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**R/O SARACENS HEAD PUBLIC HOUSE, HIGH STREET,  
KINGS LANGLEY, HERTFORDSHIRE**

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**

HER Ref. 138/12

Authors: Lisa Smith	
NGR: TQ 0725 / 0268	Report No: 4412
District: Dacorum	Site Code: AS 1624
Approved: Claire Halpin	Project No: 4904
Signed:	Date: 23 September 2013

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## OASIS SUMMARY SHEET

<b>Project details</b>			
<b>Project name</b>	<i>R/O Saracens Public House, High Street, King's Langley, Hertfordshire</i>		
<p><i>In September 2013 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried an archaeological evaluation to the rear of the Saracens Public House, High Street, Kings Langley, Hertfordshire (NGR TQ 0725 / 0268; Figs. 1 &amp; 2). The evaluation was commissioned by Thorne Barton Estates and was undertaken in compliance with an archaeological condition attached to planning approval for a development of four two-bed flats with ancillary parking and change of use of a bin store to office space (Dacorum Planning Approval Ref. 4/00733/12/FUL).</i></p> <p><i>The Scheduled Ancient Monument sites of Kings Langley royal palace and a Dominican Priory are located at the Rudolph Steiner School (HHER 96; HT 84 and HHER 97; HT 85), and the medieval village grew at their gates (HHER 2638). A single sherd of medieval pottery and two undated pits were identified to the rear of no. 36 High Street (HHER 17622). The Saracen's Head dates from the 16<sup>th</sup> century and is Grade II listed, it had a late 18<sup>th</sup> century brewhouse next door and a malthouse to the rear (HHER 13659).</i></p> <p><i>In the event the evaluation revealed two parallel post-medieval ditches, F1005 and F1008, and a modern service. The lack of remains might be surprising except that the evaluation was small.</i></p>			
Project dates (fieldwork)	<i>September 2013</i>		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	<i>N</i>	Future work (Y/N/?)	<i>TBC</i>
P. number	<i>4904</i>	Site code	<i>AS 1624</i>
Type of project	<i>An Archaeological Evaluation</i>		
Site status	<i>-</i>		
Current land use	<i>Rear of public house</i>		
Planned development	<i>Four flats with ancillary parking and change of bin store to officer space</i>		
Main features (+dates)	<i>Two post-medieval ditches</i>		
Significant finds (+dates)	<i>-</i>		
<b>Project location</b>			
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 9HU</i>		
Area of site	<i>c. 500m<sup>2</sup></i>		
NGR	<i>TQ 0725 / 0268</i>		
Height AOD (min/max)	<i>c.85m AOD</i>		
<b>Project creators</b>			
Brief issued by	<i>HCC HEU</i>		
Project supervisor/s (PO)	<i>Lisa Smith</i>		
Funded by	<i>Thorne Barton Estates</i>		
Full title	<i>Rear of Saracens Public House, High Street, King's Langley, Hertfordshire. An Archaeological Evaluation</i>		
Authors	<i>Smith, L.</i>		
Report no.	<i>4412</i>		
Date (of report)	<i>September 2013</i>		

# **R/O SARACENS HEAD PUBLIC HOUSE, HIGH STREET, KINGS LANGLEY, HERTFORDSHIRE**

## **AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**

### **SUMMARY**

*In September 2013 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried an archaeological evaluation to the rear of the Saracens Public House, High Street, Kings Langley, Hertfordshire (NGR TQ 0725 / 0268; Figs. 1 & 2). The evaluation was undertaken in compliance with an archaeological condition attached to planning approval for a development of four two-bed flats with ancillary parking and change of use of a bin store to office space (Dacorum Planning Approval Ref. 4/00733/12/FUL).*

*The Scheduled Ancient Monument sites of Kings Langley royal palace and a Dominican Priory are located at the Rudolph Steiner School (HHER 96; HT 84 and HHER 97; HT 85), and the medieval village grew at their gates (HHER 2638). A single sherd of medieval pottery and two undated pits were identified to the rear of no. 36 High Street (HHER 17622). The Saracen's Head dates from the 16<sup>th</sup> century and is Grade II listed, it had a late 18<sup>th</sup> century brewhouse next door and a malthouse to the rear (HHER 13659).*

*In the event the evaluation revealed two parallel post-medieval ditches, F1005 and F1008, and a modern service. The lack of remains might be surprising except that the evaluation was small.*

### **1 INTRODUCTION**

1.1 In September 2013 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried an archaeological evaluation to the rear of the Saracens Public House, High Street, Kings Langley, Hertfordshire (NGR TQ 0725 / 0268; Figs. 1 & 2). The evaluation was commissioned by Thorne Barton Estates and was undertaken in compliance with an archaeological condition attached to planning approval for a development of four two-bed flats with ancillary parking and change of use of a bin store to office space (Dacorum Planning Approval Ref. 4/00733/12/FUL).

1.2 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with advice from Kate Batt of Hertfordshire County Council, County Historic Environment Unit, and a specification prepared by AS (dated 19 June 2012) and approved by HCC HEU. The project adhered to appropriate sections of Gurney (2003) 'Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England', *East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 14*, and the

Institute for Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct and Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (revised 2008).

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 the presence or absence of any remains relating to the area of medieval priory and burial ground located to the north and east of the site. The evaluation was required as the first phase of archaeological work. If significant remains were present HCC HEU would require further archaeological mitigation.

#### *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 (Figs. 1 – 2)**

2.1 Kings Langley is located 34km north-west of Central London and 4km south of Hemel Hempstead town centre. The earliest record for the name Langley dates to c. 1060 and means 'long wood or clearing' while the affix Kings is first recorded in 1436 (*Kyngeslangley & Lengele Regis* in 1428) to distinguish it from neighbouring Abbots Langley belonging to the abbey of St Albans (Gover et al 1938). The site is in the middle of the town immediately east of High Street.

