

KDK ARCHAEOLOGY LTD

Historic Building Observation and Recording Report

44 High Street Kings Langley Hertfordshire

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Quality Check

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Summary

Between May and June 2016, KDK Archaeology Ltd carried out a Historic Building Watching Brief of 44 High Street, Kings Langley, Hertfordshire following a programme of Historic Building Recording and trial trenching in 2015. The watching brief confirmed the extensive rebuilding of the house from the 19th century onwards but revealed little additional chronological information beyond that known from the documentary material and the historic building survey.

1 Introduction

1.1 Between May and June 2016, KDK Archaeology Ltd undertook a Historic Building Watching Brief of 44 High Street, Kings Langley, Hertfordshire. The project was commissioned by Concept Design, and was carried out according to a Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by KDK (Bertrand 2015) and approved by the Hertfordshire County Council Historic Environment Team (HHET), Archaeological Advisor (AA) to the Local Planning Authority (LPA), Dacorum Borough Council. The relevant planning application references are 4/01388/15/FUL and 4/01389/15/LBC.

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

The development site is in the town and civil parish of King's Langley, in the administrative district of Dacorum, on National Grid Reference (NGR) TL 07206 02593. It lies on the High Street, which runs through the centre of the town (Fig. 1).

Description

The development area lies near the centre of the town. It is bounded to the east by the High Street and to the north and south by adjoining properties. The boundary to the west is formed by a treeline (Fig. 2).

The building is Grade II listed, the description for which is as follows (English Heritage List number: 1100410):

KINGS LANGLEY HIGH STREET TL 0702 (West side) 13/149 No. 44 - (Village House) GV II House. Late C17, renovated, brick cased and extended to N 1838-42 for John Kemp as a house and baker's shop. Altered 1870 to one house. Timber framed S part plastered at rear but red brick cased at front uniform with red brick N part which is of flint and brick at rear. Yellow brick rear wing at NW. Steep old red tile hipped roofs, but gabled SW wing. An irregular, 2 storeys, 4 windows wide house facing E with S part recessed and carriageway with double doors at N end. Recessed sash windows with 8/8 panes and segmental arches to 1st floor. Triple sash with plastered flat arch keystone, and apron to right of door. Canted sashed bay window to S part. Half-glazed panelled door with etched glass panel surrounded by bullions in early C19 surround with panelled pilasters, paterae and full entablature. Timber frame exposed in SW wing with unjowled posts and clasped-purlin roof with angled queen-posts and no collars. Wide panelled framing with brick nogging. Cellar under this wing and external S lateral chimney. Unusual internal sliding shutters to Yorkshire sliding casement in S wall on 1st floor. (KLLHMS report in NMR).



Development

The development comprised the conversion of the existing property into flats (Figs. 3 -4).



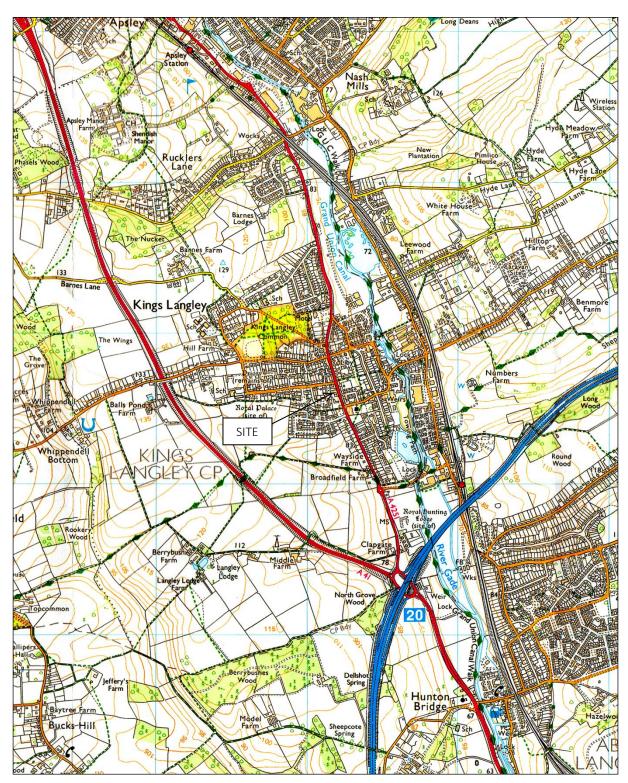


Figure 1: General location (scale 1:25,000)



