

Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment in Advance of the Proposed Development of Land to the West of Town Road, Cliffe Woods, Rochester, Kent.

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Report for Esquire Developments Ltd

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SWAT ARCHAEOLOGY

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Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment in Advance of the proposed development of Land to the West of Town Road, Cliffe Woods, Rochester, Kent.

Summary

SWAT Archaeology has been commissioned by Esquire Developments Ltd to prepare an Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment of the proposed development area (PDA) of land to the west of Town Road, Cliffe Woods, Rochester, Kent.

This Desk Based Assessment is intended to explore and disseminate the known and potential heritage resource within the site and the surrounding area, and to assess the likely impacts of the development proposals on this resource. Based on this data the potential for archaeological sites either on or in the near vicinity of the proposed development can be summarized as:

- Prehistoric: **moderate/high**
- Iron Age: **low**
- Roman: **moderate**
- Anglo-Saxon: **high**
- Medieval: **moderate**
- Post-Medieval: **low**
- Modern: **high**

This low-lying area on the Hoo Peninsular attracted use, and occasionally settlement for more than two millennia. Cliffe Woods has a more elevated position characterised by orchards, farmland and isolated farmsteads which contrasts with the expanse of flat, treeless marsh pasture lands in the north. In the 20th century population growth saw the emergence of an entirely new residential development which became known as Cliffe Woods.

The PDA has historically been used as pasture. Following the excavations associated with the Shorne-Grain pipeline where a trench was located to the north of the PDA, evidence was found relating to the Bronze Age, Roman, Anglo-Saxon and Medieval less than some 100m of the PDA's northern boundary. Some features could not be excavated in their entirety and are thought to continue southwards towards the PDA including enclosures and a Holloway. The pipeline excavation only allowed a narrow width and therefore was effectively a "key-hole" examination of what is a much more extensive site. Consequently, their interpretations of the

features found are inevitably tentative, where as a wider area such as the PDA would potentially allow for more robust interpretations should an excavation be considered. Therefore, Given the size and potential impact on any potentially surviving archaeological remains of the proposed development site and the concentration of previously unexpected archaeological sites recorded along the route of a pipeline circa. 100m north of the site boundary, it can be anticipated that the Kent County Council archaeological advisor may seek further archaeological assessment to enable an informed planning decision. Therefore, the need for, scale, scope and nature of any further assessment and/or archaeological works should be agreed through consultation with the statutory authorities. It should also be noted that there is a single Listed Building located 700m north-east of the site and its significance and setting should therefore be considered in a separate built heritage report.

The report also considers the significance and impact the proposed development has on a non-designated heritage asset of a World War II pillbox situated on the western boundary of the PDA. The pillbox is one of a number of surviving defence features based on Hoo as part of a wider defence strategy and stopline in World War II. Whilst it is to be appreciated that there are still a large number of individual pillboxes in existence across the UK, each individual pillbox tells the wider story. For this pillbox its contextual significance is related to the GHQ Hoo stopline around Cliffe Woods and the wider GHQ line of defences across Kent and it is of regional interest. Obviously, whilst the defence line is no longer active it does provide a reminder to the wider community regarding World War II.

The proposed development will impact the setting of the pillbox by interrupting the view with the loss of the sightline across the PDA towards the road from the pillbox. However, many of the others as remaining examples in this section of the stop line retain their sightlines and the loss of an individual sightline is not overall significant to the stop line as a whole. The proposed development will retain the existing footpath through the PDA which will allow far more people to know about and interact with the heritage asset than at present. It will also prevent potential vandalism if it is more closely overlooked than its current isolated position. The public education benefit with the provision of new housing outweighs any potential harm done.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

1.1.1 Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT) was commissioned by Esquire Developments Ltd (the 'Client'), to carry out an archaeological desk-based assessment of the proposed development area (PDA) of land to the west of Town Road, Cliffe Woods, Rochester, Kent centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) TQ 573474 173825 (Fig 1).

1.2 The Site

1.2.1 The proposed site sits at an average height of circa 11m AOD. The land gently rising towards the south to a height of circa 14m AOD. It is located on the north western edge of the Village of Cliffe Woods, which is 27 miles east of London and 3 miles north of the Medway towns of Rochester. The Hoo Peninsular on which the village is located is bounded by the River Thames to the north and west and the River Medway to the south and east. The peninsular is characterised by the 'Hundred of Hoo Hills' being a central ridge of high land running south west to north east surrounded on three sides by salt marshes. The main part of the village is situated on higher ground and the area around is characterised by orchards, farmland and isolated farmsteads. Town Road starts to the south on the outskirts of Rochester and travels northwards passing through Cliffe Woods until it reaches the historical village of Cliffe at the edge of the marshes. The land north of the village and the PDA is flat being in a broad valley bottom until it reaches the marshes. The PDA is circa 10 acres and is situated on the western side of Town Road. To the east, on the opposite side of Town Road is the recreation ground. To the south are residential housing. To the north is a small wooded area and then arable fields and to the west is arable fields. To the north is farmland and on the western side are residential houses. The low-lying land of the PDA is surrounded by drainage ditches which forms part of a wider network of ditches and reservoirs in the area to the north west of the PDA (Fig. 1).

1.2.2 The British Geological Society (BGS 1995) shows that the local geology consists of bedrock comprising of the London Clay Formation – Clay and Silt with Lambeth sand – Sand, Silt and Clay in parts of the northern area of the PDA. There are no superficial deposits at the PDA.

Geotechnical Information

- 1.2.3 Geotechnical information is available via a report dated from 2008 relating to the evaluation trenches from the path of the Shorne-Grain pipeline. When agricultural areas were excavated, the depth of the plough pan was generally between 250mm and 350mm, and a consistent depth of 300mm depth was frequently recorded. Evaluation trench to the north of the PDA recorded the stratigraphy. The machined surface at the east end of the trench was levelled to c.7.83m OD and at its west end to c.6.85m OD, with a maximum depth below the ground surface of 1060mm. For the general stratigraphy, between 270mm-340mm of dark brown clayey silt plough soil, was recorded over 150mm-220mm of mid brown clayey silt sub-soil. The natural was exposed in the eastern half of the trench and was a light greyish orange brown silty clay. (Unpublished Report: *Meaton, 2008, An Archaeological Evaluation Along the Route of the Proposed Isle of Grain Gas Transmission Pipeline (Stage 1). Archaeology South-East.*)

1.3 The Proposed Development

- 1.3.1 The site currently comprises of rough pasture with trees and bushes dotted around the site. The site boundaries include a thick band of large popular trees to the north with low fencing to the east to separate the site from arable farmland. To the south the site is bordered by residential housing and gardens and to the west is Town Road. The site boundary also has drainage ditches around all four boundaries. A public footpath runs across the site from east to west from Town Road across to the farmland in the west in the direction of Cooling Hill and Buckland. The development proposals include the erection of 92 residential dwellings, including affordable housing (use class C3) and provision of 737 sqm of employment floorspace (use class B1 and D1), including associated access, parking, public open spaces, and landscaping. New vehicular/pedestrian access from Town Road, provision of a pedestrian crossing, associated drainage, pumping station and earthworks (Fig. 2).

1.4 Project Constraints

- 1.4.1 No constraints were associated with this project.

1.5 Scope of Document

- 1.5.1 This assessment was requested by the Client in order to determine, as far as is possible from existing information, the nature, extent and significance of the Historic Environment and to assess the potential impact of development on Heritage Assets. The assessment forms part of the initial stages of the archaeological investigation and is intended to inform and assist with decisions regarding archaeological mitigation for the proposed development and associated planning applications.

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 2018): 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 16: 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 16 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 185 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. The planning authorities should take into account:

- a) The desirability of sustaining and enhancing the significance of heritage assets, and putting them to viable uses consistent with their conservation;*

- b) *The wider social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits that conservation of the historic environment can bring;*
- c) *The desirability of new development making a positive contribution to local character and distinctiveness; and*
- d) *Opportunities to draw on the contribution made by the historic environment to the character of a place.'*

2.3.5 Paragraph 189 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 190 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 to 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 16, 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:

- **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. For World Heritage Sites, the cultural value described within each site's Statement of Outstanding Universal Value forms part of its significance.
- **Setting.** 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, may affect the ability to appreciate that significance or may be neutral.

2.3.9 The NPPF advises local authorities to take into account the following points in paragraph 192 when drawing up strategies for the conservation and enjoyment of the historic environment;

- a) The desirability of sustaining and enhancing the significance of heritage assets and preserving them in a viable use consistent with their conservation;
- b) The positive contribution that conservation of heritage assets can make to sustainable communities including their economic vitality; and wider social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits that the conservation of the historic environment can bring;
- c) The desirability of new development in making a positive contribution to local character and distinctiveness.

2.3.10 Paragraphs 193 and 198 consider the impact of a proposed development upon the significance of a heritage asset.

2.3.11 Paragraph 193 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). This is irrespective of whether any

potential harm amounts to substantial harm, total loss or less than substantial harm to its significance.

2.3.12 Paragraph 194 notes that any harm to, or loss of, the significance of a designated heritage asset (from its alteration or destruction, or from development within its setting), should require clear and convincing justification. Substantial harm to or loss of:

- a) Grade II listed buildings, or grade II registered parks or gardens, should be exceptional;
- b) Assets of the highest significance, notably scheduled monuments, protected wreck sites, registered battlefields, grade I and II* listed buildings, grade I and II* registered parks and gardens, and World Heritage Sites, should be wholly exceptional.

2.3.13 Paragraph 195 states that where a proposed development will lead to substantial harm (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:

- a) The nature of the heritage asset prevents all reasonable uses of the site; and
- b) No viable use of the heritage asset itself can be found in the medium term through appropriate marketing that will enable its conservation; and
- c) Conservation by grant-funding or some form of charitable or public ownership is demonstrably not possible; and
- d) The harm or loss is outweighed by the benefit of bringing the site back into use.

2.3.14 Conversely, paragraph 196 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.

- 2.3.15 The NPPF comments in paragraph 201, that not all elements of a Conservation Area or World Heritage Site will necessarily contribute to its significance. Loss of a building (or other element) which makes a positive contribution to the significance of the Conservation Area or World Heritage Site should be treated either as substantial harm under paragraph 195 or less than substantial harm under paragraph 196, as appropriate, taking into account the relative significance of the element affected and its contribution to the significance of the Conservation Area or World Heritage Site as a whole.
- 2.3.16 Paragraph 198 states that LPAs should not permit the 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.
- 2.3.17 Paragraph 200 encourages LPAs to look for new development opportunities within Conservation Areas and World Heritage Sites, and within the setting of heritage assets, to enhance or better reveal their significance. Proposals that preserve those elements of the setting that make a positive contribution to the asset (or which better reveal its significance) should be treated favourably.
- 2.3.18 Any LPA based on paragraph 202, should assess whether the benefits of a proposal for enabling development, which would otherwise conflict with planning policies but which would secure the future conservation of a heritage asset, outweigh the disbenefits of departing from those policies

2.4 Planning Policy Guidance

Planning Policy Guidance that help to preserve the built and archaeological heritage are:

Conservation Principles, Policy and Guidance (Historic England, 2008)

- 2.4.1 Historic England sets out in this document a logical approach to making decisions and offering guidance about all aspects of England's historic environment. The Conservation Principles, Policies and Guidance are primarily intended to help us to ensure consistency of approach in carrying out our role as the Government's statutory advisor on the historic environment in England. Specifically, they make a contribution to addressing the challenges of modernising heritage protection by

proposing an integrated approach to making decisions, based on a common process.

2.4.2 The document explains its relationship to other policy documents in existence at that time, including Planning Policy Statement 1: Delivering Sustainable Development (2005), which includes the explicit objective of 'protecting and enhancing the natural and historic environment' In this document, Heritage England provide detailed guidance on sustaining the historic environment within the framework of established government policy. In particular, the document distils from Planning Policy Guidance note (PPG) 15 Planning and the Historic Environment (1994) and PPG16 Archaeology and Planning (1990) those general principles which are applicable to the historic environment as a whole.

2.4.3 The policy document provides details about a range of Heritage Values, which enable the significance of assets to be established systematically, with the four main 'heritage values' being:

- **Evidential value.** This derives from the potential of a place to yield evidence about past human activity. Physical remains of past human activity are the primary source of evidence about the substance and evolution of places, and of the people and cultures that made them especially in the absence of written records, the material record, particularly archaeological deposits, provides the only source of evidence about the distant past.
- **Historical Value.** This derives from the ways in which past people, events and aspects of life can be connected through a place to the present. It tends to be illustrative or associative. Illustration depends on visibility in a way that evidential value (for example, of buried remains) does not. Places with illustrative value will normally also have evidential value, but it may be of a different order of importance. Association with a notable family, person, event, or movement gives historical value a particular resonance.
- **Aesthetic value.** This derives from the ways in which people draw sensory and intellectual stimulation from a place. Aesthetic values can be the result of the conscious design of a place, including artistic endeavour. Equally, they can be the

seemingly fortuitous outcome of the way in which a place has evolved and been used over time.

- **Communal value.** This derives from the meanings of a place for the people who relate to it, or for whom it figures in their collective experience or memory. Communal values are closely bound up with historical (particularly associative) and aesthetic values but tend to have additional and specific aspects. These can be commemorative and symbolic values reflect the meanings of a place for those who draw part of their identity from it or have emotional links to it. Social value is associated with places that people perceive as a source of identity, distinctiveness, social interaction and coherence. Spiritual value attached to places can emanate from the beliefs and teachings of an organised religion, or reflect past or present-day perceptions of the spirit of place.

2.5 Statutory Protection

Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979

- 2.5.1 Both above and below ground archaeological remains that are considered Nationally can be identified and protected under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979. Any works affecting a scheduled Monument should be preceded by an application to the Secretary of State for Scheduled Monument Consent (SMC). Geophysical investigation or the use of a metal detector requires advance permission from Historic England.

Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990

- 2.5.2 The legal requirements on control of development and alterations affecting buildings, including those which are listed or in conservation areas (which are protected by law), is set out in the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990.

Enterprise and Regulatory Reform Act 2013

- 2.5.3 From April 2014, the act introduced changes to the Planning (Listed Building and Conservation Areas) Act 1990. This covers heritage planning and legal requirements around nationally and locally listed buildings and consent orders. It upholds levels of existing heritage protection, whilst also simplifying the process. Listed Building Heritage Partnership Agreements were introduced to allow listed

building consent for specified works (other than demolition), to listed buildings covered by the Agreement, which would otherwise require several consents. Listed Building Consent Orders and Locally Listed Building Consent Orders have been introduced to allow local planning authorities to grant permission for works (other than demolition) to listed buildings in their area, which would otherwise require several consents. Where new buildings are listed, it is now possible to declare that specific features of the building, or specific buildings or structures attached to, or within the curtilage of the listed building are not of special interest. The demolition of unlisted buildings in conservation areas now requires planning permission rather than conservation area consent.