2.2 The site is bounded to the east by the Saracen's Head Public House and includes a narrow access point to Kings Langley High Street which passes between the pub and house no. 45. The north side of the site is demarcated by the garden of no. 45 and a small lane or close that runs into the High Street. The south side borders a bowling green and to the rear (east) lies more open ground and a small building.

## **3 THE EVIDENCE**

### **3.1 Topography, geology and soils (Fig. 1)**

3.1.1 Kings Langley is located on the southern edge of the Chiltern Hills hence the underlying solid geology comprises Upper Cretaceous chalk. The assessment site is located at approximately 85m AOD on the west bank of the River Gade which is intertwined with the Grand Union Canal. The local soils in the area are predominantly of the Marlow and Hornbeam 2 association which are classed as paleo-argillic brown earths comprising loamy or clayey soils with a reddish, or reddish mottled clay-enriched subsoil reflecting pedogenic processes occurring before the last glacial period (soilsworldwide.net). The subsoil alongside the river consists of glacial gravels.

### **3.2 Archaeological and historical background (Fig. 3)**

*Prehistoric <500,000 BC – AD 43*

3.2.1 Although the River Gade valley was a favourable area for prehistoric settlement/activity there is no evidence for any human occupation within 500m of the site. Evidence however, for prehistoric occupation has been identified approximately 550m south and south-west of the site where an archaeological evaluation uncovered a ditch, pit and groups of post-holes thought to be of prehistoric date (HHER 16579). An adjacent hollow containing charcoal and burnt flint may have been an associated hearth or cremation (HHER 16580). Other artefacts including flint axes, worked flints and worked bone of mainly Neolithic date, have been recovered from a wider area with the highest

concentration found on Kings Langley Common (HHER 339, 989, 2252, 2253).

#### *Romano-British (AD 43-410)*

3.2.2 The assessment site is situated in the hinterland of the major Roman city of *Verulamium* (St. Albans), and a number of villas have been identified along the surrounding river valleys including the Gade. The closest Roman villa dates from the 2<sup>nd</sup> century and was located on the river's east bank (HHER 510) and had a section of minor Roman road to its south (HHER 9539). Cremations and pottery of 2<sup>nd</sup> century date were also found c.450m to the north of the villa (HHER 810 & 813), and remains of other Roman urns were found at the Ovaltine Factory (HHER 954). In 1985 a large late Roman coin hoard was discovered by metal detectorists at an undisclosed location to the south of the assessment site (HHER 16272). The only known Roman find from within 500m of the site was a 'beaker' unearthed in 1945 while digging a grave for a dog (HHER 813).

#### *Anglo-Saxon (AD 410 – 1065)*

3.2.3 The origins of the manor at Kings Langley are obscure but a manor at *Langelai* was granted to Abbot Leofstan of St Albans by Egelwin the Swart and his wife Aelfleda in the first half of the 11<sup>th</sup> century. It was lost to the church in the turbulent period around the mid 11<sup>th</sup> century, and by 1066 was held by two Saxon thanes Saeric and Thorin (Mundby 1963). No Anglo-Saxon finds have been recovered from within 500m of the site.

#### *Medieval (AD 1066 – 1539)*

3.2.4 At the time of the 1086 Domesday Survey the manor of *Langelai* had passed into the hands of Robert, Count of Mortain. Robert granted the manor to his sergeant, Ralph, whose heirs became the Chenduit family who were lords of the manor. In 1276 the manor was acquired by Queen Eleanor of Castile and it was subsequently enlarged into the royal palace of Kings Langley (HHER 96). There are no surviving remains above ground but the site, which is located at the Rudolph Steiner School, is a Scheduled Ancient Monument (HT 84). In 1308 Edward II established a Dominican Friary on land immediately to the north of Kings Langley Palace. The establishment was not fully operational until 1373-1374 but became the richest Dominican site in England, and the burial place of Richard II (HHER 97). The site is also a Scheduled Ancient Monument which includes a surviving rectangular building incorporated as part of the school, and a fragment of boundary wall (HT 85).

3.2.5 The medieval village of Kings Langley developed at the gates of the royal palace and priory (HHER 2638). All Saints Parish Church to the south of the site mainly dates from the 15<sup>th</sup> century, but contains



13<sup>th</sup> century features and the tomb of Edmund of Langley which was moved from its original resting place at the Dissolution of the Dominican Priory (HHER 564). A single sherd of medieval pottery and two undated pits were identified during groundworks to the rear of no. 36 High Street (HHER 17622). Medieval remains from Kings Langley are sparse and no other finds have been recovered from within 500m of the site.

#### *Post-medieval (1539-1900)*

3.2.6 The Saracen's Head Public House, located between the site and the High Street, is a Grade II listed Building (HHER 13659). It is timber-framed with its north wing dating to the 16<sup>th</sup> century, while the front range and north-east extension date to the 17<sup>th</sup> century. In the late 18<sup>th</sup> century the adjoining brewhouse was owned by Francis Cromack, and behind the inn was his malthouse. The Cromack family ceased brewing in 1849, but the brewhouse survives. Across High Street no. 36 is another Grade II listed post-medieval timber house with an 18<sup>th</sup> century brick front range and 19<sup>th</sup> century shop front (HHER 17622). Other extant post-medieval buildings along High Street and elsewhere are described in Appendix 1.

## **4 METHODOLOGY**

4.1 One trench was excavated using a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket (Fig. 2). The trench location was approved by HCC HEU and measured 10 x 1.60m.

