

Historic Landscape Recording of Land at Gore Green Farm, Gore Green Road, Higham, Kent.



Report for Clague LLP

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SWAT ARCHAEOLOGY

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Historic Landscape Recording of Land at Gore Green Farm, Gore Green Road, Higham, Kent.

Summary

SWAT Archaeology has been commissioned by Clague LLP to carry out an historic landscape recording in advance of a proposed development at Gore Green Farm, Gore Green Road, Higham, Kent.

This historic landscape assessment is intended to explore and understand the landscape and its development through time within the site and the surrounding area.

The site is currently occupied by a farmhouse, date currently undetermined but may be contemporary with the Grade II listed barn. In addition, the site is occupied by a cart shed and stables arranged around a courtyard with a large pond to the north.

The farmstead and barn are of significance due to its listed status, age, interesting features, and historic development, as well its rarity of survival being unaltered. It was therefore required that a Level 1 survey for a Historic Landscape Assessment be undertaken. This would serve to mitigate the negative effects of the redevelopment/demolition of any surviving buildings or structures by 'preservation by record' and inform KCC Heritage of the sites potential for surviving archaeology.

The survival of archaeology at the site is undefined but HER records nearby suggest a moderate chance of archaeological potential for Roman and high potential for Post Medieval. The farmhouse and barn are significant for their historical and aesthetic qualities, especially for the barn in the context of its listed status and farmstead loose courtyard plan survivability. It is not possible given the limited survey to identify a definitive construction date for the barn or whether there are any important surviving features. In addition, the farmhouse can only be accurately dated via a full survey, especially internally. This will then allow the significance and relationship between the two buildings to be dated and understood. A full survey assessing the fabric and condition of the barn should only be undertaken once the barn's condition has been stabilised and cleared to allow full access. The cart shed is less significant given it is a later addition to the farmstead. It appears that the stables on the northern side have significant altered or already been destroyed and therefore are of little significance. The Map Regression Exercise also did not provide any indication as to the purpose of the original moat.

The site is considered historically significant as a farmstead and KCCHC may suggest additional archaeological mitigation as part of the planning process. If additional archaeological works are to be carried out as a condition to planning approval, the scale, scope and nature of archaeological works will need to be agreed through consultation with the statutory authorities.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

- 1.1.1 Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT) was commissioned by Clague LLP (the 'Client), to carry out an historic landscape assessment of land at Gore Green Farm, Gore Green Road, Higham, Kent, centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) TQ 571965 173131 (Fig. 1).
- 1.1.2 The site is currently occupied by a number of buildings in various uses and differing states of repair and condition set around a hard-surfaced quadrangle courtyard set in open countryside.
- 1.1.3 It was required by Gravesham Brough Council via a Pre-application response that a Level 1 (non-analytical) record be made of the site in accordance with the guidelines set out in the document 'Understanding the Archaeology of Landscapes: a guide to good recording practise (Heritage England, 2017, 2nd edition).
- 1.1.4 This document will be used in support of planning applications associated with proposed development of the site.

1.2 The Site

- 1.2.1 The site is located in Gore Green Road, Higham. Higham has developed into three parts. Lower Higham some 560m south west of the site and the more recent, larger development of Higham, 1.3km south west of the site. In addition, there is the Church Street area of Higham centred around St Mary's church and the site of the old priory, circa 1km north west of the site. The site is located 60m to the north of the junction of Gore Green Road with Bull Lane and is circa 1.8km east of the settlement of Cliffe Woods. To the north lies fields and marshes across the Hoo Peninsular until the River Thames is reached approximately 2.9km away. Higham borders the Hoo Peninsular and is situated between Gravesend and Rochester (Fig 1).

1.3 The Proposed Development

- 1.3.1 The proposed development includes the conversion of barns and outbuildings into four dwellings and the reversion of the farmhouse, known as Black Cottages, from two cottages to one dwelling.

1.4 The Geology

- 1.4.1 The site sits at an average height of 6m Above Ordnance Datum (AOD). The British Geological Society (BGS 1995) shows that the site sits on the edge of the local geology of Lambeth Group- Sand, Silt and Clay (fig. 2). It comprises a complex of vertically and laterally varying gravels, sands, silts and clays deposited between 56-55 million years before present during the Ypresian age (lower Eocene). It is found throughout the London Basin with a thickness between 10m and 30m. The eastern side of the site borders Thanet Formation – Sand, a sedimentary bedrock formed approximately 34 to 56 million years ago in the Palaeogene Period. The Thanet Formation underlies the Lambeth Group. The local environment was previously dominated by shallow seas. In terms of superficial deposits, the site lies at the end of a spur of alluvium - clay, silt, sand and peat deposits. This likely due to the fact that the shape of the spur matches that showing the Environment Agency flood risk for the site in figure 3. The marshes to the north are flat and low lying, at approximately 2 metres Above AOD and the overall topography is gently undulating rising towards the south. Streams emerge from the ground at the marshland edge, characterised by the inlets of marshland found around Lower Higham and Church Street. The PDA lies at the head of one of these streams, hence the potential flood risk. The marshes are drained to the Thames through a network of man-made ditches, probably dating back to medieval times when the land was reclaimed for grazing. The man-made feature of the Thames & Medway Canal sits above the marshes and hence retains water artificially. The low lying and subsequently wet landscape of the marshes is predominantly uninhabited and used as traditional grazing for sheep or as open arable farmland and the very open character of these fields today can be interpreted as modern ‘prairie’ fields assuming boundary loss but is in fact a character that has probably been established since the medieval period.

1.5 Project Constraints

- 1.5.1 No constraints were associated with this project.

2 PLANNING BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 National legislation and guidance relating to the protection of, and proposed development on or near, important archaeological sites or historical buildings within planning regulations is defined under the provisions of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990. In addition, local authorities are responsible for the protection of the historic environment within the planning system.

2.2 Heritage Assets

2.2.1 Designated heritage assets are defined in NPPF Annex 2 as:

‘World Heritage Sites, Scheduled Monuments, Listed Buildings, Protected Wreck Sites, Registered Park and Gardens, Registered Battlefields and Conservation Areas designated under the relevant legislation.’

2.2.2 Designation is a formal acknowledgement of a building, monument or site’s significance, intended to make sure that the character of the asset in question is protected through the planning system and to enable it to be passed on to future generations.

2.2.3 Statutory protection is provided to certain classes of designated heritage assets under the following legislation:

- Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990;
- Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979; and
- Protection of Wrecks Act 1973

2.3 National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)

2.3.1 The Historic Environment, as defined in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF 2012): Annex 2, comprises:

‘all aspects of the environment resulting from the interaction between people and places through time, including all surviving physical remains of past human activity, whether visible, buried or submerged, and landscaped and planted or managed flora.’

2.3.2 NPPF Annex 2 defines a Heritage Asset as:

'a building monument, site, place, area or landscape identified as having a degree of significance meriting consideration in planning decisions, because of its heritage interest. Heritage assets include designated heritage assets and assets identified by the local planning authority (including local listing)'.

2.3.3 NPPF Section 12: Conserving and enhancing the historic environment sets out the principal national guidance on the importance, management and safeguarding of heritage assets within the planning process. The aim of NPPF Section 12 is to ensure that Local Planning Authorities, developers and owners of heritage assets adopt a consistent approach to their conservation and to reduce complexity in planning policy relating to proposals that affect them.

2.3.4 Paragraph 126 of the NPPF 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;

- *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.*

2.3.5 Paragraph 128 of the NPPF states that:

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.

2.3.6 Paragraph 129 of the NPPF states that:

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 a 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.

2.3.7 The NPPF, Section 12, therefore provides the guidance to which local authorities need to refer when setting out a strategy for the conservation and enjoyment of the historic environment in their Local Plans. It is noted within this, that heritage assets should be conserved in a manner appropriate to their significance.

2.3.8 The NPPF further provides definitions of terms which relate to the historic environment in order to clarify the policy guidance given. For the purposes of this report, the following are important to note:

- **Heritage Asset.** This is 'a building, monument, Site, place, area or landscape identified as having a degree of significance meriting consideration in planning decisions'. These include designated heritage assets and assets identified by the local planning authority.
- **Significance.** The value of a heritage asset to this and future generations because of its heritage interest. This interest may be archaeological, architectural, artistic or historic. Significance derives not only from a heritage asset's physical presence, but also from its setting.

- 2.3.9 Paragraphs 132 and 136 consider the impact of a proposed development upon the significance of a heritage asset.
- 2.3.10 Paragraph 132 emphasises that when a new development is proposed, great weight should be given to the asset's conservation and that the more important the asset, the greater this weight should be. It is noted within this paragraph that significance can be harmed or lost through the alteration or destruction of the heritage asset or by development within its setting. Adding, 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 or Registered 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.
- 2.3.11 Paragraph 133 states that where a proposed development will lead to substantial harm to or total loss of significance of a designated heritage asset, local planning authorities should refuse consent, unless it can be demonstrated that the substantial harm or loss is necessary to achieve substantial public benefits that outweigh that harm or loss, or all of the following apply:
- The nature of the heritage asset prevents all reasonable uses of the Site; and
 - No viable use of the heritage asset itself can be found in the medium term through appropriate marketing that will enable its conservation; and
 - Conservation by grant-funding or some form of charitable or public ownership is demonstrably not possible; and
 - The harm or loss is outweighed by the benefit of bringing the Site back into use.
- 2.3.12 Conversely, paragraph 133 notes that where a development proposal will lead to less than substantial harm to the significance of a designated heritage asset, this harm should be weighed against the public benefits of the proposal, including securing its optimum viable use.

2.3.13 Paragraph 136 states that LPAs should not permit loss of the whole or part of a heritage asset without taking all reasonable steps to ensure the new development will proceed after the loss has occurred.

2.3.14 Paragraph 137 encourages LPAs to look for new development opportunities within Conservation Areas, and states that developments which better reveal or enhance the significance of a designated heritage asset and its setting, will be looked upon favourably.

2.4 Regional Policies

2.4.1 Gravesham Brough Council has a Local Plan adopted in 2014. The plan has a policy relevant to archaeology:

POLICY CS20: Heritage and the Historic Environment

2.4.2 This sets out that the Council will accord a high priority towards the preservation, protection and enhancement of its heritage and historic environment as a non-renewable resource, central to the regeneration of the area and the reinforcement of sense of place. Particular attention in this regard will be focused on those heritage assets most at risk through neglect, decay or other threats. Securing viable, sustainable and appropriate futures for such assets at risk will need to be reconciled with the sensitivity to change that many present

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 Introduction

3.1.1 This Desk-Based Assessment was commissioned by Clague LLP, to support any future planning application. This assessment has been prepared in accordance with guidelines set out by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (see below).

3.2 Desk-Based Assessment – Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (2017)

3.2.1 This desktop study has been produced in line with archaeological standards, as defined by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (2014, revised 2017). A desktop, or desk-based assessment, is defined as being:

'Desk-based assessment will determine, as far as is reasonably possible from existing records, the nature, extent and significance of the historic environment within a specified area. Desk-based assessment will be undertaken using appropriate methods and practices which satisfy the stated aims of the project, and which comply with the Code of conduct and other relevant regulations of ClfA. In a development context desk-based assessment will establish the impact of the proposed development on the significance of the historic environment (or will identify the need for further evaluation to do so), and will enable reasoned proposals and decisions to be made whether to mitigate, offset or accept without further intervention that impact.'

(2017:4)

3.2.2 The purpose of the desk-based assessment is, therefore, an assessment that provides a contextual archaeological record, in order to provide:

- *an assessment of the potential for heritage assets to survive within the area of study*
- *an assessment of the significance of the known or predicted heritage assets considering, in England, their archaeological, historic, architectural and artistic interests*
- *strategies for further evaluation whether or not intrusive, where the nature, extent or significance of the resource is not sufficiently well defined*
- *an assessment of the impact of proposed development or other land use changes on the significance of the heritage assets and their settings*
- *strategies to conserve the significance of heritage assets, and their settings*
- *design strategies to ensure new development makes a positive contribution to the character and local distinctiveness of the historic environment and local place-shaping*

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

IFA (2017:4)

4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 The methodology employed during this assessment has been based upon relevant professional guidance including the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and guidance for historic environment desk-based assessment* (CIfA, 2017). The aim of the programme of historic landscape recording was to make a permanent record of activity of the site prior to any development and demolition works. This would serve to mitigate the negative effects of the development/demolition of any buildings or structures by 'preservation by record' and constitutes the first phase of the archaeological investigation programme required by Gravesham Borough council.

4.2 Designated Heritage Assets

- 4.2.1 There are a number of criteria to address and they include the impact of the proposed development on the significance of the Heritage Assets.

Heritage Assets

- 4.2.2 Any Heritage Asset which includes a World Heritage Site, Scheduled Monument, Listed Building, Wreck, Registered Park or Garden, Conservation Area or Landscape can be identified as having a degree of significance meriting consideration in planning decisions. Heritage Assets are the valued components of the historic environment and will include designated Heritage Assets as well as assets identified by the Local Planning Authority during the process of decision making or through the plan making process.

Setting

- 4.2.3 The surroundings in which a Heritage Asset is experienced. Its extent is not fixed and may change as the asset and its surroundings evolve. Elements of a setting may make a positive or negative contribution to the significance of an asset or may affect the ability to appreciate that significance or may be neutral.

Significance

4.2.4 The value of a Heritage Asset to this and future generations because of its heritage interest. That interest may be archaeological, architectural, artistic or historic. Significance may be informed by a number of factors which may include; assessment of the significance of the site, setting and building, where relevant, under a number of headings:

- Historic significance – the age and history of the asset, its development over time, the strength of its tie to a particular architectural period, the layout of a site, the plan form of a building, internal features of special character including chimneystacks and fireplaces,
- Cultural significance – the role a site plays in an historic setting, village, town or landscape context, the use of a building perhaps tied to a local industry or agriculture, social connections of an original architect or owner,
- Aesthetic/architectural significance – the visual qualities and characteristics of the asset (settlement site or building), long views, legibility of building form, character of elevations, roofscape, materials and fabric special features of interest,
- Archaeological significance – evolution of the asset, phases of development over different periods, important features, evidence in building fabric, potential for below ground remains.