Hedgerow Regulations (statutory Instrument No. 1160) 1997

- 2.5.4 The Regulations apply to most countryside hedgerows. In particular, they affect hedgerows which are 20 meters or more in length; which meet another hedgerow at each end; are on or adjoin land used for: agriculture, forestry, the breeding or keeping of horses, ponies or donkeys, common land, village greens, Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) or Local Nature Reserves. The act is to protect important countryside hedgerows from removal, either in part or whole. Removal not only includes grubbing out, but anything which could result in the destruction of the hedge.

Treasures Act 1996

- 2.5.5 The act is designed to deal with finds of treasure in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. It legally obliges finders of objects which constitute a legally defined term of treasure to report their find to their local coroner within 14 days. An inquest led by the coroner then determines whether the find constitutes treasure or not. If it is declared to be treasure then the finder must offer the item for sale to a museum at a price set by an independent board of antiquities experts known as the Treasure Valuation Committee. Only if a museum expresses no interest in the item, or is unable to purchase it, can the finder retain it. 'Treasure' is defined as being: (i) All coins from the same find, if it consists of two or more coins, and as long as they are at least 300 years old when found. If they contain less than 10% gold or silver there must be at least 10 in the find for it to qualify; (ii) Two or more prehistoric base metal objects in association with one another; (iii) Any individual (non-coin) find that is at least 300 years old and contains at least 10% gold or

silver; (iv) Associated finds: any object of any material found in the same place as (or which had previously been together with) another object which is deemed treasure; (v) Objects substantially made from gold or silver but are less than 300 years old, that have been deliberately hidden with the intention of recovery and whose owners or heirs are unknown.

Burial Act 1857.

2.5.6 Its purpose is to regulate burial grounds. It regulates where and how deceased people may be buried and provides for the exhumation of remains. The Act made it illegal to disturb a grave (other than for an officially sanctioned exhumation).

2.6 Local Policies

2.6.1 Medway Council has a Local Plan adopted in 2003, retained in 2007. The plan has a number of policies relevant to archaeology:

- POLICY BNE20: SCHEDULED ANCIENT MONUMENTS
- POLICY BNE21: ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES

2.6.2 These policies are covered in greater detail below:

POLICY BNE20: SCHEDULED ANCIENT MONUMENTS

2.6.3 Development affecting scheduled ancient monuments or other nationally important sites will not be permitted if it would: (i) damaged or destroy such sites; or (ii) be detrimental to their setting.

POLICY BNE21: ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES

2.6.4 Development affecting potentially important archaeological sites will not be permitted unless:

- (i) The developer, after consultation with the Archaeological Officer, has arranged for an archaeological field evaluation to be carried out by an approved archaeological body before any decision on the planning application is made; and

- (ii) It would not lead to the damage or destruction of important archaeological remains. There will be a preference for the preservation of important archaeological remains in situ.
- (iii) Where development would be damaging to archaeological remains, sufficient time and resources are made available for an appropriate archaeological investigation undertaken by an approved archaeological body. Such investigations should be in advance of development and in accordance with a specification and programme of work approved by the Council. Resources should also be made available for the publication of the results of the investigation.

Local Planning Guidance

- 2.6.5 The Kent Design Guide, 2008. Prepared by the Kent Design Group, it provides the criteria necessary for assessing planning applications. Helps building designers, engineers, planners and developers achieve high standards of design and construction. It is adopted by the Council as a Supplementary Planning Document.

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 Introduction

- 3.1.1 This Desk-Based Assessment was commissioned by Esquire Developments Ltd, to support a planning application. This assessment has been prepared in accordance with guidelines set out by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (see below) and in the National Planning Policy Framework and the Good Practice Advice notes 1, 2 and 3, which now supersede the PPS 5 Practice Guide, which has been withdrawn by the Government.
- 3.1.2 The Good Practice Advice notes emphasizes the need for assessments of the significance of any heritage assets, which are likely to be changed, so the assessment can inform the decision process.
- 3.1.3 Significance is defined in the NPPF Guidance in the Glossary as “the value of the heritage asset to this and future generations because of its heritage interest. That interest may be archaeological, architectural, artistic, or historical. Significance derives not only from a heritage asset’s physical presence, but also its setting”.

The setting of the heritage asset is also clarified in the Glossary as “the surroundings in which a heritage asset is experienced. Its extent is not fixed and may change as the asset and its surroundings evolve”.

- 3.1.4 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.

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).

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.
- 4.3.4 The Archaeology Data Service Online Catalogue (ADS) was also used. The search was carried out within a 500m radius of the proposed development site and relevant HER data is included in the report. The Portable Antiquities Scheme Database (PAS) was also searched as an additional source as the information contained within is not always transferred to the local HER.

Cartographic and Pictorial Documents

- 4.3.5 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

- 4.3.6 The study of the collection of aerial photographs held by Google Earth was undertaken (Plates 1-8).

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.

Walkover Survey

4.3.8 The Site is visited for a walkover survey. This 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.

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 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 (500m radius centred on each site of the PDA), followed by a full record of archaeological sites, monuments and records within the site's immediate vicinity. There are no Scheduled Monuments, Conservation Areas, Registered or Historic Parks and Gardens or Protected Military Remains in the assessment area. 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		

5.1.2 Features in and around the wider area of the PDA include Bronze Age, Roman Anglo-Saxon, Medieval activity and World War II activity, particularly the Stop Line, which passes very close to the PDA and the accompanying extant pillboxes.

The table in Figure 19 details all the finds, features and buildings within the 500m assessment area.

5.2 Designated Heritage Assets

- 5.2.1 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).
- 5.2.2 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).
- 5.2.3 There is one nationally listed building within the assessment area being Mortimer’s farmhouse which is Grade II listed from the 17th century, located circa 320m north-east of the site and its setting and significance should be assessed in a separate built heritage report.
- 5.2.4 There are a number of non-designated assets of local interest in the form of extant pillboxes, and a road blockhouse that were located around the World War II Stop Line, (Table 2). One of these heritage assets being a WWII brick-built pillbox associated with the Stop Line that lies on the western boundary line and as such is likely to be impacted by the proposals at the PDA.

Table 1 Designated Heritage Assets

TQ 77 SW 1022	Modern	Mortimer’s Farmhouse. Grade II listed (1204114). Farmhouse. C17 with mid C19 front block. Timber framed to rear and rendered with rendered front block. Low pitched slate hipped roof to front with end stacks. 2 storeys. Regular 3 window front, C20 metal casements on first floor with full-width veranda porch on ground floor. The C17 framed house at rear originally had three timber gables across the front, according to an oil once in the house.
TQ 77 SW 58	Modern	World War II Pillbox, west of Town Road. Concrete type 24 pillbox in middle of field to west of Town Rd, Cliffe. This feature is recorded in the English Heritage report on the Second World War Stop Line in the Hoo Peninsula. The report states: "Second World War reinforced concrete Type 24 pillbox, located at the edge of

		field to the west of Town Road, Cliffe, approximately 184m to the west of the anti-tank ditch. The pillbox faces west and is a narrow wall version with a brick skin. It is situated on cultivated land at the western edge of a field. Condition: The pillbox is visible as an extant structure on recent aerial imagery (Google Earth 2013).
TQ 77 SW 54	Modern	World War II pillbox, south of Eastcroft Farm, Cliffe. Type 24 pillbox, narrow wall version with brick skin. Faces north and is located to the west of the anti-tank ditch. Condition: Recorded on 1944 and 2013 (Google Earth) aerial photographs. Appeared in good condition during a field visit in 2014.
TQ 77 SW 67	Modern	World War II anti-tank blockhouse, near Eastcroft Farm, Cliffe, comprising pillboxes, transport buildings and military supply buildings. Two Second World War reinforced concrete artillery pillboxes (brick-shuttered) at right angles to each other but not apparently interconnected. 20m west of Town Road to the north of Cliffe Woods and to the west of the anti-tank ditch. Aerial photographs taken in May 1944 show the pillboxes within a military installation with five military support buildings. Condition: The support buildings were removed by 1947 while the two pillboxes were visible on aerial photographs until at least April 2007. Buildings were constructed on the site by September 2013 (Google Earth). A May 2015 field visit, from the public highway, confirmed that a pillbox, one of the buildings, and a row of garages seem to remain.

5.3 Previous Archaeological Works

5.3.1 The Hoo Peninsular has been an area of focus archaeologically through a number of different reports. In response to proposed changes on Hoo, combined with the potential threat from rising sea levels, there was a need to increase knowledge and promote awareness of how the peninsula's historical development contributed to its character. An Historic Landscape Project focussed on landscape and seascape characterisation and history of the area. The systematic analysis, interpretation and mapping of archaeological sites and landscapes from aerial photographs and Environment Agency Lidar data was carried out across the whole of the peninsula and included features in the intertidal zone. A Palaeoenvironmental Review was also undertaken as part of the exercise in 2011/2012. The Second World War Stop Line from Hoo St. Werburgh to Higham Marshes was also reviewed. This involved recording the line primarily from aerial

photographs dating between 1941 and 1947. Assessing current survival from recent aerial photographs and field visits. (*English Heritage. 2013. Hoo Peninsula, Kent. Hoo Peninsula Historic Landscape Project; Historic England. 2014. Hoo Peninsula Landscape Project: Second World War Stop Line: Hoo St Werburgh to Higham Marshes. Research Report 9-2014; Historic England. 2011. Hoo Peninsula, North Kent Coast, Thames Estuary: A Palaeoenvironmental Review of the Development of the Peninsula. Research Report 14-2011*).

World War II Stop Line

5.3.2 Given that the stop line falls within the north eastern corner of the assessment area assigned around the PDA and a pillbox is located on the western boundary of the PDA, it is appropriate to consider the Stop Line in greater detail. Across the southern UK a number of GHQ stop lines were set up. They were set up in World War II to halt any possible German Invasion, which was considered a possibility after the retreat at Dunkirk in 1940. The pillbox is grouped by the Defence of Britain Project into the GHQ Line (North west Kent), which ran from Leigh to the river Thames via the Medway valley. Figure 22 shows the location of the pillboxes in Kent and it can be seen that many follow the paths of rivers. The Second World War stop line between Hoo St Werburgh and Higham Marshes is a notable surviving example of this anti-invasion defence. The surviving remains form a coherent pattern of defence linked to the local topography. It was constructed in July and August 1940 to hinder invading forces from the Kent and Sussex coast. It was partly intended to protect Chatham dockyards from possible enemy landings on the Isle of Grain or Allhallows and to reinforce the defences around the Lodge Hill and Chattenden ordnance depots, which was circa 1.5km to the east of the PDA. The defensive line used natural and manmade obstacles connected by sections of anti-tank ditch. The line was heavily defended and included pillboxes, anti-tank gun emplacements and road blocks. The surviving parts of the stop line, including buried and surface remains of the anti-tank ditch, provide a coherent and legible picture of how these defences were intended to work. However, by June 1941 war time priorities had changed and that a sea borne invasion was unlikely and that the GHQ line on Hoo was no longer to be defended. Some structures were removed after the war, and the anti-tank ditch was backfilled in places.

- 5.3.3 The stop line between Deangate and Higham Marshes (Fig. 17) started at its east end 680m to the west of Berry Court Wood, just south of Merry Boys Road near the junction with Town Road. It ran north west for 634m to Mortimer's Farm, then followed Town Road north for 823m as far as Rectory Road, just north of the railway line. It continued to the north-west from Rectory Road for 545m and then cut down into the edge of a large quarry. The quarry formed a section of the anti-invasion obstruction.
- 5.3.4 At Cliffe Woods, the stop line mainly comprised of pillboxes built at regular intervals along the line with interconnecting fields of fire covering an anti-tank ditch, angled in various directions, to the front. The line incorporated natural and existing manmade obstacles where possible, such as woodland, quarries and drainage ditches. In the event of an invasion the pillboxes would be manned by infantry as an initial line of defence under the responsibility of the Home Guard until additional troops could arrive to support. Elsewhere along the line, lengths of anti-tank ditches were excavated, and found generally to a depth of 6 feet and a width of 15 feet and flanked by a cleared area measuring about 40m across in total. Anti-tank ditches constructed during the Second World War were generally V-shaped or square in profile, designed to trap vehicles or to present them with an impossible to climb vertical face. Where the stop line crossed a road, concrete blocks on each side of the road formed a narrow defile. Movable metal rails were usually inserted into sockets in the centre of the road to complete the roadblock. Although the crossing of the Stop Line at Town Road does not have surviving concrete blocks, there is located there the remains of an anti-tank blockhouse circa 160m north of the PDA.
- 5.3.5 Figure 24 shows the path of the stop line and associated infrastructure around the PDA and which features survive and what was removed. The Stop Line around the PDA survives as earthworks and visible cropmarks with extant pillboxes that supported the line. The pillbox located at the PDA is one of five located along the area westwards of the actual line in Cliffe Woods. All are of type FW3/24. The type 24 pillbox is an irregular hexagon in plan (fig. 23). Internally there is a Y-shaped anti-ricochet wall. The type 24 is the most common type, with more than 1724 recorded as being extant in the UK.

- 5.3.6 The basic designs were adapted to local circumstances and available building materials such that, outwardly, two pillboxes of the same basic design could look different. The height of a pillbox could vary significantly according to local needs. Appearance also varied due to the building materials used, although all the FW3 designs are formed from reinforced concrete. Where brick was used as a shuttering, the bricks essentially formed a mould into which concrete was poured, the bricks being left in place. The reinforced concrete used in construction was generally conventional making use of thin steel rebars with floor, walls and roof all mutually bonded. The pillbox on the western side of the PDA still retains its brick shuttering and appears to be of a standard design.
- 5.3.7 Of the pillboxes located along the western side of the stop line in Cliffe Woods, not all currently remain in place. Those that survive as well as the one located on the western boundary of the PDA, three are located south of the PDA and two are located northwards of the PDA. All of these are currently located in farmland and retain their original sightlines of the road and the location of the anti-tank ditch, except one to the far north which is now located in a garden and another to the south is also located in a garden.
- 5.3.8 The pillbox of the PDA is located on slightly higher ground than the road and the anti-tank ditch which at this point along its length was on the eastern side of the road and would have been at the same height as the pillbox (13m AOD). The entrance to the pillbox was on the western side of the structure and the sightline would have been east and north east across what was originally an open field in 1940 (Plate 1). It is only in the last 15 years or so that the open view across the field area of the PDA has been restricted by scrub. The pillbox cannot currently be seen from the road. Given the rural nature of the area there have been little change to the majority of the stop line pillbox sightlines. It is likely that evidence of the anti-tank ditch will remain below ground across farmland. However, other areas in Cliffe the anti-tank ditch and pillboxes would have been removed due to the expansion of the village and housing estates.
- 5.3.9 One of the pillboxes that no longer survive was located in the middle of the playing field on the west side of Town road opposite the PDA. It has not been possible to ascertain which way this pillbox faced. Whether it was westwards towards the road or north eastwards towards the stop line. It is possible that given its position

and if it faced the road that it was a mirror version of the one on the western boundary of the PDA defencing the road rather than the stop line itself as they are broadly on the same east-west alignment and very similar in distance from the road. A roadblock was placed just to the south of these pillboxes.

