

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS LTD

**RUDOLF STEINER SCHOOL, KINGS LANGLEY,
HERTFORDSHIRE**

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

Authors: Zbigniew Pozorski	
NGR: TL 06572 02586	Report No: 4186
District: Dacorum	Site Code: AS 1540
Approved: Claire Halpin MlfA	Project No: 4896
Signed:	Date: November 2012

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OASIS SUMMARY SHEET

Project details			
Project name	<i>Rudolf Steiner School, Kings Langley, Hertfordshire</i>		
<i>In November 2012 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried an archaeological evaluation at the Rudolf Steiner School, Kings Langley, Hertfordshire (NGR TL 06572 02586). The evaluation was commissioned by View Architects on behalf of the Rudolf Steiner School and was undertaken to provide further information in support of a planning application for extensions and alterations to the School.</i>			
<i>Rudolph Steiner School is located within two Scheduled Ancient Monuments comprising Kings Langley Royal Palace established in 1278 on the site of an existing medieval manor, and a Dominican Priory founded in 1308. The only remains surviving above ground are a 14th century building known as "The Priory", and a fragment of the church's south chancel wall which are Grade II* listed buildings. The documentary evidence and excavations that have been carried out on the school premises indicate that substantial and complex medieval to post-medieval building remains and archaeological deposits survive in extensive areas beneath some of the locations of proposed development.</i>			
<i>In the event the evaluation confirmed that the location of the proposed new extension falls within the area of 1970s excavations and that the archaeological deposits and remains of 'Le Longrewe' building were completely excavated during these works. The test pit contained backfill material and the remnants of a linear feature recorded during the previous excavations.</i>			
Project dates (fieldwork)	01/11/2012		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	Y	Future work (Y/N/?)	Y
P. number	4896	Site code	AS 1540
Type of project	<i>An Archaeological Evaluation</i>		
Site status	<i>Within two Scheduled Ancient Monuments</i>		
Current land use	<i>Garden area surrounding school building (C)</i>		
Planned development	<i>Rear extension to Building C</i>		
Main features (+dates)	<i>None</i>		
Significant finds (+dates)	<i>None</i>		
Project location			
County/ District/ Parish	<i>Hertfordshire</i>	<i>Dacorum</i>	<i>Kings Langley</i>
HER/ SMR for area	<i>Hertfordshire HER</i>		
Post code (if known)	<i>WD4 9HG</i>		
Area of site	<i>6.6ha</i>		
NGR	<i>TL 06572 02586</i>		
Height AOD (min/max)	<i>126-127m AOD</i>		
Project creators			
Brief issued by	<i>HCC HEU</i>		
Project supervisor/s (PO)	<i>Zbigniew Pozorski</i>		
Funded by	<i>Rudolf Steiner School Kings Langley</i>		
Full title	<i>Rudolf Steiner School, Kings Langley, Hertfordshire. An Archaeological Evaluation</i>		
Authors	<i>Pozorski, Z.</i>		
Report no.	<i>4186</i>		
Date (of report)	<i>November 2012</i>		

RUDOLF STEINER SCHOOL, KINGS LANGLEY, HERTFORDSHIRE

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

SUMMARY

In November 2012 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried an archaeological evaluation at the Rudolf Steiner School, Kings Langley, Hertfordshire (NGR TL 06572 02586). The evaluation was commissioned by View Architects on behalf of the Rudolf Steiner School and was undertaken to provide further information in support of a planning application for extensions and alterations to the School.

Rudolph Steiner School is located within two Scheduled Ancient Monuments comprising Kings Langley Royal Palace established in 1278 on the site of an existing medieval manor, and a Dominican Priory founded in 1308. The only remains surviving above ground are a 14th century building known as “The Priory”, and a fragment of the church’s south chancel wall which are Grade II listed buildings. The documentary evidence and excavations that have been carried out on the school premises indicate that substantial and complex medieval to post-medieval building remains and archaeological deposits survive in extensive areas beneath some of the locations of proposed development.*

In the event the evaluation confirmed that the location of the proposed new extension falls within the area of 1970s excavations and that the archaeological deposits and remains of ‘Le Longrewe’ building were completely excavated during these works. The test pit contained backfill material and the remnants of a linear feature recorded during the previous excavations.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In November 2012 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried an archaeological evaluation at the Rudolf Steiner School, Kings Langley, Hertfordshire (NGR TL 06572 02586; Figs. 1 & 2). The evaluation was commissioned by Mr Duncan Whitehead of View Architects on behalf of the Rudolf Steiner School and was undertaken to provide further information in support of a planning application for extensions and alterations to the School.

