



Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment in  
Advance of the Proposed Development of  
Land Adjacent to 34 St Mary's Road,  
Dymchurch, Kent TN29 0PN

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Development of Land Adjacent to 34 St  
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OPN

National Grid Reference TR 09657 29193



Report for Mr & Mrs McGrath

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## **Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment in Advance of the Proposed Development of Land Adjacent to 34 St Mary's Road, Dymchurch, Kent TN29 0PN**

### **Summary**

*SWAT Archaeology has been commissioned by Mr & Mrs McGrath to prepare an Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment of the proposed development area (PDA) of land adjacent to 34 St Mary's Road, Dymchurch, Kent TN29 0PN.*

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

*The PDA is a residential property located on the northern side of St Mary's Road in the south western edge of Dymchurch. Within the PDA is the main house and a separate detached garage to the rear. There are further residential properties located immediately east and west of the PDA and also to the south on the opposite side of the road. The area was originally under the sea, which silted up from the Roman period onwards becoming marsh and used for pasture and arable farming with the area being drained. It was not until the 20th century, the PDA and surrounding area became urbanised, with the current house built in the 1930s. Roman remains have been found in Dymchurch, many in antiquity during works on the sea wall but it is uncertain as to whether the area of the PDA, being on the south western outskirts of the core settlement area which appears to have been around the site of the parish church was dry enough in this period to be occupied. Being on the agricultural hinterland in the Medieval period onwards, the PDA was part of the garden area for the nearby listed Grade II 18<sup>th</sup> century West End Villa as well as being part of a larger field. Generally, across Dymchurch there*

*appears little by way of archaeological events, which may account for the low number of archaeological finds and lack of opportunity rather than to the area not necessarily having archaeology.*

*The assessment has generally shown that the area to be developed is within an area of moderate potential for Roman and Post Medieval periods with low potential for all other periods. The location of the proposed buildings of the house and garage are to be located in the current garden area of No. 34, which has not been built on except for a small building, since demolished, in the south eastern corner. Therefore, the Site has had a low historical impact meaning any potential archaeology is likely to be in-situ across the majority of the area. Any historical impact caused by the disused drain in this south eastern part of the garden is uncertain as it is not clear which direction the service runs. The development proposals requiring foundations and services are likely to cause a high impact upon any potential archaeology. The need for, scale, scope and nature of any further assessment and/or archaeological works should be agreed through consultation with the statutory authorities.*

## 1 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Project Background

1.1.1 Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT) was commissioned by Mr & Mrs McGrath (the 'Clients'), to carry out an archaeological desk-based assessment to support a feasibility study of the various proposed development area (PDA) of land adjacent to 34 St Mary's Road, Dymchurch, Kent TN29 0PN centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) TR 09657 29193 (Fig 1).

### 1.2 The Site

1.2.1 The PDA is a residential property located on the northern side of St Mary's Road in the south western edge of Dymchurch. Dymchurch is located on the coast five miles south-west of Hythe and is on the Romney Marsh. Within the PDA is the main house and a separate detached garage to the rear. There are further residential properties located immediately east and west of the PDA and also to the south on the opposite side of the road. To the north is the recreation ground with the coast some 400m to the south east. The PDA sits on level ground at just 3m aOD (Fig. 1).

#### Geology

1.2.2 The British Geological Society (BGS 1995) shows that the local geology at the PDA consists of Tunbridge Wells Sand Formation - Sandstone. There are superficial deposits at the PDA of Tidal Flat Deposits - Clay and Silt. The formation of the foreland at Dungeness and across Romney Marsh is complex and due to a number of variables, sea level rises, sediment supply, storm intensity, bedrock geometry and near-shore wave climate. As a result of all these variables, is complex and difficult to identify the exact mechanisms behind the evolution of the foreland and the marsh area.

#### *Geotechnical Information*

1.2.3 There is no known geotechnical information.

### 1.3 The Proposed Development

1.3.1 The proposed development is for a new two storey detached residential unit and detached garage to be located on the eastern half of the current garden of No. 34 (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 and ensure that a Heritage Asset is protected to enable it to be passed on to future generations.

2.1.2 Statutory protection is also 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
- Hedgerow Regulations (statutory Instrument No. 1160) 1997
- Treasures Act 1996
- Burial Act 1857.

### 2.2 National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)

2.2.1 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) sets out the Government's core principles in relation to planning and the historic environment and is covered in section 16, paragraphs 185-202. These principles are designed to underpin the planning and decision-making process to ensure that Local Planning Authorities (LPA), developers and owners of heritage assets adopt a consistent approach to the conservation of the Historic Environment.

2.2.2 The Historic Environment, as defined in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF 2019): 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.'*

2.2.3 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).'*

2.2.4 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.'*

2.2.5 Paragraph 190 of the NPPF states that:

*'The LPA 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.'*

2.2.6 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.
- **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.

- 2.2.7 The NPPF is supported by the Planning Policy Guidance, which includes Conservation Principles, Policy and Guidance (2008) as well as Good Practice Advice in Planning Notes 1 to 3, all issued by Historic England.

*Hedgerow Regulations (statutory Instrument No. 1160) 1997*

- 2.2.8 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.

### **2.3 Local Policies**

- 2.3.1 Folkestone and Hythe District Council has a Local Plan adopted in 2006 and a Core Strategy adopted in 2013. The plan has a number of policies relevant to archaeology.
- 2.3.2 POLICY BE3 & BE4: CONSERVATION AREAS
- 2.3.3 POLICY BE5: LISTED BUILDINGS
- 2.3.4 POLICY BE6: OTHER BUILDINGS OF SPECIAL CHARACTER
- 2.3.5 POLICY BE12: AREAS OF SPECIAL CHARACTER
- 2.3.6 POLICY BNE18: HISTORIC PARKS & GARDENS
- 2.3.7 The PDA is close to that of the Conservation Area in Dymchurch to the east and to the west is the listed building of West End Villa. Therefore, the relevant policies in detail are as follows:

*Policy BE4*

- 2.3.8 The District Planning Authority will:
- a. refuse Conservation Area Consent for the demolition of buildings which contribute to the character or appearance of a Conservation Area;

- b. refuse proposals for infill or back land development which would adversely affect the character of a Conservation Area;
- c. require the height, scale, form and materials of new development, including alterations or extensions to existing buildings, to respect the character of Conservation Areas;
- d. seek to retain materials, features and details of unlisted buildings or structures which preserve or enhance the character or appearance of Conservation Areas;
- e. seek to retain the historic patterns, plot boundaries, building lines, open spaces, footways, footpaths and kerb lines which are essential to the character or appearance of Conservation areas;
- f. protect trees, verges and hedgerows which enhance both the setting and character of Conservation Areas.

*Policy BE5*

2.3.9 In order to preserve listed buildings and their settings and any features of special architectural or historic interest which they possess, the District Planning Authority will:

- a. refuse Listed Building Consent for demolition, extension, alteration or partial demolition, including internal or external works, if the proposals are considered to be detrimental to the character of the building;
- b. refuse proposals for the change of use of a listed building where such a use would adversely affect its character or setting, or where insufficient details are submitted to enable the application to be appropriately assessed. Changes of use will normally be permitted where these would provide the best means of conserving the character, appearance, fabric, integrity and setting of a listed building;
- c. impose conditions as necessary when granting consent to alter a listed building in order to protect the character afforded to that building by the retention or reinstatement of traditional features or materials;

- d. require the display of signs and advertisements to respect the character of a listed building, and refuse applications which would entail structural alterations for the display of advertisements;
- e. refuse applications for development which would adversely affect the setting or character of a listed building;
- 2.3.10 f. refuse applications for extensions or alterations which would dominate the original building in either scale, material or situation;
- g. refuse applications which would involve the replacement of windows having glazing bars with sheet glass;
- h. refuse applications which involve the blocking up of windows or external doorways, or the making of new openings;
- i. refuse applications which involve repairs or alterations other than in matching materials and to the original design;
- j. refuse applications which would entail the removal of mouldings, balustrades, balconies, chimneys or other architectural features;
- k. refuse applications which would entail the introduction of incongruous period features such as shutters and bow windows;
- l. refuse applications which would entail use of replacement windows and doors in PVCu plastic;
- m. refuse applications involving major internal alterations, such as the reshaping of rooms, the removal of a staircase, the removal or destruction of panelling or stained glass, or alterations to roof trusses of interest.
- 2.3.11 The Council is also in the process of creating a new Local Plan. This new potential plan includes four Heritage policies. In addition, the Council has in place a Folkestone and Hythe District Heritage Strategy., which was commissioned at the start of the new Local Plan process.
- HE1: Heritage Assets

- HE2: Archaeology
- HE3: Local List of Heritage Assets
- HE4: Folkestone Historic Gardens

*Local Planning Guidance*

2.3.12 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 Mr & Mrs McGrath 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 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.*

CIFA (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 Sources

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

#### *Archaeological databases*

- 4.2.2 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.
- 4.2.3 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.
- 4.2.4 The Archaeology Data Service Online Catalogue (ADS) was also used. The search was carried out within a 750m 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*

- 4.2.5 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*

4.2.6 The study of the collection of aerial photographs held by Google Earth was undertaken (Plates 1-7).

*Secondary and Statutory Resources*

4.2.7 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*

4.2.8 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 (750m 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 were no Registered Parks and Gardens, Historic Parks and Gardens or NMP cropmarks within the search 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
<b>Table 1: Classification of Archaeological periods</b>		

5.1.2 The Kent HER records are dominated by the Post Medieval and Modern period. Details and placement of the HER records are provided in Figure 14 and 15.

### 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 are 10 designated heritage assets, all Grade II listed of the Post Medieval period with one that is also scheduled being Martello Tower No 24 and another Scheduled asset being the moat at Marshall's Bridge (Fig. 19), both scheduled assets are on the far outer reaches of the assessment area. The closest listed building is circa 100m to the west of the PDA of West End Villa in which part of the PDA used to be situated within the garden area to the house. The other Grade II designated assets are within the core settlement area of Dymchurch and due to urbanisation have little by way of intervisibility with the PDA. The setting of West End Villa has already been altered with the creation of a number of housing plots east of the house since the 1930s, which includes that of the PDA and a number of other residential properties between the PDA and West End Villa. As such, the impact of an additional proposed house east of the current property at the PDA will have negligible impact upon the setting of West End Villa and essentially the halving of the current plot size at the PDA will bring it in line to a similar size of similar residential plots to the west of the PDA. The proposed development will not alter any significance to the historical interest of these assets.

HER Ref	Period	Distance	
TR 12 NW 44	Post Medieval	c. 500m E	Martello Tower No 24. Scheduled (1014626) & Grade II listed (1061124)
TR 12 NW 41	Post Medieval	c. 425m E	Dormers Restaurant. Grade II (1061127). Cottage row.
TR 12 NW 40	Post Medieval	c. 710m ENE	Cedar Dairies. Grade II (1061128). House now a house row. Right cross wing late 16th century, early 17th century.
TR 12 NW 35	Post Medieval	c. 335m E	Old Tree Cottage. Grade II (1061133). Late 18th century façade to possibly early 18th century house.
TR 02 NE 91	Post Medieval	c. 265m ENE	Bridge Cottage, Mill Road, Dymchurch. Grade II (1061134). Cottage row, late 18th century.
TR 02 NE 70	Post Medieval	c. 325m E	Dr Syn's Restaurant. Grade II (1231289). Late 18th century façade to a possible earlier building.
TR 12 NW 34	Post Medieval	c. 380m ESE	Martello Tower Number 25. Grade II (1344174).

TR 02 NE 86	Post Medieval	c. 280m ENE	Dunkirk End and Herring Hang Attached. Grade II (1344176). Early to mid-18th century house with 19th century alterations.
TR 02 NE 88	Post Medieval	c. 100m W	West End Villa. Grade II (1344177). House mid to late 18th century with possible earlier core.
TR 02 NE 32	Medieval	c. 720m NW	Moat, Marshall's Bridge, Burmarsh, Shepway. Scheduled (1017659). It is visible on aerial photographs of 1946 and 2006 as an extant earthwork

**Table 2: Designated Assets**

### 5.3 Previous Archaeological Works

5.3.1 There have been a small number of intrusive archaeological events in the area (Figs. 14 & 20), which tended to have negative archaeological results. The low amount of below ground archaeology found is potentially a result of the small number of archaeological events due to the lack of widespread modern development in the area rather than necessarily the lack of archaeology. It is possible that archaeology is buried at depths that were not reached by developments.

#### *Excavation at Former Country Primary School and National Rivers Authority Yard, 1995*

5.3.2 An evaluation and later strip, map and sample at the site circa 690m north east of the PDA. This area lies close to the Medieval core of Dymchurch by the church and is situated on an area that is slightly raised from that of the lower pasture or marsh area to the south and west. The excavation identified a Roman ditch containing first to second century pottery. There were also two later Post Medieval ditches. The site also contained evidence of a thick yellow clay which was interpreted as a flood deposit possibly from the 13<sup>th</sup> century storms as they sealed two pits, one containing eroded Roman pottery and the other a 13<sup>th</sup> century sherd with these pits cutting into an old shingle bank. It was also revealed that across some of the area, there were a labyrinth of marshy hollows and channels, some of which may have been artificial, although there was no dating material but the Roman ditch cut the fill of one of the larger hollows. Consequently, these channels potentially

provide evidence as to the possible drainage of the area prior to the Roman allowing them to occupy the area.