4.3 Sources

4.3.1 A number of publicly accessible sources were consulted prior to the preparation of this document.

Archaeological databases

4.3.2 Although it is recognised that national databases are an appropriate resource for this particular type of assessment, the local Historic Environmental Record held at Kent County Council (KCCHER) contains sufficient data to provide an accurate insight into catalogued sites and finds within both the proposed development area and the surrounding landscape.

- 4.3.3 The National Heritage List for England (NHLE), which is the only official and up to date database of all nationally designated heritage assets and is the preferred archive for a comprehensive HER search.

Cartographic and Pictorial Documents

- 4.3.4 A full map regression exercise has been incorporated within this assessment. Research was carried out using resources offered by the Kent County Council, the internet, Ordnance Survey and the Kent Archaeological Society. A full listing of bibliographic and cartographic documents used in this study is provided in Section 10.

Aerial photographs

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

Geotechnical information

- 4.3.6 No geotechnical information was available at the time of preparing this assessment.

Secondary and Statutory Resources

- 4.3.7 Secondary and statutory sources, such as regional and periodic archaeological studies, archaeological reports associated with development control, landscape studies, dissertations and research frameworks are considered appropriate to this type of study and have been included within this assessment.

4.4 Site Visit

- 4.4.1 The site was visited on 6th December 2017 by Dr. Paul Wilkinson, a senior Archaeologist from SWAT Archaeology.

- 4.4.2 The walkover survey is for the purpose of:

- Identifying any historic landscape features not shown on maps
- Conducting a rapid survey for archaeological features

- Making a note of any surface scatters of archaeological material
 - Identifying constraints or areas of disturbance that may affect archaeological investigation
- 4.4.3 The walkover survey is not intended as a detailed survey but the rapid identification of archaeological features and any evidence for buried archaeology in the form of surface scatters of lithic or pottery artefacts. No surface artefacts were identified in the walkover.
- 4.4.4 The site has been recorded to Level 1, as described in the document *Understanding the Archaeology of Landscapes: a guide to good recording practise* (English Heritage 2017). In addition, the recording was carried out in accordance with the Manual of Specification for the Site (Part A) issued by Kent County Council (KCC 2015) and guidance given by the Institute for Archaeologists' Standard and Guidance for the archaeological investigation and recording of standing buildings and structures (ClfA 2014).
- 4.4.5 During the site visit, some 19 colour digital photographs were taken using a digital SLR camera equipped with Zeiss optics. A metric photographic scale has been included in all detailed shots. All photographic views were recorded on photographic registers, which give the direction of the view and a brief description of the subject.
- 4.4.6 A selection of the digital photographic record has been used to illustrate this report (**Plates 7 - 18**).

5 CARTOGRAPHIC SOURCES AND MAP REGRESSION

5.1 Map Regression 1769 - 2002

- 5.1.1 A map regression exercise on tithe maps, early topographical map and historic OS maps was carried out on the Proposed Development Area (PDA) and has shown that the site includes an historic farmstead based on a loose courtyard plan that can be mapped in some detail from the mid-19th century. As mentioned earlier Higham has historically grown from three different areas, modern Higham, Lower Higham and Church Street. All three places have previously been called Higham

on maps and therefore for avoidance of doubt I will refer to the name on the map itself and include the modern name in brackets.

5.1.2 Maps consulted for this earlier period include, the Andrews and Dury map of 1769 and Hasted's map of 1800. The OS Surveyors Drawings from 1789 - c.1840 that cover Kent, unfortunately do not include the Hoo Peninsular. The scale on these maps is such that the fine detail required for a Historic Landscape Survey is not there. However, the large-scale maps were the first to use triangulation which enabled actual field boundaries to be drawn. The Ordnance Survey surveyors claimed to illustrate 'every inclosure, however small.....every road, public and private....the rivers, with their bends, fords and bridges'.

5.1.3 From the 1840s the Ordnance Survey started work 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 1879, land-use information was dropped from these area books; after the mid-1880s, the books themselves were dropped and acreages were printed instead on the maps. 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.

5.1.4 Tithe maps are detailed maps that were compiled in the later 1830s and 1840s.

Andrews, Dury and Herbert map 1769

5.1.5 The PDA is located on the extreme edges of the map and does not have sufficient detail to identify specific buildings and features in the landscape (Fig.4).

Hasted map 1800

5.1.6 The Hasted map is of interest as it shows the position of the site (circled in red), which shows a line of buildings along what is now Gore Green Road. There is a building showing set back from the road and it is possible that this may be the Grade II listed barn at our site but the detail is not sufficiently clear. The road layout around Gore Green is slightly different that of the modern layout, with the inclusion of a road that goes north towards Cliff Parsonage and another road is shown connecting Gore Green Road to Bull Lan to form a triangle in addition to the existing road connecting Gore Green Road to Bull Lane. Surrounding the site is labelled fields.

5.1.7 To the north, north west is Higham (now called Church Street), the original Anglo-Saxon settlement area includes and shows the church symbol for St Mary's church. The modern Higham settlement to the south west does not yet exist. To the east the map shows a wooded area, which is now known as Cliff Woods (Fig.5).

Tithe map (c. 1830-40)

5.1.8 The tithe map accurately reflects the modern road system layout around Gore Green and some of the field boundaries on the tithe map boundaries can be traced and are still in existence today. However, there is now only one road connecting Gore Green Road and Bull Lane. Halfway along Bull Lane is the remnants of the road that led north towards Cliff Parsonage. The site, off Gore Green Road, is designated part of fields 185 and 186 and appears to show a loose courtyard farmstead layout surrounded by three buildings. The surviving listed Gore Green Farm Barn is clearly the eastern building. We can see in the wider area surrounding the site, are a network of fields and drainage channels with the southwestern corner showing the Thames and Medway canal as it moves into a tunnel.

- 5.1.9 However, not seen before towards the north west boundary of the site is what looks like a moat that follows the boundary of field 186. The moat does not make a complete circuit but is essentially 'U' shaped with three straight sides. In addition, there appears to be an oval pond located on the north western side of the courtyard.
- 5.1.10 In Bull Lane, we can see the location of a farmstead being a loose courtyard Plan with agricultural buildings on three sides and a farmhouse. This is also called Gore Green Farm and should not be confused with our site. The farmhouse is 16th century timber framed cottage and is Grade II listed (Fig.6).
- 5.1.11 To the north of the site, at Higham (now Church Street) is The Abbey. According to Hasted in The History and Topographical Survey of the County of Kent in 1797. The Priory of Higham was a Benedictine nunnery and was founded by Mary, the daughter of King Stephen founded in circa 1148, who became the first Prioress. Henry III granted several gifts of land. In 1392 the prioress and nuns had a licence to acquire lands further lands in Higham. By 1521, the priory was in a poor state of repair and it was decided to suppress the priory and appropriate it to the college of St John the Evangelist at Cambridge with King Henry VIII formally granting the priory to the college in 1522. St Johns College, Cambridge is the owner of the PDA and is therefore likely to have owned the PDA from 1522 along with a number of other farmstead sites across the Hoo Peninsular.

Historic OS map 1862 1:10,560

- 5.1.12 The large-scale map shows the hamlet called Gore Green Acres. We can clearly see the two farmsteads as the main buildings in the hamlet of Gore Green being our site, off Gore Green Road and the other off Bull Lane. The hamlet shows two wells located at either end on Gore Green Road. The map shows that the courtyard has two access off Gore Green Road. The existing one, plus another from the southern end towards Black Cottages. Surrounding the hamlet are open fields and hedgerows. A footpath runs from the southern end of the site boundary diagonally south east to join up with the Lower Rochester Road. The area appears to be sparsely populated and one of dispersed farmsteads. The map is not sufficiently detailed to identify any water courses.

- 5.1.13 Moving across the bottom corner in a south easterly direction is the new railway being the North Kent Line from London, incorporating Higham Station. This is located in near the hamlet labelled Chequers Street (Lower Higham). Alongside of the railway can be seen the Thames and Medway Canal and originally linked the River Thames at Gravesend with the River Medway at Strood. The Gravesend to Higham stretch was completed in 1801 and due to a requirement for a tunnel at Lower Higham, the Higham to Strood stretch was not completed until 1824. However, in 1846 the South Eastern Railway company took over the canal and filled it in to complete the North Kent Line to Strood. Since then the canal has terminated at Lower Higham. The advent of both the canal and the railway prompted the growth of the hamlet of Lower Higham.
- 5.1.14 The original Higham village to the north is labelled Higham or Church Street and shows St Mary's Church with the remains of the Abbey on the opposite side of the road. There also appears to be footpaths linking this area of Gore Green to that of Lilly church (now Lillechurch), supposedly the site of the original Abbey before it moved a mile to the north east at Church Street in the 13th century.
- 5.1.15 To the north of Gore Green Road, along the eastern side of Church Street, there are a web of drainage channels. These channels appear to be linked to our moat via a stream.
- 5.1.16 The area appears to be sparsely populated and one of dispersed farmsteads (Fig. 8).

Historic OS map 1864 1:2500

- 5.1.17 The PDA is designated as courtyard area 220. Buildings are shown on three sides. The Grade II listed barn on the eastern side. There are three separate rectangular buildings on the northern side, one of which is to the northern side of the northern boundary. On the southern boundary is a building with a stepped shape on its northern side. This the present farmhouse building.
- 5.1.18 To the north behind the agricultural buildings lies the moat. Based on the map's scale the width across from each arm is c. 85m. The western leg of the moat appears wider than that shown on the tithe map at a width of c. 6.5m, whereas the northern thinner arm is c. 4m width. The length from the northern arm to the

end of the western arms is c. 60m. In addition, there appears to be a new arm of water attached to the moat running parallel with the western arm and of the same width inside the enclosed moated area. The wider arms of water are showing as surrounded by trees. The moat water source appears to be from the direction of the road. There is no longer a pond showing on the western side of the courtyard. To the east behind the barn is an orchard (designated 219). To the south appears grassland and is designated 221. (Fig. 9).

Historic OS map 1888 1:10560

5.1.19 At the site, the map suggests that there is a new building on the western side of the courtyard and is likely to be the current cart shed. The northern, eastern and southern range of buildings appears unchanged. The moat to the north appears to have altered shape with the internal cross arms no longer visible. The fields immediately surrounding the site also no longer appear to be orchards (Fig. 10).

Historic OS map 1895-1896 1:10560

5.1.20 There does not appear to be any change (Fig. 11).

Historic OS map 1897 1:2500

5.1.21 The field to the north of the site encompassing the moat has been designated field 146 (2.270). The area between the western moat arm and the road is designated field 147 (3.913). The shape of the moat appears unchanged. The site continues to be surrounded by fields and the footpaths unchanged (Fig.12).

Historic OS map 1907 1:10,560

5.1.22 There does not appear to be any change to the buildings, the moat or footpaths at the site. However, half of the inside of the moated area is now orchard. A number of the surrounding fields on the eastern side have also become orchards. On the northern side of Gore Green Road, behind the farmstead of Little Oakleigh a Golf Course has been created along with a pavilion. The farm previously known as Lilly church is now called Lillechurch. (Fig. 13).

Historic OS map 1908 1:2,500

- 5.1.23 There does not appear to be any change to the moat or footpaths at the site. Around the courtyard the northern range has a row of three buildings and the original building set back on the northern side of the courtyard boundary is also still in place. On the opposite side of Gore Green Road and Bull Lane, the field has become allotments. The north east corner shows a new row of terraced houses on Bull Lane (Fig. 14).

Historic OS map 1930-1933 1:2,500

- 5.1.24 The moat and building appear unchanged at the site, which now appears completely surrounded by orchards. No other changes are noted other than the footpath towards Lillechurch no longer exists (Fig. 15)

Historic OS map 1960-1961 1:2,500

- 5.1.25 Whilst the courtyard area appears unchanged, with the exception of the house, which has altered in shape and suggests that an extension has been added to the northern side. There has been significant change to the moat area. This has changed shape completely particularly on the northern arm and is labelled for the first time as a "pond". The water area has spread southwards towards the courtyard with the northern water boundary retaining its original line. The eastern arm appears unchanged in shape. On the northern side of Gore Green Road, the stream linking our water feature to the drainage channels to the north, has been widened. In addition to the north of the pond, on the southern side of the road, is a new feature, which is identified as a pumping station. There is also annotated a drain running along the eastern boundary of the site. Outside the western building in the courtyard is an area labelled a 'platform'. It is unclear as to what this is.
- 5.1.26 The allotments off Bull Lane have shrunk in size and Gore Green Farm off Bull Lane, now has additional outbuildings showing. The land at the site and to the east is still orchards (Fig. 16).

Historic OS map 1974 1:10,000

- 5.1.27 There does not appear to be any change other than the building on the western side of the courtyard no longer exists. In addition, the building that jutted out to

the north on the northern boundary is no longer showing. Leaving the northern range as a single line of buildings (Fig. 17).

Historic OS map 1989-1993 1:2,500

5.1.28 The second new pond has grown in size. The original pond has also grown larger, encroaching more towards the courtyard and is now banana shaped. The eastern arm is no longer recognisable. The pond is shown connected to a drain in the eastern field. (Fig.18).

5.1.29 The map suggests the northern juttied out building is still in place and there appears to be buildings showing on the western side of the courtyard contrary to the 1974 map.

Historic OS map 2002 1:10,000

5.1.30 The water courses are clearly shown in colour for the first time. Both ponds are showing. The courtyard buildings appear unchanged. The track to the Lower Rochester Road is no longer showing but the track to Lillechurch appears to be back in existence. The drainage channels alongside Church Street now includes a reservoir. The fields within our site and to the east of the site are no longer orchards (Fig.19).

Discussion

5.1.31 The Map Regression Exercise did not provide any indication as to the purpose of the original moat. The site appears to be that of a medieval farmstead. The maps do not appear to show any connection between the PDA and Gore Green Farm, off Bull Lane. The house and barn are seen from the earliest OS map of 1863. The moat in 1864 appeared to be a different shape to that of seen in the tithe map. A more uniformed shape shows from 1888 map until the 1960s, when it became a large pond. The house was also altered in the 1960s. The land around the farmstead has been orchards, grazing and arable.

5.2 Aerial Photographs

1940

- 5.2.1 The photo is grainy but we can see the barn, the house and the northern range of buildings, including the one that juts outs. There looks like hardstanding to the north of the northern range of the courtyard. The moat is tree lines on the western arm and retains it rectangular shape (Plate 1).

