

Midland Road, Royston: Archaeological Desk Based Assessment

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Produced for
Kier Living

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1 Introduction

1.1 Project Background

1.1.1 Mouchel have been commissioned by Kier Living to undertake an Archaeological Desk Based Assessment (DBA) to support a full planning application for the redevelopment of a site off Midland Road, Royston.

1.1.2 This document will identify the likely types of archaeological remains which may be encountered and the impacts of such a development.

1.2 Site description

1.2.1 The proposed re-development site is located within the Royston area, which is situated to the southeast of Barnsley. The proposed development site is situated to the north of Midland Road on land which was formerly occupied by Royston High School (now demolished). The site is bounded to the south by Midland Road, to the north by a footpath (Warren Walk) and existing residential dwellings, to the west by residential dwellings and council buildings and to the east by land which is currently being developed by Persimmon Homes. The land slopes gently to the south and is currently covered with grass and mounds of what appears to be demolition material.

1.2.2 The site is centred at SE 3631 1175.

1.3 Planning Background

1.3.1 The site has been subject to a previous planning application in 2012. The previous application (2012/1337/FU) covered the area currently being assessed and the land to the north which is currently being developed by Persimmon Homes. The site was previously in use as a school, but all previous buildings have been demolished.

2 Aims and Objectives

- 2.1 The main objectives are to:
- provide a desk based assessment of records, cartographic and written sources in order to identify and where possible, quantify, the size, complexity and potential risk of any below ground archaeology issues;
 - advise on the requirement for, and scope of, any further work likely to be required to support any future planning applications;
 - and to inform future budgets and programmes.
- 2.2 The desk based assessment forms the first stage of an iterative process of a cultural heritage assessment which will be considered alongside wider scheme issues during development of the scheme design. As part of any future detailed design process, further archaeological investigations may be required to assess the extent, character and significance of buried remains.
- 2.3 It is necessary to assess the significance of any such archaeological interest and the likely impact of any proposed re-development upon the significance of any heritage assets, where possible, in accordance with Policy 128 of the National Planning Policy Framework.

3 Legislative Context

National, Regional and Local Policy

- 3.1 The following legislation, policies, plans and guidelines have been taken into account as part of this study.

Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act, 1979

- 3.2 This legislation sets out guidance and policy for protecting nationally important monuments through scheduled status. Consent must be obtained from English Heritage for all works on Scheduled Ancient Monuments.

Planning (Listed Building and Conservation Areas) Act 1990

- 3.3 The Act makes provision for the protection and conservation of historic buildings and areas by way of a process of listing and designation. Identified buildings are classified as being Grade I, Grade II* or Grade II and historic areas are designated conservation areas. Once listed, Listed Building consent must be obtained from the local planning authority before works to demolish, alter or extend a listed building can be carried out. Similarly, consent must be obtained for the demolition of buildings in a Conservation Area. New developments in a Conservation Area are also expected to adhere to strict design criteria to ensure the character of the area is maintained or enhanced.

National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) 2012

- 3.4 The NPPF replaced Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning and the Historic Environment (2010) in 2012 but incorporates many of the policies outlined within PPS5 including the need to assess heritage assets as part of the development schemes and to record assets that cannot be conserved as part of the works. This includes both designated and undesignated assets.

Barnsley Local Development Framework – Core Strategy (published 2011)

- 3.5 The following policy in the Core Strategy relates to the protection and enhancement of the historic environment:

- Policy CPS 30 – The Historic Environment: This policy states that Barnsley MBC will encourage the management, conservation and enjoyment of the historic environment. It further states that development which affects the historic environment (either directly or indirectly) will be expected to protect or enhance them.

Barnsley Unitary Development Plan – saved policies (2000)

- 3.6 While the Local Development Framework has largely replaced the Unitary Development Plan, a number of policies from the document have been saved. One of these saved policies relates to the historic environment:

- Policy BE4: This policy outlines that where physical preservation of archaeological remains in situ is not justified, these remains should be subject to excavation and recording.

Standards and Guidance

- 3.7 The requirement for an assessment of heritage is outlined in Policy 128 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) which outlines the need to identify and assess all heritage assets, their significance and the impact the proposals may have upon them (where possible). The assessment has been undertaken in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Standards and Guidance for Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessments (CIfA 2014).

