

Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment In advance of Development of Land at Elvington Lane, Hawkinge, Kent

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Report for
Elvington Developments Ltd

SWAT. ARCHAEOLOGY

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Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment in Advance of Development of Land at Elvington Lane, Hawkinge, Kent

1 SUMMARY

SWAT Archaeology have been commissioned by Elvington Developments Ltd to carry out an archaeological desk-based assessment of land at Elvington Lane, Hawkinge in Kent. The assessment is in support of a proposed planning application.

This Desk Based Assessment examines the wide variety of archaeological data held by Kent County Council and other sources. This data is reviewed and the assessment has generally shown that the area to be developed (Fig. 5) is within an area of medium archaeological potential based on the extensive archaeological investigations carried out in recent years. It is recommended that areas of the development that have not been impacted on by modern development should be subject to an Archaeological Evaluation to an Archaeological Specification approved by the Local Planning Authority.

The proposed development area (PDA) is situated in a landscape rich in known archaeology. In 2002 a watching brief on a large area to the east of the PDA revealed Iron Age and Roman features. In 2004 an archaeological excavation was carried out by Archaeology South-East (EKE 9347) on a large area to the south-east of the PDA. Findings in the 99 evaluation trenches included features from the Late Bronze Age to the Anglo-Saxon period. In 2011 SWAT Archaeology carried out an extensive evaluation (EKE 11919) to the north of the PDA. Apart from concrete slabs of buildings probably associated with the aerodrome no archaeology was found, and a watching brief just north-east of the PDA failed to reveal any archaeology (EKE 8926).

The site (Fig. 5) is located to the north of the village of Elvington and to the west of Hawkinge in an area rich in the historic remains of the RAF aerodrome at Hawkinge.

1.1 History of the site

The PDA is part of the site of a military airfield that was used in both World Wars, now partly built over by housing, part is now incorporated into the Kent Battle of Britain Museum. The airfield was opened in 1915. The World War One airfield consisted of only three Bessonneau aircraft hangars. Between 1918-1919 extra Belfast Truss aircraft hangars and other facilities were built and in the latter year the airfield became the Aeroplane Dispatch Centre (later Number 12 Aircraft Acceptance Park). In 1940 the grass airfield was involved in the Battle of Britain, and at that time was operated by Number 79 Squadron of 11 Group flying Hurricane aircraft. The airfield suffered from heavy enemy air attacks resulting in the destruction of much of the old buildings. By 1944 the airfield had been provided with a number of replacement aircraft hangars, including Blister types. The airfield closed in 1962. Some of the World War Two defences and buildings remain, of which some are part of the museum (TR 23 NW 191).

2 INTRODUCTION

2.1 Planning Background

The National Planning Policy Guidance (27th March 2012)

The National Planning Policy Guidance sets out a series of core planning principles designed to underpin plan-making and decision-taking within the planning system. In terms of development proposals affecting known heritage assets, the following principle states that planning should:

12. Conserving and enhancing the historic environment

126. Local planning authorities should set out in their Local Plan a positive strategy for the conservation and enjoyment of the historic environment, including heritage assets most at risk through neglect, decay or other threats. In doing so, they should recognise that heritage assets are an irreplaceable resource and conserve them in a manner appropriate to their significance. In developing this strategy, local planning authorities should take into account:

- the desirability of sustaining and enhancing the significance of heritage assets and putting them to viable uses consistent with their conservation;
- the wider social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits that conservation of the historic environment can bring;
- the desirability of new development making a positive contribution to local character and distinctiveness; and
- opportunities to draw on the contribution made by the historic environment to the character of a place.

12.7. When considering the designation of conservation areas, local planning authorities should ensure that an area justifies such status because of its special architectural or historic interest, and that the concept of conservation is not devalued through the designation of areas that lack special interest.

12.8. In determining applications, local planning authorities should require an applicant to describe the significance of any heritage assets affected, including any contribution made by their setting. The level of detail should be proportionate to the assets' importance and no more than is sufficient to understand the potential impact of the proposal on their significance. As a minimum the relevant historic environment record should have been consulted and the heritage assets assessed using appropriate expertise where necessary. Where a site on which development is proposed includes or has the potential to include heritage assets with archaeological interest, local planning authorities should require developers to submit an appropriate desk-based assessment and, where necessary, a field evaluation.

