Post-Medieval Buildings Associated with the Crown and Dolphin Inn at the rear of 4 Kneesworth Street, Royston, Hertfordshire

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Post-Medieval Buildings Associated with the Crown and Dolphin Inn at the rear of 4 Kneesworth Street, Royston, Hertfordshire

Historic Building Survey

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**Summary**

Oxford Archaeology East (formally CAM ARC) was commissioned by Gerard Design Associates to undertake the archaeological building recording of two structures in the historic town of Royston, Hertfordshire. The work took place in July 2008 and was carried out in accordance with a Brief issued by Andy Instone of Hertfordshire County Council Historic Environment Unit and a Specification prepared by CAM ARC (Gane 2008).

This was the second phase of work to be undertaken on the two structures following the removal of all modern internal panelling, flooring and sub-division. This phase of work together with more documentary research has enabled a reassessment of the original report (Muldowney 2007) and new interpretation of the buildings dates, development and construction.

The two timber-framed and weather-boarded barns (Structures A and B) which were under investigation appear to be associated with the Crown and Dolphin Inn which faced onto Kneesworth Street and was first referenced in 1537. The Inn is known to have run a coach and wagon service to London in 1750 and evidence recorded within Structure B in particular indicates use as a coaching stable/barn. Stylistically, both buildings date to c16th to 17th century, although both have undergone structural alteration, in the 19th and 20th centuries in particular.

Structure A retains elements of its original construction and 19th century cartographic sources suggest it was originally longer. It is difficult to determine its original function, although it is likely that it was once another auxiliary to the Crown and Dolphin Inn. Despite alteration and conversion into retail premises, Structure B retains much of its original fabric, and the timber-frame provides clues regarding its development and use.

By the 20th century Structure B had become a garage and later, with Structure A, the location of a retail business.

Both buildings suggest evidence of re-use of material possibly from earlier buildings on or near to the site, such as the Palace of King James I which occupied most of this area of the town in the early 17th century.

The brief also required an archaeological watching brief to take place during subsequent groundworks on the site. Seven test pits were excavated under archaeological supervision and fully recorded which in most cases revealed brick and rubble foundations. A well containing post-medieval pottery in the top appeared as a void in the courtyard area, was also investigated. This well did not appear on the earliest Ordnance Survey map (1898) and may therefore be much earlier in date, possibly providing a water supply to the inn and outbuildings.
1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Scope of work

1.1.1 An historic building recording survey and archaeological watching brief were conducted at the rear of 4 Kneesworth Street in Royston, Hertfordshire.

1.1.2 The work was undertaken in accordance with a Brief issued by Andy Instone, the Development Control Archaeologist for Hertfordshire Local Planning Authority, (Planning Application 07/03029), supplemented by a Specification prepared by OA East (formerly Cambridgeshire County Council's CAM ARC).

1.1.3 The work was designed to assist in defining the character and extent of any archaeological remains within the proposed redevelopment area, in accordance with the guidelines set out in Planning and Policy Guidance 16 - Archaeology and Planning (Department of the Environment 1990). The results will enable decisions to be made by Hertfordshire LPA, with regard to the treatment of any buildings and archaeological remains found.

The specific aims outlined in the brief were:

- To record the existing buildings – and any additional recording/research necessary to place the findings in the context of the building as a whole
- To carry out archaeological monitoring of the development, with the recording of any significant archaeology thereby revealed

1.1.4 The site archive is currently held by OA East and will be deposited with Royston Museum in due course.

1.2 Location and topography

1.2.1 Royston is located at the northern limit of the county of Hertfordshire, bordering with the county of Cambridgeshire. It lies approximately 21 miles north of Hertford and 14 miles south-west of Cambridge (Figure 1).

1.2.2 The development area is located near the centre of Royston at the southern end of Kneesworth Street and the corner of Melbourn Street, centred at grid reference TL 3561 4075. Within the development area stand Structure A and Structure B, the subjects of this building recording programme (Figure 1).

1.2.3 Royston lies on relatively high ground north-east of Therfield Heath. At this point, the land begins to rise more sharply from the lower-lying land in Cambridgeshire and becomes (to the south) a landscape of rolling chalk downland, given over to a mixture of arable and pastoral farmland. The development site lies on flat ground, at a height of approximately 62m OD.
1.3 Archaeological and historical background

1.3.1 The historical background has been discussed in detail in a Desk-Based Assessment (Muldowney 2007) taken mostly from the Royston Extensive Urban Survey Project Assessment Report (Smith and Ransom 2001) and is therefore only summarised here. Where relevant, new information has been added resulting from the search of other sources more relevant to the site.

- **General Historical Background**

1.3.2 Evidence for the prehistoric to Roman period in and around Royston is minimal. A small number of prehistoric barrows and burials have been identified on Therfield Heath and near the outskirts of the post-medieval town and Roman occupation evidence has been identified in Briary Lane (Herts HER 1489).

1.3.3 The Anglo-Saxon period is also under-represented, although many burials have been found in earlier (prehistoric) barrows. Any settlement of this period is likely to have been limited to a small hamlet.

1.3.4 Royston is not mentioned in the Domesday Book (1086); the earliest documentary reference dates to 1184 and is connected to the establishment of an Augustinian priory (Herts HER4200). The name itself is thought to have derived from Dame Roise, a lady who is believed to have erected a stone cross at the crossroads of Kneesworth Street and Melbourn Street. From this, the settlement became known as Royes or Roeyes and by the late 13th century it was being referred to as Royston.

1.3.5 A market soon developed around the priory and other churches that had subsequently been constructed in the area, and led to Royston becoming well known as a trading town. The main focus of the market appears to have lain just south of the development area, around the High Street and Upper King Street. These streets, with the lower end of Kneesworth Street and Lower King Street are thought to have been the focus of the medieval market place.

1.3.6 The development of Royston may also have benefited from patronage by King James I, who is credited with the creation of a royal palace. He began work in 1604 converting the Cock and Greyhound inns into a house. The venture was short-lived, however, as by the time of the death of his son, (Charles I in 1649) the palace was already in a state of disrepair. The Palace and its grounds are thought to cover approximately 2.4ha area over part of Kneesworth Street and Lower King Street (Figure 2).

1.3.7 Royston may also have had connections to the Knights Templar. A cave (Herts HER 30) was found by workmen in the late 18th century underneath the old butter market (Herts HER 11297) on Melbourn Street, which was found to contain carvings thought to date to the 13th-or 14th-century. Although there are connections to the Knights Templar and Royston, a direct link between them and the cave is unsubstantiated.
1.3.8 During the post-medieval period the town expanded and a number of industries were established. These included breweries (for example SMR 5447), a brass and iron foundry (SMR 11274), a steam mill (SMR 5802) and numerous maltings (for example SMR 5388; 11322). Many of these may have been established here due to the presence of Ermine Street, still a major transport route to and from London.

Site Background

1.3.9 Very little is known about the buildings on the development site. No direct references were found during the research period with the exception of the historic map evidence (see section 1.4, below). It is interesting to note that Structure B has been identified as a building of local interest in a document produced by North Hertfordshire District Council (2007). It is described thus:

“This building is timber-framed and weatherboarded and visually forms a pair with Katherine’s Barn (a curtilage-listed, timber-framed outbuilding with rendered panels and considered to have once formed part of the palace complex). Both have plain clay tile roofs.”

