

Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd

WATCHING BRIEF: 123 HEMPSTEAD ROAD KINGS LANGLEY HERTFORDSHIRE

on behalf of Mr L. Spencer



Nicholas A Crank BSc AIFA

November 2005

ASC: 733/KLH/02

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Site Data

<i>ASC site code:</i>	KLH	<i>Project no:</i>	733
<i>County:</i>	Hertfordshire		
<i>Village/Town:</i>	Kings Langley		
<i>Civil Parish:</i>	Kings Langley		
<i>NGR (to 8 figs):</i>	TL 06956 03988		
<i>Extent of site:</i>	c.800 sq m		
<i>Present land use:</i>	Garden		
<i>Planning proposal:</i>	2 Storey side extension and garage		
<i>Local Planning Authority:</i>	Dacorum Borough Council		
<i>Planning application ref/date:</i>	4/05/1332		
<i>Client:</i>	Mr. L. Spencer 123 Hempstead Road Kings Langley Hertfordshire WD4 8AJ		
<i>Contact name:</i>	Mr. L. Spencer		
<i>Telephone</i>	08702 202623		

Internal Quality Check

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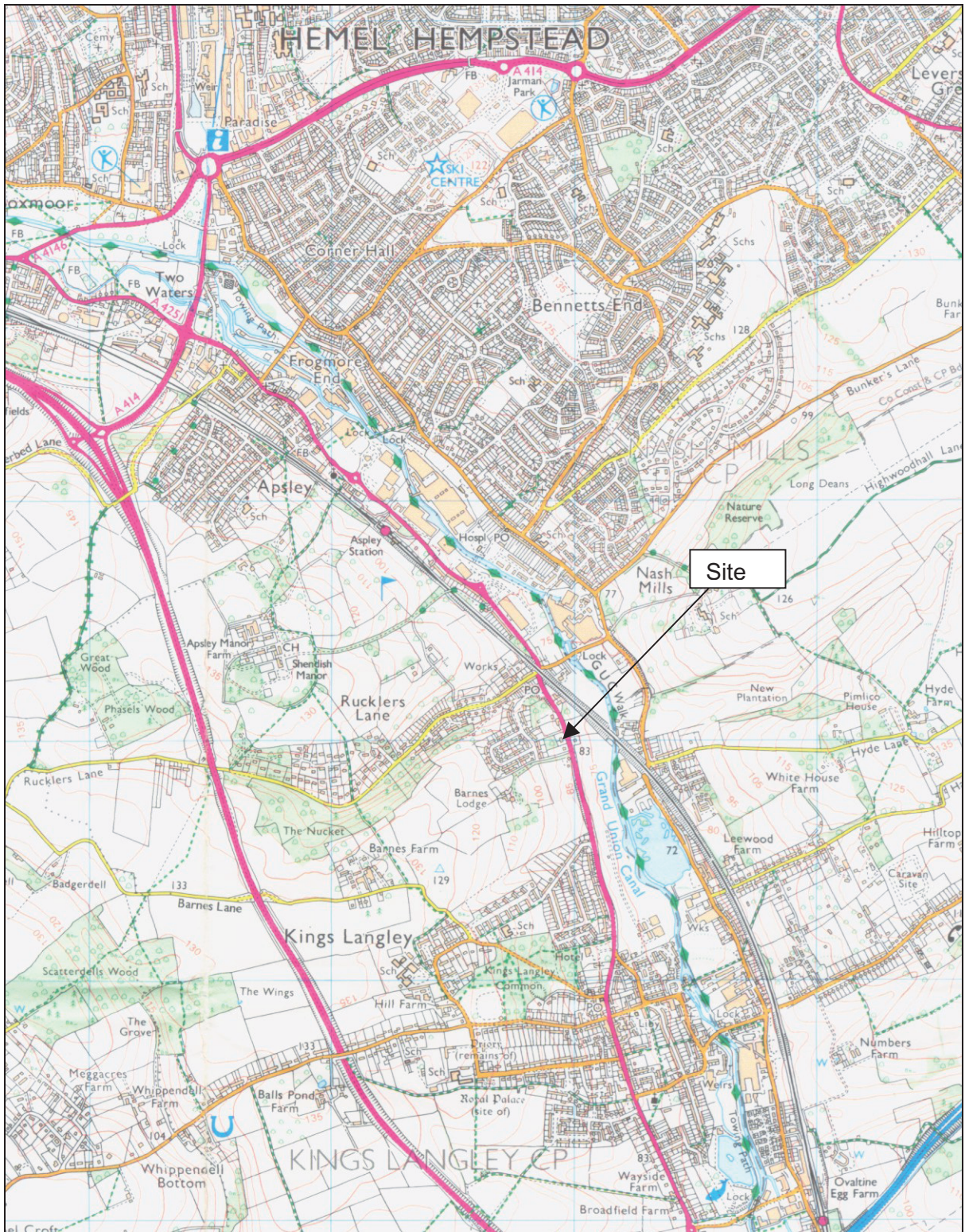