2.2. Local Policy Framework

Local planning policy is set out in Local Plans, which are gradually being replaced by Local Development Framework Development Plan Documents (DPD). There are no saved policies in the local plan relevant to the historic environment and no relevant DPDs. The reader is referred to national policy. Guidance to help practitioners implement the NPPF, including the legislative requirements that underpin it, is provided in *Planning for the Historic Environment Practice Guide* (2010).

Heritage assets include extant structures and features, sites, places and landscapes. The European Landscape Convention definition of a historic landscape describes: 'an area, as perceived by people, whose character is the result of the action and interaction of natural and/or human factors' (Council of Europe 2000: which came into force in the UK in March 2007; see research frameworks, below).

Furthermore the historic landscape encompasses visible, buried or submerged remains, which includes the buried archaeological resource.

Policy 126 states that:

Local planning authorities should set out in their Local Plan a positive strategy for the conservation and enjoyment of the historic environment, including heritage assets most at risk through neglect, decay or other threats. In doing so, they should recognise that heritage assets are an irreplaceable resource and conserve them in a manner appropriate to their significance. In developing this strategy, local planning Authorities should take into account:

- i) The desirability of sustaining and enhancing the significance of heritage assets and putting them to viable uses consistent with their conservation;
- ii) The wider social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits that conservation of the historic environment can bring;
- iii) The desirability of new development making a positive contribution to local character and distinctiveness; and
- iv) Opportunities to draw on the contribution made by the historic environment to the character of the place.

When determining planning applications, the following policies are especially pertinent:

Local planning authorities should require an applicant to describe the significance of any heritage assets affected, including any contribution made by their setting. The level of detail should be proportionate to the assets' importance and no more than is sufficient to understand the potential impact of the proposal on their significance. As a minimum the relevant historic environment record should have been consulted and the heritage assets assessed using appropriate expertise where necessary.

Where a site on which development is proposed includes or has the potential to include heritage assets with archaeological interest, local planning authorities should require developers to submit an appropriate desk-based assessment and, where necessary, a field evaluation.

Local planning authorities should identify and assess the particular significance of any heritage asset that may be affected by a proposal (including by development affecting the setting of the heritage asset) taking account of the available evidence and any necessary expertise. They should take this assessment into account when considering the impact of a proposal on a heritage asset, to avoid or minimise conflict between the heritage asset's conservation and any aspect of the proposal.

When considering the impact of a proposed development on the significance of a designated heritage asset, great weight should be given to the asset's conservation. The more important the asset, the greater the weight should be. Significance can be harmed or lost through alteration or destruction of the heritage asset or development within its setting. As heritage assets are irreplaceable, any harm or loss should require clear and convincing justification.

Substantial harm to or loss of a Grade II listed building, park or garden should be exceptional.

Substantial harm to or loss of designated heritage assets of the highest significance, notably scheduled monuments, protected wreck sites, battlefields, grade I and II* listed buildings, grade I and II* registered parks and gardens, and World Heritage Sites, should be wholly exceptional.

Non-designated heritage assets of archaeological interest that are demonstrably of equivalent significance to scheduled monuments, should be considered subject to the policies for designated heritage assets.

The existence of the latter within a proposed development area can be partially investigated and to an extent predicted via desk-based assessment, but field evaluation and/or archaeological monitoring of groundworks are likely to be a planning requirement and should be expected.

More recently English Heritage has issued detailed guidance on the *Setting of Heritage Assets* (2011). This guidance is based on principles and guidance already issued by English Heritage in the *Historic Environment Planning Practice Guide* (2010), and *Conservation Principles: Policies and Guidance for the Sustainable Management of the Historic Environment* (2008). It provides a framework for assessing impacts based on the identification of individual asset's cultural significance and the relationship between that and its surroundings followed by assessment of the degree to which change in the surroundings affects significance.

This Desk-Based Assessment therefore forms the initial stage of the archaeological investigation and is intended to inform and assist in decisions regarding archaeological mitigation for the proposed development and associated planning applications.