Following this statement is a ‘Reason for Inclusion’ section, which sets out briefly why the buildings should be included in the register:

“The building is a good example of a timber-framed outbuilding within the town. Both buildings are an important part of the layout and industrial history of the town as well as having possible historic connections with the palace.”

1.3.10 The inclusion of this building on the Local Register is interesting, as it implies that it may be a more significant building than previously thought. It is hoped that this investigation can go some way to proving that is the case.

1.3.11 Numerous buildings surround the development area and most of these are historic buildings. Numbers 4, 6 and 8, Melbourn Street and No. 2, Kneesworth Street are all Grade II Listed. Three former inns lying to the south of the development area along Melbourn Street date to 16th century and another, slightly to the north, is of unknown date. The Coach and Horses Inn, on the island between Kneesworth Street and Lower King Street, is first mentioned in 1760. It is likely therefore that any buildings within the plots or curtilages of these buildings will be of the same date or later, and consequently the subject buildings could potentially date from as early as the 16th century.

1.3.12 The buildings studied are in a plot located behind numbers 2-4 Kneesworth Street. In a listed buildings description numbers 2 and 3 are described together and the entry is as follows:

“Late C16 or early C17 house with altered front. Identified as pantry of neighbouring house in Melbourn Street occupied during the reign of James I by Prince Charles. Modern shops with cornices. Cement rendered 1st floor. Old tiled roof with modillioned wood cornice. 2 storeys, 2 flash casement windows. Timber frame exposed inside”
1.3.13 The Royston Extensive Urban Survey (Smith and Ransom 2001, Figure 3) shows possible medieval burgage plot boundaries within the probable medieval extent of Royston. One of these boundary lines lies along the east side of the development area to the right of Structure A and through Structure B, between the barn and the single-storey section. This would suggest that originally, Structure A stood in the curtilage of one of the properties fronting onto either Kneesworth Street or Melbourn Street, and that Structure B stood in the adjoining plot, parallel with Katherine’s Barn.

1.4 Documentary and Cartographic Research

1.4.1 Prior to the commencement of archaeological building recording work, documentary research was undertaken at HCC HER (Hertfordshire County Council Historic Environment Record), HALS (Hertfordshire Archives and Local Studies), Royston Library and Cambridgeshire Archives. The HER was consulted to identify any places of archaeological activity, whilst HALS, Royston Library and Cambridgeshire Archives was used to examine cartographic data, primary and secondary sources and any other historic building information not held in the HER.

1.4.2 Sources such as Salmon’s History of Hertfordshire (1728), Cussans’ volume of the same title (1972) and the VCH (1971) were also consulted. These however, deal with a general history of the town and contained no direct references to the development area.

1725 Map of the Common Field

1.4.3 The earliest primary source available for consultation was a map dated 1725 (Figure 4). This map was entitled “A Map of the Common field on the north of Therfield in Hertfordshire belonging to the Reverend, the Dean and Chapter of St Paul’s as it lay A Dom. MDCCXXV”. Despite the lack of street names, it is possible to orientate the map by comparing with the 1st Edition Ordnance Survey map and referencing the location of the church, surviving medieval burgage plots and an orchard. From this, an approximate location of the study area can be located, this has been outlined on Figure 4).

1.4.4 Although there is a building clearly shown in the location of the study area, this map cannot be relied upon to provide an accurate representation of the size, layout or form of any buildings.

1.4.5 The purpose of the map was to plot the Common fields in the area, not to survey or plot buildings. What it does show however is that there were buildings in this location in 1725 and that the crossroads area of Kneesworth Street/High Street and Baldock Street/Royston Street was as busy and populated as it is today. This junction of two roads, one major road providing a route into London would have been populated with inns, stables and shops.
1.4.6 The 1851 Tithe Map of Royston (Figure 5) was of very little assistance with understanding the history and development of the buildings within the study area.

1.4.7 A tithe map was drawn up for almost all Hertfordshire parishes in the 19th century. This was necessary because the Tithe Commutation Act of 1836 asked that payments of tithe should be replaced by a money payment. Tithe was a tax, which was paid to the local church. The aim was to show the boundaries of all areas for which tithe was owed, usually fields. The amount of other information given varies from map to map. If something does not appear on a map, it does not mean that it did not exist.

1.4.8 The very nature of these maps means that the accurate plotting of land and acreage was more important than the recording of the location or size of buildings associated with the plots. As such, this map provides no useful information about the study area or the buildings of Royston at all. However it is important to consult and check all available sources.

1.4.9 The next available map was the 1898, 1st Edition Ordnance Survey Map (Figure 6). This map shows that Structure A was a very different shape in plan than exists today. It appears to have extended further to the north, creating an “L” shape plan and there was an additional square shaped extension or lean to on the southern side.

1.4.10 Structure B had the same layout as today (without the lean-to shelter at the front). An additional rectangular building or lean-to is present at the southern end of this structure, its function is unknown from the map and there is no surviving evidence of it today.

1.4.11 This map shows that the site boundaries are broadly similar to those on current maps although it does not provide any indication of entrance ways or function of the buildings studied. However, what the map does indicate is the presence of a public house (indicated by P.H) which may be the function of one of the buildings fronting onto Kneesworth Street, although it is difficult to tell of it is one of those directly associated with the building under investigation. However research indicates that the Crown and Dolphin Inn was still trading at this time.

1.4.12 The development area appears to have been accessible from Kneesworth Street only via a covered passage as is the current access. This was presumably intended to allow access for pedestrians, coaches and other vehicles, some of which may have been associated with the Public House. It appears from this map that both buildings are situated on the same plot of land.
2 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims

The specific aims outlined in the brief were:

- To record the existing buildings – and any additional recording/research necessary to place the findings in the context of the building as a whole
- To carry out archaeological monitoring of the development, with the recording of any significant archaeology thereby revealed

2.1.1 The work was designed to assist in defining the character and extent of any archaeological remains within the proposed redevelopment area, in accordance with the guidelines set out in Planning and Policy Guidance 16 - Archaeology and Planning (Department of the Environment 1990). The results will enable decisions to be made by Hertfordshire LPA, with regard to the treatment of any buildings and archaeological remains found.

2.1.2 The aim of this investigation was to carry out a historic building survey to English Heritage Level 3 (English Heritage 2006).

2.1.3 This work was a follow-up to the previous survey carried out in 2006 (Muldowney 2007) following further alterations to the building which exposed new information and evidence about its structure.

2.2 Site Conditions

2.2.1 Conditions within the development area were generally good, allowing measured and photographic survey to take place.

2.2.2 Both structures were vacant at the time of recording. Since the original survey took place (Muldowney 2007) both structures had been radically altered and stripped back to reveal the timber construction and evidence of repair and alteration. Sub-divisions and partitioning walls in Structure B had all been removed.

2.2.3 Access to all parts of both structures was possible, including the roof spaces.

2.2.4 The roof spaces of both buildings were occupied by nesting pigeons. Although this did not hamper the survey in any way, the droppings may ultimately cause some damage to the timbers if left untreated.

2.3 Methodology

- Building Survey

2.3.1 The measured survey was carried out using basic equipment including: a distometer, tower tape, 30m tapes, hand tapes, a 30cm ruler and a plumb line.
2.3.2 Photographic survey (at Level 3) was carried out by a qualified and experienced members of OA East staff using a medium format camera and 35mm camera (monochrome and colour slide).