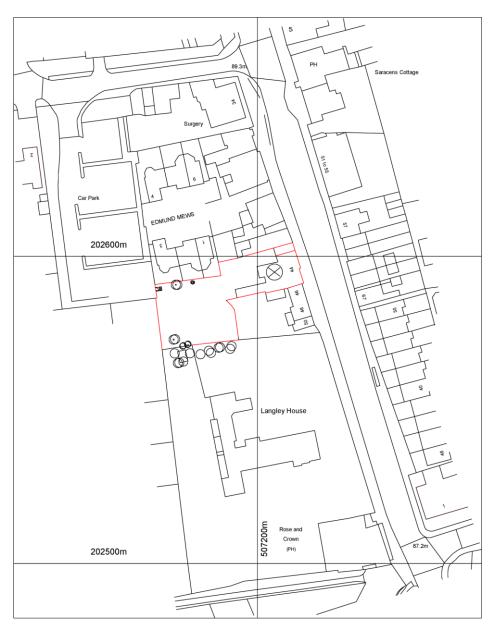
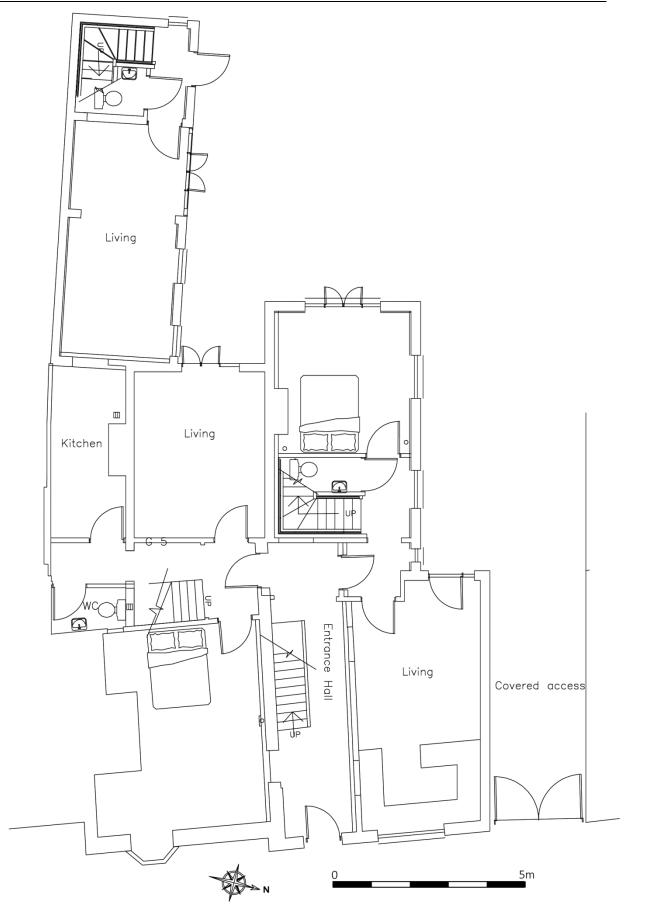


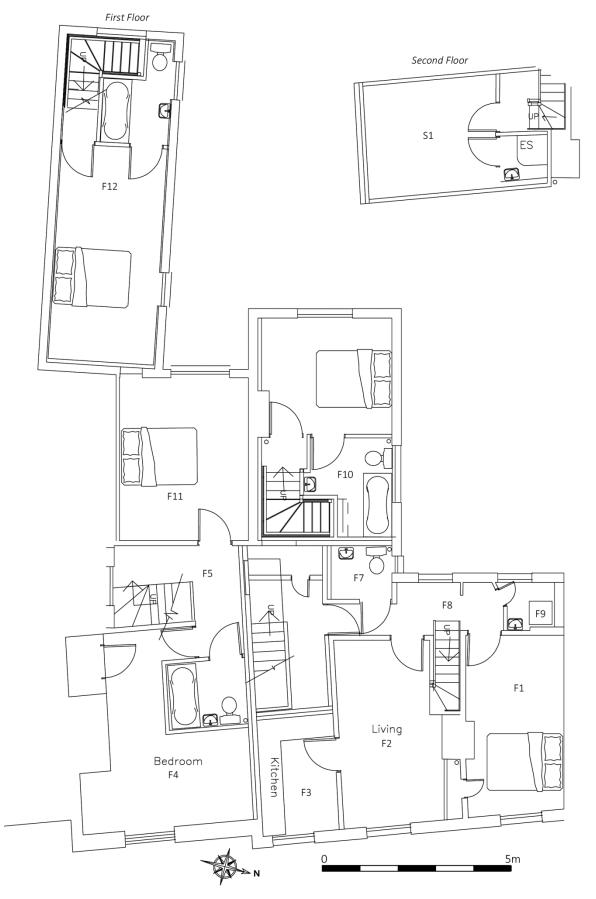
Figure 2: Site layout (scale 1:1250)