5.3.10 The significance of the pillbox at the PDA resides in its historical and aesthetic interest as part of the wider World War II defence strategy of the Hoo Stop Line rather than as an individual example of a type 24 pillbox. At present the pillbox allows an understanding of its position defending the road and the anti-tank ditch with sightlines towards the road despite vegetation currently obscuring the road and historical position of the ditch. Therefore, the current setting makes a positive contribution to the heritage significance of the pillbox.

5.3.11 The proposed development will impact the setting of the pillbox by interrupting the view with the loss of the sightline across the PDA towards the road from the pillbox. However, many of the others as remaining examples in this section of the stop line retain their sightlines and the loss of an individual sightline is not overall significant to the stop line as a whole. Elsewhere on Hoo, there are other sections of the stop line which survive more in their entirety such as the area east and north east of Hoo St Werburgh. The proposed development will retain the existing footpath through the PDA and that an information board will be provided along the public right of way in the vicinity of the pillbox to provide further information on the history of the structure and further details of this could be subject to a planning condition. This will allow far more people to know about and interact with the heritage asset than at present. It will also prevent potential vandalism if it is more closely overlooked than its current isolated position. The public education benefit with the provision of new housing outweighs and potential harm done. The proposed layout has been amended to re-orientate the car parking spaces along this section of the boundary so the spaces are not as close to the boundary with the pillbox.

Shorne- Grain Pipeline

5.3.12 The pipeline broadly ran east to west for 21km and it was excavated at several points along the route by Archaeology South East in 2008. Site I was one of those areas excavated and is circa less than 100m to the north of the PDA and contained a significant amount of archaeology. Figure 18 provides a location plan of Site I in

relation to the PDA. The excavation identified a series of mostly east – west aligned intercutting ditches dating from the Bronze Age to the medieval periods. These ditches are interpreted as the edges of enclosures extending beyond the limits of the excavation although other explanations, such as field systems, could equally be applied (*Unpublished Report: Dawkes, Giles. 2013. Archaeological Investigations along the Isle of Grain – Shorne Pipeline Route, Hoo Peninsula, Kent. Archaeology South-East*).

- 5.3.13 The middle Bronze Age was represented by enclosure ditches and a small amount of pottery. The east-west enclosure ditch found was 17m in length and 4m wide, which they believed formed the northern part of the circuit that lay to the south and beyond the area of their excavation. A briquetage pedestal base was recovered from the ditch suggesting saltworking in the vicinity. There were also a scatter of pits and postholes around the enclosure. A later Bronze enclosure replaced the one above and seems to be 120m long with a smaller profile and as above the majority of the enclosure area lay to the south of their area of excavation.
- 5.3.14 A significant Late Bronze Age settlement with 14 roundhouses and boundary ditch was excavated north of Cliffe Woods in an earlier excavation in 1978 and Site I, was located c. 200m to the southeast of this earlier excavation and therefore the Bronze Age features at Site I may be part of the settlement's out-lying boundary circuit.
- 5.3.15 In the Roman period there were more enclosure ditches. In the Anglo-Saxon period a hollow way crossed the site aligned north-south and was 9m wide and 0.64m deep. With concave sides and a flat base. Finds from the fill include a copper alloy brooch dated to the 5th-6th century and a dark blue annular bead. Both items are typical of grave goods and the interpretation is that this suggests a cemetery could be located in the vicinity. A Roman quern fragment was also found. A sestertius of Marcus Aurelius (AD 161-80) was recovered from the topsoil of Site I. The report mentions that the hollow way found at Site I marries exactly with a route way suggested by Everitt connecting the old Roman road of Watling Street of Rochester with the estate centre at Cliffe. The track may have had prehistoric origins and, although the small amount of finds recovered makes an estimate of the duration of its active life difficult, but it does seem to have started

to fall out of use in the Early Anglo-Saxon period, possibly as the route meandered closer towards the modern road to the east.

5.3.16 Dug partially through the silted-up edge of the early Anglo-Saxon hollow way was a sunken feature building with the remains of an oven in the north-west corner. This type of kitchen building has been increasingly identified in recent excavations in Kent, and while there are superficial similarities with the earlier and much better understood grubenhaus sunken-feature buildings, it is clear that these were very different structures in terms of form and function and represents a separate building tradition. The base of the building was filled by a series of oven rake-outs: black charcoal and silt, grey silt clay and black charcoal and silt. The macrobotanical assemblage from the rake-out deposits included remains of cereals and wood charcoal from oak, hazel/alder, sloe/cherry, hawthorn/whitebeam/apple and elm. The C14 radiocarbon dates from samples of charred macrobotanical remains were statistically consistent and suggested that the material derives from a short span of time and the best estimate for the date of use of the oven is AD 1020–1180. In addition, the Holloway produced a dog burial. Animal skeletons are not uncommon in archaeological deposits, but it is the interpretation of these deposits which is of potential interest, as in many cases the burial of an animal is interpreted as a „special deposit“ and believed to have ritual significance. This is a result of their repeated occurrence in the same context type, frequently associated with human burial, or in comparable locations on many separate sites.

5.3.17 In the Medieval period another enclosure was established to the south of the sunken feature building and was circa 60m in diameter. The finds from this feature suggest that this was agriculturally related rather than settlement and may represent a stock compound.

5.3.18 Military remains were found at Site I being 16th-19th century musket balls found unstratified with a metal detector along with various WWI and WWII bullets, anti-aircraft shell fragments as well as a WWI general service medal.

Landscape Characterisation

5.3.19 The site is in an area characterised by KCC Historic Landscape Characterisation as Prairies fields (19th century enclosure with extensive boundary loss. To the west

and north east are classified as orchards and to the south east is Post 1810 settlement (Fig. 20).

Cropmarks

5.3.20 There are a number of cropmarks in the KHER records as shown in figure 21. The main one being that of the WWII Stop Line. Other cropmarks are possibly field boundaries or possible trackways (TQ 77 SW 43) or areas of ridge and furrow (TQ 77 NW 198). There are no cropmarks within the PDA.

0-100m Radius

5.3.21 There is just one KHER entry for this area. The PDA has on the western boundary line a surviving WWII pillbox (TQ 77 SW 56).

100-200m Radius

5.3.22 There are eight KHER entries for this area. They either relate to the features and finds from the Shorne-Grain pipeline or assets relating to the WWII Hoo Stop Line. Circa 200m to the north of PDA, evidence of a Bronze Age enclosures was found and possibly salt making (TQ 77 SW 103). The same excavation also identified a Roman enclosure (TQ 77 SW 106). Both enclosures were thought to continue to the south towards the PDA. Evidence relating to the Anglo-Saxon period in the form of a sunken feature building and oven was discovered (TQ 77 SW 108) as well as a hollow way (TQ 77 SW 107), which possible may be the route of the ancient Rochester to Cliffe road that has since meandered to the east. In addition, a Medieval enclosure through to be agricultural related was found along with pits and post holes (TQ 77 SW 109). A WWI medal was found during the pipeline excavation (TQ 77 SW 110).

5.3.23 The Stop Line was supported by pillboxes along its length. One was located in the recreation ground to the east of the PDA that has since been removed but traces may still survive below ground (TQ 77 SW 1080). Another pillbox survives and is located south of Eastcroft Farm on the eastern side of Town Road. This is still visible on aerial photographs (TQ 77 SW 54).

200-300m Radius

5.3.24 There are six KHER entries for this area all relating to the Stop Line or supporting assets. The Stop Line ditch, earthworks and flanking areas are circa 300m east at its closest point to the PDA (TQ 77 SW 1071; TQ 77 SW 1072; TQ 77 SW 1073 & TQ 77 SW 1322). Supporting the line circa 220m to the north east of the PDA on the western side of Town Road where the stop Line crossed the road was an anti-tank Blockhouse comprising of transport and military supply buildings (TQ 77 SW 67). The support buildings were removed by 1947 and a visit in 2015 confirmed that one of the buildings, and a row of garages seemed to remain. Also supporting the line was another pillbox, circa 220m south of the PDA and faced north along Town Road (TQ 77 SW 1081). It has since been removed due to the housing estate.

300-400m Radius

5.3.25 There are five KHER records for this area. Circa 320m to the north east of the PDA is the grade II listed Mortimer's Farmhouse from the 17th century (TQ 77 SW 1022) and is part of a farmstead (MKE 83419). This was a regular courtyard farm with multi-yards. The farmhouse was in a detached central position. The farmstead has been altered with significant loss of original form (more than 50%). Another pillbox supporting the Stop Line was located circa 350m east of the PDA that has since been destroyed by housing development (TQ 77 SW 1079). Circa 350m to the south east is the building built in the 1960s of the Emmanuel Christian Centre (TQ 77 SW 117). As part of the watching brief associated with the pipeline circa 400m north west of the PDA, Bronze Age features were identified (TQ 77 SW 101).

400-500m Radius

5.3.26 Circa 450m to the north west of the PDA, an area of ridge and furrow associated with the Medieval and Post Medieval periods was identified from aerial photographs (TQ 77 SW 198). Another pillbox associated with the Stop Line was located 480m north of the PDA (TQ 77 SW 58). To the north, north west, circa 500m from the PDA is a cropmark feature of an undated possible trackway (TQ 77 SW 43). It is not clear if this could relate to the Anglo-Saxon trackway found in the Pipeline excavations just north of the PDA.

Portable Antiquities Scheme Finds

- 5.3.27 The points plotted for these finds are usually placed within a 1000m square and therefore the precise location is not known. There are there PAS records. A Roman coin found by metal detector in 1999 (9MKE 66683). An Anglo-Saxon copper alloy brooch from the 5th century (MKE 71749) and a Post Medieval silver figurine relating to the 18th or 19th century (MKE 71701).

5.4 Archaeological and Historical Narrative

- 5.4.1 The historical village of Cliffe is 2 ½ km north of the PDA. Its name is thought to originate 'from the cliff or rock on which it stands'. Cliffe originally developed on the low chalk escarpment overlooking what was the Thames's edge.
- 5.4.2 The most profitable region for gaining resources, such as fishing, salt-working and hunting wild-fowl, was at the water's edge and the former early prehistoric shoreline is an area very difficult to identify, if it remains at all. The Hoo Peninsular area was subject to prehistoric activity with evidence of Bronze Age implements and enclosures and settlements. The Bronze Age also provides evidence for salt production where fragments of pottery vessels are found with structural remains of hearths and brine tanks.
- 5.4.3 The village of Cliffe appears to have Saxon and possibly Roman origins. Archaeological evidence, including considerable quantities of pottery, and numerous separate occupation sites, including six farming settlements, attest to the importance of the area during the Romano-British period for farming, fishing and industry. Cliffe Creek had clay-lined salterns that were worked in the Roman period and the Romans have been credited with the first two attempts at building a sea wall on the peninsular. Studies of the Thames estuary have indicated that sea-levels during the Roman period were up to 3m lower than at present, with transgression evident from the second century. What has been coastal saltmarsh in historic times was dry land during the Roman period – evidence for this is provided by the existence of a significant pottery industry in the Cliffe area. It has been suggested that a complete Roman landscape may survive beneath 1-2m of later accretion.
- 5.4.4 The Anglo-Saxon period is documented and Cliffe appears to have emerged as a settlement of some importance, being an early Jutish estate centre (possibly

associated with Northfleet) and a centre of ecclesiastical authority. Cloveshoh (a place generally interpreted as meaning Cliffe-at-Hoo), Acleah and Caelhythe are recorded in the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle as being the location of a number of synodal councils held by the Bishops of the Anglo-Saxon church in the period 716-825 AD, all of which are generally believed to lie within the parish. The present church of St. Helen, and of largely medieval build, stands on the site of a timber predecessor probably founded by Offa and dating back to at least 774 AD. The peninsular was once the point of departure across the ancient Saxon fording point over the River Thames to Essex.

- 5.4.5 From the end of the Saxon era until the dissolution, Cliffe was part of the Great Manor of Hoo (within the Lathe of Aylesford), but at the time of the conquest the Peninsula was subdivided, with Cliffe, Cooling, Grain and Stoke all becoming manors in their own right. Administratively, Cliffe, Cooling, and part of Stoke were in the Hundred of Shamel, whereas Hoo St Werburgh, Allhallows, High Halstow and St Mary Hoo were in the Hundred of Hoo. According to the Domesday Survey, there were two manors within Cliffe parish, the larger belonging to the Archbishop Canterbury, and the other held by Ernulf de Hesdin, Bishop of Bayeux. The principal manorial centre of the parish seems to have been Courtsole, a site adjacent to St Helen's Church and still occupied by Court Sole Farm. It is estimated that the population of the Archbishop's manor at Domesday was c150-200.
- 5.4.6 Reclamation of the marshes began in the 12th century and pushed the coastline northwards of Cliffe. This created pastureland to support sheep. It is clear from documentary and archaeological evidence that salt production continued into the Medieval period although it is believed to have ended around the 14th century as a result of foreign competition. Attempts were made in later centuries to re-establish the industry unsuccessfully.
- 5.4.7 Cliffe prospered and expanded during the Middle Ages, selling wool to Italian merchants through the port of Sandwich in the 13th and 14th centuries. Cliffe appeared to be a small port town and a harbour is documented, sometimes supplying ships for campaigns against France and in 1367, Richard II ordered the construction of warning beacons on either side of the Thames; one of these was at Cliffe, opposite another at Tilbury.

- 5.4.8 It has been estimated that the population reached 3,000 in the 14th century, with the marshes under tenants producing wool, cheese and corn. Such prosperity may have been brought to an abrupt end in 1520, when a fire destroyed much of the town. Among the first mentions of this event was that of Lambarde, who in 1576 described the 'towne [as] large' with 'a great parish Church: and (as I have been tolde) many of the houses were casually burned [in 1520] of which hurt it was never yet thorowly cured'. No charred timbers, burnt soil layer or similar archaeological evidence has been discovered to support this.
- 5.4.9 The Dissolution of the Monasteries under Henry VIII saw the lands of Christ Church Priory at Cliffe come into Crown ownership before being sold onto the Cobham family, in whose family it remained in 1643 before descending into the ownership of the Earl of Darnley in the 18th century (as was our PDA). By the 18th century, when cattle grazing became increasingly important alongside sheep, much of the land had fallen into the hands of the Dean and Chapter of Rochester. Like other trusts and bodies that purchased land on the Peninsula, this one did not have to worry about the malarial scourge that had evicted many of the landowning families, since it was able to rent out the land in smaller lots. The absence of powerful landowning families helps explain the slow pace of enclosure, and the extent of unenclosed meadow land within the Peninsula in general, and Cliffe in particular. As late as 1778 Cliffe had the largest known open arable field in Kent, a 2,000-acre tract of land divided into numerous rectangular strips worked by tenant farmers. Many or most of these must have lived in Cliffe village, which at the start of the 18th century was described as 'a good Town situated in an unhealthy tract of Land'.
- 5.4.10 The Hoo peninsular has historically been an area notable for regular flooding during the 16th century and the marshlands associated with malaria in the 16th-18th centuries, which probably accounts for the lack of urbanisation in the area. Hasted comments in 1797, that the farmers and landowners do not live in Hoo and that the area is only inhabited by those who directly make a living from it. The area was renowned for sheep farming on the salt marshes in this period and great effort went into maintaining sea walls to protect the valuable low lying grazing land.