2.3.3 Additional colour photographs were taken using a high resolution Canon PowerShot Pro90 IS digital camera. All photographs produced using this method were downloaded, stored and fully backed-up on OA East's computer network.

2.3.4 All building recording work carried out complied with standards and guidance set out in by the IFA (1999) and was undertaken by an experienced archaeologist. Scaled architects drawings, supplied by the client in CAD format, were used for field notes and were annotated and amended on site as necessary. Elevations were drawn at a scale of 1:20 or 1:50 and construction techniques and full descriptions of the timber-framed structure was carried out whilst on site.

- **Archaeological Monitoring**

2.3.5 Hand excavation of the test pits was carried out by the contractor under constant archaeological supervision.

2.3.6 During the building recording stage a void appeared in the courtyard area. This void (which turned out to be a well) was excavated by the contractor, again under supervision and recorded as below.

2.3.7 All archaeological features and deposits were recorded using OA East's *pro-forma* sheets. Test Pit locations, plans and sections were recorded at appropriate scales and colour and monochrome photographs were taken of all relevant features and deposits.

2.3.8 Additional colour photographs were taken using a high resolution Canon PowerShot Pro90 IS digital camera. All photographs produced using this method were downloaded, stored and fully backed-up on OA East’s computer network.

2.3.9 All test pits were located by measuring from current buildings on the Ordnance Survey map. Drawn plans were then incorporated with the measured survey data to accurately plot the position of all Test Pits and features.

2.3.10 Weather conditions were good, with constant sunshine and no rain.
3 BUILDING SURVEY RESULTS

For the purpose of this report, the results will be presented below. Structure A: external then internal descriptions and then the same for Structure B.

3.1 Structure A

External Description

3.1.1 Structure A (plate 1) is sited in the south-east corner of the development area and is free-standing (Figure 1). It is roughly square in plan with a small, one storey rectangular structure on the north elevation.

3.1.2 The external appearance has four aspects. Most of the building has been clad with weatherboard, with the exception of the lower half of the east elevation, which comprises fourteen courses of grey and red bricks laid in no recognisable bond, and the single-storey extension on the north elevation, which is constructed from white-painted bricks (thirty-four courses) laid in Stretcher bond. The weatherboarding was almost certainly added in the 20th century, the timbers are machine cut and arranged ‘feather-edged’ (Brunskill 2000).

3.1.3 All the windows on the first floor are modern casements and comprise three panes of rectangular glass set in a wooden frame, which is painted black. The display window on the ground floor (west elevation) is a large single square pane of the same style, which measures approximately 2.6m² square and almost entirely fills this ground floor elevation. Immediately to the north of this window is a double door in the same style, set under the overhang of the first floor. Each door has six panes of glass in the top half arranged in two columns of three panes.

3.1.4 The roof is gabled and has an outshut with catslide roof on the east side and is covered with corrugated asbestos roofing sheets. The ridge ‘tiles’ appear to be made from rounded lead or plastic material. There is no chimney.

3.1.5 In addition, there are security lights on the north and west elevations and iron drain pipes on the north elevation.

3.1.6 The single-storey toilet block extension has one high, small hopper window, with a stone lintel in the west elevation, which has been painted over. Three doors allow access; all are wooden and painted black. The easternmost door is two panelled, in a style similar to Queen Anne Revival doors and the remaining two are in a tongue-and-groove style.

Internal Description – ground floor

3.1.7 The ground floor (Figure 7) consists of a single approximately square room with access to the first floor via wooden stairs in the south-east corner. The ground floor area measured approximately 6.11m by 4.68m (at widest points). A 1.3m² section constructed from brick projects from the north-east corner of this room. It has the same bond as the single-storey extension outside (toilet block) and is
almost certainly part of it. The floor, which appears to be made from concrete covered all of the ground floor.

3.1.8 Painted plasterboard which had previously covered all walls and ceiling had been removed leaving all framework and ceilings exposed. This revealed more information about the structure than was visible for the previous building survey and revealing that this structure has undergone significant alterations during its lifetime.

3.1.9 The northern elevation of this building was drawn (Figure 8, Elevation 2), which showed significant alteration and re-use. Behind the modern close-stud frame, what appears to be potentially original timber-framing is exposed (plate 2). A substantial timber sill spans the width of this elevation. Although there is a brick wall beneath, the feeling is that this is later in-fill or support as opposed to a plinth upon which the sill rests. To the right of the exposed frame, painted plaster is revealed. This plaster has been applied over the brick and re-used vertically laid timber boards. The paint applied to the plaster is in two halves; the upper half an off-white colour and an orangey brown below, separated by a painted black border.

3.1.10 The eastern elevation in Structure A shows no sign of any surviving early timber-frame structure. Nineteen courses of brick in no particular bond which appear to be c.19th century in date are visible from ground level, measuring 1.55m in height (plate 3). This wall can be seen continuing outside (plate 4) where it represents the boundary wall, suggesting this part of the building has been built upon it.

3.1.11 Where plasterboard has recently been removed on the southern elevation, plastic sheeting (which provides a waterproof layer behind the weatherboarding) was visible behind the modern frame (plate 5). Although earlier timbers are surviving behind the modern stud frame, many are replacements, re-used or dislodged, therefore do not provide any information about the structure or date of the earlier phase. Two doors were located in this elevation (one on each floor), indicating that the stairs in this location are not original. The single flight of stairs with approximately eleven steps is affixed to the south wall, constructed from wood with a plain, open balustrade. The underside is covered with plasterboard and appear relatively modern. The door on this elevation looks fairly modern, probably manufactured within the last 50 years, however, its location is likely to be much earlier as is the framing around it. It may have provided access to the small extension/lean-to seen on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map (Figure 6).

3.1.12 The western elevation showed no evidence of any original or early structural remains. A large window relating to the late 20th century use of the building for commercial purposes took up much of the elevation on this floor. The window rested upon a plinth of modern red bricks and a modern doorway was located to the right of this.

*Internal Description – first floor*
3.1.13 The first floor (Figure 9) was accessed from the ground floor via the single flight of stairs described previously. As on the ground floor, all plasterboard previously covering the walls during the survey in 2007 had all been removed leaving elevations and timber framing exposed.

3.1.14 The first floor comprised two main areas, separated by exposed timber-framing (plate 6) (Figure 8, Elevation 1) which may represent the side of the original timber structure and the area on the other side an extension – hence the change in roof pitch. The timber frame recorded in this location had a gap in order to provide access to the extended area, and empty mortices indicate that there was no gap originally.

3.1.15 The northern elevation (Figure 8, Elevation 2) provides an internal representation of the change in roof pitch where the later addition has been made and also where the original return wall was located, indicated by an empty mortice. The drawn elevation shows the location of what are believed to be original timbers, however, there was a modern window inserted in this elevation as can be seen in plate 7. Although the roof was a modern replacement, the original queen post roof structure can clearly be seen in this elevation.

3.1.16 The southern elevation on this floor was the same that below in that plastic sheeting was visible behind the modern close-stud frame. Although earlier timbers are surviving, many are replacements, re-used and dislodged, and do not provide any information about the structure or date of the earlier phase. A door was located on this elevation at first floor level, although it is not possible to tell whether it led into another part of the building now removed, or whether it was re-used to panel the elevation. Parts of this elevation retained some original/early internal weatherboarding laid horizontally, there was also a modern window located above the stairs.

