

Archaeological Observation and Recording Report

Land at North Red House Barn
Potash Lane
Long Marston
Hertfordshire



Quality Check

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Summary

From May 2021 to January 2022 a programme of Archaeological Observation and Recording was undertaken at Land at North Red House Barn, Potash Lane, Long Marston, Hertfordshire in order to fulfil Conditions 4 and 5 of Planning Consent for the development of the site. A number of excavations, including ground reduction and foundation trenches for a new house, a service trench, a pit for a septic tank, and a large stripped area for a manège, revealed no archaeological finds or features in spite of the site's location within an Area of Archaeological Significance and its proximity to the post-medieval listed building at Red House Farm. The wider areas of excavation, such as the ground reduction for the new house and the manège, were shallow and did not reach the archaeological horizon. The site stratigraphy showed no evidence that the ground had been truncated, so it is possible the excavations may lie between widely dispersed archaeological features, or that historically the site has never supported significant human activity.

1 Introduction

1.1 From May 2021 to January 2022 KDK Archaeology Ltd undertook a programme of Observation and Recording at Red House Barn, Potash Lane, Long Marston, Hertfordshire. The project was commissioned by Kate Blankertz, and was carried at the request of Simon Wood of Hertfordshire Historic Environment Team (HHET), Archaeological Advisor (AA) to the Local Planning Authority (LPA), Dacorum Borough Council. The relevant planning application reference is 4/00664/19/FUL.

1.2 Planning Background

This project has been required under the terms of National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) as Condition 4 of Planning Consent for the development of the site.

1.3 The Site

Location

The site is in the village of Long Marston and within Tring Rural Civil Parish, approximately 5km north of the town of Tring, at National Grid Reference SP 8856 1609 (Fig. 1). Red House Barn lies just within the most north-westerly spur of the county of Hertfordshire, though the village location is otherwise surrounded by land in Buckinghamshire.

Description

The development site is c. 90m northwest of the farmhouse at Red House Farm (Grade II, List Entry No. 1077977), and is bounded to the south by Potash Lane, and to the west, north and east by open fields (Fig. 2). The site is located within Area of Archaeological Significance no.12, which covers the extent of the medieval village of Long Marston and its associated agricultural remains to the west.

Geology and Topography

The local bedrock is formed of the Gault Formation and Upper Greensand Formation (undifferentiated), which are sedimentary mudstone, siltstone and sandstone formed approximately 94 to 113 million years ago during the Cretaceous Period (http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html). No superficial deposits have been recorded. The development site is at an elevation of approximately 84m AOD.

Proposed Development

The development proposal comprises the demolition of the existing stable block, and construction of new single storey, dwelling and manège (Fig. 3).



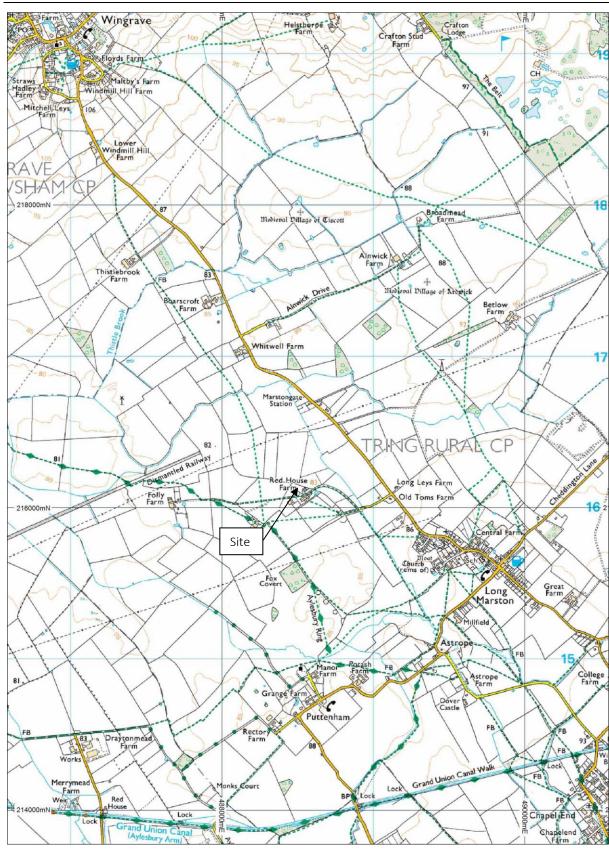


Figure 1: General location (scale 1:25,000)