1.2 The evaluation was undertaken in accordance to an advice from Hertfordshire County Council Historic Environment Unit (HCC HEU) and a written scheme of investigation (specification) prepared by AS (dated 19/09/2012) and approved by HCC HEU. The project conformed to the

Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) *Code of Conduct and Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (revised 2008), as well as the document *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2003).

1.3 The evaluation aimed to determine the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains liable to be threatened by the proposed development. In particular it aimed to establish a detailed comparison of current ground levels with the levels of the archaeological deposits identified during the 1970s excavations, in order to address the issue of previous disturbance of the footprints of the proposed extension.

Planning policy context

1.4 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF 2012) states that those parts of the historic environment that have significance because of their historic, archaeological, architectural or artistic interest are heritage assets. The NPPF aims to deliver sustainable development by ensuring that policies and decisions that concern the historic environment recognise that heritage assets are a non-renewable resource, take account of the wider social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits of heritage conservation, and recognise that intelligently managed change may sometimes be necessary if heritage assets are to be maintained for the long term. The NPPF requires applications to describe the significance of any heritage asset, including its setting that may be affected in proportion to the asset's importance and the potential impact of the proposal.

1.5 The NPPF aims to conserve England's heritage assets in a manner appropriate to their significance, with substantial harm to designated heritage assets (i.e. listed buildings, scheduled monuments) only permitted in exceptional circumstances when the public benefit of a proposal outweighs the conservation of the asset. The effect of proposals on non-designated heritage assets must be balanced against the scale of loss and significance of the asset, but non-designated heritage assets of demonstrably equivalent significance may be considered subject to the same policies as those that are designated. The NPPF states that opportunities to capture evidence from the historic environment, to record and advance the understanding of heritage assets and to make this publicly available is a requirement of development management. This opportunity should be taken in a manner proportionate to the significance of a heritage asset and to impact of the proposal, particularly where a heritage asset is to be lost.

2 DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE

2.1 Kings Langley is located 34km north-west of Central London and 4km south of Hemel Hempstead town centre. The Rudolf Steiner School is located on the west side of Kings Langley 500m east of the A41.

2.2 Rudolf Steiner School was established in 1949 when it was also known as “the New School”. The main school block was built between 1955 and 1975, with later additions (rsskl.org). The school is bounded to the east by Langley Hill Road from where it is accessed and by Chipperfield Road to the north. To the north-east is Kings Langley Common which now mainly contains mature trees and a cricket pitch. To the west and north-west are residential houses, gardens and allotments with the A41 beyond. The southern edge of the school is demarcated by a public footpath with open land to the south.

2.3 The school is situated on the site of two Scheduled Ancient Monuments (HT84 & HT85) whose perimeters cover approximately two thirds of the school and its grounds (Fig. 2). There are 18 buildings located within the school boundary and their main layout comprises:

- Building M to the north, actually comprising several interconnecting buildings, is mainly used for accommodation and includes the oldest structure on the site. To the west of Building M is a carpark.
- To the south of Building M is the main building complex comprising the refectory and theatre (Buildings D and A) which form an L-shape.
- Building B, formerly Priory House, adjoins the south wall of Building A, and is joined by a south-west aligned corridor to Building C which comprises classrooms and laboratories.
- To the east of Buildings A and B is the entrance courtyard with Building Q, a lodge, fronting Langley Hill.
- To the north of Buildings A and Q are the elongated, detached classrooms/workshops Buildings E, N and F.
- To the west of Building C and south of Building D is the small Building G and to the west of that, across the basketball court, lies the gymnasium, Building H, with a small workshop, Building I, just beyond it.

3 TOPOGRAPHY, GEOLOGY AND SOILS

3.1 The site is located on high ground at c.126-127m AOD on a promontory on the southern edge of the Chiltern Hills. It is also situated on the west bank of the River Gade, which runs parallel with, and sometimes forms part of, the Grand Union Canal.