1960

- 5.2.2 Significant change can be seen around the moat area. The pumping station is in place and moat is now a banana shape. The orchard within the moat area has been scrubbed but orchards remain to the south and east of the site. fields (Plate 2).

1990

- 5.2.3 The site is now grassed with the trees having been cleared except for a few bordering the pond. The hardstanding area to the north of the northern side of the courtyard has shrunk. The second pond has now been created. The surrounding fields to the east have had the orchard removed and converted to arable land. (Plate 3).

2003

- 5.2.4 The pond continues to grow in size and extends out in length on the eastern end to match the length of the second pond. They are divided by a track and the area around the ponds are scrub. Regarding the courtyard area, the jutting building on the northern range is no longer showing. (Plates 4-5).

2007-2015

- 5.2.5 There has been no change (Plate 5).

5.3 LIDAR

- 5.3.1 Light Detection and Ranging (LIDAR) is an airborne mapping technique, which uses a laser to measure the distance between the aircraft and the ground. Up to 100,000 measurements per second are made of the ground, allowing highly detailed terrain models to be generated at spatial resolutions of between 25cm and 2 metres. Data is available from the Environment Agency at 1m resolution for the Higham area and the dataset is supplied as a Digital Surface Model produced from the signal returned to the LIDAR (which includes heights of objects, such as vehicles, buildings and vegetation, as well as the terrain surface).
- 5.3.2 There are no features of note on the LIDAR. Essentially the expansion of the ponds across the site obliterates any features (Plate 6).

6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT

6.1 Introduction

- 6.1.1 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 (1km radius centred on the PDA) Time scales for archaeological periods represented in the report are listed in Table 1.

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		c. 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		

- 6.1.2 The archaeological record within the assessment area is diverse and includes activity dating from one of the earliest human periods in Britain through until modern day. The location of Gore Green within the wider landscape at Higham is one that has been the focus of trade, travel, settlement, industry and communication since prehistoric times. However, the area has had limited past

archaeological investigations so for most periods the archaeological potential is unknown.

6.2 Scheduled Monuments; Historic Parks & Garden and Conservation Areas

- 6.2.1 One of the tasks of the site visit was aimed to identify any designated heritage assets within the wider context of the PDA in accordance with The Setting of Heritage Assets – English Heritage Guidance (English Heritage 2011).
- 6.2.2 This guidance states that “setting embraces all of the surroundings (land, sea, structures, features and skyline) from which the heritage asset can be experienced or that can be experienced from or with the asset” (The Setting of Heritage Assets, English Heritage 2011).
- 6.2.3 There are 10 listed buildings within the assessment area (Table 2). No scheduled monuments; historic parks & gardens are recorded within the confines of the PDA.
- 6.2.4 There is a conservation area centred at the settlement of Lower Higham circa 240m away to the south west.

Table 1 Designated Heritage Assets

TQ77SW1014	Medieval to Post Medieval	Gore Green Farm Barn – Grade II listed building. Perhaps C16. Aisled oak structure in 5 bays. Weatherboarded with asbestos cement roofing. Queen posts. Passing braces in aisles. Central midstreys somewhat altered.
TQ77SW1021	Medieval to Post Medieval	Gore Green Farmhouse (off Bull Lane) – Grade II listed building. C16 timber-framed cottage. Roughcast and weatherboarded externally.
TQ77SW1016	Post Medieval to Modern	Dairy Farm House – Grade II listed building. Late 17 th century and extended in the late 19 th century.
TQ77SW1011	Medieval to Post Medieval	White House Farm Barn - Grade II listed building. 16 th /17 th century, probably contemporary with the farmhouse.
TQ77SW1039	Medieval to Post Medieval	White House Farm – Grade II listed building. 16 th /17 th
TQ77SW1005	Post Medieval to Modern	Barn at Higham Hall – Grade II listed building. Late 16 th century.
TQ77SW1008	Medieval to Modern	Higham Hall – Grade II listed building. 18 th century front with 16 th /17 th structure inside.
TQ77SW1006	Medieval to Post Medieval	Garden Walls to Higham Hall. 16 th century brick in English Bond.

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

- 6.3.1 The Palaeolithic represents the earliest phases of human activity in the British Isles, up to the end of the last Ice Age. The Mesolithic period reflects a society of hunter-gatherers active after the last Ice Age. The Neolithic period represents the first farmers and the Bronze Age, a period of large migrations from the continent and more complex social developments on a domestic, industrial and ceremonial level are represented in the assessment area.
- 6.3.2 As a result of the new Grain/Shorne pipeline, Archaeology Southeast undertook a number of excavations in 2008 across its length. The pipeline ran east to west across the field to the north of Gore Green Road. A prehistoric pit with fired clay fragments, fire cracked flint and charcoal were found c. 700m north west of the PDA were found (TQ77SW102).
- 6.3.3 Four Palaeolithic handaxes and three pieces of debitage were found. Exact location and find date uncertain but come from Odgers street, Higham c. 1km from the PDA (TQ77SW173).

6.4 Iron Age

- 6.4.1 The Iron Age is, by definition a period of established rural farming communities with extensive field systems and large 'urban' centres.
- 6.4.2 As a result of the new Grain/Shorne pipeline, a Late Iron Age field boundary ditch was found c. 700m north east of the site. (TQ77SW105).

6.5 Romano-British

- 6.5.1 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.
- 6.5.2 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. The assessment area includes one record from this period.

- 6.5.3 The iron age ditch found above had a Roman quarry pit cut into it. To the east of the quarry pit were two sub-circular pits. These were dated from the significant amount of Roman pottery assemblages and these are indicative of pottery manufacture in the vicinity. There are known pottery kilns at Oakleigh farm approximately 700m east of the quarry but it is unclear whether the quarry supplied these kilns or that there may be others, closer by. Other associated finds included a rotary quern and tile (TQ77SW105).

6.6 Anglo-Saxon

- 6.6.1 The Anglo-Saxon period is not represented in the assessment area.

6.7 Medieval

- 6.7.1 At Lillechurch, there are the remains of a chapel and human remains have allegedly been found (TQ77SW18). The pipeline excavations also found an early medieval enclosure ditches from the 12th Century and it is suggestive that these have survived until the 18-19th centuries (TQ77SW113).

6.8 Post-Medieval

- 6.8.1 This period is represented by the many farmsteads in the area, which are covered separately below.

6.9 Modern

- 6.9.1 This period is represented by second world war defensive pillbox at the junction of Lillechurch with Gore Green Road (TQ77SW1051).

6.10 Undated

- 6.10.1 There is an occupation site to the north of Lillechurch, suggesting a settlement of unknown date due to a 1m layer on the east bank of the Higham/Cliffe boundary stream. (TQ77SW38).

6.11 Farmsteads

6.11.1 There are a number of Farmsteads within the assessment area and these are listed in Table 3. The number that are within the assessment area show the significance of the agricultural landscape around the PDA, a number which appear to be from the early Post Medieval period.

Table 3: Farmsteads

MKE83442	Post Medieval (c. 1540 AD)	Gore Green Farm (off Gore Green Road) – Loose Courtyard comprising of agricultural buildings and farmhouse with no apparent alteration
MKE83229	Post Medieval (c. 1540 AD)	Gore Green Farm (off Bull Lane) – Loose Courtyard Only the farmhouse remains.
MKE83259	Post Medieval (c. 1800 AD)	Lillechurch – Loose Courtyard with agricultural building on four sides and the farmhouse in a detached central position. Partial loss of original form with modern sheds that may have destroyed original buildings.
MKE83260	Post Medieval (c. 1800 AD)	Outfarm south west of Little Oakleigh. Outfarm with loose courtyard plan with building to one side of the yard. Farmstead completely demolished.
MKE83230	Post Medieval (c. 1600 AD)	Dairy Farm. A full regular courtyard plan farmstead. Farmhouse in detached central position. Altered with partial loss of original form.
MKE83231	Post Medieval (c. 1800 AD)	Cuckold’s Corner – A loose courtyard plan with buildings to one side of the yard. Farmstead completely demolished.
MKE83232	Post Medieval (c. 1540 AD)	Higham Hall. A Loose Courtyard with working agricultural buildings on four sides. Farmhouse detached in central position. Farmstead has no apparent alteration.
MKE88514	Post Medieval (c. 1800 AD)	Outfarm west of Higham Hall. A field barn with no associated yard. Farmstead completely demolished.
MKE83234	Post Medieval (c. 1540 AD)	White House Farm. A regular multi-yard courtyard. Farmhouse in detached central position. Altered with partial loss of original form.
MKE88515	Post Medieval (c. 1800 AD)	Outfarm north west of Twogates House. An outfarm consisting of two detached buildings. Farmstead completely demolished.

6.11.2 The Kent Farmsteads and Landscapes project was published in 2012. The report comments that the survival of early buildings is lower in this parish than other areas of Kent. Only 8 farmsteads in the Higham area retain a pre-1700 farmhouse and three have a pre-1600 working building (of which two have a pre-1700 farmhouse) making a total of nine farmsteads with early dated buildings.

- 6.11.3 Loose courtyard plans have detached buildings facing the yard and are the dominant farmstead type plan in south East England. In the case of our PDA, originally there were agricultural buildings on two sides, then later followed by three sides, with the house on the fourth. This type is associated with medium scale farms. The report also confirmed that there had been no change to the PDA as a farmstead.
- 6.11.4 Holdings in the area were generally of 20-50 acres with only 3 farms known to have significant holdings of over 300 acres, all three circa 1km from the PDA, Oakleigh to the north east, Lillechurch to the east and Whitehouse Farm, to the south.

6.12 Buildings

- 6.12.1 There are a number of standing buildings located at the site and these are covered in more detail below.

Black Cottages

- 6.12.2 This building is detached and situated on the southern end of the hard-surfaced courtyard and is 60m from Gore Green Road. The frontage faces the road and is currently obscured by mature trees, with the gable end facing the courtyard (Plates 7-9). Originally a single building, it has since been divided into two units although it is unclear when this happened. The building has a tiled roof and black painted brick exterior of English bond with some weatherboarding to the gables. It has a front canopy which is of poor construction and there are a variety of windows including modern upvc replacements. Plate 9 shows an extension on the northern side of the building and from the map analysis suggests that this was added in the 1960s and from the photo appears to be a bathroom. The Kent Farmstead report identifies the PDA as having a pre-1600 House. At present until a full survey is undertaken of the external and internal features of the house it is not possible to accurately date it.

Barn

- 6.12.3 The barn on the eastern side of the courtyard is a Grade II Listed Queen Post Truss barn in a poor and precarious condition surrounded by vegetation limiting the observations that can be made. Whilst it faces to courtyard entrance it is only

partially seen from the road given the trees surrounding the front of the house area and alongside the access road. Many of the main beams and wall plates are propped with some timbers supported by ropes. The roof is not watertight with many tiles broken and some rafters also damaged. The area around the entrance has been significantly destroyed. It has a hipped roof on the southern end and a half-hipped roof at the northern end with curved braces. There is also a lean-to added to the northern end. The barn is weatherboarded with a cement sheeted roof. Facing the courtyard in the centre is a cart entrance. Given the current condition, it is not clear whether the entrance would have originally had a canopy or not or whether there was an opposing door. The barn was listed on 26 July 1983 and the listing is brief and the description states:

“Perhaps C16. Aisled oak structure in 5 bays. Weatherboarded with asbestos cement roofing. Queen posts. Passing braces in aisles. Central midstreys somewhat altered.”

6.12.4 Threshing barns were typically 5 bays long and originally if 16th/17th century likely to have been thatched. The design of timber framing from the 16/17th century did not alter significantly for around 200 years. Queen Post type construction is common with Queen Strut trusses more widely used in the 18th century and King Post trusses in the 19th century.

6.12.5 Barns are usually the oldest and largest buildings on the farmstead. An Historic England report comments that those of early 16th century are rare and especially those that also survive in the context of farmsteads. The report comments that the survival of early buildings is markedly lower in the Higham and Cliffe area than in other landscape areas across Kent. Extent sites of which applies to the PDA, accounts for only 5% (12 sites) of farmsteads in the area but 10% (678 sites) across Kent as a whole.

Other Buildings

6.12.6 On the northern side is a stable building partly with a brick wall on one side and timber frame structure with partly collapsed pitched roofs, part felt and part slate. The map regression suggested that there was an earlier building set back to the north, out of line of the other buildings on the northern range. This building has been destroyed.

6.12.7 On the western side is an open barn with tin roof with a three-bay timber frame, with a lean-to on the south side. The building is open to the east with the walls weatherboarded and a corrugated iron roof sloping towards the front. The floor is concreted. This building is first noted on the 1888 map and is now in poor condition. During the 18th and 19th centuries, special buildings were being constructed for carts, wagons and large implements. Typically of rectangular plan, timber framed, with an open front and with hipped roofs of tiles. These cart sheds were not provided with doors, leaving spaces between the timber posts allowing for easy passage of vehicles, though sometimes one bay was divided off and provided with a door to store small implements.

6.12.8 The courtyard itself is currently covered in concrete, which appears to have occurred sometime after 1940 based on the Google Earth historic imagery. The courtyard in front of the barn area has been truncated by at least a metre.

Discussion

6.12.9 The PDA is a traditional farmstead and its survival in its setting is significant especially since it is considered unaltered with the barn, farmhouse and cart shed and stables set around the yard. The barn and farmhouse are the most significant given the predominately unaltered nature of the barn and the interrelationship in its setting with the farmhouse. The overall survival of farmstead groups are below average for this area making the PDA's above average survival of special significance especially given the listed nature of the barn. The stables due to their poor condition and cart house due to its later addition to the farmstead are least significant. The farmstead has retained the landscape setting within which it has developed with many trackways remaining.

6.13 Summary of Potential

Palaeolithic

6.13.1 The Kent HER has one record from this period within the assessment area being the handaxes and debitage from Odgers Street (TQ77SW173). Therefore, the potential for finding remains that date to this period within the confines of the development site is considered **low**.

Mesolithic

6.13.2 The Kent HER has no records from this period within the assessment area, therefore, the potential for finding remains that date to this period within the confines of the development site is considered **low**.

Neolithic

6.13.3 The Kent HER has no records from this period within the assessment area, therefore, the potential for finding remains that date to this period within the confines of the development site is considered **low**.

Bronze Age

6.13.4 The Kent HER has no records from this period within the assessment area, therefore, the potential for finding remains that date to this period within the confines of the development site is considered **low**.

