

# KDK ARCHAEOLOGY LTD

# Archaeological Observation and Recording Report

1 Church Close Reed Royston Hertfordshire

Derek Watson PhD

March 2020



#### Quality Check

Author	Derek Watson PhD	Version	420/RCC/2.1	Date	10/03/2020
Editor	David Kaye BA ACIfA	Version	420/RCC/2.1	Date	11/05/2020
Revision		Version		Date	

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#### Summary

In October 2019 KDK Archaeology Ltd undertook a programme of Observation and Recording at 1 Church Close, Reed, Royston, Hertfordshire, as a condition of planning permission for the development of the site. The site is situated in the historic core of Reed village, which contains one of the largest and most significant concentrations of medieval archaeology in Hertfordshire, and is situated near four medieval moated sites that are Scheduled Monuments. However, no archaeological finds, or cut features or deposits were exposed during this programme of works and the stratigraphy revealed within the development site was extensively disturbed and truncated. Consequently, if there were archaeological remains present in the area these have been destroyed during construction of 1 Church Close.

#### 1 Introduction

1.1 In October 2019 KDK Archaeology Ltd undertook a programme of Observation and Recording at 1 Church Close, Reed, Royston, Hertfordshire. The project was commissioned by Laura Watson of EHW Architects, and was carried out according to a Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by KDK (Summerfield-Hill 2018), and approved by the Archaeological Advisor to the Hertfordshire Historic Environment Team (HHET) on behalf of the Local Planning Authority (LPA), North Hertfordshire District Council. The relevant planning application reference is 18/01260/FPH.

#### 1.2 Planning Background

This project has been required under the terms of National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and Condition 3 of the planning permission for the development of the site.

#### 1.3 *The Site*

#### Location

The site is situated in the village and civil parish of Reed which comes under the authority of North Hertfordshire District Council. It lies at the southern end of the present village, c.48m to the west of the  $11^{th}$  century village church. The site is centred on National Grid Reference 536060 235735 (Fig. 1).

#### Description

The site forms part of a group of cottages to the north of Reed Hall that were formerly part of Church Farm. The cottages are bounded by Church Lane to the north, Church Close to the east and a large pond to the west. Number 1 Church Close forms the north-eastern corner of the group (Fig. 2).

#### Geology & Topography

The bedrock geology comprises chalk from the Lewes Nodular and Seaford Chalk Formations, whilst the superficial deposits derive from the Lowestoft Formation and consists of chalky till (characterised by its chalk and flint content) with outwash sands, gravels, silts and clays (http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html). The site lies at an elevation of *c*.150m AOD.

#### Development

The development entails the construction of single storey front extensions (Fig. 3).



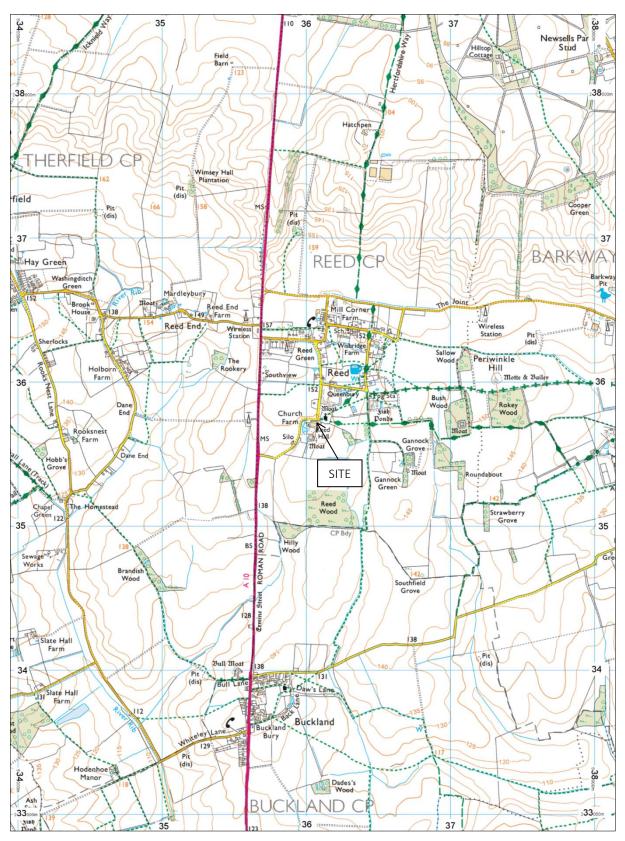


Figure 1: Site location (scale 1:25,000)



