



Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment
in Advance of the Proposed
Development of Land at Newlands,
Darent Wood Road, Darent, Kent.

March 2024

Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment in Advance of the Proposed Development of Land at Newlands, Darenth Wood Road, Darenth, DA2 8AA

National Grid Reference TQ 57342 72714



Report for S & B Group Trade Ltd

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SWAT ARCHAEOLOGY

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Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment in Advance of the Proposed Development of Land at Newlands, Darenth Wood Road, Darenth, DA2 8AA

Summary

SWAT Archaeology has been asked by S & B Group Trade Ltd prepare an Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment of the proposed development area (PDA) of land at Newlands, Darenth Wood Road, Darenth, DA2 8AA 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**
- Iron Age: **low**
- Roman: **low**
- Anglo-Saxon: **low**
- Medieval: **low**
- Post-Medieval: **low**
- Modern: **low**

The site a garden area associated with a property called Newlands located on the eastern side of Darenth Valley Road to the south east of Dartford. The PDA is currently scrub and rubble and within the area of the PDA are a couple of outbuildings, a shed and an above ground oil tank.

The assessment has generally shown that the area to be developed is within an area of moderate potential for archaeology especially from the Prehistoric period and low potential for the remaining periods. Research indicates that the site was possible woodland until the Post Medieval period when the wood was cleared, and the land used for arable farming. Since the 1930, the PDA has formed part of the garden to Newlands. Since that time within the area of the PDA there have been a number of outbuildings on a concrete bases which are likely to have caused a medium historical impact in relation to their footprint to any potential earlier archaeology with the remaining areas of the PDA having a low historical impact meaning that there is a high likelihood of any potential archaeology surviving in-situ. 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, but it is anticipated that an evaluation will be required to ascertain the nature and significance of any archaeological deposits which can be covered by an appropriate archaeological condition.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

- 1.1.1 Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT) was asked by S & B Group Trade Ltd (the client) to carry out an archaeological desk-based assessment relating to the proposed development area (PDA) Proposed Development of land at Newlands, Darenth Wood Road, Darenth, DA2 8AA centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) TQ 57342 72714 (Fig 1).

1.2 The Site

- 1.2.1 The PDA is located on the eastern side of Darenth Wood Road on the south eastern outskirts of Dartford although it falls within the eastern part of the parish of Darenth which is a village circa 1.6km to the south west. The road follows on a north-south trajectory from the Watling Street (A296) to the north. To the south is the A2 dual carriageway. The PDA is an 'L' shaped plot that forms part of the garden belonging to Newlands, a 1930s extended bungalow adjacent to the PDA in the north western corner. Access to the PDA is via a 5-bar gate in the north western corner. North and South of Newlands are other residential plots. The PDA is currently scrub and rubble and within the area of the PDA are a couple of outbuildings, a shed and an above ground oil tank. At the rear of the PDA to the east is partly scrub and partly outbuildings associated with a neighbouring plot. The PDA is on flat ground c 74m aOD and covers an area of just over ½ an acre (Fig. 1).

Geology

- 1.2.2 The British Geological Society (BGS 1995) shows that the PDA sites on the boundary between the Lewes Nodular Chalk Formation and a spur of Thanet Formation Sand. d the band of Thanet formation - Sand to the South. There are superficial deposits at the PDA of River Terrace Deposits (undifferentiated) – Sand and Gravel. The PDA lies on the eastern side of the Darenth River Valley at the high point of a plateau. To the west lie superficial deposits of Head Deposits.

Geotechnical Information

- 1.2.3 There is no geotechnical information at the PDA. A nearby borehole circa 5m to the south of the PDA had 2 feet of sand and gravel on top of 16 foot of sand with some pebble bands lying on top of chalk. Soil investigations to the west during the

Darenth Park Hospital development in 1996 encountered, thin Head deposit on chalk.

1.3 The Proposed Development

- 1.3.1 The proposed development is an outline application with details of access only in connection with a residential infill development (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 the potential for significant archaeology which may be impacted on by the proposed development, as far as is possible from existing information.

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.
- 2.1.2 The National Planning Policy Framework was updated in July 2018, revised in February 2019, July 2021 September 2023 and December 2023 and is the principal document which sets out the Government's planning policies for England and how these are expected to be applied. It provides a framework in which Local Planning Authorities can produce their own distinctive Local Plans to reflect the needs of their communities.

2.2 National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)

- 2.2.1 The Historic Environment, as defined in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF December 2023): 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.'

- 2.2.2 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. It includes designated heritage assets and assets identified by the local planning authority (including local listing).'

- 2.2.3 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.

2.2.4 Paragraph 196 of the NPPF states that:

‘Plans should set out a positive strategy for the conservation and enjoyment of the historic environment, including heritage assets most at risk through neglect, decay, or other threats. This strategy 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.’

2.2.5 Paragraph 200 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.’

2.2.6 Paragraph 201 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.'

2.2.7 The NPPF further provides definitions of terms in the glossary 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 (for heritage policy).*** *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 of a heritage asset.*** *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.'*

2.2.8 The NPPF advises local authorities to take into account the following points in paragraph 203 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 to viable uses consistent with their conservation;
- b) the positive contribution that conservation of heritage assets can make to sustainable communities including their economic vitality; and
- c) the desirability of new development in making a positive contribution to local character and distinctiveness.'

2.2.9 Paragraphs 205 and 210 consider the impact of a proposed development upon the significance of a heritage asset.

2.2.10 Paragraph 205 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.’

2.2.11 Paragraph 206 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.’*

2.2.12 Paragraph 207 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 total 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.’*

- 2.2.13 Conversely, paragraph 208 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, where appropriate, securing its optimum viable use’*.
- 2.2.14 The NPPF comments in paragraph 213, proffers 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 207 or less than substantial harm under paragraph 208, 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’*.
- 2.2.15 Paragraph 210 states that *‘Local Planning Authorities 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’*.
- 2.2.16 Paragraph 212 encourages Local Planning Authorities to *‘look for opportunities for new development 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.’*
- 2.2.17 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.
- 2.2.18 In addition to the NPPF, statutory protection and guidance documents are also provided to certain classes of designated heritage assets under the following list:
- 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.

2.3 Local Policies

2.3.1 Dartford Borough Council has a Local Plan document called Dartford Development Policies Plan, adopted July 2017. In addition, the council has a Core Strategy, being the over-arching Local Plan document for the Borough, adopted in September 2011, which sets out the fundamental development priorities in Dartford. Both plan documents have a time horizon until 2026. The Development Policies Plan conforms with national planning policy contained in the NPPF and has a number of policies relevant to archaeology and heritage:

- POLICY DP11.2: Sustainable Technology & Construction
- POLICY DP12: Historic Environment Strategy
- POLICY DP13: Designate Heritage Assets

2.3.2 These policies are covered in greater detail below:

POLICY DP11.2: Sustainable Technology and Construction

2.3.3 In determining applications for small and large-scale low/zero carbon technology and installations, the economic and environmental benefits of the proposal will be weighed against the individual and cumulative impact of the development. Development will only be permitted in line with national policy and where the following factors have been satisfactorily taken into consideration:

- a) Character, and visual and residential amenity
- b) Landscape, topography, and heritage
- c) Shadow flicker and glare (if relevant)
- d) Electronic and telecommunication interference/ navigation and aviation issues (if relevant)
- e) Quality of agricultural land taken (where applicable)

- f) Ensuring installations are removed when no longer in use and land is then restored.
- g) Potential effects on Policies Map designations/ protected sites or areas in the Borough including Green Belt, heritage assets, and SSSIs/areas of high biodiversity value, and
- h) Other relevant local environmental and amenity factors accounting for mitigations proposed, for example in relation to biodiversity.

POLICY DP12: Historic Environment Strategy

2.3.4 Development should contribute to the conservation and enjoyment of the Borough's historic environment. The Local Planning Authority will work with developers on strategies to realise this in the context of site heritage opportunities and constraints.

2.3.5 Where heritage may be at risk, landowners will be expected to work proactively with the Local Planning Authority in bringing forward proposals to preserve or enhance these assets, to facilitate their successful rehabilitation and seek their viable reuse consistent with their heritage value and special interest.

2.3.6 Development proposals which may affect the significance of heritage assets (both designated and non-designated) or their setting should demonstrate how these assets will be protected, conserved or enhanced as appropriate. Proposals should aim to reflect and interpret the historic character of a site and conserve its most significant historical and/or architectural aspects.

2.3.7 A heritage statement should accompany all planning applications affecting heritage assets. On archaeological sites, a desk-based assessment will be required as a minimum. Applications affecting non-designated assets will be assessed against the criteria below.

2.3.8 The Borough's non-designated assets include:

- a) Archaeological sites, including sites holding an interest as defined in the NPPF;
- b) Applicable sites within Areas of Special Character, as defined on the Policies Map;
- c) Sites with significant industrial heritage;
- d) Land with historic Landscape Character;

e) Historic open space, parks and gardens.

2.3.9 Development proposals affecting non-designated heritage assets should establish the asset's significance. Development should conserve or enhance those aspects that have been identified as significant and, where possible, should seek to better reveal an asset's significance.

2.3.10 In determining planning applications affecting non-designated assets, the effect of the proposal on the asset's significance will be taken into account. A balanced judgement will be taken having regard to the significance of the heritage asset and the scale of any harm or loss of significance. Development resulting in total loss of significance will not normally be permitted.

POLICY DP13: Designated Heritage Assets

2.3.11 Designated heritage assets are an irreplaceable resource and should be conserved in a manner appropriate to their significance. A heritage statement should establish the significance of the heritage asset in order to enable the assessment the impact of a development proposal. Any harm or loss will require clear and convincing justification.

2.3.12 In determining planning applications, the Local Planning Authority will pay close attention to:

- a) The significance of the heritage asset
- b) The desirability of maintaining and, where possible, enhancing significance; and
- c) The desirability of ensuring viable uses are found for heritage assets, consistent with their conservation.

2.3.13 Where a proposal will lead to substantial harm or total loss of significance, permission will be refused unless it can be clearly demonstrated that the development is necessary for substantial public benefits to be achieved that will outweigh the harm or loss.

2.3.14 Where a proposal will lead to less than substantial harm, this will be weighed against the public benefits of the proposal.