4.2 Tarmac 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.

## **5 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS**

### **Trench 1** (Figs. 2 & 4)

<i>Sample section 1A: north-east end, north-west facing</i>		
<i>0.00 = 85.44m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.11m	L1000	Tarmac
0.11 – 0.60m	L1001	Modern made ground. Dark reddish brown, loose, clayey sand with frequent modern CBM, glass, metal etc.
0.60 – 0.98m	L1002	Former topsoil. Dark brownish grey, firm, sandy silt with modern CBM
0.98m+	L1004	Natural. Mid reddish yellow, firm, flint gravel within a silty sand matrix.

<i>Sample section 1B: south-west end, south-east facing</i>		
<i>0.00 = 86.53m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.13m	L1000	Tarmac, as above
0.13 – 0.54m	L1001	Modern made ground, as above
0.54 – 0.92m	L1002	Former topsoil, as above
0.92 – 1.32m	L1003	Sandy silt
1.32m+	L1004	Natural. As above

*Description: Two parallel post-medieval ditches, F1005 and F1008, were recorded.*

Ditch F1005 was linear in plan (5.20+ x 1.12+ x 0.42m), orientated NE/SW. It had steep sides and concave base. It had two fills. Its basal fill, L1007, was a light brownish grey, firm, silty sand with frequent gravel. No finds were present. Its upper fill, L1006, was a mid grey, firm, sandy silt with moderate flint gravel and CBM flecks. It contained post-medieval pottery and CBM

Ditch F1008 was linear in plan (3.10+ x 0.48 x ?), orientated NE/SW. Its fill, L1009, was a mid grey, firm, sandy silt with gravel. It cut L1003 and was parallel to Ditch F1005, and was therefore post-medieval. It was not excavated.

## **6 CONFIDENCE RATING**

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

## **7 DEPOSIT MODEL**

7.1 The site was overlain by Tarmac L1000 (0.11 – 0.13m thick). Below was modern made ground, L1001, a dark reddish brown, loose, clayey sand with frequent modern CBM, glass, metal etc. (0.41 – 0.49 m thick). L1001 overlay former topsoil, L1002, a dark brownish grey, firm, sandy silt with modern CBM (0.38 m thick). Below L1002 was L1003, a sandy silt (0.40m thick).

7.2 The natural geology, L1004, was present at 1.30m+ below existing ground level and comprised a mid reddish yellow, firm, flint gravel within a silty sand matrix.

## **8 DISCUSSION**

8.1 The Scheduled Ancient Monument sites of Kings Langley royal palace and a Dominican Priory are located at the Rudolph Steiner School (HHER 96; HT 84 and HHER 97; HT 85), and the medieval

village grew at their gates (HHER 2638). A single sherd of medieval pottery and two undated pits were identified to the rear of no. 36 High Street (HHER 17622). The Saracen's Head dates from the 16<sup>th</sup> century and is Grade II listed, it had a late 18<sup>th</sup> century brewhouse next door and a malthouse to the rear (HHER 13659).

8.2 In the event the evaluation revealed two parallel post-medieval ditches, F1005 and F1008, and a modern service. The lack of remains might be surprising except that the evaluation was small.

## **9 DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE**

9.1 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 Thorne Barton Estates for funding the project and for their assistance, and Synergy Construction & Property Consultants LLP for their assistance.

AS would also like to acknowledge the input and advice of Ms Kate Batt of Hertfordshire County Council Historic Environment Unit, and Dr. Isobel Thompson for providing the HER information.

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SSEW 1983 *Soil Survey of England and Wales: Soils of South East England (sheet 4)*. Harpenden, Rothamsted Experimental Station/Lawes Agricultural Trust

## **WEB SITES**

Soil classification system of England Wales

**APPENDIX 1: HER Information** (taken from a 500m radius)

<b>NHER number</b>	<b>Grid Reference (TF)</b>	<b>Details</b>
<i>Romano-British AD 43-410</i>		
813	0761 0268	Roman Pottery, Kings Langley: Roman 'beaker' found c.1945 while 'digging a grave for a dog'
<i>Medieval 1066-1539</i>		
564	0734 0250	All Saints Medieval Parish Church: Largely 15th century church, flint-built with stone dressings. However, a 13th century piscina and a Decorated, two-light west window in the north aisle survive, so it is unlikely that the church was entirely rebuilt. The tomb of Edmund of Langley was moved in 1877 from its original position to a different part of the church.
2638	0727 0266	The village of Kings Langley grew up at the gates of the medieval royal palace [96] and Dominican priory
<i>Post-medieval 1539-1900</i>		
955	071 029	Kings Langley: A 16 <sup>th</sup> century jetton found in Kings Langley
5249	0751 0299	Footbridge: Footbridge over the Grand Union canal with brick abutments, steel girders. Built in 1893 with wooden drawbridge. Some of the brickwork has been renewed, otherwise as at Johnson Survey
5291	068 028	Wall box in garden wall, Vicarage Lane, Kings Langley.
5387	073 025	1826 brewery building: Malting converted into church hall in 1904. Chequered red brick and flint, two floors, six bays of 14ft with windows, slate roof. Kiln converted into room. Built in 1826 by John Andrew Groome, whose brewery, which stood between the malting and the A41, was worked until 1898 and then pulled down. There are now additional windows, and the top set have been altered altogether. The building is currently to let as offices
5798	075 030	Site of Kings Langley mill: Former steam corn mill. Old part of mill T-shaped, of yellow brick; top of 'T' four floors, shaft three floors, all with windows, modern slate roof; surrounded by corrugated iron and asbestos. Interior wholly timber, with iron pillars approx. 9in diam., probably mid 19th century. Large additional building on W side. Wheel removed 1916. Owned and