2.3 The Proposed Development

The proposed development will comprise of a planning application for 70-75 houses.

2.4 Project Constraints

No project constraints were encountered during the data collection for this assessment.

2.5 Geology and Topography

The Geological Survey of Great Britain (1:50,000) shows that proposed development site (PDA) is situated on a deposit of Clay with Flint which overlies Middle Chalk of the New Pit Chalk Formation. The site is approximately 160m above Ordnance Datum.

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 Introduction

The Desk-Based Assessment was commissioned by Elvington Developments Ltd in order to supplement a proposed planning application for the development of land at Elvington Lane, Hawkinge, Kent.

3.2 Desktop Study – Institute For Archaeologists (revised 2011)

This desktop study has been produced in line with archaeological standards, as defined by the Institute for Archaeologist (revised 2011). A desktop, or desk-based assessment, is defined as being:

“a programme of study of the historic environment within a specified area or site on land, the inter-tidal zone or underwater that addresses agreed research and/or conservation objectives. It consists of an analysis of existing written, graphic, photographic and electronic information in order to identify the likely heritage assets, their interests and significance and the character of the study area, including appropriate consideration of the settings of heritage assets and, in England, the nature, extent and quality of the known or potential archaeological, historic, architectural and artistic interest. Significance is to be judged in a local, regional, national or international context as appropriate”. (2011)

The purpose of a desk-based assessment is to gain an understanding of the historic environment resource in order to formulate as required:

- 1. an assessment of the potential for heritage assets to survive within the area of study*
- 2. an assessment of the significance of the known or predicted heritage assets considering, in England, their archaeological, historic, architectural and artistic interests*
- 3. strategies for further evaluation whether or not intrusive, where the nature, extent or significance of the resource is not sufficiently well defined*
- 4. an assessment of the impact of proposed development or other land use changes on the significance of the heritage assets and their settings*
- 5. strategies to conserve the significance of heritage assets, and their settings*

6. design strategies to ensure new development makes a positive contribution to the character and local distinctiveness of the historic environment and local place-shaping

7. proposals for further archaeological investigation within a programme of research, whether undertaken in response to a threat or not.

IFA (2011)

4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 Desk-Based Assessment

4.1.1 Archaeological databases

The local Historic Environment Record (HER) held at Kent County Council provides an accurate insight into catalogued sites and finds within both the proposed development area and the surrounding environs of Hawkinge, Kent.

The Archaeology Data Service Online Catalogue (ADS) and was also used. The search was carried out within a 500m radius (Fig. 6 & 7) of the proposed development area (PDA). The Portable Antiquities Scheme Database (PAS) was also used as an additional source as the information contained within is not always transferred to the local HER.

4.1.2 Historical documents

Historical documents, such as charters, registers, wills and deeds etc were not relevant to this specific study.

4.1.3 Cartographic and pictorial documents

A full map regression exercise was undertaken during this assessment. Research was carried out using resources offered by Kent County Council, the Internet and Ordnance Survey Historical mapping (Figs. 1-5).

4.1.4 Aerial photographs

The study of the collection of aerial photographs by Google Earth was consulted (Plates 1-5).

4.1.5 Geotechnical information

To date, no known geotechnical investigations have been carried out at the site.

4.1.6 Secondary and statutory resources

Secondary and statutory sources, such as regional and periodic archaeological studies, landscape studies; dissertations, research frameworks and Websites are considered appropriate to this type of study and have been included within this assessment where necessary.

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT

5.1 Introduction

| | | |
|----------------|--------------|-----------------------------|
| Prehistoric | Palaeolithic | c. 500,000 BC – c.10,000 BC |
| | Mesolithic | c.10,000 BC – c. 4,300 BC |
| | Neolithic | c. 4,300 BC – c. 2,300 BC |
| | Bronze Age | c. 2,300 BC – c. 600 BC |
| | Iron Age | c. 600 BC – c. AD 43 |
| Romano-British | | AD 43 – c. AD 410 |
| Anglo-Saxon | | AD 410 – AD 1066 |
| Medieval | | AD 1066 – AD 1485 |
| Post-medieval | | AD 1485 – AD 1900 |
| Modern | | AD 1901 – present day |

Table 1 Classification of Archaeological Periods

The Archaeological record within the area around Elvington Lane is diverse and should comprise possible activity dating from one of the earliest human period in Britain (the Neolithic) through to the post-medieval period. The geographic and topographic location of the PDA is within a landscape that has been the focus of trade, travel and communication since the Neolithic.