2 Aims & Methods

- 2.1 The aims of this project as defined in the approved WSI (Bertrand 2015) were:
 - To ensure the archaeological recording of previously unexposed historic building fabric
 - To ensure the archaeological recording of all aspects of the development programme likely to have an impact on the historic fabric of the building before and during the works and
 - To provide an adequately detailed project report that will place the findings of the investigations in their local and regional context, with reference to the relevant regional research agendas.

2.2 Methods

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

The alterations to the building that impacted on the historic fabric or exposed previously hidden structural and/or architectural material were inspected and recorded by an experienced archaeologist.

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* (ClfA 2014)
- Current Historic England guidelines (HE 2015, EH 2016)
- 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

This section has been compiled with information from KDK's own library, reliable internet sources, and the Hertfordshire Historic Environment Record (HER licence ref: 305/14).

3.1 *General Background*

Kings Langley is a good example of the development of a settlement from a large Anglo-Saxon estate to a predominantly linear row settlement. The original foci of Kings Langley were probably the mill and the church, close to the (now vanished) manor house. Its choice as the location of a late 13th century royal palace meant that Kings Langley had an importance far exceeding that relating to its actual size and significance; when the plague was ravaging London in 1349, for example, the king held court at Langley Palace (www.british-history.ac.uk). The development of the palace on the plateau above Kings Langley encouraged it to become the focus of secondary settlement, which outlasted the palace itself. However, the present layout of the town may owe more to the foundation of a market, possibly in the late 13th century, along what became the High Street (Hunn & Semmelmann 2009: 2).

3.2 *Historical Background*

44 High Street (HER 30761) is a Grade II listed 17th century timber-framed house. The earliest documentary reference to the house is a deed dating to 1812, which records the site as one cottage or tenement with appurtenances, belonging to William Sutton, baker, who inherited the property on the death of his father, John Sutton, who in turn had inherited the property from his own father, Joseph Sutton, in 1782 (KLLHMS 1977: 6, in Padfield 2013). In 1838, the property was sold as a messuage cottage or tenement and baker's shop by William Sutton (the son of the above William) for £320, to John Kemp, a Victualler of nearby Chipperfield (*ibid*). However, the Suttons did not fully relinquish the property, as the Tithe Award, which dates to the following year, records that the property was indeed owned by John Kemp, but was occupied by Henry Sutton, presumably the son of the second William. The Tithe Award records the property as a bakehouse, yard, barn and premises. The gardens were recorded on the 1839 Tithe Map as being under the ownership of Langley House (HER30761): they were recorded as a residence, gardens, pleasure grounds and buildings, owned and occupied by Dorcas Squire. Langley House is a 16th century timber-framed house that is reputed to have been built on the site of the earlier manor house.

In 1842, John Kemp sold the property to Reverend Edward Hodgson for £400 (*ibid*.). It appears that in the four years that he had owned the property, John Kemp had carried out substantial upgrades, as it was described in 1842 as "*that newly erected brick built messuage or tenement* or Baker's shop…now in the occupation of George Kemp, and also that newly erected cottage or tenement near or adjoining to the said messuage or tenement and now in the occupation of Henry Sutton. And also all those newly erected out offices and buildings to the said messuage or tenement and Bakery shop belonging and appertaining and all other premises to which John Kemp was admitted in 1838". This suggests that John Kemp had carried out works to create two separate dwellings on the site – the specific mention of brick as the building material for the messuage (generally a dwelling with outbuildings and land attached) suggests that the original property here was built in timber.