- 2.3.15 Listed Buildings – Development proposals affecting statutorily listed buildings should have special regard to the desirability of preserving the building or its setting. Loss of or harm to a statutorily listed building or its setting will only be permitted in exceptional circumstances in line with 2.3.13 and 2.3.14 above.
- 2.3.16 Conservation Areas – Development proposals affecting a conservation area should pay special attention to the desirability of preserving or enhancing the character or appearance of that area. Proposals that would result in harm or loss of significance will be determined in line with 2.3.13 and 2.3.14 above.
- 2.3.17 The demolition of any building in a conservation area will only be permitted where it is clear that it will not adversely affect the character and appearance of the area.
- 2.3.18 Scheduled Monuments – Development proposals affecting scheduled monuments will only be permitted where they clearly conserve the asset or enhance its significance. Proposals resulting in loss or harm will only be permitted on a wholly exceptional basis and in line with clauses 2.3.13 and 2.3.14 above.

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 Introduction

3.1.1 This Desk-Based Assessment supports 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 KCC Heritage (KHER) 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 100km 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 KCC Historic Environment Record (KCCHER), the internet, Ordnance Survey. A full listing of bibliographic and cartographic documents used in this study is provided in Section 9.

Aerial photographs

4.2.6 The study of the collection of aerial photographs held by Google Earth was undertaken (Plates 2-3).

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 (1km radius from the site boundaries of the PDA), followed by a full record of archaeological sites, monuments and records within the site's immediate vicinity. There were no Conservation Areas, Registered Parks and Gardens, Historic Parks and Gardens, Protected Military Remains or NMP cropmarks within the search area. Time scales for archaeological periods represented in the report are listed in Table 1. Details and placement of the HER records are provided in Appendix 10.

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		

5.2 Designated Heritage Assets

- 5.2.1 One of the objectives is 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 The PDA is not a designated asset and does not lie within any conservation area. Within the study area there were no listed buildings. However, there are two

scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAM). Circa 635m to the west is an Early Medieval cemetery and circa 280m to the east are Medieval earthworks in Darenth Wood formed of earth banks and ditch. It is likely that historically the area of the PDA formed part of this Wooded area in the Medieval period but there is no indication that the earthworks extended this far.

5.3 Previous Archaeological Works

- 5.3.1 There have been a number of archaeological events in the area (Fig.11). Many were non-intrusive reports. Those events that were intrusive tend to have negative results.

Evaluation Darenth Park Hospital, 1997 (EKE8384)

- 5.3.2 In 1997, the large area to the west of the PDA that was Darenth Park Hospital was archaeologically investigated. There were 38 trenches across three areas. However, no archaeological remains prior to the 19th century were identified. No evidence of in-situ Quaternary River gravels were exposed, and the site did not have any Palaeoenvironmental interest.

5.4 Archaeological and Historical Narrative

- 5.4.1 Swanscombe has been occupied since Palaeolithic times, flint tools from circa 400,000 years ago have been found. Many finds are located in ancient river gravels. Quarrying in the Swanscombe area has led to separate discoveries of rare Palaeolithic skull remains in 1935, 1936 and 1955 of three pieces of skull of *Homo heidelbergensis*, a different species of human to ourselves. Evidence from this period also includes much flora and fauna including elephants, aurochs, wolves and rhinoceroses. Banfield pit circa 3km to the north east of the PDA was declared a National Nature Reserve in 1954. The Ebbsfleet Valley to the east has also revealed significant Palaeolithic artefacts and Palaeoenvironmental evidence. This includes Lower Palaeolithic and Middle Palaeolithic collections of finds of national significance. Upper Palaeolithic material has also been recovered from stratified colluvial deposits near Springhead at the source of the Ebbsfleet. Neolithic evidence is usually in the form of worked flints and little by way of occupation has been found

in the area, although the Channel Tunnel Rail Link (CTRL) investigations to the east located deposits and archaeological features tentatively dated to the Neolithic.

- 5.4.2 In the wider area to the east the same CTRL investigations revealed Bronze Age worked and burnt lithics as well as fields systems and burials cremations. A heath suggested settlement activity was close by.
- 5.4.3 Iron Age activity was concentrated around the springs at Springhead to the east of the PDA and the area associated with a ritual landscape. There was a 500m 'processional way' from the river edge to the high point overlooking the springs and many votive offerings in the form of coins were found. It was perhaps a continuation from this period of the area's religious significance that attracted the Romans.
- 5.4.4 The main London to Dover Roman Road passed to the north of the PDA. The exact line in this portion has been lost. The major Iron Age and Roman settlement of Springhead would have been just to the east with Roman settlements also at nearby Dartford to the north west.
- 5.4.5 The River Darent and hence its surrounding valley was an important feature in Roman Kent. There are at least eight Roman villas along the valley, but this is a rather incomplete picture of its occupation during Roman times. The River Darent was an important Roman supply route, probably carrying grain downstream and possibly bringing back materials for construction and other purposes. The peak of Roman activity in the valley was probably between the 2nd and 3rd centuries when probably all the known villa sites were operating at the same time including one at Darenth to the south west of the PDA outside of the study area.
- 5.4.6 The settlement of Darenth is named after the Darent River on which it stands. And is recorded as 'Darente' in 940AD. The river is first recorded in 822 AD as 'Diorente' meaning 'river where oaks are plentiful'.
- 5.4.7 Little is known about the siting, size and nature of Anglo-Saxon settlements in the Darent Valley. A few occupation sites have been identified in the local area, some of these were sited close to former Roman villa sites. Evidence is also via cemeteries including one at Darenth Country Park circa 635m west of the PDA.

- 5.4.8 At the time of the Domesday Book in 1086AD, Darenth was recorded as a settlement with 22 villagers, 7 cottagers, 6 slaves and 5 burgesses. It was owned by Christchurch Canterbury under the Archbishop Lanfranc. There was enough land for 1 Lord's plough team and 7 men plough teams. Resources included 8 acres of meadow, enough woodland for 20 swine and 2 mills. The manor remained under the control of the church until the dissolution where the lands were appointed to the Dean and Chapter of Rochester and let out to a succession of tenants. The PDA lay in the north eastern part of the manor.
- 5.4.9 In the Medieval period, the areas woodlands were actively managed as evidenced by the scheduled ancient monument earthworks in Darenth Wood to the east of the PDA consisting of a bank and ditch. Woods which are more than 100 years old often have some form of earthwork boundary: ancient wood boundaries (pre-AD 1700) are either sinuous or zig-zagged; straight edged woods with slighter earthworks usually indicate a wood boundary of later than AD 1700. Part of the earthworks may be Roman. The small northern enclosure was aligned on the Roman road. A parish boundary follows the whole of the eastern side. Darenth Wood is classed as Ancient Woodland. The earthworks at Darenth Wood are scheduled because although sections have been partly destroyed by modern road building, the medieval woodland boundary in Darenth Wood is of an early date and survives well. Excavated circa 1964 and it is considered to have been constructed A.D. 1200-50. Its earthworks are comparatively large for this type of monument. The irregularly shaped, sinuous boundary encloses a wood of around 35.5ha, managed during the Medieval period and later as coppice with oak standards. The monument will also contain environmental evidence relating to the way in which the wood was exploited during its period of use. Over time the amount of woodland reduced in size as it was cleared. However, the wooded area of the PDA remained in place until around the early 19th century.
- 5.4.10 Dartford became a major town in the valley whilst settlements such as Darenth retained their status as primarily an agricultural community.
- 5.4.11 Located immediately west of the PDA was Darenth Park Hospital, original called the Metropolitan District Imbecile Asylum and Schools. The hospital was founded by the Metropolitan Asylums Board as a school for 500 children with learning disabilities on 18 November 1878. By 1890 it housed over 1,000 children and adults and

included Darenth Asylum. By 1911 part of the site has become the Darenth Industrial Trading Colony, and the institution was becoming almost self-sufficient in food production and the manufacture of everyday items, thanks to its ample supply of free labour. In 1936, as the age and disability levels of residents increased, the name became Darenth Park Hospital, and in 1948 the management was transferred from the London County Council, which had succeeded the Metropolitan Asylums Board in the management of the institution, to the new National Health Service.

- 5.4.12 The hospital drew patients from a wide catchment of south-east London and Kent. By 1970 the population had grown to 1,500 and the physical conditions in this grim and vast Victorian building were increasingly unacceptable by modern standards. The hospital had over 40 wards, of which 10 contained more than 50 residents. Finally in 1973 the Regional Health Board agreed to close Darenth, but the funding and planning required for such a major undertaking took years to put in place.
- 5.4.13 Darenth Park was the first large regional learning disability institution to close in England as a result of the British government's emerging Care in the Community policy and from the early 1980s on nearly a thousand residents were resettled to other hospitals, hostels, small group homes and local facilities. In August 1988 the last residents were transferred, and the hospital closed.
- 5.4.14 The buildings have been entirely demolished and the new Darent Valley Hospital has been built on part of the site. A 'village' of 300 new houses was also built and the remaining 100 acres became the Darenth Country Park. The only building surviving from the Asylum is at the former Darenth Park Hospital Farm, now used as the Arrow Riding Centre.
- 5.4.15 South of the main asylum buildings was Darenth Asylum Farm and also Gore Farm Hospital. Gore Farm Hospital was established in 1890 as a smallpox hospital and from 1902 became a convalescent hospital for fever patients. In 1911 it was renamed Southern Convalescent Hospital. In the First World War, Lower Southern Hospital was taken over for treatment of German Prisoners of War, as Dartford War Hospital. Those who died were exhumed in 1960s and their remains buried at a cemetery in Cannock Chase. In 1918 the Southern Hospital was taken over by the United States government for the use of sick and wounded American servicemen. In 1930 the hospital passed into the administrative control of the London County

Council. The hospital closed in 1948 with the reorganisation of public health under the National Health Act.

- 5.4.16 The straight line of Watling Street was resurrected in 1922 and runs north of the PDA. In the 1960s, this was bypassed, with the A2 built to the south of the PDA.

5.5 Cartographic Sources and Map Regression

Andrews & Dury, 1769

- 5.5.1 The map is not greatly detailed, and the roads are approximated. Located is assisted by that of Gore House. The line of Watling Street is shown but the main route used east to west is just below. The PDA location is approximate and appears to be on the edge of the woodland. (Fig. 3)

Ordnance Surveyors Drawing, 1797

- 5.5.2 The location of the PDA is approximate and is adjacent to Darenth Woods in the south and east of the PDA. The PDA appears to be part of a small shaw surrounded by arable fields. It lies outside of any settlement area. The line of Watling Street can be seen to the north. Heading south off Watling Street is a short trackway heading towards that of the PDA (Fig.4).