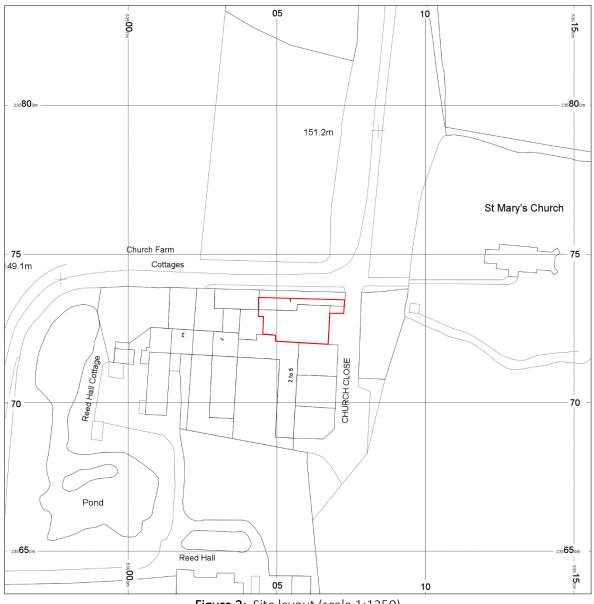


Figure 2: Site layout (scale 1:1250)



#### 2 Aims & Methods

#### 2.1 **Aims**

The aims of this project as defined in the approved WSI (Summerfield-Hill 2018) 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 landscape
- To recover palaeo-environmental remains to determine local environmental conditions.

#### 2.2 *Methods*

In line with the requirements of the WSI, the methods used were as follows:

- The archaeological monitoring of all groundworks related to the development, to include any service trenches, foundation trenches, piling, landscaping and any other ground reduction. This included a contingency for preservation or further archaeological investigation if any remains encountered
- The analysis of the results of the archaeological work with provision for the subsequent production of a report and archive, and if appropriate the publication of the results
- Provisions as may be necessary to protect the archaeological and historic interests of the site.

#### 2.3 *Standards*

The work conformed to the following requirements:

- The WSI
- The relevant sections of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard & Guidance Notes* (CIFA 2014)
- The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct* (CIfA 2014)
- Current English Heritage guidelines (HE 2015, EH 2008)
- The Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers East of England Region Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England (ALGAO 2003)



#### 3 Archaeological & Historical Background

3.1 The development site lies within an Area of Archaeological Significance that has one of the largest and most important concentrations of medieval archaeology in Hertfordshire. The village layout is unusual in that there are several moats that while situated close together these are dispersed among a network of lanes with empty spaces between. It also has more farmsteads in the village (rather than scattered around the parish) than is usual in Hertfordshire. The reason for this particular form of village development remains unclear.

This section has been compiled with information from Hertfordshire Historic Environment Record Office (HHER, search radius 1km, HER request no. 200/18), a consultation document by the Hertfordshire Historic Environment Team (HHET), KDKs library, and reliable internet sources. The HER data is shown in Fig. 3

#### **Prehistoric – Iron Age** (before 600BC – AD43)

Aerial photography has revealed the presence of a number of cropmarks adjacent to Reed Wood that includes linear ditches, trackways and probable enclosures. A circular enclosure (HHER 4783), *c*.30m in diameter may be the remains of a ploughed-out round barrow: a Late Neolithic to Early Bronze Age funerary monument.

A Late Bronze Age to Early Iron Age settlement is also indicated by the ditches and other features observed during a Watching Brief south of Reed Hall (HHER 30184). A single late Iron Age silver coin has also been recovered locally (HHER 22974).

