



KDK ARCHAEOLOGY LTD



OBSERVATION & RECORDING SUMMARY REPORT:
7 ST MARY'S CLOSE
REDBOURN
HERTS

on behalf of Rob Birkett



NGR: TL 10140 11945

David Kaye BA AIfA

KDK: 036/RSM/1

June 2014

5 Leopold Road Linslade Leighton Buzzard Bedfordshire LU7 2QU
Tel: 01525 385443
Email: office@kdkarchaeology.co.uk
Website: www.kdkarchaeology.co.uk



Site Data

<i>KDK project code:</i>	037/RSM		
<i>OASIS ref:</i>	Kdkarcha1-179474	<i>Event/Accession no:</i>	TBC
<i>County:</i>	Hertfordshire		
<i>Village/Town:</i>	Redbourn		
<i>Civil Parish:</i>	Redbourn		
<i>NGR (to 8 figs):</i>	TL 10140 11945		
<i>Present use:</i>	Garden		
<i>Planning proposal:</i>	House extension		
<i>Local Planning Authority:</i>	St Albans District Council		
<i>Planning application ref/date:</i>	5/2011/2433		
<i>Date of fieldwork:</i>	18.12.2013 & 9.05.2014		
<i>Commissioned by:</i>	Graham Randall Randall Architecture Suite B4 Mindenhall Court High St, Stevenage SG1 3UN		
<i>Client:</i>	Rob Birkett 7 St Mary's Close Redbourn Herts AL3 7DD		
<i>Contact name:</i>	Graham Randall		

Quality Check

<i>Primary Author:</i>	David Kaye BA AlFA	<i>Date:</i>	25 th June 2014
<i>Edited/Checked By:</i>	Karin Kaye MA MlFA	<i>Date:</i>	26 th June 2014
<i>Revisions:</i>		<i>Date:</i>	

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1. Pad, facing southwest	10
2. Soakaway facing northwest	10



Figure 1: General location (scale 1:25,000)



Summary

In December 2013 KDK Archaeology Ltd began a programme of observation and recording of 7 St Mary's Close, Redbourn, Hertfordshire. Footings and drainage groundworks were monitored as part of the planning conditions set on the development.

Strip footings, pads, a soakaway and drainage were excavated revealing that the site had been truncated, probably when the extant house was constructed. No archaeological cut features, deposits or artefacts were encountered.

1 Introduction

1.1 In December 2013 KDK Archaeology Ltd began a programme of observation and recording of 7 St Mary's Close, Redbourn, Hertfordshire. The project was commissioned by Graham Randall of Randall Architecture, High St, Stevenage, on behalf of Rob Birkett, and was carried out according to a Method Statement prepared by KDK (KDK 2013), and approved by Simon West, District Archaeologist for St Albans, archaeological advisor (AA) to the local planning authority (LPA), St Albans City & District Council. The relevant planning application reference is 5/2011/2433.

1.2 *Planning Background*

This project has been required under the terms of National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) as a condition of planning permission for the development of the site.

1.3 *The Site*

Location & Description

St Mary's Close is located on the northern side of West Common, Redbourn. The site forms a rectangular plot immediately adjacent to, and overlooking, the common to the south, St Mary's Close to the west and modern housing to the east and north. It is within the civil parish of Redbourn and the administrative district of St Albans, and is situated within the presumed medieval core of the village (Fig. 2)

Geology & Topography

The underlying geology is derived from the Lambeth Group and is described as sequences mainly of clay, some silty or sandy, with some sands and gravels, minor limestones and lignites and occasional sandstone and conglomerate. Superficial deposits are alluvial clays and Head, described as sand and gravel, locally with lenses of silt, clay or peat and organic material (<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>).

The site is located on the bottom of the Ver valley, adjacent to the M1 corridor at approximately 105m AOD.

Proposed Development

The development includes a two storey extension and a single storey extension to both the front and the rear (Fig. 3).