*A259 (T) St Mary's Bay and Dymchurch By-pass*

- 5.3.3 Between 1992 and 1993 along the proposed route there was an evaluation of surface fieldwalking and test pitting. The route being to the south west, west and north west of the PDA towards the outer reaches of the assessment area. Along the route several concentrations of earlier and later Medieval pottery were recorded along with Post Medieval pottery suggesting continuation of occupation in those areas. These locations have been incorporated into the HER being nos. TR 02 NE 39 – 44 along with TR 13 SW 33 and TR 13 SW 47.

*Conservation Area*

- 5.3.4 There are two Conservation Areas within the assessment area. A cluster around the Medieval church north east of the PDA and another located east of the PDA around the southern end of the High Street at Dunkirk End (Fig. 17) reflecting the historical cores of the settlements and where many of the listed buildings are located. No Conservation Area appraisal has been undertaken. Given the urbanisation of the area between the PDA and the Conservation Areas, there is little intervisibility. The Conservation Areas do not have any significance to PDA and are not considered here any further.

*Landscape Characterisation*

The PDA lies in the area classified under KHER as post 1810 settlement. It is a linear shaped classification representing the historical linear growth of the settlement of Dymchurch along what was a shingle bank. Immediately east are fields of small irregular enclosures, many of which are bordered by drainage channels. Over time many ditches have been filled in with smaller fields having been aggregated into larger day enclosures. Some sewers such as the Clobden Sewer may be drainage channels of some antiquity and are sinuous in nature suggesting that they may following the line of earlier tidal creeks in the salt marsh (Fig. 16).

## 5.4 Archaeological and Historical Narrative

- 5.4.1 At the end of the Ice Age, the flood waters carried flint nodules released from chalk cliffs that settled on the floor of the new English Channel. The area of Romney Marsh was then a sandy bay covered by water, which was about 7m higher than today's level. Around 4000 BC, longshore drift started at Dungeness and the shingle barrier created lagoons behind it, which eventually turned into mudflats. The earliest known human activity found in the Romney Marsh area is around 2000 BC, although the area was not heavily populated and little evidence is found of activity in the Bronze and Iron ages.
- 5.4.2 By the late Roman period, nearby Lydd is thought to have been an area of exposed shingle at the water's edge. Lydd is thought to have Roman origins and the church is believed to have originated from a Roman basilica. The coast at this time meant that Lydd was a shingle island cut off from the mainland and Dymchurch still potentially underwater (Fig.3) although archaeological evidence suggests that there was some useable land in the area of Dymchurch. Romans forts were built around the coast in Kent, the nearest being at Portus Lemanis, now Lympe, which was a harbour and the Romans protected this by building a sea wall in the area of Dymchurch although the exact coastline in the Roman period is not certain. At St. Mary's Bay, a Roman land surface had been eroded by a minor creek and then sealed by up to 0.5 m of sandy loam. It is thought that after the second-third century AD conditions in the lagoon changed and led to the deposition of a thick layer of alluvium. It is known that the Romans used the marsh for salt-making and it is possible that the Roman evidence found at Dymchurch implies extensive salt working. It is likely that this area of marsh was subject of transhumance whereby using the area for summer pasture before moving inland on higher ground in the winter period.
- 5.4.3 Once the Romans left in the 5th century, the Anglo-Saxons founded the kingdom of Kent. There is documentary evidence from 7<sup>th</sup> century charters that indicate estates in this area of Romney Marsh and that the area was used for pasture. In this period Kent suffered from Viking raids, and two raids occurred on the marsh area in 841 AD and 892 AD, where it is known that Viking longships rowed past New Romney and managed to get as far as Appledore. It is considered in this



period around Dymchurch that the marshland seems to have dried out by the middle Saxon period.

- 5.4.4 The oldest sea wall on the marsh is that of the Dymchurch Wall. The majority of the marsh is below the high tide level and without the sea walls much would still be under water. Up until the 13<sup>th</sup> century, there was a reliance on shingle barriers which acted as coastal defences. Fig.4 shows a conjecture of the coastline in the 13<sup>th</sup> century. The use of the marshland is dependent on drainage channels, many of which are Medieval in origin. Most of the reclaimed land is bounded by dykes or larger watercourses known as sewers. The closest to that of the PDA is called Clobsden sewer and is considered to be one of some antiquity given that it forms one of the boundaries of the Sellinge estate recorded in a 700AD charter and it is possible that it is of that date. It was only after the construction of the Dymchurch sea wall after a storm in 1287, that the area was able to have greater use becoming fertile farm land. Once the land was suitably drained it was mainly used as sheep pasture, with very little as ploughland. The sheep were there in the summer months, reverting inland to upland areas over winter. It was this movement that gave rise to the links with the distant communities the dominated from earliest times until the 17th century and in a modified form until the 19th or 20th century. Hasted, a late 18<sup>th</sup> century historian commented that the sea wall as being made "a continued raddle-work of overlaths and faggots, fastened to rows of piles in ranges of three feet width, parallel with the wall, one above the other." The wall being some 4 miles long and circa 20 feet high.
- 5.4.5 The village of Dymchurch grew during the Medieval period. The origins of the name for Dymchurch is from *Deme*, which in Medieval English refers to a judge or arbiter. The Ship Inn is known to be an early building from 1530, close to the church of St Peter and St Paul. The church dates from the middle of the 12<sup>th</sup> century. The nearby City of London pub is also thought to be from the 16<sup>th</sup> century as a coaching inn.
- 5.4.6 The area has always been thinly settled compared to other parts of Kent. The society would have consisted of the sheep farmers, shepherds or fishermen. One of the reasons for the lack of people was that the marshlands were considered unhealthy due to the possibility of marsh ague, a form of malaria prevalent until

the 19th century. The only people that lived there were those that had to. The region in the 18th century had a lack of settled gentry.

- 5.4.7 In 1252, a Charter by King Henry III granted self-government to Dymchurch & The Romney Marsh, provided they maintained the sea wall. Dymchurch was the seat of government but, unfortunately, the original building burnt down in 1573. Dymchurch became a centre for law and order across the marsh and was home to the governors of the Marsh also called Lords of the Level. They met at New Hall, which originally being a wooden structure was rebuilt in 1575 following storm damage. The gaol is located next door and was built in 1797.
- 5.4.8 The Romney Marsh area was well known for smuggling due to its remoteness. The marshland was used for the grazing of sheep and the wool was taxed from 1275 and by 1298 the tax on wool had doubled. In addition, designated posts were required for export. As a result, smuggling became endemic in the area, so much so that the death penalty was introduced for smuggling in the 1660s.
- 5.4.9 In the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, the Dymchurch wall was deteriorating, so a Kentish ragstone face was added. The village school opened in 1800. The village windmill just north east of the PDA survived until it was demolished in 1906.
- 5.4.10 In the early 19th century, the threat of invasion from Napoleon meant that southern Kent had a number of defensive measures put in place. A Royal Military Canal from east of Hythe to Rye and on to Hastings. Martello towers, being small defensive forts were strung along the coast. Several batteries were built, a number of them at Dymchurch. Towers Nos. 24, 25 are close to the centre and No. 23 at the northern end of the village. Also, halfway between Dymchurch and Hythe is the Dymchurch Redoubt. Others redoubts were constructed at Harwich and Eastbourne as supply depots for the Martello Towers as well as being fortifications. This redoubt was built between 1798 and 1809. Later in the First World War the redoubt was used for troop accommodation and in the Second World War, it was a coastal battery.
- 5.4.11 The Romney, Hythe and Dymchurch Railway opened in 1927. It was a double track and was requisitioned by the army in WW2. In WWII, the area around Dymchurch suffered from a number of bombs. Some of the area was mined which led to a stop in the free movement of people around the marshes. The foreshore had

barbed wire and other anti-invasion defences. In the early 21st century a new sea wall was built.

## 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. We can see the evidence of the wall with the various 'knocks' being gaps in the sea wall to allow access to the sea. Dymchurch is essentially a ribbon development along a track way that runs parallel with the sea wall on the landward side. At the southern end of the knocks, alongside the settlement of Dymchurch is Marsh-land Gutt. This is to allow a gap in the wall for the drainage of water from the marsh. To the south is also the watercourse of the Clobesden Course, which has a drainage branch leading north eastwards towards the PDA. This is referred to a Gofferston Pinke. Pinke being a Dutch word meaning pinched and later used to describe any small ship with a narrow stern and flat bottom making them useful in narrow waters and manoeuvred up rivers and streams. The map is not detailed enough to ascertain the exact location of the PDA in relation to this watercourse. At the southern end of Dymchurch, there is a road that goes north west and heads towards Aldington and another that heads south west towards St Mary's in the Marsh and can be recognised as St Mary's Road. It is likely that from the Saxon period, roads would have needed to cross the marsh from the settlement high points and it is possible that the line of St Mary's Road exists from the earlier period (Fig.5).

### *Ordnance Surveyors Drawings 1797*

- 5.5.2 This map shows greater detail in the land use and field boundaries. The PDA can be seen as part of a field showing brown, which appears arable compared to that of the marsh pasture around being green. The area being crossed by a number of drainage channels. Located west of the PDA is clearly a building, which is that of West End Villa, which is Grade II listed and known to be of the mid to late 18<sup>th</sup> century. Dymchurch is clustered around the area of the church to the north west of the PDA (Fig.6).

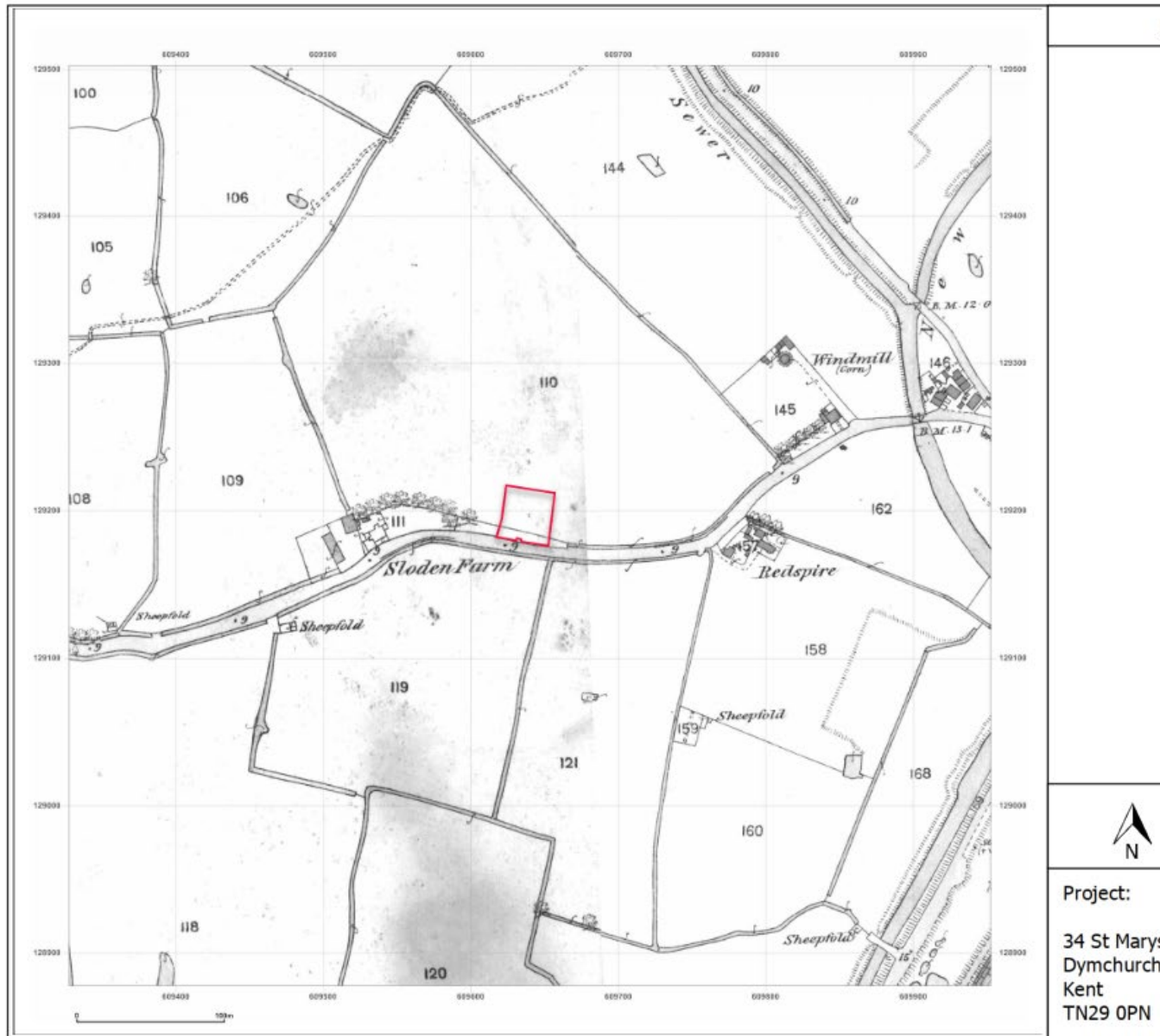
### *Dymchurch Tithe Map of 1843*

5.5.3 This shows greater details and shows the building of what is currently West End Villa. To the east of the West End Villa are gardens alongside the road. The PDA is part of the tail end of this garden, designated 61 as well as also being part of a much larger field designated 62. The field is owned by three members of the Russell family and occupied by Thomas Blake with the field referred to a "14 acres". The house and garden of West End Villa is owned by William and John Sloden and David Henry Smith and occupied by David Henry Smith and William Suckling. The fields around are supported with drainage channels and eastwards along St Mary's Road in area designated 65 is that of the Dymchurch Windmill. By the coast can be seen the Martello Tower No. 25 and next to it the Marsh Land Basin. The features within each of the fields to the south of St Mary's Road are sheepfolds (Fig.7).