3.1.17 The western elevation which had been entirely modernised and replaced on the ground floor, contained much of its original/early fabric on the first floor and along with the opposite exposed frame may represent the original width of Structure A. Although mostly covered with modern studwork on one inside and weatherboarding plastic lining behind, many original vertical studs and horizontal boards which were attached were surviving. A modern window had been inserted in this elevation however, the location of a small opening for an original window was visible (plate 8).

3.1.18 A large tie-beam ran across the width of this floor, located centrally in the original phase running from east to west. This beam had been painted black as it was presumably exposed and utilised as part of the décor of the room when in use. The beam had diagonal supports running from the beam up to the rafters of the replacement roof and were likely to have been inserted in this location when the roof was replaced. Empty mortices in the top of the tie beam indicate that it originally had two upright supports for a queen post roof as seen in the northern elevation.
3.2 Structure B

3.2.1 Structure B lies at the north of the development area and is comprised of a large, rectangular weather-boarded barn with a square, single-storey structure at the north-west end (plate 9) (Figure 1). For clarity, they will be described separately, commencing with the barn.

“Barn” - External

3.2.2 The external appearance of Structure B differs considerably from east to west elevations. Almost all of the east elevation is clad with weatherboarding except for a large rectangular patch where a concrete render has been applied (plate 10). The weatherboarding lies in the same ‘feather-edged’ arrangement as Structure A and is likely to be contemporary.

3.2.3 At the base of the east elevation is a brick plinth of at least two clear phases (Plate 11). The first phase, in the middle of the elevation comprises orange-red brick laid in no recognisable bond in five (visible) courses. The mortar is a dark grey colour. These bricks are very similar to those on the wall to the north, which forms the southern boundary of No. 5, Kneesworth Street. The second phase abuts the red bricks to the south and north and comprises up to six courses of cream (and occasional orange) bricks in a decorative Flemish bond. These bricks have squared edges and stylistically appear later than the orange-red bricks. Their presence suggests that either the building was originally much shorter and was then extended, or that the plinth required replacing at some stage.

3.2.4 The south and north elevations are also weather-boarded and the brick plinths continue beneath.

3.2.5 The west elevation (plate 9) consists of three different materials: brick, painted render and weatherboarding. Bricks comprise the wall fabric of the ground floor. Internal investigation revealed that they are orange in colour and modern. The brickwork is painted white and laid in at least twenty-five courses in decorative Flemish bond. Parts of the brick wall are covered with weatherboarding, for instance around the windows and to the right of the door.

3.2.6 Both the windows and the door on the ground floor are in the same style as those described on Structure A.

3.2.7 A free-standing porch-type shelter stands immediately in front of the west elevation and is made from square-cut timber posts and beams with a corrugated plastic roof. It runs the entire length of this elevation, between the extension of Structure A and the single-storey of Structure B and is modern.

3.2.8 A combination of materials is also present on the first floor. Weatherboarding forms the wall fabric at the far north end only, above the roof of the single-storey structure. Elsewhere, eight panels of plasterboard have been used to form the wall. Almost centrally in the first floor elevation a garage door has been inserted to allow access to the roof space from the outside.

3.2.9 The roof is gabled and laid with plain red clay tiles laid in alternate courses; there is no chimney.
“Barn”- Internal

This building is most suitably described as a whole, rather than describing the floors separately.

Room 1

3.2.10 The recent removal of all modern plasterboard exposed the timber structure of the building behind modern studwork and allowed further recording and interpretation. Removal of an internal subdivision on the ground floor created a floor plan as shown in Figure 7. The removal of many internal divisions has rendered the room numbering meaningless, however, they will be retained on the plan in order to make the location of descriptions simpler to understand.

3.2.11 The exposed frame in the eastern elevation of the southern “wing” of this building shows how this phase was constructed (Figure 10, elevation 3a and 3b). This elevation shows timber construction upon a brick plinth. The timber posts slotted into a horizontal timber sill which rested upon the brick plinth. There is evidence to suggest that at some stage, possibly in the 19th century, the timber sill was replaced, possibly following damp or damage and the plinth was raised with new/re-used bricks. Evidence of this is seen at the base of almost all of the posts where they have been sawn and then timber wedges have been inserted to create a snug fit on the replaced sill.

3.2.12 The drawn elevation (Figure 10, Elevation 3a and 3b) suggests two phases here. The evidence for this on the ground floor where there is a substantial post which separates the two different types of brick plinth – different in both height and as seen from outside (plate 11) different in type. This evidence continues overhead, where a substantial tie-beam is still visible, suggesting this may have been a single storey building open to the roof. Although most of the western elevation on the ground floor in this “wing” of the building had been drastically altered in the 20th century, the opposite post from this early stage is still visible, although underpinned with modern brick (plate 12). From the first floor, the top of this beam is also visible at ground level (plate 13), where empty mortices in the top indicate the struts have been removed when the building was extended lengthways and upward.

3.2.13 The location of an original door on the ground floor is also present in this elevation (Figure 10, elevation 3a). This may have been the original location of the entrance into the smaller building before it was extended to the north.

3.2.14 The northern end of the drawn elevation may also represent the end of a phase. A recently exposed internal wall partition between rooms 1 and 2 shows weatherboarding which was painted and appeared to have once been exposed (plate 14). The diagonal direction of some of the boarding however is as yet unclear.

3.2.15 On the first floor, in the same elevation (Figure 10, elevation 3b), there is brick infill at the southern end of the building, the same in-fill is also present on the opposite elevation (plate 15). This is the only location within the two buildings where brick nogging was recorded. The bricks measured on average 22cm by 11cm by 6cm. Due to its weight, poor insulation qualities and tendency to hold
damp, brick is not a good material for infill, however, it was used in the east and
south-east of England, often instead of wattle and daub from as early as the
16th century (Harris, 2001). This is unlikely to suggest a date for this part of the
build, it simply may have been used here as decoration or during repair at a
later stage.

3.2.16 The southern gable end of this Structure B appears to be an original end to the
building. On both ground and first floors original timbers survive in situ (plate 16)
and on the ground floor some of the original weatherboarding is still attached.
On the first floor, empty pegholes in the upper part of the principal rafter
represent evidence of the location of where wattle had been inserted to support
a wattle and daub “panel”, usually found on a gable end (plate 17).

3.2.17 The roof in this “barn” part of Structure B is comprised of five bays divided by
post and truss frames with clasped purlins, concave braces and close-studding.
The walls are also close-studded, although the west wall is not as complete as
the east, probably as a result of the addition of the panelled walls. Bracing in
each wall plate is generally straight, although some may be ogee; this however
may be as a result of the tree’s growth, rather than a deliberate attempt to be
decorative. The floor is constructed from timber boards. Some of the studs and
rafters have been replaced with timbers. Carpenters marks were recorded on
the principal rafters of the southern-most two frames (Figure 11).

