



ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESK-BASED
ASSESSMENT OF LAND AT
ST GEORGE'S HALL, MIDDLE STREET,
DEAL, KENT CT14 6HP

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Front cover: 2021 aerial photograph of the site (looking north)

Figure 1. OS mapping

Figure 2. OS mapping

Figure 3. OS site plan

Plates 1-6 Site views dated August 2024

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In August 2024 Dr Paul Wilkinson of SWAT Archaeology carried out a Rapid Archaeological Desk-based Assessment on land at St Georges Hall, Middle Street, Deal in Kent.

1.2 Historic mapping, aerial photographs and the HER records were studied and they show that no archaeological activity has been recorded within 60m of the proposed development site (PDA).

1.3 The principal elements of the archaeological survey involved the creation of a record and description of any known archaeological and historical sites within the environs of the PDA together with an analysis and interpretation of the sites origins and historic development.

1.5 A review of Historic OS mapping has been made and the Pevsner Architectural Guide (*Kent, East and East Kent 2012*) was consulted as was the National Heritage Register for England.

1.6 This report consists of a descriptive report accompanied by aerial and site photographs with annotated plans and maps.

2.0 HISTORICAL/ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Location

The Proposed Development Area (PDA) is located in the coastal town of Deal with the beach and sea about 250m to the east and with the High Street about 75m to the west. The north of the site is bounded by St George's Passage and bounded to the east by Middle Street and Market Street to the south.

The PDA (Proposed Development Area) was once a school then St George's Parish Hall with the Church of St George located to the west fronting High Street and to the north St Georges Place (MAP's 1-6).

2.5 Historic Background

A rapid map assessment of OS historic mapping shows that in 1871 the PDA (Proposed Development Area) was open space and to the west the Church of St George was well established and to the south a Brewery both fronting the High Street to the east (MAP 1).

By 1897 the OS map shows that on the open space of the PDA seen on the 1871 map is now a school with three areas of open space retained probably as playgrounds (MAP 2).

The 1905 OS map shows the school on the PDA and further afield the pier and pavilion to the south-east and railway station to the west. To the south is Victoria Town and Deal Castle with the Recreation Ground to the west with a park Pavilion and close by Alms houses (MAP 3).

The 1907 OS map (MAP 4) still shows the school as does the 1937 OS map (MAP 5) and the KCCHER map shows the area of the school is now 'St George's Parish Hall' (MAP 6) as does the modern OS map with the proposed area of development within a red line (MAP 7).

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES

3.1 The HER records show that known archaeology is sparse in the vicinity of the PDA. Adjacent to the south is 'The Dining Club' a Grade II Listed Building dating from 1800-1899 (TR 35 SE 571). About 95 m to the west is the W. Hills & Sons Brewery established in about 1850 and demolished in the 1900's.

About 60m NE an Archaeological Watching Brief took in Oak Street in 2004 and the archaeological watching brief was undertaken during groundworks for a new dwelling. Observations identified evidence dating from the post-medieval period including pottery, clay pipes and the remains of previous buildings and cellars. Of particular interest in the pottery assemblage were South Spanish coarse ware jars which are quite a rare find, they were probably brought in with the intense maritime activity around the Deal area during the late 18th and early 19th centuries (TR 35 SE 174).