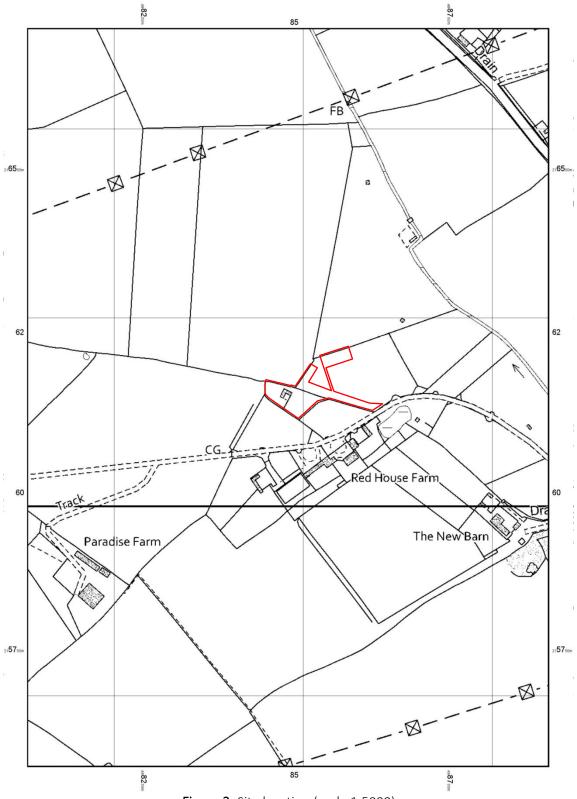


Figure 2: Site location (scale 1:5000)



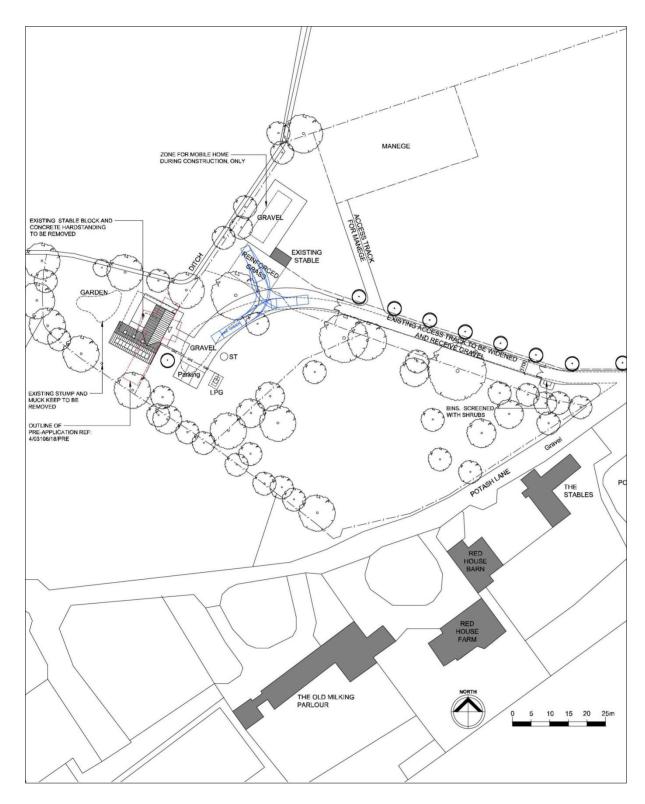


Figure 3: Development plan (scale 1:1000)



2 Aims and Methods

2.1 *Aims*

The aims of this project as defined in the approved WSI (Kaye & Watson 2019) 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, including foundation trenches, service trenches, ground reduction, landscaping, access roads and any other ground disturbance.
- A contingency was in place for preserving or investigating archaeological remains further as appropriate, however this proved to be unnecessary.

2.3 Standards

The work conformed to the following requirements:

- Written Scheme of Investigation
- The relevant sections of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Standard & Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief (CIfA 2020a)
- The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Code of Conduct (CIfA 2021)
- Current English Heritage guidelines (EH 2008, HE 2015)
- The Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers East of England Region Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England (ALGAO 2003)



3 Archaeological and Historical Background

3.1 The village of Long Marston (HER 2056) is situated in the Vale of Aylesbury, northwest of Tring. Evidence for human settlement or activity near the development site, or the village of Long Marston, is scant prior to the end of the Saxon period. Long Marston formed part of the manor of Tring and was probably only a secondary settlement; it is not mentioned in the Domesday Survey of 1086. The earliest reference to Long Marston dates from the 13th century with its manor described as consisting of half a knight's fee, held of the honour of Berkhamsted. Subsequently, it was held by the honour of Leicester in the 15th century; in the 17th century by the manor of Tring; in the 19th century by the Earls of Bridgewater; and then by the Rothschild family. In the 1851 census, the settlement was classified as a hamlet with 56 households and it has remained a predominantly arable farming community. The proposed development is within Area of Archaeological Significance no. 12, as identified in the Local Plan.