### *Historic OS Map 1872-73*

This is the first properly scaled OS map and there appears little change. The PDA is still part of the garden and a large field. The Map refers to what is current known as West End Villa as Sloden Farm named after the family that owned the farm, which has a number of

outbuildings immediately west of the house (Fig 8



5.5.4 ).

#### *Historic OS map 1898*

5.5.5 Sloden Farm is no longer referred to and the outbuildings have gone just leaving what became West End Villa. No changes at the PDA are noticed. North east of the PDA the windmill is commented as being disused. The settlement of Dymchurch has increased its growth along the road towards Hythe with infills plots in what were distinct housing clusters previously (Fig.9).

*Historic OS map 1907*

- 5.5.6 There appears to be little change at the PDA except that there is a small building located at the far end of the garden area and that West End Villa is showing as two houses Figure 10(Fig.10).

*Historic OS map 1937-1938*

- 5.5.7 There have been significant changes. The garden area for West End Villa has reduced in half. The larger field of which the PDA was part has been sub divided at the southern end to allow for housing plots on the northern side of St Mary's Road. The PDA is set within a larger plot of land with the house and an outbuilding, possible a garage in the south eastern corner. In between West End Villa and the house at the PDA is that of No. 36 St Mary's Road. Diagonally opposite to the south east on the southern side of the road is also a new residential property of 25 St Mary's Road. Immediately to the east, whilst seen as a separate area, there is yet no house on the plot. This is situated alongside the track for the Romney, Hythe and Dymchurch Railway. Immediately north of the PDA the field has been turned into the recreation ground with a pavilion in the south eastern corner. On the eastern side of the railway, there has been more infill of housing, especially on the northern side of St Mary's Road alongside a new Station Road leading towards the Dymchurch Station (**Error! Reference source not found.11**).

*Historic OS Map 1975*

- 5.5.8 There have been further changes with the western portion of the garden at No 34 now a separate plot with a house between No 34 and No 36 being 34b. In addition, the building within the PDA that was in the south eastern corner has been demolished and a new building located at the north eastern corner of the house. The house has also been extended in the north western corner. On the southern side of the road opposite is a new larger property. The area east of the railway has had significantly housebuilding with new estates and also infills. (Fig.12).

*Historic OS Map 1989*

- 5.5.9 The significant change is the building of No 30 on the plot immediately east of the PDA (Fig.13).

## 5.6 Aerial Photographs

*1949*

- 5.6.1 This photo shows the house at the PDA with West End Villa in the background. The boundary is dotted with mature trees and a separate building is seen located at the north eastern corner. There is no sign of a structure in the south eastern corner of the residential plot suggesting the building did not survive for long. On the playing field to the north the remains of the bomb crater can be seen (Plate 1).

*1946*

- 5.6.2 This aerial photograph shows the PDA within a larger plot. Immediately north in the southern part of the recreation ground can be seen the bomb crater (Plate 2).

*1960s*

- 5.6.3 The scar of the bomb crater can be seen in the recreation field. The PDA remains in a larger plot. The building that was in the south eastern corner has been demolished and the boundaries include mature trees and a hedge planted in a 'wavy' pattern. To the south east is now a new housing estate. To the west, further along St Mary's Road is now a caravan park. Immediately opposite on the southern side of the road is a new large bungalow alongside that of No 25 (Plate 3).

*1990*

- 5.6.4 The PDA area is now reduced to that of the present day as a house has been built between that of the PDA and No 36. A detached garage is located by the north eastern corner of the main house. It appears that a flat roof extension has been added to the house in the north western part. In addition, another house has been built immediately to the far eastern end of the plot being No. 30. Between No 30 and West End Villa, there has also been two infill houses with this area of St Mary's Road now showing as a ribbon development (Plate 44).

*2003*

- 5.6.5 More infill has taken place immediate to the south. The PDA remains unique in being on a larger plot (Plate 55).

*2013*

- 5.6.6 The scar of the bomb crater can clearly be seen (Plate 6).

*2019*

- 5.6.7 There is little change (Plate 7).

## **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. A walkover was undertaken on the 20th July 2020. No features or artefacts were seen at the PDA (Plates 8-14).
- 5.7.2 The PDA is currently accessed via the existing driveway entrance to No. 34 on the northern side of St Mary's Road. Aside from the current house and detached garage at the rear, the majority of the area especially on the eastern side, is garden laid out to lawn. A mature decorative hedge at the southern end of the eastern garden provides privacy to the rear. Around the edge of the eastern garden area are mature trees which have recently been pollarded. There are wooden fence panels to the eastern and north boundaries with picket fencing for the southern boundary. There was no evidence seen on the ground of any previous structure in the south eastern corner of the PDA. However just to the north of the eastern end of the hedge is a drain cover. The owner confirms that this is currently disused and filled with rubble. It is believed that it may have related to the previous structure in the south eastern corner but this is uncertain, along with the actual direction of any service pipe.



## 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 assessment area from this period within the assessment area as the area was likely to have been underwater during this period. Therefore, the Palaeolithic potential in this area 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. Therefore, it is considered that the potential for finding remains that date to this period is **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. 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 no records from this period. Therefore, the potential for finding remains that date to this period within the confines of the development site is considered **low**.

### *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. 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 Romans protected this area from the sea in order to provide defences to their harbour at nearby Port Lympne. The Kent HER has two records from this period within the assessment area. Romano-British pottery has been found on a number of occasions in the area of the sea wall circa 600m south, south east of the PDA (TR 02 NE 1) as well as a Roman cemetery circa 385m east, south east found in 1844-1846 during the moving of the sea wall. Pottery was also mentioned to have been found in adjacent fields over several acres. The excavation by the church at the former school revealed a Roman ditch and pit, although that area is close to the historical core on what is slightly higher ground. We know the Roman utilised the marshes for salt-making and it is possible that there were areas dry enough for occupation areas, although with the PDA is located on lower ground which is still likely to have been too wet for possible occupation although the edge of occupation in this period has not been determined. 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 four records from this period within the assessment area. In an area circa 625m north, north west of the PDA, a concentration of Early Medieval pottery has been found (TR 02 NE 138). Anglo-Saxon objects have also been found within the assessment area. Circa 385m to the east, south east, an Anglo-Saxon strap-end (TR 12 NW 2), an Anglo-Saxon silver penny (TR 12 NW 48). Circa 230m to the south west, an early Medieval lead alloy brooch (MKE113633) reported under the Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS). PAS finds are normally located to grid squares where their exact find location is not known. The PDA is located outside of the core settlement area, in the rural hinterland in this period. Therefore, the potential for finding remains that date to this period within the confines of the development site is considered **low**.

### *Medieval*

5.8.8 The Kent HER has ten records from this period within the assessment area. The site to the north, north west also had 165 sherds of Medieval pottery (TR 02 NE 138) as well as another Medieval occupation site circa 650m in the same direction (TR 02 NE 33) suggesting a continuation of occupation in that area. Further away in the same direction on the outer reaches of the assessment area are earthworks associated with possible buildings which may have been robbed of their materials. These have been interpreted as a house and former shepherds huts located on an ancient creek ridge (TR 02 NE 101). A scheduled monument relating to a Medieval moated site is circa 720m north west of the PDA (TR 02 NE 32), close to the other possible occupation areas. Historical sources suggest that the moat was strategically placed to allow control of the drainage and water supply system of the area, and lay on the intersection of three former parishes. In addition, there are HER records for this period where the actual location and dates of the Medieval finds are not necessarily known and have been assigned to grid squares to the north, and also south west. These include a pottery findspot (TR 02 NE 49) and a number of PAS finds of pottery (TR 02 NE 34), knife (TR 02 NE 35), a copper alloy reliquary (MKE113593) and a brooch (MKE113633). We know that Dymchurch has Medieval origins due to the presence of the parish church and this is when the land is reclaimed through drainage channels and sea walls. Post Medieval map regression suggests the area of the PDA lies close to a possible drainage channel which may have existed as early as the Medieval period. However, the PDA is located in the rural hinterland of the settlement area. Therefore, the potential for finding remains that date to this period is period is considered **low**.

#### *Post Medieval*

5.8.9 The Kent HER has 44 records from this period within the assessment area reflecting the continued growth of Dymchurch that as well as becoming a ribbon development during this period with initially cluster around the house and also close to the PDA at the crossroad at Dunkirk End. The settlement also extended inland along established roads. The records include nine Grade II listed buildings of which one, a Martello Tower is scheduled. The other listed buildings are mainly within the core settlement area of Dymchurch to the east of the PDA with the exception of one. West End Villa (TR 02 NE 88), a mid to late 18<sup>th</sup> century house circa 100m west of the PDA. It can be first traced to the 1797 Ordnance Surveyors

drawing. Originally a house, that later had outbuildings and was called Sloden's Farm and the 1843 tithes confirms it was then owned by the Sloden Family. However, by the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, it was no longer a farm, with the outbuildings having already gone and was renamed West End Villa. Not far away to the east was another farm, Redspire, which was demolished around the middle of the 20<sup>th</sup> century (MKE88348). There were also a few other scattered farms across the wider area inland. The PDA was part of the western end of the garden area to the house and also part of the large arable field to the north. It does not appear that the PDA was built on in this period. There are two building records recognising the location of the former workhouse (TR 12 NW 1) and Wesleyan Methodist Church (TR 12 NW 62). In addition, there are 18 marine records in relation to wrecks which have all been located into a grid square, broadly to the east of the PDA in the sea area. Of the monument records, they are varied, reflecting boathouses (TR 12 NW 59), coastguard station (MWX44047), the earlier Methodist Church location (TR 12 NW 61), a windmill (TR 02 NE 104), since demolished and the site of the village beacon (TR 12 NW 5). The records also reflect the ongoing need for drainage across the marsh and associated earthworks (1534137) and the farming that occurred inland with a shepherds huts (TR 02 NE 28), sheepfolds and dip both close to Marshalls bridge circa 650m north, north west of the PDA and close by to the bridge Post Medieval pottery has been discovered (TR 02 NE 42). Reflecting the rural hinterland of the village, the area to the south east identified from aerial photographs shows Post Medieval stack stands (TR1535621) scattered across a wide area. These were raised platforms on which hay, corn, peas etc were raised out of the reach of vermin and thatched to protect from rain. These features were ploughed out by the middle of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Associated with the scheduled Martello Tower was a battery from 1798, although exact location and removed of is unknown (TR 12 NW 8). There is a single PAS find of a copper alloy vessel on the outer reaches of the assessment area. The potential for finding remains that date to this period is considered **moderate**.

### *Modern*

- 5.8.10 KHER has 21 records dating to this period, many resulting from the Second World War including pillboxes and coastal batteries and barbed wire obstructions

reflecting the importance of the defence needed given the coastal location of Dymchurch. This was certainly an area that saw action in the Second World war with 5 known crash sites allocated within the assessment area. Aerial photographs have also highlighted that the area suffered with a number of bombs seen as craters. One of which is extremely close to the north of the PDA in the recreation ground (MWX51454) and its location can still be spotted from Google Earth aerial photographs as late as 2013 and 2019, as well as one the ground. The owner has informed us that they have been told that a tall chimney on the house came down as a result of the explosion from that bomb. The remaining records for this period are that of the Romney, Hythe and Dymchurch Railway (TR 12 NW 50). At the PDA, by the 1930s the current house was built, although with an outbuilding initially in the south eastern corner, which was later demolished and replaced with a separate building towards to rear of the house by the late 1940s. Between 1960 and 1990 the western part of the original housing plot was subdivided and a house built alongside being 34b. The potential for finding archaeological remains dating to this period in the PDA is considered **low**.