Figure 2: Site location (scale 1:1000)

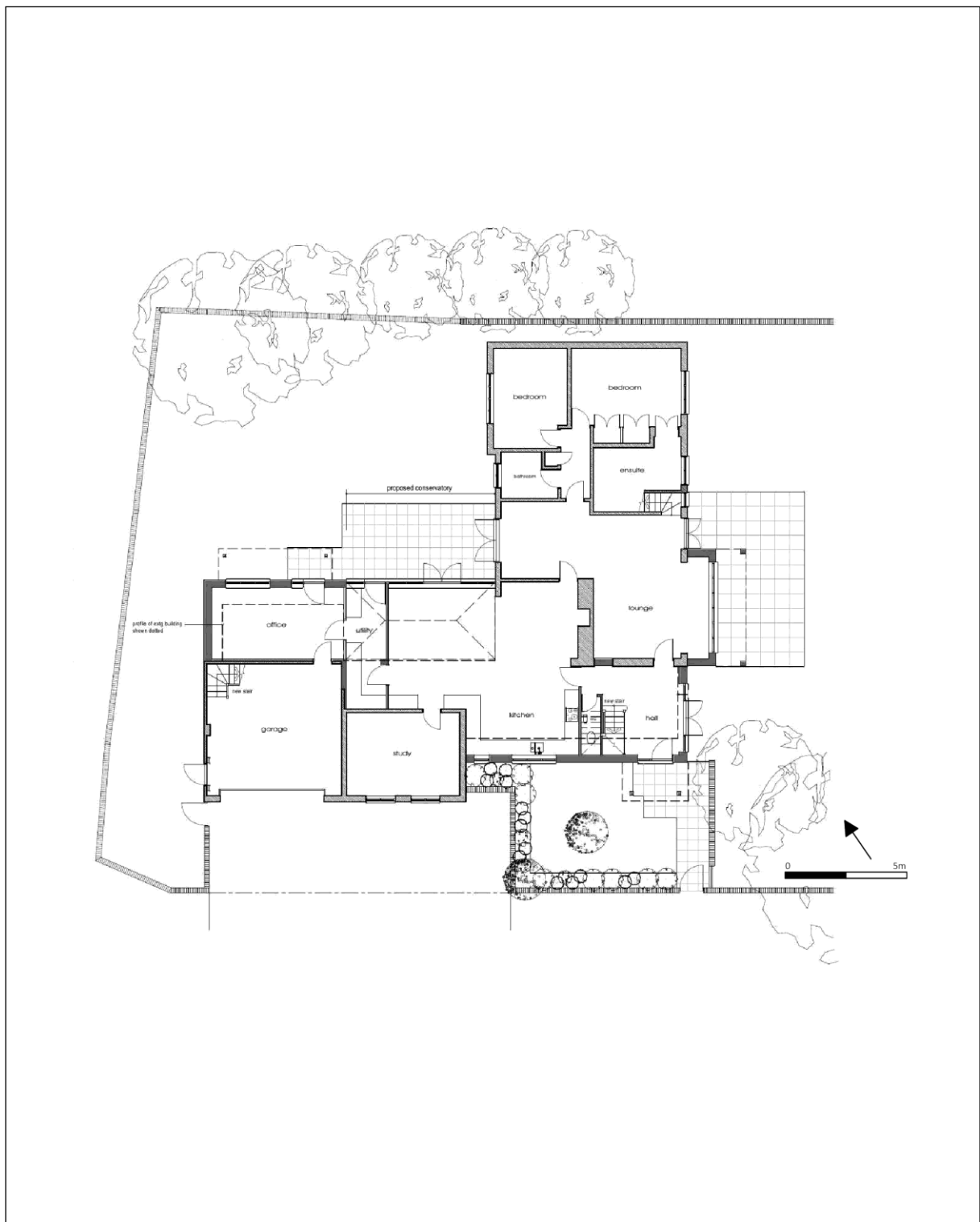


Figure 3: Proposed development (scale 1:250)