Darenth Tithe Map 1840

- 5.5.3 This map show the PDA located in part of a larger area designated 70. This area is owned and occupied by Charles and Williams Fleets. It is recorded as a field called 'Knocks' and is arable. The edges of the field are wood and to the north there is in area 61 a shaw. The area around is a mixture of arable and shaws with the edge of Darenth Wood to the east. The occupier had part of a small dwelling circa 1km to the south west of the PDA and not part of a larger farmstead (Fig.5).

Historic OS map 1872

- 5.5.4 This is the first detailed OS map showing the PDA. The map shows the PDA as part of a cleared area with shaws to the north and east. To the immediate west of the PDA is a trackway on a north-south axis. (Fig 4).

Historic OS map 1898 & 1909

- 5.5.5 There is no change at the PDA. However, to the west on the opposite side of the road is the Metropolitan District Imbecile Asylum and Schools. The asylum is accessed via roads to the east and west of that site with the eastern entrance opposite that of the PDA where there is a lodge at the entrance (Fig.5).

Historic OS Map 1933

- 5.5.6 There have been significant changes. Immediately to the north of the PDA the land is beginning to be divided up for housing and there is a long rectangular plot immediately adjacent to the north. To the south of the PDA is also a house and it appears from this map, that the PDA forms part of that house's garden (Fig.6).

Historic OS Map 1964

- 5.5.7 This map shows the PDA as part of the larger garden associated with the house of Salinas to the south of the PDA. Adjacent to the north western corner of the PDA is another residential property of Newlands. Although there is no clear boundary marked between the properties and where there are boundaries, it indicates that it is all part of the same ownership. Immediately east of the PDA is also another building with an area of woodland to the south east (Fig.7).

5.6 Aerial Photographs

1946

- 5.6.1 This aerial photograph shows the existence of Newlands with the PDA forming part of its plot. It looks like the PDA was used for vegetable planting. To the west can be seen the entrance to Darenth Park Hospital. To the north and south are other residential plots. To the south east is a wooded boundary and the remains of a shaw (Plate1).

1960

- 5.6.2 This shows the PDA still in use as a garden. Outside of the boundary in the north western corner is now a building (Plates 2).

1990

- 5.6.3 The PDA is now shown as a lawn with trees dotted around. The area to the north has a new residential building and the plot cleared of trees. There is also a new

residential building to the south and there has been infill of housing. To the south east of the PDA, the wooded area has been cleared (Plate 3).

2003

- 5.6.4 The PDA includes an outbuilding otherwise there is little change. To the west the hospital has been replaced by a residential estate (Plate 4).

2022

- 5.6.5 The trees have been removed within the PDA. The adjacent house of Newlands has been extended (Plate 5).

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 as well as assessing heritage assets and setting. A walkover survey was undertaken on the 4th of March 2024. No archaeological finds or features can be observed give the overgrown nature of the PDA (Plates 6-12).
- 5.7.2 The site was accessed via a gate. Within the PDA is a wooden shed on a concrete base. A small outbuilding also on a concrete base is constructed of breeze block with an above ground oil tank alongside. There is currently only a partial wooden boundary fence between the PDA and Newlands. The north eastern, eastern and western boundary is a hedge and overgrown vegetation with the southern boundary a brick wall and also the northern wall to the adjacent property. The PDA is a mixture of scrub and building rubble. There is a broken tarmac surface alongside the adjacent bungalow of Newlands and a freestanding trailer located in the central southern part of the PDA.

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 one entry for this period within the assessment area being that of a handaxe found circa 685m east north east of the PDA found in Darenth Wood in a site located on a plateau of River

Terrace Deposits which are undifferentiated and undated. The area to the north of the A2 containing Boyn Hill/Orsett Heath deposits. carry far higher Palaeolithic potential and significance. The Boyn Hill/Orsett formation is an east-west band from Dartford Heath through to Northfleet and has had a number of national and in some cases international significance of Lower Palaeolithic remains usually identified through quarrying. The most famous being at Barnfield Pit in Swanscombe. Whilst there is a low number of finds in the study area, the presence of River Terrace deposits at the PDA suggests a **moderate** potential of Palaeolithic potential which would carry a high significance,

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. 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 within the assessment area. 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 five records from this period within the assessment area. Circa 7585m to the west, north west a watching brief identified and Iron Age farmstead (TQ 57 SE 1115). The other records relate to finds of coins of which three were reported under the Portable Antiquities Scheme where the exact location is not revealed but located to a grid square. In this case circa 685m

to the east, north east (MKE58774:MKE58775; MKE58778). There Potin coins of this period were also located to this area (TQ 57 SE 78). This suggests that there is Iron Age activity in the area. It is likely that the PDA was part of a larger wooded area in this period. Therefore the potential for find 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 four records from this period within the assessment area. Circa 560m to the north is the Roman Road of Watling Street (TQ 86 SW 132). Outside of the study area to the west is the Darenth Valley which was exploited by the Romans as testified by the villas and industrial centres along its length on the eastern side. The remaining KHER records consist of PAS finds of two copper alloy coins and a copper alloy buckle all located on the outer reaches of the study area to the east and south east. Outside of the major routeways would have been agricultural hinterlands supporting the main settlement areas. The potential for encountering evidence of Roman activity within the site has been assessed as **low**.

Early Medieval and Anglo-Saxon

5.8.7 The Kent HER has one record from this period within the assessment area being that of a cemetery circa 635m to the west which is Scheduled (listing: 1003126). The cemetery does not extend towards the PDA. There is little by way of activity in this period suggesting the PDA may have been wooded in this period. There is no evidence of settlement in this area. The potential for remains from this period within the confines of the development area is considered to be **low**.

Medieval

5.8.8 The Kent HER has four records from this period within the assessment area. The closest is to the east being that of the Medieval earthworks of a bank and ditch located in Darenth Wood, which is scheduled (listing- 1013378). Limited excavations suggest that these are 13th century. Gore Cottages, on the outer reaches of the study area to the west is a small minor settlement area recorded in 1226 AD (TQ 57 SE 127). The two remaining finds is a copper alloy seal matrix

(MKE58027) and a penny (TQ 57 SE 1068), again towards the outer reaches of the study area. It is likely that the PDA continued to form part of the agricultural landscape in this period. Darenth Wood Road may have been formed in this period as a woodland track way to access woodland further south. It is not clear when the woodlands were cleared in and around the PDA to enable arable cultivation. The potential for remains from this period within the confines of the development area is considered to be **low**.

Post Medieval

5.8.9 The Kent HER has 15 records for this period within the study area. Five of those records relate to farmsteads and none are close to that of the PDA. Adjacent to the PDA to the west is that of Darenth Park Hospital first established in 1878 (TQ 57 SE 148) and also the Southern Hospital established in 1883 originally as a small pox hospital (TQ 57 SE 147). There are also five PAS finds all located to the outer reaches of the study area to the west and south east of two coins, two tokens and a bell. There are also remains of brickworks circa 705m to the south, south east. Mapping suggests that the PDA lay just outside of Darenth Wood in this period and was arable. Therefore, the potential for encountering evidence of Post Medieval activity within the site has been assessed as **low**.

Modern

5.8.10 KHER has three records dating to this period all located to the north west and south west of the PDA where the hospitals were used in the first world war (TQ 57 SE 1086; TQ 57 SE 1085) and a decontamination centre in the Second World War on the on Watling Street (TQ 57 SE 340). The earliest indication of a house adjacent to the PDA is sometime during the later part of the 1930s where the PDA would have formed part of its garden. The potential for finding archaeological remains dating to this period in the PDA is considered **low** and of low significance.

Unknown

5.8.11 There are three records of unknown date within the Kent HER. The closest is that of deneholes recorded circa 635m to the east in Darenth Wood. Circa 700m to the north, north west there were flint finds and these are likely to be Prehistoric (TQ 57 SE 1091). Also undated are earthworks circa 760m south, south west of the PDA identified through LIDAR of decayed bank and ditches around a base of a hill (TQ 57 SE 1098).

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. Archaeological investigations in the vicinity, map research, the historical environment record results and recent archaeological investigations have shown that the PDA will contain archaeology, and these can be summarised as:

- Prehistoric: **moderate**
- Roman: **low**
- Anglo-Saxon: **low**
- Medieval: **low**
- Post-Medieval: **low**
- 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 site was possible woodland until the Post Medieval period when the wood was cleared, and the land used for arable farming. In the 1930, the PDA formed part of the garden to Newlands. Since that time within the area of the PDA there have been a number of outbuildings on a concrete bases which are likely to have caused a medium historical impact in relation to their footprint to any potential earlier archaeology. The remaining area of the PDA is likely to have had low historical impact.

Proposed Impact

6.2.2 The proposed development is potentially for infill development. The construction of any new building and services is likely to cause a high impact to any potential archaeology.

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 moderate potential for archaeology especially from the Prehistoric period and low potential for the remaining periods. The development proposals are likely to cause a high impact upon any potential archaeology. It appears that most of the development area has not been built on with the exception of a few small outbuildings meaning that there is a high likelihood of any potential archaeology surviving in-situ.
- 7.1.3 The need for, scale, scope and nature of any further assessment and/or archaeological works should be agreed through consultation with the statutory authorities, but it is anticipated that an evaluation will be required to ascertain the nature and significance of any archaeological deposits which can be covered by an appropriate archaeological condition.

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 KCCHER 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 KCCHER, 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 to S & B Group Trade Ltd (and representatives) for the use of this document in all matters directly relating to the project.