#### *Overview*

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

5.8.12 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: **low**
  
- Iron Age: **low**
  
- Roman: **moderate**
  
- Anglo-Saxon: **low**
  
- Medieval: **low**
  
- Post-Medieval: **moderate**

- Modern: **low**

## 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 PDA was not built on until the 1930s having previously been part of the garden to West End Villa and also part of a larger arable field. As well as the main house a separate building was originally located in the south eastern corner of the property that was later demolished and replaced with the current detached building at the rear of the property. Therefore, the overall historical impact on any potential archaeology is considered to be **low**.

#### *Proposed Impact*

- 6.2.2 The proposed development is for a new detached residential property and detached garage. These buildings will require foundation and services and will have a **high** impact upon any potential archaeology

## 7 SIGNIFICANCE

### 7.1 Introduction

- 7.1.1 Archaeological Significance is assessed under a number of criteria, which includes, Period, Rarity, Group Value, Survival/Condition, Fragility/Vulnerability, Diversity and Potential. These criteria are the same as used by the Government in the scheduling of ancient monuments and provide a useful framework in assessing significance and also pulls together and summarises the findings in the report.

### 7.2 Significance Criteria

#### *Period*

- 7.2.1 There is archaeological significance within the assessment area of moderate potential for the Roman and Post Medieval period. and Roman periods and low for all other periods based on archaeological finds and landscape use of the area.

#### *Rarity*

- 7.2.2 Much of the archaeology has been found in antiquity with little from modern day excavations where location and stratigraphy are clearly known and understood. Therefore, the potential for any Roman activity would have regional significance in understanding activity and settlement in that period. Any Post Medieval activity would be considered on local significance. Overall understanding the geology and landscape in an around Dymchurch would be of benefit.

#### *Documentation*

- 7.2.3 The historical and landscape development of the PDA can be understood reasonably well from the cartographic, archive, photographic and other sources. It is possible that further detailed research nationally may uncover more documentary evidence, although it is unlikely to alter the conclusion present in this report.

#### *Group Value*

- 7.2.4 The potential for archaeology at the PDA has group value in potentially providing more information regarding the use of the land in the from the Roman period onwards.

*Survival / Condition*

- 7.2.5 The survival of any potential archaeology is considered high given the potential low historical impact at the PDA with the site not being built on until the 1930s. Within the area being developed at the PDA, there historically appears just one building, since demolished in the south eastern corner. The deposition of sediments in the area of the marsh is complex and it is unclear as to what depth these may be.

*Fragility / Vulnerability*

- 7.2.6 Any potential remains within the PDA in the area of the proposed development, should they survive in-situ will vulnerable to damage during the proposed development from foundations and services.

*Diversity*

- 7.2.7 Being located in the Romney Marsh area away from the core settlement of Dymchurch on the agricultural hinterland means that there is little by way of diversity.

*Potential*

- 7.2.8 The impact assessment concludes that the site has a moderate potential for archaeological remains., which could potentially be in-situ.

*Significance*

Based on the information gained in this report, it can be concluded that the site is of moderate archaeological interest in relation to the Roman and Post Medieval periods of which carries regional significance.

## **8 ARCHAEOLOGICAL MITIGATION**



## **8.1 Introduction**

- 8.1.1 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.
- 8.1.2 The assessment has generally shown that the area to be developed is within an area of moderate potential for Roman and Post Medieval periods with low potential for all other periods. The research suggests that the area has not been built on until the 1930s. The location of the proposed buildings are located in the garden area, which has not been built on except for a small building, since demolished, in the south eastern corner and therefore the Site has a low historical impact meaning any potential archaeology is likely to be in-situ across the majority of the area. Any historical impact caused by the disused drain in this part of the garden is uncertain as it is not clear which direction the service runs. The development proposals are likely to cause a high impact upon any potential archaeology. The need for, scale, scope and nature of any further assessment and/or archaeological works should be agreed through consultation with the statutory authorities.

## **9 OTHER CONSIDERATIONS**

### **9.1 Archive**

- 9.1.1 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.

### **9.2 Reliability/Limitations of Sources**

- 9.2.1 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.

### **9.3 Copyright**

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

## 10 REFERENCES

### 10.1 Bibliographic

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[rmrt.org.uk](http://rmrt.org.uk)



Figure 1: Location Maps, Scale: 1:10,000 & 1:500

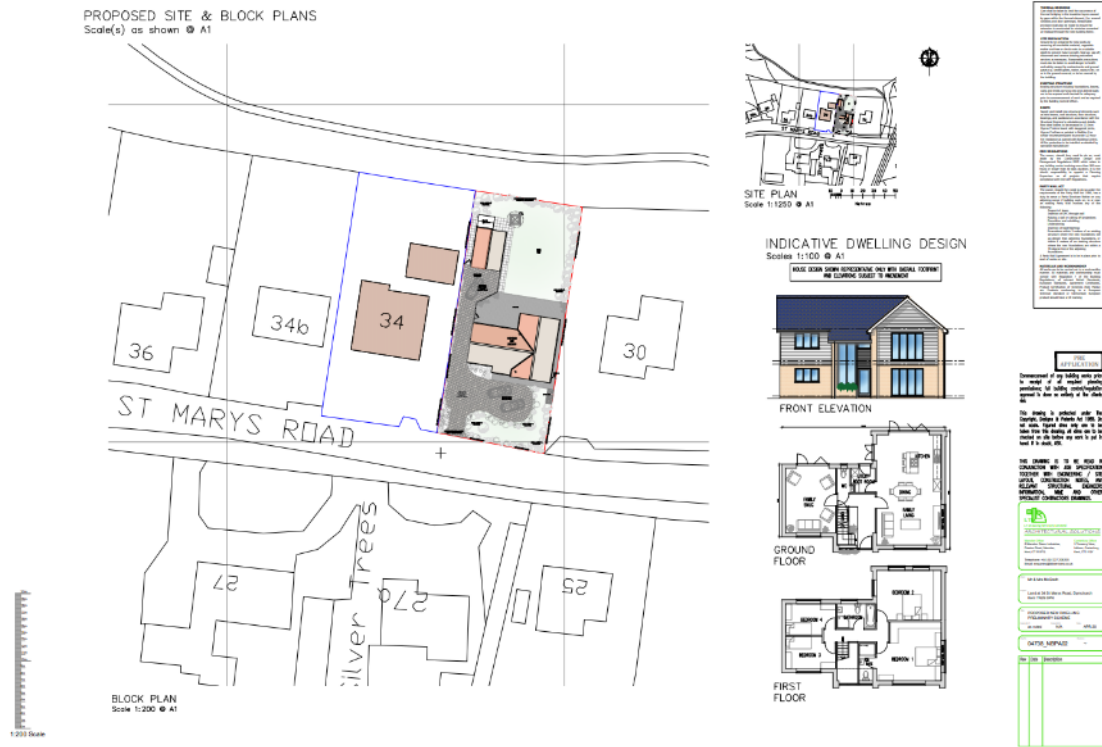


Figure 2: Proposed Development Areas

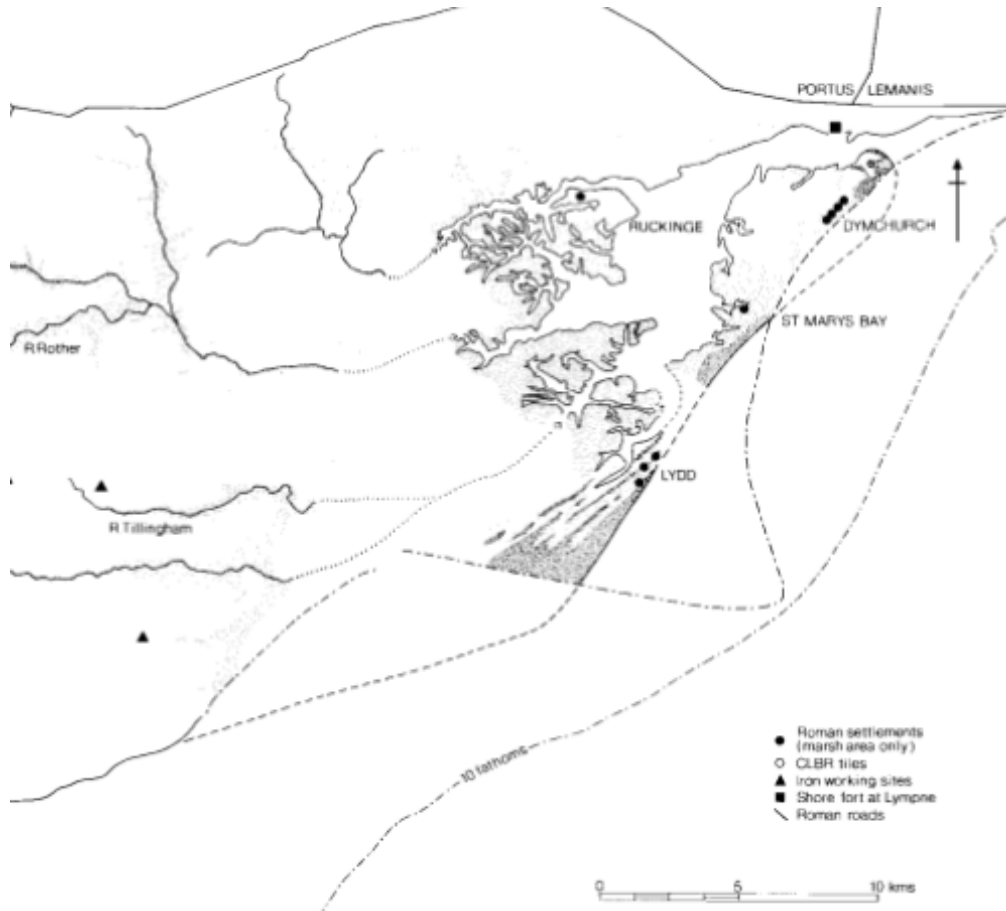


Figure 3: Projected Roman Coastline (Cunliffe, 1989)



Figure 4: Conjecture of Coastline in the 13<sup>th</sup> century (www.theromneymarsh.net)