3.2.18 The basic timber-frame of Structure B comprises a series of six bays recorded
on the first floor (Figure 11) divided by post and truss frames with clasped
purlins, concave braces and close-studding. The walls are also close-studded,
although the west wall is not as complete as the east, probably as a result of the
addition of the panelled walls. Bracing in each wall plate is generally straight,
although some may be ogee; this however may be as a result of the tree’s
growth, rather than a deliberate attempt to be decorative. The floor is
constructed from timber boards. Some of the studs and rafters have been
replaced with timbers. Each bay has been numbered (from 1 to 6) and the
lengths of each entered into the table below. The width of the building was
approximately 4m.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bay Number</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>5</th>
<th>6</th>
<th>Total length (m)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Length(m)</td>
<td>2.55</td>
<td>2.83</td>
<td>3.37</td>
<td>3.15</td>
<td>2.66</td>
<td>2.89</td>
<td>17.40</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 1: Comparative length of bays in Structure B (all figures are approximate)

3.2.19 The frames between each of the bays varied in style and represent both re-use
of earlier materials and also represent phases. Bay 2 is separated from Bay 1 by
a frame that retains its braces only. There are mortice holes in the top of the tie
beam showing where close-studding, presumably similar to that in Bay 1 was
situated. The frame between Bay 2 and 3 is comprised of beam and concave
braces and has close-studding with boards above it to the first collar, with a
single stud remaining above that (Figure 10, elevation 4). The frame dividing
Bay 4 and Bay 3 is in poor condition. The east joint has rotted, causing the tie beam to come away from the principal rafter and main post. This side of the frame is also lacking a brace – the mortice for it on both tie beam and main post are clearly visible. The west half of the frame retains its brace but the framework above the tie-beam has been entirely replaced by three modern straight timbers acting as raking struts and a collar. On the underside of the tie beam a series of four mortices show the location of additional close-studding. This would have served to strengthen the frame and also to divide bays 1 to 4 from 5. The Bay 5/4 frame is also in poor condition, but in this instance is missing its west brace and is instead supported on an inserted post as well as the main post. Like the Bay 2/3 frame this one also has close-studding above the tie beam, although it is only extant on the east side. It has one collar. The frame between bay 5 and 6 is situated over the access to the single-storey roof space. There are no corresponding main posts; the tie beam rests on the east wall plate and modern west wall plate. It is jointed to the modern collar by two straight braces. There is no close-studding. Both the north (end) frame and the west frame have had many struts replaced and the tie beam of the north frame has also been replaced by modern timber.

Room 2

3.2.20 The northern end of Structure B; Bays 5 and 6 on the first floor and Rooms 2 and 4 on the ground floor appear to be the most recently added.

3.2.21 This room had one window on the east wall, which is 1.08m high and comprises a mixture of casement and hopper style with one square fixed pane. Before the frame are six iron (?) bars. This window frame is painted white.

3.2.22 The south and west walls are both partition walls and the east and north walls are constructed from breeze blocks with brick 'columns' in twenty-eight courses in the north-west and north-east corners.

3.2.23 What appeared to be the external gable end of room 1 was visible from here (discussed above).

3.2.24 Above this room on the first floor however, was a continuation of a timber-framed structure. The floor sloped down over this part of the building, however the timber frame continued to the northern gable end.

3.2.25 From this room, access into rooms 3 and 4 was gained. The wall between rooms 2 and 4 was a weatherboarding type division (plate 18).

3.2.26 Looking up at the ceiling in this area, it was clear that this phase above at least was earlier, perhaps underpinned with modern brick.

Room 4

3.2.27 Room 4 leads into Room 2 and Room 5 and also contains the loft hole, which provides access to the first floor and roof space. Both external walls are constructed from breezeblocks with a two course brick plinth laid in stretcher bond. Only the north wall contains windows. The left hand window is 1.53m high and comprises a single window in hopper style, the right hand window is 0.92m high and comprises a hopper with single large pane below. Above room 4 (bay
6) the timber-frame and weatherboarding continue up to the northern gable end. The northern gable end was timber-framed and externally weatherboarded, (plate 19).

**Single Storey Extension - External**

3.2.28 All external walls are painted white and constructed from breezeblock, with the exception of the north elevation, which is weatherboarded (plate 20). In some instances, such as outside Room 3, the wall has also been rendered. There are two large doors on the south elevation that open outwards from Room 5. They are wooden and painted black and each has a single, large pane of reinforced glass. To the right is the window of Room 3 (see below). The west elevation has no windows but there are two on the south.

3.2.29 The roof is laid with corrugated metal sheeting and there is no chimney.

**Single Storey Extension - Internal**

3.2.30 Most of the internal divisions which created rooms previously had been removed or substantially altered, however, for clarity of description, they are still referred to in this report.

3.2.31 One of the most interesting features revealed following the alterations in this part of the building was the continuation of a large horizontal beam located between rooms 4 and 5, on the same alignment as the timber-framed “barn” construction to the south (plate 21). The division between these rooms had also been exposed revealing a timber framed c.19th century closed stud wall on a brick and timber plinth. This stud wall was not in alignment with the timber beam above and represents a later phase.

3.2.32 The wall at the western end of what was Room 5 was fully exposed and reveals a sequence of building development. A c.19th century timber stud-framed wall was recorded with contemporary weatherboarding behind. Joined onto the south of this was a modern stud and corrugated iron extension which supported a contemporary roof.

3.2.33 The timber weatherboard panels which created Room 3 with access doors leading into Rooms 2 and 5 are likely to also be 19th century in date. These pre-date the extension (the southern part of Room 5) and originally provided access from outside into what have become Rooms 2 and 5.
4 WATCHING BRIEF RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The results of the watching brief will be presented by test pit with a brief discussion about each one. For the purposes of the report, all cut numbers will be shown in **bold** text and other deposits in normal text. All test pits were excavated by the clients contractor under constant supervision and then recorded appropriately. The locations of all Test pits can be seen on Figure 12.

4.1 Test Pit 1

4.1.1 Test Pit 1 was located against the eastern elevation inside Structure A (Figure 12). It measured 0.70m by 0.70m and was excavated to a depth of 0.53m below the recent concrete floor level (Figure 13, Section 1).

4.1.2 This test pit revealed five courses of brick, part of the foundations of the eastern elevation of Structure A, laid upon a natural chalk.

4.1.3 No finds were retrieved from Test Pit 1.

4.1.4 Discussion: Foundations for the boundary wall incorporated into Structure A.

4.2 Test Pit 2

4.2.1 Test Pit 2 was located at the southern end inside Structure A (Figure 12). It measured 0.80m by 0.70m and was excavated to a depth of 0.42m below the recent concrete floor level (Figure 13, Section 2).

4.2.2 This test pit revealed three courses of brick, upon a layer of brick rubble, also part of the foundations. Beneath the rubble was natural chalk.

4.2.3 No finds were retrieved from Test Pit 2.

4.2.4 Discussion: Foundations for the southern wall of Structure B, comprising early hand made orange bricks. The 19th century repair of the plinth on the eastern wall was also exposed.

4.3 Test Pit 3

4.3.1 Test Pit 3 was located against the eastern elevation inside Structure B (Figure 12). It measured 0.60m by 0.60m and was excavated to a depth of 0.43m below the recent concrete floor level (Figure 13, Section 3).

4.3.2 This test pit revealed four courses of brick upon a layer of natural chalk.

4.3.3 No finds were retrieved from Test Pit 3.

4.3.4 Discussion: Red brick foundations of this phase of Structure B.

4.4 Test Pit 4

4.4.1 Test Pit 4 was located against the western elevation inside Structure B (Figure 12). It measured 0.80m by 0.80m and was excavated to a depth of 0.42m below the recent concrete floor level (Figure 13, Section 4).
4.4.2 This test pit revealed three courses of brick upon a layer of natural chalk.
4.4.3 No finds were retrieved from Test Pit 4.
4.4.4 Discussion: c.19th century foundations for this phase of Structure B.