Iron Age

6.13.5 The Kent HER has one dated record dating to this period. A Late Iron Age field boundary ditch was found c. 700m north east of the site. (TQ77SW105).

6.13.6 In addition, a prehistoric pit with fired clay fragments, flints and charcoal (TQ77SW102). No accompanying features means this pit could potentially date from Neolithic period to the late Iron Age. Therefore, the potential for finding remains that date to this period within the confines of the development site is considered **low**.

Romano-British

6.13.7 The Kent HER has one record from this period within the assessment area. A Roman quarry and to the east of the quarry pit were two sub-circular pits. These were dated from the significant amount of Roman pottery assemblages and these are indicative of pottery manufacture in the vicinity. There are known pottery kilns at Oakleigh farm approximately 700m east of the quarry but it is unclear whether the quarry supplied these kilns or that there may be others, closer by. Other associated finds included a rotary quern and tile. Therefore, the potential

for finding remains that date to this period within the confines of the development site is considered **moderate**

Anglo-Saxon

6.13.8 There are no Kent HER records from this period within the assessment area; therefore, the potential for finding remains that date to this period within the confines of the development site is considered **low**.

Medieval

6.13.9 There are two Kent HER records from this period within the assessment area. At Lillechurch, there are the remains of a chapel and human remains have allegedly been found (TQ77SW18). Early medieval enclosure ditches from the 12th Century and it is suggestive that these have survived until the 18-19th centuries (TQ77SW113). Therefore, the potential for finding remains that date to this period within the confines of the development site is considered **moderate**.

Post Medieval

6.13.10 There are no records held at the Kent HER from this period within the assessment area other than farmsteads, which are discussed separately below. Therefore, the potential for finding remains that date to this period within the confines of the development site is considered **low**.

Modern

6.13.11 There is one record in the Kent HER within the assessment area from this period. A second world war defensive pillbox at the junction of Lillechurch with Gore Green Road (TQ77SW1051). Therefore, the potential for finding remains dating to this period is considered **low**.

Farmsteads

6.13.12 There are seven farmsteads and three outfarms recorded within the assessment area, all dating to the post-medieval period. The majority are loose courtyard plan types. Four of the farmsteads/outfarms have been completely demolished, three with partial loss, one where the farmhouse only survives and two (including the

PDA) not altered. Therefore, the potential for finding remains dating to this period is considered **high**.

Undated Records

6.13.13 There is one undated record within the assessment area; There is an occupation site to the north of Lillechurch, suggesting a settlement of unknown date due to a 1m layer on the east bank of the Higham/Cliffe boundary stream. (TQ77SW38)

6.14 Discussion

Overview

6.14.1 This desk-based assessment has considered the archaeological potential of the site but this potential can only be tested by fieldwork. Iron Age coins have been found north of the PDA and a possible Bronze Age barrow. Therefore, the site has a moderate potential for the Bronze and Iron Age and low potential for the other periods.

6.14.2 The assessment has considered the archaeological potential of the site. Archaeological investigations in the vicinity, map research, the historical environment record results and recent archaeological investigations have shown that the PDA may contain archaeological sites and these can be summarised as:

- Prehistoric: **low**

- Iron Age: **low**

- Roman: **moderate**

- Anglo-Saxon: **low**

- Medieval: **moderate**

- Post-Medieval: **high**

- Modern: **low**

7 SIGNIFICANCE AND IMPACT ASSESSMENT

7.1 Introduction

7.1.1 Cartographic Regression, Topographical Analysis, and Historic Research have provided evidence for the historic use of the site. By collating this information, we have assessed the impact on previous archaeological remains through the following method of categorisation:

- **Total Impact** - Where the area has undergone a destructive process to a depth that would in all probability have destroyed any archaeological remains e.g. construction, mining, quarrying, archaeological evaluations etc.
- **High Impact** – Where the ground level has been reduced to below natural geographical levels that would leave archaeological remains partly in situ either in plan or section e.g. the construction of roads, railways, buildings, strip foundations etc.
- **Medium Impact** – Where there has been low level or random disturbance of the ground that would result in the survival of archaeological remains in areas undisturbed e.g. the installation of services, pad-stone or piled foundations, temporary structures etc.
- **Low Impact** – Where the ground has been penetrated to a very low level e.g. farming, landscaping, slab foundation etc.

7.2 Historic Impacts

7.2.1 Cartographic regression (5.1), Topographic analysis and Historical research indicate that the PDA has been a farmstead possibly from at least the post medieval period. Although the earliest map of 1769 does not show sufficient detail as to the exact buildings on site, although the broad location can be identified. The courtyard area shows sign of truncation and therefore the impact to archaeological remains from disturbance are considered **medium**.

7.2.2 Agriculture became gradually more intense over time and by the modern era it was mechanised. Although the farming process rarely penetrates below the upper layers of the ground, plough truncation can have a significant impact on preserved shallow deposits. The PDA has been subject to the agricultural process, being

orchard and arable fields. Therefore, the damage to archaeological remains from the agricultural process is considered to be **medium**.

- 7.2.3 The moat has been significantly altered in size and shape since the 1960s with a large area north of the courtyard now underwater. The 1769 map does not provide sufficient detail to identify whether the moat was in existence or not at that moment in time. The damage to archaeological remains from changes to the drainage system is considered to be **high**.

7.3 Summary of Impacts

- 7.3.1 Evidence suggests that the site has historically been a farmstead since post medieval times. With drainage having a significant impact on the area to the north of the courtyard and the changes of levels within the courtyard, the site has probably sustained **medium/high** impact to the area.
- 7.3.2 The level of natural geology of the site is unconfirmed.

8 DISCUSSION

- 8.1.1 A historic landscape walkover survey and photographic recording exercise took place on the 6th December 2017 at the site of the PDA. The Grade II listed barn is in extremely poor condition structurally and covered by vegetation making any detailed recording difficult in its current state.

Moated sites

- 8.1.2 Around 6,000 moated sites are known in England. They consist of wide ditches, often or seasonally water-filled, partly or completely enclosing one or more islands of dry ground on which stood domestic or religious buildings. In some cases, the islands were used for horticulture. In its simplest and most typical form, the moated site consists of a square or rectangular platform, 2-5000 square metres in area, surrounded by a single water-filled moat 5 metres or more in overall width. Many variations on this basic theme occur platforms may be triangular, circular or irregular in plan, may vary from a few 100 square metres to several hectares in area. Ancillary buildings are normally agricultural. The majority of moated sites served as prestigious aristocratic and seigneurial

residences with the provision of a moat intended as a status symbol rather than a practical military defence. The peak period during which moated sites were built was between about 1250 and 1350 and by far the greatest concentration lies in central and eastern parts of England. However, moated sites were built throughout the medieval period, are widely scattered throughout England and exhibit a high level of diversity in their forms and sizes.

- 8.1.3 An indicator of medieval farmsteads are moated sites, which are particularly frequent in the Low Weald-around south Ashford, south Maidstone and through to Tunbridge Wells. The enclosing of manorial complexes within moats does not appear to be the norm on the Hoo Peninsular. However, a farm in St Mary Hoo, with a linear pond may be the remains of a moat and New Hall Farm may have also been a moated site supported by historic map evidence but also may be due to the spring marked at the site. It is unclear whether the moats of medieval farm complexes serve a farming function, or a simple drainage function, or are they very much defensive/status symbols reflecting which farmsteads were freehold and higher status.
- 8.1.4 In the case of the PDA, we know that it was not a particularly high-status size farmstead and others nearby were of larger status. Given its location on the edge of the marsh area and by a spring it is likely that the moat was for drainage reasons. The platform inside of the 'U' shaped moated area remained in place until the growth of the pond obliterated it in the 1960's. Even in the 19th century, the moated area appeared to alter shape in that time with additional arms as seen on the tithe map and the 1864 map. The map regression does not suggest that the platform was ever occupied by a building. However, part of the platform still remains and if it was ever occupied by a building could be determined by excavation.
- 8.1.5 The farmhouse and barn are significant for their historical and aesthetic qualities, especially for the barn in the context of its listed status and farmstead loose courtyard plan survivability. It is not possible given the limited survey to identify a definitive date for the barn or whether there are any important surviving features. In addition, the farmhouse can only be accurately dated via a full survey especially internally. This will then allow the significance and relationship between the two buildings to be dated and understood. A full survey assessing

the fabric and condition of the barn should only be undertaken once the barn's condition has been stabilised and cleared to allow full access. The cart shed is less significant given it is a later addition to the farmstead as seen via the map regression. It appears that the stables on the northern side have significant altered or already been destroyed and therefore are of little significance.

9 ARCHAEOLOGICAL MITIGATION

9.1 Introduction

- 9.1.1 The purpose of this Historic Landscape assessment was to provide an assessment of the historic and archaeological record to determine the potential survival of archaeological features that may be impacted upon during any proposed construction works.
- 9.1.2 The assessment has generally shown that the area to be developed is within an area of low archaeological potential with, moderate potential for the Roman period and high potential from post medieval period.
- 9.1.3 The presence, location and significance of buried archaeological remains cannot be confirmed on the basis of the available information. The site is considered historically significant as a farmstead and KCCHC may suggest additional archaeological mitigation as part of the planning process. If additional archaeological works are to be carried out as a condition to planning approval. The scale, scope and nature of archaeological works will need to be agreed through consultation with the statutory authorities.

10 OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

10.1 Archive

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

10.2 Reliability/Limitations of Sources

- 10.2.1 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.

10.3 Copyright

10.3.1 Swale & Thames Survey Company 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 Redrow Homes Ltd (and representatives) for the use of this document in all matters directly relating to the project.

Paul Wilkinson PhD MCIFA.

SWAT Archaeology

January 2018

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12 APPENDIX 1 – KCC HER DATA

KHER	Type	Location	Period	Description
TQ77SW1014	Building	At PDA	Medieval to Post Medieval	Gore Green Farm Barn – Grade II listed building. Perhaps C16. Aisled oak structure in 5 bays. Weatherboarded with asbestos cement roofing. Queen posts. Passing braces in aisles. Central midstreys somewhat altered.
TQ77SW1021	Building	c. 200m W	Medieval to Post Medieval	Gore Green Farmhouse (off Bull Lane) – Grade II listed building. C16 timber-framed cottage. Roughcast and weatherboarded externally.
TQ77SW1016	Building	c. 470m SW	Post Medieval to Modern	Dairy Farm House – Grade II listed building. Late 17 th century and extended in the late 19 th century.
TQ77SW1011	Building	c. 1km S	Medieval to Post Medieval	White House Farm Barn - Grade II listed building. 16 th /17 th century, probably contemporary with the farmhouse.
TQ77SW1039	Building	c. 1km S	Medieval to Post Medieval	White House Farm – Grade II listed building. 16 th /17 th
TQ77SW1005	Building	c. 1km SW	Post Medieval to Modern	Barn at Higham Hall – Grade II listed building. Late 16 th century.
TQ77SW1008	Building	c. 1km SW	Medieval to Modern	Higham Hall – Grade II listed building. 18 th century front with 16 th /17 th structure inside.
TQ77SW1006	Monument	c. 1km SW	Medieval to Post Medieval	Garden Walls to Higham Hall. 16 th century brick in English Bond.
TQ77SW74	Monument	c. 720m SW	Post Medieval	Higham station Lime Kiln
TQ77SW88	Building	c. 660m SW	Post Medieval to Modern	Railway Station

TQ77SW1052	Building	c. 860m SW	Modern	Home Farm WWII Home Guard Battle Headquarters. It is presumed that the present Home Farm on the eastern side of School Lane was the building utilised. This probably began in 1940 and would have been decommissioned by 1944.
TQ77SW1045	Monument	c. 550m SW	Modern	The Chequers, WWII emergency mortuary in stables of the public house. Stables demolished in 1970.
TQ77SW185	Building	c. 500m SW	Modern	George V Pillar Box
TQ77SW102	Monument	c. 655m NW	Late Prehistoric (4000BC – 42AD)	Prehistoric pit with clay fragments, fire cracked flint and charcoal founding during watching brief for the route of a pipeline in 2009
TQ77SW105	Monument	c. 560m NE	Ditch – Late Iron Age PIT & Quarry - Roman	From the route of the 2009 pipeline. Iron age boundary ditch, silted up and cut by a quarry pit (32m x 9m), contained over 300 sherds of pottery and a rotary quern.
TQ77SW113	Monument	c. 560m NE	Medieval	Enclosure ditch probably relating to the 12 th century, dated by pottery.
TQ77SW1051	Monument	c. 630m NE	Modern	Pillbox from WWII Type 24 built in 1940, demolished c. 1960.
TQ77SW38	Monument	c. 910m E	Undated	Occupation site. On the east bank of the Higham-Cliffe boundary stream a dark layer about 1m thick was briefly exposed; it runs eastward, capped by sandy deposits, and there are signs of occupational soil between the stream and the summit of Buckland Road.
TQ77SW173	Findspot	c. 1km	Lower Palaeolithic to Middle Palaeolithic	4 Palaeolithic handaxes and 3 pieces of debitage from "Odgers Street, Higham"
TQ77SW1043	Monument	c. 1km	Modern	Second World War barrage balloon site in a field east of Church Street, Higham. No traces remaining. Nominal dates for establishment and removal are 1940 and 1945.
MKE83442	Farmstead	At PDA	Post Medieval (c. 1540 AD)	Gore Green Farm (off Gore Green Road) – Loose Courtyard comprising of agricultural buildings and farmhouse with no apparent alteration

MKE83229	Farmstead	c. 200m W	Post Medieval (c. 1540 AD)	Gore Green Farm (off Bull Lane) – Loose Courtyard Only the farmhouse remains.
MKE83259	Farmstead	c. 900m E	Post Medieval (c. 1800 AD)	Lillechurch – Loose Courtyard with agricultural building on four sides and the farmhouse in a detached central position. Partial loss of original form with modern sheds that may have destroyed original buildings.
MKE83260	Farmstead	c. 630m NE	Post Medieval (c. 1800 AD)	Outfarm south west of Little Oakleigh. Outfarm with loose courtyard plan with building to one side of the yard. Farmstead completely demolished.
MKE83230	Farmstead	c. 470m SW	Post Medieval (c. 1600 AD)	Dairy Farm. A full regular courtyard plan farmstead. Farmhouse in detached central position. Altered with partial loss of original form.
MKE83231	Farmstead	c. 850m W	Post Medieval (c. 1800 AD)	Cuckold's Corner – A loose courtyard plan with buildings to one side of the yard. Farmstead completely demolished.
MKE83232	Farmstead	c. 1km SW	Post Medieval (c. 1540 AD)	Higham Hall. A Loose Courtyard with working agricultural buildings on four sides. Farmhouse detached in central position. Farmstead has no apparent alteration.
MKE83234	Farmstead	c. 1km S	Post Medieval (c. 1540 AD)	White House Farm. A regular multi-yard courtyard. Farmhouse in detached central position. Altered with partial loss of original form.
MKE88515	Farmstead	c. 925m SE	Post Medieval (c. 1800 AD)	Outfarm north west of Twogates House. An outfarm consisting of two detached buildings. Farmstead completely demolished.

