ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS LTD

PROPOSED EXTENSION, CLUDEN, RUCKLERS LANE, KINGS LANGLEY, HERTFORDSHIRE, WD4 9ND

ARCHAEOLOGICAL 'STRIP, MAP & SAMPLE' INVESTIGATION AND MONITORING & RECORDING

HER Enquiry No. 75/17

Author: Antony Mustchin (Fieldwork & report)
Kate Higgs MA (Oxon.) (Background research)

NGR: TL 05793 03933 Report No: 5427

District: Dacorum Site Code: AS1899

Approved: Claire Halpin MClfA Project No: 7231

Date: September 2017

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OASIS SUMMARY SHEET Project details Project name Proposed extension, Cluden, Rucklers Lane, Kings Langley, Hertfordshire, WD4 9ND

In August 2017 Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out an archaeological investigation via 'strip, map & record' at the residential property of Cluden, Rucklers Lane, Kings Langley, Hertfordshire, WD4 9ND (NGR TL 05793 03933; Figs. 1 - 2). The investigation was undertaken in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning approval for the construction of a single storey rear extension (Dacorum Borough Council (DBC) Planning Ref. 4/03024/16/FHA), based on the advice of Hertfordshire County Council Historic Environment Advisory Team (HCC HEAT).

The site was stripped to the base of the subsoil and the natural was exposed across the proposed extension footprint. A concrete foundation and a small area of cobbled paving were exposed. Walls M1005 (flint and brick) and M1006 (flint) were visible in Sample Section 1. M1005 appeared to represent the remains of a former outbuilding, and M1006 was a low retaining garden wall.

The site stratigraphy was generally undisturbed and intact, and archaeological features if present would likely have been preserved. Other than Walls M1005 and M1006 no archaeological features or finds were present. The site had an archaeological potential, but that said the area of the extension was small.

Project dates (fieldwork)	29 Augu			
Previous work (Y/N/?)	Ν	Future work	TBC	
P. number	7231	Site code	AS1899	
Type of project	Archaeological monitoring & recording			
Site status	The site lies just south of Area of Archaeological Significance 52			
Current land use	Residential dwelling & garden			
Planned development	Proposed extension			
Main features (+dates)	Walls M1005 (flint and brick) and M1006 (flint)			
Significant finds (+dates)	None			
Project location				
County/ District/ Parish	Hertford	shire Dacorum	Kings Langley	
HER for area	Hertfordshire Historic Environment Record (HER; enquiry No. 75/17)			
Post code (if known)	-			
Area of site	c.200m2			
NGR	TL 05793 03933			
Height AOD (max/ min)	c.125m AOD			
Project creators				
Brief issued by	Hertford	shire County Counci	il Historic Environment Team	
Project supervisor/s (PO)	Archaeological Solutions Ltd			
Funded by	Mr Keith	Barnes		
Full title		shire, WD4 9ND.	en, Rucklers Lane, Kings Langley, Archaeological Monitoring &	
Authors	Mustchin, A., & Higgs, K.			
Report no.	5427			
Date (of report)	July 201	7		

PROPOSED EXTENSION, CLUDEN, RUCKLERS LANE, KINGS LANGLEY, HERTFORDSHIRE, WD4 9ND ARCHAEOLOGICAL `STRIP, MAP & SAMPLE' INVESTIGATION & MONITORING & RECORDING

SUMMARY

In August 2017 Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out an archaeological investigation via `strip, map & record' at the residential property of Cluden, Rucklers Lane, Kings Langley, Hertfordshire, WD4 9ND (NGR TL 05793 03933; Figs. 1 - 2). The investigation was undertaken in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning approval for the construction of a single storey rear extension (Dacorum Borough Council (DBC) Planning Ref. 4/03024/16/FHA), based on the advice of Hertfordshire County Council Historic Environment Advisory Team (HCC HEAT).