3.2 The local soils are of the Hornbeam association classed as stagnogleic paleo-argillic brown earths, which are loamy or clayey soils with a distinct top soil and reddish or reddish mottled clay-enriched subsoil that reflects pedogenic processes occurring before the last glacial period. They occur widely in lowland Britain, on tills and soft argillaceous rocks (Soil Survey of England and Wales 1983). Beneath the soils the area alongside and above the river consists of glacial gravels over a solid geology of Upper Cretaceous chalk (British Geological Survey 1978).

3.3 In 1993 the Hertfordshire Archaeological Trust, now Archaeological Solutions, carried out a trial trench evaluation to the south of the main building

block at Rudolf Steiner School (Walker 1993). An indication of the stratigraphy was seen in Trench 1 where the topsoil comprised dark grey silty loam with small flint stone fragments to a depth of only 0.02m. A sticky orange clay encountered at 0.95m was thought to be natural subsoil, with medieval deposits and levelling layers in between. In Trench 2 the topsoil was at the same depth as Trench 1, with the natural subsoil consisting of light orange clay with flint inclusions encountered at 0.84m. In between were post-medieval and medieval layers and deposits.

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

4.1 An archaeological desk-based assessment of the site has been prepared by AS (Thompson *et al* 2012). In summary:

Rudolf Steiner School is located on the site of two Scheduled Ancient Monuments comprising Kings Langley Royal Palace established in 1278 on the site of an existing medieval manor (HT 84, HHER 96), and a Dominican Priory founded in 1308 (HT 85, HHER 97). The only remains surviving above ground are a 14th century building known as “The Priory”, and a fragment of the church’s south chancel wall which are Grade II listed buildings (LB 157690).*

Neal (1973; 1977) has interpreted the layout of the Kings Langley manorial site based on the archaeological evidence from his excavations, and from historical records. The pre-palace manorial ditch ran from the priory church down the west side of modern school building D, turning westwards along the school perimeter boundary before returning north beneath the centre of school building H. The manor was expanded and developed into a palace from the late 13th century with buildings probably added piecemeal as happened at Clarendon Palace, Wiltshire, rather than having structures knocked down and replaced. By the early 15th century the Palace was accessed from Langley Hill via a gatehouse which led into the Court Wick. The gatehouse stood in a roughly south to north aligned range that probably ran from the east end of “Le Longrewe” accommodation block northwards to the house of the “Fourteen Bays”. The north-west corner of the Court Wick was dominated by the Priory Church with a buttressed wall and path demarcating the west side.

In the south-west corner of Court Wick, probably on the same alignment as Le Longrewe, was a gateway located just to the south of school building D which lead to the inner court also known as the Great Court. Its position and associated buildings are not known but it is likely to have contained the great hall, chapel and principal chambers. If the great hall was situated on the site of the original manor then it was probably located in the south-east corner approximately in the area of the school basketball court. This is because the kitchen range and La Cave were located to the west, and probably would have had an access corridor or doorway into the hall. Medieval building G beneath school building H may also have been a service building owing to its proximity to the well house (Neal 1977). The Priory Church founded in 1308 was located immediately to the north-west of school buildings A & D and

overlay the early manorial ditch. The only surviving part of the priory is a 14th century rectangular building that forms part of school building M, and a small section of the church's south chancel wall. A small excavation carried out to the south-west of the church location identified part of a building constructed using stone taken from the church which is suggested as representing Verney's lodging recorded in a survey made in 1591.

The documentary evidence and excavations carried out on the site have shown that substantial and complex medieval to post-medieval building remains and archaeological deposits survive in some areas below ground. The proposed development will have a significant impact on specific areas of the site that due to these conditions are highly archaeologically sensitive. The principal points of this impact will be the deconstruction of building G over the known medieval remains of the Le Longrewe building, the extension and refurbishment of Building C also over Le Longrewe and the hypothesised Entrance Gate, and the refurbishment of Building D over the early manor ditch, although the entire site has a very high potential for medieval to post-medieval archaeological remains, in addition to those confirmed by previous excavations.

5 METHODOLOGY

5.1 One test pit was excavated using a mechanical 360° excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket (Fig. 2). The test pit was located within the footprint of the proposed rear extension to Building C. It measured 2.20 x 2m.