Figure 28: KHER Monument Record

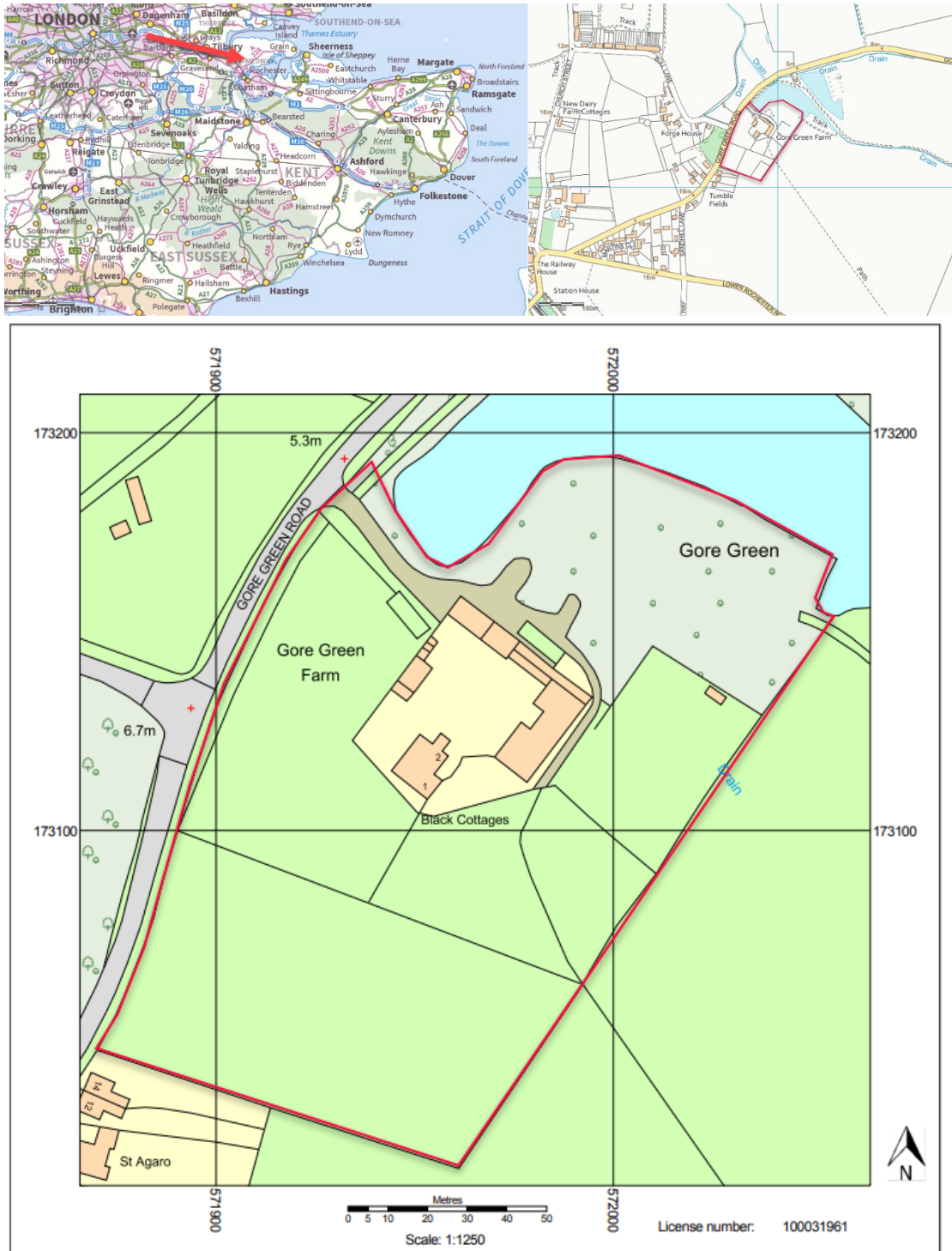


Fig 1: Location Map

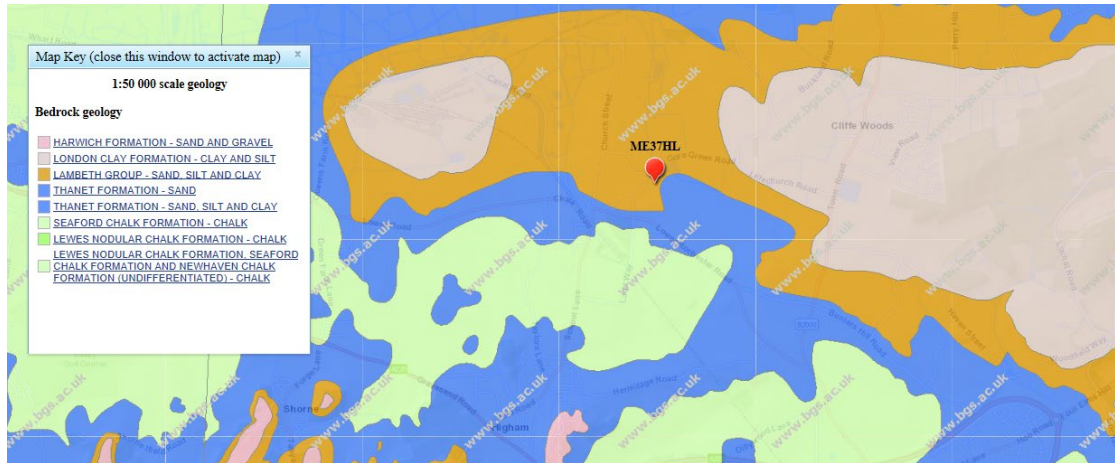


Figure 2: British Geological Survey map.



Figure 3: Environment Agency flood risk map.



Figure 4: Andrews, Dury and Herbert map 1769



Figure 5: Hasted Map 1800.

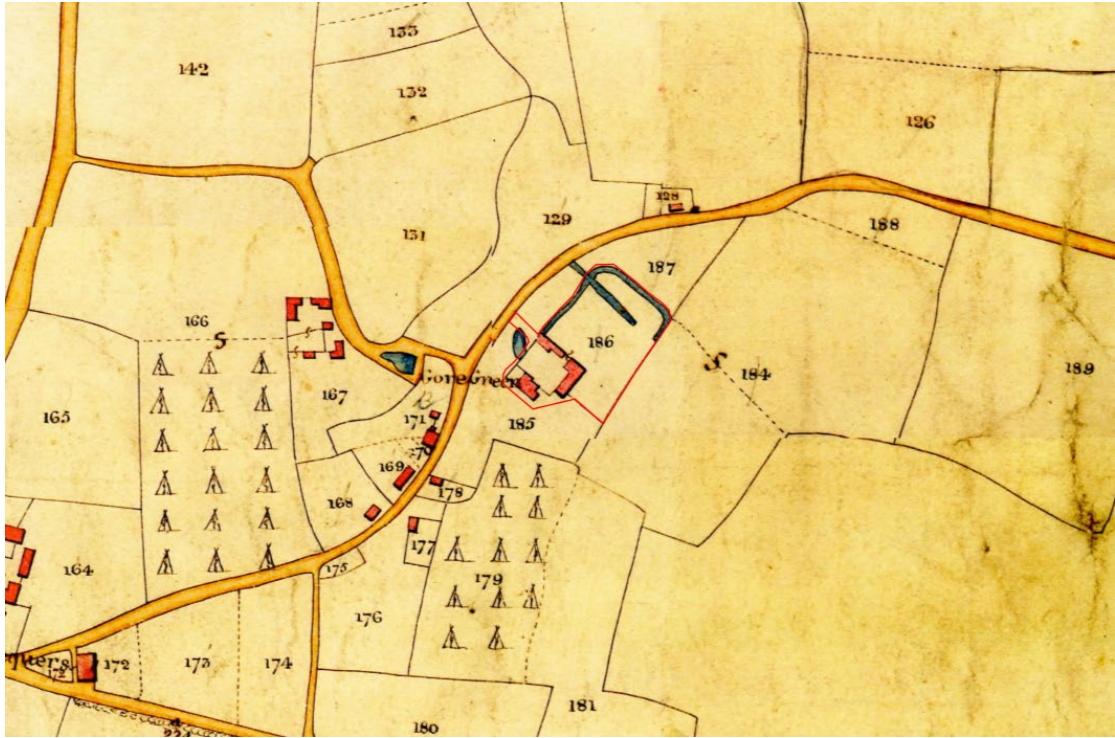


Figure 6: Tithe Map (close up).

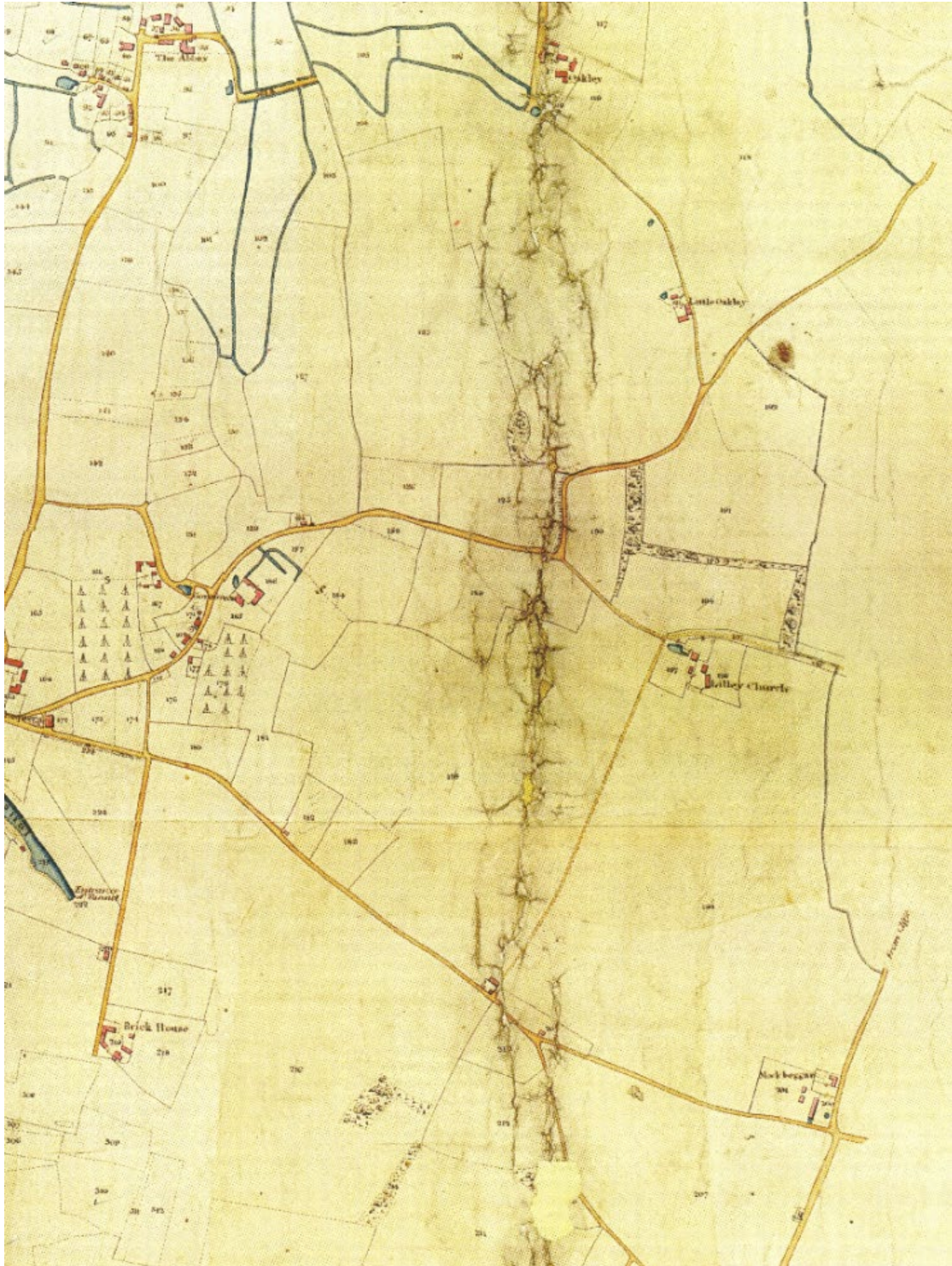


Figure 7: Tithe map 1830-1840 (wider area).