This section of the assessment will focus on the archaeological and historical development of this area, placing it within a local context. Each period classification will provide a brief introduction to the wider landscape, followed by a full record of archaeological sites, monuments and records within the site's immediate vicinity. Time scales for archaeological periods represented in the report are listed on the previous page in **Table 1**.

5.2 Scheduled Monuments, Listed Buildings Historic Parks & Gardens and Conservation Areas

There are no listed buildings, no Historic Parks or Conservation Areas in the proposed development site.

5.3 Prehistoric (Palaeolithic, Mesolithic, Neolithic and Bronze Age)

The Palaeolithic represents the earliest phases of human activity in the British Isles, up to the end of the last Ice Age. Palaeolithic dated material occurs in north and east Kent, especially along the Medway and Stour Valleys. The Palaeolithic presence within the assessment area has not been found.

The Mesolithic period reflects a society of hunter-gatherers active after the last Ice Age. Flint artefacts found to the west of the PDA near Paddlesworth (TR 13 NE 41) included 37 flakes and five cores. The artefacts were found in the topsoil when building a new water reservoir and the findings published in Arch Cant 1971 297-208 by A H Gibson.

The Neolithic period, the beginning of a sedentary lifestyle based on agriculture and animal husbandry is within the assessment area with Prehistoric trackway called the North Downs Way running south along the boundary of the PDA (TQ 55 SE 124). In addition Neolithic activity was recorded on a site to the east of the PDA in an evaluation carried out in 1993 (TR 23 NW).

The Bronze Age, a period of large migrations from the continent and more complex social developments on a domestic, industrial and ceremonial level is represented in the assessment area by Late Bronze Age archaeology found in an evaluation carried out in 2004 (TR NW 267).

5.4 Iron Age

The Iron Age is, by definition a period of established rural farming communities with extensive field systems and large 'urban' centres (the Iron Age 'Tribal capital' or *civitas* of the Cantiaci, the tribe occupying the area that is now Kent, was Canterbury). The Kent HER has in close proximity to the PDA Early Iron Age occupation (TR 23 NW 173), Late Iron Age (TR 23 NW 6390 Early Roman cremations.

5.5 Romano-British

The Romano-British period is the term given to the Romanised culture of Britain under the rule of the Roman Empire, following the Claudian invasion in AD 43, Britain then formed part of the Roman Empire for nearly 400 years.

The predominant feature of the Roman infrastructure within Kent is arguably the extensive network of Roman roads connecting administrative centres: the towns to military posts and rural settlements (villas, farmsteads and temples) increasing the flow of trade, goods, communications and troops. Canterbury or *Durovernum Cantiacorum* was a major town of the Roman province of Britannia and the regional capital. The assessment area includes a number of records from this period including Early Roman cremations (TR 23 NW 639), Roman features including a ditch, a rubbish pit, six cremation burials and two possible pyres (TR 23 NW 175),

5.6 Anglo-Saxon

The Anglo-Saxon period is represented within the proposed development area by Anglo-Saxon features discovered at Hawkinge Aerodrome in 2004 (TR 23 NW 267).

5.7 Medieval

The medieval period is represented within the assessment area by the remains of the medieval and post-medieval farm of White Hall just to the south-west of the site.

5.8 Post-Medieval

The Post Medieval period within the assessment area is represented by the White Hall Farm located just to the south-west of the PDA (EKE 87801).

5.9 Modern

Modern archaeology within the assessment area has been limited to remains from the important RAF airfield and its defence structure including pillboxes (TR 23 NW 51)

5.10 Undated

There is no Kent HER undated records that fall within the assessment area.

5.11 Cartographic Sources and Map Regression

A map regression exercise (Figs. 1-5) carried out on the proposed development area has shown that the site was undeveloped up until the mid 20th century.

5.12 Aerial Photographs

The National Monuments Records were consulted during the writing of this report.