That sale must have fallen through, because in an indenture of 1843, John Kemp let the part of the house that contained the bakers shop and oven, formerly occupied by George Kemp, to George Dyer, a local baker. The document also records that Henry Sutton was still living in the cottage on the site, but implies that Dyer was also given his part of the building in the let



agreement: "John Kemp...to George Dyer...all that brick built messuage or tenement and Bakers shop with the oven...and also all that cottage or tenement in the occupation of Henry Sutton all for 14 years at £30 per year" (ibid.). Just four years later, John Kemp was declared bankrupt and the property was sold at auction the following year. A notice of sale appeared in the Hertfordshire Mercury in November 1847, and recorded the property as: "...a dwelling house, with five bedrooms, sitting room, baker's shop, bake-house, wash house and capital dry cellar; also a messuage adjoining, containing four rooms and wash-house, and at the back a three stall stable and loft, large wood barn, cart shed and spacious loft, abundance of hard and soft water, and good yard with side entrance, enclosd by large folding doors. The whole is let...to Mr George Dyer..." (ibid.). There does not appear to be a record of who bought the property at the auction in 1848, but in 1852 the property was owned by James Fellows, and the tenant "to north and south" was recorded as George Dyer. The reference to north and south suggests that the property was still divided into two at this time. In 1861, Fellows surrendered the property to Abraham Thomas Balderson, with Dyer still in occupation. Balderson subsequently let the property to Joseph Warren, another baker, in 1868, and then sold him the property in 1870, when it was recorded that part of the property was in the occupation of Alexandrina Payne, suggesting that it was still divided (*ibid*.). Warren must have undertaken work on the property during his relatively short tenancy, as when he mortgaged it in 1871, it had reverted to one dwelling, described in the mortgage schedule as "...substantially repaired and altered and now form one messuage or tenement and premises with Coach-house and stables". There is no mention of the bake-house or shop, and other documentary sources list only one baker, located elsewhere in the village, in the later part of the 19th century (Kellys 1869). The property was sold at auction as a private dwelling in 1879 to John Edward Groome (KLLHMS 1977: 7, in Padfield 2013).

3.3 Structural Chronology

Village House (44 High Street) was probably initially constructed in the latter part of the 17th century. Elements of this building still survive in the core of the house, including the cellar, and a possible baker's oven which has since been turned into an inglenook fireplace. The house was updated and extended *c*.1840; the current High Street frontage was built, the whole property was probably re-roofed, and the building was separated into a large house with a bakers shop and a smaller cottage. It was at this time that the current Regency front door was added, as was the distinctive moulding with the circular motif that can also be seen on the first floor of the building. Distinctive spring latches that can be dated to the 18th or early 19th century can also be found on two doors at first floor level, and the current kitchen contains a fitted dresser that was also probably installed during this phase of renovation.

The building continued as two dwellings, the larger of which included the baker's shop, until c.1870, when it was returned to a single, private dwelling. At this point, the building was extended to the rear, a number of outbuildings were demolished, and what had formerly been an open piece of yard space between the main building and the stable block was roofed over to create the current lean-to.

In the later part of the 20th century, the building was again converted to multiple occupancy, this time as an indeterminate number of flats. This conversion involved the installation of a number of modern bathrooms and kitchens, and has probably served to obscure much of the historical layout of the property.



4 Results

Introduction

44 High Street is a 2-storey brick encased building set directly onto the street frontage (Plate 1). A covered access to the north of the front elevation leads to the garden, where two new houses are under construction as part of the overall development of the site. At the southern end of Number 44 is a 19th century coach house/stable (Plate 2), the upper floor of which has been incorporated into the living space of the house.

Description

Structural Material

The internal walls were breached in Rooms G3, G5 and F5, revealing the brickwork beneath the plaster. The bricks were fairly uniform in appearance, although only a few were evident in each opening. They appeared to be handmade with some spanish and probably dated from the 18^{th} or early 19^{th} century. The bricks in the west wall of G3 could be measured and were found to be c. $22 \times 10 \times 6$ cm ($8\% \times 4 \times 2\%$ inches). These were set in lime mortar, whereas the bricks in the east wall of G5 and the west wall of F5 were set in cement based mortar. What may have been a bonding beam was also exposed in F5 (Plate 3).