The name Long Marston is thought to derive from *mersc tun* (marsh farm) though its origins in this instance are difficult to pinpoint as it formed part of the manor of Tring and was probably only a hamlet. 'Marston' is a common name for a settlement (Mills 1991: 224), though the prefix 'Long' refers to its linear layout along the road to Tring. It is a village constituted by farmsteads, with several situated among private housing; an unusual characteristic in Hertfordshire.

The following section has been compiled from information from the Hertfordshire County Council Historic Environment Record (HER; with a 1000m search radius), Historic England and other reliable internet sources, and KDK's own library. The location of HER data is shown in Fig. 4.

3.2 **Prehistoric** (before 600BC)

The nearest prehistoric finds in the parish have predominantly been found in the northern part of Tring (Hunns 2000: 2), though a Neolithic polished stone adze (HER 11486) was found outside of the HER search area at approximately 460m south of Long Marston.

3.3 *Iron Age* (600BC - AD43) to Roman (AD43 - c.450)

No remains dating from the Iron Age have been found locally. The only evidence for Roman activity in the vicinity of the development site is a pit containing residual (2nd - 3rd century) Roman pottery at 3 Chapel Lane (HER 11805) near the centre of the village, which is outside of the HER search area.

3.4 **Saxon** (c.450 - 1066)

Long Marston formed part of the manor of Tring, the earliest mention of which is in the Domesday Survey of 1086 where it is recorded as 39 hides held by Engelric. It was one of five closely spaced settlements along with Miswell, Wiggington, Dunsley and Pendley (Hunns 2000: 3); though Long Marston is not differentiated in the Domesday Book (Williams & Martin 1992). It is possible that Tring was a major mid-late Saxon royal estate which gave its name to the hundred in which it lies, resulting in the prevention of its constituent villages/hamlets from developing into separate parishes as they formed part of a large secular estate. No remains from this period are listed in the HER.

3.5 *Medieval* (1066 - 1500)



The earliest reference to Long Marston (Merschtone, or Merston; VCH) dates from the 13th century with its manor described as consisting of half a knight's fee, held of the honour of Berkhamsted. Many of the local manors, such as Pendley, were also held of the honour of Berkhamsted, a large estate in the Tring Hundred, which at the time of the Domesday Survey in 1086 was recorded as under the lordship of the Count of Mortain (Williams & Martin 1992: 378). In the 15th century, Long Marston was held by the honour of Leicester, and in 17th century by the manor of Tring (VCH).

The development site is located *c*. 800m northwest of the village, and the nearest heritage asset, which forms part of the farm where the development site is situated, is the farmhouse at Red House Farm (Grade II, List Entry No. 1077977; HER 17162), a timber framed open-hall house dating from 1500-1520.

An extensive area of ridge and furrow (HER 6064) is situated at the north of the HER search area. Ridge and furrow and apparent earthworks (HER 16170), possibly a small deserted medieval settlement, is situated near Tring, at the edge of the HER search area.

The medieval core of Long Marston village consists of a rectangular moat and infill (HER 2611, 10795, EHT4426), the remains of a Grade II* (List Entry No 1078012) 15th century church tower (HER 4374), and a fragment of a medieval chapel of ease (Old Church of All Saints) demolished in 1883. The long, linear plots with properties along both sides of Chapel Lane are reminiscent of medieval burgage or tenement plots, and archaeological investigations at 3 Chapel Lane have recovered stratified 12-14th century pottery, other domestic refuse, and structural debris (HHER 11805, EHT5125). The site of the manor of Long Marston (11803) is presumed to be nearby and is documented from the 13th century, when Euphemia, widow of John Bassett, was granted land in Merston by Alice Bassett.

A 15th century open hall timber-framed house of some quality, disguised in later brick casing (Grade II, List Entry No 1077976) at Little Farm, 16 Station Road (HER 30625) and later barns are situated on the village outskirts.

Surviving, and extensive, areas of ridge and furrow (HER 2623; MHT 6165, 13737, 18446) surround the village of Long Marston, with an area (MHT6081) situated c. 400m southeast of the development site, highlighting the rural nature of the settlement. An extensive zones of ridge and furrow (HER 17270-1) are also located in the northern part of the HER search area.

Earthworks (HER 2548) which appear to represent two probable house platforms with a larger enclosure to the north and ditches running north-south and east-west enclosing the area are situated to the north of St Mary's Church, Puttenham. A shrunken medieval village ()HER 2636) is also located in Puttenham, which is recorded in Domesday as 'Puteham', and was a historically a separate parish. St Mary's Church in Puttenham (Grade I, List Entry No 1076690) served the shrunken village, and it dates from the 14th century. Puttenham also has an extensive area of ridge and furrow (HER 17268).