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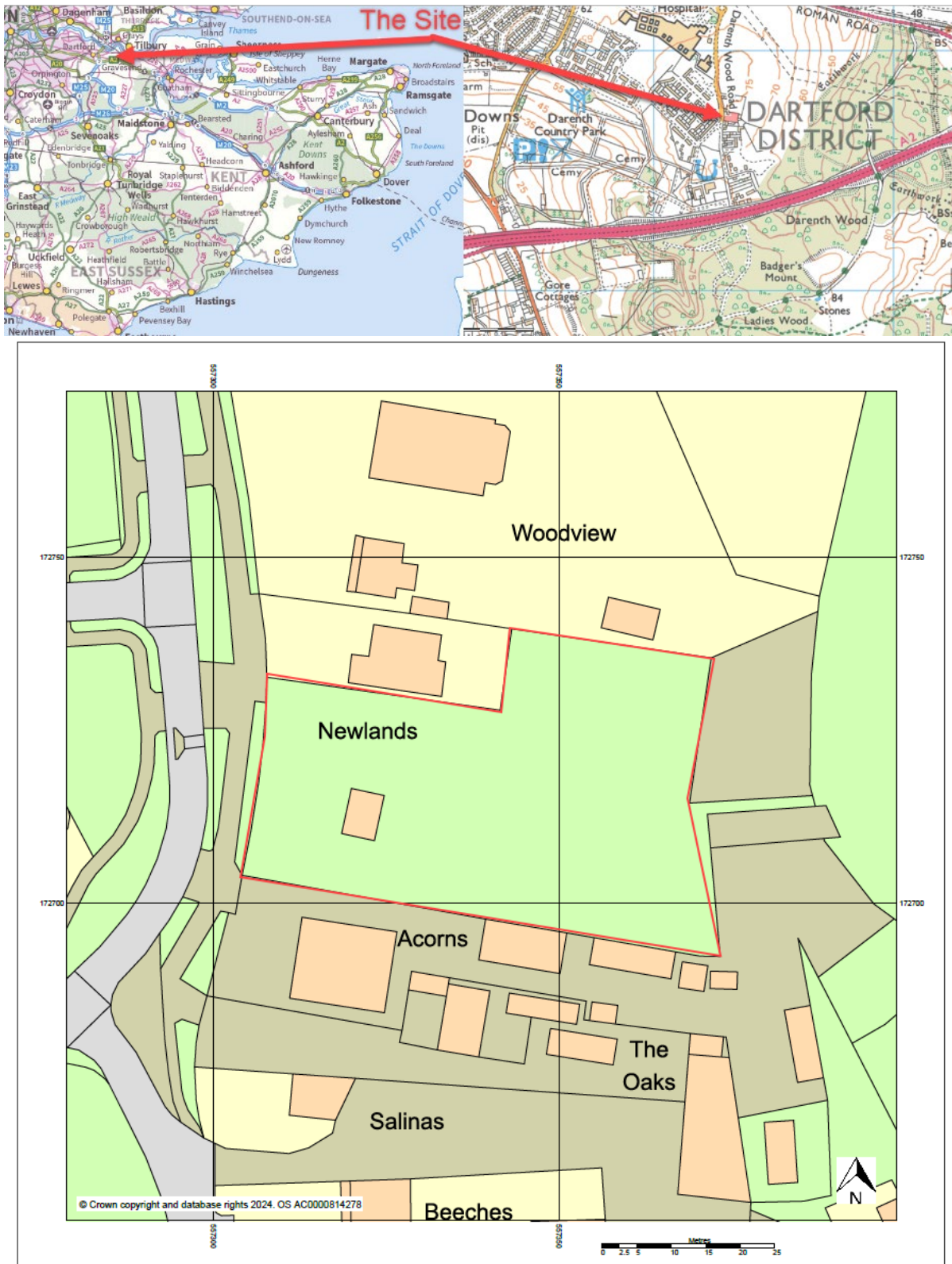