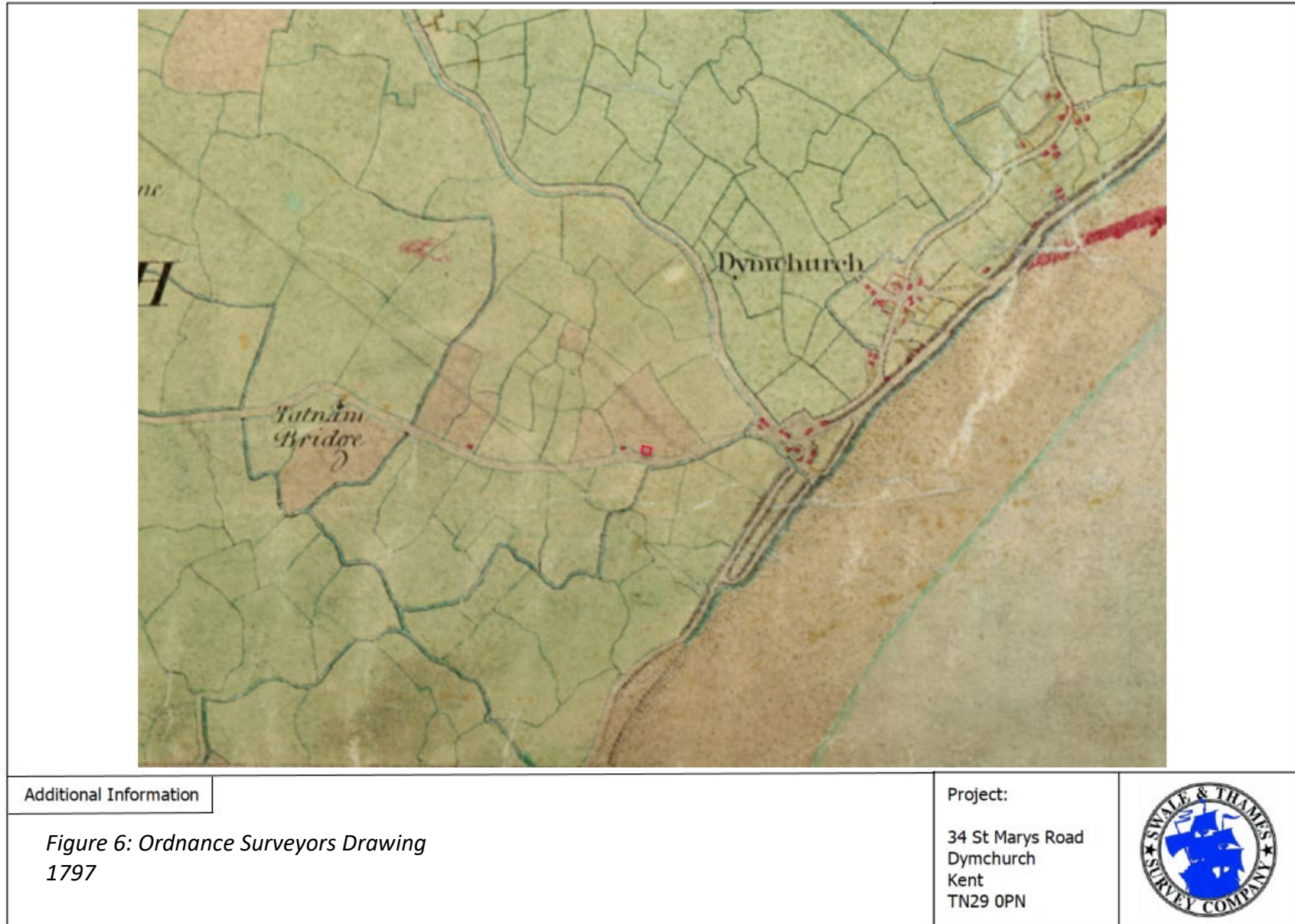
Additional Information

Figure 5: Andrew, Dury and Herbert Map from 1769

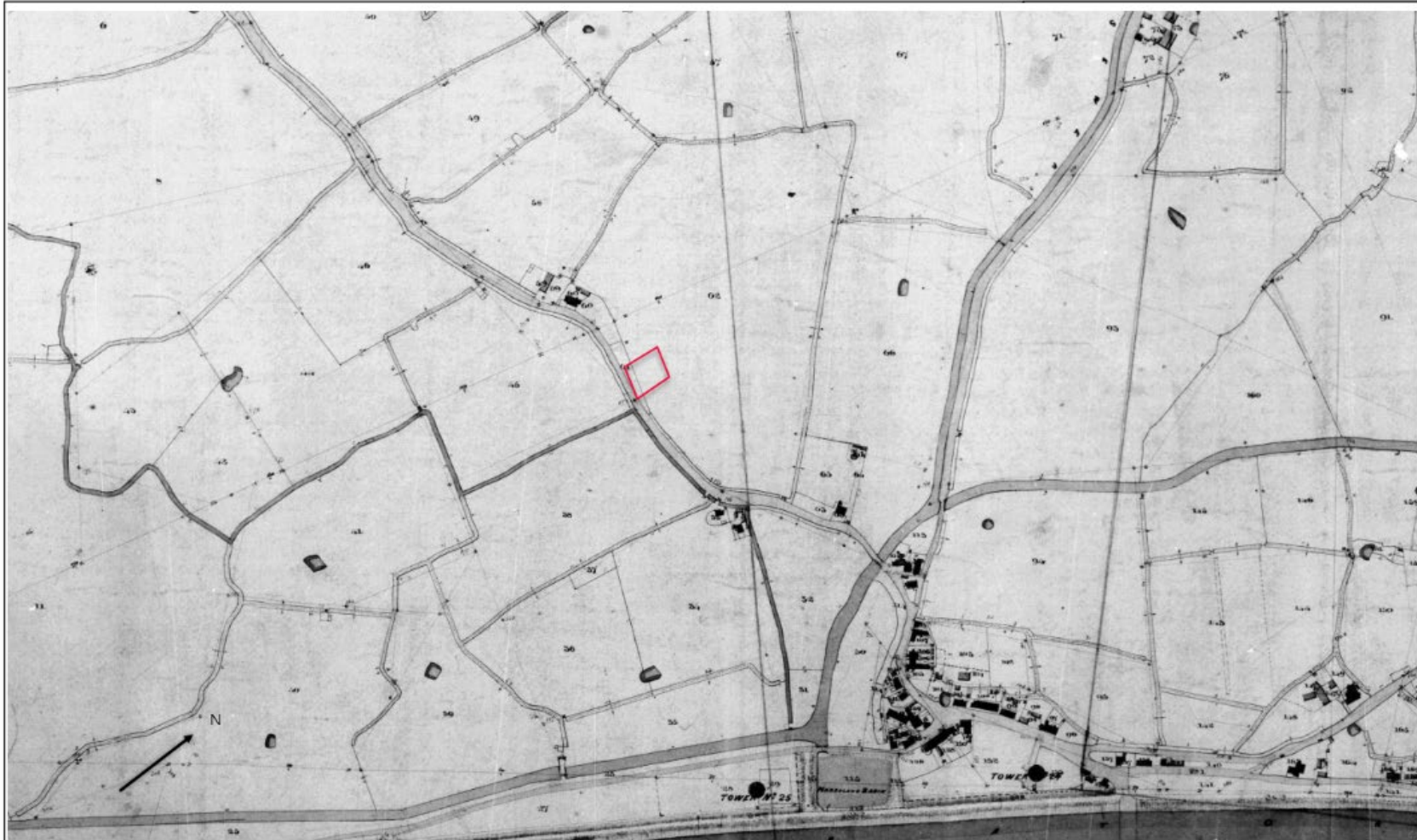
Project:  
34 St Marys Road  
Dymchurch  
Kent  
TN29 0PN







*Figure 6: Ordnance Surveyors Drawing  
1797*



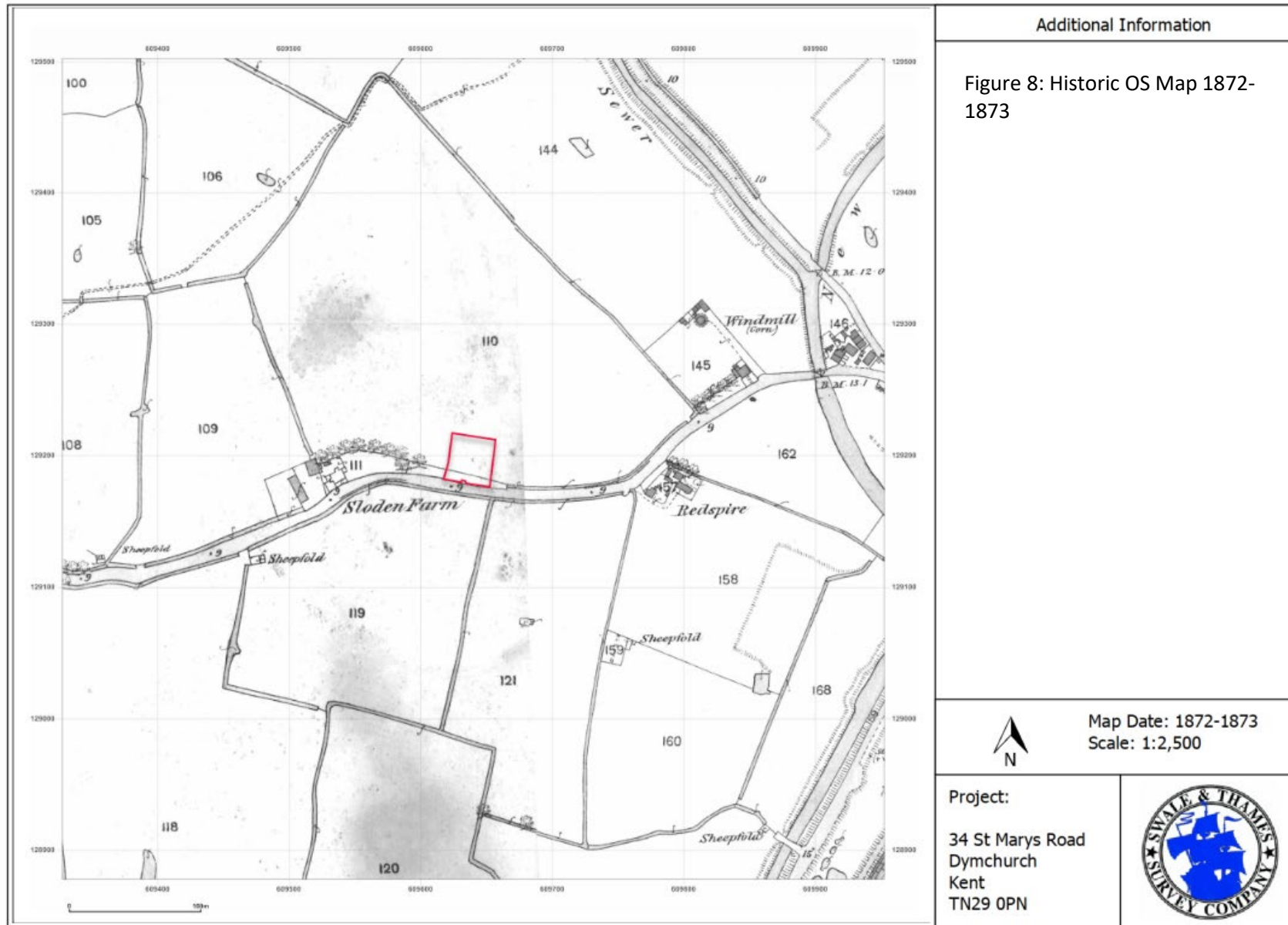
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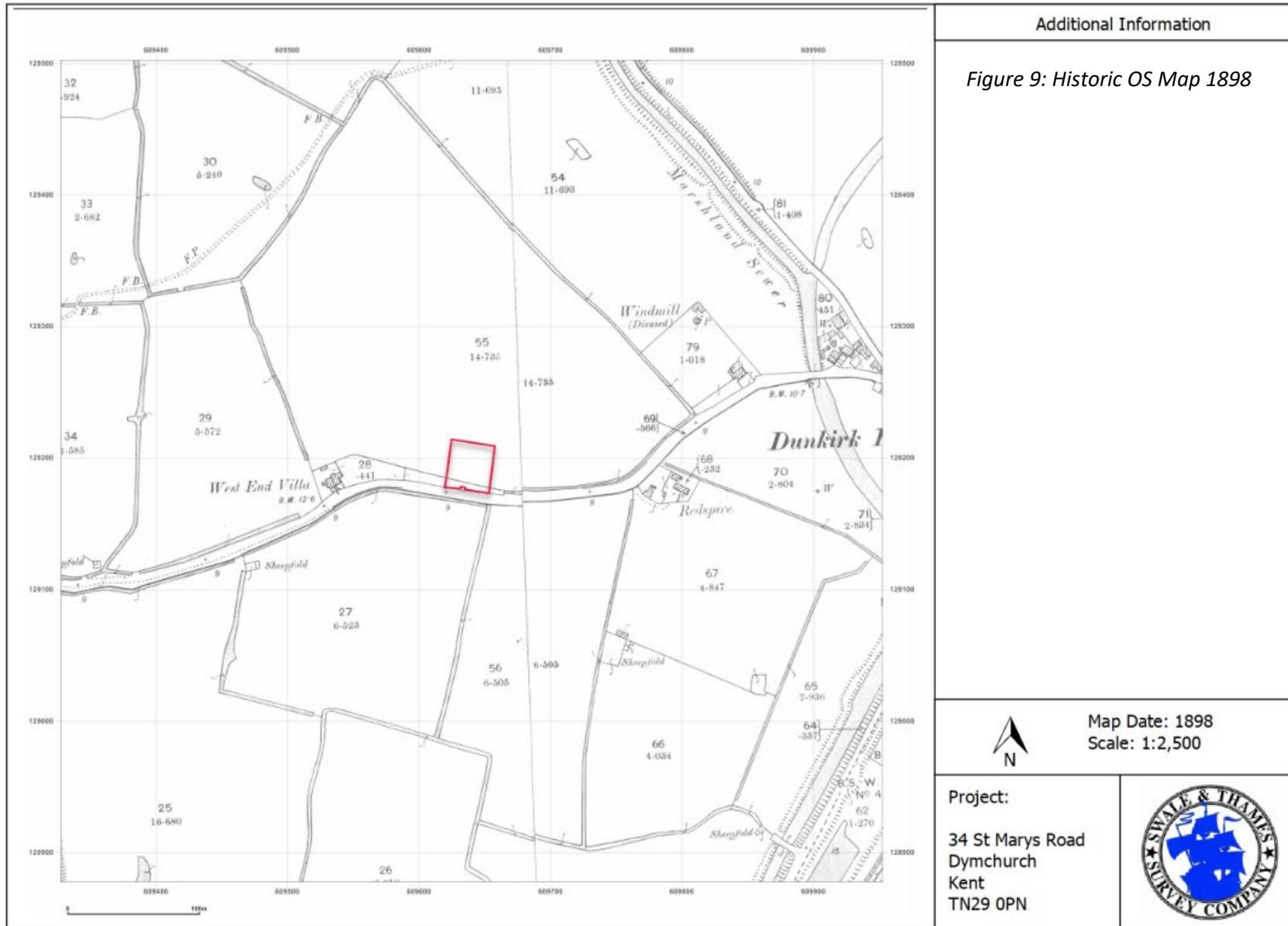
*Figure 7: Dymchurch Tithe Map 1843*