		operated by Toovey family from 1780-1939. Has since been demolished and a housing estate built (with mock cowls and old slates). 18th-19th century building, ?former mill house, survives on site. There may have been a watermill here at Domesday; mentioned in a lease of 1587; it was sold in 1763 to John Surrey, whose daughter married her cousin Thomas Toovey; run by descendants until 1978. The Grand Union Canal was cut adjacent to the mill in 1797, augmenting the river; in 1846 after a dispute over the water rights, the canal company bought the mill and leased it back to the Toovey family. Steam engine installed in 1894; the mill had its own canal boats. The breast waterwheel was taken out in 1921 and replaced by turbines. Flour milling declined, animal feed production increased; flour milling ended in 1939 and company name changed to Kings Langley Mills Ltd. In 1946 the canal company sold the mill back to the millers and production of animal feed continued until 1978. The machinery was sold and the mill demolished; the mill house retained and houses built around it.
5859	0767 0261	Footbridge overflow channel, Grand Union Canal, Kings Langley: Footbridge has 3 stone and brick piers, the east parapet is brick and stone coping and the west parapet in modern brick
5867	07562 02843	Lock 69A: Water Lane Lock, Grand Union Canal
5868	077 025	Mile post north of Home Park Lock, Abbots Langley: Canal milepost with the legend 'Braunston 68 miles'. It was reset in 1993 in the same position as the original 1893 milepost which was made by T Milner
7170	0712 0315	Site of gravel pit, Hempstead Rd. Kings Langley: Site of a gravel pit, identified from the 1897 OS map. The area has since been landscaped for a garden
7171	0686 0295	Old Gravel pit, Kings Langley Common: Gravel pit, identified from the 1897 OS map. There is still a large hollow in the ground
13214	07463 02893	The Old Red Lion, Waterside, Kings Langley: A late 16C timber-framed house facing east and backing onto the river Gade and millstream; two storeys, with rear outshut used as the cellar, the frontage cased in red brick, and steep old red tile roofs. The south bay and the large

		external south chimney were added in the 17C, and the SE wing c1980 when the building was converted back into a house. It had been the Red Lion inn, possibly from the 17C
13659	07215 02662	The Saracen's Head, High Street: A timber-framed inn standing on a brick sill, with weatherboarding and some brick infill; the north wing is 16C, the front range and NE extension 17C, with a red brick frontage added in the early 18C. Two storeys, with steep old red tile roofs, and a large central chimney at the join of the main range and crosswing. Inside on the upper floor, south of the chimney stack, is a fireplace with a four-centred brick arch, with relief plaster decoration on the chimney breast of a lozenge-shaped vine-scroll border with a large crown over a five-lobed rose within two circles of ornament. This decoration dates to c1600. In the late 18C the adjoining brewhouse was owned by Francis Cromack, and behind the inn was his malthouse. The Cromack family ceased brewing in 1849, but the brewhouse survives.
17036	07481 02843	Zion Chapel, Waterside, Kings Langley. The 'Zion Chapel (Independent)' is shown on the 1 <sup>st</sup> edition OS map at the north end of an orchard between the road and the Grand Union Canal. In the 1870s this area was a hamlet of humble cottages called Langley Waterside, separated from Kings Langley village by fields. It had not altered much by 1898; by 1924 the orchard was covered with housing. The chapel survives, still protruding slightly into the roadway. It now has a rear extension
17622	07194 02634	36 High Street, Kings Langley: No.36, now divided into 36 and 36A, on the west side of the High Street, is in origin a two-storey timber-framed house built c.1600. This part is now the long rear wing. In the 18th century an L-plan front range with short NW wing were built in red brick, with a large chimney at the junction with the older part. The shop front is 19th century. Groundworks for new housing in the rear yard revealed, as well as the boundary walls, a brick-built feature terraced into the hill slope. This was presumably a wash house or coal store, but was built of unfrogged pre-19th century bricks. Two pits were seen but remain undisturbed.

		The only earlier find was a single medieval sherd
17649	07192 02813	7-13 High Street: The building, now used as offices, is a tall structure with two storeys and basement set back at the rear of a yard (now occupied by a modern building). It is built on a slope, falling away at the rear. The main part is a symmetrical red brick house three bays wide, with central door approached up two steps, with Doric doorcase. On the front is a Sun Fire Insurance plaque, no.47130. This part dates to c.1700, with large rear chimney, but at the south end is a one and a half storey late 17th century range, of weatherboarded timber framing. A one-bay north extension was built in plum brick in the early 18th century. At the SW corner is a 20th century extension. The arrangement of the house set back from the High Street is shown on later 19th century OS maps, when outbuildings lined the north and south sides of the yard and trees lined the street frontage. In the yard, 5m from the NW corner of the house, was a well marked D.W. (Drinking Water). This well, rediscovered during building works in October 2011, is lined with clunch (hence the water quality) and so may be medieval in origin
18132	07265 02550	Site of Brewers, High Street: A brewery is shown on the 1881 OS map on the street frontage, opposite Langley House and the Rose & Crown [18133], at the south end of Kings Langley. Owned by John Andrew Groome (who built a malting [5387] in Church Lane in 1826), it was worked until 1898 and then pulled down. It consisted of several substantial buildings arranged an irregular yard, backing onto grounds with a few trees and access to the malthouse. There was also access to the grounds from Blue Court on the street corner; whether this was the brewer's house is unclear.