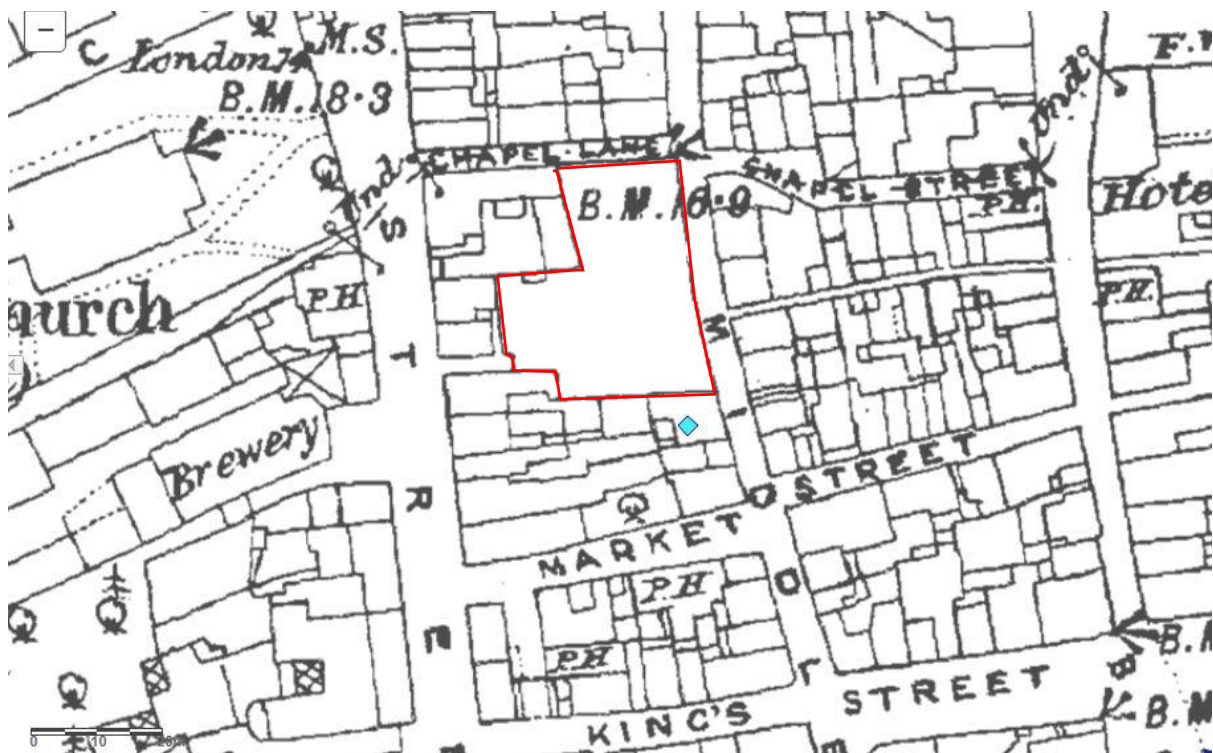
4.0 DISCUSSION

4.1 A review of the available data shows that few archaeological sites are known within the 200m radius of the PDA.

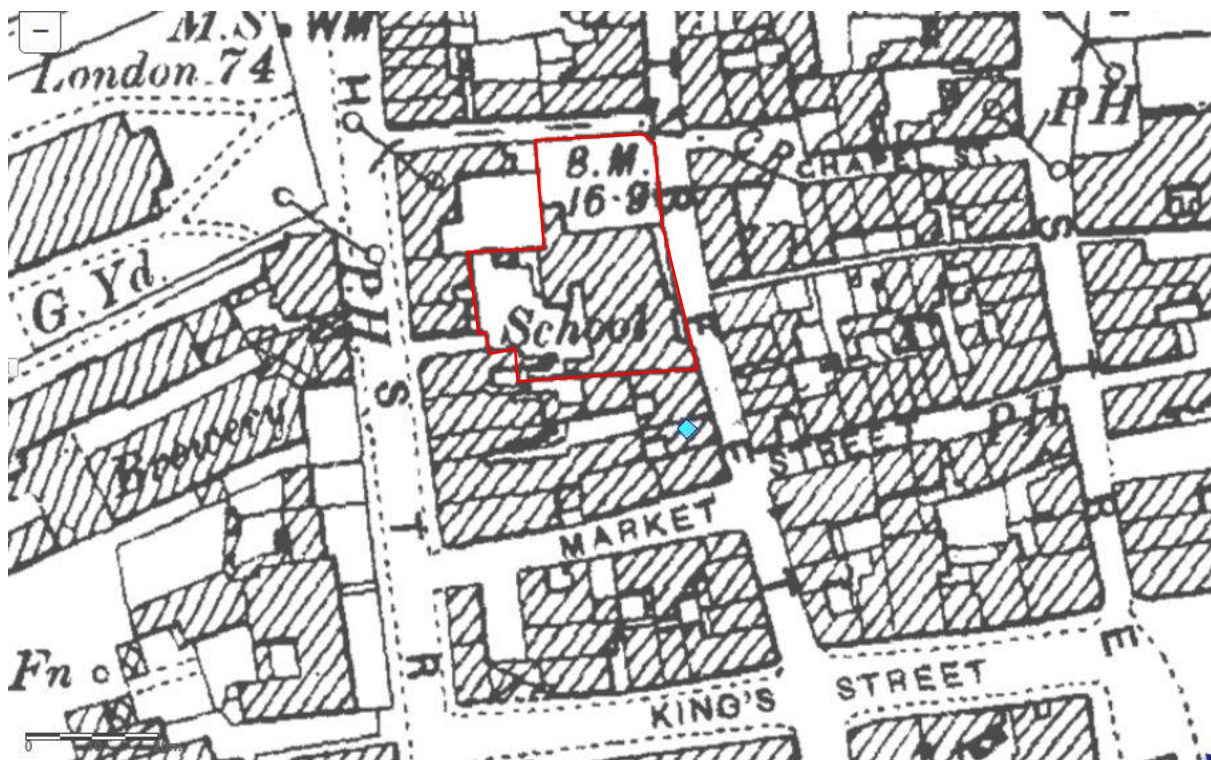