Figure 1: Location Maps, Scale: 1:10,000 & 1:500

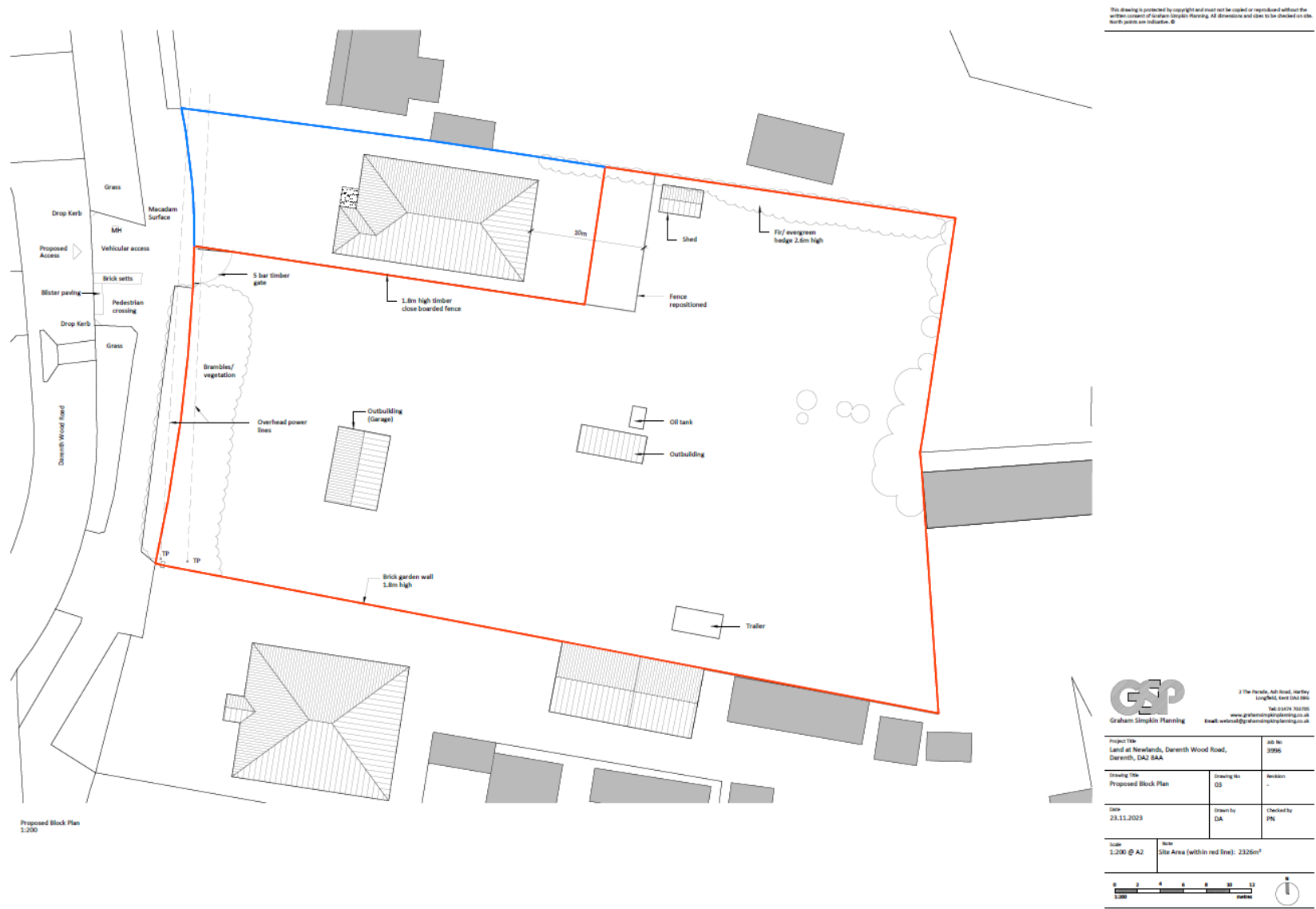


Figure 2: Proposed Development



Figure 3: Andrews and Dury, 1769



Figure 4: Ordnance Surveyors Drawing, 1797

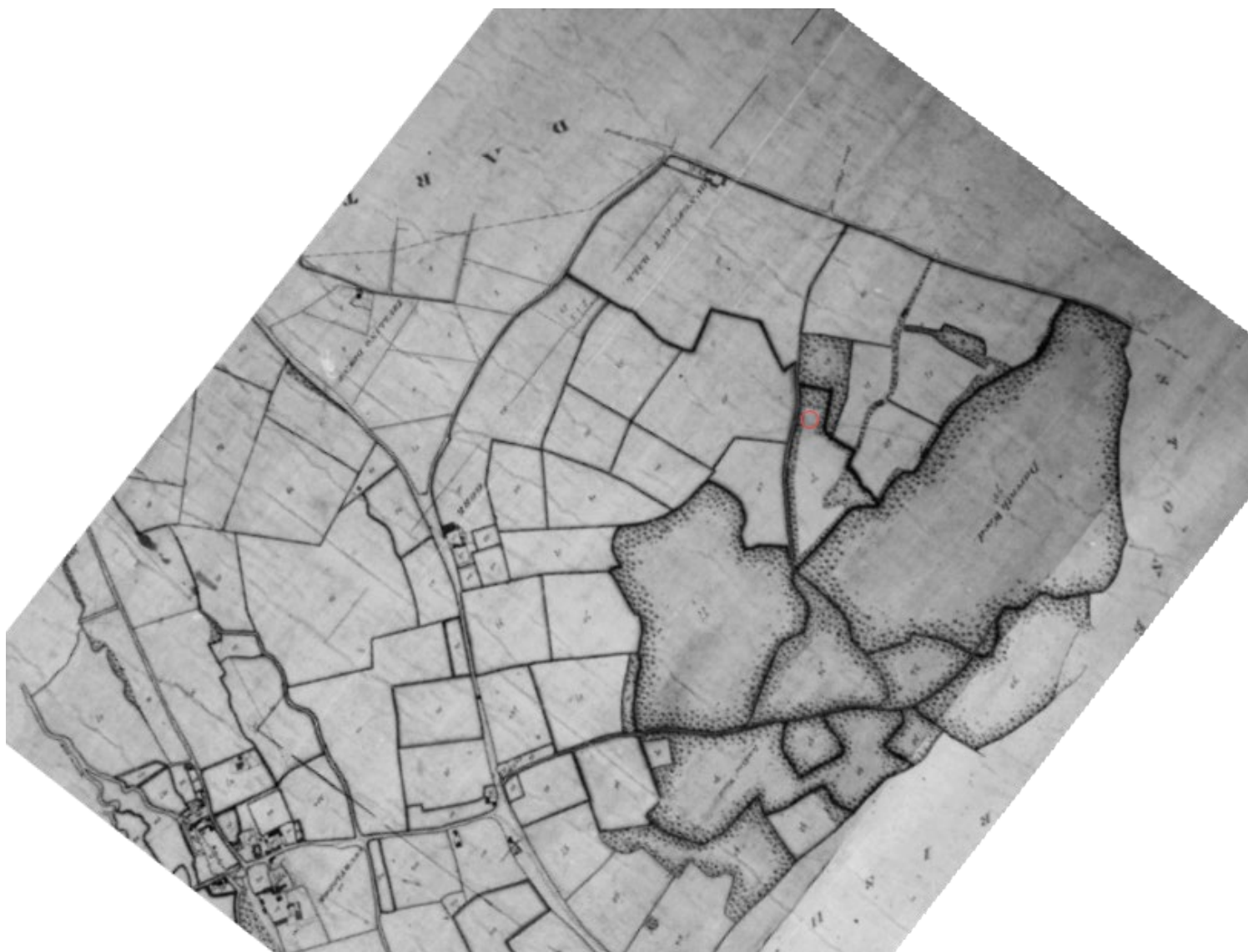


Figure 5: Darenth Tithes 1840

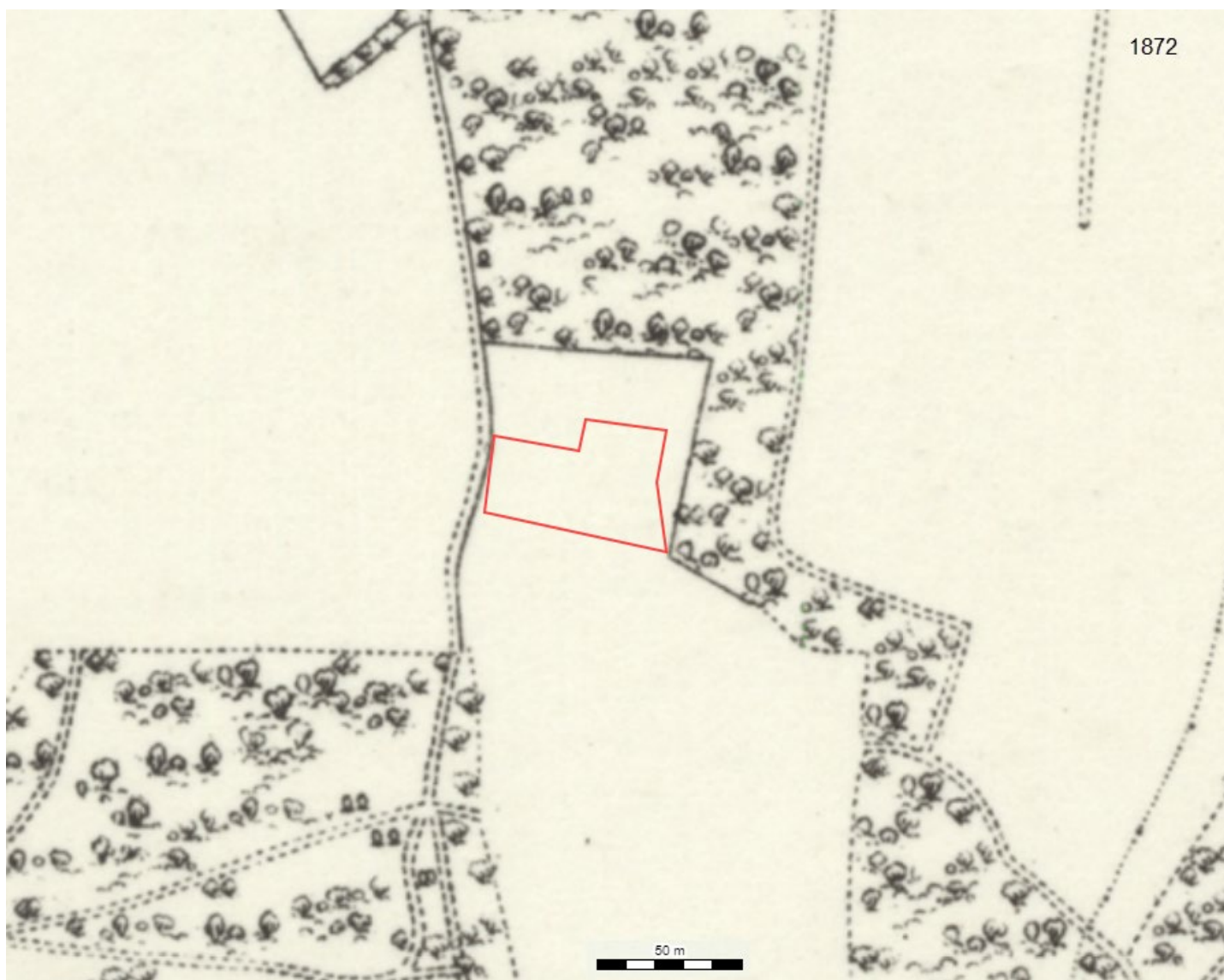


Figure 6: Historic OS Map 1872

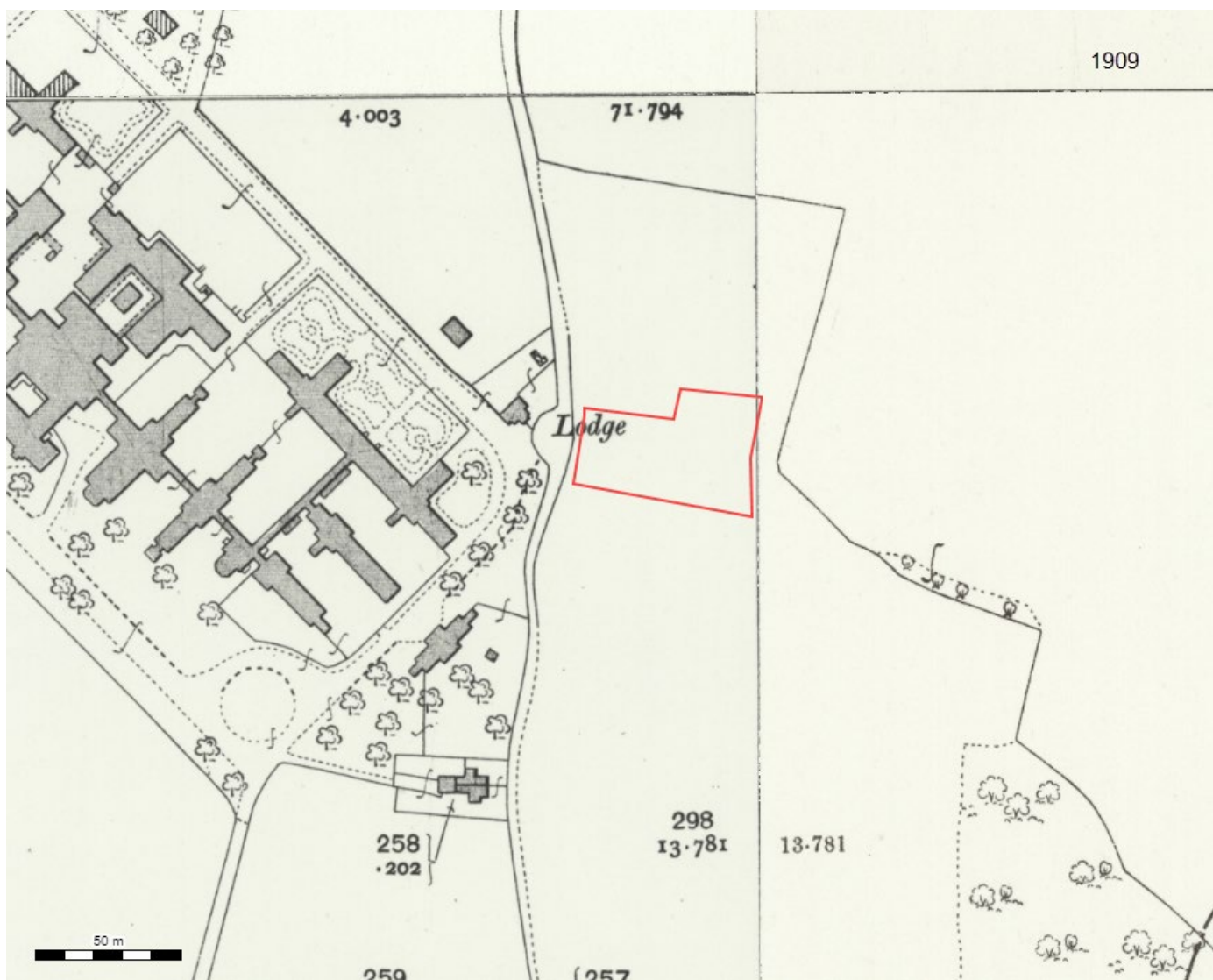


Figure 7: Historic OS Map 1909

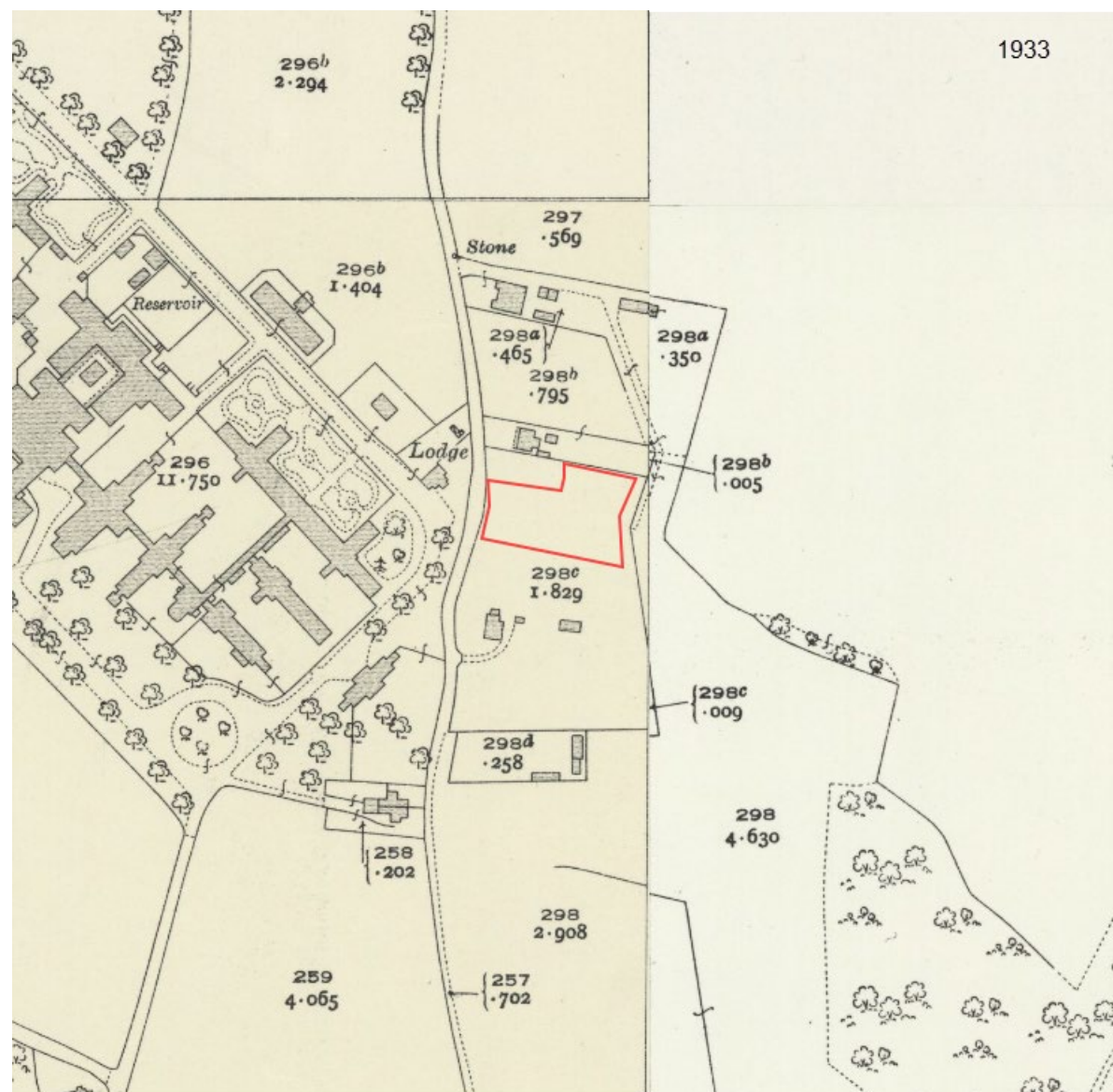


Figure 8: Historic OS Map 1933



Figure 9: Historical OS Map 1964

10 APPENDIX 1 – KHER DATA.

Kent HER ID	Record Type	Period	Distance from PDA	Description
PDA				
TQ 57 SE 1091	Monument	Unknown	c. 690m NNW	Flint finds, Dartford. As part of the Dartford Fastrack improvement scheme, in 2004 several trenches were required to be dug by Oxford Archaeology over where the new road would be. Four trenches as well as a field walking evaluation were conducted in advance of this. Several pieces of struck flint were found from the Early Neolithic.
TQ 57 SE 1091	Monument	Unknown	c. 700m NNW	Flint finds, Dartford
TQ 57 SE 125	Monument	Post Medieval	c. 705m SSE	Brickworks at Badgers Mount, Darenth. Remains of disused brick and tile works including workings through earlier field boundary banks.
TQ 57 SE 127	Monument	Medieval to Modern	c. 1005m WSW	Gore Cottages. A minor medieval-post-medieval settlement/farmstead was located as a roadside settlement. The place-name is first recorded as Gare in 1226 and later in 1257 as Gore. The layout of the medieval & post-medieval settlement is depicted on the 1841 Tithe Map. The farm buildings are shown on the 1st to 4th ED OS maps. No longer in existence.

				Southern Hospital (Site of) Darenth. In 1883 a temporary convalescent hospital for smallpox as set up by the Metropolitan Asylum Board (MAB). The site comprised tents and marquees for 300 beds, the largest civilian hospital camp at that time. In 1887 some temporary huts replaced a part of the camp and in 1890 a permanent hospital for convalescent smallpox patients was built on the higher ground above the camp. The two halves of the hospital were known as the "Upper" and "Lower" hospitals. The last of the tents were replaced by huts in 1902. In the following year the hospital changed its role slightly to cater for general convalescent fever cases rather than smallpox. It was transferred to the London County Council along with other MAB hospitals in 1930 following the Local Government Act, and in 1948 was transferred to the NHS. The hospital is now closed, date not known, and all buildings demolished and built over.
TQ 57 SE 147	Monument	Unknown	c. 540m SSW	
MKE57997	Findspot	Post Medieval	c. 990m WNW	PAS find. Post Medieval lead token
MKE58014	Findspot	Post Medieval	c. 990m WNW	PAS find. Post Medieval copper alloy token
MKE58027	Findspot	Medieval	c. 990m WNW	PAS find. Medieval copper alloy seal matrix
MKE58099	Findspot	Post Medieval	c. 940m SE	PAS find. Post Medieval copper alloy coin
MKE58100	Findspot	Post Medieval	c. 940m SE	PAS find. Post Medieval copper alloy coin
MKE58238	Findspot	Roman	c. 975m ESE	PAS find. Roman copper alloy buckle
MKE58338	Findspot	Post Medieval	c. 955m SE	PAS find. Post Medieval copper alloy bell
MKE58774	Findspot	Iron Age	c. 685m ENE	PAS find. Iron Age copper alloy coin
MKE58775	Findspot	Iron Age	c. 685m ENE	PAS find. Iron Age copper alloy coin
MKE58778	Findspot	Iron Age	c. 685m ENE	PAS find. Iron Age copper alloy coin
MKE58917	Findspot	Roman to Early Medieval or Anglo-Saxon	c. 955m SE	PAS find. copper alloy coin
MKE58922	Findspot	Roman	c. 955m SE	PAS find. copper alloy coin
TQ 57 SE 1068	Findspot	Medieval	c. 765m SSW	Anglo-Norman silver penny, Darenth
TQ 57 SE 41	Monument	Unknown	c. 635m E	Darenth wood deneholes
MKE83882	Farmstead	Post Medieval	c. 990m WSW	Gore Farm. A regular courtyard farmstead with buildings to three sides of the yard incorporating a L-plan element. Farmhouse detached in central position Position: Isolated position Survival: Farmstead completely demolished.