5.2 Topsoil and undifferentiated overburden were mechanically excavated under close archaeological supervision. Exposed surfaces were cleaned by hand and examined for archaeological features. Deposits were recorded using *pro forma* recording sheets, drawn to scale, and photographed as appropriate. Excavated spoil was searched for finds and the trenches were scanned by a metal detector.

6 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS

Test Pit 1 (Fig. 2, DP 2-4)

<i>Section 1 (DP 5): north side, south facing</i>		
<i>0.00 = 126.25m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.22m	L2000	Topsoil. Dark grey, soft, silty loam with occasional small flints.
0.22 – 0.32m	L2001	Light brownish yellow, compact, clay.
0.32 – 0.59m	L2002	Made ground (backfill). Mid to dark brown, compact, silty sand with frequent CBM fragments, flints and stones.
0.59 – 0.95m	L2003	Made ground (backfill). Mid to dark grey, compact, sandy silt with moderate flints and stones and occasional CBM fragments.

0.95m +	L2004	Natural. Light orange yellow, compact, clay with frequent flints and stones.
<i>Section 2 (DP 6): south side, north facing</i> <i>0.00 = 126.20m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.29m	L2000	Topsoil. As above.
0.29 – 0.53m	L2005	Made ground. Light brown and mixed colours, loose, silty sand and gravel with frequent CBM fragments.
0.53 – 0.87m	L2002	Made ground (backfill). As above.
0.87 – 1.05m	L2003	Made ground (backfill). As above.
1.05m +	L2004	Natural clay. As above.

Description. The test pit did not contain archaeological features or finds excepting what is thought to be remains of the previous excavations (DP 3-4). A linear section of natural clay (0.45 – 0.50m wide), orientated north-north-east/south-south-west, was recorded. The areas either side were excavated and backfilled with L2003.

7 CONFIDENCE RATING

7.1 It is not felt that any factors inhibited the recognition of archaeological features or finds.

8 DEPOSIT MODEL

8.1 The site was commonly overlain by Topsoil L2000, a dark, grey, soft, silty loam with occasional small flints (0.20 – 0.30m thick). Below were deposits of made ground containing CBM. These were 0.70 – 0.80m thick.

8.2 The natural clay, L2004, was present at 0.95 – 1.05m below the existing ground level and comprised a light orange yellow, compact, clay with frequent flints and stones.

9 DISCUSSION

9.1 The site had a potential for archaeological remains, in particular for medieval and post-medieval archaeology. The site is located within two Scheduled Ancient Monuments comprising Kings Langley Royal Palace established in 1278 on the site of an existing medieval manor, and a Dominican Priory founded in 1308. Previous excavations in the area of Test Pit 1 revealed remains of 'Le Longrewe' building dating from the early 14th century.

9.2 The exercise confirmed that the location of the proposed new extension falls within the area of 1970s excavations and that the archaeological deposits and remains of 'Le Longrewe' building, in particular its southern wall, were

completely excavated during these works. The linear remnants of the previous excavations likely relates to Section H recorded in 1970s (Neal 1977, Fig 46, 49). The deposits present within the test pit consisted of backfill materials. No indication of a ditch parallel to the building running along its southern wall was found. No residual finds were recovered.

9.3 The remains of 'Le Longrewe' building, in particular the walls, were only partially present at the time of 1970s excavations. A large portion of the walls were conjectural even within the excavated areas. The walls were not substantial or well preserved, and it seems that they were excavated and removed, at least within the location of Test Pit 1. The nature of backfill found in the test pit suggest that all archaeological deposits were excavated and the excavation areas backfilled with construction debris and soil from other groundworks within the school complex.

10 DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE

10.1 Archive records, with an inventory, will be deposited with any donated finds from the site at Dacorum Museum. The archive will be quantified, ordered, indexed, cross-referenced and checked for internal consistency.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Solutions would like to thank Mr Duncan Whitehead of View Architects for commissioning the project on behalf of Rudolf Steiner School, and the school for funding the works and for their assistance.

AS would also like to acknowledge the input and advice of Ms Kate Batt of Hertfordshire County Council Historic Environment Unit.