Figure 1: General location (scale 1:25,000)

Summary

During November 2005 Archaeological Services and Consultancy Ltd (ASC) carried out an archaeological watching brief on a site at 123 Hempstead Road, Kings Langley, Hertfordshire. The project was undertaken during the excavation of foundations for a two storey extension, garage and also a soakaway. No archaeological remains were observed during the works.

1 Introduction

1.1 In November 2005 *Archaeological Services and Consultancy Ltd* (ASC) carried out a watching brief at 123 Hempstead Road, Kings Langley, Hertfordshire (NGR TL 06956 03988: Fig. 1). The project was commissioned by Mr L Spencer, and was carried out according to a project design prepared by ASC (Gooding 2005), and a brief (Smith 2005) prepared on behalf of the local planning authority (LPA), Dacorum Borough Council, by their archaeological advisor (AA), Hertfordshire County Archaeology Office. The relevant planning application reference is 4/05/332.

1.2 *Planning Background*

This watching brief has been required as a planning condition under the terms of *Planning Policy Guidance Note 16* (PPG16), in response to proposals for the construction of a two-storey extension and garage.

1.3 *Location*

The site is situated to the north east of Kings Langley, in the administrative district of Dacorum. (Fig. 1). The site is rectangular in shape and measures 800 square metres.

1.4 *Description*

The site is accessed via Hempstead Road. There are buildings to the north and a field to the west.

1.5 *Geology & Topography*

The Soils of the area comprise the *Batcombe Association*: namely fine silty and fine loamy over clayey soils (Soil Survey, 1983). The underlying drift is described as plateau drift, over a solid geology of chalk. The site is on the north east facing slope of the Bulbourne valley, at an elevation of *c.*85m AOD.

1.6 *Historical & Archaeological Background*

The proposed development site lies within Area of Archaeological Significance No. 40, as designated in the Local Plan. This notes that the area contains three prehistoric ring ditches. The proposed development site is also close to the find site of prehistoric flint implements.



Figure 2: Site plan showing areas observed (scale 1:1250)

2 Aims & Methods

2.1 Aims

As described in the brief (Section 1), the aims of the watching brief were:

- To ensure the archaeological monitoring of all aspects of the development programme likely to affect archaeological remains.
- To secure the adequate recording of any archaeological remains revealed by the development programme.
- To secure the analysis, conservation and long-term storage of any artefactual/ecofactual material recovered from the site.

2.2 Standards

The work conformed to the project design, to the relevant sections of the Institute of Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct* (IFA 2000) and *Standard & Guidance Notes* (IFA 2001), to the Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers East of England Region *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (ALGAO 2003), and to the relevant sections of ASC's own *Operations Manual*.

2.3 Methods

The work was carried out according to the brief (Section 3), which required:

- Soil and overburden stripping under archaeological supervision.
- Inspection of sub-soil deposits for archaeological features.
- The rapid investigation and recording of any archaeological features/deposits.
- Sub-soil stripping under archaeological supervision.
- Examination of any service and foundation trenches and the subsequent recording of any exposed archaeological deposits.
- Examination of spoil-heaps for archaeological material.
- A programme of post-fieldwork analysis and archiving.