3.6 **Post-medieval** (1500 - 1900)

A number of Grade II listed buildings/structures in the village date to the 16th century, including: Nash Cottage, 25 Cheddington Lane (HER 30624; List Entry No 1075158); the timber-framed red brick Post Office, 44 Station Road (it also served as a chapel; HER 18152; List Entry No 1342255); the Rose and Crown Cottage, Station Road (HER 13748, EHT1192, List Entry No 1342256); the timber and thatch Old Thatch, 9 Station Road (HER 17126; List Entry No 1051665); and the Church Farm, Chapel Lane (HER 17129 List Entry No 1268138) and its barn (List Entry No 1342231). Old Church Farm (HER 31241) on Chapel Lane is a post-medieval farmstead that was previously known as Chapel Farm until the 20th century. Manor Farm (Grade II, List Entry No 1078014; HER 16559), in Puttenham, is a long low two-storey timber-framed building set back from the road, which also dates to the late 16th century.



The possible site of a post-medieval and earlier farmstead (HER 30894) is located c. 100m south of the extant 19^{th} century Boars Croft Cottage. The site is surrounded by ridge and furrow (HER 17195), and grassmarks of backfilled ponds. The ridge and furrow belonged to the medieval Boarscroft, the name meaning 'smallholding attached to a bower'. In 1086 this was Bure, and was the home of William de la Bure, documented in 1303, and Andrew atte Boure, documented in 1314. By 1563 it was 'Bowrscrofte'.

Loxley Farm (Grade II, List Entry No 1078013, HER 17128; EHY 8239) and gatehouse (Grade II, List Entry No 1068887) is located near the eastern end of Chapel Lane, and the 16th century farmstead was partly destroyed by fire in 1917. Evaluation via strip, map and record (EHT8239) at Loxley Farm revealed some post medieval features and remains. The place name Lokesley mede was documented in 1447, and is probably derived from *Locc's leah* (a woodland clearing of a man called *Locc*).

Folly Farm (HER 17875), in the west of the HER search area, is a post-medieval farmstead, rebuilt in the 20th century. It is also the site of a transport pond supplying water to the railway line (HE 18306), and two ponds (HER 18307-8).

A row of tiny post-medieval cottages (HER 18693) were cleared in the early 20th century for an extension to the churchyard.

Near the development site, two buildings are depicted on the Dury and Andrews' 1766 map of Hertfordshire, one to the north of Potash Lane and one (presumably the farmhouse at Red House Farm (HER 17162) to the south. It is also apparent from that map that Potash Lane may have been a more major route-way at that time than it is today.

Structures and sites dating to the 19th century include: Central Farm (HER 17127), Station Road; the site of a Smithy (HER 30942) on Station Road that was detailed on later 19th century maps; and an archaeological evaluation (EHT4735) at New Moat House, Chapel Lane revealed 19th century and later features. The 19th and early 20th century bottle dump (HER 11804, EHT5125) at 3 Chapel Lane contained predominantly glass bottles, but stoneware bottles were also present; the latter were of a type used for ginger beer and soft drinks, so it is possible this waste was from the Rodwell factory in Tring. Post-medieval features discovered at the New Moat House (HER 12760, EHT4735) comprised buried soil horizons and 19th century land drains; the only finds were peg tile, which may date from the later medieval period, but are more likely post-medieval.

The ecclesiastical parish of Long Marston was created in 1867 from parts of the neighbouring parishes of Tring, Marsworth (in Buckinghamshire) and Drayton Beauchamp. In 1894 it combined with Wilstone to form Tring Rural civil parish, whereas before that Tring included the hamlets of Wilstone and Long Marston (VCH). Long Marston parish fields were enclosed in 1805 (VCH).

The Anglican Church of All Saints, Station Road (HER 17215, Grade II, List Entry No 1077004) was built in 1882-3 on land given by Sir Nathaniel Mayer de Rothschild. Elements and furnishings from the Old Church of All Saints were incorporated into the new Church of All Saints (HER 17215), with the earliest dating from the 12th century.

Long Marston was a stronghold of the Nonconformists, though little is known about their history. The first recorded registration of a meeting-house took place in 1810, and licences were granted to the Baptists and Wesleyans in 1819 and 1829. A two-storey red brick with white Baptist chapel (HHER 12851; EHT5452) was built in 1869 on Cheddington Lane, and remained in use until modern times.

Archaeological monitoring at Red House Farm during the construction of an extension at the former milking parlour to the west of the listed farmhouse uncovered the remains of a previously unknown 18^{th} or 19^{th} century building (EHT8180).