4.5 Test Pit 5
4.5.1 Test Pit 5 was located against an internal division inside Structure B (Figure 12). It measured 0.70m by 0.60m and was excavated to a depth of 0.25m below the recent concrete floor level (Figure 13, Section 5).
4.5.2 This test pit revealed a layer of chalk and brick rubble upon a layer of natural chalk.
4.5.3 No finds were retrieved from Test Pit 5.
4.5.4 Discussion: c.19th century foundations for this phase of Structure B, however, earlier brick rubble within the test pit may suggest a structure pre-dating this phase in this location.

4.6 Test Pit 6
4.6.1 Test Pit 6 was located against the northern elevation inside Structure B (Figure 12). It measured 0.50m by 0.50m and was excavated to a depth of 0.20m below the recent concrete floor level (Figure 13, Section 6).
4.6.2 This test pit brick rubble beneath the modern concrete floor, upon a layer of natural chalk.
4.6.3 No finds were retrieved from Test Pit 6.
4.6.4 Discussion: c.19th century foundations for this phase of Structure B, however, earlier brick rubble within the test pit may suggest a structure pre-dating this phase in this location.

4.7 Test Pit 7
4.7.1 Test Pit 7 was located against the western elevation on the outside Structure B (Figure 12). It measured 0.90 by 0.60m and was excavated to a depth of 0.40m below the recent ground level (Figure 13, Section 7).
4.7.2 This test pit revealed two courses of modern brick upon a layer of modern concrete measuring 20cm in thickness. This concrete rested upon a chalk natural.
4.7.3 No finds were retrieved from Test Pit 7.
4.7.4 Discussion: part of the foundations of this part of Structure B
4.8 The Well

4.8.1 During the building survey, a void appeared in the courtyard area following constant heavy rain. The client was informed who promptly decided to investigate the void which turned out to be a well. As with the test pits, the investigation was constantly monitored by an archaeologist.

4.8.2 The well was located in the courtyard area, north of Structure A and west of Structure B (Figure 12).

4.8.3 The well had been sealed by a brick arch comprising two courses of 19th/20th century red brick (Plate 22), all concealed by at least 20cm of modern hard-standing (Figure 13, Section 8).

4.8.4 Directly beneath the brick arch, lay another three courses of brick around the top of the well shaft (plate 23). It is not possible to say if they are contemporary with the construction of the well or whether they were used to support the later arch above.

4.8.5 The well shaft itself was cut into natural clay. Its depth was not ascertained on site as it had been backfilled already and no further investigation was required by the client who then proceeded to make it safe. The well measured approximately 1.0m wide and was circular in plan (plate 24).

4.8.6 Late 19th century brick, tile and pottery was retrieved from the top of the back fill which were noted but not retained. This provides a date of latest fill, however the date of the well itself remains unknown. It does not appear on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey (Figure 6), where wells and pumps are usually denoted with a “W” or a “P”, suggesting it was concealed by 1898 at least.
5 DISCUSSION OF BUILDINGS SURVEY

Structure A

Following the removal of some internal plasterboard and flooring, the interpretation of the development of Structure A has altered very little from the previous investigation (Muldowney, 2007). However, the exposure of the fabric and consultation of cartographic sources has revealed some additional information about the construction and the development which was previously unseen.

5.1 Phase 1: c.16th - 17th Century? (see Figure 14)

5.1.1 Structure A appears to have once been a long, rectangular shaped timber-framed building, probably a barn, with an outshot on the south side. It was thought to have been an L-shaped building by the previous survey, however there was no evidence for this within the structure or from the cartographic research. The first edition ordnance map of 1898 shows a long rectangular building which is the only cartographic evidence of how the original structure may have been and the north elevation on the ground floor does suggest alteration and brick infill, perhaps when the building was shortened.

5.1.2 The remains of the timber-frame point to a building over two floors, which had an open roof truss with (probable) clasped purlins. The wall plates would almost certainly have all been close-studded, as evidenced by the remaining studs on the first floor. Additionally, it appears that the (internal) studding was open as there is no evidence for any infill.

5.1.3 Speculation about the external appearance of the building is just that, as only one external post remains on the west elevation and it is not possible to observe construction marks (if any exist). It is possible however, that the building was always weatherboarded, although plaster is historically a more common cladding material in north Hertfordshire (Brunskill 2000, 205). There is also no evidence for the original roofing material, however it may have been thatch or tile, both common roof materials in Hertfordshire (Ibid 2000, 206; 208).

5.1.4 Dating for this original phase is difficult, however, it is likely to have stood within the curtilage of buildings on either Kneesworth, or Melbourn Street and therefore could date to the 16th century as many of these buildings date to that time and stylistically the structure would fit this period.

5.1.5 It is very likely however that this building was associated with the Crown and Dolphin Inn which fronted onto Kneesworth Street and was first referenced as early as 1537, oddly this was not identified in either the desk-based assessment or the original building recording survey. The building itself is still there today (although the inn closed in the early 20th century) and even displays the original post which would have held the sign (plate 25). The inn had its own coach and wagon service to the Catherine Wheel Inn, Bishopsgate Street in London in 1750 (Smith and Ransom, 2001). The license was not renewed after 1916 (hence the closure of the inn?).
5.1.6 Structure A may have been a barn, accommodation, stabling or storage building for the inn.

5.2 Phase 2: c. early - mid 19th Century (see Figure 14)

5.2.1 Alterations to the building comprise two main elements. The first is the extension to the east side of the building which appears to rest upon the boundary wall. This extension opens up the ground and first floors where the studs have been removed as seen in elevation 1 (Figure 8) to allow access into this new space. This extension alters the profile of the roof pitch as seen in plate 1 and the building may well have been re-roofed at this time. An exact date for this alteration is unknown, however the extension appears to have been in place by the time of the 1898 Ordnance Survey Map (Figure 6). The re-laying of the floor may have taken place at this time.

5.2.2 The Ordnance Survey Map also shows a small square building at the rear, although this extension has been removed, the door to access it was recorded on the internal southern elevation and looked to be of 19th century date. This evidence tentatively places this building in the early-mid 19th century phase.

5.3 Phase 3: c. early 20th Century (see Figure 14)

5.3.1 The brick extension, which protrudes into the north-east corner of the ground floor appears to be the next phase of alteration in Structure A. Stylistically, the extension dates to the first half of the 20th century and built for use as a toilet block. Its construction may have added structural support to the main building.

5.4 Phase 4: c. late 20th Century (see Figure 14)

5.4.1 The inserted plasterboard ceiling and stairway and addition of windows, etc, seem to relate to the both Structure A and Structure B’s use as business premises and probably took place in the early 1990s. The double doors would have served to allow ingress of goods and customers and the large square window would have allowed light in and served to display goods. The newly re-created first floor could have been an office space or additional display room, for which further windows and light were required. The exposed tie beam and wall plate were painted black for display/effect and incorporated into the décor of the first floor.

Structure B

5.5 Phase 1: c.16th - 17th Century (see Figure 15)

5.5.1 The earliest phase of Structure B was a short rectangular shaped building, possibly single storey and open to the roof. The entrance to this building was located on the eastern side, (visible in the timber-framing) and occupies the southern end of the ground floor (Figure 15).