- 5.4.11 The peninsula's remote location made it ideal for smuggling. Northwood Hill, north of High Halstow and the PDA has been used by smugglers in the early 18th century. One documented tale was recorded in 1728. A couple of men from Medway crossed the English Channel in February 1726. The men smuggled over 400lb of tea from Ostend, as well as a few yards of calico and a few silk handkerchiefs on a small ship called 'The Sloweley'. Once they landed on the Kent shore, they hid the goods in the woodland on Northward Hill before later moving it to Chalk church.
- 5.4.12 By the late 18th-century Cliffe consisted of a two long rows of houses and cottages along both sides of Church Street, with housing continuing along the north side of Rye Street (later Reed Street), and outlying grouping along West Street. Red House in Reed Street, and Wharf Farm farmhouse at the end of Wharf Lane
- 5.4.13 In the 19th century, the farming land diversified into fruit and hop growing. By the turn of the 20th century into the inter-war years, the village had received modest linear growth out from its centre. The parish records of 1851 gave the population as 1,065. In the 19th century the laying out of farmsteads occurred across the area. There was intensification of arable production and fruit growing. Cliffe parish's economy was overwhelmingly agricultural: the 1840 survey of tithes show many owners and tenants holding land in small acreages, with arable, marsh, meadow, pasture and woodland predominating. Within the parish there were windmills, Oast Houses and Malt Houses.
- 5.4.14 The population of Cliffe parish saw sustained growth during the first half of the 19th century, rising by 84 per cent from 525 in 1801 to 877 in 1851. Plausibly this increase began earlier, although the absence of Census data for the 18th century makes this uncertain. One factor in this rise in populace was the construction of the Thames and Medway canal between Gravesend and Strood in 1800-1824.
- 5.4.15 In 1878, the Hundred of Hoo Railway Company was established. The first part of the line to be opened was in March 1882, from Cliffe to Sharnal Street. There were initially only two stations between Gravesend and Port Victoria at Cliffe and Sharnal Street until 1906 when new halts were added to serve villages at High Halstow, Beluncle, Middle Stoke and Grain Crossing. The railway was later extended east to the Isle of Grain. Sharnal Street was the larger of the two original

stations and was provided with goods sidings, where the local farmers were able to load their produce to be transported directly to the London markets. It was also at Sharnal Street that telegram and mail collections were effected. The railway passes circa 800m to the north of the PDA.

5.4.16 The most dramatic population increase occurred in the second half of the 19th century. Between 1851 and 1891, the population of Cliffe Parish almost trebled, rising from 877 to 2,595. This phenomenal growth saw it become disproportionately the largest parish on the peninsular, overtaking Hoo St Werburgh in the 1860s, a position it maintained until the mid-20th century. Most of this increase took place in the 1870s and early 1880s, the population almost doubling in the decade between 1871 (1,290) and 1881 (2,245). Notwithstanding the arrival of soldiers to man Cliffe Fort, constructed at Cliffe Creek in the late 1860s as part of new triangle of first-line Thames defences, such unprecedented growth stemmed in large part from the establishment of a cement works at West Cliffe, itself emblematic of a wide-scale development in Portland cement production in the lower Thames region in the 19th and early 20th centuries. Chalk had been quarried at this location since Saxon times, and by the early 1840s production had intensified. A whiting works, where chalk was pulverized for use in whitewash and putty was established in the early 19th century on the banks of Cliffe Creek, which was linked to quarries near Manor Farm by means of a canal. A short-lived, small-scale venture in Portland cement by I C Johnson followed in 1853, but the works started by Francis and Company in the late 1860s on the same site were larger and longer-lasting, bringing a new prosperity to the parish.

5.4.17 The first oil refinery on the Hoo Peninsula was opened at Kingsnorth in 1932 referred to as the Berry Wiggins oil refinery, circa 2km from the PDA. It was built on the site of the former WWI airship base RNAS Kingsnorth. The refinery had its own standard gauge railway which connected with the line at Hoo Junction via a spur which was separated from the main line by a wooden gate. In 1977 the site at Kingsnorth was sold to BP. In 1948 work started on the construction of a new BP oil refinery, then one of the largest in the country, on the nearby Isle of Grain. Kingsnorth Power Station ceased operating in 2012 and is now partially demolished. The Isle of Grain Power Station ceased operating in 2012 and has now been demolished.

- 5.4.18 Magazines were constructed on the marshes at Hoo St. Mary, located north east of the PDA around 1892 by the Thames Storage (Explosives) Company for the packing, repacking and storage of explosives, as a commercial venture on land leased from the Dean and Chapter of Rochester Cathedral. Documentary evidence suggests that the Thames Storage (Explosives) Company went into liquidation in 1907 but that the magazines possibly had a second life as a 'Government magazine', eventually going out of use in 1913, when the lease on the land also expired. Seven magazines survive in a ruinous state, some with protective earth bunds, and appear to be an unusual use of mass concrete in an explosives storage context.
- 5.4.19 The interwar period also saw the beginnings of an entirely new residential development, Cliffe Woods Estate, in the southernmost part of the parish. Situated roughly equidistant between Cliffe village to the north and Frindsbury Extra to the south, its origins lie in an early 'plotland' development grandiloquently named the Rochester Park Estate and Garden Suburb. This makeshift estate emerged piecemeal on two tracts of partially cleared undulating woodland called Mortimer's Wood and Lady's Close, which a private speculator parcelled up, and sold, from July 1914. Touted by its developer, W H Talbot of Gravesend, as 'a new residential park for Rochester and District'. Its evolution echoed that of many other plotland enclaves, with numerous small building and smallholding sites colonised by self-built bungalows and chalets, all served by a network of unmade tracks, a haphazard water and electricity supply, and non-mains sewerage. Development seems to have been forestalled by the 1914-18 War, resuming in the spring of 1918, and reaching the final limit of its street layout by the 1930s. The pattern was one of mostly long, parallel streets running uphill and at right angles to the B2000 (Town Road), with detached or semi-detached houses set well back from the road in long, narrow plots. The overall pattern of development seems to have proceeded in an easterly direction, beginning either side of the B2000, Mortimer's Avenue and Ladyclose Avenue, continuing alongside Milton Avenue, Tennyson Avenue, and View Road, and terminating on the east side of the former Hillcrest Avenue, a north-south aligned road on the western edge of Ratly Hills Wood that marked the eastern limit of the estate's development. Besides a surviving shop-cum-garage alongside the B2000 (labelled Cliffe Wood Stores on the 1963 OS map), reputedly built in 1924, this plotland

development was entirely residential, characterised by individualised bungalows set in generously long, wooded gardens.

5.4.20 In the south of the parish, the unregulated, semi-planned development of the Rochester Park Estate was brought to an abrupt end in the late 1960s. Chronic problems with subsidence, and infrastructural services combined with mounting pressure to provide new housing on the Peninsula, saw Strood Rural District Council institute a radical plan to create a higher density housing estate, complete with community facilities. Following negotiations with Dartford-based developers Talbot Estates (Hartley) Limited and Howard, Outred and Co., Strood Rural District Council compulsorily purchased most of the land east of Town Road, to permit the replanning and redevelopment of Milton Avenue, Tennyson Avenue, View Road and Hillcrest Avenue. The resultant Cliffe Woods Redevelopment Scheme saw the clearance of most of the heavily wooded Rochester Park Estate and the creation of a New Town neighbourhood-style estate, with curvaceous roads and cul-de-sacs planned around an axial, wooded 'parkway' that climbed uphill and afforded extensive, Thameside views. Although the great majority of this phase has been lost to late-20th century planned redevelopment, the original Rochester Park Estate is still legible in the north-west portion, in the form of interwar and post-war bungalows, street names and layout.

5.4.21 The heart of the new estate, named, briefly, Cliffe Park, was, and still is, the 'village' green between Town Road and Parkside. It was provided with a Village Hall, terraced shops, Post Office, car park and later a Surgery and Community Centre. The growth of the estate in the 1970s, saw the provision in c1972-4 of a recreation ground, pavilion and car park at the corner of Town Road and Merry Boys Road, and a Primary School on View Road in c1976.

5.5 Cartographic Sources and Map Regression

Andrews, Dury and Herbert map of 1769

5.5.1 Andrews, Dury and Herbert published their atlas some thirty years before the Ordnance Survey, immediately becoming the best large-scale maps of the county. This shows a sparsely populated landscape. The villages of Cliff and Higham can be seen at the edge of the marshes. The PDA itself is featureless. Mortimer farm is

shown on the Town Road and the area to the south east of the PDA is wooded. (Fig. 3).

Hasted, 1798

- 5.5.2 This shows the Hoo Peninsular in the northern area. The PDA is shown with a hill to the west, being the higher ground of Cooling Hill. On this map what we know as Cooling is called Cowling. The main settlement area is to the north of the PDA at Cliff at the marsh edge. The farmstead of Mortimer's is mentioned by name. The area is a sparsely populated landscape of small hamlets, farmsteads, fields and woods (Fig. 4)

Tithe Map from 1840

- 5.5.3 This shows the PDA area as virtually unchanged except for the south eastern corner which a piece has since been removed from the field for residential house. The PDA is designated area 889 which was owned by the Earl of Darnley and occupied by James Stevenson. The land is called Grass Croft and is 10.2 acres of pasture. Of interest to the north in the current area of popular trees on the norther boundary are two separate fields. Field 316, known as Rushey Close is also owned and occupied by the same people as 889. However, field 879 is owned by the parish but also occupied by James Stevenson is called Meadow Poor's Land (Fig. 5)

Historic OS Map 1864 1:2500

- 5.5.4 This shows the PDA as a single field with trees along the north and parts of the western boundary. The PDA is crossed by a footpath traversing in a north easterly to south westerly direction. To the south on either side of town Road are woods. To the north is a field and to the north east is a marshy area, which probably explains the name of the field in the tithe map. Between the two northern fields is a horseshoe shaped feature which is a pond. The edge of Mortimer's Farm and house can be seen in the north west corner of the map. Buckland Road can be seen in the far north west corner of the map. (Fig. 6).

Historic OS map 1897 1:2,500

- 5.5.5 The PDA appears unchanged except for what appears to be the inclusion of drainage channels along the boundary. The two fields to the north have been

merged. Immediately to the south on the western side of Town Road, the wooded area has been cleared. The wood remains on the western side of Town Road (Fig.7).

Historic OS map 1908 1:2,500

5.5.6 No changes are noted (Fig.8).

Historic OS map 1939 1:2,500

5.5.7 There have been significant changes. To the south along either side of Town Road there are now some residential developments in amongst plots that are orchards on the western side and woods on the eastern side. The only other change is a new property built on the eastern side of Town Road to the north of the PDA opposite Mortimer's Farm (Fig.9).

Historic OS map 1961-1962, 1: 2,500

5.5.8 The PDA appears unchanged. To the south, some more houses have been built in some of the vacant areas of the residential estate. Wedged between the south eastern corner of the PDA and the previous 4 detached houses built in the new house of Meadowcroft. This house was built utilising the south eastern corner of the original field of the PDA. To the north, on the western side of Town Road a new house has been built opposite Eastcroft, called Westfield and to the south of Westfield are more buildings although it is unclear from the map the purpose of these buildings although from the HER record this is the site of the WWII anti-tank blockhouse (Fig.10).

Historic OS map 1975 1:2500

5.5.9 There do not appear to be any changes to the PDA other than the footpath across the site is not showing. Immediately to the north is now wooded and included a new boundary line within showing a quarter circle. Further north has been turned into orchards. To the west is still arable fields. To the east the field has been turned into playing fields with a pavilion. On the south eastern corner of Town Road and Merry Boys Road, a pumping station has been added. To the south more houses have filled in the vacant areas (Fig.11).

Historic OS map 1979 1:2500

5.5.10 There do not appear to be any changes (Fig.12).

Historic OS map 1976-1981 1:2500

5.5.11 There do not appear to be many changes to the PDA. The majority of the fields to the west have been turned into orchards (Fig.13).

Historic OS map 1989-1993 1:2500

5.5.12 No changes are noted (Fig. 14).

Post 1993

5.5.13 This map clearly shows the PDA is bounded by drainage ditches on all sides. Despite recent historical mapping omitting the footpath, it is clearly still in existence. The fields to the west have reverted back to arable. (Fig. 15).

5.6 Aerial Photographs

1940s

5.6.1 This shows the PDA as a field although it is unclear as to what has caused the patterning seen. The drainage ditches around the edge can clearly be seen as well as further man-made drainage ditches within the centre. The western boundary is dominated by trees with the pillbox clearly seen located one third of the way up the western boundary. Alongside the northern boundary can be seen two fields, one with the pond and more drainage ditches. Further north along Town Road can be seen Westfield on the western side and Eastcroft on the opposite side. To the south of Westfield appears to be a tall building and from the HER record this is the site of the WWII anti-tank blockhouse comprising of pillboxes, transport buildings and military supply buildings. There appear to be more buildings on this site than that suggested of the three buildings shown on the later historic OS maps. It is right next to where the Stop Line passes across Town Road. Meadowcroft in the south eastern corner has not yet been built although some houses and their plots are being laid out of have been built. To the east can be seen the earthwork remains of the Hoo Stop Line running diagonally from south east to north west until it meets Town Road and then turns to run northwards.

The far south eastern area is still quite wooded although it appears some housing is being to be built their too. (Plate 1).

1960s

- 5.6.2 The PDA is still rough pasture although it does show the remnants of the patterning. It looks like the drainage has been re-done on the eastern side. To the south east corner Meadow Croft has now been built. The pill box on the western boundary is clearly seen now that the trees on the western side have been cleared. The path of the Stop Line is now less clear. To the north east it is not clear what has occurred in the field but it may be related to drainage. To the far west of the photograph is a hexagon shape in an orchard made by hedging. It is unclear as to why this has been done. To the far north, the area south of Westfield has altered significantly and there now only appears to be three buildings (Plate 2).

1990

- 5.6.3 The PDA is grass and the footpath running across the site can be seen as can the pillbox. The two fields to the north have been planted densely with trees. More of the fields around have converted to orchards. The path of the Stop Line to the south of Merry Boys Road has been covered by residential housing. The path of the Stop Line to the north of Merry Boys Road and the far northern section to the photograph can be seen. The hexagonal shape to the west has gone. The field to the east of Town Street is no a playing field and this is to the east and south surrounded by residential housing. (Plate 3).