The site of Marston Gate railway station (HER 5549) is situated c. 500m northeast of the development. The Cheddington and Aylesbury Line (HER 12983) was opened in 1839, and closed in 1963, and all that remain are earthworks (cuttings and embankments). A post-medieval pillar box (HER 5295) is located at the now demolished site of Marston Gate Station.

An archaeological evaluation at New Moat House (EHT 4735) on Chapel Lane, revealed only 19th century and later features, the only finds were roof tile fragments.

3.7 *Modern* (1900 - present)

Long Marston remained a predominantly farming community and changes during the 20th century caused by improved transportation infrastructure and increased car ownership, led to a decline in the number of services available in the settlement, including the conversion of the local smithy to a residential building, and a decrease in the number of stores. Moreover, while historically there were four public houses, now only the Queens Head remains. The village also hosts a primary school, which was built after the original (19th century) school was bombed during World War II. The current school, built in 1951, has gradually grown and extended with the village and its population.

To the west of the development site stands a prominent War Memorial (Grade II, List Entry No 1410497, HER 18151), which is a stone Celtic cross, that stands c. 5.8m tall on a plinth with a three-tiered base, and bears some carved decoration.

Archaeological investigations within the HER search area that yielded no archaeological remains, some due to area truncation, include: the watching briefs at the sports field, Station Road (EHT1171); 3 Chapel Lane (EHT5125); Marston Place, Chapel Lane (EHT8437); land adjacent to 27 Tring Road (EHT4754); and 12 Church View (EHT4900). No archaeological remains were discovered during monitoring at Barnside, Chapel Lane (EHT8356); or the strip, map & sample at Nash Cottage, 25 Cheddington Lane (EHT7930).

Archaeological investigations at Red House Farm during site re-development revealed an undated destruction layer and 13 post-holes (Bertrand 2015; EHT 8034). No archaeology was observed during monitoring at Barnside, Chapel Lane (EHT 8356), or at the Egg Packing Station on Station Road (EHT 8695); or during watching briefs at 12 Church View (EHT 4900) and Marston Place, Chapel Lane (EHT 8437).



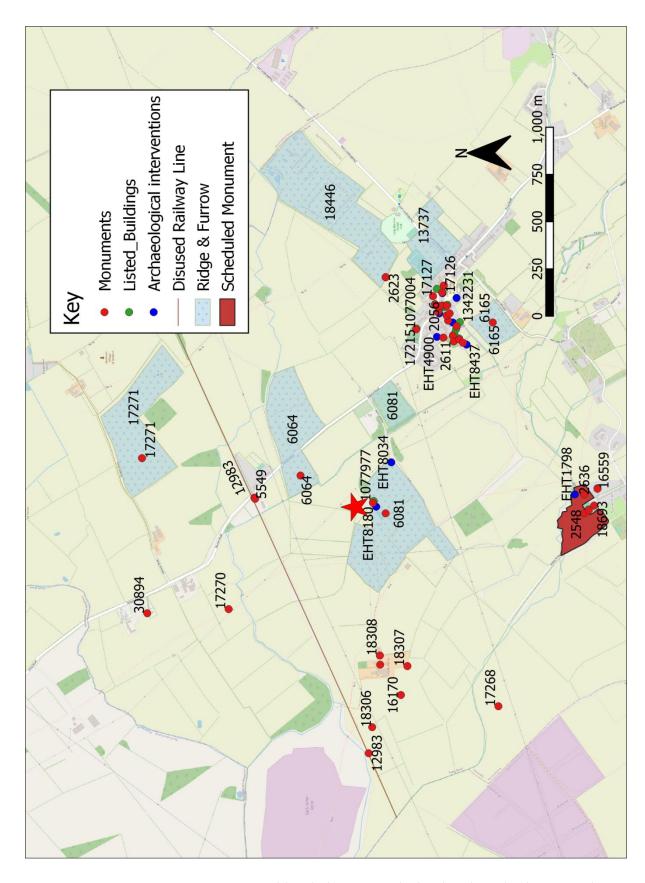


Figure 4: Historic Environment Record (HER) plan, site marked with red star (scale 1:20,000)



4 Results

4.1 *Introduction*

The project required a number of excavations, which were carried out under close archaeological supervision. This included ground reduction and foundation trenches for the new house, a service trench for a gas pipe adjoining the foundations, a deep pit for a septic tank, and a shallow stripped area for a new manège (Fig. 5). The work was carried out using a 14 tonne tracked excavator fitted with a 1.2m wide toothless bucket when carrying out ground reduction or stripping large areas, but was fitted with a 0.3m or 0.6m wide toothless bucket when excavating trenches.