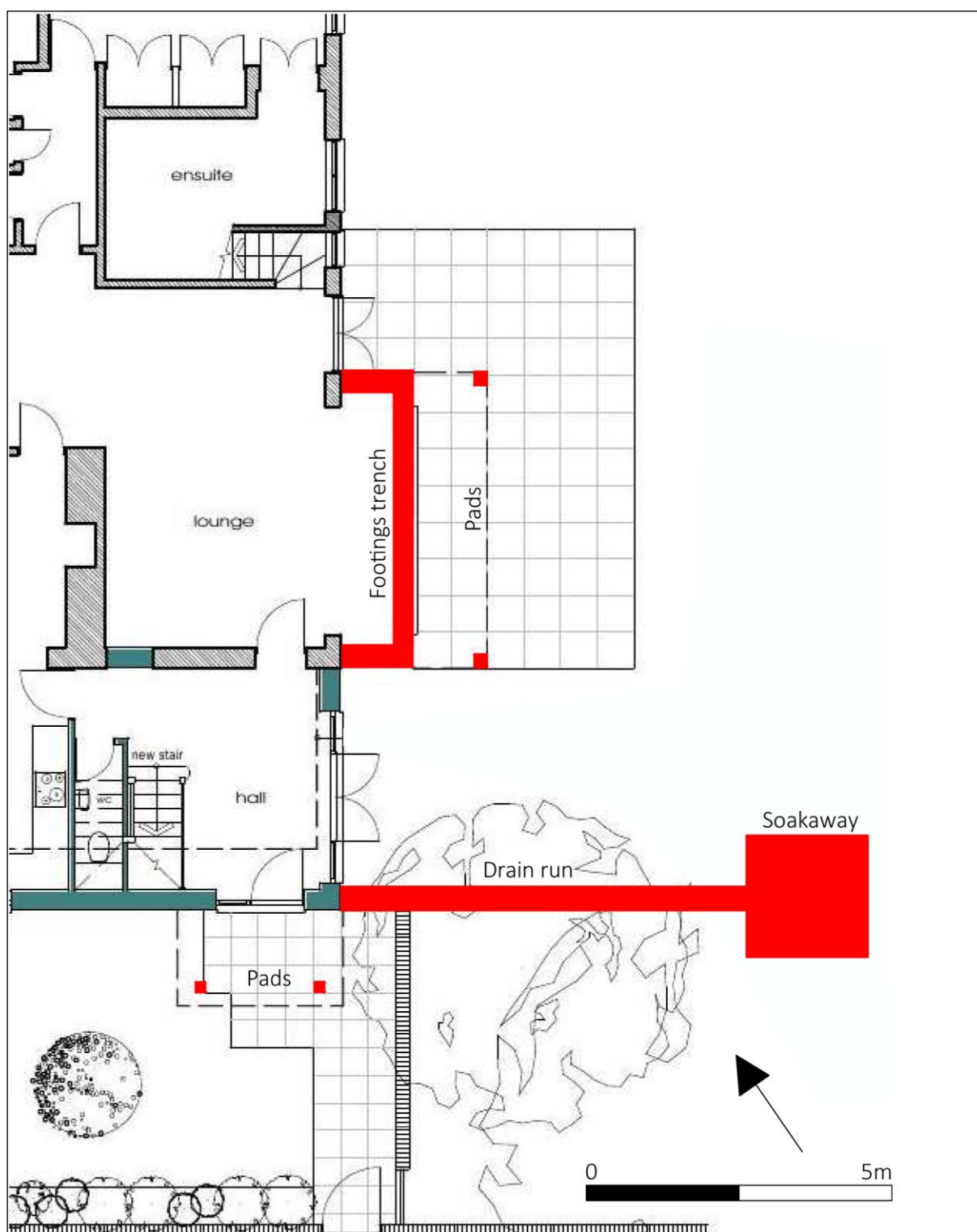


Figure 4: Recorded groundworks (scale 1:250)