#### **Roman** (AD43 - c.450)

The A10, which is 385m west of the development and forms the western boundary of the parish, overlies the Roman road, Ermine Street, which was constructed from London to York by the Roman army after the conquest of southern Britain in AD43-45. Today the road survives as earthworks, cropmarks and parts are still in use as a road (HHER 9271).

A number of Roman coins were found at Reed End, 955m northwest of the development site, which has been suggested is indicative of a Roman camp (Cussans r. 1972: 116; HHER 1522). This may be substantiated by the cropmarks of a possible ditched enclosure and cut features found near the Roman coins but the date of the cropmarks have yet to be established (HHER 16996).

#### Saxon (c.450 - 1066)

There is no evidence for early Saxon settlement in the HER search area, but by the late Saxon period the settlement was clearly well established and wealthy enough to afford a stone church (HER 4035). The Domesday Survey of 1086 allows an insight into the late Saxon settlement before the land holdings were re-ordered in favour of the conquering Normans.

A number of estates of various sizes existed at the time of the Norman Conquest. Of these, the largest was the 4 hides and 1½ virgates held by Aelward of King Harold (Williams & Martin 2002: 380). There were three holdings of only 1 hide, associated with Eadgifu. Lyfinge the priest and Thorbiorn held one 1 hide estate apiece of Eadgifu, and the third was held by Eadgifu of Archbishop Stigand (*ibid*: 379, 373). The smallest land holding was that of Sigenoth who had just 1 virgate of land that he held of St Mary of Chatteris (*ibid*: 385).



Despite the fact that the name Reed comes from Old English meaning 'a rough piece of ground' (HER 2702; Mills 1991: 270) the pasture, meadow and woodland recorded in the Domesday Survey was clearly more than sufficient for successful development of the settlement.

#### Medieval (1066 - 1500)

The re-organisation of the landholdings in Reed after the Norman Conquest led to the development of at least four manors. Hardwin de Scalers was awarded lands totalling 5 hides and 1½ virgates that became Reed Manor, also known as Challers (VCH). Challers survives as Reed Hall (HHER 4026 & 15908), a Grade II listed 15<sup>th</sup> century hall house and moated site, which is situated *c*.70m to the south of the development site. Human remains are known to have been found here as it is captioned on early OS mapping (HHER 30371). The precise location of the discovery and whether the remains were associated with the Saxon church some 50m to the east is unclear.

The manor of Queenbury, a 13<sup>th</sup> century moated site which is situated *c*.140m to the northeast of the development originated in the lands held by Aelward in the late Saxon period. This was subsequently awarded to Count Eustace who subinfeudated it to Robert FitzRozelin (VCH). It is presumably so named as it was sold to Queen Elanor by Henry III (HHER 1919). The earthworks comprise a D-shaped moat within a larger homestead moat (HHER 1919).

Chamberlains Manor is thought to have originated in the 1 hide estate held by Lyfinge the priest in 1066 but was awarded to Hardwin de Scaler after the Conquest (VCH). Although this was a separate holding from his chief manor in Reed, by the early 16<sup>th</sup> century Chamberlains and Challers had united to form a single manorial estate (ibid). Whether Chamberlains Manor was associated with the possible moated site to the east of the church (HHER 9099) is worth further consideration.

Gannocks Manor originated in lands held by the Dean and Chapter of St Pauls that were not listed in the Domesday Survey (VCH). Gannock Grove is located c.100m southeast of the development site and is a well preserved moated site with a probable holloway to the west of the moat (HHER 1923). Ridge and furrow has been noted to the west of Gannock Grove (HHER 30183) and Gannock Green, a registered piece of common land is also adjacent to the site (HHER 12483).

The possible moated site of Carr's Pightle (HHER 1920) is situated only 22m east of Reed Hall, and along with the ditches to the south of Reed Hall (HHER 2878), may have formed part of the same complex.

Another medieval moated site is Goodfellows, situated 318m north of the development site where the moat is now fragmented and consists of two ponds and an elongated depression enclosing a large area (HHER 1918).