MKE83885	Farmstead	Post Medieval	c. 855m W	Outfarm south east of Downs Farm. A field barn with no associated yard. Farmstead completely demolished.
MKE83928	Farmstead	Post Medieval	c. 315m SSW	Darenth Asylum Farm. A regular multiyard farmstead. Position: Isolated position Survival: Altered - partial loss of original form (less than 50%) Notes: Farmstead associated with an asylum
TQ 57 SE 180	Farmstead	Post Medieval	c. 700m NNW	Hungrygut Hall. A regular multiyard farmstead. Farmhouse detached in central position Position: Isolated position Survival: Altered - significant loss of original form (more than 50%) Notes: Oast
TQ 57 SE 1000	Farmstead	Post Medieval	c. 825m SSE	Darenth Wood Farm. A dispersed plan farmstead. Farmstead completely demolished
TQ 57 SE 78	Findspot	Iron Age	c. 685m ENE	Three Potin Coins
TQ 57 SE 87	Findspot	Palaeolithic	c. 685m ENE	Small Acheulean Hand-axe findspot
TQ 57 SE 340	Monument	Modern	c. 925m NW	St. Mary's Home Second World War decontamination centre, Watling Street, Stone, Dartford, Kent. Second World War decontamination centre for treatment of civilian clothing established in 1939 at St. Mary's Home, Watling Street, Stone, Dartford, Kent, the home's laundry having been taken over for the purpose. No other details are known. The home was demolished post war to make way for housing.
TQ 57 SE 1115	Monument	Iron Age	c. 755m WNW	Iron Age farmstead, Gore Road. An archaeological watching brief in 1981 discovered an iron age farmstead. Location approximate.
TQ 57 SE 1085	Monument	Modern	c. 545m SSW	Dartford War Hospital. Handed over to US Military Authorities in June 1918 - known as US Base Hospital NO 37 - and treated American wounded soldiers (48 officers and 1034 O/Rs).
TQ 57 SE 1050	Monument	Post Medieval to Modern	c. 840m SSE	Site of oasthouses at Darenth Wood Farm, Wood Lane, Darenth
TQ 57 SE 189	Monument	Post Medieval to Modern	c. 715m NNW	Site of oasthouse Hungry Hall (Blackshole farm), Watling Street, Darenth. Twin round oast appears on the 1st (1862-1875), 2nd (1897-1900), 3rd (1906-1923), 4th (1929-1952) ed. OS.

TQ 57 SE 1086	Monument	Modern	c. 765m SW	Dartford War Hospital - Lower Southern. Lower Southern Hospital was handed over to the Military in 1915 and until the end of the war it treated German POWs. Information from Bexley Young Archaeologists' Club following a survey of the Dartford Hospital sites for the Home Front Legacies Project: Also known as the Mabledon Hospital /Gore Farm Hospital/Dartford War Hospital. The Lower Southern Hospital became the Mabledon in 1950 and housed Polish ex-service men and women from WW2 until it closed in 1985. The original wrought iron gates are still standing on Gore Road, grid reference TQ56867209. They were erected at some point during the Polish occupation of the Mabledon between 1950 and 1984.
TQ 86 SW 132	Monument	Roman	c. 560m N	Watling Street Roman Road
TQ 57 SE 29	Scheduled Monument	Early Medieval or Anglo-Saxon	c. 635m W	Early Medieval Cemetery. (Scheduled Monument Listing 1003126). Excavations in 1954 and 1978, in conjunction with a chance find in 1881, have revealed 5 graves, and scatters of bone in the limited trenches suggests the cemetery's extent. Grave goods with one or two inhumations found in 1978 include a unique 5th century glass bowl with Christian monogram of the Chi-Rho type which cannot, however, prove this to have been a Christian burial.
TQ 57 SE 38	Scheduled Monument	Medieval	c. 280m E	Darenth Wood medieval earthworks (Scheduled Monument Listing - 1013378). Earthwork bank and ditch, probable 13th century woodland boundary in Darenth Wood. This encloses a wood around 35.5ha, managed during the medieval period and later as coppice with oak standards.
TQ 57 SE 1098	Monument	Unknown	c. 760m SSW	Earthwork defences, Darenth Wood, Dartford. A series of earwork defences surrounding a wooded promontory are visible on Environment Agency LiDAR. The length of decayed banks and ditches surround much of the base of the hill, hidden beneath woodland on a hill immediately south of the site of Dartford War Hospital.