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APPENDIX 1 CONTENTS OF THE ARCHIVE

Records	Number
Brief	N
Specification	Y
Registers	3 (Context, Drawing, Digital Photo)
Context Sheets	6
Site drawings A1	0
Site drawings A3	1
Site drawings A4	0
Site photographs b/w	0
Site photographs colour slides	0
Digital Photographs	11

APPENDIX 2 HER SUMMARY SHEET

Site name and address:	Rudolf Steiner School, Kings Langley, Hertfordshire
County: Herts	District: Dacorum
Village/Town:	Parish: Kings Langley
Planning application reference:	
Client name/address/tel:	Rudolf Steiner School
Nature of application:	Construction of extension to Building C
Present land use:	Garden area surrounding school building (C)
Size of application area: 6.6ha	Size of area investigated 4m2
NGR (8 figures):	TL 2478 1211
Site Code:	AS 1280
Site director/Organization:	Archaeological Solutions Ltd
Type of work:	Trial trench evaluation
Date of work:	01/11/2012
Location of finds/Curating museum:	Dacorum
Related SMR Nos:	Periods represented: None
Relevant previous summaries/reports: -	-
Summary of fieldwork results:	<p><i>In November 2012 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried an archaeological evaluation at the Rudolf Steiner School, Kings Langley, Hertfordshire (NGR TL 06572 02586). The evaluation was commissioned by View Architects on behalf of the Rudolf Steiner School and was undertaken to provide further information in support of a planning application for extensions and alterations to the School.</i></p> <p><i>The evaluation confirmed that the location of the proposed new extension falls within the area of 1970s excavations and that the archaeological deposits and remains of 'Le Longrewe' building were completely excavated during these works. The test pit contained backfill material and the remnants of a linear recorded during the previous excavations.</i></p>
Author of summary: Z Pozorski	Date of Summary: November 2012

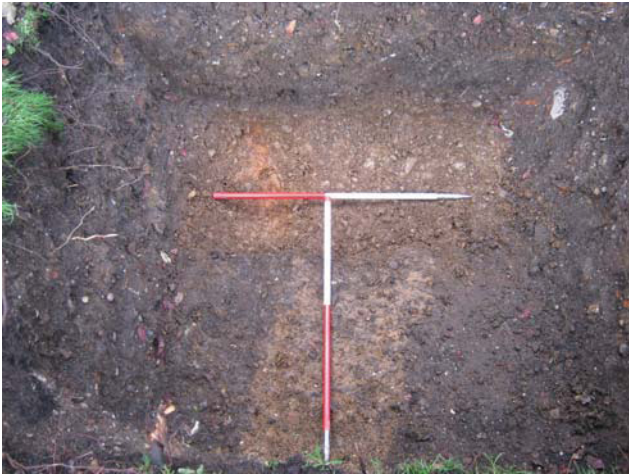
PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX



DP 1. Location of Test Pit 1 to the rear of Building C. Looking west-north-west.



DP 2. Test Pit 1. Looking north-east.



DP 3. Test Pit 1. Looking north.