Joists

A selection of floorboards was removed in Rooms G2, F1, F3, F7 and F12 in order to assess the condition of the underlying joists. The joists in Room G2 to the south of the main entrance were aligned east-west and were 5.5-6cm wide, 12cm high and 36-43cm apart (centred measurement). The saw cuts were well spaced but even, and likely to have been made by machine. The floor below appeared to be cement (Plates 4-5).

The floor joists on the first floor, which were all aligned north-south, were fairly uniform throughout, measuring between 4.5 and 8cm, 19-20cm high and *c*. 30cm apart. Only in the landing (F1) was it possible to see how the joists were tenoned into a major timber (Plates 5-6). A central tenon of equal length to the shoulders on either side was used.

A re-used timber was exposed in Room F2, closely set between two other joists (Plate 7). Redundant mortices were apparent on the upper face, but not entirely exposed, as a copper pipe had been set alongside the timber. Both in this room and in Room F7, where there were two closely spaced joists, a timber was aligned at 45 degrees to the joists that terminated with a tusk tenon. The joists in Room F7 also had diagonal bracing in the exposed area, which was to the east of the tusk tenon (Plate 8). It was not possible to see whether this bracing extended beyond the tusk tenon.

The floorboards were 21-23cm wide and machine milled. Those in the landing (F1) and Room F3 appeared to be of elm.

The beam and floor joists in Room F8 were completely exposed (Plates 9 & 10), revealing the date 1981 carved into the upper face of the beam. Machine made tool marks were observed on the eastern end of the beam, although the western end appeared to have been more crudely handled. Both beam and joists are later insertions; machine made tool marks were also evident on their untreated surfaces.

Where exposed, the ceilings in the building were lath and plaster (Plate 11).



Rear staircase

The rear staircase, which was an enclosed timber structure of 10 treads, was opened up for re-use (Plates 12-13).

Kitchen

The cork tiles were removed in the kitchen (Room G2) revealing *c*.22-23cm wide timber boards, aligned east to west. No other architectural or structural details of note were observed (Plate 14).

Room F3

The timber surround to the fireplace, which had a cast iron grate with acanthus leaf motif and a stone hearth, was removed (Plate 15).

Stable block

The roof was a simple A-frame without a ridge post or board (Plate 16). The rafters, of which one or two were waney edged, were between 4 and 7cm wide and roughly 30cm apart. A few collars had survived at the western end as well as a section of purlin on the west end of the north side of the roof. Some lath and plaster was also evident at the base of the roof. The eastern gable end was covered with lath and plaster (Plate 17) whereas that to the west was of brick (Plate 18). These and the tiebeams were all that remained of the original roof. The new trusses were to be visually tied into the older fabric by means of king posts on the original tie beams.

The ground below the stable floor was seen to be clay with flint and stone. No archaeological features were evident.

Roof over the main range

The roof over the main range consisted of a king post truss at the southern end, to the north of which was a queen post truss. Elsewhere raking braces with birds mouth joints supported the purlins (Plate 19). At the northern end of the roof space was a chimney breast built of a mixture of brick types, possibly dating from the 18th century (Plate 20). Twentieth century work on the three roofs over the main house was evident in the battens and roofing felt. Some of the roof tiles were also modern (R. Cain pers. comm.).

The scaffolding allowed detailed photographs to be taken of the chimney stacks, which were all built of different brick types and in different styles. The chimney stack over Room F7 was 19th century and built of gault bricks (Plate 21). The red brick stack serving rooms G6 and F8 appears to be of 18th century bricks and that serving rooms G2/F12 of earlier, Tudor sized bricks (Plates 22 & 23).