5.5.2 The drawn elevation of the ground floor (Figure 10, Elevation 3a) shows where the original phase ends to the immediate left of the door. The change in the brick
plinth also suggests different phases here and despite the fact that it is a more recent (c19th century repair), it is possible that being an earlier phase the foundations had decayed and required repair.

5.5.3 There is no evidence to suggest that the building continued any further to the south as the early brick plinth indicates and the same timber-framing continues.

5.5.4 The large post which is located to the left of the door is part of the original frame at the end of the bay and the tie beam which continues above it and recorded on the first floor may well have supported the original roof frame.

5.5.5 Although it is difficult to establish a date for this phase, it is likely that it was not related to the Crown and Dolphin Inn and therefore, may pre-date it (1537) or be associated with another building. The evidence for this suggestion is the location of the entrance. Facing the east, the entrance is on the opposite side to the rear of the inn and would not be accessible from the yard. Looking at the boundary on the 1898 map (Figure 6) that still survives today, which exists on the east side of Structure A, the line continues on the west side of Structure B. The plot in which Structure B stands looks as though it would have stood within one of the medieval burgage plots of properties located on Melbourn Street. Looking at Structure B from an access off Melbourn Street (plate 26), it is easier to see how this structure fits more into a different plot.

5.5.6 It was suggested in the previous survey that Structure B may have formed a pair with St Katherines Barn opposite, also accessed within this plot (plate 27). St Katherines barn was recently restored and is thought to be Jacobean in date (1606-65), it is also considered to have been one of the outbuildings of King James's Palace. If the earliest phase of Structure B is contemporary with the barn, it would date it to the late 16th-early 17th century.

5.6 Phase 2: c.17th-18th Century (see Figure 15)

5.6.1 The next phase of development sees the extension of the original phase towards the north creating a longer rectangular building, with the addition of another floor. The drawn eastern elevations of the ground and first floor show the extent of the addition. The elevations show that the first floor and ground floor do not appear to be part of a contemporary build. The main posts do not align and this may be evidence of the roof having been raised and a first floor added. The original phase would also have been too short to accommodate a second floor. However, the carpenters marks on the roof structure which corresponds to the first phase may indicate the original roof was reused following the addition of the first floor.

5.6.2 Evidence of the end of this new phase was recorded within Structure B where a recent dividing wall/partition had been removed. Wide white-washed boards laid at a diagonal angle represent the original external weatherboarding from the end of phase 2.

5.6.3 The alterations of the original west facing elevation makes it impossible to tell whether the entrance to this building was located there or whether the original
entrance of phase 1 was still in use and the property therefore may still have been part of the plot at the rear of Melbourn Street.

5.6.4 Due to the nature of re-use of material and lack of cartographic evidence, it is difficult to place a precise date for this phase. If the brick nogging used on the first floor is contemporary, it could date this phase shortly after phase 1 and still in the 16-17th century. However, the brick used looks as though it may be later and as it was only used in this one small area of the structure, it is more likely to have had a decorative or repair function.

5.6.5 There is also evidence to suggest that there was another separate building located to the immediate north of the extension, which may be contemporary, and later incorporated in Structure B to create one building. Although the north and eastern walls have been rebuilt on the ground floor with brick and breezeblock, a substantial tie beam exists over where the western elevation would be located and the first floor shows evidence of a much earlier structure too. The building would have been a small rectangular building and the surviving tie beam suggests an open front – this may have been a small stable. It is known that the Crown and Dolphin Inn held a coach and wagon service from 1750 and this building together with the extended phase 1 build may be evidence of the stables and stores associated with this.

5.7 Phase 3: 19th Century (see Figure 15)

5.7.1 The 19th century sees yet further extension and alteration to Structure B to create an “L”-shape plan with the addition of the single storey extension. The 1st edition ordnance survey map (Figure 6) shows this “L” shaped plan, suggesting this extension pre-dated 1898. The western wall of the single storey extension and the wall plate of the southern elevation still remain from this extension, although the stud posts from the southern elevation were removed when the 20th century extension was added.

5.7.2 This map also shows an extension on the south of Structure B. With no physical evidence for this within the fabric of the building it is impossible to say how old this building may have been, however the external weatherboarding shows repair where the building has been removed and boards used to fill the gap (plate 26) suggesting it was removed sometime in the 20th century when it appears that the weatherboarding was added.

5.7.3 Two new access doors were also added at this point of alteration, one providing access to the single storey extension. The second door provided access to the newly enclosed area between the phase 2 buildings (plate 18). The extension was also weatherboarded all around.

5.7.4 It appears that some of the stud posts were removed on the first floor to provide access into the roof space of the extension, although the space may only have been for storage as it was relatively small (plate 28).

5.7.5 As part of the alterations to bring the structures into one building it appears that the two phase 2 buildings were brought together with an extension of the first floor – evidence of this was recorded in both the elevation and the way that the
floor slopes on the first floor. At this time a new roof was added to the entire structure, the ghostline of this can be seen on the western elevation of the “barn” part of Structure B (plate 9).

5.7.6 This building activity may well have been a result of the need for more stabling for horses at the Crown and Dolphin when, in the mid 19th century, the coach and wagon service would have been at its peak.

5.8 **Phase 4: 20th Century** (see Figure 15)

5.8.1 The final and fourth phase is the conversion of both Structure A and B to retail premises (for Structure A, see above). At this point, stud-walls were built in Room 1 and a corner of Room 5 was partitioned to form Room 3. Windows and doors matching those in Structure A were added and on the first floor and the loft hatch and 1st floor garage door were inserted.

5.8.2 This phase also saw the extension added on the southern side of the single storey extension and the garage doors added to allow access for vehicles to the newly added inspection pit.

5.8.3 The entire west-facing elevation of the ground floor was altered with the insertion of new windows removing any potential evidence of earlier doors or windows.

5.8.4 This phase also saw the repair to the northern and eastern walls of the northern part of the structure using breezeblock and brick. This was presumably because windows were required and the existing timber-frame was unable to support them. A new roof was also added to this extension at this time.
6 Conclusions

This second investigation of the two structures has allowed further recording and new interpretation to take place. Not only has it been possible to learn more about the phased development of the buildings, but also about their function and setting.

Both buildings it seems may have their origins in the late 16th -early 17th century, either associated with buildings fronting Kneesworth Street or Melbourn Street, without evidence of chimneys or windows, it is likely they were never occupied dwellings but more likely storage barns and later served the busy Crown and Dolphin Inn.

The origins of either structure as part of the Palace of St James is very possible. It is known that many of the buildings surviving on Kneesworth Street were part of the Palace buildings including the Buttery (numbers 17-21), the remains of the Palace itself (plate 29) (23), stables (31), Hunting Lodge (9), coach house (28-30) and the guardhouse (11). Numbers 2 and 3 (presumably 3 is now 4a), are described in the listed building entry as having been identified as the pantry of its neighbouring house in Melbourn Street, occupied during the reign of James I by Prince Charles and late 16th or early 17th century in date. Both Structures A and B however may not have been included in this group and evidence of this is found in a plan of the palace and its buildings c.1649 (Kingston, 1906). The buildings fronting onto Kneesworth Street in the location of numbers 2, 4a and 4 are labelled in this plan as “Prince Charles’ Pantry, waiting offices etc” the area behind is labelled “the kings Paradise or Bowling Green”. There is no evidence of the structures under investigation on the plan, however, if they were out buildings, and fairly small at the time, they would not have necessarily be labelled on the plan or even mentioned. After the death of Charles I (1649), the buildings, except for the Kings and Princes' lodgings are thought to have fallen into disrepair. It could therefore be suggested that the earliest phases of the buildings are constructed after the palace goes out of use.