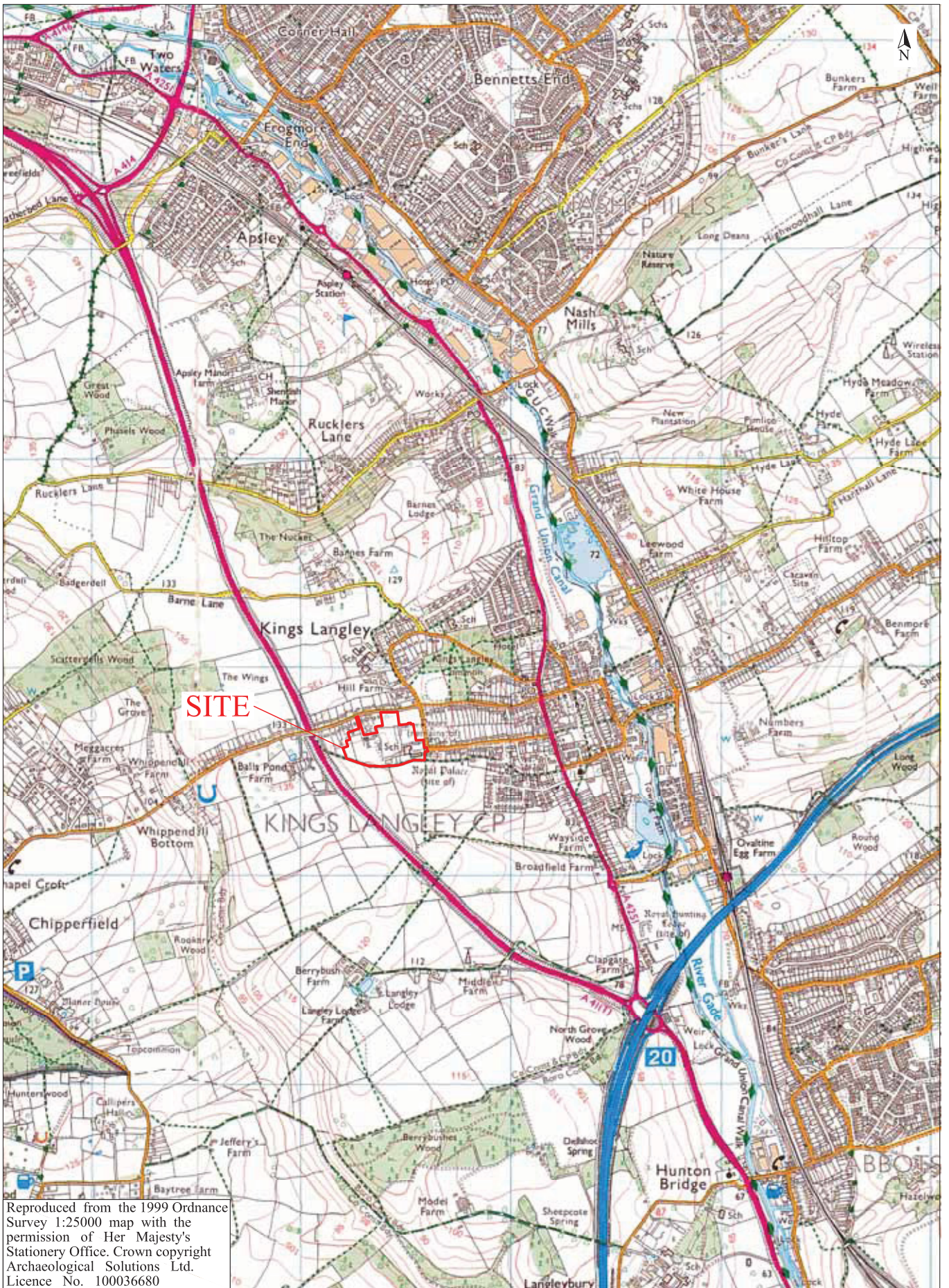
DP 4. Test Pit 1. Looking west.



DP 5. Test Pit 1. Section 1 (north). Looking north.