18133	07235 02503	The Rose & Crown, 60 High Street: built as a house in the late 17th or early 18th century, a two-storey and attics house with cellar in red brick chequered with black headers. The central passage leads from a door with rectangular fanlight. In the early 19th century a parallel rear range in plum brick was added, and a single-storey extension at the SE corner. The east front, facing the road, has a verandah carrying a tented roof on fluted cast iron columns, and an ornate wrought iron bracket with hanging sign. The name board at the south end has fine painted lettering reading 'KING'S LANGLEY'. The conservatory linking the main building with the outbuildings was added in the 20th century
18199	07178 02782	Nos.15-19, High Street: Now three shops on the east side of the High Street, are a timber-framed house built in the 16th century or earlier. It is possible that the original plan was as a row of four square tenements, but it was more likely a three-unit cross passage house, with a wide through passage at the south end of no.17, hall and parlour in no.19, narrow service bay in the north part of no.17, and a rear wide bay at no.15 which was possibly a separate tenement. This made a two-storey four-bay range on the street frontage, with a cellar beneath no.15; this cellar has flint and stone blocks in its south wall. In the 17th century a shallow two-storey rear wing was added at the SE, and an internal chimney added to the hall. In 1781 the whole building was subdivided and given a tuck-pointed red brick front, making no.19 (at the south end) a double-fronted brick house with the inscription 'JL E 1781' over the door, and a house and shop in the northern half (nos.15 and 17). No.17 has a late Georgian small-paned shopfront with canted bay window; the matching bay windows at no.19 are 20th century. The north end was rebuilt in brick c.1900.
18200	07026 02936	Village animal pond on the edge of the common, Comon Lane: The pound is shown on the later 19th century and later OS maps, as a square walled compound on open ground at the SE corner of Kings Langley Common. It survives, although now between houses and Common Lane
18201	07500 02577	Site of gas works, Church Lane: Small

		19th century gas works, gone by 1898
18202	07401 02532	Site of national school, Church Lane: 19th century village school demolished and built over in the 20 <sup>th</sup> century
<i>Modern 1900+</i>		
7191	077 026	Ovaltine Factory, Station Road, Kings Langley: built in 1913, the exterior of which is in good condition. The factory site, next to the Grand Union Canal, was chosen for its good water supply, transport links, and surrounding agricultural land which could produce the barley, eggs and milk needed to produce the malt extract drink Ovaltine. In 1929 the Ovaltine Model Egg and Poultry Farm was set up with the purchase of Parsonage Farm and Numbers Farm [7276, 7285]. The factory was expanded, and in the 1960s equipment and methods were upgraded and renewed. In 2001 production was transferred to Ovaltine's Swiss factory and production ceased in 2002. Following building recording and evaluation the site has been redeveloped for housing, with the retention of the famous facade of the main factory building, and the perimeter wall. The original 1913 building was replaced in the 1920s; the first stage (1924) was enlarged to match between 1924 and 1929. Some elements, such as a dance hall and canteen, tennis courts, and gardens, have disappeared. The distinctive main building is 'in a stripped classical style with subtle hints of the Art Deco'
12997	06826 02454	Westmeon, Langley Hill, Kings Langley: One of the first private houses to be built in the area of the Great Park at Kings Langley, Westmeon was built in 1908 by Matthew Arnold, a Watford solicitor and probable descendant of Dr Thomas Arnold of Rugby School. It stands in a prime position with extensive views. The money and inspiration appear to have come from Mrs Arnold, a novelist (Margot Arnold). The design is essentially a large Arts & Crafts version of farmhouses, but with up to date features including the first electric lighting in Kings Langley (as well as gas pipes) and a garage with inspection pit (but with a hayloft above, and a conventional stable). During the Second World War the house was divided into two halves; the Arnolds left in 1947. In the garden are 'several

		hundred' stones from old London Bridge; see [12998}
12998	06850 02540	Stones from Old London Bridge, Westmeon: In the garden of Westmeon [12997] are 'several hundred of the massive granite cobblestones from the roadway of old London Bridge (the medieval one with the houses built on it). When that bridge was demolished in 1832, the stones were taken to Watford to build a garden wall around a Georgian house in the lower High Street, roughly where the gasworks later stood. When that wall was taken down in the early 20C, to extend the gasworks, Matthew Arnold had a carter from Toms Lane bring several loads of them here by horse and cart, some being used to build the well-head'. Matthew Arnold was the owner of Westmeon.
<i>Undated</i>		
10354	0717 0222	Kings Langley: Indistinct soilmark, apparently rectangular and measuring, very approximately, 75m x 75m
12496	07650 02465	Sunderland Allotments, Kings Langley: Registered common land undated but historic
12497	0729 0248	Village Garden, Kings Langley: Registered common land, undated but historic
12533	0690 0263	Waste at Langley Hill and Vicarage Lane: Registered roadside common land, in several parts. NGR = approximate centre. Langley Hill was a wide formal avenue running up from the entrance at the high road to the royal palace [96], the layout still showing well on the 1874 OS map
13569	07650 02950	Undated human skull, Primrose Hill/Water Lane Industrial Centre: A human skull found during works at the industrial estate east NW of the junction of Water Lane and Primrose Hill, on the eastern edge of Kings Langley, in May 2008 <1>. It came from beneath 3m of topsoil and peat, and was lacking its lower jaw, but from its condition it was from an in situ burial; none of the small projections had broken off. The depth of overburden may derive from the cutting of the Grand Union Canal, which bounds the site on the west.

## APPENDIX 2: Maps/Plans

Figure	Title	Date	Scale
Fig. 1	Site Location – OS Explorer	Modern	1:25,000
Fig. 2	Detailed site location	Modern	
Fig. 3	HER information	Modern	

## APPENDIX 3 CONTENTS OF THE ARCHIVE

Records	Number
Brief	N
Specification	Y
Registers	4 (Context, Drawing Sheet, Drawing, Photo, Digital Photo)
Context Sheets	22
Site drawings A1	0
Site drawings A3	1
Site drawings A4	0
Site photographs b/w	6
Site photographs colour slides	6
Digital Photographs	9