Plate 1: Front elevation

Plate 2: Rear elevation



Plate 3: Bonding beam and exposed brickwork in Room F5



Plate 4: Joists in Room G2



Plate 5: Joists in the landing (F1)



Plate 6: Detail of central tenons

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Plate 7: Re-used timber used as a joist in Room F2

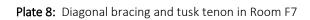




Plate 9: Fully exposed joists in Room F8 from below



Plate 10: Fully exposed joists in Room F8 from above



Plate 11: Lath & plaster ceiling in Room G5



Plate 12: Rear staircase





Plate 13: Rear staircase from above



Plate 14: View to east in the kitchen (Room G3)



Plate 15: Fireplace in Room F3



Plate 16: View of the stable roof from the southwest





Plate 17: Eastern end of the stable



Plate 18: Western end of the stable



Plate 19: Roof over the main range looking south

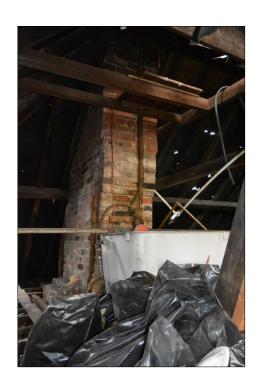


Plate 20: Chimney at the northern end of the main range





Plate 21: Roof over northern extensions looking east



Plate 22: Chimney stack for G6/F8



Plate 23: Chimney at southern end of main range

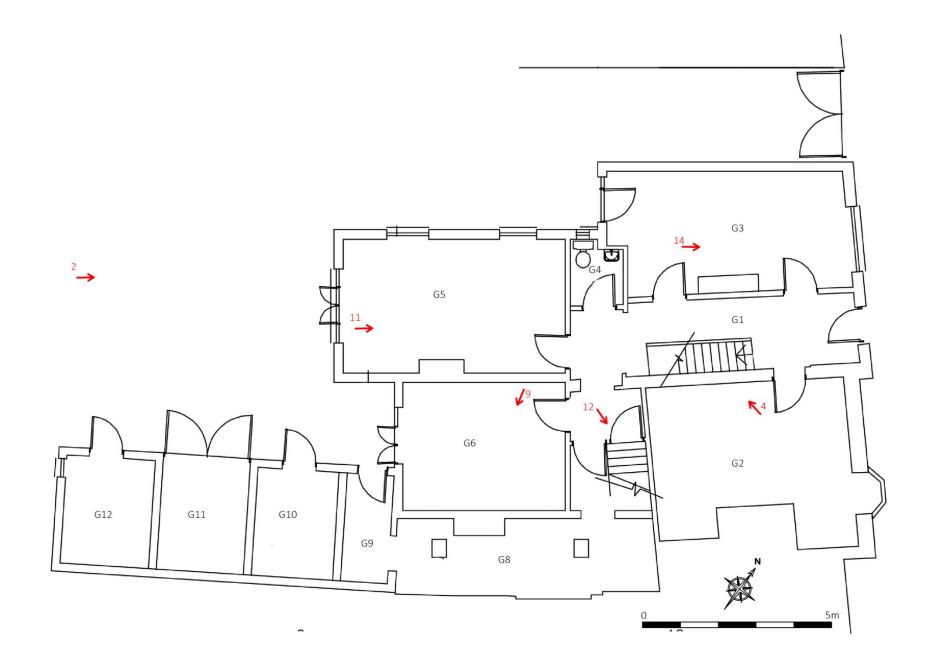


Figure 5: Ground floor plan showing photo views (scale 1:100)





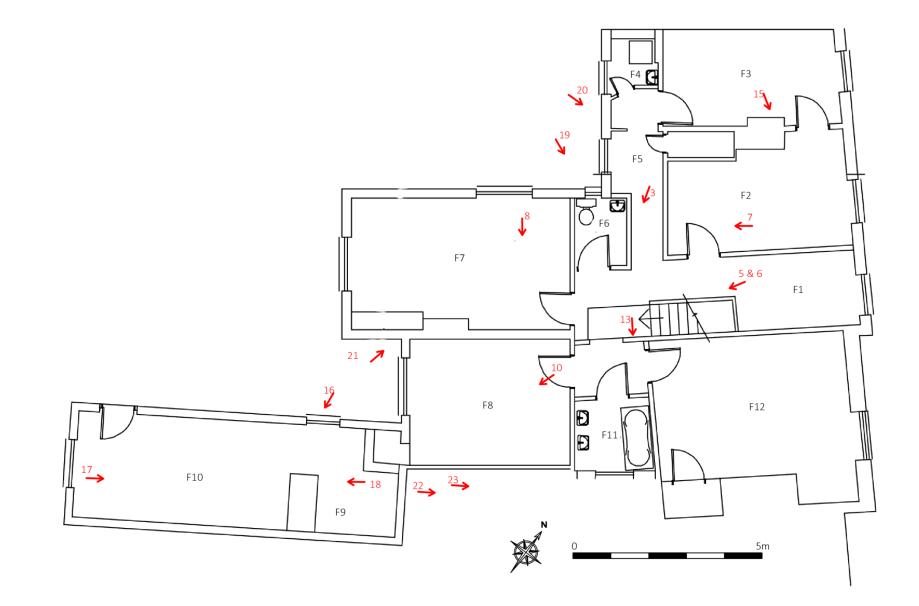


Figure 6: First floor plan showing photo views (scale 1:100)