3 Results

- 3.1 The groundworks observed comprised the cutting of a max. 1.4m deep foundation trench for the extension (4.0m x 5.0m x 0.7m), and a pit for a new soakaway (1.0m x 1.5m) (Fig. 2, Plates 1 & 4).
- 3.2 A generally consistent stratigraphy was revealed in both the foundation trench and the soakaway pit:

Foundation trench

0.00 – 0.15m L100 Concrete Slab

0.15 – 0.30m L101 Brick and tile rubble base

0.30 – 0.60m L102 Mid brown sandy silt loam – Topsoil layer

0.60– 1.40m+ L103 Mid orangey brown sand and coarse flint gravel – Natural drift

Soakaway Pit

0.00 – 0.50m L102 Mid brown sandy silt loam – Topsoil layer

0.50– 1.40m+ L103 Mid orangey brown sand and coarse flint gravel – Natural drift

- 3.3 Observation of the foundation trench indicated that the area of the new extension had been levelled up slightly prior to the construction of the concrete driveway. The former topsoil layer beneath this levelling layer appeared untruncated and directly overlay the natural sand and gravel drift beneath. With the exception of a modern brick and tile rubble filled soakaway in the south west part of the trench no features were seen to cut the natural drift (Fig. 3). A patch of chalk rubble was observed within the natural gravel in the south east part of the trench (Fig. 2). However this lay within the natural strata and can be explained as the product of glacial scouring of the underlying chalk bedrock. No features were observed within the soakaway pit, which presented a profile consistent with that of the foundation trench (Fig. 4).

3.4 *Archaeological impact of the development*

The watching brief revealed that the area of the new extension had been subject to minor levelling up prior to the construction of the existing concrete slab. The area of the soakaway pit appeared undisturbed by past activity. No archaeological features were observed during the watching brief and no artefacts recovered. In addition no disturbance to the natural strata other than a defunct modern soakaway was observed. As a result it is considered unlikely that archaeological remains survive within the area of the new build and consequently the archaeological impact of the development has been minimal.

3.5 *Confidence Rating*

Due to the favourable weather conditions and lighting combined with the full cooperation of the client and contractors a high confidence rating is attached to the results of the watching brief.



Plate 1: The foundation trench, looking north west



Plate 2: South eastern part of the foundation trench, looking north west



Plate 3: South west corner of the foundation trench, looking east



Plate 4: Soakaway pit, looking south west

4. Acknowledgements

The writer is grateful to Mr L Spencer for commissioning the project and for his kind hospitality. Thanks also go to the building contractor Mr Andy Nash for his cooperation and assistance. The input and advice of Mr Jonathan Smith of Hertfordshire County Archaeology Office is also acknowledged.

The archaeological monitoring and recording was conducted by the writer. The report was edited by Bob Zeepvat BA MIFA.

5. Archive

5.1 The project archive will comprise:


1. Brief
2. Project Design
3. Initial Report
4. Site Monitoring Sheets
5. List of photographs
6. B/W prints & negatives
7. CDROM with copies of all digital files.

5.2 The archive will be deposited with Dacorum Heritage Trust.

8. References

- ALGAO 2003 *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England*. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 14.
- Gooding, J 2005 *123 Hempstead Road, Kings Langley, Hertfordshire: Project Design For Watching Brief* (ASC: 733/KLH/1)
- IFA 2000a Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct*.
- IFA 2000b Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Code of Approved Practice for the Regulation of Contractual Arrangements in Field Archaeology*.
- IFA 2001 Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Standard & Guidance* document (*Watching Briefs*).
- Smith, J 2005 *123 Hempstead Road, Kings Langley, Hertfordshire: Design Brief for Archaeological Monitoring and Recording* (dated 19/09/05)
- Soil Survey 1983 *1:250,000 Soil Map of England and Wales, and accompanying legend* (Harpenden).