Medieval ditches have been recorded at Mill Korner, Jacksons Lane, 734m northeast of the development (HHER 11427). Possible medieval pits and ditches have been excavated at Reed House, Jacksons Lane, *c*. 863m northeast of the development, also within the area are traces of medieval ridge and furrow (HHER 18178).

The development site lies only 48m west of St Mary's Church (HHER 4035). Although the nave is predominantly Saxon, the chancel is mid-14<sup>th</sup> century. The date of the tower is not altogether clear, but the HER states it dates from the 13<sup>th</sup> century and was heightened in the 15<sup>th</sup>. T.P. Smith assigns a Saxon date to the lower stages of the tower (1973: 20), but the Taylors give it a 15<sup>th</sup> century date (2011: 509). Two female skeletons were revealed southeast of the church during the monitoring of drainage works in 2009 (Heritage Network). Given the proximity of the church, it is possible that human remains may also be present on the development site.



#### Post-medieval (1500 - 1900)

The development site, which is a converted and extended timber framed and weather-boarded barn, originally formed part of a 19<sup>th</sup> century farmstead, known as Church Farm that was the home farm for Reed Hall (HHER 11037). Church Farm may have had earlier origins, as the 1766, Dury and Andrews' Map of Hertfordshire shows three structures in the vicinity of the site. One of these is likely to be Reed Hall, but the other two buildings may represent structures preceding Church Farm.

Further post-medieval farmsteads also exist at Queenbury, comprising a substantial farmstead with medieval origins, which was partly altered into a country house in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, (HHER 15074). Wisbridge Farm, 688m northeast of the development, is also a post-medieval farmstead with a surviving house and barn. The house was built in the late 16<sup>th</sup> or early 17<sup>th</sup> century (HHER 15075). North Farm, Crown Lane, has a 17<sup>th</sup> century or earlier farmhouse (HHER 15077). Goodfellows Farm on Church Lane has a Grade II listed 18<sup>th</sup> century farmhouse (HHER 15080). Mill Corner Farm, Brickyard Lane, is a 20<sup>th</sup> century farmstead with origins in the 19<sup>th</sup> century brickyard, (HHER 15082). This site also includes a 19<sup>th</sup> century brickfield with kiln (HHER 15352).

Further structures listed in the HHER include Drages Farm, High Street, a Grade II listed, small 17<sup>th</sup> century house, 467m northeast of the development (HHER 15079). The Cabinet PH, High Street, a Grade II listed timber-framed house, built *c*. 1700, 464m northeast of the development (HHER 17718). Reed Chapel at Church Farm, a 19<sup>th</sup> century independent chapel, 299m north of the development (HHER 17719). The Woolpack, London Road, a Grade II listed 17<sup>th</sup> century timber-framed beer house, 650m northwest of the development (HHER 30369). The site of the Red Lion, London Road a post-medieval public house that closed in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, 889m northwest of the development (HHER 30370).

The HHER also records the site of the former post-medieval village pond that was situated just outside of the west wall of the parish churchyard on common ground. It was depicted on the 1878 OS map, but by 1898 it had gone (HHER 18255).

Post-medieval enclosure ditches containing residual sherds of Roman and medieval pottery are recorded to the south of the moat at Gannock Grove, 740m southeast of the development (HHER 12053).

Further HER entries include probable fishponds initially shown on the 1808 enclosure map, situated 432m northeast of the development site (HHER 1921). A milestone north of Reed Turn, 427m southwest of the development (HHER 5045). This milestone was one of series of stones erected from 1742 by the Wadesmill Turnpike Trust, from Wadesmill to Royston along the northern road.

Windmills are recorded at Reed End, 976m northwest of the development, and at Mill Corner, 684m west-northwest of the development (HHER 5991, 15351).

#### Modern (1900 - present)

Second World War remains include a searchlight emplacement (HHER 30392) and the site of an aircraft crash that occurred in 1944 in Reed Wood (HHER 30156). Other 20<sup>th</sup> century remains include a road bridge, near to Reed Wood (HHER 5166) and a well head gear at the Cabinet PH on the High Street (HHER 5685).