5.0 PARAMETERS

5.1 The archaeological survey was conducted using on-line data from Historic England, KCCHER and other agencies.

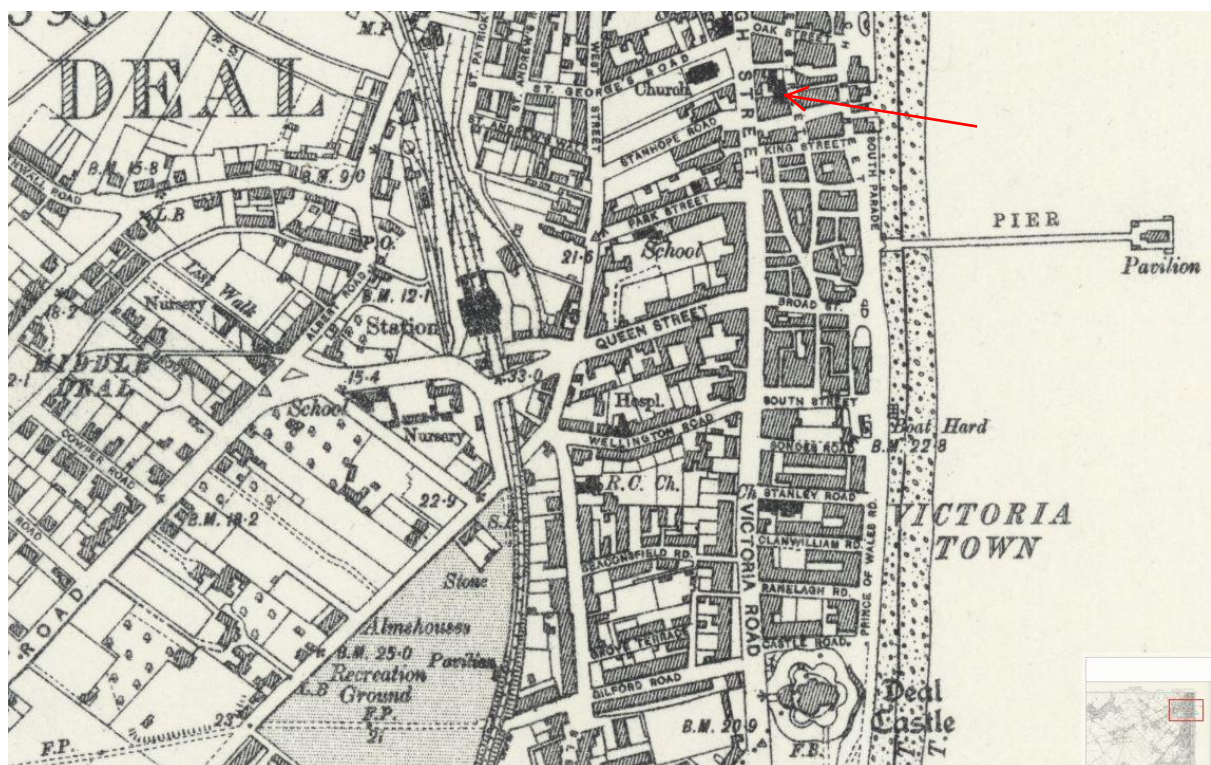
Dr Paul Wilkinson PhD., MCIfA., FRSA. Dated 08/08/2024