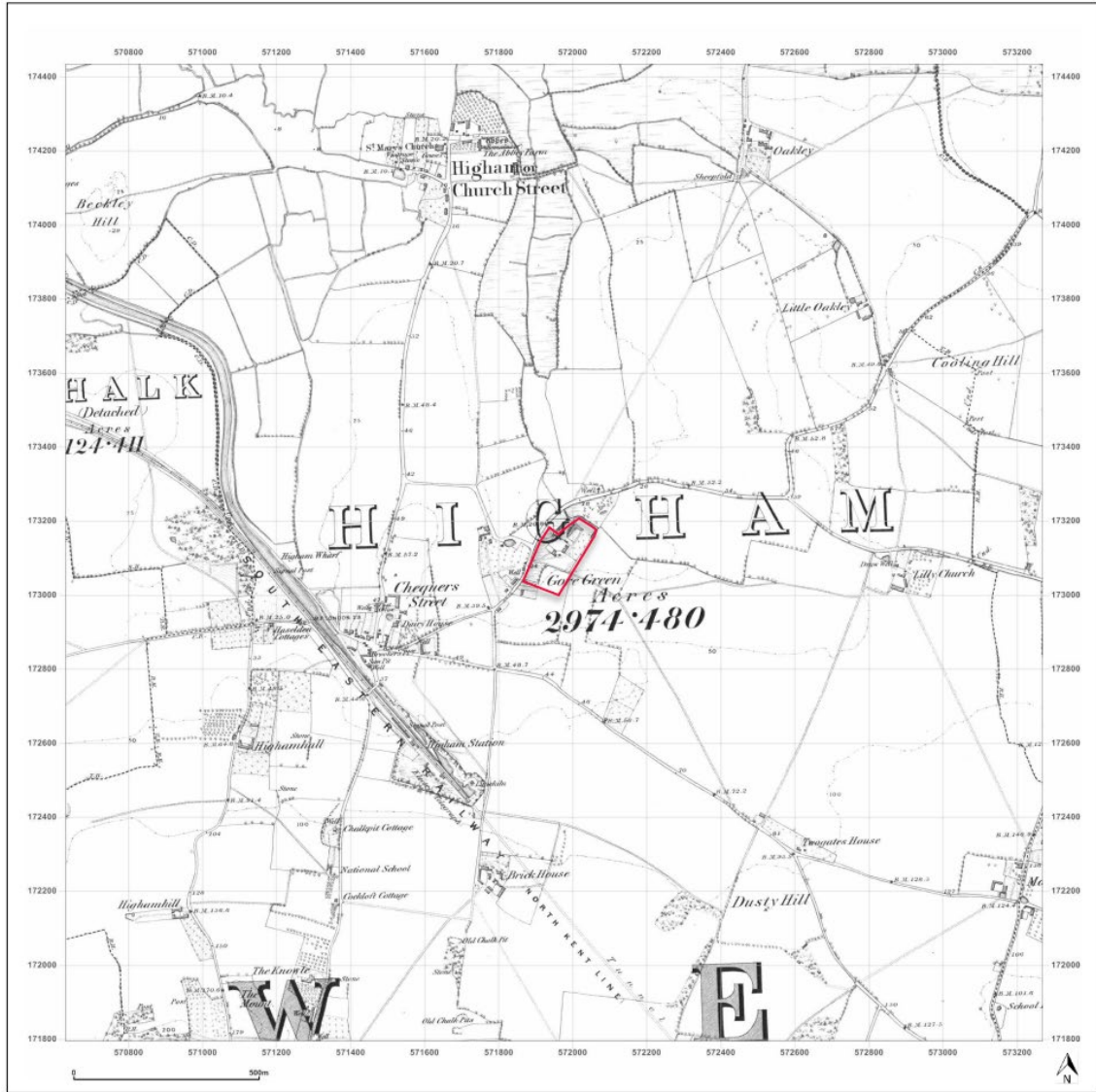


Fig.8 Historic mapping OS 1:10,560 1862

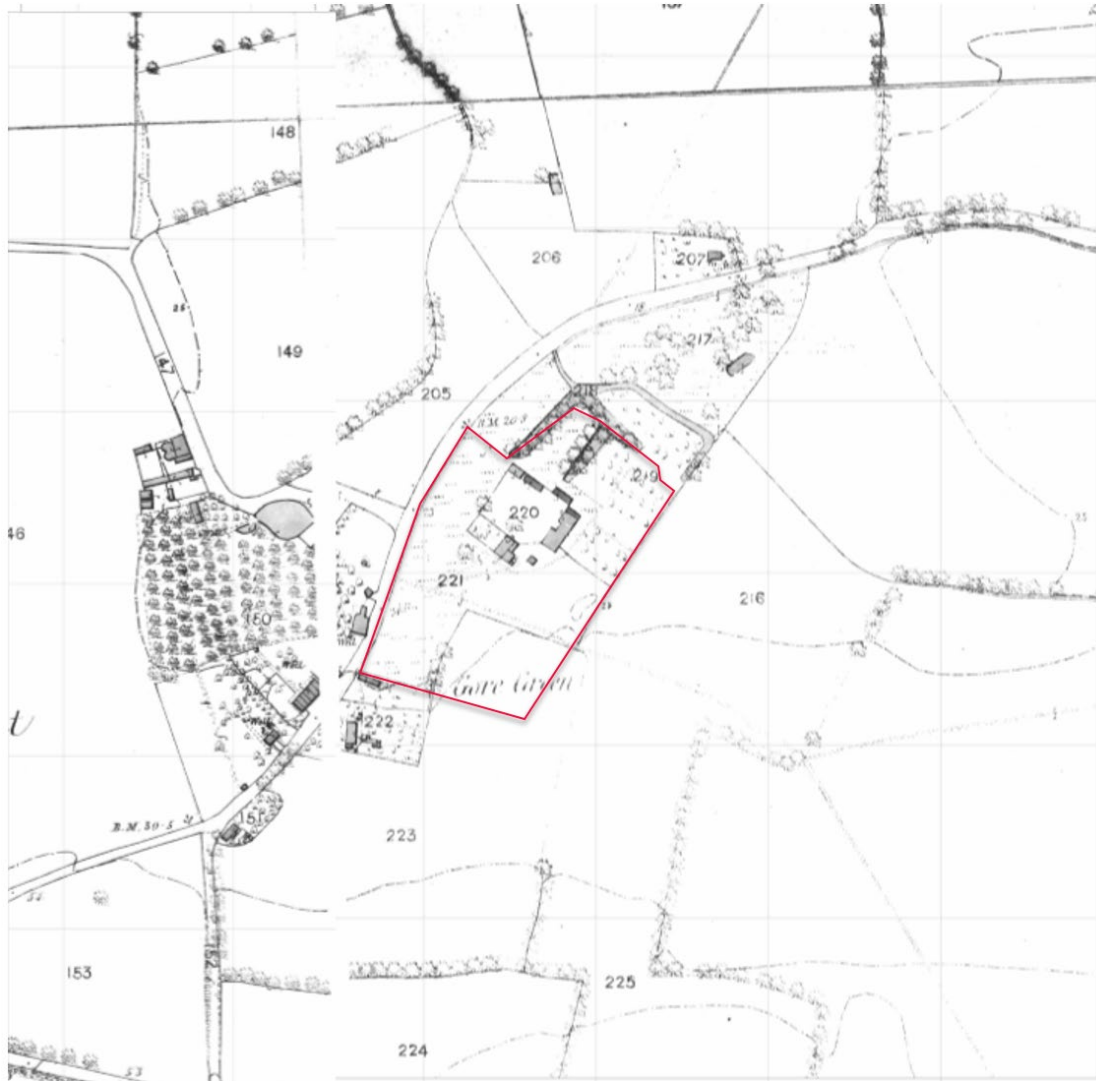


Fig.9 Historic mapping OS 1:2,500 1864

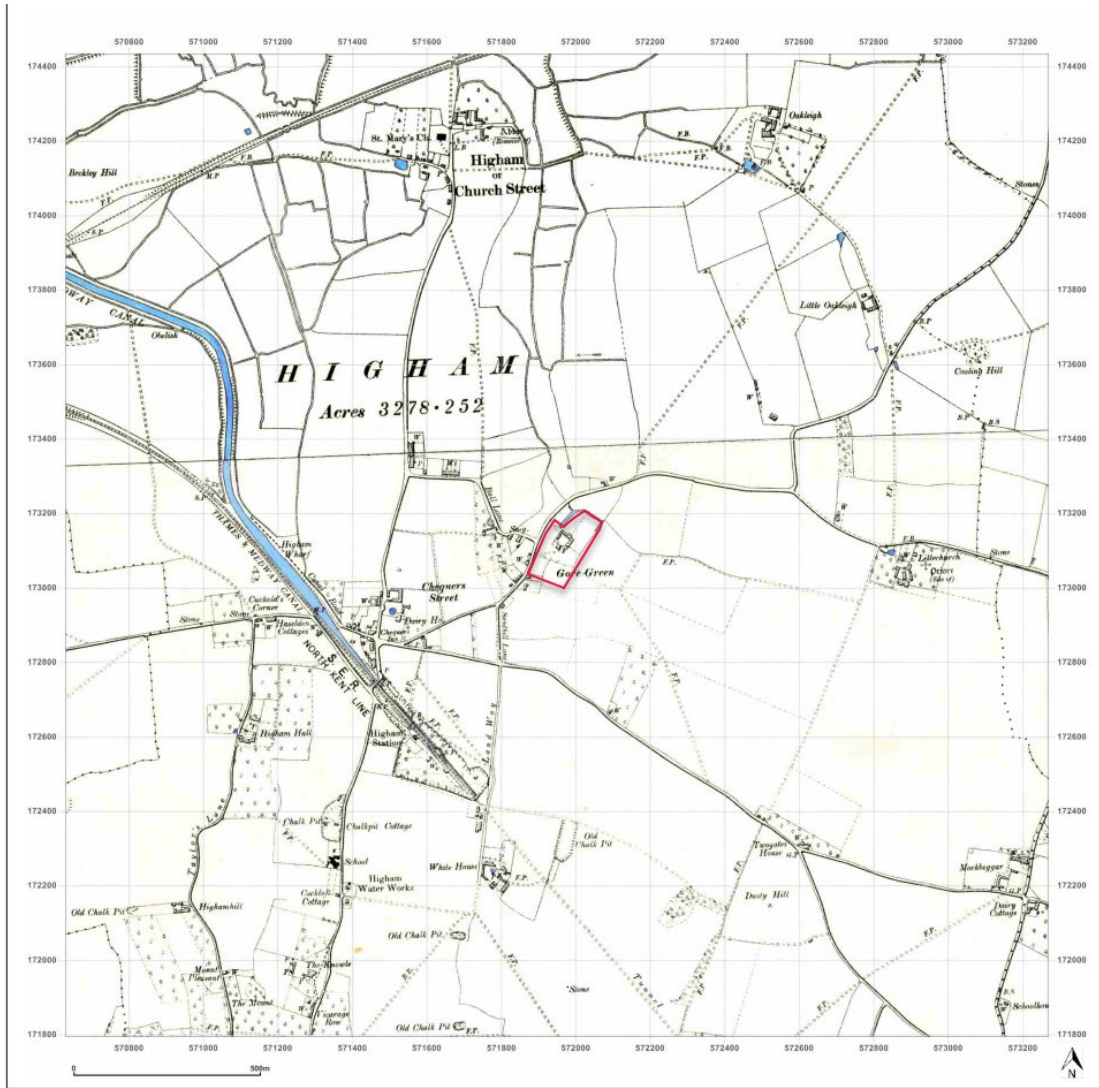


Fig.10 Historic mapping OS 1:10,560 1888

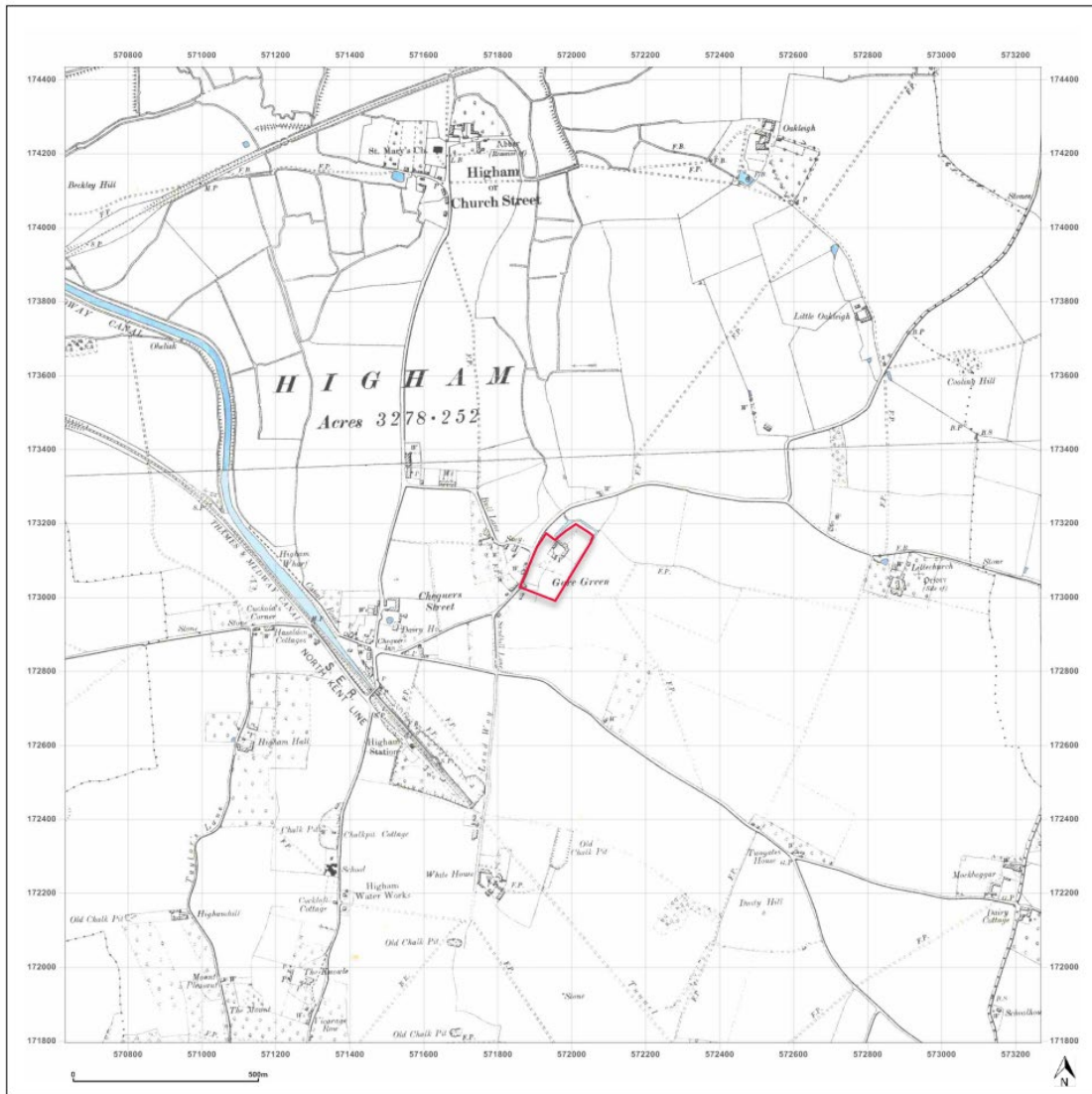


Fig.11 Historic mapping OS 1:10,560 1895-1896

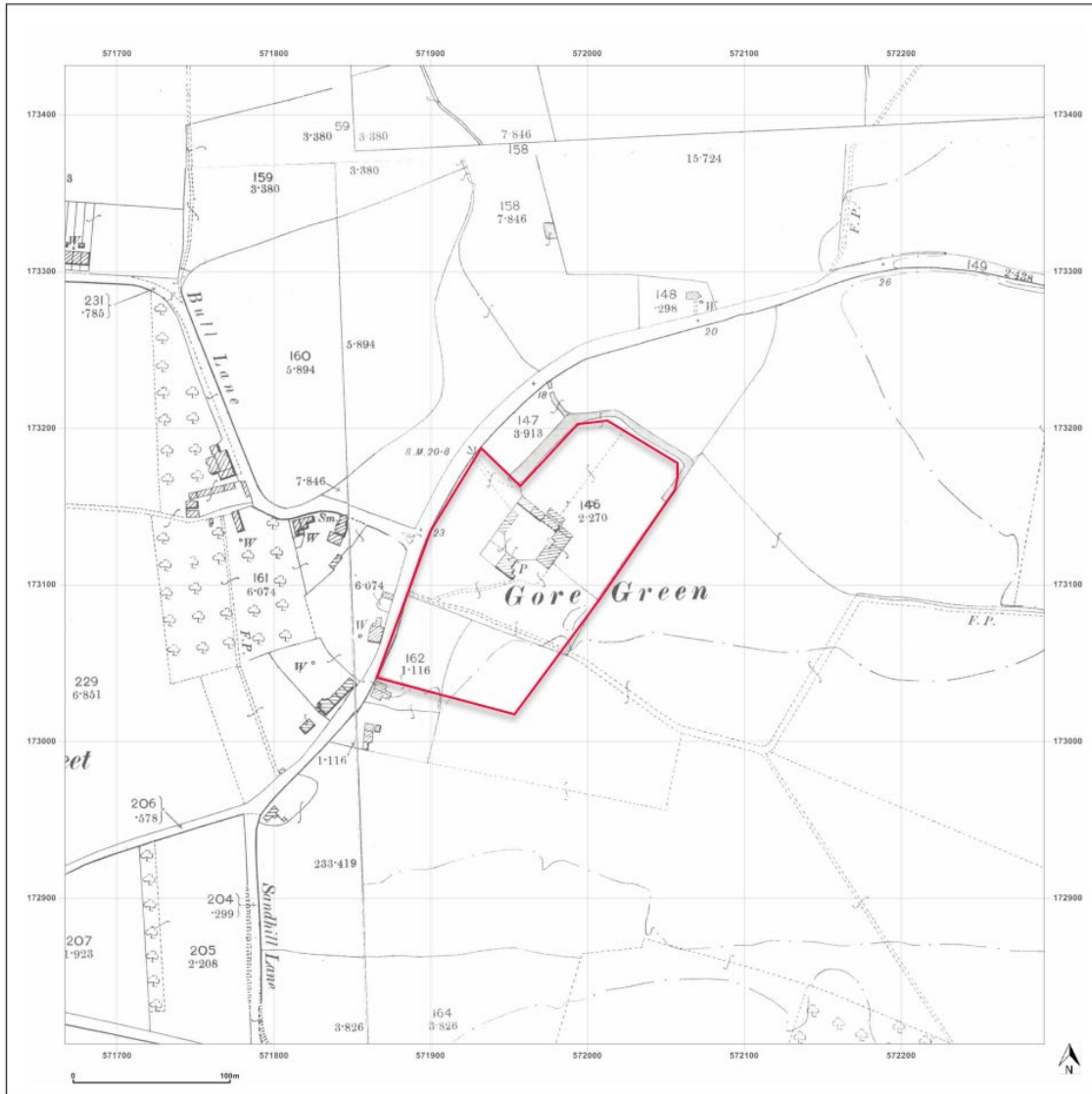


Fig.12 Historic mapping OS 1:2,500 1897



Fig.13 Historic mapping OS 1:10,560 1907

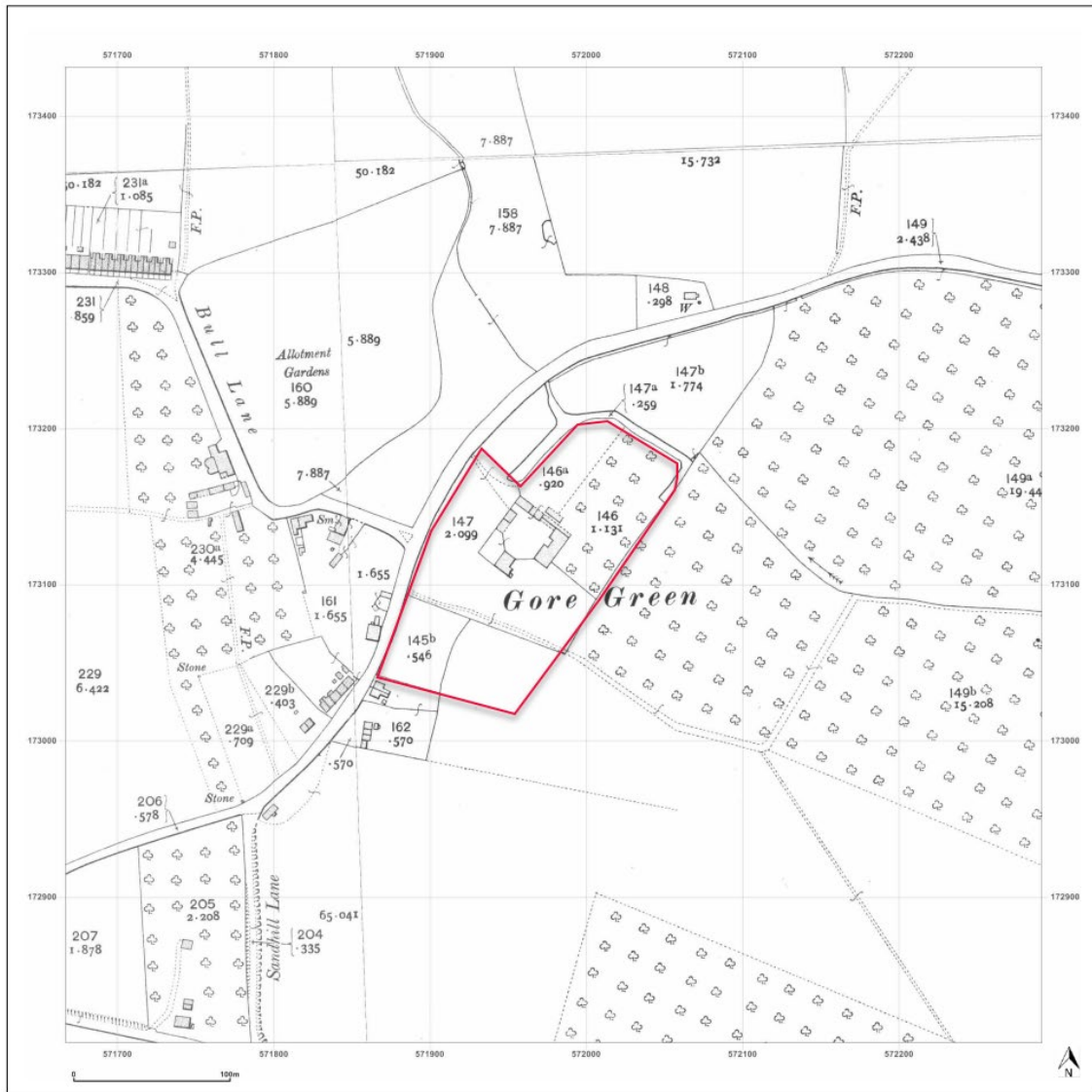


Fig.14 Historic mapping OS 1:2,500 1908

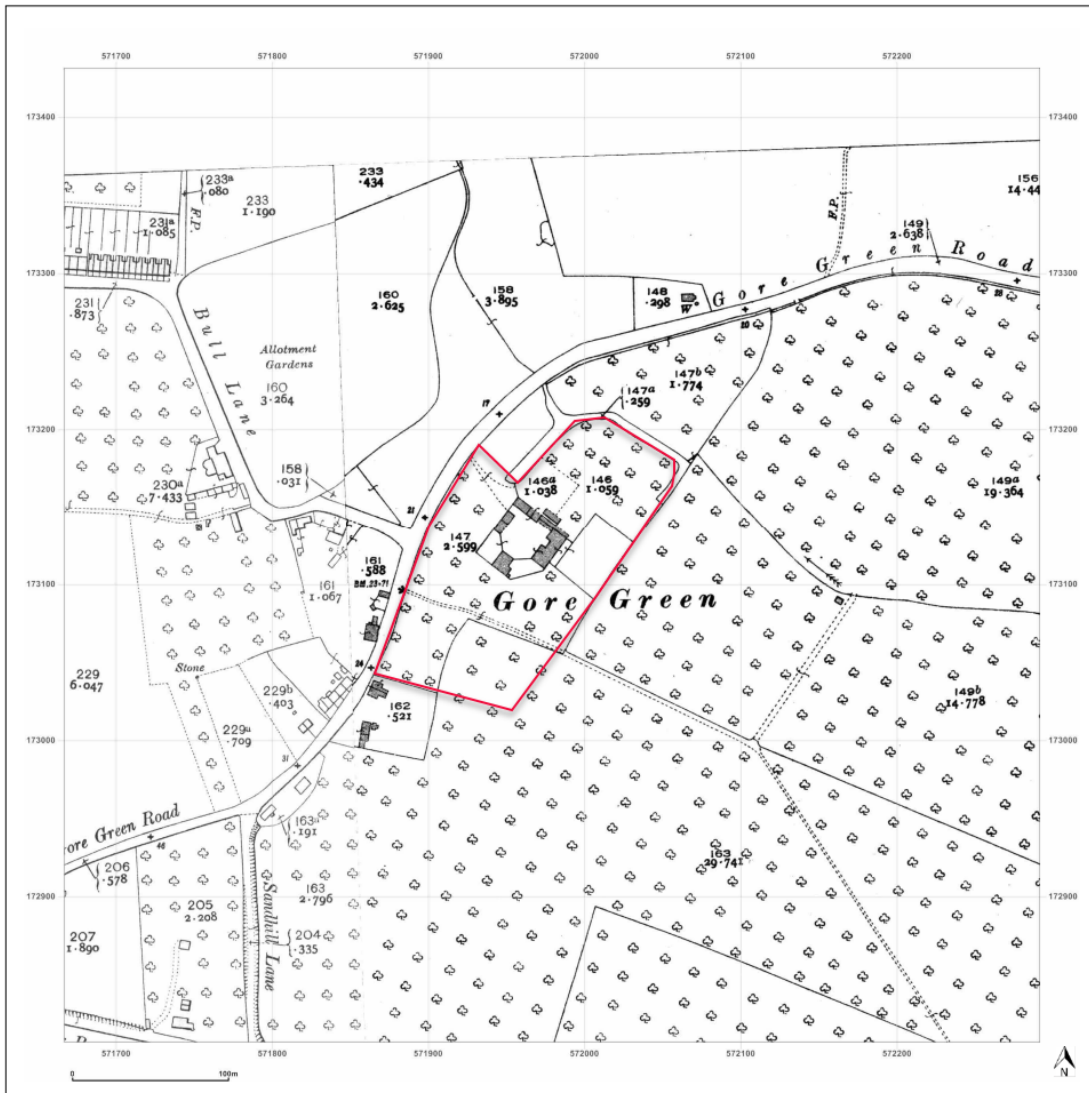