#### Undated

A number of cropmarks of unknown date are also scattered about the village. These include rectilinear ditches to the north and west of Reed Wood that likely represent field boundaries (HHER 9093); linear and rectilinear cropmarks, thought to have been field boundaries west-



southwest of the development (HHER 11921), a linear ditch and rectilinear enclosures, close to Ermine Street west of the development (HHER 16922).

#### 3.2 The Known Archaeology & History of the Site

The history of the development site at No 1 Church Close is unknown but it appears to have been built in the late post-medieval/modern period. However, its significance is its proximity to four medieval moated sites, that are Scheduled Monuments: 1) Reed Hall (HHER 4026 & 15908), *c*. 70m to the south; 2) Queenbury (HHER 1919), approximately 140m to the north east; 3) Carr's Pightle (HHER 1920), an earthwork situated to the east of Reed Hall; and 4) cropmarks (HER no. 9099) located roughly 130m to the east of the proposed development. Of particular archaeological concern is the proximity of the development site to St Mary's Church (HHER 4035), 48m to the east, which is of Late Saxon (early 11<sup>th</sup> century) origin.



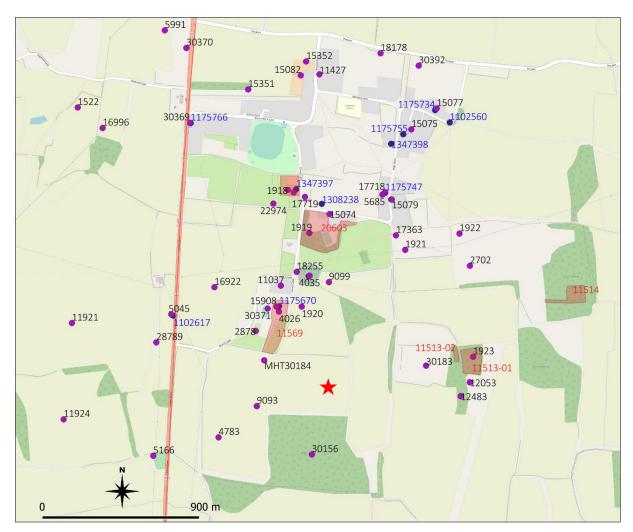


Figure 3: HER data plan; red star = site location (scale as shown). Red numbers= listed buildings; Black numbers = monuments; Purple = Scheduled Monuments



#### 4 Results

#### Introduction

In October 2019 KDK Archaeology Ltd undertook a programme of Archaeological Observation & Recording in the footprint of the development site (Fig. 4).

#### Description

A total of 20sq metres were excavated under constant archaeological supervision. The footing trenches were excavated by a 3 tonne mechanical digger fitted with a 0.75m wide toothless trenching bucket. Service trenches, particularly for electrical supply, were encountered during these excavations. The footing trenches were variable in length (Fig. 4), whereas all were 0.75m wide x 1.01-1.10m deep; three exploratory test pits (c. 0.75m wide x 0.50m long x 1.00m deep) were excavated adjacent to the south side of the house in order to determine the location of extant house footings.

The stratigraphy of the site comprised (Figs 5-8; Plates 1-9):

Topsoil (100 & 401): heavily bioturbated, dark greyish brown, silty clay (0.18-0.26m); Topsoil (401) appears to be a remnant of a flower bed buried by made-ground (400).

Terram (201): geotextile, used for ground stabilisation and drainage.

Made-ground (101, 200, 202, 300 & 400): variable, broken brick, tarmac, mortar, building refuse, and re-deposited natural (0.05-0.52m).

Natural geology (102, 203, 301 & 402): brownish yellow, gravelly, sandy clay, with inclusions of natural flint.

On completion of this investigation, no archaeological features were discovered, and no finds of archaeological significance were found on-site or in any of the spoil generated by the excavations.