Google Earth provided vertical images dated from 1940-2013 (Figs. 1-5).

6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL

6.1 Palaeolithic, Mesolithic, Neolithic and Bronze Age

The potential for finding remains that date prior to the Iron Age within the confines of the proposed development is considered **medium**.

6.2 Iron Age

The potential for finding remains dating to the Iron Age within the confines of the development site is also considered **medium**.

6.3 Romano-British

The potential for Romano-British archaeology is considered to be **medium**.

6.4 Anglo-Saxon

The potential for finding remains dating to the Anglo-Saxon period on the development site is considered as **low**.

6.5 Medieval

The potential for finding remains dating to the medieval period is considered as **low**.

6.6 Post-Medieval & Modern

Evidence for modern occupation in the area is abundant with a number of airfield structures in the vicinity. The potential for finding remains dating to the modern period is therefore considered as **medium**.

7 IMPACT ASSESSMENT

7.1 Existing Impacts

The search area has been subject mainly to airfield development and the potential impact on buried archaeological deposits will have been due to these activities. The existing impact is considered as **medium**.

7.2 Proposed Impacts

At the time of preparing this archaeological assessment, the extent of the proposed development was for the building of houses. Extensive impact is to be expected within the development area once construction begins. The excavation of footings and the installation of services will be the main cause of this impact and it is therefore considered as **high**.

8 MITIGATION

The purpose of this archaeological desk-based assessment was to provide an assessment of the contextual archaeological record, in order to determine the potential survival of archaeological deposits that maybe impacted upon during any proposed construction works.

The assessment has generally shown that the area to be developed is within an area of medium archaeological potential based on the extensive archaeological investigations carried out in the vicinity in recent years. It is recommended that areas of the development that have not been impacted on by modern development should be subject to an Archaeological Evaluation to an Archaeological Specification approved by the Local Planning Authority.

9 OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

9.1 Archive

Subject to any contractual requirements on confidentiality, two copies of this desk-based assessment will be submitted to Kent County Council (Heritage) within 6 months of completion.

9.2 Reliability/limitations of sources

The sources that were used in this assessment were, in general, of high quality. The majority of the information provided herewith has been gained from either published texts or archaeological 'grey' literature held at Kent County Council, and therefore considered as being reliable.

9.3 Copyright

Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT Archaeology) and the author shall retain full copyright on the commissioned report under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988. All rights are reserved, excepting that it hereby provides exclusive licence to Elvington Developments Ltd (and representatives) for the use of this document in all matters directly relating to the project.

10 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Paul Wilkinson PhD., MifA., FRSA.

13th October 2014

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National Planning Policy Statement 2010: Planning for the Historic Environment. TSO (The Stationery Office)

National Planning Policy Practise March 2012.

English Heritage 2001 Hawkinge WWII Airfield Defences Report

KCC HER Data 2014

Appendix 1. Regressive mapping

Andrews, Dury and Herbert published their famous atlas in 1769 some thirty years before the Ordnance Survey, and immediately becoming the best large scale maps of the county. It is thought that Edward Hasted based his maps of the Hundreds of Kent on Andrews and Dury's work. The finely engraved hatching at once distinguishes these sheets from other maps of the period and the use of the large scale enables one to see individual houses and, particularly, the ground plans of the country seats, many of which are identified with their owners' names; even the houses of the lesser gentry are included. A circular of 1765 sought subscriptions for this project. Andrews appears to have been the principal engraver and possibly surveyor as well. Dury and Herbert were booksellers in London who backed the project. The map was reprinted in 1775, 1779 and 1794, all the issues are rare and highly prized. The map was issued in this first edition as uncoloured sheets, and coloured in outline.

The Andrews and Dury 1769 map of the area around the proposed development site shows a rural scene with villages 'Elventon', and 'Hawking'. The road network enables the development site to be located and White Hall Farm is called 'Tallengham' (**Fig. 1**).

The Ordnance Surveyors' Drawings (OSDs), compiled between 1789 and c.1840, represent the first continuous topographic mapping of England and Wales and are the most detailed record of the landscape preceding full-scale industrialisation in the mid-19th century. These original manuscript maps, drawn primarily at scales of ca. 1:21,120 and 1:31,680, with the Kent series being the first maps produced. Responsibility for the mapping of Britain fell to the Board of Ordnance, from which the Ordnance Survey takes its name. The Board had been established in Tudor times to manage the supply of stores and armaments for the army and maintain national defences. From its headquarters in the Tower of London, engineers and draftsmen set out to produce the first military maps by a system of triangulation.