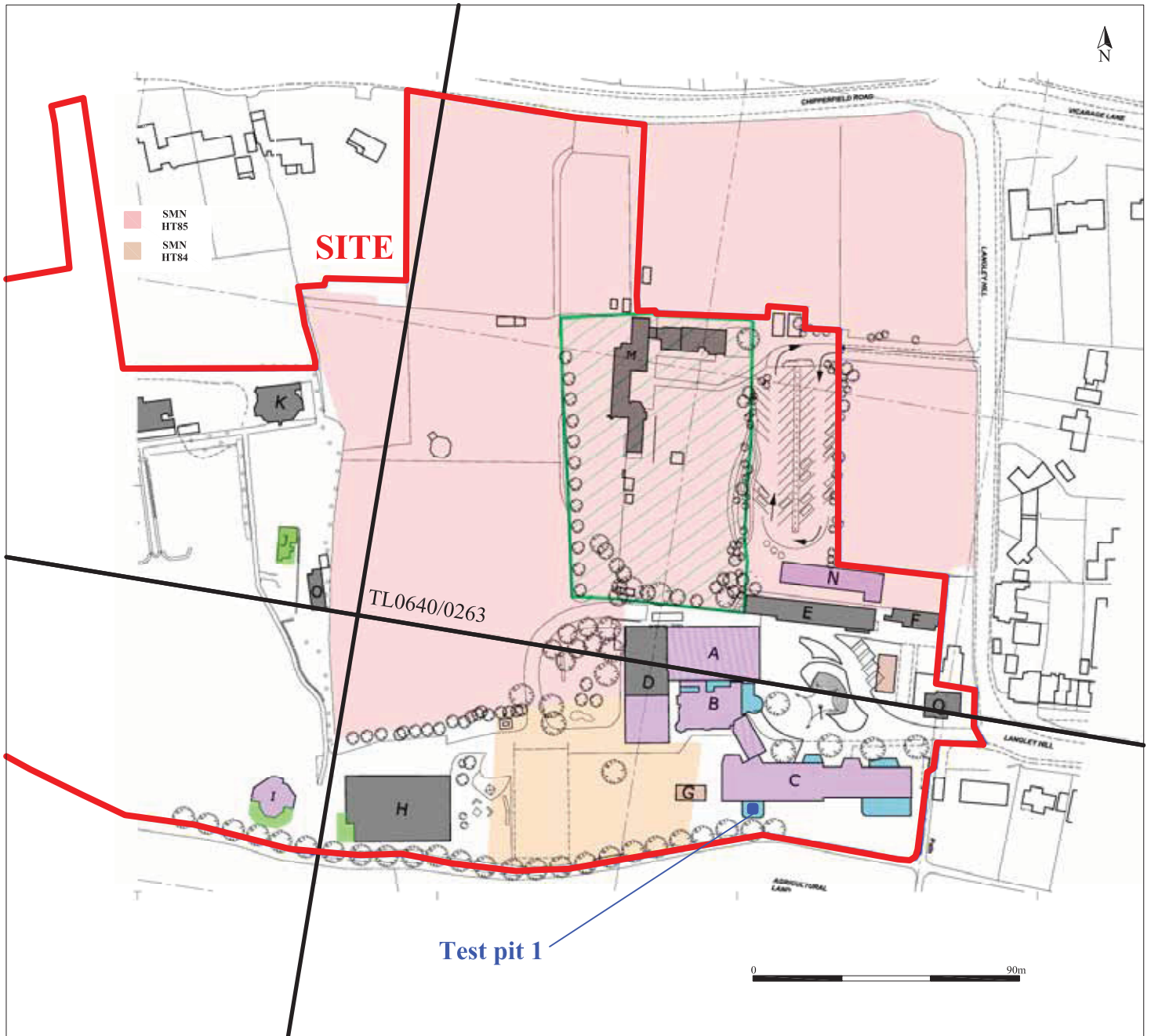


DP 6. Test Pit 1. Section 2 (south). Looking south.