2 Aims & Methods

2.1 The aims of this project were:

- To establish the date, nature and extent of activity or occupation within the development area
- To establish the relationship of any remains found to the surrounding contemporary landscapes
- Recover palaeo-environmental remains to determine local environmental conditions

2.2 *Methods*

As outlined in the approved Method Statement (KDK 2013), the methods used were as follows:

- All ground or other works likely to have an impact on archaeological deposits were done under continuous and constant archaeological supervision. This included the excavation of any services trenches and associated structures (such as soakaways).
- If significant archaeological deposits were encountered St Albans District Archaeologist would have been notified and a timetable for the adequate investigation and recording of these features agreed.
- Construction works would not re-commence until the District Archaeologist was content that the archaeological work had been completed satisfactorily

2.3 *Standards*

The work conformed to the following requirements:

- The Method Statement (KDK 2013)
- The relevant sections of the Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard & Guidance Notes* (IFA 2008a) and
- The Institute for Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct* (IFA 2010),
- Current English Heritage guidelines (EH 1991)
- The Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers East of England Region *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (ALGAO 2003)



3 Results

Introduction

The groundworks consisted of the excavation of a footings trench, a soakaway and a drainage trench. They were excavated to a depth of 1m using a tracked mini digger fitted with a 450mm toothed bucket. Four additional post pads were dug by hand.

The site stratigraphy consisted of 0.35m of topsoil overlying the mid brown clay and flint natural geology. No subsoil was noted.

Description

No archaeological cut features, deposits or artefacts were noted during the excavation of any of the groundworks.



Plate 1: Pad, facing southwest



Plate 2: Soakaway facing northwest



4 Conclusions

The site is a level, rectangular plot located on rising ground immediately adjacent to West Common. The topography of the plot and observed stratigraphy of the excavations suggest there is a likelihood that the site as a whole has been truncated by an unknown amount, probably to create a level platform on which to build the existing house. Topsoil has then been deposited directly onto the exposed clay.

If archaeological features had been present on the site prior to its development, then it is likely that only the deeper cut ones would have survived. This, and the relatively small areas that were excavated, make an assessment of the potential archaeological survival in the vicinity problematic.

5 Acknowledgements

KDK Archaeology is grateful to Graham Randall for commissioning this report on behalf of Rob Birkett. His assistance in providing the drawings which have been used as a basis for the plans in this report is also duly acknowledged. Thanks are also due to Brian Dalzell, of BD Project Solutions for his assistance on site. The project was monitored on behalf of St Albans City and District Council by Simon West.

The fieldwork was undertaken, and report written by David Kaye. The report was edited by Karin Kaye.

6 Archive

6.1 The project archive will comprise:

1. Method Statement
2. Summary report
3. Monitoring sheets
4. List of photographs
5. B/W prints & negatives
6. CDROM with copies of all digital files.