2003

- 5.6.4 The PDA appears unchanged other than some bushes and trees are appearing. The trees on the boundary area have matured and on the western side the pillbox is covered by vegetation. Many of the fields around have returned to arable. The Stop Line is there but somewhat fainter (Plate 4).

2011

- 5.6.5 The line of the Shorne-Grain pipeline can be seen in the northern part of the photograph as paler areas running from west to east. The PDA has more trees growing in the southern half of the site. (Plate 5).

2013

- 5.6.6 There does not appear to be any change. (Plate 6).

2015

There does not appear to be any change (Plate 7).

LIDAR

- 5.6.7 The LIDAR map does not highlight anything of interest. The drainage ditches around the edge of the PDA can be seen as well as the footpath across the site. To the east of the PDA shows the path of the Stop Line and the numerous drainage channels in the field to the north (Fig. 16).

5.7 Walkover Survey

- 5.7.1 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. The walkover survey was undertaken on the 27th April 2018. No artefacts or archaeological features were identified in the walkover other than the known pillbox (Plates 9-21).
- 5.7.2 The PDA was covered in rough grass, nettles and brambles and was covered with small trees and bushes in the northern part and a small wooded area in the southern part. A grassed footpath ran across the site.
- 5.7.3 The pillbox located on the western boundary line was visited as part of the walkover survey and is still in good condition (TQ 77 SW 56). It is not clear as to the ownership of the pillbox as it appears to straddle the tree and fence line (Fig. 18).

5.8 Summary of Potential

Palaeolithic

5.8.1 The Palaeolithic period represents the earliest phases of human activity in the British Isles, up to the end of the last Ice Age. The Kent HER has no records from this period within the 500m assessment area. Therefore, the potential for finding remains that date to this period within the confines of the development site is considered **low**.

Mesolithic

5.8.2 The Mesolithic period reflects a society of hunter-gatherers active after the last Ice Age. 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

5.8.3 The Neolithic period was the beginning of a sedentary lifestyle based on agriculture and animal husbandry. 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

5.8.4 The Bronze Age was a period of large migrations from the continent and more complex social developments on a domestic, industrial and ceremonial level. The Kent HER has two records from this period within the assessment area just to the north of the PDA relating to enclosure and pit as well as single briquetage vessel fragment. It was thought that the enclosure area continued to the south towards the PDA. This suggests possible settlement in the area as well as salt making. In 1978, circa 200m north west of the pipeline excavation a Bronze Age settlement was found. Therefore, the potential for finding remains that date to this period within the confines of the development site is considered **moderate/high**.

Iron Age

- 5.8.5 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 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**.

Romano-British

- 5.8.6 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 Kent HER has two records from this period within the assessment area being two successive Roman enclosures found in the Pipeline excavations that were thought to continue south towards the PDA. In addition, there was a PAS find in the area of a Roman Gold coin as well as the unstratified gold coin found in the pipeline excavation to the north suggests Roman activity in the area. We are aware that the Hoo Peninsular was a centre of Romano-British industrial activity particularly in relation to salt mining and that sea levels have changed since then and it is unclear where these Roman levels were and given the low-lying nature of the land it is possible salt making was in the vicinity. Therefore, the potential for finding remains that date to this period within the confines of the development site is considered **moderate**.

Anglo-Saxon

- 5.8.7 The Kent HER has three records from this period within the assessment area. A PAS find of a 5-6th century copper alloy brooch (exact location not known) and a possible holloway circa 200m to the north of the PDA identified in the pipeline excavations. The Holloway runs on a north-south axis and it is possible that its path to the south may traverse across the PDA. The Holloway contained finds of a dog skeleton (possible ritually placed). Also found was a copper alloy brooch and a blue bead and are suggestive of Anglo-Saxon cemetery type goods and an Anglo-Saxon cemetery has been found circa 800m north of the PDA. The pipeline excavations also found a sunken feature building containing an oven that has been carbon dated to 1020–1180 AD. Therefore, the potential for finding remains

that date to this period within the confines of the development site is considered **high**.

Medieval

- 5.8.8 The Kent HER has only two records from this period within the assessment area. A Medieval enclosure was found as part of the Pipeline excavations that is interpreted as have an agricultural purpose likely to house stock. Circa 450m to the north west is an area of ridge and furrow identified from aerial photographs. In addition, some of the cropmarks shown on the HER records may also related to Medieval field systems. Therefore, the potential for finding remains that date to this period within the confines of the development site is considered **moderate**.

Post Medieval

- 5.8.9 The Kent HER has three records from this period within the assessment area. First a PAS find (exact location unknown) of a silver figurine from the 18th or 19th century. Two related to the Grade II listed 17th century Mortimer's Farmhouse circa 320m to the north east of the PDA and the accompanying Farmstead. The map regression confirms the rural nature of the area in this period with fields, orchards and interspersed with farmsteads as well as some low lying marshy areas requiring drainage. The PDA appears to have been used for pasture. Therefore, the potential for finding remains that date to this period within the confines of the development site is considered **low**.

Modern

- 5.8.10 KHER has 13 records dating to this period, all but two of them relating to the WWII Hoo Stop Line and accompanying features such as the pillboxes and anti-tank blockhouse. Many of which still survive and the path of the Stop Line itself can be traced through earthworks and cropmarks, although parts have since been ploughed out. The remaining records are a WWI medal found in the pipeline excavation and the 1960s Emmanuel Christian Centre. Given the proximity of the eastern and north eastern part of the PDA to the Stop Line, it is possible that sub-surface remains relating to the Stop Line are present. Also, consideration is required in respect of the pillbox that straddles the western boundary being a

non-designated heritage asset. Therefore, the potential for finding remains dating to this period in the PDA is considered **high**.

Undated

5.8.11 There is one undated record being a trackway cropmark feature circa 500m north, north west of the PDA identified from aerial photographs. The track appears to run on a broadly north east to south west alignment.

Overview

5.8.12 This desk-based assessment has considered the archaeological potential of the site but this potential can only be tested by fieldwork.

5.8.13 The desk-based 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: **moderate/high**
- Iron Age: **low**
- Roman: **moderate**
- Anglo-Saxon: **high**
- Medieval: **moderate**
- Post-Medieval: **low**
- Modern: **high**

6 IMPACT ASSESSMENT

6.1 Introduction

6.1.1 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.

6.2 Historic Impacts

- 6.2.1 Cartographic regression (5.5), Topographic analysis (1.2) and Historical research (5.4) indicate that the site has primarily been used as arable fields or orchards.
- 6.2.2 The site historically appears to have only been used as pasture and this is likely due to the need for the PDA to require drainage. Consequently, the site is not expected to have received any plough damage. As a result, the impact on archaeological remains is considered **low**.
- 6.2.3 Any residential development would require house foundations and it is possible given the nature of the land, requiring drainage, that piling may be required. This would have the potential to destroy any potential archaeological remains, which would lead to a **high** impact.

6.3 Summary of Impacts

- 6.3.1 Therefore, the impact overall is historically considered to be **low**.

7 ARCHAEOLOGICAL MITIGATION

7.1 Introduction

- 7.1.1 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 may be impacted upon during any proposed construction works.
- 7.1.2 The assessment has generally shown that the area to be developed is within an area of **high** archaeological potential for the Anglo-Saxon and Modern periods, **moderate/high** potential for the Prehistoric period, with **moderate** potential for the Roman and Medieval periods and low for all other periods.

8 OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

8.1 Archive

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

8.2 Reliability/Limitations of Sources

- 8.2.1 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.

8.3 Copyright

- 8.3.1 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 Esquire Developments Ltd (and representatives) for the use of this document in all matters directly relating to the project.

Paul Wilkinson PhD MCifA.

SWAT Archaeology

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http://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/catalogue//adsdata/arch-455-1/dissemination/pdf/Text_Reports/DA39_TEXT_-_DEANGATE_RIDGE_HOO.pdf

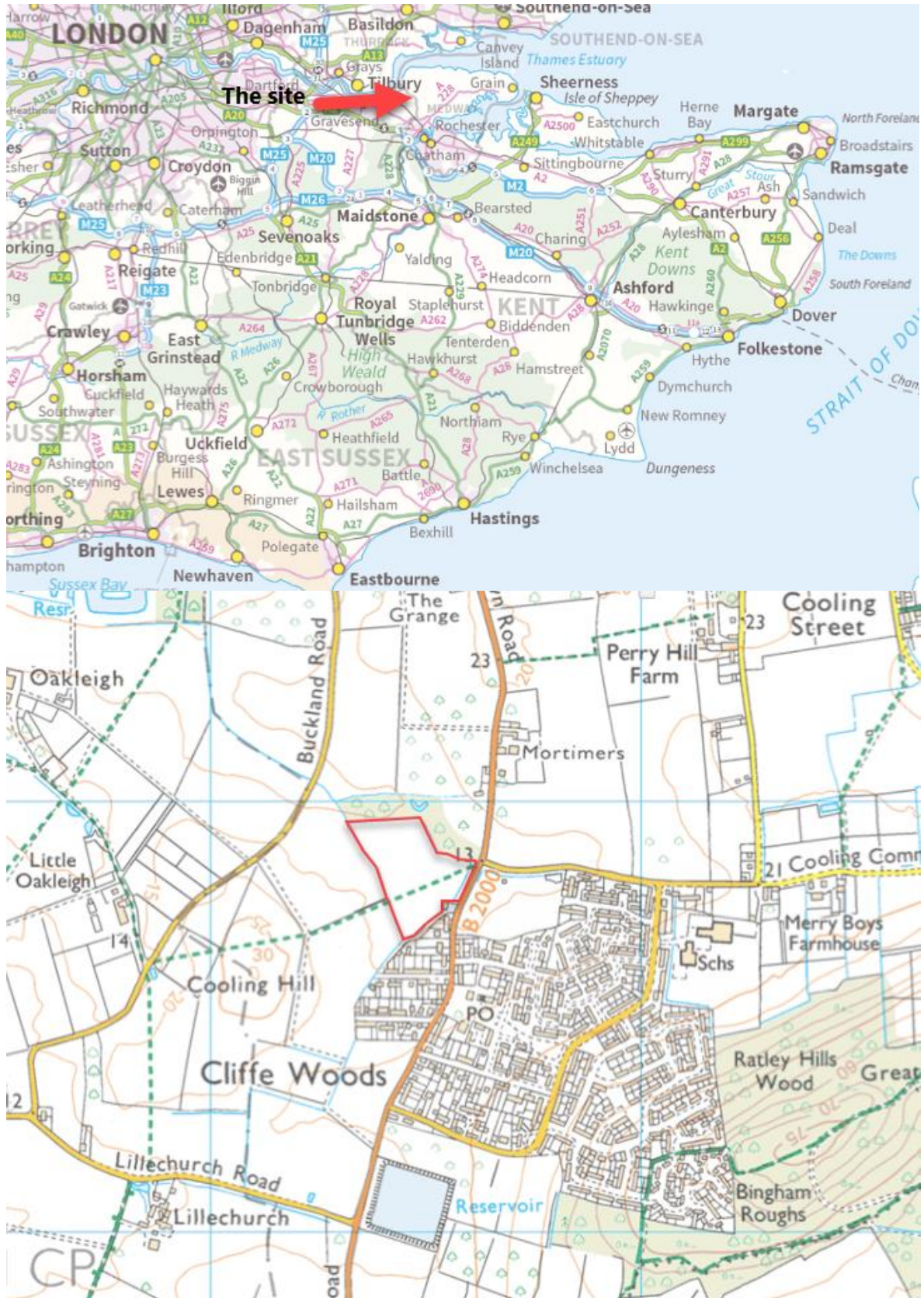


Figure 1: Site location map, scale 1:10000.