## APPENDIX 4 HER SUMMARY SHEET

<b>Site name and address:</b>	R/o The Saracen's Head PH, High Street, Kings Langley, Herts WD4 9HU
<b>County:</b> Herts	<b>District:</b> Dacorum
<b>Village/Town:</b>	<b>Parish:</b> Kings Langley
<b>Planning application reference:</b>	4/00733/12/FUL
<b>Client name/address/tel:</b>	Thorne Barton Estates
<b>Nature of application:</b>	Residential development
<b>Present land use:</b>	Rear of public house
<b>Size of application area:</b> c. 500m <sup>2</sup>	<b>Size of area investigated</b> 16m <sup>2</sup>
<b>NGR (8 figures):</b>	TQ 0725 / 0268
<b>Site Code:</b>	AS 1624
<b>Site director/Organization:</b>	Archaeological Solutions Ltd
<b>Type of work:</b>	Trial trench evaluation
<b>Date of work:</b>	September 2013
<b>Location of finds/Curating museum:</b>	Dacorum
<b>Related SMR Nos:</b>	<b>Periods represented:</b>
<b>Relevant previous summaries/reports:</b> -	-
<b>Summary of fieldwork results:</b>	<p><i>In September 2013 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried an archaeological evaluation to the rear of the Saracens Public House, High Street, Kings Langley, Hertfordshire (NGR TQ 0725 / 0268; Figs. 1 &amp; 2). The evaluation was commissioned by Thorne Barton Estates and was undertaken in compliance with an archaeological condition attached to planning approval for a development of four two-bed flats with ancillary parking and change of use of a bin store to office space (Dacorum Planning Approval Ref. 4/00733/12/FUL).</i></p> <p><i>In the event the evaluation revealed two parallel post-medieval ditches, F1005 and F1008, and a modern service. The lack of remains might be surprising except that the evaluation was small.</i></p>
<b>Author of summary:</b> Lisa Smith	<b>Date of Summary:</b> September 2013

## PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX



1  
Ditch 1005 looking east



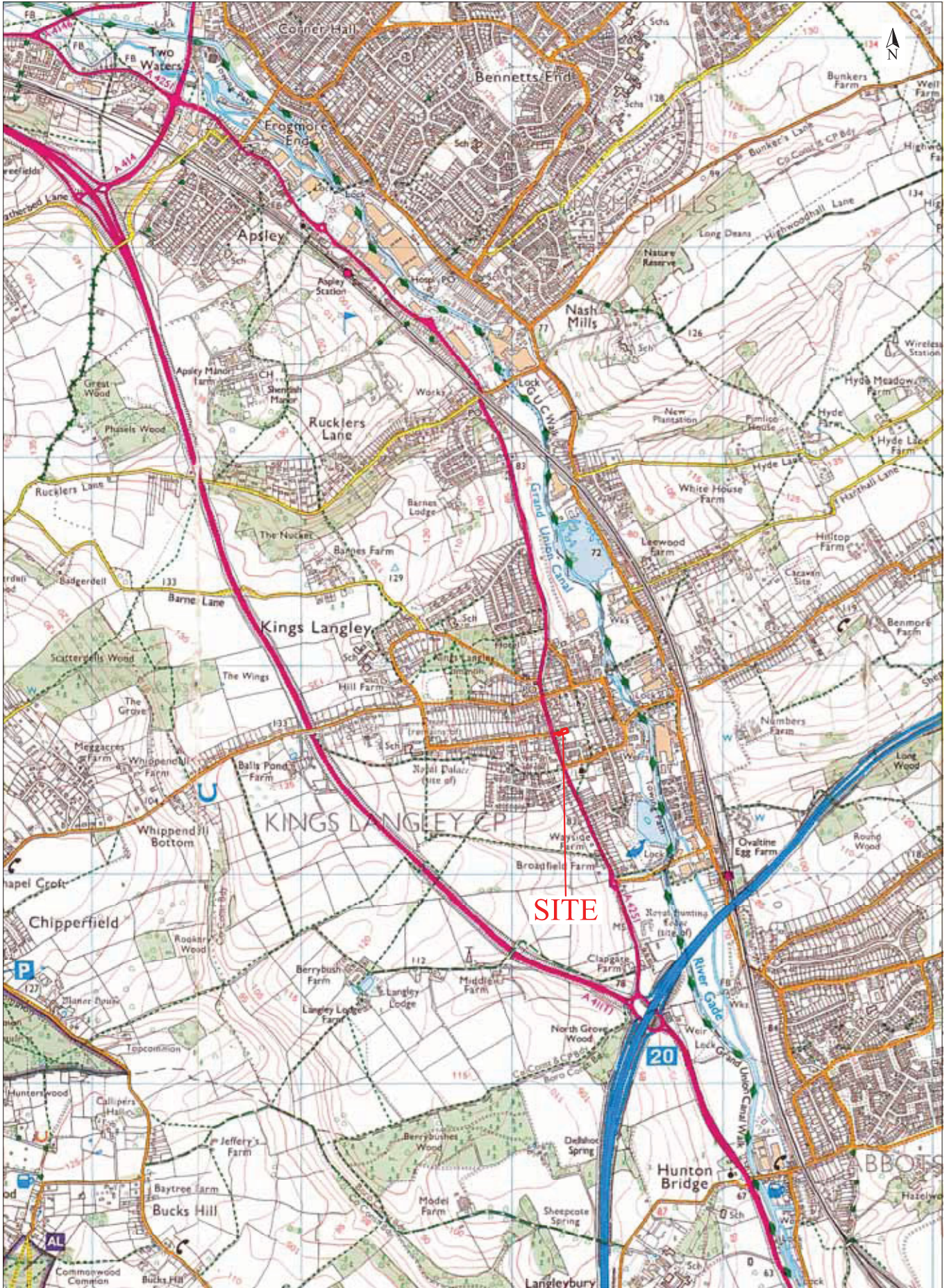
2  
Sample section 1B looking south-east