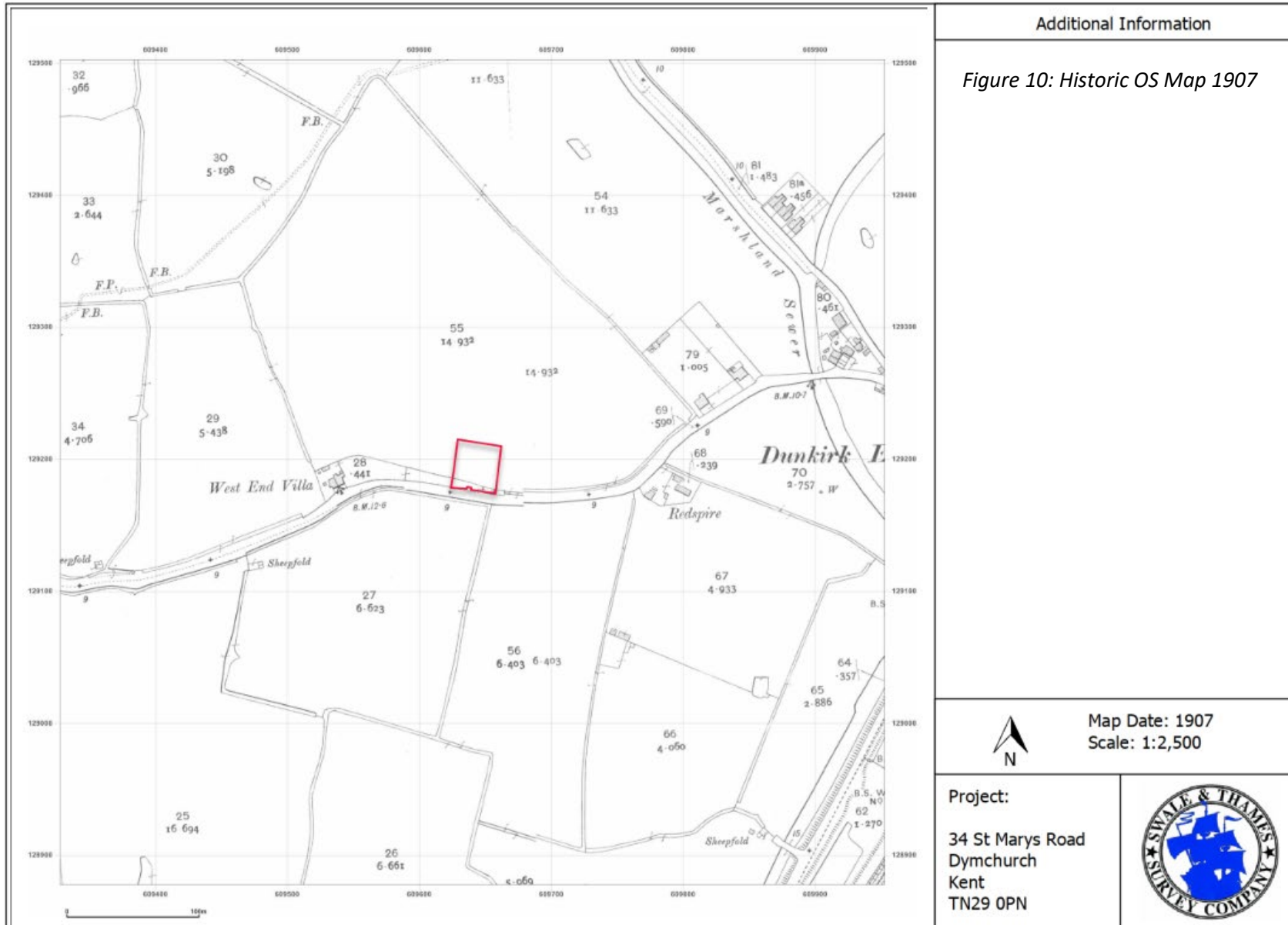
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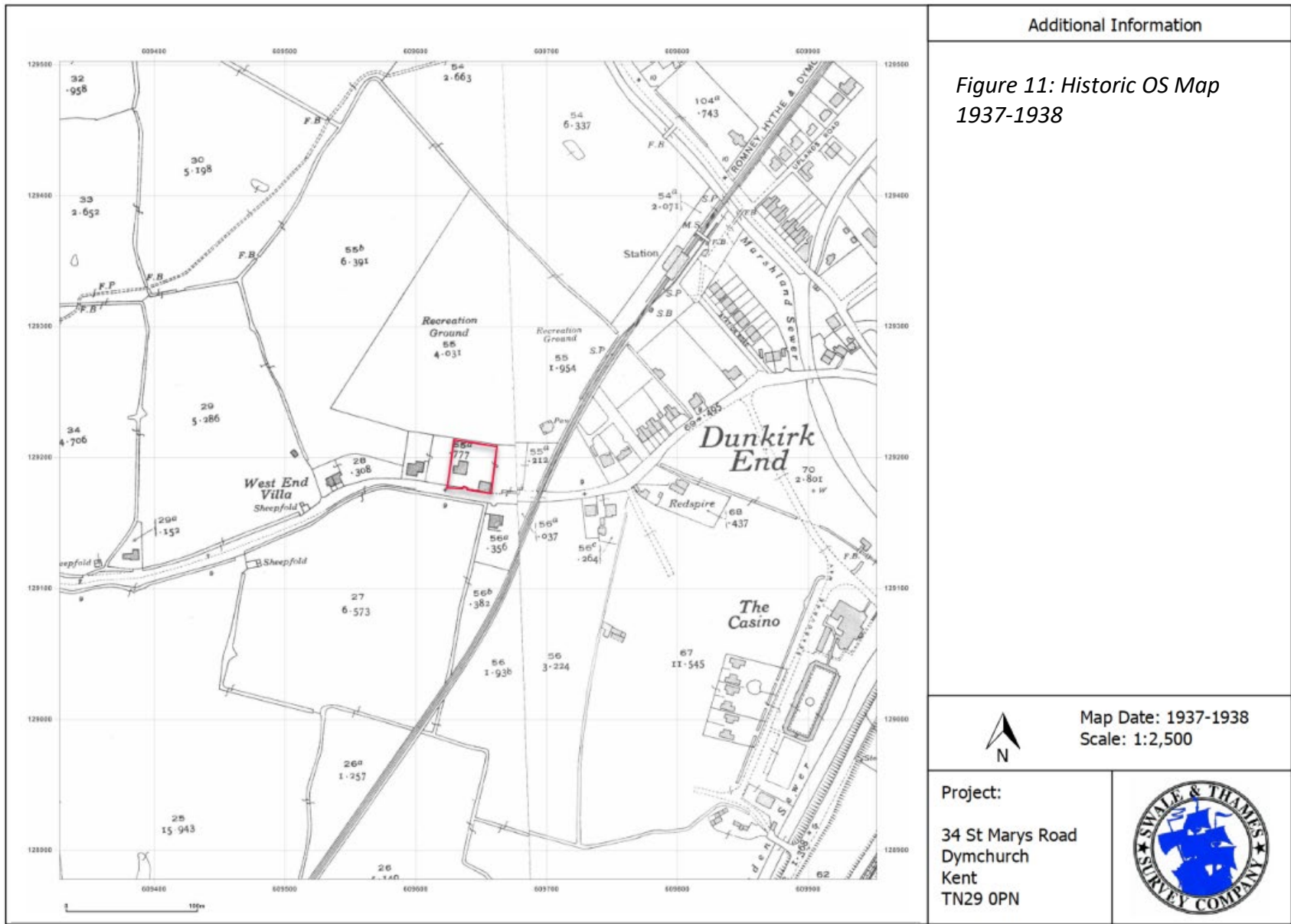
34 St Marys Road  
Dymchurch  
Kent  
TN29 0PN