6.2 The archive will be deposited with St Albans Museum.



7 References

Standards & Specifications

- ALGAO 2003 *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England*. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 14.
- Allen J L & Holt A St J 1986 (with later updates) *Health & Safety in Field Archaeology*. London: Federation of Archaeological Managers & Employers
- Brickley M & McKinley J I 2004 *Guidelines to the Standards for Recording Human Remains*. Reading: Institute for Archaeologists Technical Paper.
- EH 1991 *The Management of Archaeological Projects, 2nd edition*. London: English Heritage
- EH 2006 *The Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* London: English Heritage
- EH 2011 *Environmental Archaeology: a guide to the theory and practice of methods from sampling and recovery to post-excavation* London: English Heritage
- Ferguson L M & Murray D M 1997 *Archaeological Documentary Archives: Preparation, Curation and Storage*. Manchester: Institute for Archaeologists' Paper 1
- Gurney, D. 2003 *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 14
- IFA 2010 Institute for Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct*. Reading: Institute for Archaeologists
- IFA 2008 Institute for Archaeologists' *Code of Approved Practice for the Regulation of Contractual Arrangements in Field Archaeology* Reading: Institute for Archaeologists
- IFA 2008a *Standards & Guidance for the Investigation and Recording of Standing Buildings*. Reading: Institute for Archaeologists
- IFA 2009 *Standards & Guidance for Archiving Archaeological Projects*. Reading: Institute for Archaeologists
- IFA 2013 Institute for Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct*. Reading: Institute for Archaeologists
- IFA (various dates) Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard & Guidance documents (Desk-Based Assessments 2011, Watching Briefs 2008, Evaluations 2009, Excavations 2008, Investigation and Recording of Standing Buildings 2008, Finds 2008, Archiving 2009)*.
- Kaye, D. 2013 *Method Statement for Archaeological Watching Brief*, KDK Archaeology Ltd
- SMA 1995 *Towards an accessible archaeological archive - the transfer of archaeological archives to museums: guidelines for use in England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales*. London: Society for Museum Archaeologists
- Walker K 1990 *Guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long-term storage*. United Kingdom Institute for Conservation, Archaeology Section (London).
- Watkinson D & Neal V 1998 *First Aid for Finds* Hertford & London: Rescue



Appendix 1: Photograph List

SITE NO/CODE:037/RMC			Site Name:7 St Mary's Close, Redbourn, Hertfordshire
Shot	B&W	Digital	Subject
1	X	X	Pad, facing SW
2	X	X	Pad, facing SW
3	X	X	Soakaway, facing NW
4	X	X	Soakaway, facing NW
5	X	X	Soakaway, facing SE
6	X	X	Soakaway, facing SE



Appendix 2: KDK OASIS Sheet

PROJECT DETAILS			
Project Name:	7 St Mary's Close, Redbourn, Hertfordshire	OASIS reference:	kdkarcha1-179474
Short Description:	In December 2013 KDK Archaeology Ltd began a programme of observation and recording of 7 St Mary's Close, Redbourn, Hertfordshire. Footings and drainage groundworks were monitored as part of the planning conditions set on the development. Strip footings, pads, a soakaway and drainage were excavated revealing that the site had been truncated, probably when the extant house was constructed. No archaeological cut features, deposits or artefacts were encountered.		
Project Type:	Observation and Recording		
Previous work: (eg. SMR refs)	None	Site status: (eg. none, SAM, listed)	None
Current land use:	Garden	Future work: (yes/no/unknown)	None
Monument type:	None	Monument period:	N/A
Significant finds: (artefact type & period)	None		
PROJECT LOCATION			
County:	Hertfordshire	OS reference: (8 figs min)	TL 10140 11945
Site address: (+ postcode if known)	7 St Mary's Close, Redbourn, Hertfordshire, AL3 7DD		
Study area: (sq. m. / ha)	27.5 sq. m	Height OD: (metres)	105mAOD
PROJECT CREATORS			
Organisation:	KDK Archaeology Ltd		
Project brief originator:	St Albans City & District Council	Project design originator:	KDK Archaeology Ltd
Project Manager:	Karin Kaye MA MIFA	Director/Supervisor:	David Kaye BA AIFA
Sponsor / funding body:	Rob Birkett		
PROJECT DATE			
Start date:	18.12.2013	End date:	9.05.2014
PROJECT ARCHIVES			
	Location (Accession no.)	Content (eg. pottery, animal bone, files/sheets)	
Physical:	St Albans Museum	None	
Paper:		Summary Report, Recording Forms	
Digital:		CD	
BIBLIOGRAPHY (Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report)			
Title:	Observation & Recording Summary Report: 7 St Mary's Close, Redbourn, Herts		
Serial title & volume:	KDK Archaeology Ltd Report ref. 036/RSM/1		
Author(s):	David Kaye BA AIFA		
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