4 Methodology

- 4.1 A desk study has been undertaken to investigate, as far as is reasonable and practical, the nature and extent of any known or potential archaeological and historical assets within a study area encompassing a 500m radius from the boundary of the proposed scheme.
- 4.2 The assessment has been informed by a review of all available archaeological records; historical documentary evidence; cartographic evidence and photographic material. This has involved a consultation of the following sources:
- Historic England – for all records relating to known designated heritage assets and aerial photographic sources;
 - South Yorkshire Historic Environment Record (SYHER) – for all records relating to known heritage assets and secondary source material including archaeological investigation reports;
 - South Yorkshire Archive Service – for all historic documentary evidence relating to the site including both primary and secondary sources;
 - National, regional and local planning policy.
- 4.3 The relevant historic maps for the study area have been examined including Ordnance Survey maps from the 1st edition to the present and any additional available maps such as 18th and 19th century private estate and land development maps, tithe maps and enclosure maps.
- 4.4 The solid and drift geology for the site has been identified based on that recorded by the British Geological Survey/ Geological Survey of Great Britain Maps.
- 4.5 A site walkover of the proposed scheme was conducted, where access and health and safety allowed, to allow for a consideration of the study area, the possible identification of landscape and archaeological features and factors that may have had an impact on buried remains (i.e. drains, services etc). The site walkover was undertaken on 26th July 2016. Photographs were taken using a digital camera.
- 4.6 All features identified through the research have been plotted on a site plan in GIS and the site numbers correspond with the reference numbers in the gazetteer (**Figure 1 and Appendix A**).
- 4.7 An Online Access to Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) project record will be composed following approval of the final report.

5 Site Description

5.1 Proposed Scheme Description

Kier Living intend to redevelop the site of a former School in Royston, Barnsley. The proposals comprise a residential development on a site which is adjacent to one currently being developed by Persimmon Homes.

5.2 Site Visit

5.2.1 The proposed site consists of open ground which was previously occupied by school buildings and a sports pitch. The school buildings have all been demolished and there is evidence of piles of demolition material on the site which has become overgrown with weeds. The site is surrounded on almost all sides by a variety of commercial and residential properties, those to the north have recently been constructed by Persimmon Homes.

5.2.2 No new, previously unknown sites were located during the walkover survey.



Plate 1 – General view of site looking south



Plate 2 – General view of site looking west

5.3 Geology

- 5.3.1 The proposed re-development site is located on Mexborough Rock Sandstone which is a sedimentary bedrock formed approximately 309 to 310 million years ago in the Carboniferous Period and is typical of a local environment previously dominated by rivers. The soils are described as slowly permeable seasonally waterlogged clays of the Dale Association.

6 Historical and Archaeological Background

6.1 Introduction

6.1.1 The location of the sites taken from the South Yorkshire Archaeology Service Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) within a 500m radius from the boundary and sites recorded on the National Heritage List for England (NHLE) which lie within a 1km boundary of the site and are tabled in the Gazetteer and indicated in Figures 1 and in Appendix A of this report. The numbers referenced on the plans and in bold in the text (e.g **1**) have been added for the purposes of this report only. A total of 13 sites have been identified. These are listed individually in the Gazetteer (Appendix A). Some of these entries are included in the SMR and the NHLE and, therefore, include a SMR and an NHLE reference.

6.2 Previous Archaeological Investigations

6.2.1 In 2013, geophysical survey, trial trenching and Strip, Map and Record were carried out on the current site and wider area as part of the 2012 planning application. The survey and excavations covered the area immediately east of the High School and the fields north of Warren Walk. As the school buildings were still standing at the time of the investigations, this area was excluded from the survey.

6.2.2 The geophysical survey was carried out by Archaeological Services WYAS and discovered evidence of ridge and furrow cultivation over much of the site, as well as identifying what appeared to be two sides of a rectilinear enclosure in the fields north of Warren Walk (the line of one of the enclosure ditches appeared to be continuing into the area occupied by the school and within the current Proposed Development site).

6.2.3 Following on from the geophysical survey, trial trenching was carried out to test the results. Twelve trenches were excavated, along with a 1700 sq m strip and map area. The strip and map area contained no archaeology. Almost all trenches contain furrows, confirming the result of the geophysical survey, and the furrows seemed to represent two distinct periods based on their differing widths. Two trenches (trenches 4 and 5) which were targeted on the possible enclosure located archaeological features which consisted of the enclosure ditches and an internal pit. None of the features contained datable material, however their form suggests an Iron Age or Romano British date. These features were located only c.20m northeast of the area of the current Proposed Development site and it is likely that at least 1 ditch continues into it. The excavation report concluded that this area may have been on the periphery of the Iron Age/Romano British settlement activity in the area and most likely represents part of a field system, rather than the actual settlement.