5 Conclusions

The watching brief confirmed the extent of the rebuilding of the house from the 19th century onwards. The exposed floor joists and boards were largely machine milled and of mid-late 19th century date. Similarly the gault brick chimney stack serving Rooms G5 and F7 was of this date. The use of bonding beams, like spanish (clinker incorporated into the clay to help fire bricks evenly), went out of favour in the mid 19th century, and the use of both here suggests a conservative approach in the 19th century (re)building of Number 44.

Earlier building fabric is clearly evident in the 18th century chimney stacks serving Rooms G3 and G6 and the re-used timber in the floor of Room F2. More recent work on the building is also clear in the roofs, where modern battens and felting overlies earlier trusses. The mixture of truss forms in the main range, like the use of Spanish and bonding beams, also suggests a conservative philosophy, although in this instance it is in terms of financial outlay. Instead of rebuilding the roof with a uniform set of trusses, one king post truss was incorporated alongside a queen post truss and simple raking trusses.

Later work undertaken in the house includes the removal of the lath and plaster ceiling in Room G6. It is likely that this occurred in 1981, as suggested by the inscription of that date in the upper face of the bonding beam, which otherwise appears to be 17th century.

The roof over the stable block is fairly typical of a 19th century outbuilding in both form and the use of lesser quality timbers.



6 Acknowledgements

KDK Archaeology is grateful to Concept Design for commissioning this report. Thanks are also due to Philip Pryse of PCA Architects for providing the drawings and to Alison Tinniswood of Hertfordshire County Council Historic Environment Team for monitoring the project.

The fieldwork was carried out by Karin Kaye MA MCIfA. The report was written by Karin Kaye and edited by David Kaye BA ACIfA.



7 Archive

- 7.1 The project archive will comprise:
 - 1. Brief
 - 2. Written Scheme of Investigation
 - 3. Report
 - 4. Monitoring sheets
 - 5. Site drawings
 - 6. Client's site plans
 - 7. List of photographs
 - 8. B/W prints & negatives
 - 9. CDROM with copies of all digital files.
- 7.2 The archive will be deposited with Dacorum Heritage Trust.



8 References

Standards & Specifications

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Kings Langley: http://www.kingslangley.org.uk; accessed 20th February 2015



Appendix 1: Photograph List

SITE NO/CODE:			Site Name:		
Shot	Plate	B&W	Digital	Subject	
1	1	Х	Х	Floor joists in G2	
2	2	Х	Х	Detail of floor joists in G2	
3	5	Х	Х	Floor joists in F1	
4	6	Х	Х	Detail of floor joists in F1	
5		Х	Х	Floor joists in F2	
6	7	Х	Х	Re-used timber in floor of F2	
7	15	Х	Х	Fireplace in F3	
8	8	Х	Х	Diagonal bracing to floor joists in F7	
9	16	Х	Х	Roof over stable block	
10	12	Х	Х	Rear staircase from the ground floor	
11	13	Х	Х	Rear staircase from the first floor	
12	9	Х	Х	Bridging beam and joists in G6 from below	
13	11	Х	Х	Lath and plaster ceiling in G5	
14	14	Х	Х	View to east in kitchen (G3)	
15		Х	Х	Stable wall, southwest corner	
16		Х	Х	Bridging beam and joists in G6 from above	
17	10	Х	Х	Detail of bridging beam, showing date (1981)	
18		Х	Х	Detail of bridging beam,	
19	3	Х	Х	Brickwork and bonding beam in F5	
20	17	Х	Х	East end of upper floor of stable	
21	18	Х	Х	West end of upper floor of stable	
22	21	Х	Х	Roof over the northern extension	
23	22	Х	Х	Chimney stack serving G6	
24	23	Х	Х	Southern chimney stack over the main range	
25	19	Х	Х	Main range roofspace looking southwest	
26	20	Х	Х	Chimney at northern end of the roofspace	