The later phases are almost certainly related to the development of the coach and wagon service operating from the Crown and Dolphin Inn. As the service became more established it was likely to have required more outbuildings for storage and shelter of horses.

What is certain however, is that both structures have been altered and extended to fit the changing uses of the buildings to which they were associated. Due to their hidden location and construction techniques, they have survived for several hundred years and will hopefully be recognised as two of Roystons many historic buildings.
7 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The author would like to thank Bennington Park Property Developments Ltd who commissioned and funded the work. Thanks also to James Fairbairn for his assistance on site with medium format photography, assistance with interpretation and supervising of all archaeological monitoring. The project was managed by Toby Gane.
8 **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

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<th>Year</th>
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<td>ALGAO</td>
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<td>Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England</td>
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<td>Brunskill, R. W</td>
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<td>Vernacular Architecture An Illustrated Handbook (London: Faber and Faber Ltd)</td>
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<td>Department of the Environment</td>
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<td>Planning and Policy Guidance 16 - Archaeology and Planning</td>
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<td>Discovering Timber-Framed Buildings : A Shire Publication</td>
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<td>Kingston, A</td>
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<td>A History of Royston, Hertfordshire</td>
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<td>Land to the rear of 4, Kneesworth Street, Royston, Hertfordshire : A Desk-Based Assessment</td>
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<td>Two Medieval Barns on Land Behind No.4, Kneesworth Street,</td>
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Royston, Hertfordshire

Maps Consulted

- British Geological Survey, 1978
  Sheet 239, England and Wales 1:50,000
  Solid and Drift

- 2nd Edition Ordnance Survey, 1898 25”
  Sheet IV.8

- Tithe Map. 1851
  HALS ref. D.S.A 4 82/2 Royston

- “Map of the Common Field on the north of Therfield in Hertfordshire”, 1725
  HALS ref. D/P107/29/2

- Royston Court House and its Appurtenances
  From A History of Royston, Kingston, 1906 (see Bibliography)

Other Sources Consulted

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**APPENDIX A. HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT SUMMARY SHEET**

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**Summary of fieldwork results:**

This was the second phase of work to be undertaken on the two structures following...
the removal of all modern internal panelling, flooring and sub-division. This phase of work together with more documentary research has enabled a reassessment of the original report (Muldowney 2007) and new interpretation of the buildings dates, development and construction.

The two timber-framed and weather-boarded barns (Structures A and B) which were under investigation appear to be associated with the Crown and Dolphin Inn which faced onto Kneesworth Street and was first referenced in 1537. The Inn is known to have run a coach and wagon service to London in 1750 and evidence recorded within Structure B in particular indicates use as a coaching stable/barn. Stylistically, both buildings date to c16th to 17th century, although both have undergone structural alteration, in the 19th and 20th centuries in particular. The brief also required an archaeological watching brief to take place during subsequent groundworks on the site. Seven test pits were excavated under archaeological supervision and fully recorded which in most cases revealed brick and rubble foundations. A well containing post-medieval pottery in the top appeared as a void in the courtyard area, was also investigated. This well did not appear on the earliest Ordnance Survey map (1898) and may therefore be much earlier in date, possibly providing a water supply to the inn and outbuildings.

Author of summary: Taleyna Fletcher  Date of summary: 7th August 2009
## Appendix B. OASIS Report Form

All fields are required unless they are not applicable.

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### Type of Project/Techniques Used

Prompt: Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16

- **Annotated Sketch**
- **Dendrochronological Survey**
- **Laser Scanning**
- **Measured Survey**
- **Photogrammetric Survey**
- **Photographic Survey**
- **Rectified Photography**
- **Survey/Recording Of Fabric/Structure**

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List feature types using the NMR Monument Type Thesaurus and significant finds using the MDA Object type Thesaurus together with their respective periods. If no features/finds were found, please state “none”.

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### Digital Media

- Database
- GIS
- Geophysics
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- Illustrations
- Moving Image
- Spreadsheets
- Survey
- Text
- Virtual Reality

### Paper Media

- Aerial Photos
- Context Sheet
- Correspondence
- Diary
- Drawing
- Manuscript
- Map
- Matrices
- Microfilm
- Misc.
- Research/Notes
- Photos
- Plans
- Report
- Sections
- Survey

### Notes:

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Figure 1: Location of buildings surveyed (black) with the development area outlined (red)
Figure 2  Extent of medieval Royston and the location of the palace grounds (after Smith and Ransom, Figure 3)
Figure 3: The probable extent of medieval Royston and its market area (after Smith and Ransom, Figure 3)
Figure 4: Map of 1725 showing approximate location of development area (red)
Figure 5: Tithe Map, 1851 showing approximate location of development area (outlined red)
Figure 6: 1st Edition Ordnance Survey, 1898 (25” to 1 mile) showing location of Structures A and B and development area (red)
Figure 7: Ground floor of structures A and B showing the location of the elevations
Figure 8: Elevations 1 and 2 from Structure A
Figure 9: 1st floor of structures A and B showing the location of the elevations
Figure 10: Floor plans and elevations from Structure B

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Report Number 1043
Figure 11: Plan showing location and detail of carpenters marks in structure B, and numbered ‘bays’
Figure 12: Ground floor plans of structures A and B showing locations of test pits 1-7 and well
Figure 13: Sections 1-8 (test pits and well)
Phase 1: 16th-17th century
Phase 2: Early-mid. 19th century
Phase 3: Early 20th century
Phase 4: Late 20th century

Figure 14: Phase plan of ground floor showing the development of Structure A
Figure 15: Phase plan of ground floor showing the development of Structure B
Figure 16: Location of plates, structures A and B ground floor
Figure 17: Location of plates, structures A and B first floor
*Plate 1: Structure A*
Plate 2: Northern elevation, ground floor, structure A

Plate 3: Eastern elevation, ground floor, structure A
Plate 4: Continuation of boundary wall at rear of Structure A
Plate 5: Southern elevation, ground floor, structure A

Plate 6: Exposed timber-frame, 1st floor, Structure A
Plate 7: Modern window in northern elevation, 1st floor, Structure A
Plate 8: Western elevation, 1st floor, Structure A

Plate 9: Structure B
Plate 10: Western elevation, Structure B

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Plate 12: Modern brick under-pinning, western elevation, Structure B
Plate 13: First Floor, looking southwards, Structure B
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Plate 18: Exposed weatherboarding, Structure B
Plate 19: Northern end of Structure B
Plate 20: Single storey extension, Structure B
Plate 21: Detail of timber frame, Structure B
Plate 22: Detail of brick arch over well

Plate 23: Detail inside brick well
Plate 24: Well from above

Plate 25: Number 4 Kneesworth Street, location of the Crown and Dolphin Inn
Plate 26: Eastern side of Structure A, boundary wall and gable end of Structure B from Katherine’s Yard

Plate 27: Southern gable ends of Structure B and Katherine’s Barn
Plate 28: Roof space over single storey extension, Structure B
Plate 29: Remains of original Palace of King James I (altered in C18th)