A notable number of archaeological investigations have been undertaken within the vicinity of Rucklers Lane; the majority associated with Shendish Manor, which is 400m to the north (HERs EHT4437, EHT5647 & EHT7994). However, the site lies to the immediate east of excavations on the A41 Kings Langley and Berkhamsted bypass, which were undertaken by Hertfordshire Archaeological Trust (HAT, now AS Ltd) in 1991 (HER EHT4541). The construction of the by-pass provided the first major archaeological opportunity within the region to observe a large area of the Chiltern plateau, and revealed eight new archaeological sites along the southern plateau edges of the Bulbourne and Gade valleys (Last 2001).

The site was stripped to the base of the subsoil and the natural was exposed across the proposed extension footprint. A concrete foundation and a small area of cobbled paving were revealed. Walls M1005 (flint and brick) and M1006 (flint) were visible in Sample Section 1. M1005 appeared to represent the remains of a former outbuilding, and M1006 was a low retaining garden wall. To the west of the area of ground reduction was an extant section of wall containing a doorway with brick jambs and soldier course head with a boarded door. The brickwork and door is entirely consistent with a mid-20th century date, and clearly part of a phase of work associated with the construction of the dwelling at that time.

The site stratigraphy was generally undisturbed and intact, and archaeological features if present would likely have been preserved. Other than Walls M1005 and M1006 no archaeological features or finds were present. The site had an archaeological potential, but that said the area of the extension was small.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In August 2017 Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out an archaeological investigation via `strip, map & record' at the residential property of Cluden, Rucklers Lane, Kings Langley, Hertfordshire, WD4 9ND (NGR TL 05793 03933; Figs. 1 - 2). The investigation was undertaken in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning approval for the construction of a single storey rear

extension (Dacorum Borough Council (DBC) Planning Ref. 4/03024/16/FHA), based on the advice of Hertfordshire County Council Historic Environment Advisory Team (HCC HEAT).

- 1.2 The investigation adhered to the requirements of HCC HEAT, and a specification compiled by AS (dated 27th June 2017). It was also undertaken according to the requirements of the document, *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2003), and the CIfA *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* (2014).
- 1.3 The requirements of the project were:
- Archaeological monitoring by a programme of 'strip, map & record' of the area of the proposed new development, where ground disturbance is proposed, with the investigation and recording of any archaeology thereby revealed.
- The archaeological monitoring of all other groundworks associated with the scheme likely to have an impact on any remains
- The analysis, conservation and long-term storage of any artefactual/ecofactual material recovered from the site in appropriate conditions
- The provision of an adequately detailed project report that will place the findings of the monitoring and recording of the development programme in their local and regional context, having made reference to the relevant regional research agendas and through cartographic, documentary and other research.
- The full analysis and interpretation of the site archive in order to promote local and regional research, and the appropriate dissemination and publication of the project results.

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 The site is located in the settlement of Rucklers Lane, which lies within the parish of Kings Langley, the district of Dacorum and the county of Hertfordshire. Rucklers Lane is situated 1.2km to the north-west of the village of Kings Langley, and at least 1.5km to the south of the large town of Hemel Hempstead. Rucklers Lane is also located to the immediate east of the A41 bypass, which runs between Hemel Hempstead and Watford. The site lies at the north-western extent of Rucklers Lane and 70m to the north of the road of the same name.
- 2.2 The site lies within an area of archaeological potential, just south of Area of Archaeological Significance 52, which is identified on the DBC Local Plan as the extent of Apsley Manor. It is also adjacent to an area that was subject to a large archaeological excavation in advance of the construction of the A41 Kings Langley bypass in 1991 2 (Last 2001). Historic landscape characterisation defines the site as built over, but with post-1950 field boundaries to the north and west.
- 2.3 The site is located at the north-western extent of Rucklers Lane, with detached residential dwellings and associated gardens located to the immediate west, south and east. To the immediate north is agricultural land associated with Shendish Manor, which stands 400m to the north. The site comprises the residential dwelling of Cluden, set in a large mature residential plot and with a private access drive running off Rucklers Lane 80m to the south-west. It is proposed to erect a new single storey rear extension to the property.

