered, indexed, cross referenced and checked for internal consistency.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Archaeological Solutions would like to thank Eden Rock Construction for funding the archaeological trial trench evaluation, in particular Mr Daniel Bowler for assistance.



AS is also pleased to acknowledge the staff of the Hertfordshire Historic Environment Record, in particular Dr. Isobel Thompson. AS would also like to thank the staff of the Hertfordshire Archives and Local Studies (HALS), based in County Hall, Hertford.

AS would like to acknowledge the input and advice of Ms Alison Tinniswood, HCC Historic Environment Advisor.

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**Websites**

<https://publicaccess.eastherts.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do>

**APPENDIX 1      CONCORDANCE OF FINDS**

Feature	Context	Segment	Trench	Description	Spot Date (Pot Only)	Pot Qty	Pottery (g)	CBM (g)	A.Bone (g)	Other Material	Other Qty	Other (g)
1007	1008		1	Fill of Pit	18th-19th C	3	17	91				
1010	1011		3	Fill of Modern Drain	18th-19th C	2	66	1455	6			
1012	1013			Fill of Ditch	10 <sup>th</sup> – 12 <sup>th</sup> C Late 12th-14th (residual)	1	1		305	Oyster Shell	4	15
						1	30					Glass
1014	1015		4	Fill of Pit	late 12th-14th	1	22		36			
1016	1017	A B	3	Fill of Ditch	10th-12th	1	5	955	187	Oyster Shell	1	12
					15th-16th	1	50	170	2	Oyster Shell		2
1018	1019		3	Fill of Pit	Late 13th-14th (residual)	1	9	1340	33	Clay Pipe	1	3
1020	1021		1	Fill of pit	18th-19th C	2	295		24	Oyster Shell	1	7
1026	1027		1	Fill of Pit	18th C	20	334	549	225	Clay Pipe	2	23
										Oyster Shell	5	14
										Glass		28
										Fe.Frag	2	162
1029	1030		1	Fill of Pit	18th-19th C	17	188	1945	1510	Glass		247
										Clay Pipe	6	26
										Slate	1	5
										Fe.Frags	6	155
										Oyster Shell	3	12
1031	1032		1	Fill of Modern Structure	Mid 19th-Mid 20th C	3	70					

## **APPENDIX 2      SPECIALIST REPORTS**

### **The Pottery**

*Peter Thompson*

The archaeological trial trenching recovered 51 sherds weighing 1.053 kg from ten features. The pottery is multi-period ranging from medieval, post-medieval to modern. However, the medieval pottery is residual (Table 1).

### **Methodology**

The sherds were examined under x35 binocular microscope and recorded according to the Medieval Pottery Research Group Guidelines (Slowikowski et al 2001). Fabric codes are those used for the Essex County Council pottery type series, which are appropriate for Hertfordshire.

### **The Pottery**

The medieval pottery consist of two sherds of St Neots ware which is relatively uncommon this far south, but is present at sites including Hertford, Great Amwell and Stansted Airport, and four sherds of Harlow ware with orange surfaces and sandy fabrics with flecks of chalk. Pit F1014 (L1015) contained a jar rim in medieval Harlow ware which dates the feature to the late 12<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> centuries. Ditch F1016 (L1017 B) contained a base sherd of late medieval Harlow ware of 15<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> century date. Segment L1017A contained a residual sherd of St Neots ware.

The remainder of the features were of later date, 18<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, but some included pottery of 17<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> centuries date including Metropolitan Slipware, Tin Glazed Earthenware, post-medieval black glazed earthenware and Staffordshire marbled slipware.

### **KEY:**

STNE (10): St Neots ware late 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>  
HARL (21D): Medieval Harlow ware late 12<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> /16<sup>th</sup>  
PMRE (40): Post-medieval red earthenware 16<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup>  
GRE (40): Glazed red earthenware mid 16<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup>  
PMBL (40B): Post-medieval black glazed ware late 16<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup>  
METS (40A): Metropolitan Slipware 17<sup>th</sup> century  
STMBL (50A): Staffordshire marbled slipware late 17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup>  
TGW (46): Tin Glazed Earthenware late 16<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup>  
SWSG (47): Staffordshire type white salt glazed stoneware 18<sup>th</sup>  
ENPO (48B): English Porcelain mid 18<sup>th</sup>+  
RWE (48D): Refined white earthenware  
TPW (48D): Transfer Printed Ware late 18<sup>th</sup>+