Figure 2: Proposed Development Area,



Figure 3: Andrew, Dury and Herbert Map from 1769



Figure 4: Hasted, 1798



Figure 5: 1840 Tithe Map

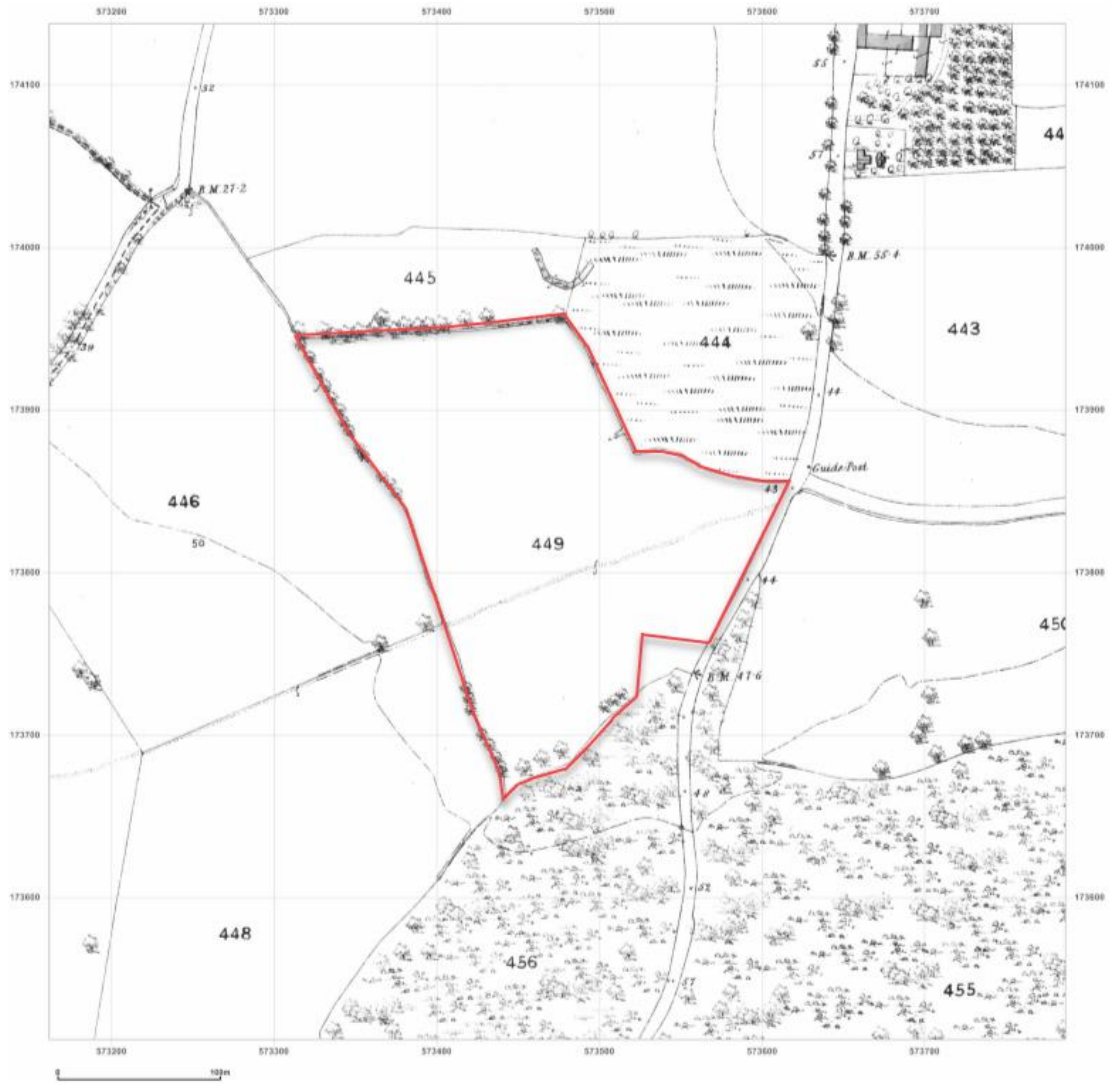


Figure 6: Historic OS Map 1864 1:2500

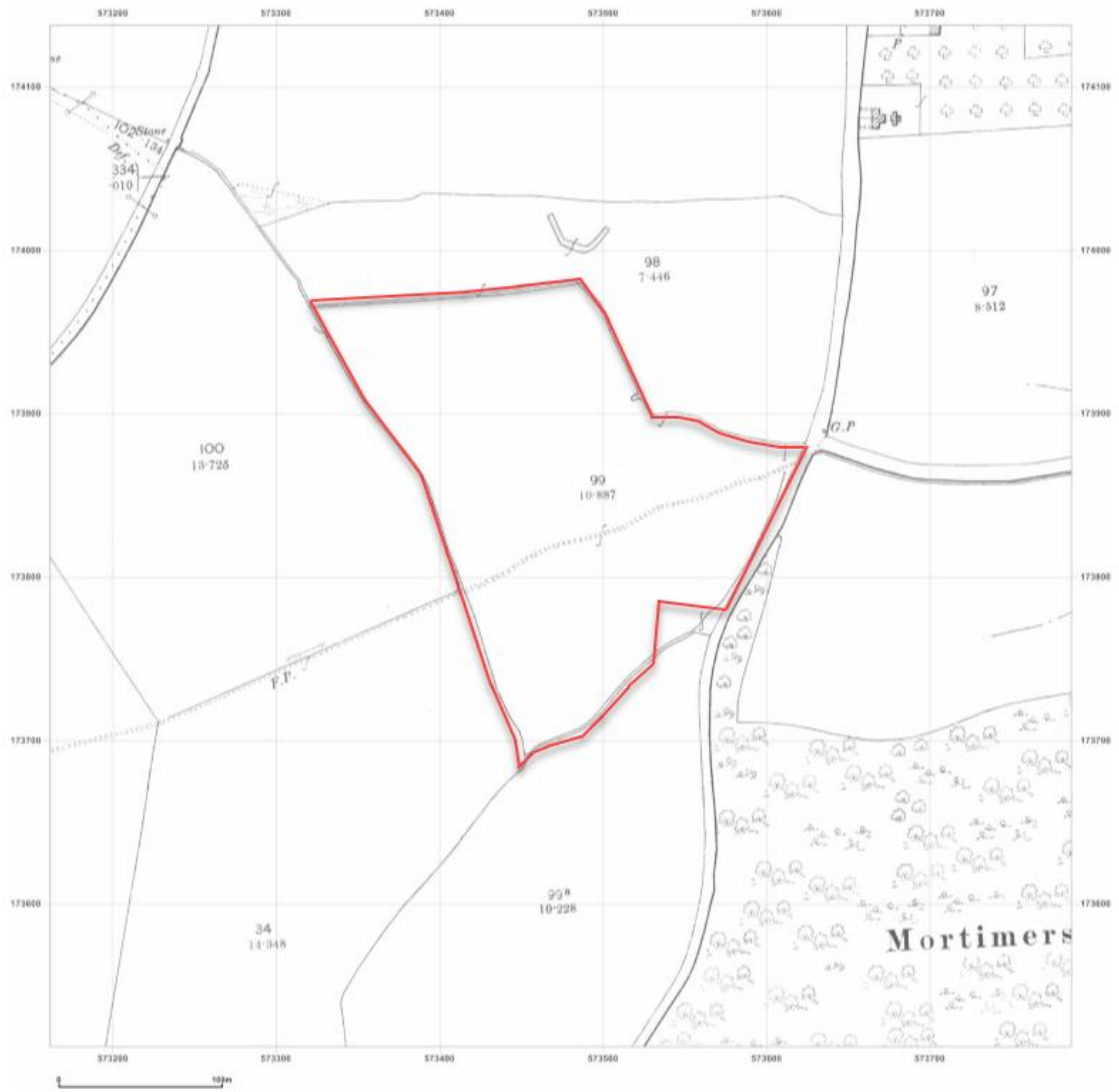


Figure 7: Historic OS Map from 1897 1:2500

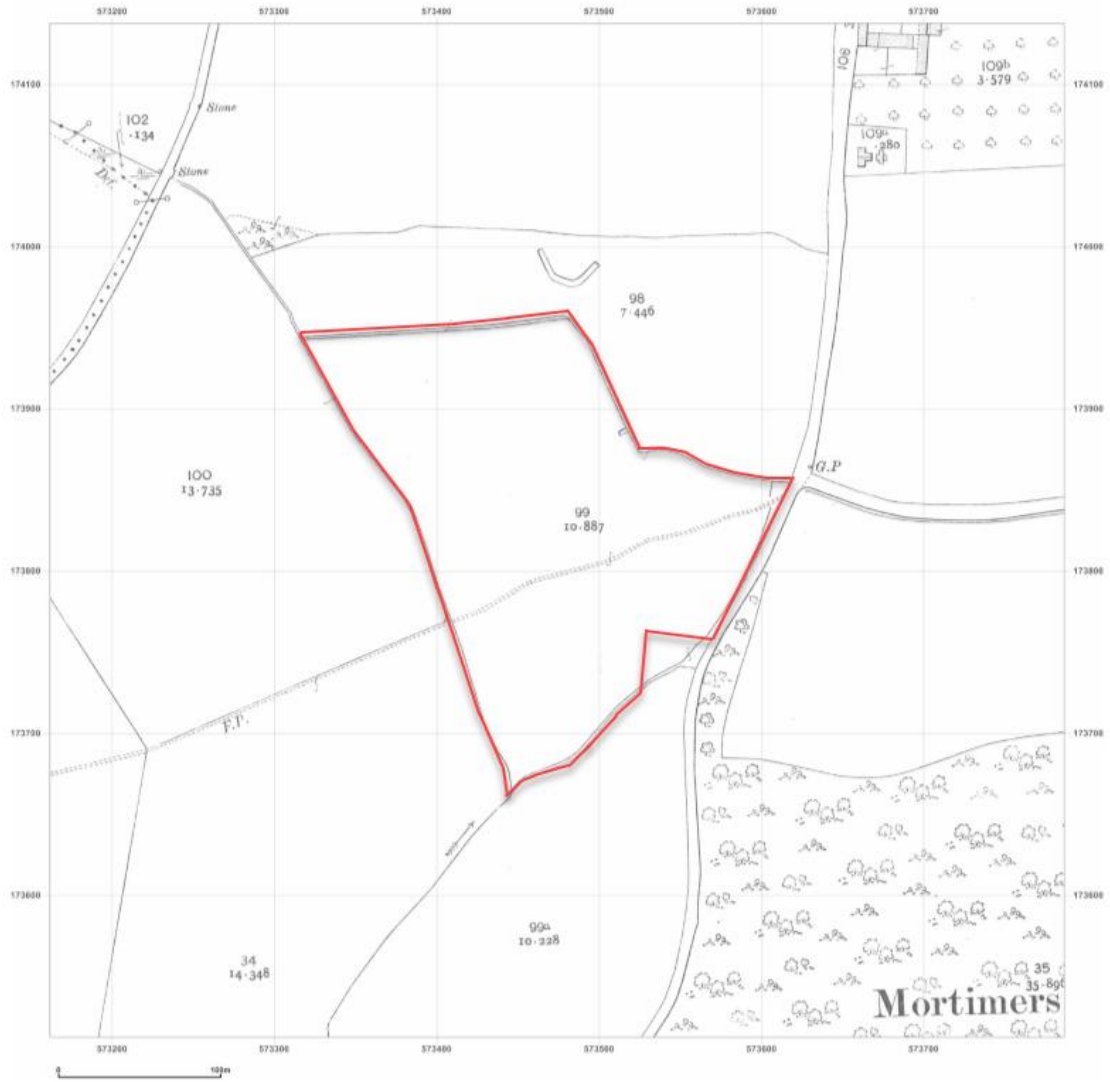


Figure 8: Historic OS Map 1908 1:2500

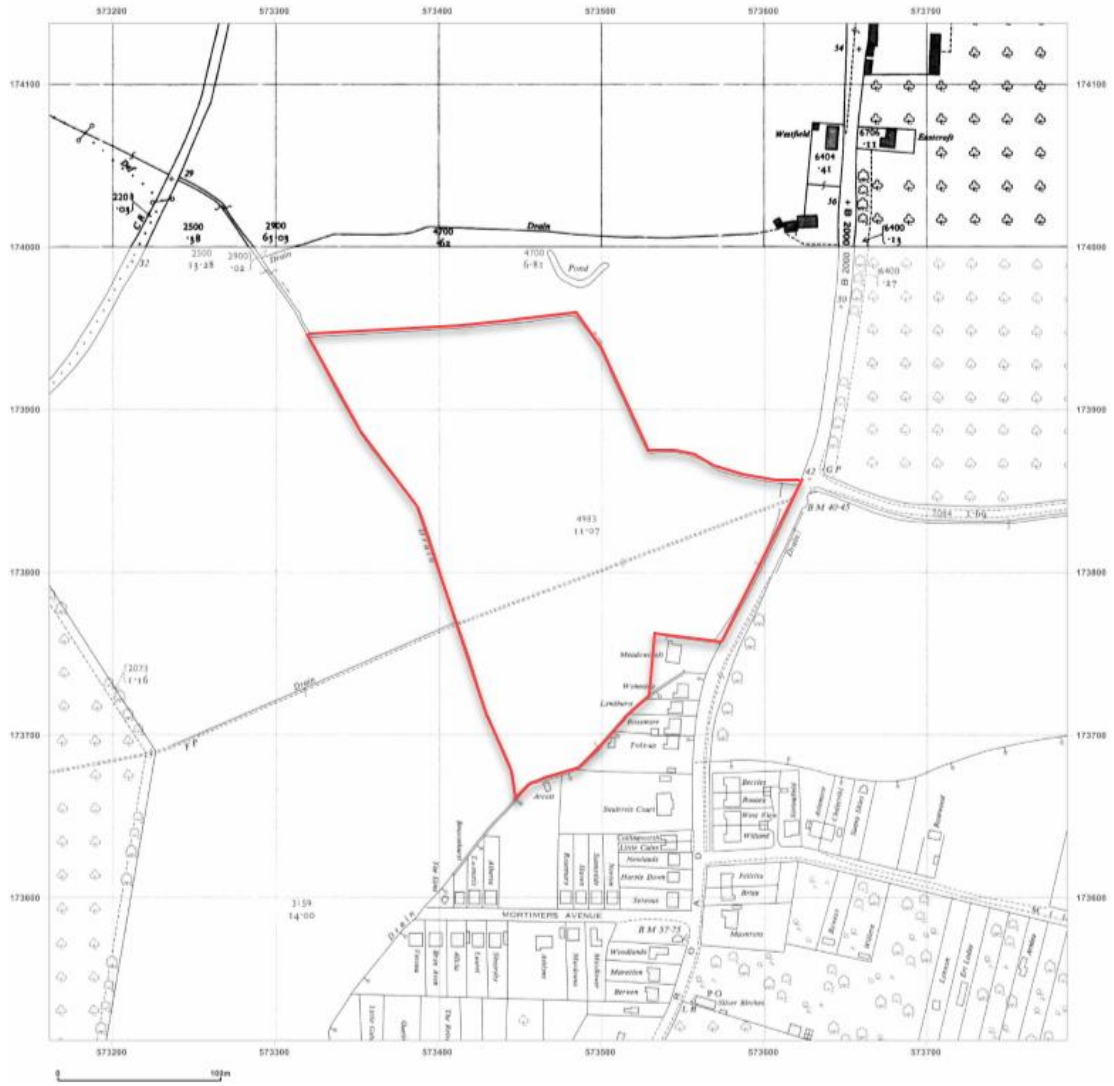


Figure 10: Historic OS Map 1961-1962 1:2500

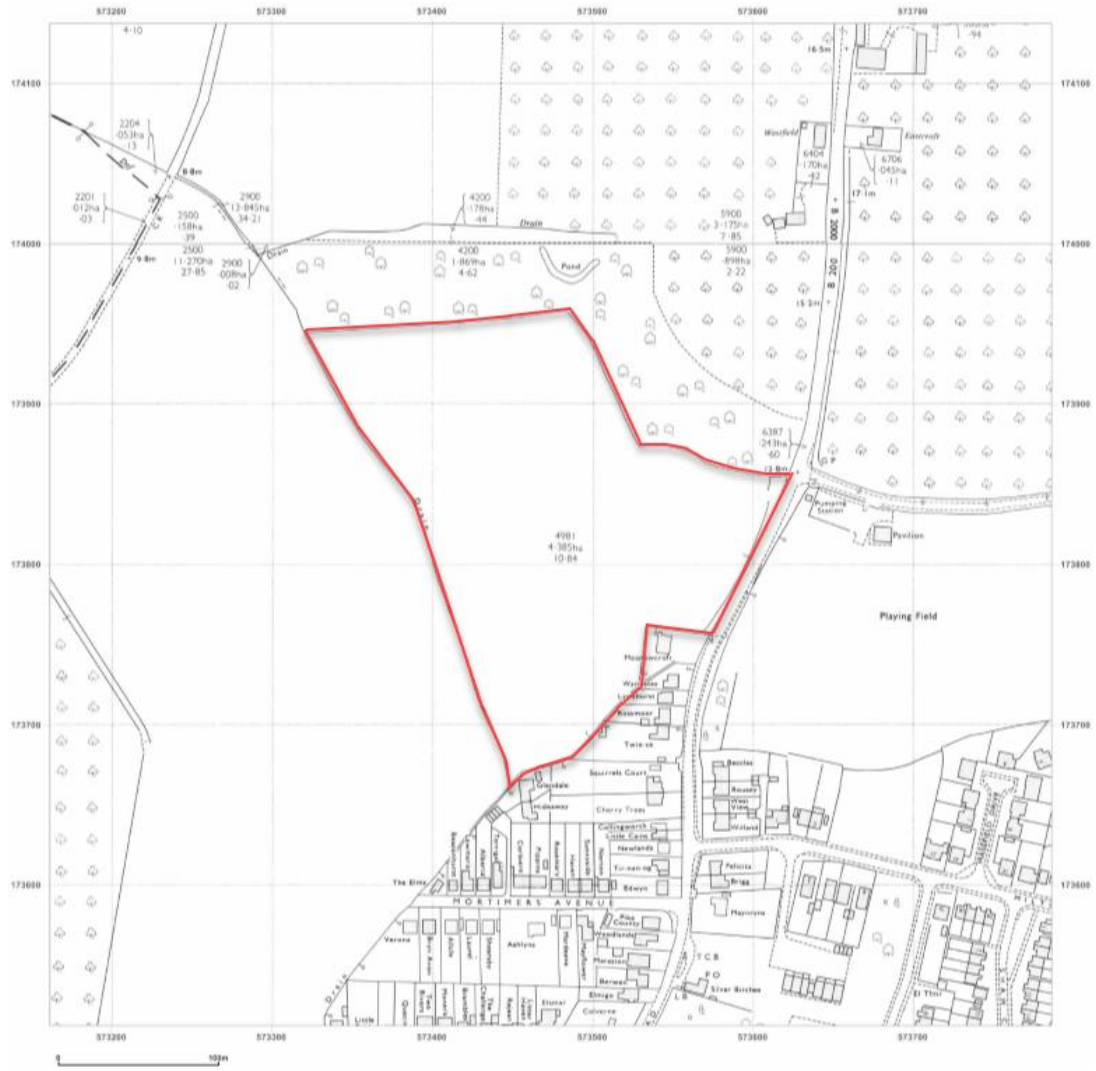


Figure 11: Historic OS Map 1975 1:2500



Figure 12: Historic OS Map 1979 1:2500

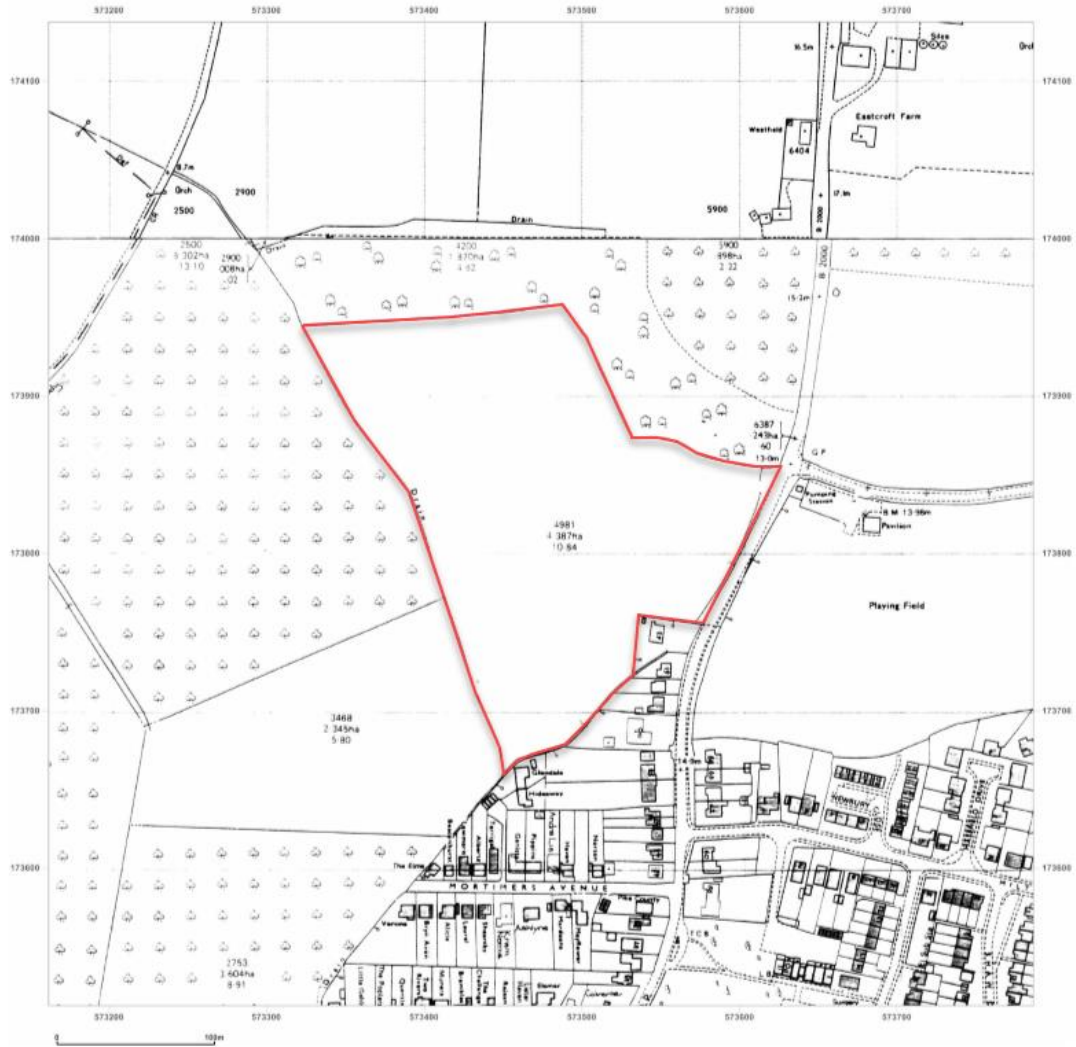


Figure 14: Historic OS Map 1989-1993 1:2500



Figure 15: Current OS Map



Figure 16: Environment Agency LIDAR Map (1m DSM)

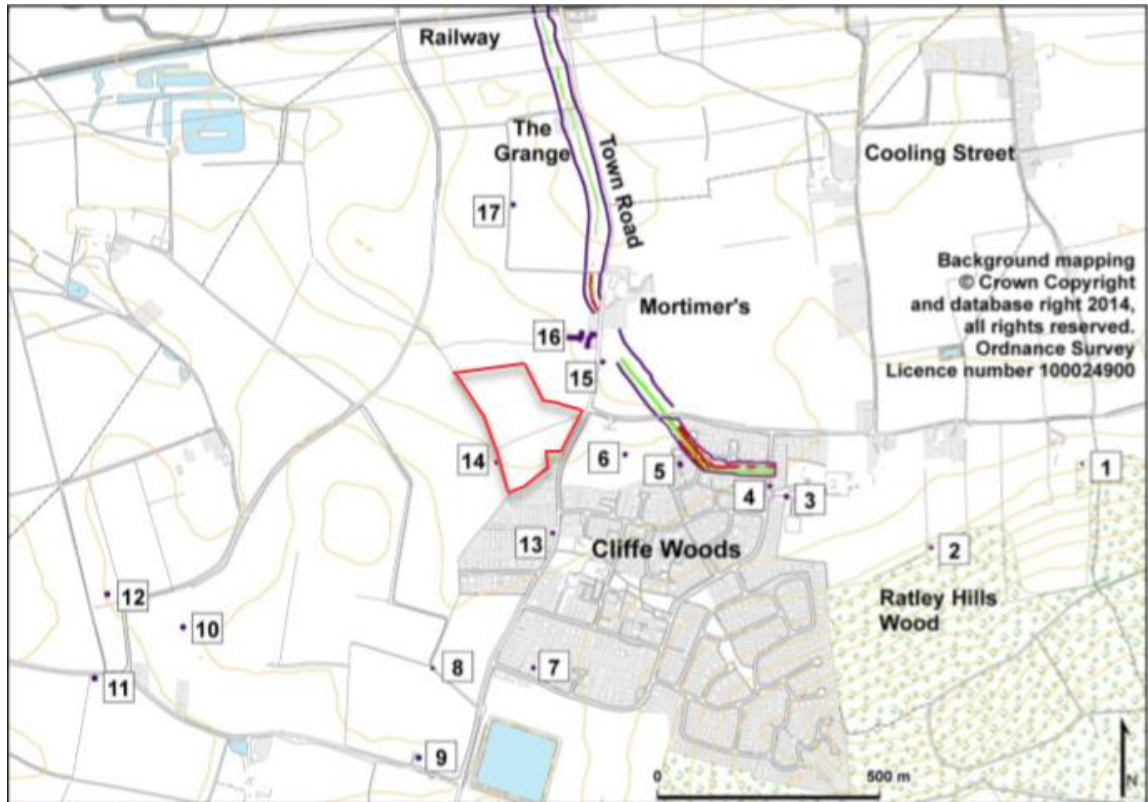


Figure 17: The route of the Stop Line Deangate Ridge to the edge of Higham Marshes. The PDA is outlined in red. Features shown include the anti-tank ditch (green), flanking cleared area, pillboxes (purple) and earthwork banks (red).



Figure 18: Location of Site I excavated for the Shorne-Grain Pipeline route. PDA highlighted in green.

10 APPENDIX 1 – KCC HER DATA (SEE FIGURES 19-21)

KHER	Type	Location	Period	Description
	HLC			The site is in an area characterised by KCC Historic Landscape Characterisation Prairie fields (19 th century enclosure with extensive boundary loss).
TQ 77 SW 56	Monument	c. 0m W	Modern	A World War II concrete type 24 pillbox, narrow wall version with brick skin. Located in a field on the west of Town Road; faces north east and is fronted by a small drainage ditch. Related to the Stop Line. Adjacent to the western PDA boundary.
TQ 77 SW 1080	Monument	c. 200m E	Modern	A Second World War Type 24 pillbox on the northern edge of Cliffe Woods to the west of the anti-tank ditch. Condition: The pillbox was visible on aerial photographs up to 1961 but was removed before 1992. Sub-surface remains may survive. Located in the recreation ground.
TQ 77 SW 1073	Monument	c. 300m E	Modern	Earthwork banks associated with the Second World War Stop Line in the Hoo Peninsula, section from north of Deangate Ridge north to the railway line.
TQ 77 SW 54	Building	c. 200m NE	Modern	World War II pillbox, south of Eastcroft Farm, Cliffe. Type 24 pillbox, narrow wall version with brick skin. Faces north and is located to the west of the anti-tank ditch. Condition: Recorded on 1944 and 2013 (Google Earth) aerial photographs. Appeared in good condition during a field visit in 2014.
TQ 77 SW 67	Building	c. 220m NE	Modern	World War II anti-tank blockhouse, near Eastcroft Farm, Cliffe, comprising pillboxes, transport buildings and military supply buildings. Two Second World War reinforced concrete artillery pillboxes (brick-shuttered) at right angles to each other but not

				apparently interconnected. 20m west of Town Road to the north of Cliffe Woods and to the west of the anti-tank ditch. Aerial photographs taken in May 1944 show the pillboxes within a military installation with five military support buildings. Condition: The support buildings were removed by 1947 while the two pillboxes were visible on aerial photographs until at least April 2007. Buildings were constructed on the site by September 2013 (Google Earth). A May 2015 field visit, from the public highway, confirmed that a pillbox, one of the buildings, and a row of garages seem to remain