Appendix 1: Monitoring Sheets

 A.S.C. LTD		ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD MONITORING RECORD				
Project: 123 HEMPSTEAD RD, KINGS LANGLEY		Project No/Code: 7331 KKH		Sheet: 1 of 2		
Client/Developer: MR. L. SPENCER.		Date of visit: 7/11/05				
Contact: ANDY NASH		Phone: 07957 717598				
Duration of Visit (inc. travel):		Start: 8.00		Finish: 11.30		
Completed by: NAC						
Development Type:						
Footings <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Services <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Roads <input type="checkbox"/>	Levelling <input type="checkbox"/>	Quarrying <input type="checkbox"/>	Pipelines <input type="checkbox"/>	Other (specify):
Site & weather conditions: V. GOOD. SUNNY, DRY, BRIGHT.						
Observations: CONCRETE BROKEN OUT READY FOR EXCAVATION OF FOOTINGS. EXCAVATION OF FOOTINGS COMMENCED IN NW CORNER. - MACHINE QUICKLY HIT MAINS WATER PIPE TO HOUSE - WORK STOPPED.						
Comments: ONLY 2m OF FOOTINGS EXCAVATED. NO ARCHAEOLOGY OBSERVED, WORK WILL CONTINUE TOMORROW.						



A.S.C. LTD

ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD MONITORING RECORD

Project: 123 HEMPSTEAD RD, KINGS LANGLEY		Project No/Code: 7331 KCH	Sheet: 2 of 2
Client/Developer MR. L. SPENCER		Date of visit: 8/11/05	
Contact: ANDY NASH		Phone: 07957 717 598	
Duration of Visit (inc. travel):	Start: 10:30	Finish: 13:00	
Completed by: NAC			
Development Type:			
Footings <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Services <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Roads	Levelling
		Quarrying	Pipelines
		Other (specify):	
Site & weather conditions: GOOD, DRY, SUNNY. SOME RAIN OVERNIGHT.			
Observations: EXCAVATION OF FOOTINGS AND SEAWAY PIT COMPLETED. SAMPLE SECTIONS BELOW:			
	0.00 - 0.15m CONCRETE		
Footings	0.15 - 0.30 BRICK + TILE RUBBLE		
	0.30 - 0.60m TOPSOIL - MID BRN SANDY SILT LN.		
	0.6 - 1.4m+ NAT - MID ORNG/BRN SAND/GRAVEL (Patch Chalk)		
Seaway	0.00 - 0.5m TOPSOIL (As Above)		
	0.5 - 1.4m+ NAT (As Above)		
MODN. SEAWAY (BRICK/TILE FILLED) IN SW CORNER TRENCH. PWS - MODN DRAIN CUT INTO TOPSOIL.			
No Arch. features observed / finds recovered			
Comments:			

Appendix 2: SMR Summary Sheet

Site name and address: 123 Hempstead Road Kings Langley Hertfordshire WD4 8AJ		
County: Hertfordshire		District: Dacorum
Village/Town: Kings Langley		Parish: Kings Langley
Planning application reference: 4/05/1332		
Client name, address, & tel. no: Mr L Spencer 123 Hempstead Road Kings Langley Hertfordshire WD4 8AJ Tel: 08702 202623		
Nature of application: 2 Storey Sides extension and garage		
Present land use: Garden / driveway		
Size of application area: c.800 sq m		Size of area investigated: c.30 sq m
NGR (to 8 figures): TL 0695 0398		Site code: 733/KLH
Site director/Organization: Nick Crank / ASC Ltd		
Type of work: Building survey / assessment		
Date of work:	Start: 07/11/05	Finish: 08/11/05
Curating museum: Dacorum Heritage Trust		
Related SMR nos: n/a		Periods represented: n/a
Relevant previous summaries/reports: n/a		
Summary of fieldwork results: During November 2005 Archaeological Services and Consultancy Ltd (ASC) carried out an archaeological watching brief on a site at 123 Hempstead Road, Kings Langley, Hertfordshire. The project was undertaken during the excavation of foundations for a two storey extension, garage and also a soakaway. No archaeological remains were observed during the works.		
Author: N.A.Crank		Date: 8 th November 2005