3 TOPOGRAPHY, GEOLOGY AND SOILS

3.1 The topography of the site is dominated by its relatively rural location. It lies within the valley of the River Gade, which flows roughly southwards beside the Grand Union Canal 1.4km to the east of the site. Rucklers Lane also lies within a small valley, with the site located at c.125m AOD and the surrounding relief rising northwards to the prominence occupied by Shendish Manor. The geology of the area is characterised as Cretaceous chalk of the Lewes Nodular Chalk and Seaford Chalk Formations (BGS 2015). It is overlain by soils of the Batcombe Association, which are described as fine silty over clayey and fine loamy over clayey soils (SSEW 1983).

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Prehistoric

- 4.1 An evaluation of a field east of Phasels Wood, c.150m to the west of the site, recorded prehistoric features (HER 16581). The most notable was a sub-circular pit containing fire-cracked flints and charcoal; 'a possible hearth or cremation' on the crest of the hill. In the same field was a palaeo-channel, a post hole, and a few pits; these also contained fire-cracked flints and charcoal.
- 4.2 The site also lies adjacent to an area that was subject to a large archaeological excavation by HAT (now AS) in advance of the construction of the A41 Kings Langley bypass in 1991 2 (Last 2001). This revealed significant prehistoric activity, including the presence of a possible Neolithic 'cursus' monument within the road corridor. A second phase of archaeology, post-dating the ditches, comprised enclosures and many small features including three possible rectangular structures of slot and post construction, provisionally dated to the late Bronze Age or early Iron Age (HER 9959). Analyses of the 1544 struck flint flakes and tools indicates a high number of cores, flakes and the presence of hammerstones which suggests that knapping was undertaken in the immediate vicinity.

Romano-British

4.3 Although late Iron Age and early Roman activity were not identified by the A41 excavations closest to the site (Last 2001), there is also significant evidence for late Iron Age and Roman settlement at sites further along the Gade / Bulbourne Valley. Within the vicinity of the site, a length of a Roman road (Viatores' route 163A) is known to run from Rucklers Lane to Nash Mills (HER 4585). At Nash Mills it linked with other roads, but like this route, they have not been confirmed by excavation (The Viatores 1964). An inhumation burial found at Rucklers Lane, before 1939, is judged to date to the Roman or Saxon periods and was overlain by layer of possible burnt occupation material (HER 987).

Saxon and medieval

4.4 No Anglo-Saxon remains are recorded in the vicinity of the site, other than the possible Saxon inhumation (above). Rucklers Lane is located far beyond the Saxon or medieval extent of Kings Langley, which was recorded as *Langelai* in Domesday Book (Morris 1976). The manor of Shendish, c.400m to the north of the site, is first documented in 1290, when Shendish was *'one carucate of (arable) land held in service of one half a knight's fee'* associated with the manor of Langley owned by Edward I (Page 1908; HER 804). The name Shendish is derived from the Chenduit family, who are believed to have been granted the lands of *Langelei* in 1086, but whose holdings were reduced in size in 1276, with the southern boundary of the estate along Rucklers Lane (Gover, Mawer & Stenton 1938).

Post-medieval and later

4.5 The post-medieval and later development of Rucklers Lane is closely associated with Shendish Manor to the north, rather than Kings Langley to the south-

- east. Shendish Farm likely developed from the lands and tenements called *Chendewiches* held by Ralph Parker in 1558, and which remained fairly constant until the mid 18th century (HER 804). In 1853 the Shendish estate was bought by Charles Longman and the post-medieval house and farmstead were demolished. The extant, Grade II listed Shendish Manor is a large 1850s house in Jacobean style, with grounds (HER 11699).
- 4.6 Local history sources reveal that the settlement of Rucklers Lane has its origins in the early 20th century, specifically with the construction of mock Tudor houses for the workers on the Shendish Manor estate (Gover, Mawer & Stenton 1938). This is confirmed by historic cartographic sources, including the 3rd edition Ordnance Survey map, which does not depict any buildings along the course of Rucklers Lane. Only established woodland coverts such as Dark Wood and Round Wood are present. In contrast, the 1956 Ordnance Survey map is the earliest cartographic source to depict the site as comprising the residential dwelling of Cluden, set within its large grounds.