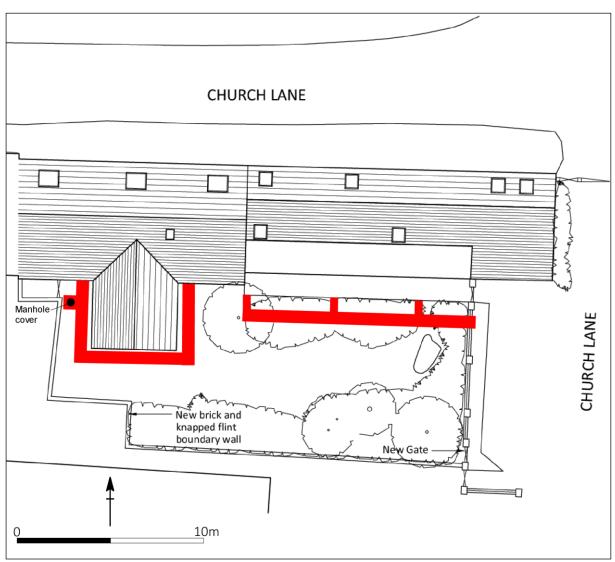


Figure 4: Development site footing trenches (scale 1:200)



(100)	(200)
	 (201)
(101)	(202)
(102)	(203)
<b>Figure 5:</b> Trench 1 stratigraphy	<b>Figure 6:</b> Trench 2 stratigraphy
(300)	(400)
	(401)
(301)	(401)

#### KDK Archaeology Ltd





Plate 1: Trench 1, looking northeast



Plate 3: Trench 2, looking west



Plate 5: Trench 3, looking northeast



Plate 2: Trench 1 stratigraphy



Plate 4: Trench 2 stratigraphy



Plate 6: Trench 3 stratigraphy





Plate 7: Trench 4, looking west



Plate 8: Trench 4, looking east



Plate 9: Trench 4 stratigraphy



#### 5 Conclusions

Despite the proximity of the site to areas of high archaeological significance, the groundworks did not reveal any archaeological features or artefacts. The stratigraphy revealed within the development area includes topsoil directly overlying made-ground or natural geology. The absence of any sub-soil suggests that the ground has been truncated within, at least, the development footprint, probably occurring prior to the construction of the extant dwelling.

The extent of the truncation is unknown and therefore impossible to ascertain whether archaeological features may have been destroyed, or whether the site lies beyond settlement activity. There also remains the possibility that the areas impacted by the development fall between widely dispersed features.

As no archaeological features were recorded the research aims of the project could not be advanced on this occasion.



#### 6 Acknowledgements

KDK Archaeology is grateful to Laura Watson of EHW Architects for commissioning this report on behalf of Mr & Mrs Aries. Thanks, are also due to Rebekah Hart of Hertfordshire County Council for providing historic environment records and other relevant documents, and to Simon Wood of HCC for monitoring the project.

The fieldwork was carried out by Barney King. The report was written by Derek Watson PhD and edited by David Kaye BA ACIfA.



#### 7 Archive

- 7.1 The project archive will comprise:
  - 1. Written Scheme of Investigation
  - 2. Initial report
  - 3. Monitoring sheets
  - 4. Site drawings
  - 5. Client's site plans
  - 6. List of photographs
  - 7. B/W prints & negatives
  - 8. Specialist reports
  - 9. CDROM with copies of all digital files.
- 7.2 The archive will be deposited with the North Hertfordshire District Council Museums Service (NHDC) reference no. REE/1CC '18.



#### 8 References

#### Standards & Specifications

- ALGAO 2003 Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 14.
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- Williams A. & Martin G.H. 2002 Domesday Book: A Complete Translation. London: Penguin.