TQ 57 SE 148	Monument	Post Medieval to Modern	Adjacent to the PDA	Darenth Park Hospital (Formerly Darenth Asylum for Imbeciles & School for Imbecile Children). Established in 1878 by the Metropolitan Asylums Board The hospital was designed to take imbecile children aged between 5 and 16 who would have a special course of education and manual instruction. Just after the hospital was built a second complex was built to the west take those over 16 who were considered to be “improvable” and were trained in workshops. Those not capable of improvement were transferred to another section of this building. Further work followed with two infirmaries in 1881, a recreation hall in 1883 and a third complex, known as the pavilions, completed in 1888. From 1911 the institution was for patients that could be educated, and all other patients were removed. Handicraft workshops were built, and the name changed to the Darenth Industrial Colony, and again in 1919 to the Darenth Training Colony. The asylum was self-contained. Inmates, and some locals, worked on the Asylum Farm In the 1930’s a new nurse’s home was built on the site of one of the infirmary blocks. The asylum finally closed in 1988 and demolished in 1995.
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Event ID	Record Type	Event Type	Date	Name
EKE10365	Non-Intrusive	Desk Based Assessment	2007	Assessment for proposed reservoir at Darenth
EKE10366	Non-Intrusive	Desk Based Assessment	2008	Desk-based assessment, Stone Pitt II, Dartford
EKE10382	Intrusive	Watching Brief	2008	Watching brief at Thames Water Mains Replacement Works, Dartford District
EKE10383	Non-Intrusive	Desk Based Assessment	2006	M25 Junction 1B to 3 Widening, Kent - Archaeological Desk Based Assessment
EKE14305	Non-Intrusive	Desk Based Assessment	2015	Marbledon Hospital, Darenth, Heritage Statement
EKE14757	Intrusive	Watching Brief	2002	Thames Water ALF pipeline, River Darent: An Archaeological Post-Excavation Assessment
EKE16406	Intrusive	Watching Brief	September 2004	Dartford Fastrack Scheme Sections E and F

EKE8338	BND	Evaluation; Trial Trench	1996	Evaluation at Bluewater Park, Stone
EKE8384	Intrusive	Evaluation	1997	Evaluation excavation at Darenth Park Hospital
EKE8389	Intrusive	Watching Brief	1996	Watching Brief at Bluewater, Stone, Dartford
EKE8525	Intrusive	Watching Brief	June 2000	Watching brief at Darenth Village Park (Area 7)
EKE17949	Intrusive	Evaluation; Trial Trench	1996	Evaluation at Bluewater Park, Stone, 1996: trench 54
EKE17950	Intrusive	Evaluation; Trial Trench	1996	Evaluation at Bluewater Park, Stone, 1996: trench 55
EKE17951	Intrusive	Evaluation; Trial Trench	1996	Evaluation at Bluewater Park, Stone, 1996: trench 56
EKE14761	Intrusive	Survey	2004	Archaeological survey of mineral extraction sites around the Thames Estuary
EKE21346	Non-Intrusive	Desk Based Assessment	2019	Stonegate Quarry Dartford, Kent Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Evaluation
EKE21349	Non-Intrusive	Desk Based Assessment	2019	Stonegate Quarry Dartford, Kent Written Scheme of Investigation for Palaeolithic Geoarchaeological Test Pits
EKE21650	Non-Intrusive	Historic Landscape Assessment	2017	Mabledon Hospital, Darenth, Kent: an historic landscape survey, 2017
EKE22330	Non-Intrusive	Desk Based Assessment	2022	Archaeological characterisation of the Ebbsfleet Valley and neighbouring areas
EKE17557	Non-Intrusive	Desk Based Assessment	2018	A desk-based assessment of a proposed development at Marbledon Hospital, Darenth, North Kent
EKE8246	Intrusive	Geotechnical Survey	1993	Ground Investigations at Darenth Park Hospital, Dartford
EKE8256	Non-Intrusive	Survey	1992	Southern Convalescent Hospital Survey
EKE8323	Intrusive	Geotechnical Survey	1995	Boreholes at Bluewater
EKE8329	Intrusive	Geotechnical Survey	1995	Boreholes for A2 Trunk Road Improvements Bean Road Junction & Carriageway
EKE8361	Intrusive	Geotechnical Survey	1996	Geotechnical Survey on Redevelopment Site at Darenth Park Hospital
EKE3892	Intrusive	Excavation	1972-73	Darenth Park Hospital
EKE4700	Intrusive	Excavation	1976	Darenth Park Hospital
EKE3894	Intrusive	Excavation	1954	Darenth Park Hospital
EKE3895	Intrusive	Excavation	1960-1969	Darenth Wood

EKE20699	Intrusive	Excavation	1978	Darenth Park Hospital
EKE3893	Intrusive	Excavation	1981	Darenth Park Hospital
EKE21172	Intrusive	Watching Brief	1998	Watching brief, land off Sandy Lane/Page Close, 1998
EKE21321	Non-Intrusive	Desk Based Assessment	1996	Darenth Park desk-based assessment, 1996
EKE21494	Intrusive	Watching Brief	1981	Watching Brief, 8-16 Gore Road, Darenth Park Hospital