Appendix 2: OASIS and Site Data

PROJECT DETAILS								
Project Name & Address	44 High Street, Kings Langley, Hertfordshire	Project Site Code		178/KLH				
OASIS reference		Event/Accession no						
OS reference	TL 07206 02593	Study area size		N/A				
Project Type	Historic Building Watching Brief	Height (mAOD)		N/A				
Short Description	Between May and June 2016 KDK Archaeology Ltd carried out a Historic Building Watching Brief of 44 High Street, Kings Langley, Hertfordshire following a programme of Historic Building Recording and trial trenching in 2015. The watching brief confirmed the extensive rebuilding of the house from the 19 th century onwards but revealed little additional chronological information 							
Previous work	Calli Rouse BA ACIFA & Carina Summerfield-Hill MSc ACIFA; Archaeological Historic Building Recording and Evaluation: 44 High Street, Kings Langley, Hertfordshir KDK Archaeology Ltd Report ref. 112/KLH/2			Grade II listed				
Planning proposal	Conversion of existing property in 4 flats	Current land use		Residential				
Local Planning Authority	Dacorum Borough Council	Planning application ref.		4/01388/15/FUL				
Monument type	House	Monument period		Post-medieval				
Significant finds	None	Future work		No				
	PROJECT	CREATORS						
Organisation	KDK Archaeology Ltd							
Project Brief originator	N/A	Project Design originator	KDK A	Archaeology Ltd				
Project Manager	Karin Kaye MA MCIfA	Director/Supervisor	Karin Kaye MA MCIfA					
Sponsor/funding body	Concept Design							
	PROJEC	T DATE	T					
Start date	9 th May 2016	End date	24 th June 2016					
	PROJECT	ARCHIVES						
	Location	Content (e.g. pottery, a	animal b	oone, files/sheets)				
Physical		None						
Paper	Dacorum Heritage Trist	one						
Digital WSI Report, photos, fieldwork sheets,								
BIBLIOGRAPHY (Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report)								
Title Historic Building Watching Brief: 44 High Street Kings Langley Hertfordshire								
Serial title & volume	Serial title & volume KDK Archaeology Report 178/KLH/2							
Author(s)	Karin Kaye MA MCIfA							
Page no's	28	Date	4 th Ap	oril 2017				



Appendix 3: Hertfordshire Historic Environment Record Sheet

Site name and address: 44 High Street, Kings Langley, Hertfordshire					
County: Hertfordshire			District:	Dacorum	
Village/Town: Kings Langley			Parish:	Kings Langley	
Planning application re	eference: 4/01388/15/F	UL			
Client's name, address	s, & tel. no: Concept Design, 8 Wa	ander	Wharf, Kings L	Langley, Herts. WD4 8SL	
Nature of application:	Conversion of existing pro	perty	into 4 flats		
Present land use:	Residential				
Size of application area	a: N/A		Size of area ir	nvestigated: N/A	
NGR (to 8 figures):	TL 07206 02593		Site code:178/KLH		
Site director:	Karin Kaye MA MCIfA		Organization:	: KDK Archaeology Ltd	
Type of work:	Historic Building Watching Brie	f			
Date of Work:	Start: 9 th May 2016			Finish: 26 th June 2016	
Curating museum:	Dacorum Heritage Trust				
Related HER no's: HER	30761	Per	riods represented: Post-medieval		
Relevant previous sum Calli Rouse BA ACIfA &	· ·	IfA; A	rchaeological I	Historic Building Recording and Evaluation: 44 High	
Street, Kings Langley, I	<i>Hertfordshire</i> KDK Archaeology Lt	d Re	port ref. 112/Kl	(LH/2	
Summary of fieldwork results: Between May and June 2016 KDK Archaeology Ltd carried out a Historic Building Watching Brief of 44 High Street, Kings Langley, Hertfordshire following a programme of Historic Building Recording and trial trenching in 2015. The watching brief confirmed the extensive rebuilding of the house from the 19 th century onwards but revealed little additional chronological information to that known from the documentary material and the historic building survey.					
Author: Karin Kay	re MA MCIfA		Date:	4 th April 2017	