# Appendix 1: Photograph List

	SITE NO/CODE: 420RCC		RCC	Site Name: 1 Church Close, Reed, Royston, Hertfordshire
Shot	B&W	Digital	View	Subject
1	185/32	2031	Ν	trench 3 overview
2		2032	E	trench 3 Strat
3	185/33	2033	Ν	trench 1 overview
4		2034	w	trench 1 Strat
5	185/34	2035	w	trench 2 overview
6		2036	S	trench 2 strat
7	185/35	2037	E	trench 4
8		2038	W	trench 4
9		2039	S	trench 4 Strat



# Appendix 1: OASIS and Site Data

PROJECT DETAILS						
Project Name & Address	1 Church Close, Reed, Royston, Hertfordshire	P	Project Site Code		420/RCC	
OASIS reference	Kdkarcha1-334305		Event/Accession no		REE/1CC '18	
OS reference	536060 235735		Study area size		20sq m	
Project Type	Observation & Recording		Height (mAOD)		150m AOD	
In October 2019 KDK Archaeology Ltd undertook a programme of Observation and Recording at 1 Church Close, Reed, Royston, Hertfordshire, as a condition of planning permission for the development of the site. The site is situated in the historic core of Reed village, which contains one of the largest and most significant concentrations of medieval archaeology in Hertfordshire, 						
Previous work	Unknown	s	Site status		None	
Planning proposal	The construction of single storey front extensions	C	Current land use		Residential	
Local Planning Authority	North Hertfordshire District Coun	icil P	Planning application ref.		18/01260/FPH	
Monument type	None		Monument period		None	
Significant finds	None	F	Future work		Unknown	
	PROJECT	CREAT	ORS			
Organisation	KDK Archaeology Ltd					
Project Brief originator		Proje	roject Design originator KD		K Archaeology Ltd	
Project Manager	David Kaye	Direc	ctor/Supervisor	Barney King		
Sponsor/funding body	Mr & Mrs Aries, 1 Church Close, R	Reed, Ro	oyston, Hertfordshire			
	PROJEC	CT DAT	E			
Start date	07/10/2019	End o	nd date 09/		10/2019	
	PROJECT	ARCHI	VES			
	Location		Content (e.g. pottery, a	nimal	bone, files/sheets)	
Physical	North Hortfordebing District	None	2			
Paper	North Hertfordshire District Council Museums Service	WSI,	VSI, report, site records, photographs			
Digital						
BIBLIOGRA	APHY (Journal/monograph, published	d or for	rthcoming, or unpublished	d clier	nt report)	
Title	Archaeological Observation and R	Recordin	ng Report: 1 Church Close	e, Ree	d, Royston, Hertfordshire	
Serial title & volume	420/RCC					
Author(s)	Author(s) Derek Watson PhD					
Page no's	pe no's 22 Date 11/03/2020			03/2020		



# Appendix 2: Hertfordshire Historic Environment Record Sheet

Site name and address: 1 Church Close, Reed, Roy	rston, Hertfordshire				
County: Hertfordshire	District: North Hertfordshire District Council				
Village/Town: Reed	Parish: Royston				
Planning application reference: 18/01260/FPH					
Client's name, address, & tel. no: Mr & Mrs Aries, 1 Church Close, Reed, Royston, Hertfordshire					
Nature of application: Single storey front extensions					
Present land use: Residential					
Size of application area: 20sq m	Size of area investigated: 20sq m				
NGR (to 8 figures): 536060 235735	Site code: 420RCC				
Site director: Barney King	Organization: KDK Archaeology Ltd				
Type of work: Observation & Recording					
Date of Work: Start: 07/10/2019	Finish: 09/10/2019				
Curating museum: North Hertfordshire District Cour	icil Museums Service				
Related HER no's: None Periods represented: None					
Relevant previous summaries/reports: None					
Summary of fieldwork results: In October 2019 KDK Archaeology Ltd undertook a programme of Observation and Recording at 1 Church Close, Reed, Royston, Hertfordshire, as a condition of planning permission for the development of the site. The site is situated in the historic core of Reed village, which contains one of the largest and most significant concentrations of medieval archaeology in Hertfordshire, and is situated near four medieval moated sites that are Scheduled Monuments. However, no archaeological finds, or cut features or deposits were exposed during this programme of works and the stratigraphy revealed within the development site was extensively disturbed and truncated. Consequently, if there were archaeological remains present in the area these have been destroyed during construction of 1 Church Close.					
Author: Derek Watson PhD	Date: 11/03/2020				