3  
Sample section 1A looking north-west

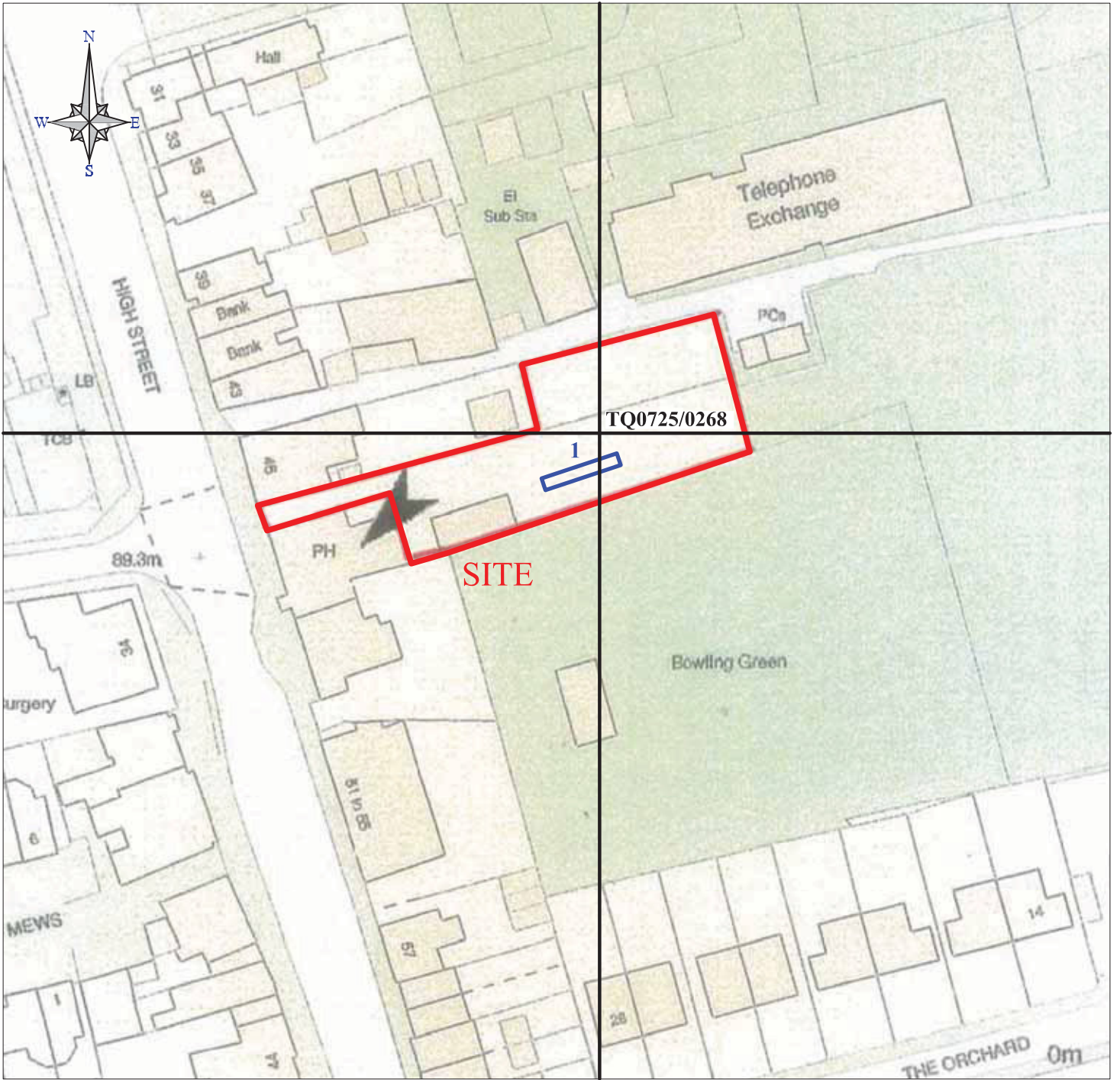


4  
General shot of site looking east



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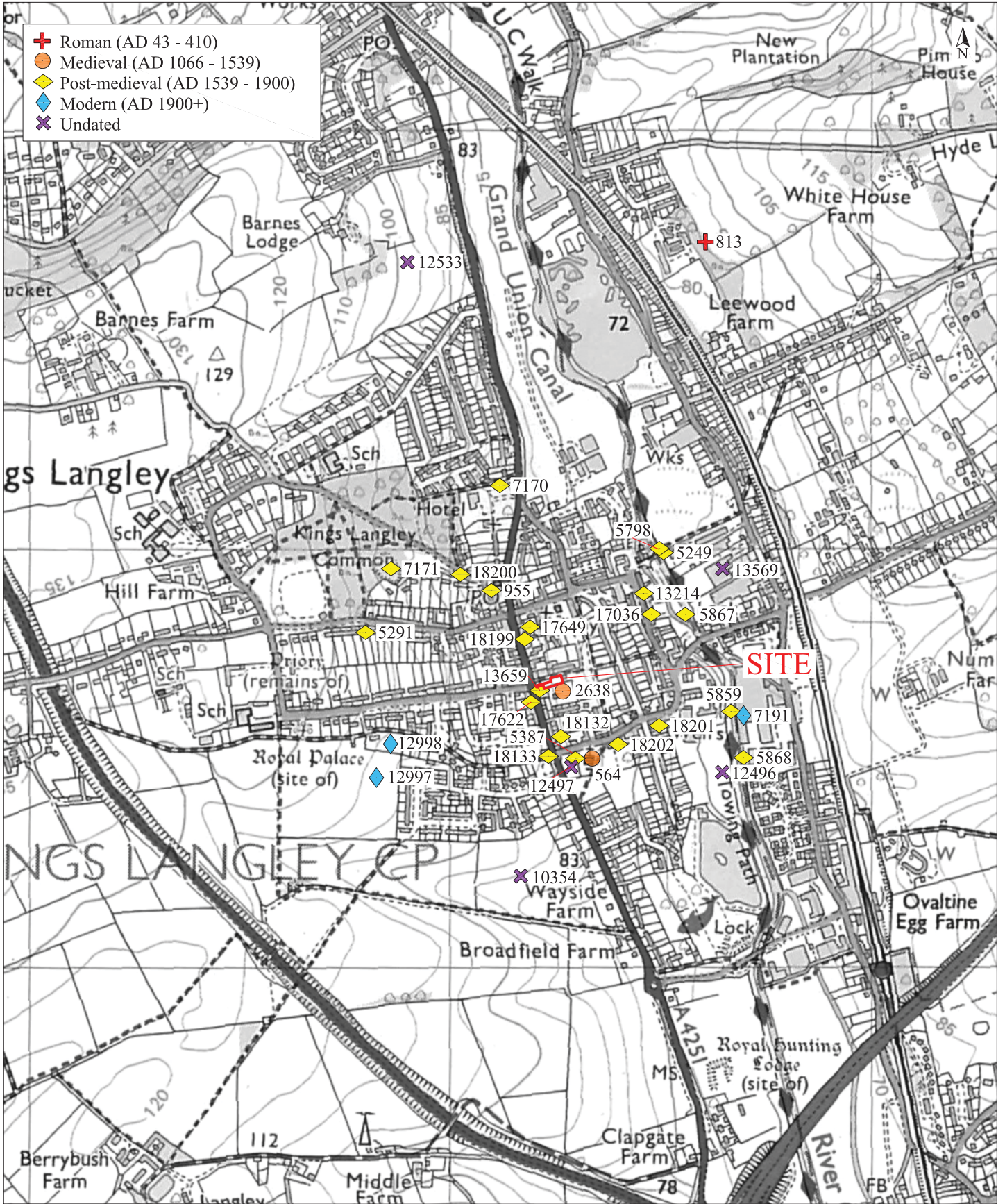
Archaeological Solutions Ltd  
**Fig. 1 Site location plan**  
 Scale 1:25000 at A4



0 50m

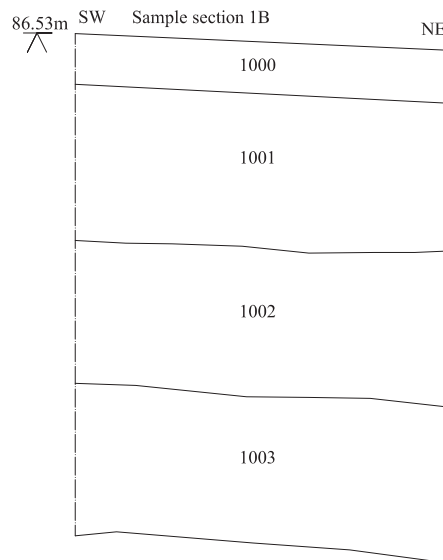
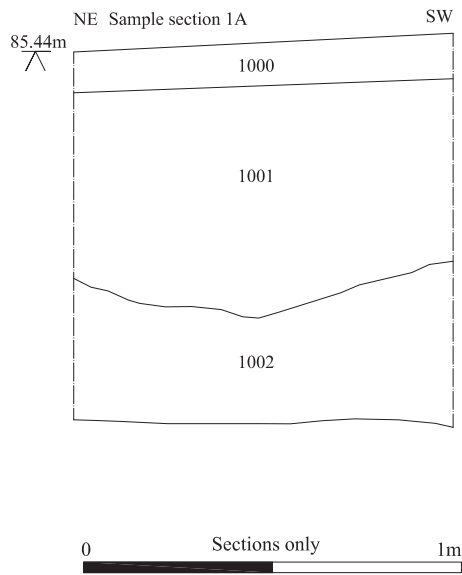
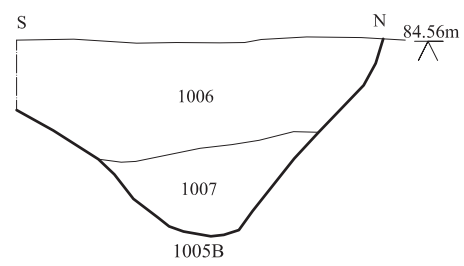