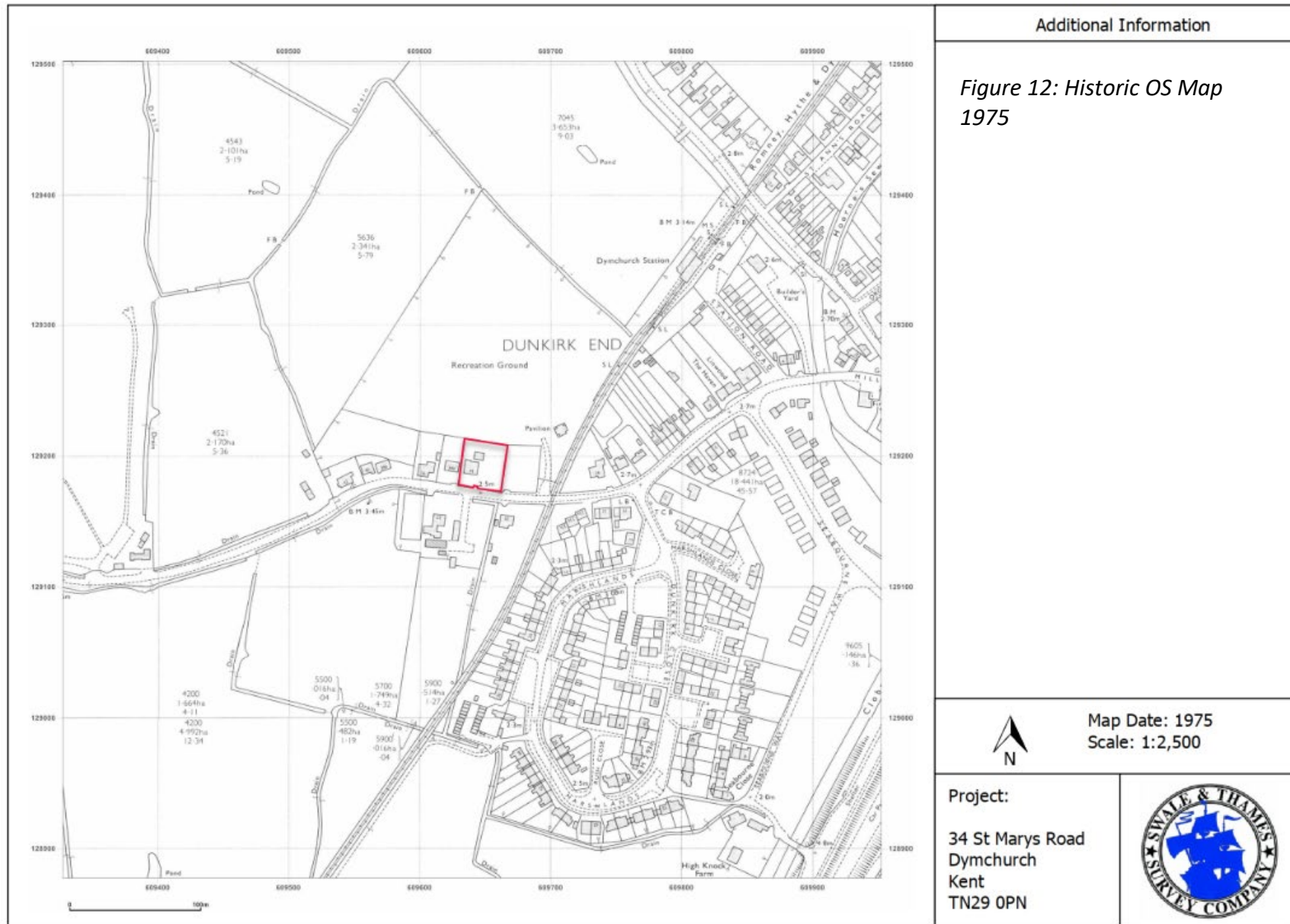


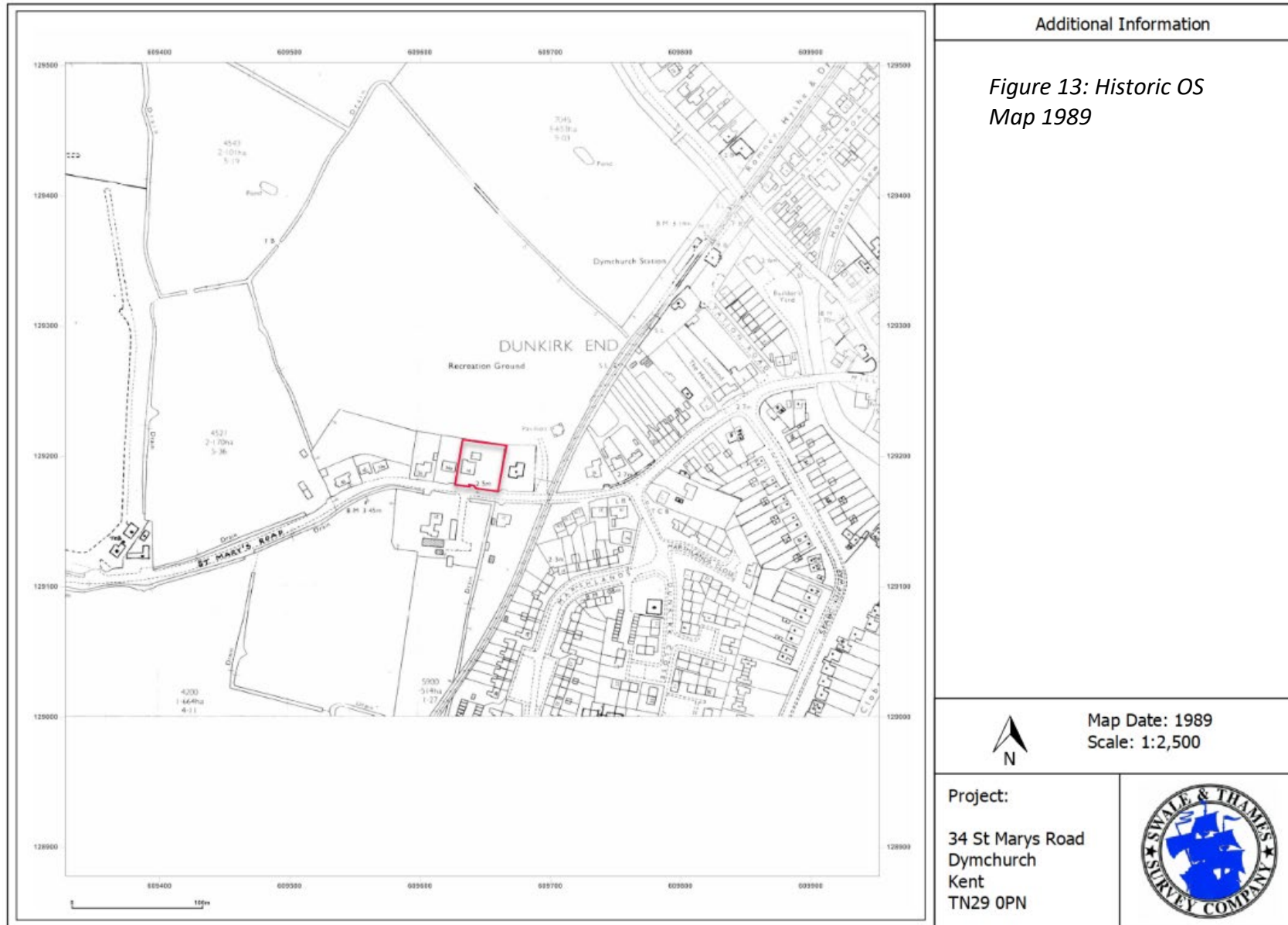














**11 APPENDIX 1 – KCC HER DATA (SEE FIGURES 14-20).**

<b>KHER</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Period</b>	<b>Description</b>
TR 12 NW 9	Marine	c. 725m ENE	Post Medieval	Wreck - Henry
TR 12 NW 10	Marine	c. 725m ENE	Post Medieval	Wreck-Primero Galen
TR 12 NW 11	Marine	c. 725m ENE	Post Medieval	Wreck-Courrier de Dieppe
TR 12 NW 12	Marine	c. 725m ENE	Post Medieval	Wreck-Queen
TR 12 NW 13	Marine	c. 725m ENE	Post Medieval	Wreck-Cardross
TR 12 NW 14	Marine	c. 725m ENE	Post Medieval	Wreck-Lizzie Hobley
TR 12 NW 15	Marine	c. 725m ENE	Post Medieval	Wreck-Nautilus
TR 12 NW 16	Marine	c. 725m ENE	Post Medieval	Wreck-Marie Louise
TR 12 NW 17	Marine	c. 725m ENE	Post Medieval	Wreck-Salto
TR 12 NW 18	Marine	c. 725m ENE	Post Medieval	Wreck-Delphine Desiree
TR 12 NW 19	Marine	c. 725m ENE	Post Medieval	Wreck-Frigga
TR 12 NW 20	Marine	c. 725m ENE	Modern	Wreck-Dolly Varden
TR 12 NW 21	Marine	c. 725m ENE	Post Medieval	Wreck-Vrede
TR 12 NW 22	Marine	c. 725m ENE	Post Medieval	Wreck-Minnie

TR 12 NW 58	Marine	c. 725m ENE	Post Medieval	Wreck-Providence
TR 12 NW 23	Marine	c. 725m ENE	Post Medieval	Wreck-Amphion
TR 12 NW 24	Marine	c. 725m ENE	Post Medieval	Wreck-Unknown
TR 12 NW 25	Marine	c. 725m ENE	Post Medieval	Wreck-Jason
TR 12 NW 27	Marine	c. 725m ENE	Post Medieval	Wreck-Perseverance
TR 02 NE 28	Monument	c. 655m NNW	Post Medieval to Modern	Shepherds Hut near Marshalls Bridge
TR 02 NE 42	Findspot	c. 575m NNW	Post Medieval	Early Post-Medieval Pottery Concentration, Dymchurch. Actual location, date and pottery type are unknown.
TR 02 NE 43	Findspot	c. 375m N	Post Medieval	Post-Medieval Pottery Concentration Dymchurch. A single sherd of Roman pottery also found.
TR 02 NE 138	Findspot	c. 625m NNW	Early Medieval or Anglo-Saxon to Medieval	124 pieces of Early Medieval and 165 Medieval pottery found
TR 02 NE 49	Findspot	c. 610m NW	Early Medieval or Anglo-Saxon to Medieval	Medieval Pottery Findspot, Dymchurch. Actual location and date unknown.
TR 02 NE 55	Monument	c. 655m NNW	Post Medieval to Modern	Sheepfold and Dip near Marshall's Bridge. Brick built sheep wash of 19thC date adjacent to brick shepherds hut. Stepped entrance passage and circular chamber set into drainage channel.
TR 12 NW 44	Listed Building	c. 500m E	Post Medieval to Modern	Martello Tower No 24. Scheduled (1014626) & Grade II listed (1061124)
TR 12 NW 41	Listed Building	c. 425m E	Post Medieval	Dormers Restaurant. Grade II (1061127). Cottage row.
TR 12 NW 40	Listed Building	c. 710m ENE	Post Medieval	Cedar Dairies. Grade II (1061128). House now a house row. Right cross wing late 16th century, early 17th century.
TR 12 NW 35	Listed Building	c. 335m E	Post Medieval to Modern	Old Tree Cottage. Grade II (1061133). Late 18th century façade to possibly early 18th century house.

TR 02 NE 91	Listed Building	c. 265m ENE	Post Medieval	BRIDGE COTTAGE, Mill Road, Dymchurch. Grade II (1061134). Cottage row, late 18th century.
TR 02 NE 70	Listed Building	c. 325m E	Post Medieval to Modern	Dr Syn's Restaurant. Grade II (1231289). Late 18th century façade to a possible earlier building.
TR 12 NW 34	Listed Building	c. 380m ESE	Post Medieval	Martello Tower Number 25. Grade II (1344174).
TR 02 NE 86	Listed Building	c. 280m ENE	Post Medieval	Dunkirk End and Herring Hang Attached. Grade II (1344176). Early to mid-18th century house with 19th century alterations.
TR 02 NE 88	Listed Building	c. 100m W	Post Medieval	West End Villa. Grade II (1344177). House mid to late 18th century with possible earlier core.
TR 02 NE 1	Findspot	c. 600m SSE	Roman	Romano-British Objects at Dymchurch. In 1837 large quantities of Romano-British pottery were revealed over a wide area during the construction of the sea-wall. In 1978 - 1980 rescue-work in the same general area by the Kent Unit revealed features and pottery of first and second century date.
TR 12 NW 45	Monument	c. 385m ESE	Modern	Coast artillery battery
TR 12 NW 2	Findspot	c. 385m ESE	Early Medieval or Anglo-Saxon	Anglo-Saxon Strap-End, Dymchurch
TR 12 NW 5	Monument	c. 385m ESE	Post Medieval	Site of 16th Century Beacon, Dymchurch
TR 12 NW 6	Monument	c. 385m ESE	Roman	Romano-British Cemetery, Dymchurch. At Dymchurch in c.1844-6, when the sea-wall was moved 150 yards inland, a cemetery along with Samian and much crude unbaked pottery was found in adjacent fields over several acres. The finds were made while digging for clay about 400m from Dymchurch along the New Romney road.
TR 12 NW 8	Monument	c. 385m ESE	Post Medieval	Dymchurch Sluice Battery. 1798 with one eighteen pounder. Date of batteries removal and actual location unclear.
TR 02 NE 101	Monument	c. 695m NNW	Medieval to Post Medieval	Sheephouse field earthworks. An elevated area with significant quantities of tile and rocks suggests the presence of small buildings. A number of small depressions may indicate robbing of material for building purposes. Soil surveying suggests that a sheep

				house and former shepherd's huts are located on an ancient creek ridge.
TR 02 NE 104	Monument	c. 185m NE	Post Medieval to Modern	Windmill and Smock Mill Dymchurch parish (site of), Romney Marsh
TR 12 NW 51	Crash	c. 725m ENE	Modern	Whitley MK V P4965. 1940
TR 12 NW 52	Crash	c. 725m ENE	Modern	Stirling MK I BF372. 1942
TR 12 NW 56	Crash	c. 725m ENE	Modern	Hurricane MK I P3941. 1940
TR 12 NW 57	Crash	c. 725m ENE	Modern	Typhoon MK IB JP653. 1943
TR 12 NW 55	Crash	c. 725m ENE	Modern	Messerschmitt ME109E-7 (5933) 4+. 1940.
TR 12 NW 48	Findspot	c. 385m ESE	Early Medieval or Anglo-Saxon	Anglo-Saxon silver penny, Dymchurch
TR 02 NE 52	Building	c. 200m NE	Modern	Dymchurch Railway Station opened 1929.
TR 02 NE 33	Findspot	c. 650m NNW	Medieval	Medieval Pottery and Evidence of Occupation Site, Near Dymchurch and other evidence of occupation found field walking. Date, quantity found and location unclear.
TR 02 NE 34	Findspot	c. 300m N	Medieval	Medieval Pottery Findspot Near Dymchurch (possible occupation site) identified by field walking
TR 02 NE 35	Findspot	c. 555m NNE	Medieval	Medieval Pottery and Knife Findspot, near Dymchurch
MKE88337	Farmstead	c. 570m N	Post Medieval	Sutton's Farm. A dispersed multiyard plan farmstead. Altered - significant loss of original form (more than 50%) New sheds: Large modern sheds built on the site of the historic farmstead, may have destroyed original buildings or obscured them.
MKE88348	Farmstead	c. 130m E	Post Medieval	Redspire. A dispersed plan farmstead. Farmstead completely demolished.
TR 02 NE 134	Crash	c. 675m WSW	Modern	Crash site of Supermarine Spitfire I. 1940

TR 12 NW 59	Monument	c. 625m ENE	Post Medieval to Unknown	Boat House. Seen on 1st Edition OS, map survive.
TR 12 NW 60	Monument	c. 415m E	Unknown to Post Medieval	(Dymchurch) Baptist Church
TR 12 NW 61	Monument	c. 535m E	Post Medieval to Unknown	(Dymchurch) (Wesleyan) Methodist Church - High Street, Dymchurch. Seen on 1st edition, now demolished.
TR 12 NW 62	Building	c. 595m ENE	Post Medieval to Unknown	Dymchurch Wesleyan Methodist Church - High Street, Dymchurch. Seen on 2nd edition and survives.
TR 12 NW 64	Building	c. 525m ENE	Modern	St Monica's Church, Chapel Road, Dymchurch. Built 1963 and survives.
MWX44047	Monument	c. 750m ENE	Post Medieval	Coastguard Station, Dymchurch
MWX44048	Monument	c. 465m E	Modern	Coastguard Station, Dunkirk End
MWX51312	Monument	c. 340m SW	Modern	Second World War anti-aircraft (Diver) battery
MWX51326	Monument	c. 170m SSE	Modern	Second World War bomb crater, between Dunkirk End and High Knock
MWX51327	Monument	c. 560m NE	Modern	Second World War bomb crater, west of Dymchurch
MWX51331	Monument	c. 445m S	Modern	Second World War bomb crater, west of High Knock
MWX51332	Monument	c. 615m NW	Modern	Second World War bomb crater, between Dunkirk End and Marshland Bridge
MWX51451	Monument	c. 635m SSW	Modern	Second World War bomb crater
MWX51452	Monument	c. 155m E	Modern	Second World War bomb crater
MWX51453	Monument	c. 320m E	Modern	Second World War bomb crater
MWX51454	Monument	c. 25m N	Modern	Second World War bomb crater
MWX51494	Building	c. 450m NE	Modern	Possible Second World War pillbox, St Anns Road, Dunkirk End, Dymchurch