MKE 83419	Farmstead	c. 350m NE	Post Medieval	Mortimer's Farm. A regular courtyard farm with multi-yards. Farmhouse in detached central position. Altered with significant loss of original form (more than 50%).
TQ 77 SW 1022	Listed Building	c. 320m NE	Post Medieval	Mortimer's Farmhouse. Grade II listed (1204114). Farmhouse. C17 with mid C19 front block. Timber framed to rear and rendered with rendered front block. Low pitched slate hipped roof to front with end stacks. 2 storeys. Regular 3 window front, C20 metal casements on first floor with full-width veranda porch on ground floor. The C17 framed house at rear originally had three timber gables across the front, according to an oil once in the house.
TQ 77 SW 1072	Monument	c. 300m E	Modern	Flanking cleared area around section of Second World War Stop Line, from north from Deangate Ridge to the railway, Hoo Peninsula.
TQ 77 SW 1071	Monument	c. 300m E	Modern	Section of the Second World War Stop Line from Deangate Ridge to Higham Marshes. Aerial photographs taken on 20th June 1942 record the stop line near Cliffe Woods with the anti-tank ditch in place. The whole section was photographed in 1944, when the ditch was backfilled with mounds of earth lying alongside the former ditch. The buried remains of the anti-tank ditch were visible as a crop mark on aerial photographs of 1946. Aerial photographs taken

				in 2011 and 2013 suggest that the anti-tank ditch survives as a sub-surface feature, revealed as a cropmark between Mortimer's farm and the disused quarry. It has probably been destroyed by housing on the edge of Cliffe Woods village to the east of the B2000 road.
TQ 77 SE 1322	Monument	c. 300m E	Modern	Second World War Stop Line: Hoo St Werburgh to Higham Marshes. The stop line was a series of connected anti-invasion defences constructed from 1940
TQ 77 SW 103	Monument	c. 200m N	Bronze Age	A Middle Bronze Age enclosure and pits and a Late Bronze Age replacement for the enclosure ditch. Area I was a portion of the Grain-Shorne pipeline in a valley bottom north of the village of Cliff Woods excavated in 2008. In the Middle Bronze Age, a large enclosure ditch and a series of pits were dug. Most of these contained finds of Middle Bronze Age/Late Bronze Age date and could well date to the Late Bronze Age. The ditch was 17m long, 4m wide and 0.96m deep. It was aligned east to west and produced a single briquetage pedestal. The pits were up to 1m in diameter and 0.2m deep. One contained briquetage wedge fragments. One group of pits were of similar size but did not form any recognisable pattern. Late Bronze Age activity included a ditch that may have been a replacement for the earlier enclosure ditch. It was 120m long and on average 1.8m wide and 0.4m deep. Three north-south aligned gullies were contemporary; they were 0.8m wide and 0.22m deep. A pit group of eight sub-circular pits up to 1.4m in diameter also dates to this phase of activity. (1-2)
TQ 77 SW 110	Findspot	c. 200m N	Modern	A First World War service medal. Area I was a portion of the Grain-Shorne pipeline in a valley bottom north of the village of Cliff Woods excavated in 2008. A 1914-1918 war medal, Service Number 7324, Pte H... [Surname illegible] was found during the works.
TQ 77 SW 106	Monument	c. 200m N	Roman	Roman enclosures. Area I was a portion of the Grain-Shorne pipeline in a valley bottom north of the village of Cliff Woods