Feature	Context	Quantity	Date	Comment
Pit 1007	1008	1x13g PMBL 1x5g PMRE 1x1g SWSG	18 <sup>th</sup> -19 <sup>th</sup>	PMBL: strap/rod handle
Drain 1010	1011	2x 63g GRE	18 <sup>th</sup> -19 <sup>th</sup>	GRE: MNV 2 x1 undercut jar rim
Ditch 1012	1013	1x1g STNE 1x30g HARL	Late 12 <sup>th</sup> -14 <sup>th</sup> (residual)	HARL: everted, internally thickened wheel-made jar rim approx 28-9 cm diameter
Pit 1014	1015	1x22g HARL	Late 12 <sup>th</sup> -14 <sup>th</sup>	HARL: wheel-made jar rim, flat top with slight external bevel, approx 26cm diam.
Ditch 1016	1017 A	1x5g STNE	10 <sup>th</sup> -12 <sup>th</sup>	STNE: body sherd with internal charcoal residue
	1017 B	1x50g HAR	15 <sup>th</sup> -16 <sup>th</sup>	HARL: wheel made rounded base, well fired, late medieval or early post-medieval
Pit 1918	1019	1x8g HARL	Late 13 <sup>th</sup> -14 <sup>th</sup> (residual)	HARL: cooking pot body sherd with sooting on external surface
Pit 1020	1021	1x286g GRE	18 <sup>th</sup> -19 <sup>th</sup>	GRE: large fragment of pancheon or deep dish rim of 42cm diameter with internal clear and green glaze
Pit 1026	1027	3x127g GRE  2x38g METS 2x4g SWSG 3x38g PMBL 5x65g STMBL  5x51g TGW	18 <sup>th</sup>	GRE: MNV 3; x2 bowl rims METS: MNV 2 SWSG: MNV: x1 cup or fine dish rim PMBL: MNV 1; x1 mug rim, x1 small rod handle STMBL: MNV 2; x1 jug/handled jar base and strap handle. X1 plate/dish TGW: MNV 3; x2 plates, x1 bowl
Pit 1029	1030	6x85g GRE 6x37g PMBL 1x8g STMBL 2x44g TGW 1x4g TPW	18 <sup>th</sup> -19 <sup>th</sup>	GRE: MNV2 x1 jar rim; x1 dish/bowl rim PMBL: MNV 2; x1 jar rim; x1 strap handle to mug/jug TGW: MNV 2; x1 plate
Structure 1031	1032	1x20g ENPO 2x48g RWE	Mid 19 <sup>th</sup> -mid 20 <sup>th</sup>	ENPO: cup or mug with TPW picture including a church steeple RWE: cup with hand painted red flowers

Table 1: Quantification of pottery by context

## Bibliography

Cotter, J. P., 2000 Colchester Archaeological Report 7: Post-Roman pottery from excavations in Colchester, 1971-85 *English Heritage*

Davey, W., and Walker, H. 2009 The Harlow Pottery Industries *Medieval Pottery Research Group Occasional Paper 3*

Slowikowski, A., Nenck, B. and Pearce, J. 2001 *Minimum Standards for the Processing, Recording, Analysis and Publication of Post-Roman Ceramics*, Medieval Pottery Research Group Occasional Paper 2

## The Ceramic Building Materials

*Andrew Peachey*

The evaluation recovered a total of 122 fragments (6505g) of late 18<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> century CBM, entirely comprised of highly fragmented peg tile and soft red brick (Table 2). The CBM was contained in four pits, a ditch and a modern drain; and likely represents rubble cleared from previously demolished structures and/or deliberately backfilled packing material.

The fragments were recorded by fragment count and weight per context, with all data entered into a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet that will form part of the site archive.