6.2.4 Archaeological remains in the field north of Warren Walk were discovered at between 0.4m and 0.5m below the current ground level.

6.3 Historical and Archaeological Overview Designated Assets

- 6.3.1 There are no World Heritage Sites, Scheduled, Registered Battlefields or Registered Park and Garden sites within the proposed development area or the wider study area.
- 6.3.2 There is 1 scheduled monuments and 3 Listed Buildings within the 1km study area.
- 6.3.3 The site is not located within a Conservation Area.

Known Heritage Assets

- 6.3.4 The principal sites and features within the study area are described in the context of a timeline of archaeological periods from prehistoric through to modern. The location of the recorded sites and features can be cross referenced with Figure 1 and the Gazetteer (**Appendix A**).

The time periods discussed can be broadly divided as follows:

- Prehistoric:
 - Palaeolithic 250,000 – 10,000 BC
 - Mesolithic 10,000 – 4,000 BC
 - Neolithic 4,000 – 2,500 BC
 - Bronze Age 2,500 – 700 BC
 - Iron Age 800 BC – AD 43
- Roman AD 43 – 410
- Early Medieval AD 410 – 1066
- Medieval AD 1066 – 1540
- Post-Medieval AD 1540 – 1900
- Modern AD 1900 – present

Prehistoric

- 6.3.5 The Palaeolithic era was a period of cold glaciations interspersed with warm interstadials and long interglacials. The successive glaciations may have removed all evidence of the early parts of this period, but widely dispersed and rare scatters of flint tools or isolated finds of the later part of the period have been discovered in the northwest. There is no recorded evidence of this period within the study area.
- 6.3.6 Temperature increased after the end of the last glaciation and the environment gradually changed from tundra to temperate grassland, then open woodland and finally mixed deciduous oak forest Mesolithic people had a hunting, gathering and fishing economy; their former presence is usually evidenced by scatters of flint tools. There is no recorded evidence of this period within the study area.
- 6.3.7 The Neolithic period saw the development of agriculture and a more sedentary society. Areas of woodland were cleared for growing crops, animals were domesticated, pottery began to be used, ceremonial and communal funerary monuments were constructed. Evidence for human activity of this period remains relatively sparse, often comprising scatters of flint tools or evidence of small scale

burning and woodland clearance identified from palaeoenvironmental samples. There is no recorded evidence of this period within the study area.

- 6.3.8 The Bronze Age marks the beginning of metallurgy in Britain. Woodland clearance intensified while pastoral and arable farming became the mainstay of the economy. A hierarchical society developed during this period and this is reflected in the construction of individual funerary monuments such as round barrows and cairns. Many lowland barrows have been ploughed out, but they remain the most visible monument of this period. Isolated finds or flint scatters are the most frequent evidence of Bronze Age human activity with recorded settlements remaining sparse. There is no recorded evidence of this period within the study area.
- 6.3.9 The site lay within the tribal territory of the Brigantes during the Iron Age. Prevalent monument types include small, often enclosed, farmsteads and large hillforts. A few small towns or “Oppida” developed in the latter part of the period although they are largely restricted to the centre and south east of England. Woodland clearance and cereal cultivation appear to have intensified. Site 4 consists of sections of a possible enclosure and a pit dating to the Iron Age or Romano British period. These features were identified during archaeological site evaluations carried out in response to a planning application for a residential development for a wider site, which included the current Proposed Development site. No finds were located during the archaeological trial trenching, although the form of the features suggested an Iron Age/Romano British date. The South Yorkshire SMR also holds transcripts of aerial photographs which show potential Iron Age/Romano British features almost 500m north of the Proposed Development site and it is likely that the features found in the recent trial trenches are associated with these.

Roman

- 6.3.10 The Romano-British era began with the invasion of the southeast of Britain in AD 43. The following four centuries saw the establishment of roads, forts, villa estates, and towns, all supporting a central administration which cemented the Roman occupation of Britain. There is no evidence of Roman remains within the study area, and it is likely that this area continued to be rural settlement which did not see the impacts of the Romanisation of the surrounding larger settlements within West and South Yorkshire.