				excavated in 2008. Two successive enclosures were laid out on the site in the late 1st to mid-2nd century. The enclosures were at least 50m long. The only other features were a shallow gully and a small pit.
TQ 77 SW 109	Monument	c. 200m N	Medieval	Medieval enclosure. Area I was a portion of the Grain-Shorne pipeline in a valley bottom north of the village of Cliff Woods excavated in 2008. A sub-circular c.60m diameter enclosure. There were a number of pits and a cluster of stake holes outside of the enclosure. The finds from the features suggest that the site was not in use for settlement and was more like of agricultural use, perhaps a stock-compound.
TQ 77 SW 108	Monument	c. 200m N	Anglo-Saxon to Early Medieval	A sunken feature building containing an oven. Area I was a portion of the Grain-Shorne pipeline in a valley bottom north of the village of Cliff Woods excavated in 2008. The building was constructed in a large rectangular cut measuring 5.4m long, 3.7m and 0.48m deep. The oven was circular and located in the north-west corner. The oven's foundations were of flint cobbles and rammed silt clay, including reused Roman brick and tile fragments. The floor was of gravel and rammed clay. The oven had a domed sub-circular structure with an opening on the east side. The floor was later re-laid. Outside of the pit, a post hole was found, with the lower part of the post preserved in situ. The macrobotanical assemblage from the rake-out deposits included remains of cereals and wood charcoal from oak, hazel/alder, sloe/cherry, hawthorn/whitebeam/apple and elm.
TQ 77 SW 107	Monument	c. 200m N	Anglo-Saxon	A hollow way running north-south, 9m wide. Area I was a portion of the Grain-Shorne pipeline in a valley bottom north of the village of Cliff Woods excavated in 2008. A hollow way crossed the site, over 30m being exposed, it was 9m wide. A copper alloy brooch of late 5th to early 6th century date and a dark blue translucent annular

				bead were found within the feature. Also found, in the upper silts of the hollow way, was a dog skeleton.
TQ 77 SW 101	Monument	c. 400m NW	Bronze Age	Features either side of a stream were recorded in Plots 9.1 and 9.4 on the Grain-Shorne Pipeline watching brief.
TQ 77 NW 198	Monument	c. 450m NW	Medieval to Post Medieval	Area of ridge and furrow identified by aerial photography and Lidar study.
TQ 77 SW 1081	Monument	c. 220m S	Modern	Second World War pillbox on the western edge of Cliffe Woods, Hoo Peninsula. Since removed. It was located 360m to the south west of the anti-tank ditch (Second World War Stop Line) and faced north along Town Road amid the bungalows of a pre-War housing estate.
TQ 77 SW 1079	Monument	c. 350m E	Modern	A probable Type 28A Second World War pillbox or anti-tank gun emplacement to the west of the Second World War Stop Line in Cliffe Woods. Since removed. The pillbox is recorded on aerial photographs until at least 1961 but is not visible on 1992 photographs. This area has been developed for housing.
TQ 77 SW 117	Building	c. 350m SE	Modern	Emmanuel Christian Centre, Parkside, Cliffe Wood. built with the housing estate after 1960.
TQ 77 SW 58	Building	c. 480m N	Modern	World War II Pillbox, west of Town Road. Concrete type 24 pillbox in middle of field to west of Town Rd, Cliffe. Faces west, a narrow wall version with brick skin. Situated on cultivated land. This feature is recorded in the English Heritage report on the Second World Stop Line in the Hoo Peninsula. The report states: "Second World War reinforced concrete Type 24 pillbox, located at the edge of field to the west of Town Road, Cliffe, approximately 184m to the west of the anti-tank ditch. The pillbox faces west and is a narrow wall version with a brick skin. It is situated on cultivated land at the western edge of a field. Condition: The pillbox is visible as an extant structure on recent aerial imagery (Google Earth 2013).

TQ 77 SW 43	Monument	c. 500m NNW	Unknown	Trackway cropmark feature, near The Grange. Parallel linear cropmark features identified from aerial photographs. Remnants of a hitherto unknown trackway?
MKE 66683	Findspot	c. 500m WSW	Roman	Portable Antiquities Scheme find found in 1999 by metal Detector - Roman gold coin. Gold solidus of Valentinian III, attributed to the Visigoths. Annulet above bust indicates that the coin was produced by Visigoths of South Gaul. 2nd series (c.439-55), RIC X 3716. Weight 4.11g. Folded in antiquity. Date: from Circa 439 AD (Certain) to Circa 455 AD (Certain). Obverse description: Draped, cuirassed and diademed bust, facing right, small wreath above Obverse inscription: D N PLA VALENTI-NIANVS P F AVG Reverse description: Emperor standing facing holding long cross and Victory on globe. Right foot on human-headed coiled serpent Reverse inscription: VICTORI-A AVGGG Reverse mintmark: R/V//COMOB.
MKE 71701	Findspot	c. 350m S	Post Medieval	Portable Antiquities Scheme find from 2005 - Modern silver figurine with a dull grey patina. The face is angled and is looking over the left shoulder. There are recent breaks on the legs and worn breaks on the arms. This example probably dates to the 18th or 19th centuries.
MKE 71749	Findspot	c. 350m	Anglo-Saxon	Portable Antiquities Scheme find from 2006 - Early Medieval copper alloy brooch. Mercury-gilded bow of an Anglo-Saxon great square-headed brooch. The find comprises the rectangular, arched bow, which would originally have joined the head- and foot-plates of an Anglo-Saxon square-headed brooch; length, 32.0 mm. It is decorated with two rows of chip-carved scrollwork flanking a flat median rib engraved with a zigzag, as are the two lateral ribs, and there are old breaks at each end. In form it can be broadly compared with the bow of the brooch from Fairford, grave 20, Gloucestershire, and it dates to the earlier part of the 6th century.

Figure 19: KHER Monument Record

Kent County Council - Town Road, Cliffe Woods - Cropmarks

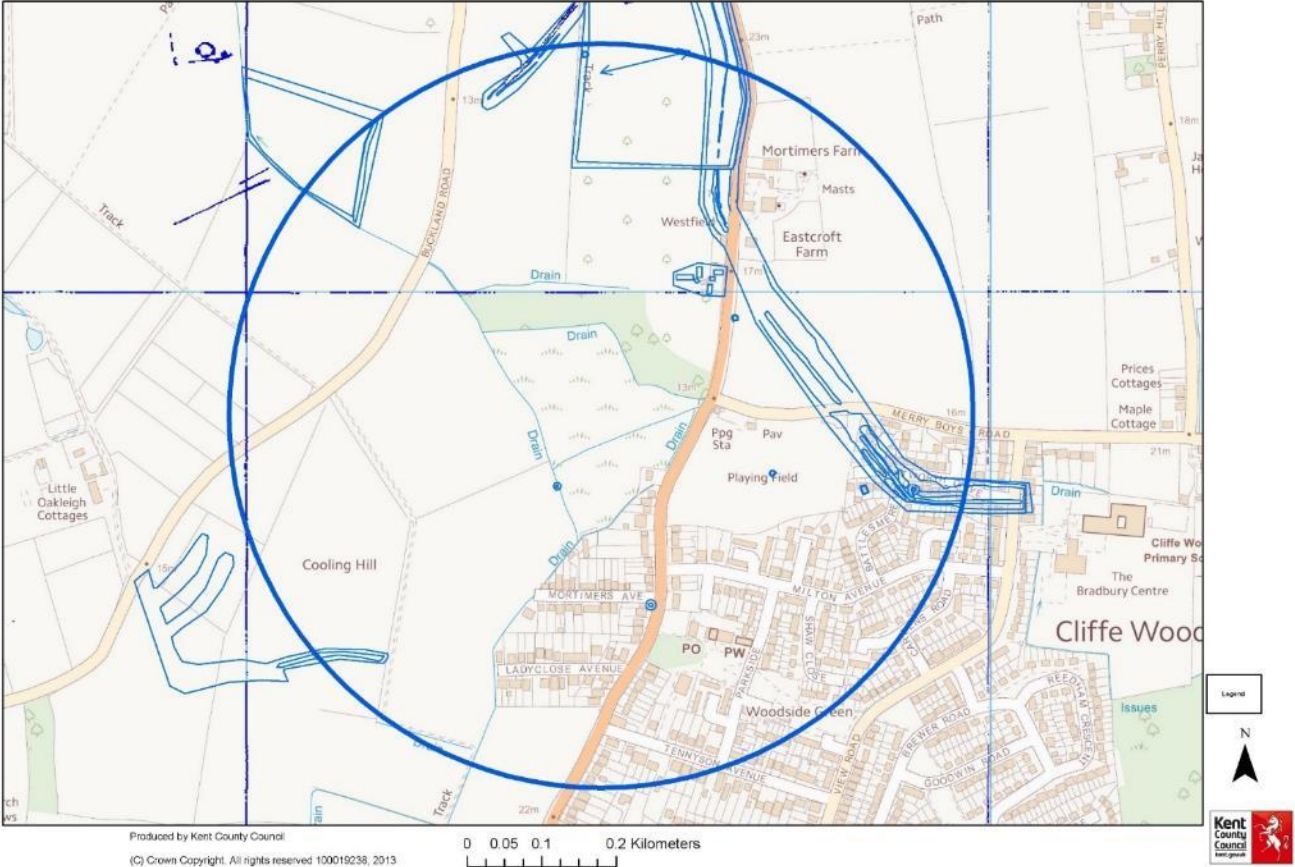


Figure 21: KHER Cropmarks

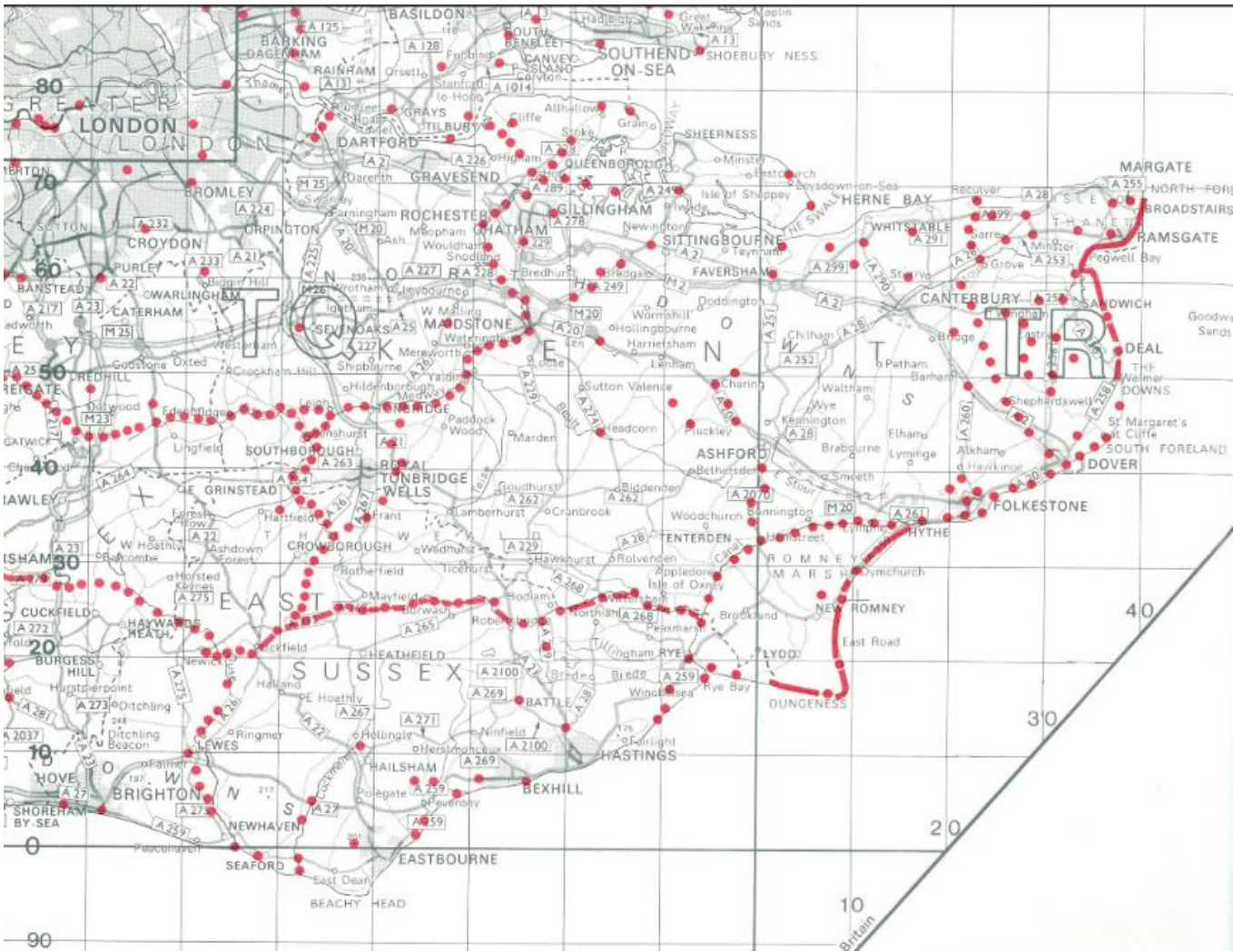


Figure 22: Kent Pillbox Map (Wills, 1985)

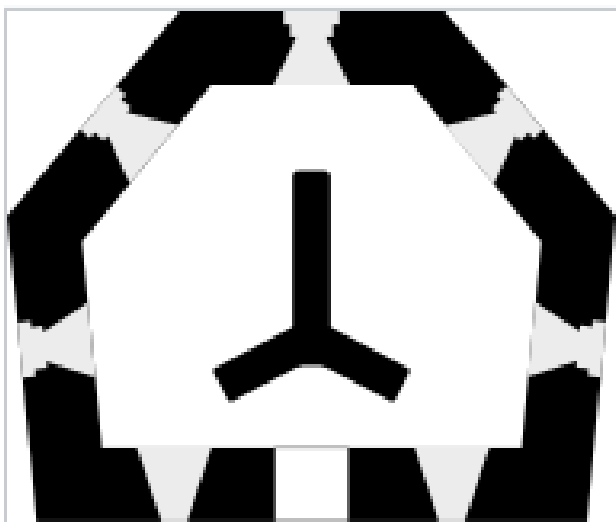


Figure 23: Pillbox design: Type 24



Figure 24: Detail of stop line and associated defences around the PDA and their survivability.



Plate 1: 1940s. All at an altitude of 1.32km (Google Earth).



Plate 2: 1960 (Google Earth)



Plate 3: 1990 (Google Earth)



Plate 4: 2003 (Google Earth)



Plate 5: 2007 (Google Earth)



Plate 6: 2011 (Google Earth)



Plate 7: 2013 (Google Earth)



Plate 8: 2015 (Google Earth)



Plate 9: View of the footpath through the PDA from Town Road (facing SW)



Plate 10: View of the eastern boundary and drainage ditch area along Town Road (facing SSW)



Plate 11: View of the part of the northern boundary from footpath (facing NNW)



Plate 12: View across the PDA towards north western corner (facing NW)



Plate 13: View across the PDA from north western corner (facing SE)



Plate 14: View across the PDA towards south western corner (facing S)



Plate 15: View of the western boundary line and drainage ditch from footpath (facing NNE)



Plate 16: View of the western boundary from outside (facing N)



Plate 17: view of the southern half of the western boundary from outside the PDA (facing SSE)



Plate 18: View of the pillbox on western boundary line (facing ENE)



Plate 19: View of the ground surface pattern that may account for the patterns seen on Google Earth.



Plate 20: View along southern boundary (facing NE)



Plate 21: View of eastern boundary at south eastern corner (facing N)