MAP 1. OS mapping c.1871. Area of PDA red line



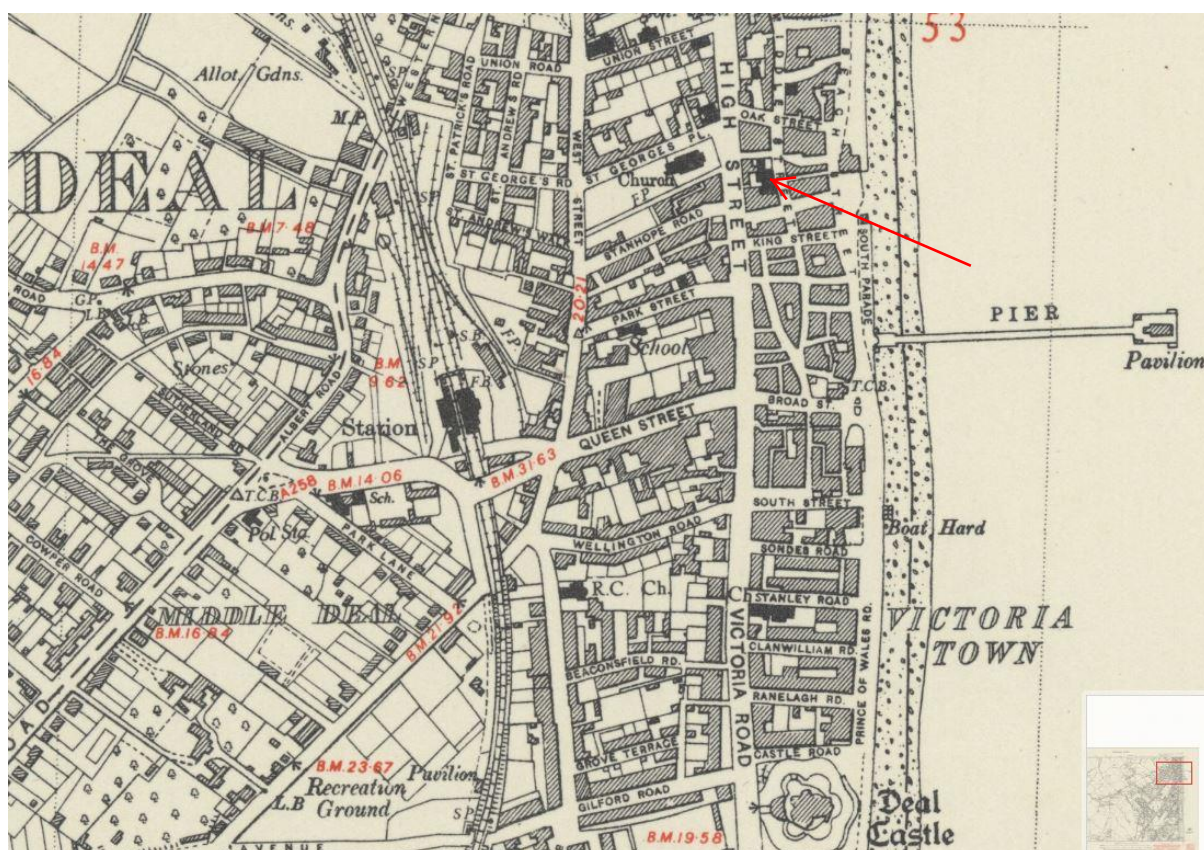
MAP 2. OS mapping c.1897 (red line site)