Early Medieval

- 6.3.11 The Early Medieval period began with the fall of Roman Britain in AD 410. The infrastructure which was established during the Roman Era collapsed and Britain was brought under Anglo-Saxon control. Early medieval evidence is often difficult to detect within the archaeological record.
- 6.3.12 The extent of any early medieval settlement in Royston is unknown. The place name Royston derives from the old Norse personal name for ‘*Nroarr*’, with a simplification to *Ror*, and the old English ‘*tun*’ meaning farmstead. The fact that Royston is mentioned in the Domesday Book suggests that there was an earlier settlement.

Indeed site **10** consists of an early medieval cross shaft which was found in the garden of the Chantry House. The chantry house is located close to the Medieval Parish Church and would indicate that the Early Medieval Church was located in the vicinity of the present church.

Medieval

- 6.3.13 As noted above, Royston is mentioned in the Domesday survey of 1086 and the original settlement is thought to have been located at a significant crossroad of the main roads between Wakefield and Barnsley and between Pontefract and the Pennines. The settlement appears to have been focused around the present Church Street and High Street as both of these roads contain Medieval buildings and largely maintain their original medieval layout, despite large scale re-development in the area. Indeed, the medieval Parish Church is located on Church Street, and medieval settlements in general are known to focus around the parish church. The earliest date which can be assigned to the church is 1234, when Archbishop Walter Grey appropriated the church of Royston to the Monks of Monk Bretton Priory and ordained that there should be a perpetual vicar.
- 6.3.14 There are no known medieval sites known from within the Proposed Development site, but sites are known within the study area which include the Church (site **2**), the site of a possible moated site (site **8**), and fragments of medieval carved stone (sites **6 & 9**). Again, these sites are focused around the church and suspected area of medieval settlement.
- 6.3.15 Transcripts of aerial photographs held by the SYSMR show evidence of ridge and furrow cultivation on the Proposed Development site. Evidence of this was uncovered during the archaeological geophysical survey and trial trenching carried out in 2013 which confirms that theory that in the medieval period, the Proposed Development site was part of a Medieval open field system.

Post-Medieval

- 6.3.16 The Proposed Development site remains open fields until the 20th century, but Midland Road itself, began to see development of terraced housing along it in the late 19th century mainly due to the large numbers of employees of the local colliery which needed accommodation. The 19th century also saw the demolition of the majority of surviving medieval and early post-medieval buildings in the town which were also largely replaced by terraced houses.
- 6.3.17 Royston was situated on the Barnsley Canal (which opened in the 1790s and is now disused) and also benefited from being located on the line of the North Midland railway (which opened in 1840 and is also now disused). The important road, rail and canal networks supported a colliery, a clay works and a brick works and enabled the town to grow rapidly in the industrial period.
- 6.3.18 Cartographic evidence also shows the development of the wider study area, while the Proposed Development site remains undeveloped. The construction of the

school in 1938 is the first building to be developed in the site, and the school was expanded over time. Plate 6 shows the final extent of the school site prior to its demolition.