5 METHODOLOGY

- 5.1 The site area of the extension was stripped using a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket (Figs. 2 3).
- 5.2 The archaeological investigation comprised the observation of all groundworks likely to affect archaeological remains, the inspection of the subsoil and natural deposits for archaeological features, the examination of spoil heaps and the recording of soil profiles. Encountered features and deposits were cleaned by hand and recorded using *pro-forma* recording sheets, drawn to scale and photographed as appropriate. Excavated spoil was checked for finds.

6 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS

6.1 The encountered stratigraphy was recorded in sample sections presented below:

Sample section	1	
0.00 = 127.69m	AOD	
0.00-0.32m	L1000	Topsoil. Friable, mid yellow brown slightly clayey silt
0.32 – 0.78m	L1007	Re-deposited Natural. Firm, dark yellow brown clayey sand
0.78 – 0.98m	L1002	Subsoil. Firm, light yellow brown, silty clay with occasional small round and sub rounded flint
0.98m+	L1003	Natural. Firm, dark yellow brown clayey sand with frequent small to large rounded and sub rounded flint

Sample section 2 0.00 = 127.64m A		
0.00-0.09m	L1000	Topsoil. As above
0.09 – 0.28m	L1002	Subsoil. As above
0.28m+	L1003	Natural. As above

Sample section 3 0.00 = 127.39m A		
0.00-010.m	L1000	Topsoil. As above
0.10 – 0.24m	L1001	Made Ground. Loose, dark brown clayey silt with frequent medium – large rounded and angular flint
0.24 - 0.26m	L1002	Subsoil. As above
0.26m+	L1003	Natural. As above

Description: The site was stripped to the base of the subsoil and the natural was exposed. A concrete foundation and a small area of cobbled paving were exposed. Walls M1005 (flint and brick) and M1006 (flint) were visible in Sample Section 1. M1005 appeared to represent the remains of a former outbuilding, and M1006 was a low retaining garden wall.

M1005 was constructed of undressed flint cobbles and red stock brick. The flint was laid in rough courses and the bricks measured 230 x 100 x 60mm. The flint and brick were bonded with a pale grey gritty mortar. The wall appeared to represent the remains of a former outbuilding and to the west an extant section of flint walling including a doorway with brick jambs and soldier course head with a boarded door. The brickwork and door is entirely consistent with a mid- 20^{th} century date.

M1006 was a low retaining garden wall constructed of large nodules of undressed flint bonded with a pale grey gritty mortar

7 CONFIDENCE RATING

7.1 It is not felt that any factors restricted the identification of archaeological features or finds.

8 DISCUSSION

- 8.1 A notable number of archaeological investigations have been undertaken within the vicinity of Rucklers Lane; the majority associated with Shendish Manor, which is 400m to the north (HERs EHT4437, EHT5647 & EHT7994). However, the site lies to the immediate east of excavations on the A41 Kings Langley and Berkhamsted bypass, which were undertaken by Hertfordshire Archaeological Trust (HAT, now AS Ltd) in 1991 (HER EHT4541). The construction of the by-pass provided the first major archaeological opportunity within the region to observe a large area of the Chiltern plateau, and revealed eight new archaeological sites along the southern plateau edges of the Bulbourne and Gade valleys (Last 2001).
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section of wall containing a doorway with brick jambs and soldier course head with a boarded door. The brickwork and door is entirely consistent with a mid-20th century date, and clearly part of a phase of work associated with the construction of the dwelling at that time.

8.3 The site stratigraphy was generally undisturbed and intact, and archaeological features if present would likely have been preserved. Other than Walls M1005 and M1006 no archaeological features or finds were present. The site had an archaeological potential, but that said the area of the extension was small.

DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE

Archive records, with an inventory, will be deposited 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 & Mrs Barnes for funding the archaeological monitoring by means of 'strip, map & record' and archaeological monitoring, and for all their assistance.

AS is also pleased to acknowledge the staff of the Hertfordshire Historic Environment Record, in particular Dr. Isobel Thompson. AS would also like to thank the staff of the Hertfordshire Archives and Local Studies (HALS), based in County Hall, Hertford.