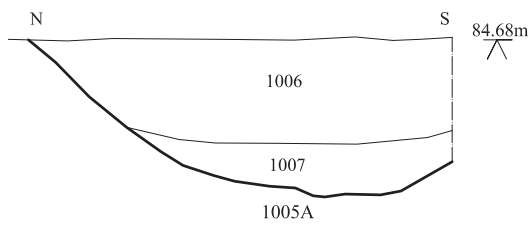
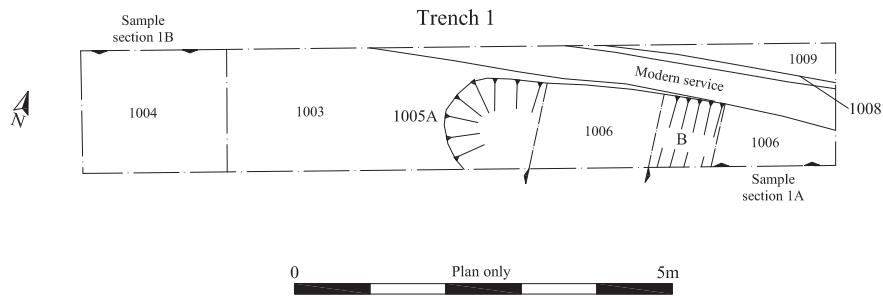
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**Fig. 2 Detailed site location plan**  
 Scale 1:750 at A4





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**Fig. 3 HER Data**  
 Scale 1:12,500 at A4



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**Fig. 4 Trench plan and sections**

Scale 1:100 and 1:20 at A4