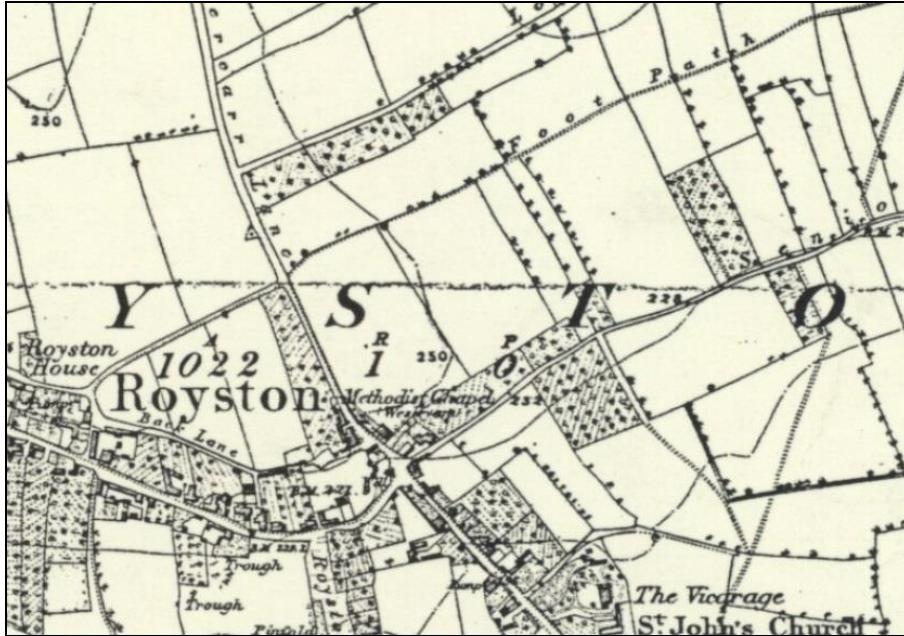


Plate 3 - First edition OS Map 1854



Plate 4 - 1907 OS Map



Plate 5 – 1947 OS map



Plate 6 – Extract from Google Earth showing the extent of the demolished school buildings

Built Heritage

6.3.19 There are 3 listed buildings within the study area, and a further 3 undesignated built heritage assets. These buildings date to the Medieval and post medieval periods and consist of the Medieval parish Church of St John the Baptist (site 2) a medieval Wayside Cross (site 1), the remains of a medieval building of unknown function (site 5), a medieval Chantry House (site 11), a post medieval farmhouse (site 3) and a post medieval school building (site 12). None of these built heritage assets are located on or adjacent to the Proposed Development site, and the majority of them

are clustered around the Church which would have been the focus of the Medieval and early post medieval settlement.

Historic Landscape

- 6.3.20 There are no designated landscapes within the study area.
- 6.3.21 Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC) has been completed for this area. The broad description for the area of the proposed development is 'Institutional: School 1938 - 2003'. Previous characters for the land include 'Enclosed Land: Strip Fields: 1540 – 1937' and Enclosed land: Open Fields 1066 – 1539'.

6.4 Archaeological Potential

- 6.4.1 Given the presence of known heritage assets dating to the Iron Age/Romano British in the field immediately adjacent to the Proposed Development site, along with the fact that one of the identified ditched appears to be continuing into the site, it is likely that archaeological remains were present within the site. It is also possible that previously unknown archaeological features may be discovered in the proposed development area which are associated with these remains. However, the proposed development site has been heavily developed in the recent past, especially with the construction and subsequent demolition of the High School. Almost half of the current Proposed Development Site has also already been subject to geophysical survey and trial trenching which located no archaeological remains within the areas of the current Proposed Development site investigated.
- 6.4.2 The area of the Proposed Development was open ground, probably part of the medieval open field system (as indicated by the ridge and furrow identified on aerial photographs and confirmed by the geophysical survey and trial trenching). It remained open land until school buildings were constructed on the site in the early 20th century. The school site expanded over time with the additional of more buildings, playing areas and sports pitches. The foundations for the original and additional buildings are likely to have disturbed or even destroyed any surviving below ground archaeological remains, although it is possible that remains may survive in pockets of the site where foundations were not as deep. The previous excavations indicated that archaeological remains were encountered at a depth of between 0.4 and 0.5m below the current ground surface and that these features were relatively shallow due to modern and historical agricultural practices. Because of this, the potential for uncovering any surviving archaeological remains within the proposed site is considered to be **low**.

7 Statement of Impact

- 7.1 The assessment has identified limited known archaeological remains within the area of the proposed development, and there is **low** potential for previously known below ground remains to survive given the amount of disturbance that has taken place in the recent past. Any proposed redevelopment of the site will involve ground disturbance for foundations and service trenches etc. which will disturb or destroy any surviving below ground remains.
- 7.2 The proposed development will not impact upon any designated sites and is surrounded on all sides by relatively modern development, including a modern residential development which is still under construction.

8 Recommendations

- 8.1 Given the amount of previous disturbance on the proposed development site, archaeological potential for this site is **low**, however, as the previous archaeological evaluation identified archaeological features which appeared to continue into the current Proposed Development site it is likely that some degree of archaeological mitigation will be required. Consultation with the South Yorkshire Archaeology Service has indicated that a Strip, Map and Record of the northern most area of the previous school would be recommended. The areas of the current site which were covered by the previous archaeological evaluation do not require any additional archaeological mitigation.
- 8.2 Any proposed mitigation strategy would require the agreement with the South Yorkshire Archaeology Service and the Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council.