CBM type	Date	Fragment Count	Weight (g)
Peg tile	Late 18 <sup>th</sup> century (late post-medieval) to 19 <sup>th</sup> century (Victorian)	116	4529
Soft red brick		6	1976
<i>Total</i>		<i>122</i>	<i>6505</i>

Table 2: Quantification of CBM

The CBM comprises peg tile and soft red bricks that were produced in increasing quantities, using increasingly industrial methods through the late 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, most likely in the latter half of this period. Both CBM types exhibit 'typical' sizes and proportions, where extant, and were manufactured in a well-fired red-orange fabric with inclusions of common well-sorted quartz (<0.5mm), sparse red ironstone and iron rich grains (<3mm) and occasional flint (2-10mm). The peg tile was 12mm thick with a sanded base, and neatly formed with lengthways striations on the upper surface. The soft red brick was 65mm thick with a smooth base, fairly regular daces and slightly rounded to sharp arrises. Small groups of brick and tile were contained in Pits F1018, F1029, Ditch F1016 and Modern Drain F1010 but none exceeded 2kg in weight, while sparse fragment were contained in Pits F1007 and F1026, with the entire assemblage best regarded as relatively insignificant rubble.

## The Animal Bone

*Dr Julia E M Cussans*

A small animal bone assemblage was recovered during the trial trench evaluation. The bones were largely derived from ditch and pit fills (Table 1) and bone preservation was rated from poor through to good on a five point scale from very poor through to excellent; the majority of contexts were rated as having ok preservation. Low levels of bone abrasion and fresh breakages were present throughout the assemblage; bone gnawing was noted in approximately half of the contexts.

Approximately two third of the assemblage was made up of bones that could only be identified as large (cattle or horse sized) or medium (sheep or pig sized) mammal. Identified taxa in order of abundance were sheep/goat, cattle, pig, dog and chicken. Both cattle and sheep/goat were represented by a mix of elements, including some butchered elements with both chops and cuts

present. One of the sheep/goat bones was a sheep horn core that had been chopped through at the base; no elements were positively identified as goat. Very little ageable material was present. A cattle mandible fragment contained a fragment of third molar (L1027), but this had broken off above the root so that its state of eruption and wear was impossible to judge. A sheep/ goat metapodial (L1013) was unfused at the distal end, indicating an animal that was not fully mature. Pig was represented by a single tooth and dog by a fragment of fibula; the chicken bone was a humerus none of these bones showed signs of butchery. None of the bones showed any sign of pathological modification. There was nothing else of note about this small assemblage.

p

## **The Environmental Samples**

*Dr John Summers*

### *Introduction*

During trial excavations at Knight Street, Sawbridgeworth, three bulk soil samples for environmental archaeological assessment were taken and processed from three deposits of post-medieval origin. The following report presents a brief description of the remains present in the bulk sample light fractions.

### *Methods*

Samples were processed at the Archaeological Solutions Ltd facilities in Bury St. Edmunds using standard flotation methods. The light fractions were washed onto a mesh of 500µm (microns), while the heavy fractions were sieved to 1mm. The dried light fractions were scanned under a low power stereomicroscope (x10-x30 magnification). Botanical and molluscan remains were identified and recorded using a semi-quantitative scale (X = present; XX = common; XXX = abundant). Reference literature (Cappers *et al.* 2006; Jacomet 2006) and a reference collection of modern seeds was consulted where necessary. Potential contaminants, such as modern roots, seeds and invertebrate fauna were also recorded in order to gain an insight into possible disturbance of the deposits.

### *Results*

The assessment data from the bulk sample light fractions are presented in Table 3. Sample 1 of Ditch Fill L1013 (F1012) was the richest of the samples, containing numerous grains of free-threshing type wheat (*Triticum aestivum/turgidum* type), along with hulled barley (*Hordeum* sp.) and oat (*Avena* sp.). Also present were a small number of buttercup seeds (*Ranunculus acris/bulbosus*). Pit Fill L1027 (F1026) also contained cereal grains, in the form of barley, but in much lower density. A mixed assemblage of charcoal, including oak (*Quercus* sp.), and non-oak diffuse and ring porous types was also

recorded across all samples. These remains are likely to represent debris from domestic and agricultural activity on the site during the post-medieval period.