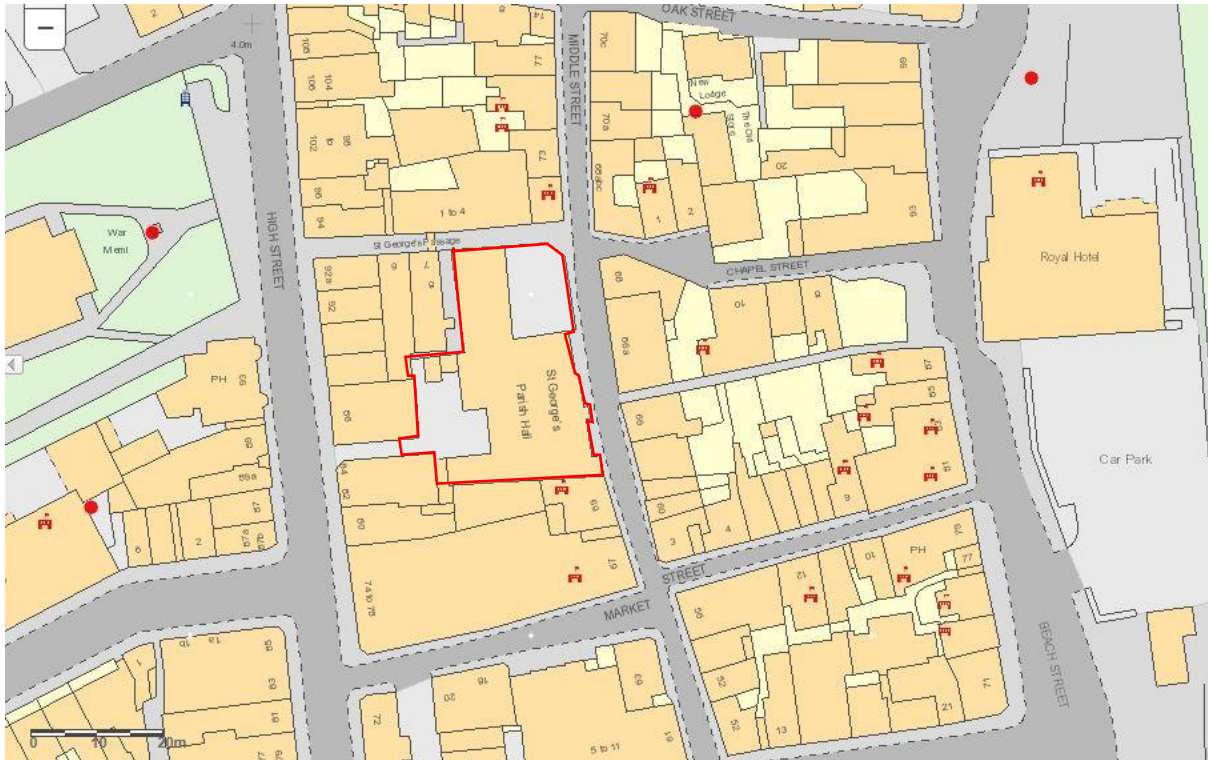
MAP 3. OS mapping 1905 (red arrow site)



MAP 4. OS 1907 (red line site)



MAP 5. 1937 (red arrow site)



MAP 6. KCCHER mapping (Red line site)



MAP 7. Area of proposed development (red line)



AP 1. Aerial c.2007



AP 2. Aerial c. 2021



Plate 1. St George's Hall (looking SW)



Plate 2. St George's Hall (looking SSW)



Plate 3. St George's Hall (looking West)



Plate 4. St George's Hall courtyard (looking NW)



Plate 5. St George's Hall front façade (looking NW)



Plate 6. Street view with St George's Hall- red arrow (looking North)