MWX51495	Monument	c. 310m ESE	Modern	Possible Second World War pillbox, Dunkirk End
MWX51500	Monument	c. 585m E	Modern	Possible Second World War square pillbox, Dymchurch
MWX51577	Monument	c. 720m ENE	Modern	Possible Second World War battery, Dymchurch
MKE113592	Findspot	c. 665m NNW	Post Medieval	PAS find. Post Medieval copper alloy vessel
MKE113593	Findspot	c. 230m SW	Medieval	PAS find. Medieval copper alloy reliquary
MKE113633	Findspot	c. 230m SW	Early Medieval or Anglo-Saxon to Medieval	PAS find. Early Medieval lead alloy brooch
TR 12 NW 50	Monument	c. 35m E	Modern	Romney, Hythe & Dymchurch Light Railway
MWX51521	Monument	c. 700m NE	Modern	Second World War barbed wire obstructions
1535069	Monument	c. 555m SE	Modern	St Mary's Bay coastal battery, Second World War.
1534137	Monument	c. 560m NE	Post Medieval	Three blocks of probable post medieval drainage are visible as earthworks on aerial photographs taken in the 1940s. The drainage earthworks have subsequently been plough levelled as the result of modern cultivation.
TR 02 NE 32	Monument / Scheduled	c. 720m NW	Medieval	Moat, Marshall's Bridge, Burmarsh, Shepway. Scheduled (1017659). The probable medieval moat previously recorded here as part of its Scheduled Monument Notification is visible on aerial photographs of 1946 and 2006 as an extant earthwork
MWX51521	Monument	c. 700m NE	Modern	Second World War barbed wire obstructions
1535069	Monument	c. 555m SE	Modern	St Mary's Bay coastal battery
1535621	Monument	c. 60-700m SE	Post Medieval	23 Post-medieval stack stands scattered across a wide area are visible on aerial photographs of 1941
1535151	Monument	c. 490m SE	Modern	Three Second World War bomb craters

1535185	Monument	c. 500m W	Modern	Two Second World War bomb craters are visible on aerial photographs of 1946
TR 12 NW 1	Building	c. 350m E	Post Medieval	Former Workhouse, Mackett's Cottages, 10-16 Mill Road, Dymchurch. Built in 1740, they became the village workhouse in 1791. In 1836, it was closed and the inmates were transferred to the Union Workhouse in New Romney.
<b>EVENTS</b>				
<b>ID</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Distance</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Type</b>
EKE11018	Negative watching brief, Dymchurch Martello Tower (24)	c. 500m E	2010	Watching Brief
EKE5045	Evaluation on A259 St. Mary's Bay & Dymchurch Bypass	c. 250m N	1993	Evaluation. Test pitting and surface collection of material. Associated records with this include TR02 NE 39 / 40 / 41 / 42 / 43 / 44 and TR 13 SW 33 /47. Medieval and Post Medieval; pottery plus a Medieval field system.
EKE5769	Building Survey of Shepard's Hut and Sheep Dip, Dymchurch	c. 640m NW	1996	Building Survey. Shepherds Hut (TR 02 NE 28), sheepfold and dip (TR 02 NE 55)
EKE8238	Geoarchaeological and Palaeoenvironmental Assessment of Proposed A259 New Romney By Pass	c. 640m W	1991	Geotechnical Survey. A259 New Romney By-pass. Peat deposits were discovered.
EKE17136	Watching Brief at Sea Breeze, 1 Sea Wall, Dymchurch, 2012	750m NE	2012	Watching Brief No finds or features.
EKE10432	Earthworks survey, Romney Marsh	c. 350m N / NW		Aerial Photography; Topographic Survey

EKE11006	Evaluation of Primary School and NRA yard, Dymchurch	c. 690m NE	1995	Evaluation.
EKE11007	Strip map and sample, Primary School and NRA yard, Dymchurch	c. 690m NE	1995	Strip Map and Sample
EKE14477	Denge Security Main, Archaeological Reconnaissance and Fieldwalking Survey	PDA within area	2005	Systematic Fieldwalking Survey. One sherd of Iron Age pottery and one sherd of medieval pottery were found (TR 02 NE 147).
EKE15645	The Fifth Continent Landscape Project: Heritage Gap Analysis, Geomorphology Component	PDA within area	2016	
EKE5189	Survey of Earthwork in Old Pasture on Romney Marsh	c. 125m N & W of PDA	1995	Field Survey
EKE5446	Evaluation on Land Adjoining High Knock House, Dymchurch	c. 337m SE	2000	Evaluation. No archaeological features were observed.
EKE5766	Romney Marsh Earthworks Survey 1995	PDA within area	1991 - 1992	Topographic Survey

Figure 14: Gazetteer of KHER Records



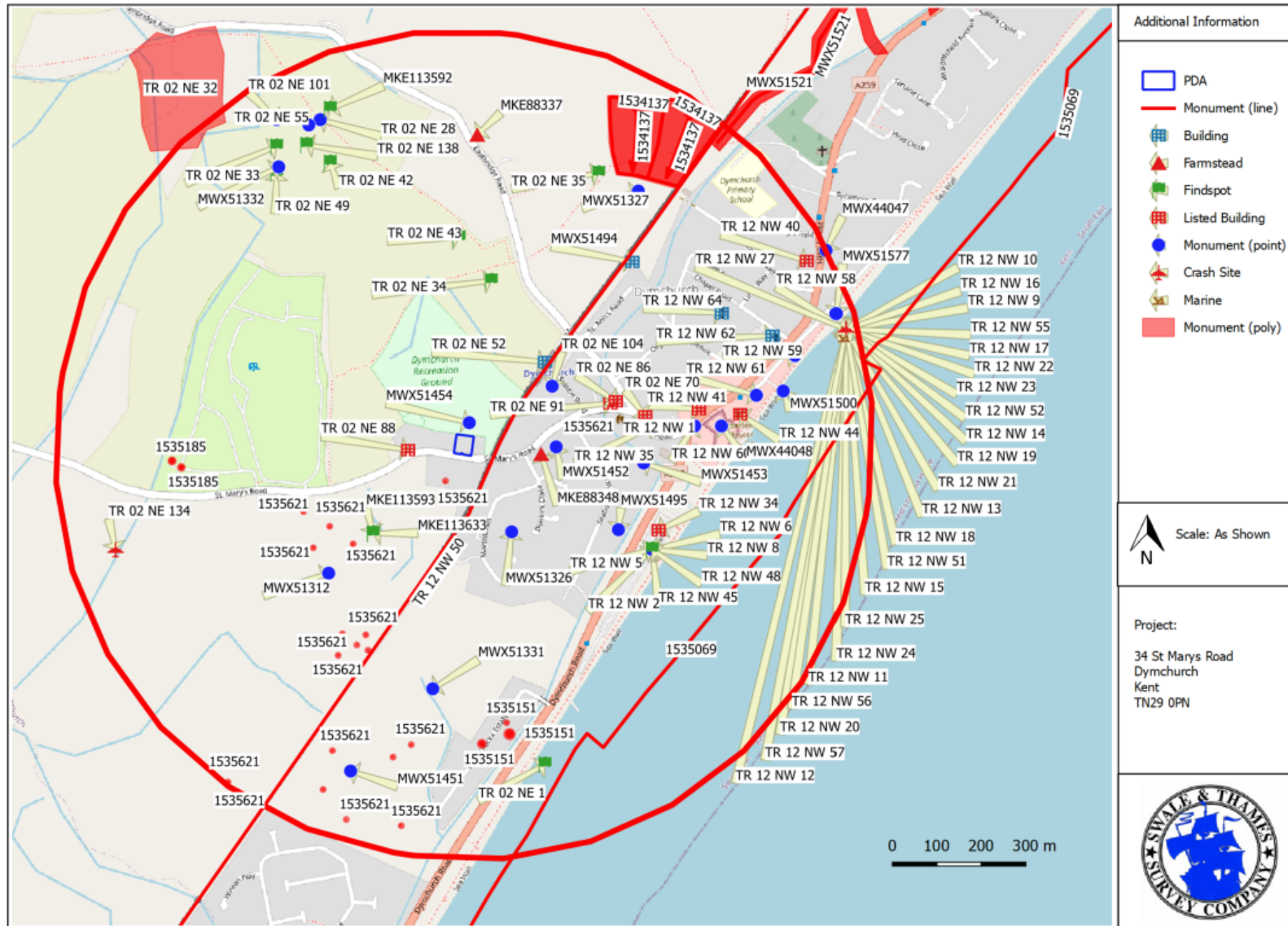


Figure 15: KHER Monument Record – All



Figure 16: KHER Historic Landscape Characterisation



Figure 17: KHER Conservation Areas



Figure 18: KHER Scheduled Monuments

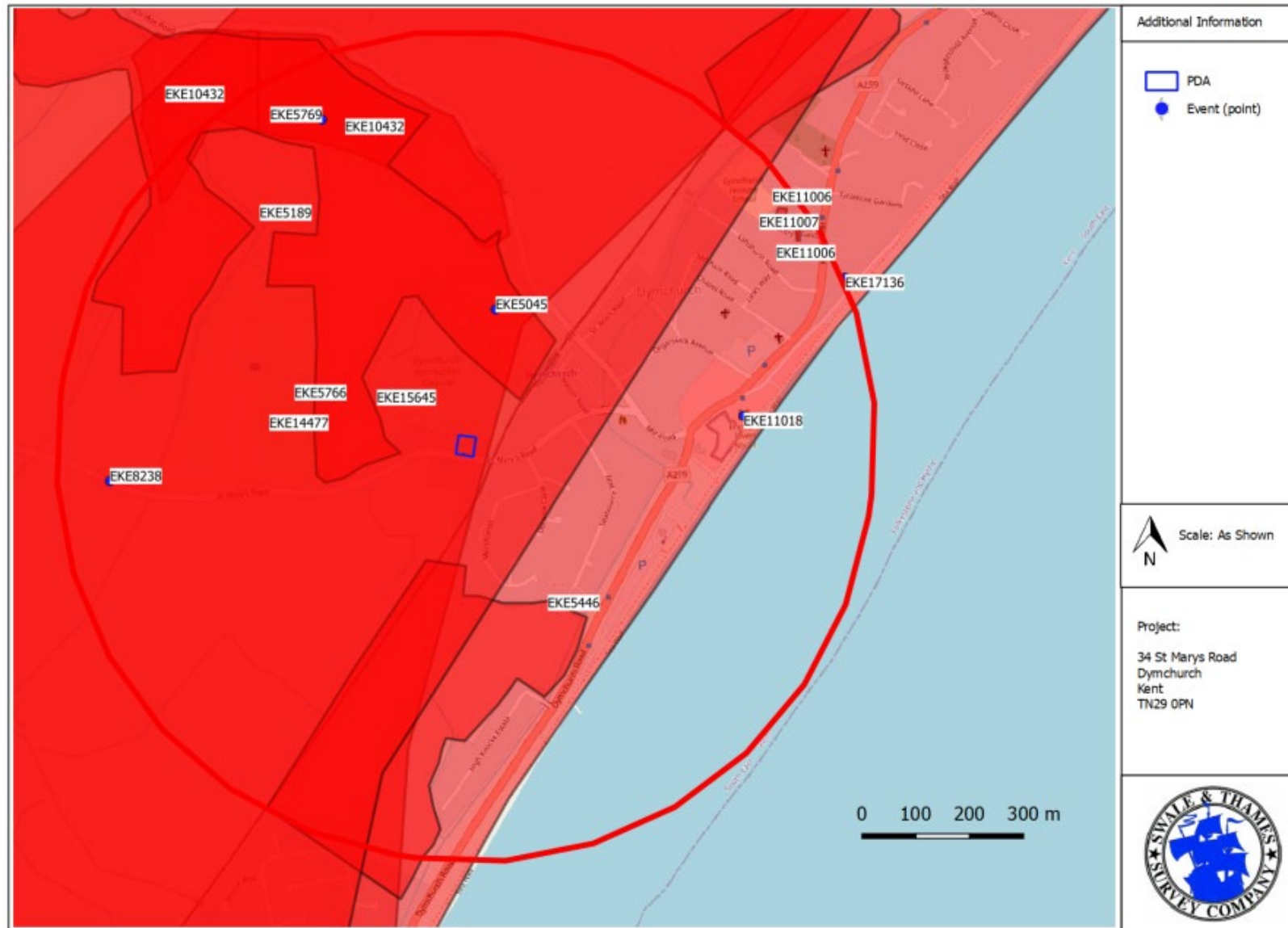


Figure 19: KHER Events



Additional Information

*Plate 1: 1949*

Project:

34 St Marys Road  
Dymchurch  
Kent  
TN29 0PN





Additional Information

*Plate 2: 1940s.*

Photograph supplied by Google Earth



Scale: As Shown

Project:  
34 St Marys Road  
Dymchurch  
Kent  
TN29 0PN













Additional Information

*Plate 6: 2013*

Photograph supplied by Google Earth



Scale: As Shown

Project:

34 St Marys Road  
Dymchurch  
Kent  
TN29 0PN







*Plate 8: View of the southern boundary of the PDA (facing NW)*



*Plate 9: View across the PDA (facing NW)*



*Plate 10: View across the PDA (facing SW)*



*Plate 11: View across the southern part of the PDA (facing ESE)*





*Plate 12: View of the northern boundary of the PDA (facing SE)*



*Plate 13: View looking towards proposal site 3 (facing SE)*



*Plate 14: View across the PDA (facing NE)*



Plate 15: Plate Locations