4.2 **Description**

Prior to the excavation of foundation trenches for the new house, a large area measuring 22m long and 16m wide was stripped to a depth of 0.15m (Plate 1), however this did not reach below the topsoil, which only contained modern ceramic building material. The subsequent foundation trenches were all within this area and covered a footprint measuring 15.4m long and 12.9m wide arranged in an L shape. It consisted of exterior trenches measuring 0.6m wide that extended around the edge of the footprint (Plate 3), and interior trenches measuring 0.4m wide that covered the central space of the footprint (Plate 4). The trenches were generally 1.05m deep from the reduced surface, and contained 0.2m of topsoil, 0.25m of subsoil and 0.6m of natural soil beneath (Plate 5).

A 15m service trench was excavated leading east-southeast away from the foundations of the new house (Plate 6). The trench was 0.3m deep, only just reaching the natural geology (Plate 7).

The deep pit for a septic tank was excavated to the northeast of house measuring 2.2m in length and width. It was 2.5m deep with 0.22m of topsoil over 0.18m of subsoil and showed 2.1m of the natural soil beneath, which gradually became a more blue grey colour towards the base. At the very bottom was a darker patch of silty clay that was likely the remains of decomposing biological matter, such as a root (Plate 8).

The manège was excavated 50m to the northeast and measured 40m long and 20m wide, although it was only 0.2m deep and did not reach below the topsoil (Plates 9-10).

No archaeological finds or features were discovered during the excavations. The site stratigraphy was uniform in composition and only varied slightly in the depths of the layers. The topsoil was dark brownish grey silty loam with inclusions of modern detritus, particularly in the area of the new house where previous structures had stood. The subsoil was mid brownish grey silty clay and the natural geology was silty clay of a lighter brownish grey with no inclusions (Fig.6).