9 References

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Figures and Appendices

Appendix A – Archaeology and Built Heritage Baseline Gazetteer

Site no.	HER/NHLE Reference Number	Grid ref	Site type	Designation	Site Name	Description	Period
1	NHLE ref 1192153 (LB) and 1011760 (SM) SYSMR ref 00288/01	SE 36297 10677	Cross	Designated (Scheduled and Grade II Listed) & HER	Kirk Cross	Medieval Wayside Cross, known as Kirk Cross, at the junction of Royston Lane and Pinfold Lane. The cross has a deep square base with chamfered upper half and a short rounded shaft. The name 'kirk' suggests that it may have originally marked the route to the church (or marked the boundary of church land).	Medieval
2	NHLE ref 1151127 (LB) SYSMR ref 00287/01	SE 36423 11243	Church	Designated (Grade 1 Listed) & HER	Church of St John the Baptist	Church, predominantly dating to the 15 th century, but incorporates 14 th century elements in the walling of north nave and chancel aisles. It was restored in the late 1860s.	Medieval
3	NHLE ref 1151128 (LB) SYSMR ref 02232/01	SE 35647 11476	Farmhouse	Designated (Grade II listed) & HER	100, 102 & 104 High Street	This building was originally a farmhouse dating to the 17 th century, but is now divided. It was added to in the 20 th century.	Post medieval
4	SYSMR ref 05592	SE 3622 1178	Rectilinear Enclosure	HER	Iron Age/Romano British	Possible Iron Age/Romano British enclosure and pit identified by geophysical survey and trial trenching.	Prehistoric

Site no.	HER/NHLE Reference Number	Grid ref	Site type	Designation	Site Name	Description	Period
					Enclosure, Midland Road, Royston		
5	SYSMR ref 02231/01	SE 3597 1142	Building	HER	Remains of a Medieval Building at 49 High Street, Royston	A garage behind 48 High Street incorporates remains of a post and truss structure. There is no clues as to the original extend and nature of the structure.	Medieval
6	SYSMR ref 02229/02	SE 3640 1137	Cross, Findspot	HER	Medieval stone fragments including a cross slab piece	Stone fragments were recovered from the site of the former vicarage stables which were demolished in the late 12 th century. The fragments include a piece of window mullion and a small piece of 12 th century to 13 th century cross slab.	Medieval
7	SYSMR ref 01165/01	SE 3641 1131	Date Stone, Findspot	HER	Post-medieval date stone from the Old Vicarage	A stone with roughly incised date of 1155 was found herein 1978 under the sitting room floor. It is however thought to be post medieval in date despite the date on it.	Post medieval
8	SYSMR ref 02230/01	SE 3640 1130	Moat	HER	Royston Old Vicarage Moated site	Various 19 th accounts refer to a moat here. A feature which appears to be the south and east arms of a moat appear on the 1 st edition OS map.	Medieval?
9	SYSMR ref 02228/01	SE 3635 1129	Carved Stone,	HER	Medieval carved stone fragments	Various fragments, including a possible piece for a respond for the south arcade of the Parish Church were found in the garden of the vicarage.	Medieval

Site no.	HER/NHLE Reference Number	Grid ref	Site type	Designation	Site Name	Description	Period
			Findspot				
10	SYSMR ref 02227/01	SE 3629 1128	Cross, Findspot	HER	Saxon Cross Shaft	An early medieval cross shaft was found in a garden of the Chantry House in 1983. It is thought to be a piece of a 10 th century cross shaft. It has a panel with 3 figures and has tentatively been suggested as representing the temptation of St Anthony.	Early medieval
11	SYSMR ref 00286/01	SE 3630 1127	Chantry Chapel	HER	Late medieval Chantry House	The Chantry of St Nicholas was founded in c.1503 and was mentioned in 1576 & 1607 when it was described as a single storey cottage. The original building is now the lower part of a 2 storey house.	Medieval
12	SYSMR ref 01506/01	SE 3648 1126	House	HER	The Old School House	16 th century timber framed building which is now clad in stone. It is adjacent to the side of the churchyard and thought to have been the dormitory of Royston Grammar School.	Post medieval?
13	SYSMR ref 02233/01	SE 3586 1124 (centred)	Trackway	HER	Undated Trackway	A linear bank representing the route of a raised track. Date unknown.	Unknown.