The survey of Kent was first to go ahead. It began in 1795 under the direction of the Board's chief draftsman, William Gardner. Critical communication routes such as roads and rivers were to be shown clearly and accurately. Attention was paid to woods that could provide cover for ambush, and elaborate shading was used to depict the contours of terrain that might offer tactical advantage in battle.

Preliminary drawings were made at scales from six inches to the mile, for areas of particular military significance, down to two inches to the mile elsewhere. Back in the Drawing Room at the Tower of London, fair copies of the drawings were prepared at the reduced scale of one inch to the mile. From these, copper plates were engraved for printing.

The engraved map of Kent was published in 1801 at a scale of 1" to the mile whereas the Ordnance Survey Surveyors drawing were drawn at 6" to the mile. In consequence a tremendous amount of detail shown on the surveyor's drawings does not make it on to the smaller scale engraved maps.

The map only shows 'Paddlesworth' on the 1798 OSD. The surrounding countryside is still enclosed arable fields with orchards with the road layout unchanged. The map is rendered in pencil and is likely not to have been finished (**Fig. 2**)

From the 1840s the Ordnance Survey concentrated on the Great Britain 'County Series', modelled on the earlier Ireland survey. A start was made on mapping the whole country, county by county, at six inches to the mile (1:10,560). From 1854, to meet requirements for greater detail, including land-parcel numbers in rural areas and accompanying information, cultivated and inhabited areas were mapped at 1:2500 (25.344 inches to the mile), at first parish by parish, with blank space beyond the parish boundary, and later continuously. Early copies of the 1:2500s were available hand-coloured. Up to 1879, the 1:2500s were accompanied by Books of Reference or "area books" that gave acreages and land-use information for land-parcel numbers. After 1854, the six-inch maps and their revisions were based on the "twenty-five inch" maps and theirs. The six-inch sheets covered an area of six by four miles on the ground; the "twenty-five inch" sheets an area of one by one and a half. One square inch on the "twenty-five inch" maps was roughly equal to an acre on the ground. In later editions the six-inch sheets were published in "quarters" (NW,NE,SW,SE), each covering an area of three by two miles on the ground. The first edition of the two scales was completed by the 1890s. A second edition (or "first revision") was begun in 1891 and completed just before the First World War. From 1907 till the early 1940s, a third edition (or "second revision") was begun but never completed: only areas with significant changes on the ground were revised, many two or three times.

On the 1873 OS map the area of the PDA is fields. White Hall Farm is shown with outbuildings, gardens and ponds sitting just east of the Parliamentary Boundary of Hythe. There are no other buildings shown (**Fig. 3**).

By 1907 little has changed apart from the footpath which is now called the North Downs Way being shown as a footpath running north-west to south-east past White Hall Farm. Two semi-detached houses have been built in the intervening years to the north-west of the PDA which on this map is field 203 (**Fig. 4**).

By 1938 two more houses have been built in the lower area of the PDA (**Fig. 5**). On the 1972 OS map the scene is transformed with additional houses, the RAF Officers Mess built in the intervening years (**Fig. 6**).

Figures



Figure 1. Andrews and Dury map of 1769. Red circle shows the area of development



Figure 2. OSD map of 1798 (red cross denotes centre of PDA)