### *References*

Cappers, R.T.J., Bekker R.M. and Jans J.E.A. 2006, *Digital Seed Atlas of the Netherlands. Groningen Archaeological Studies Volume 4*, Barkhuis Publishing, Eelde

Jacomet, S. 2006, *Identification of Cereal Remains from Archaeological Sites* (2<sup>nd</sup> edn), Laboratory of Palinology and Palaeoecology, Basel University

Site code	Sample number	Context	Feature	Description	Spot date	Volume taken (litres)	Volume processed (litres)	% processed	Cereals			Non-cereal taxa		Hazelnut shell	Charcoal		Molluscs		Contaminants					Other remains	
									Cereal grains	Cereal chaff	Notes	Seeds	Notes		Charcoal>2mm	Notes	Molluscs	Notes	Roots	Molluscs	Modern seeds	Insects	Earthworm capsules		
AS1900	1	1013	1012	Fill of Ditch	Late 12th-14th C (residual)	20	10	50%	XXX	-	FTW (XX), HB (X), Oat (X)	X	<i>Ranunculus acris/ bulbosus</i> (X)	-	XX	Diffuse porous, Ring porous, <i>Quercus</i> sp.	-	-	X	-	X	-	-	-	-
AS1900	2	1030	1029	Fill of Pit	18th-19th C	20	10	50%	-	-	-	-	-	-	XX	Diffuse porous	-	-	XX	-	X	-	-	-	Indet carbonised organic (XX), Small mammal bone (X)
AS1900	3	1027	1026	Fill of Pit	18th C	10	10	100%	XXX	-	Hord (X), NFI (X)	-	-	-	XX	Diffuse porous, Ring porous	-	-	XXX	-	X	-	-	-	Indet carbonised organic (XX)

Table 3: Results from the assessment of bulk sample light fractions from Knights Road, Sawbridgeworth. Abbreviations: HB = hulled barley (*Hordeum* sp.); Hord = barley (*Hordeum* sp.); FTW = free-threshing type wheat (*Triticum aestivum/ turgidum*); Oat (*Avena* sp.); NFI = not formally identified (indeterminate cereal grain).



### APPENDIX 3      CONTENTS OF THE ARCHIVE

<b>Records</b>	<b>Number</b>
Brief	N
Specification	Y
Registers	Context, Photo, Digital Photo, Drawing
Context Sheets	33
ite drawings A1	-
Site drawings A3	4
Site drawings A4	-
Site photographs b/w	-
Site photographs colour slides	-
Digital Photographs	15

**APPENDIX 4 HER SUMMARY SHEET**

<b>Site name and address:</b>	<i>The Ancient Raj, Knight Street, Sawbridgeworth, Hertfordshire CM21 9AX</i>
<b>County:</b> Herts	<b>District:</b> <i>East Herts</i>
<b>Village/Town:</b> Hertford	<b>Parish:</b> <i>Sawbridgeworth</i>
<b>Planning application reference:</b>	<i>EHDC Ref. 3/16/1507/FUL</i>
<b>Client name/address/tel:</b>	
<b>Nature of application:</b>	<i>Residential</i>
<b>Present land use:</b>	<i>Restaurant</i>
<b>Size of application area:</b> c.m2	<b>Size of area investigated</b>
<b>NGR (8 figures):</b>	<i>TL 48380 14856</i>
<b>Site Code:</b>	<i>AS 1900</i>
<b>Sitedirector/Organization</b>	<i>Archaeological Solutions Ltd</i>
<b>Type of work:</b>	<i>Trial trench evaluation</i>
<b>Date of work:</b>	<i>5 – 7 September 2017</i>
<b>Location of finds/Curating museum:</b>	<i>Bishop's Stortford</i>
<b>Related HER Nos:</b>	<b>Periods represented:</b> <i>Medieval, post-medieval, modern</i>
<b>Relevant previous summaries/reports: -</b>	-
<b>Summary of fieldwork results:</b>	<p><i>The evaluation revealed archaeological features in three trenches (Trenches 1, 3 and 4) but not the smaller trench towards the back of the site (Trench 2). The features were principally discrettes (pits) and included some linears (ditches).</i></p> <p><i>The majority (six) of the features were of 18<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> century date. Four features: Ditch F1016 and Pit F1018 (Trench 3), and Ditch F1012 and Pit F1014 (Trench 4), each contained one or two sherds of residual medieval (10<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>, and 12<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> century) and late medieval (15<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> century) pottery. Two features: Pits F1026 and F1029 (both Trench 1) contained late 16<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, and late 17<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> century pottery sherds.</i></p>
<b>Author of summary:</b> Katie Lee-Smith	<b>Date of Summary:</b> <i>September 2017</i>