Plate 1: Reduced footprint for house, looking west



Plate 2: House footprint ground reduction stratigraphy, looking south-southwest



Plate 3: Exterior house foundation trench, looking west-northwest



Plate 4: Interior house foundation trench, looking north-northeast



Plate 5: House foundation trench stratigraphy, looking north-northeast



Plate 6: Service trench, looking west-northwest





Plate 7: Service trench stratigraphy, looking north-northeast



Plate 8: Septic tank and stratigraphy, looking westnorthwest



Plate 9: Manège, looking west-northwest



Plate 10: Manège stratigraphy, looking east-northeast



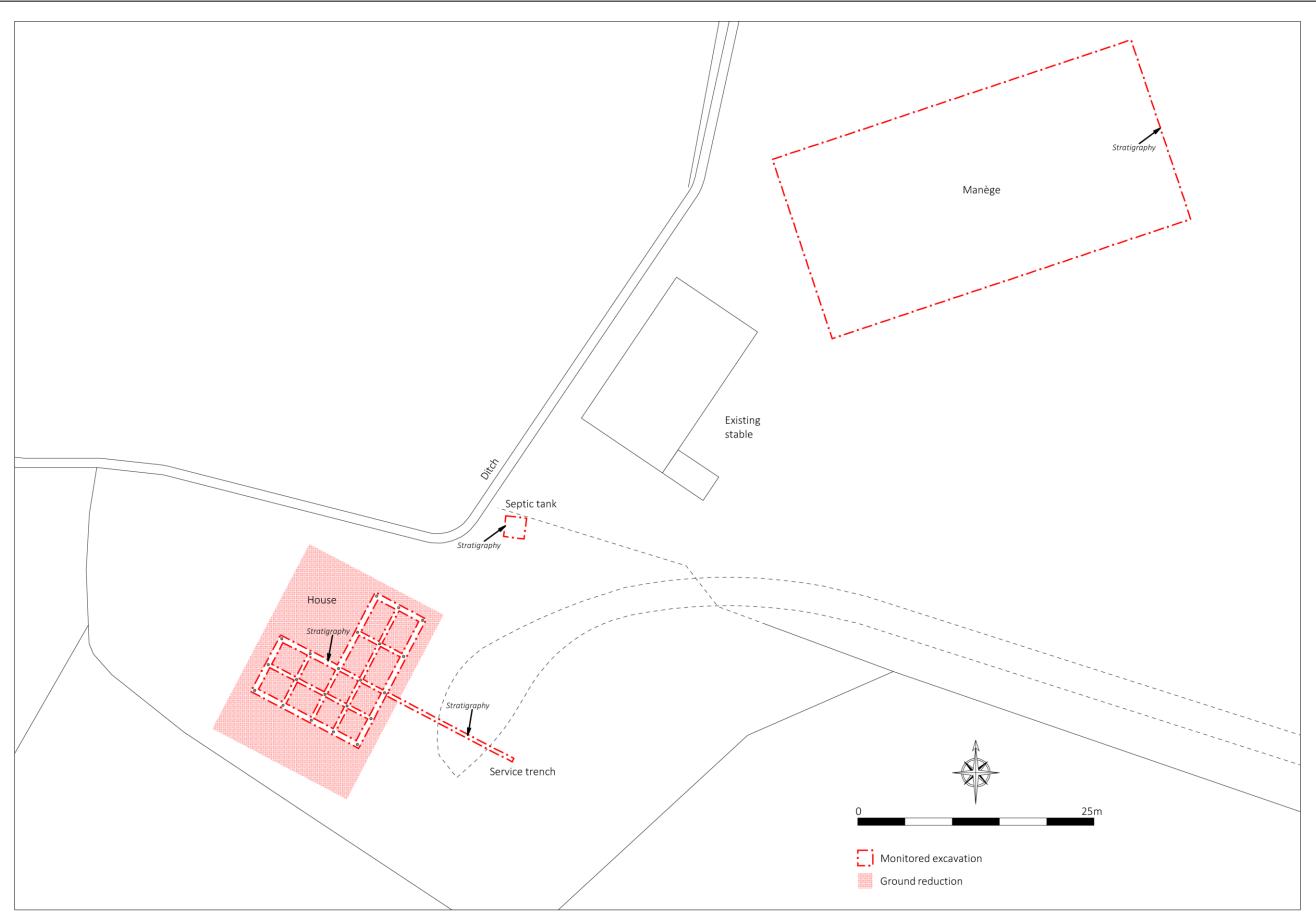


Figure 5: Excavations plan (scale 1:400)



Service trench
Topsoil
Subsoil
Natural soil
Manège
Topsoil
O 1m

Figure 6: Site stratigraphy (scale 1:20)



5 Conclusions

Although the site is located within an Area of Archaeological Significance that covers the medieval village of Long Marston and its outlying agricultural remains, no features or artefacts of archaeological note were uncovered during this project. The excavations revealed consistent stratigraphy over a wide area, with well stratified layers of topsoil and subsoil, suggesting that there has not been any truncation of the ground. The large areas of excavation, such as ground reduction for the new house and for the manège, were shallow and did not reach the archaeological horizon. Deeper excavations, which reached the natural soil, were only relatively narrow trenches, collectively forming only a small sample of the site's area. The absence of archaeology may, therefore, be due to the trenches being located between widely dispersed archaeological features, or that the site was never historically occupied. Either way the research aims of the project could not be advanced on this occasion.



6 Acknowledgements

KDK Archaeology is grateful to Kate Blankertz for commissioning this report. Thanks are also due to Rebekah Hart of Hertfordshire County Council for providing historic environment records and other relevant documents and to the Hertfordshire Historic Environment Team for monitoring the project.

Special thanks go to Steve Wright of SK Wright Building Contractors Ltd for his assistance during the project.

The fieldwork was carried out by Chris Martin-Taylor BSc and Florian Weber MA ACIfA. The report was written by Chris Martin-Taylor, 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
- 7.2 As the site was sterile, Dacorum Museum will not accept the archive and it will be retained by KDK Archaeology. The report will be deposited with OASIS (ref. kdkarcha1-360901).



8 References

Standards & Specifications

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Appendix 1: Photograph List

Shot	JPEG	RAW	Subject				
1	Х	Х	Reduced footprint for house, looking west				
2	Х	Х	House footprint ground reduction stratigraphy, looking south-southwest				
3	Х	Х	Exterior house foundation trench, looking west-northwest				
4	Х		Interior house foundation trench, looking north-northeast				
5	Х		House foundation trench stratigraphy, looking north-northeast				
6	Х	Х	Service trench, looking west-northwest				
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9	Х	Х	Manège, looking west-northwest				
10	Х	Х	Manège stratigraphy, looking east-northeast				