Fig.15 Historic mapping OS 1:2,500 1930-1933



Fig.16 Historic mapping OS 1:2,500 1960-1961

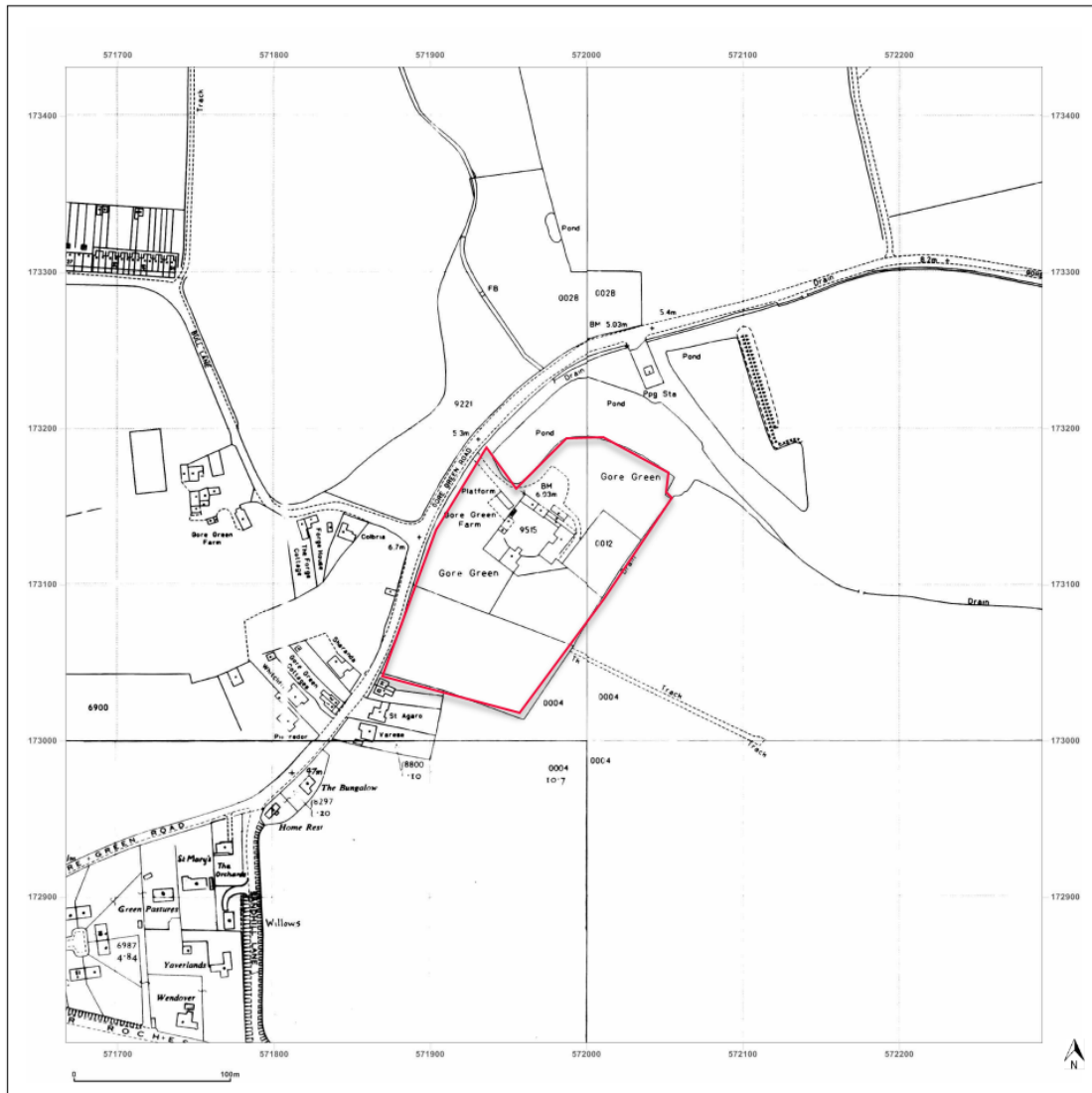


Fig.18 Historic mapping OS 1:2,500 1989-1993

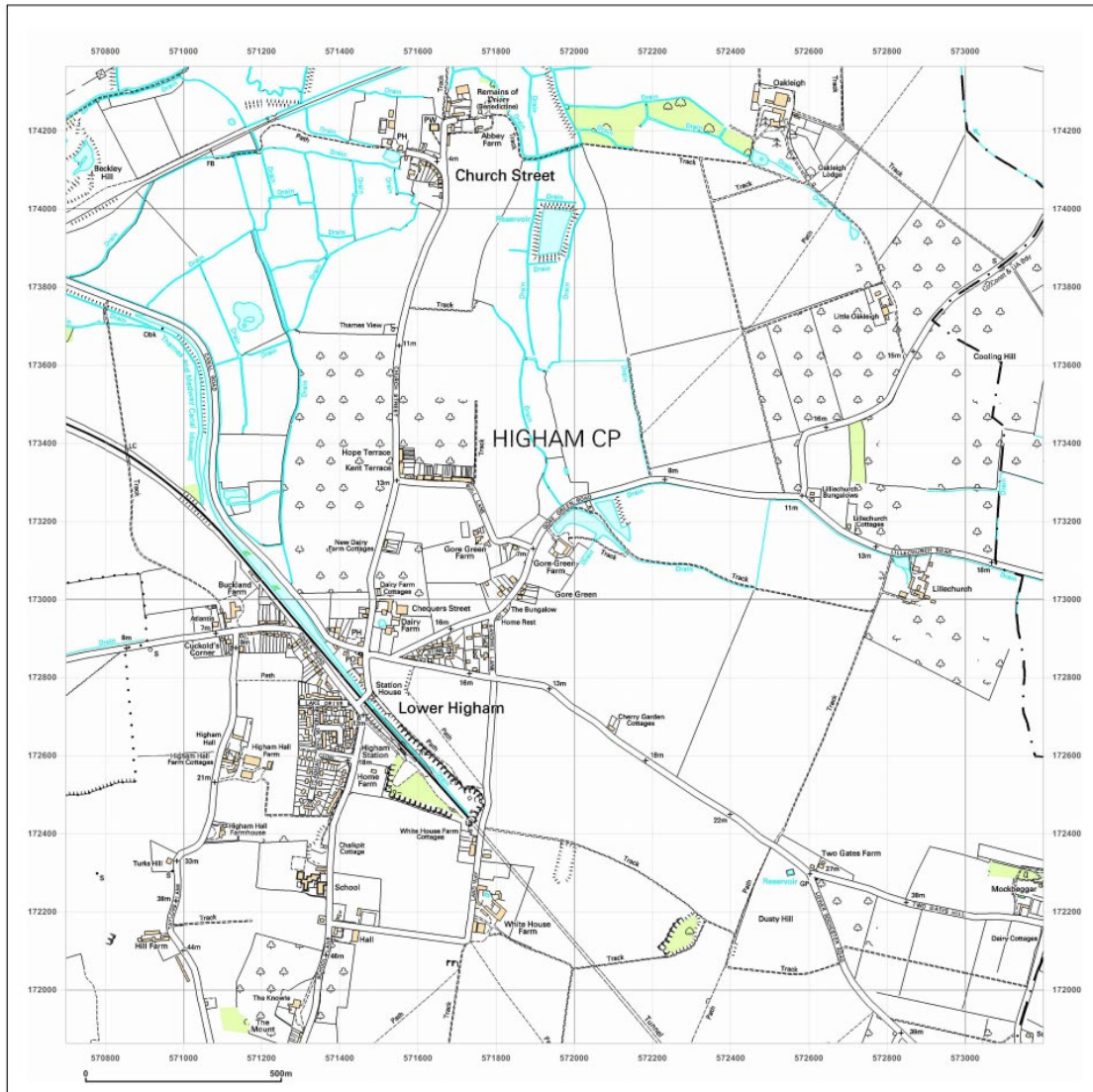


Fig.19 Historic mapping OS 1:10,000 2002

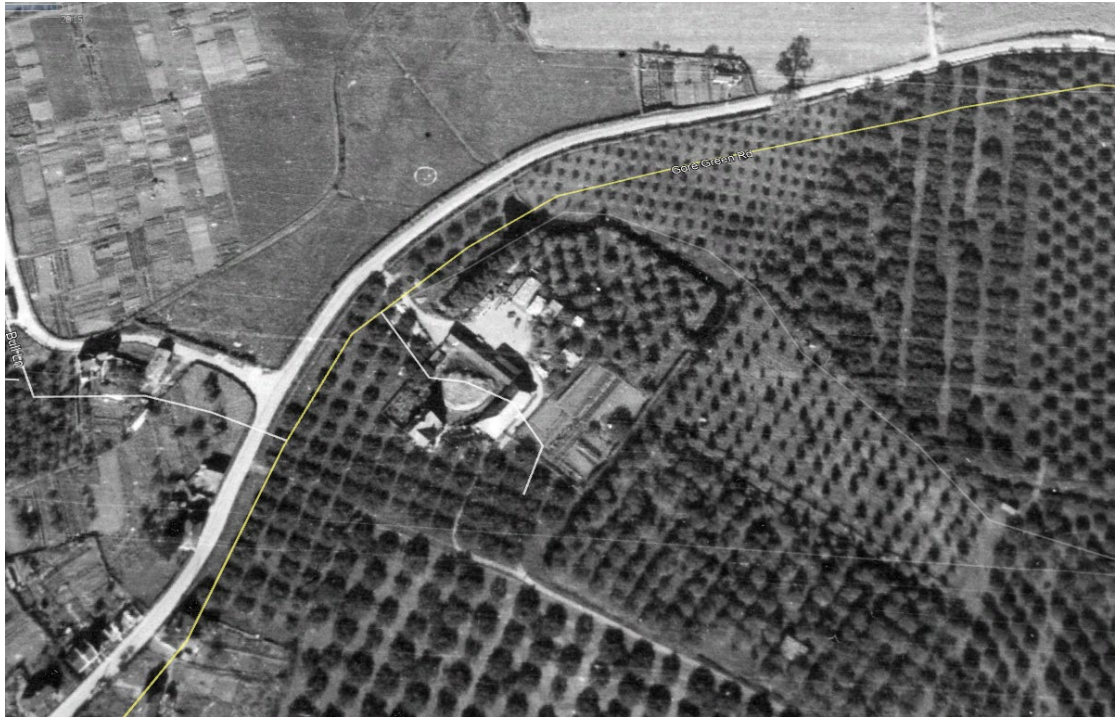


Plate 1: 1940 (Google Earth)

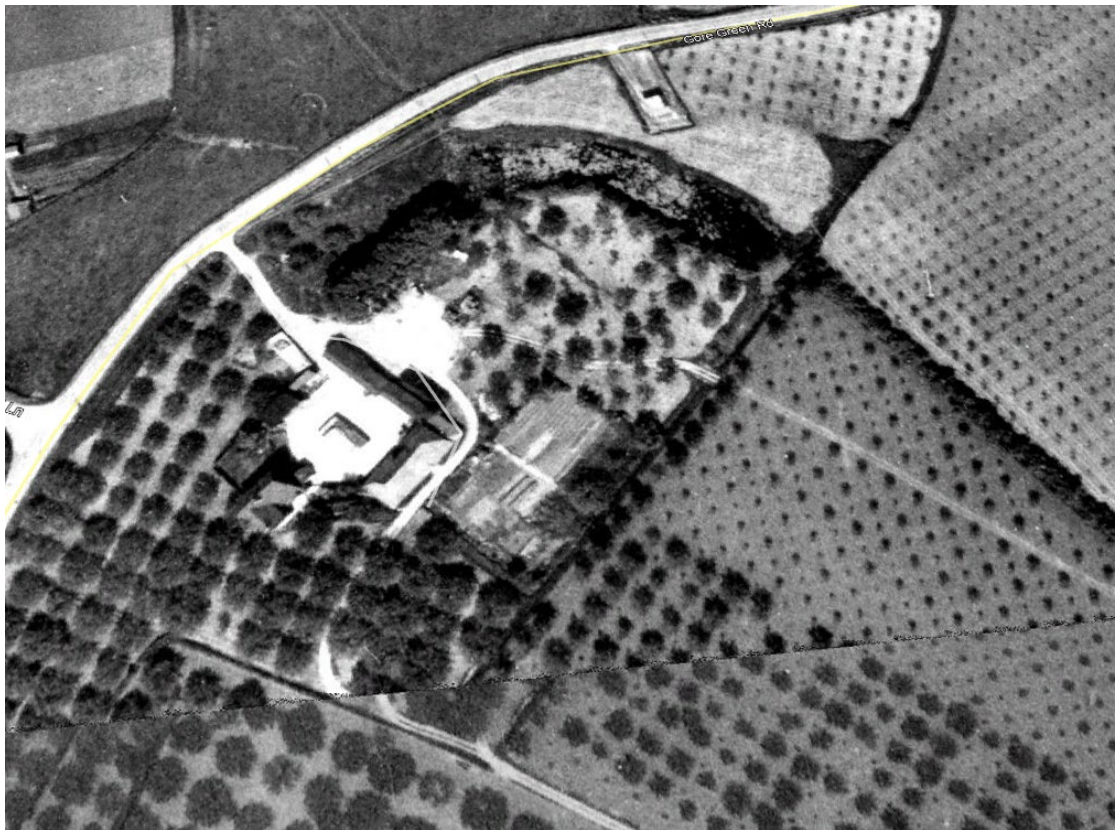


Plate 2: 1960 (Google Earth)



Plate 3: 1990 (Google Earth)



Plate 4: 2003 (Google Earth)



Plate 5: 2015 (Google Earth)

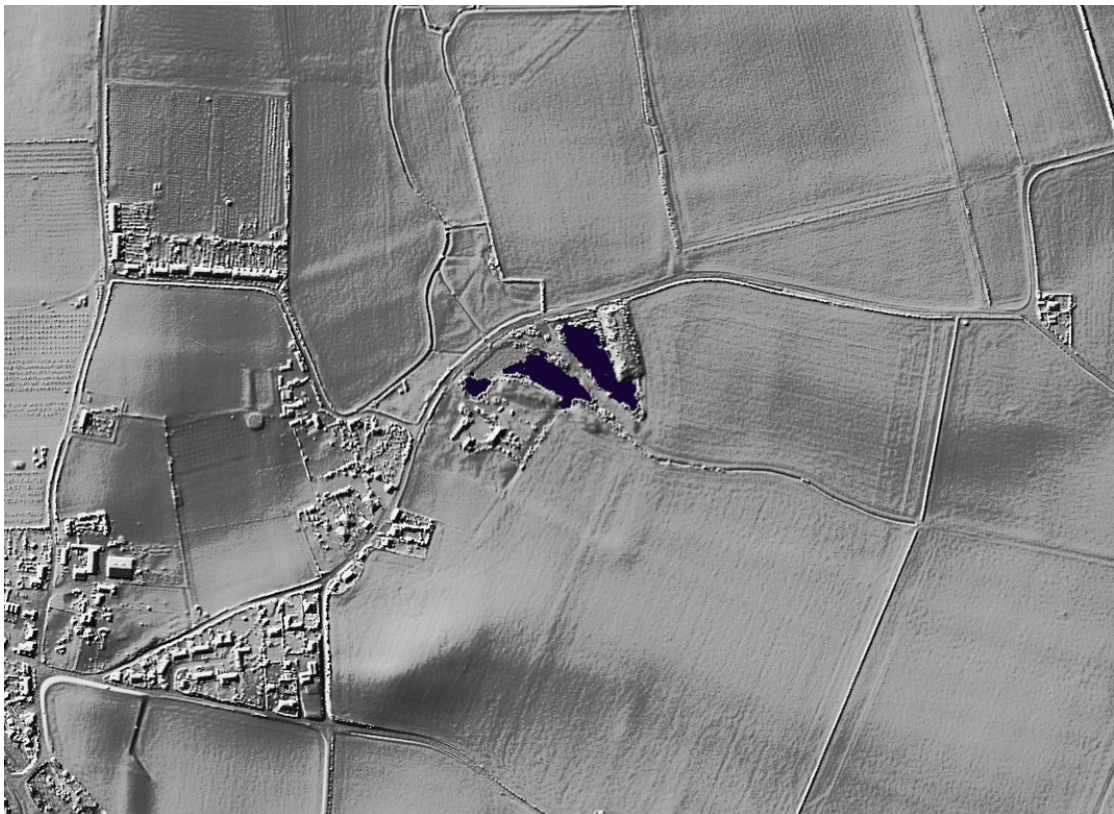


Plate 6: LIDAR Map (1m Digital Surface Model)



Plate 7: View of Farmhouse (looking south east)



Plate 8: View of Farmhouse (Looking south west)



Plate 9: View of Farmhouse (looking west)



Plate 10: Barn (looking east)



Plate 11: Barn showing lean-to (looking south west)



Plate 12: Close up of entrance area to the barn (looking south east)



Plate 13: Interior of barn (looking south west)



Plate 14: Close up of one of the trusses of the interior of the barn



Plate 15: Interior view of the south western half of the barn



Plate 16: View showing entrance area from inside (looking north)



Plate 17: View of cart shed (looking north west)



Plate 18: Side view of cart shed (looking north)