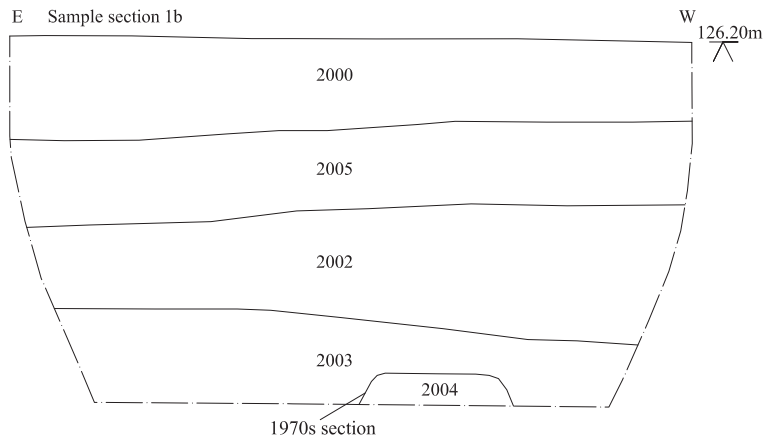
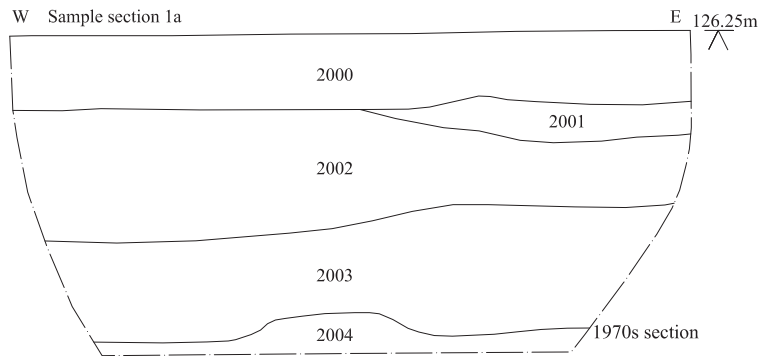
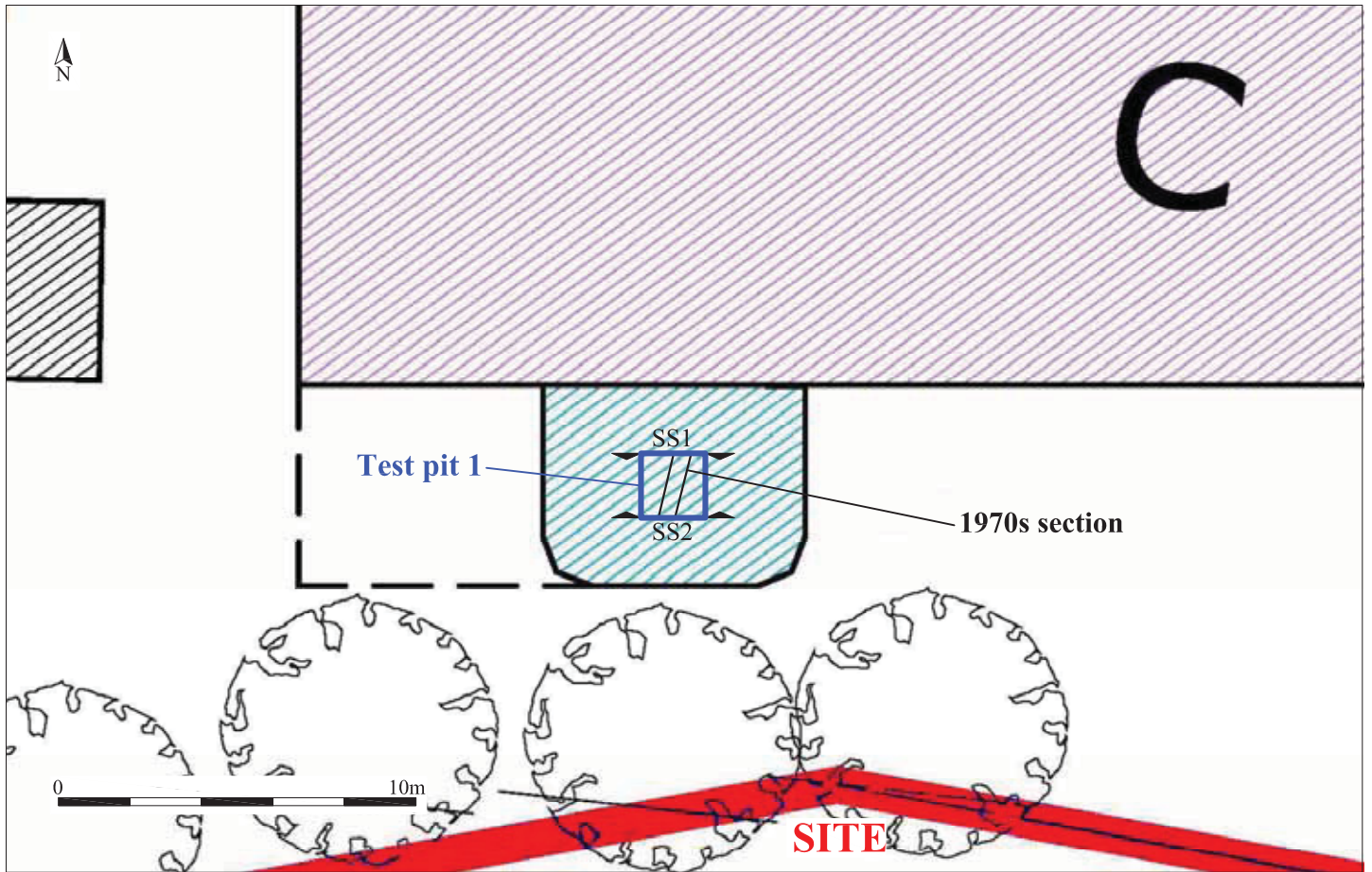


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Fig. 1 Site location plan
Scale 1:25,000 at A4



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Fig. 2 Detailed site location plan
 Scale 1:2,000 at A4



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Fig. 3 Sections and section location plan
 Scale 1:200 and 1:20 at A4