Appendix 2: OASIS and Site Data

PROJECT DETAILS							
Land at North Red House Barn,							
Project Name & Address	Potash Lane, Long Marston, Hertfordshire	Proje	ect Site Code		479/LMP		
OASIS reference	kdkarcha1-360901	Even	t/Accession no		N/A		
OS reference	SP 8856 1609	Stud	y area size		1162m²		
Project Type	Archaeological Observation and Recording	Heig	ht (mAOD)		84m		
From May 2021 to January 2022 a programme of Archaeological Observation and Recording was undertaken at Land at North Red House Barn, Potash Lane, Long Marston, Hertfordshire in order to fulfil Conditions 4 and 5 of Planning Consent for the development of the site. A number of excavations, including ground reduction and foundation trenches for a new house, a service trench, a pit for a septic tank, and a large stripped area for a manège, revealed no archaeological finds or features in spite of the site's location within an Area of Archaeological Significance and its proximity to the post-medieval listed building at Red House Farm. The wider areas of excavation, such as the ground reduction for the new house and the manège, were shallow and did not reach the archaeological horizon. The site stratigraphy showed no evidence that the ground had been truncated, so it is possible the excavations may lie between widely dispersed archaeological features, or that historically the site has never supported significant human activity.							
Previous work	Bertrand, J. 2015 Archaeological Strip, Map, and Sample Excavation and Watching Brief Report: Red House Farm, Potash Lane, Long Marston, Hertfordshire. KDK Archaeology Ltd. library reference 134/LMR/2	Site	Site status		Area of Archaeological Significance		
Planning proposal	Demolition of existing stable block and construction of a new single storey dwelling and manège		Current land use		Farm buildings and field		
Local Planning Authority	Dacorum Borough Council	Plani	Planning application ref.		4/00664/19/FUL		
Monument type	N/A	Mon	Monument period		N/A		
Significant finds	None	Futu	Future work		No		
-	PROJECT	CREATORS					
Organisation	KDK Archaeology Ltd	CILLYTTOTIO					
Project Brief originator	N/A	Project C	Design originator	KDK	Archaeology Ltd		
Project Manager	Karin Kaye MA MCIfA		/Supervisor		s Martin-Taylor BSc		
Sponsor/funding body	Kate Blankertz	Directory	Supervisor	CIIII	5 IVIAITIII-TAYIOI D3C		
Sportsor/runding body		~T DATE					
PROJECT DATE Start date 11.05.2021 End date 14.01.2022							
Start date				14.0	11.2022		
PROJECT ARCHIVES							
	Location Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone, files/sheets)						
Physical	-	N/A					
Paper	-	N/A					
DigitalOASISReport							
BIBLIOGRAPHY (Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report)							
Title Archaeological Observation and Recording Report: Land at North Red House Barn, Potash Lane, Long Marston, Hertfordshire							
Serial title & volume 479/LMP/2							
Author(s)	Chris Martin-Taylor BSc						
Page no's	26	Date 15.09.2022					
rage IIU 3	۷0	Date		15.0	J. 2022		



Appendix 3: Hertfordshire Historic Environment Record Sheet

Site name and address: Land at North Red House Barn, Potash Lane, Long Marston, Hertfordshire						
County: Her	tfordshire		District:	Dacorum		
Village/Town: Lor	ng Marston		Parish:	Tring Rural		
Planning application re	eference: 4/00664/19/F	FUL				
Client's name, address	s, & tel. no: Kate Blankert:	Z				
Nature of application:	Demolition of existing stak	ble blo	ock and constru	uction of a n	ew single storey dwelling and manège	
Present land use:	Farm buildings and field					
Size of application are	a: 4250m²		Size of area in	vestigated:	1162m ²	
NGR (to 8 figures):	SP 8856 1609		Site code:		479/LMP	
Site director:	Chris Martin-Taylor BSc	;	Organization:		KDK Archaeology Ltd	
Type of work:	Archaeological Observation and	d Rec	ording			
Date of Work:	Start: 11.05.2021			Finish:	14.01.2022	
Curating museum: N/A						
Related HER no's: HER	17162	Peri	ods represente	ed: Post-med	dieval - modern	

Relevant previous summaries/reports:

Bertrand, J. 2015 Archaeological Strip, Map, and Sample Excavation, and Watching Brief Report: Red House Farm, Potash Lane, Long Marston, Hertfordshire. KDK Archaeology Ltd. library reference 134/LMR/2

Summary of fieldwork results:

From May 2021 to January 2022 a programme of Archaeological Observation and Recording was undertaken at Land at North Red House Barn, Potash Lane, Long Marston, Hertfordshire in order to fulfil Conditions 4 and 5 of Planning Consent for the development of the site. A number of excavations, including ground reduction and foundation trenches for a new house, a service trench, a pit for a septic tank, and a large stripped area for a manège, revealed no archaeological finds or features in spite of the site's location within an Area of Archaeological Significance and its proximity to the post-medieval listed building at Red House Farm. The wider areas of excavation, such as the ground reduction for the new house and the manège, were shallow and did not reach the archaeological horizon. The site stratigraphy showed no evidence that the ground had been truncated, so it is possible the excavations may lie between widely dispersed archaeological features, or that historically the site has never supported significant human activity.

	Author:	Chris Martin-Taylor BSc	Date:	16.09.2022	
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