Early in the war many properties in Langton were requisitioned - among them were two properties for the mothers of East Kent to have their babies away from the worst of the bombing and the perceived threat of invasion. It is only recently that the arrangements have become more clear, based on a postcard that one family found among their papers.

It seems that the pregnant mums came to Langton  about a month before the birth was due and stayed at a house called Paveys in Speldhurst Road, Langton Green and then moved to Northfields, in the east of Langton for the actual birth; we assume that in accordance with the usual regime at that time they would have stayed there for ten days before going home. The attached photo in the other document is, we believe, of Northfields, but the strange problem is that the house, although on the main road into Tunbridge Wells, was behind high hedges and trees so could not be seen by the locals, very few of whom ever went there.

The house was kept on as a Maternity Home after the war and was listed as one of the places taken over by the NHS when it started in July, 1948, but it was soon sold and demolished and replaced by a Colt house that has subsequently been extended. Most of the grounds have now been developed. The gateway and drive, with the lodge are still there along the main road, but in a rather neglected state that doesn't reflect the rather splendid house and grounds that it once was.

If you want to search for the site on Google the post code is TN3 0DN.

If you use Google maps (and then Streetview) and type in Northfield Lodge, Langton Road, Langton Green it will come up with a red pin marker on the map. However, the lodge is in fact 20-30m to the left (to the west) of where Google thinks it is. It's a slightly older style looking building with its driveway just to its right and with a relatively new close boarded fence. It is very close to the change of speed sign along this stretch of the main road.