AS would like to acknowledge the input, assistance and advice of Ms Alison Tinniswood, HCC Historic Environment Advisor.

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Soil Survey of England and Wales (SSEW) 1983 Soil Survey of England and Wales: Legend for the 1:250,000 Soil Map of England and Wales. SSEW, Harpenden

The Viatores 1964 Roman roads in the south-east Midlands. Victor Gollancz, London

APPENDIX 1 CONTENTS OF THE ARCHIVE

Records	Number
Brief	N
Specification	Υ
Registers	Context, Photo, Digital Photo, Drawing
Context Sheets	8
Site drawings A1	-
Site drawings A3	2
Site drawings A4	-
Site photographs b/w	-
Site photographs colour slides	-
Digital Photographs	15

APPENDIX 2 HER SUMMARY SHEET

Site name and address:	Proposed extension, Cluden, Rucklers Lane, Kings Langley, Hertfordshire, WD4 9ND	
County: Hertfordshire	District: Dacorum	
Village/Town:	Parish: Kings Langley	
Planning application reference:	Dacorum Borough Council Planning Ref. 4/03024/16/FHA	
Client name/address/tel:	Mr & Mrs Barnes, Cluden	
Nature of application:	Proposed extension	
Present land use:	Garden	
Size of application area:	Size of area investigated c.200m2	
NGR (8 figures):	TL 05793 03933	
Site Code:	AS 1899	
Site director/Organisation:	Archaeological Solutions Ltd	
Type of work:	Archaeological 'strip, map and sample' investigation and recording.	
Date of work:	29 August 2017	
Location of	Dacorum	
finds/Curating museum: Related SMR Nos:	Periods represented:	
Relevant previous	None	
summaries/reports: -	None	
Summary of fieldwork results:	In August 2017 Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out an archaeological investigation via `strip, map & record' at the residential property of Cluden, Rucklers Lane, Kings Langley, Hertfordshire, WD4 9ND. The investigation was undertaken in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning approval for the construction of a single storey rear extension. The site was stripped to the base of the subsoil and the natural was exposed. A concrete foundation and a small area of cobbled paving were exposed. Walls M1005 (flint and brick) and M1006 (flint) were visible in Sample Section 1. M1005 appeared to represent the remains of a former outbuilding, and M1006 was a low retaining garden wall. To the west of the area of ground reduction was an extant section of wall containing a doorway with brick jambs and soldier course head with a boarded door. The brickwork and door is entirely consistent with a mid-20th century date, and clearly part of a phase of work associated with the construction of the dwelling at that time. The site stratigraphy was generally undisturbed and intact, and archaeological features if present would likely have been preserved. Other than Walls M1005 and M1006 no archaeological features or finds were present. The site had an archaeological potential, but that	
Author of summary: Mustchin, A.	Date of Summary: September 2017	

PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX



Sample Section 1 looking north



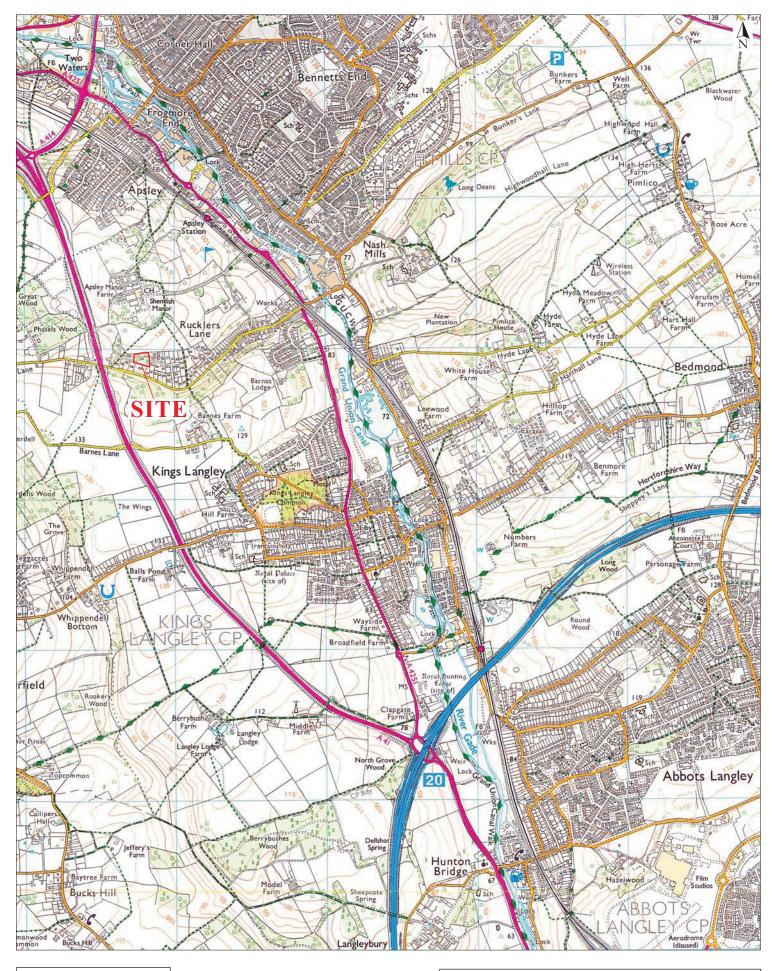
3 Sample Section 3 looking east



2 Sample Section 2 looking north



4 View of site looking north-west

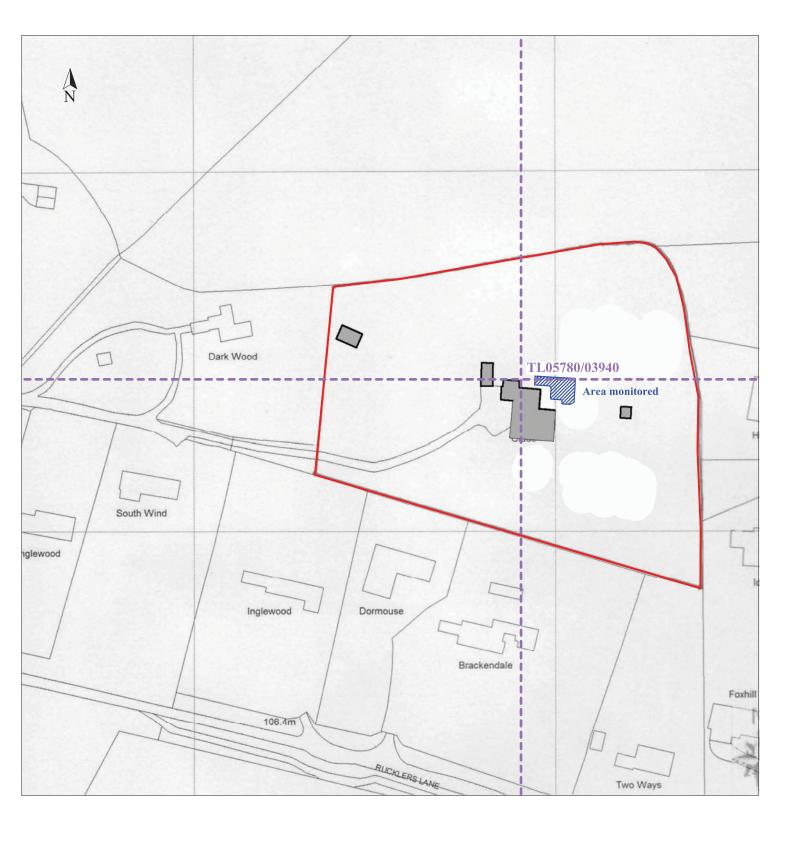


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Fig. 1 Site location plan

Scale 1:25,000 at A4

Rucklers Lane, Kings Langley, Hertfordshire (P7231)



75m

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Fig. 2 Detailed site location p Scale 1:1000 at A4 Rucklers Lane, Kings Langley, Hertfordshire (P7231) Detailed site location plan