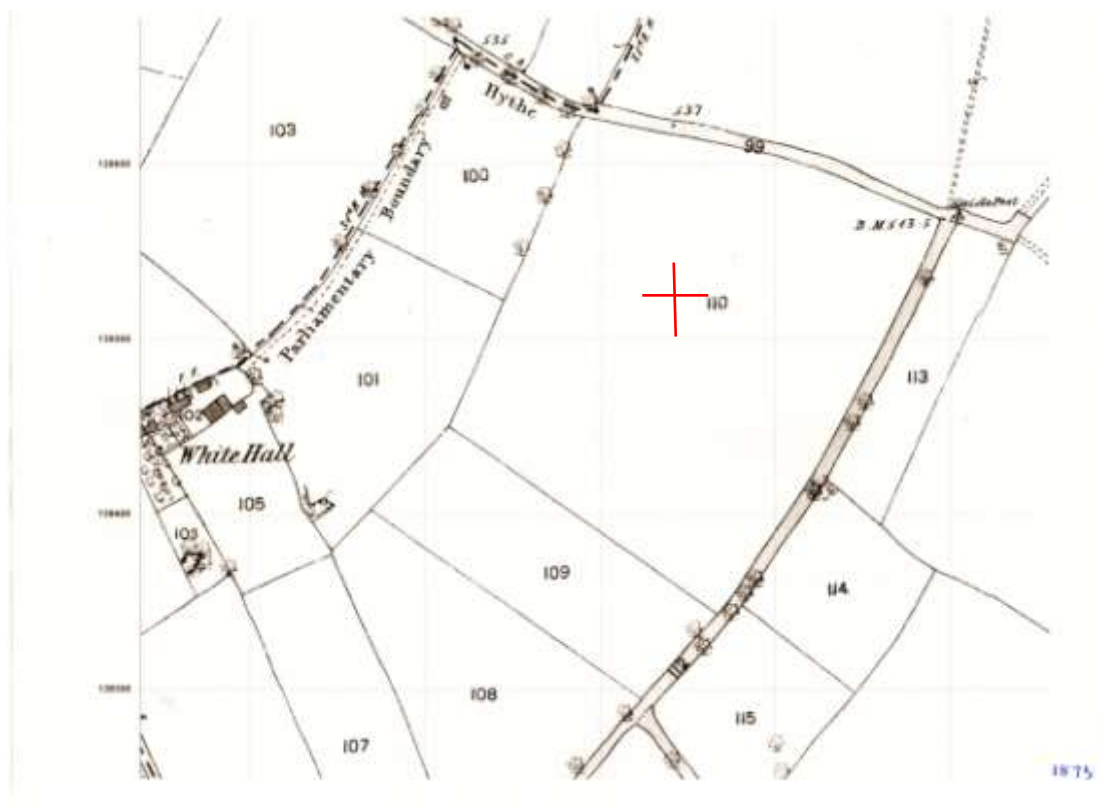


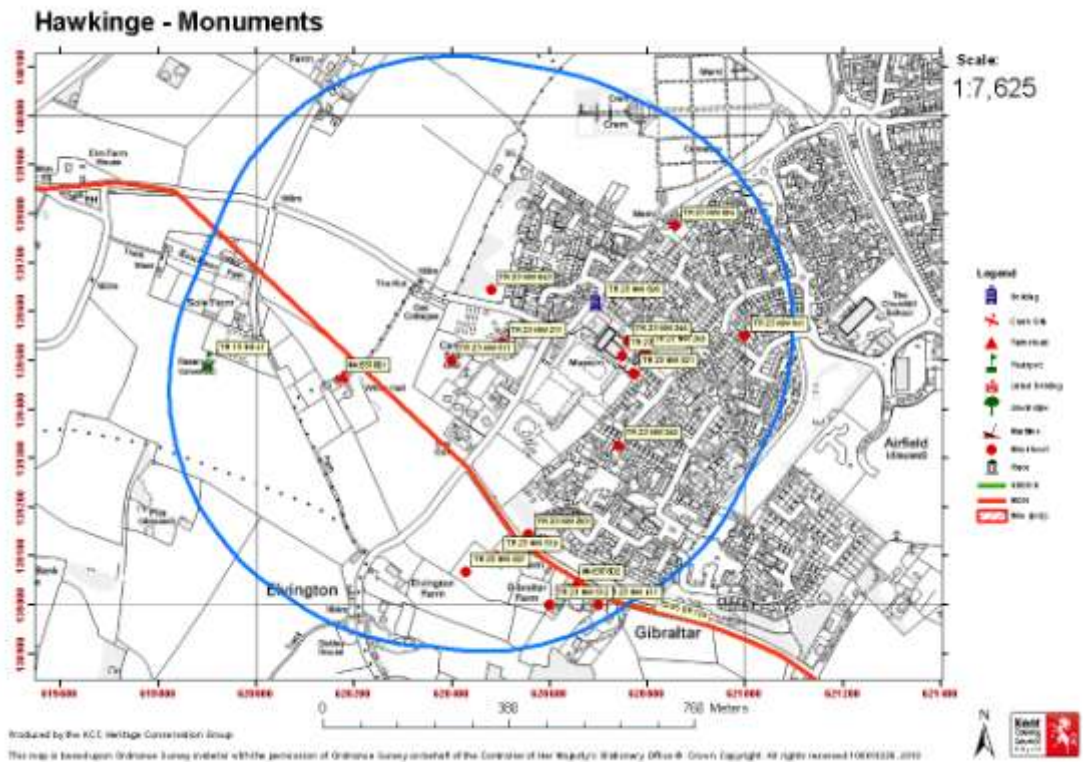
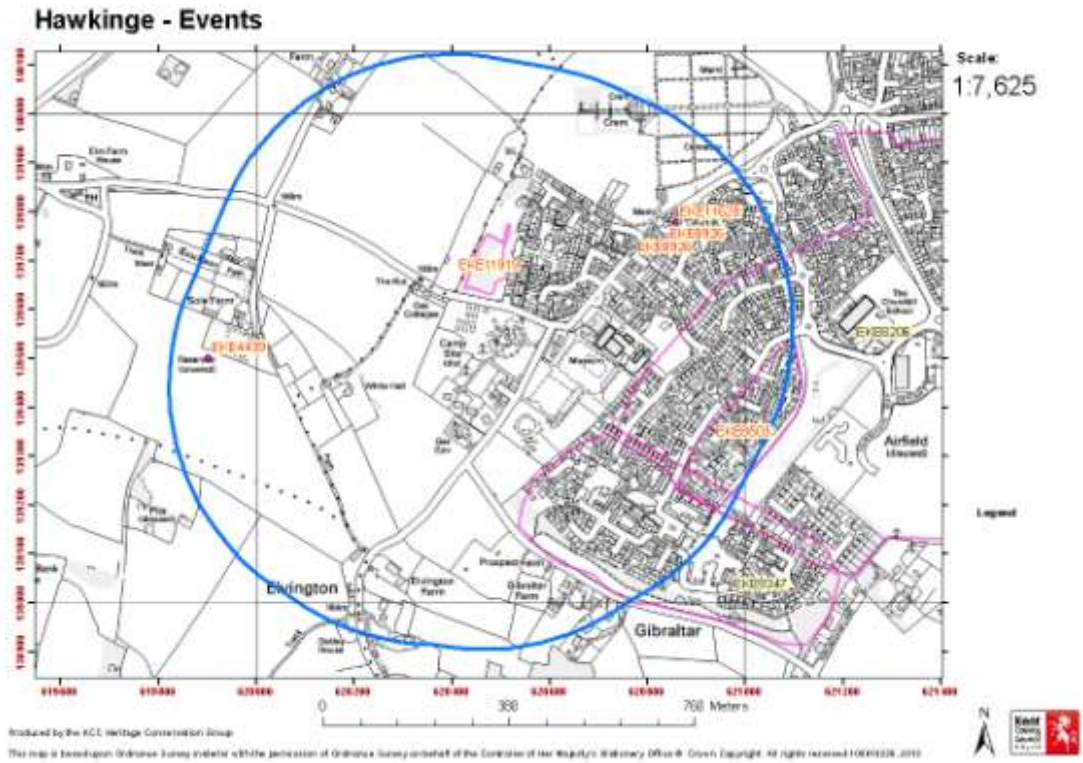
Figure 3. The site at Elvington Lane, Hawkinge, Kent (OS 1873).



Figure 4. OS map of 1938



Figure 5. OS 1972. The approximate area of proposed development is shown in red



Figures 6 & 7. HER Data

Plates



Plate 1. Google Earth dated 1940 showing the Officers Mess and ancillary buildings



Plate 2. Google Earth dated 1960 showing almost in 3D the buildings on the PDA



Plate 3. Google Earth dated 1990



Plate 4. Google Earth dated 2003



Plate 5. Google Earth dated 2013