Figure 10: Gazetteer of KHER Records

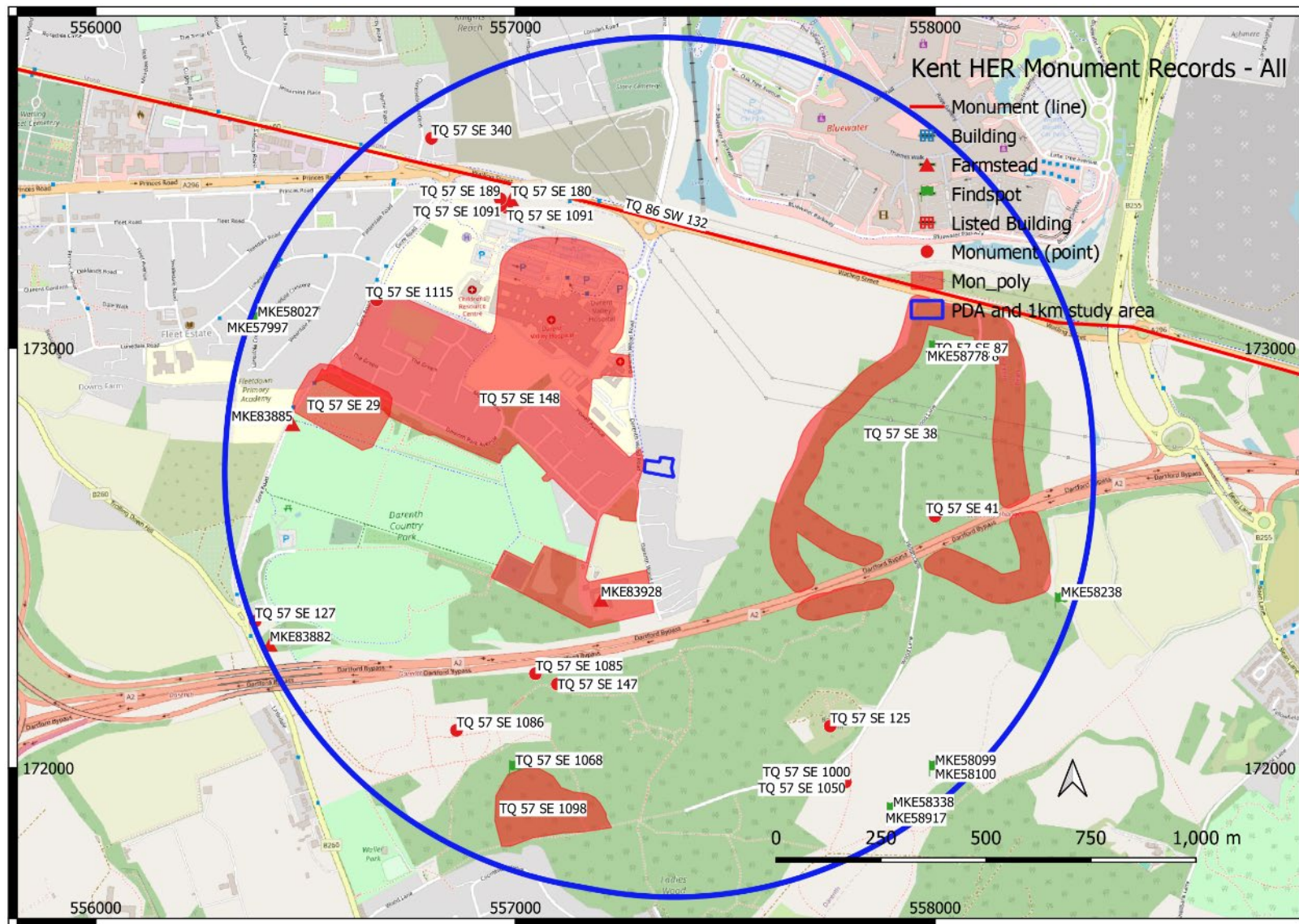


Figure 11: Kent HER Monument Record - All

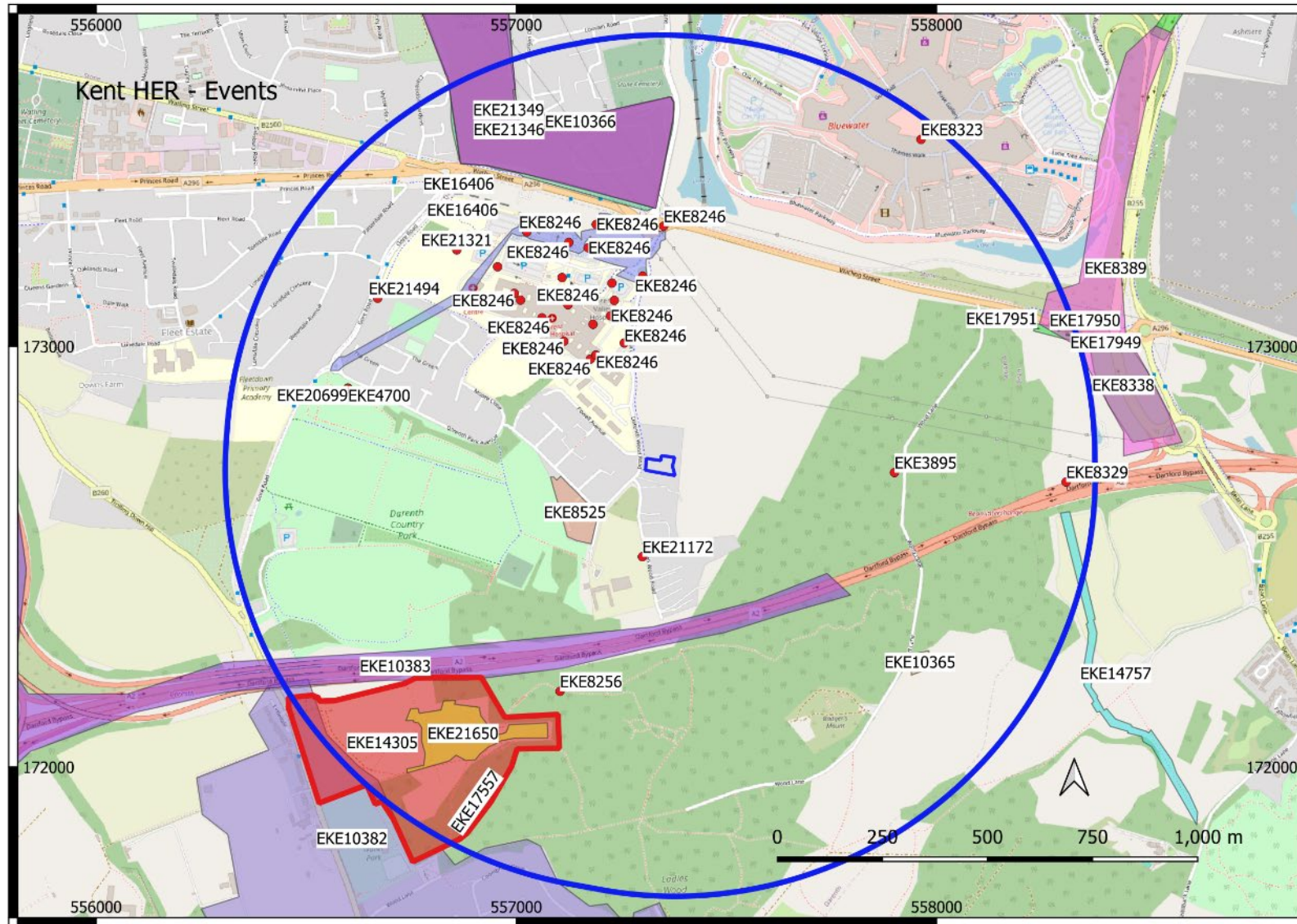


Figure 12: KHER – Events

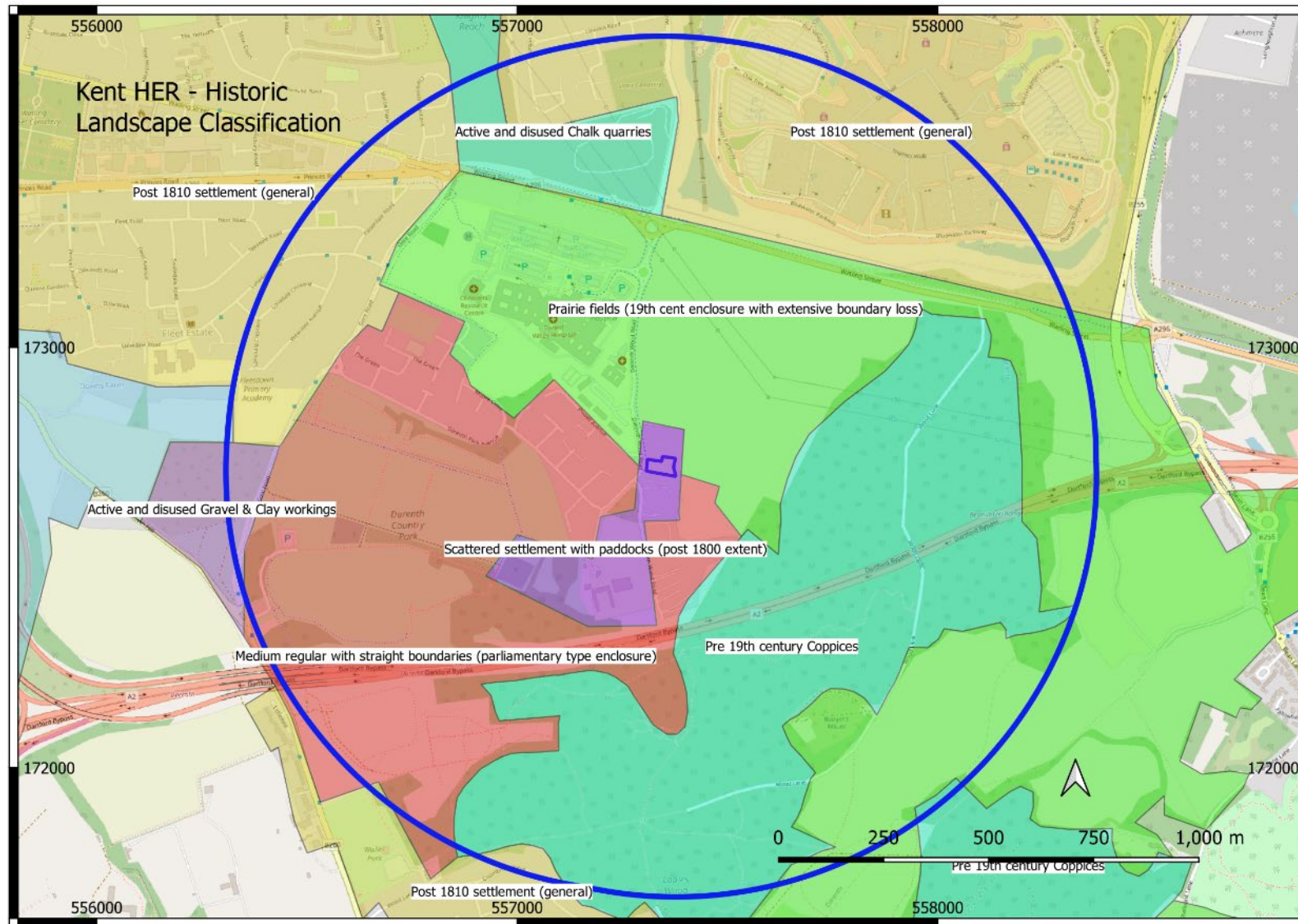


Figure 13: KHER – Historic Landscape Classification

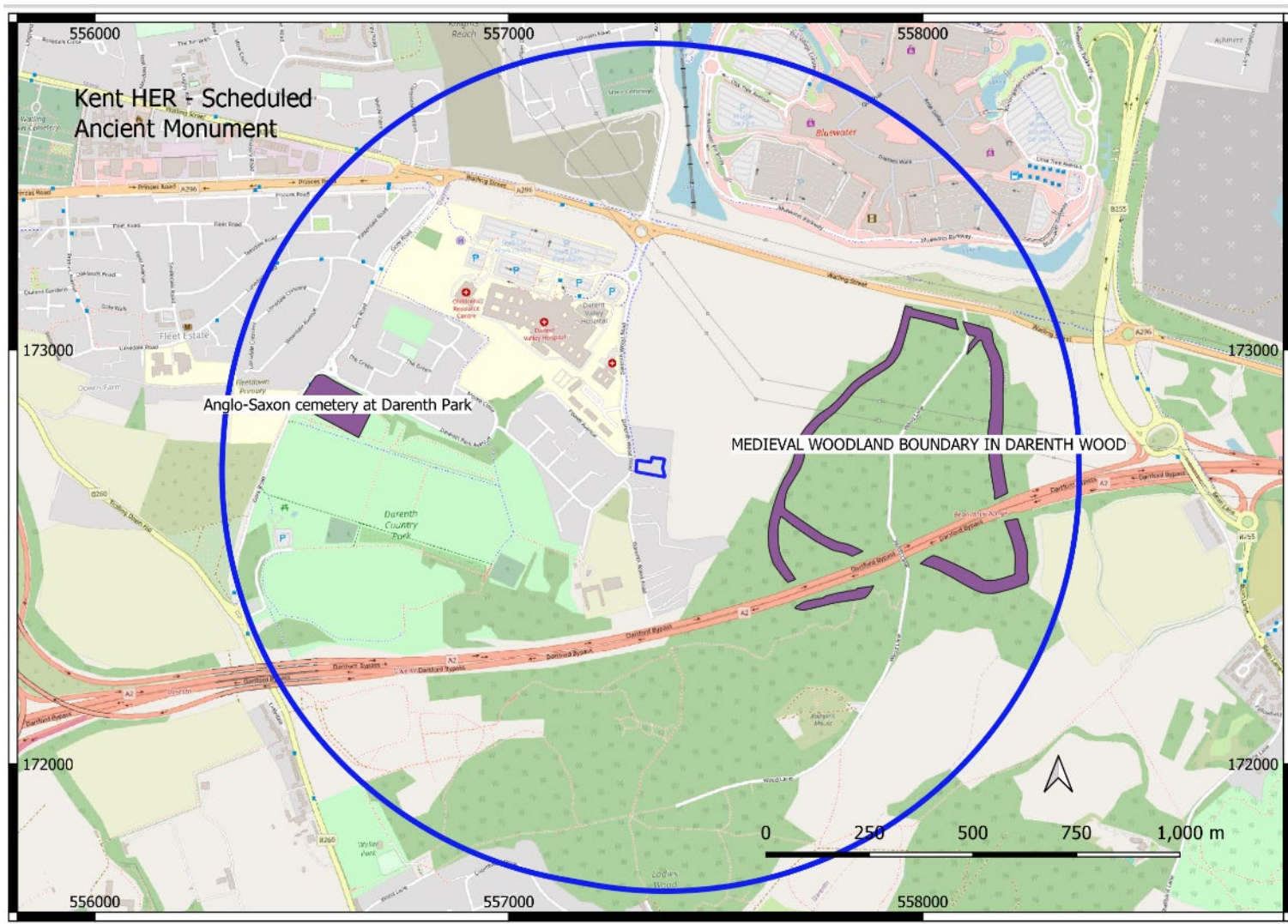


Figure 14: Kent HER – Scheduled Ancient Monument



Plate 1: 1946 (Google Earth)



Plate 2: 1960 (Google Earth)

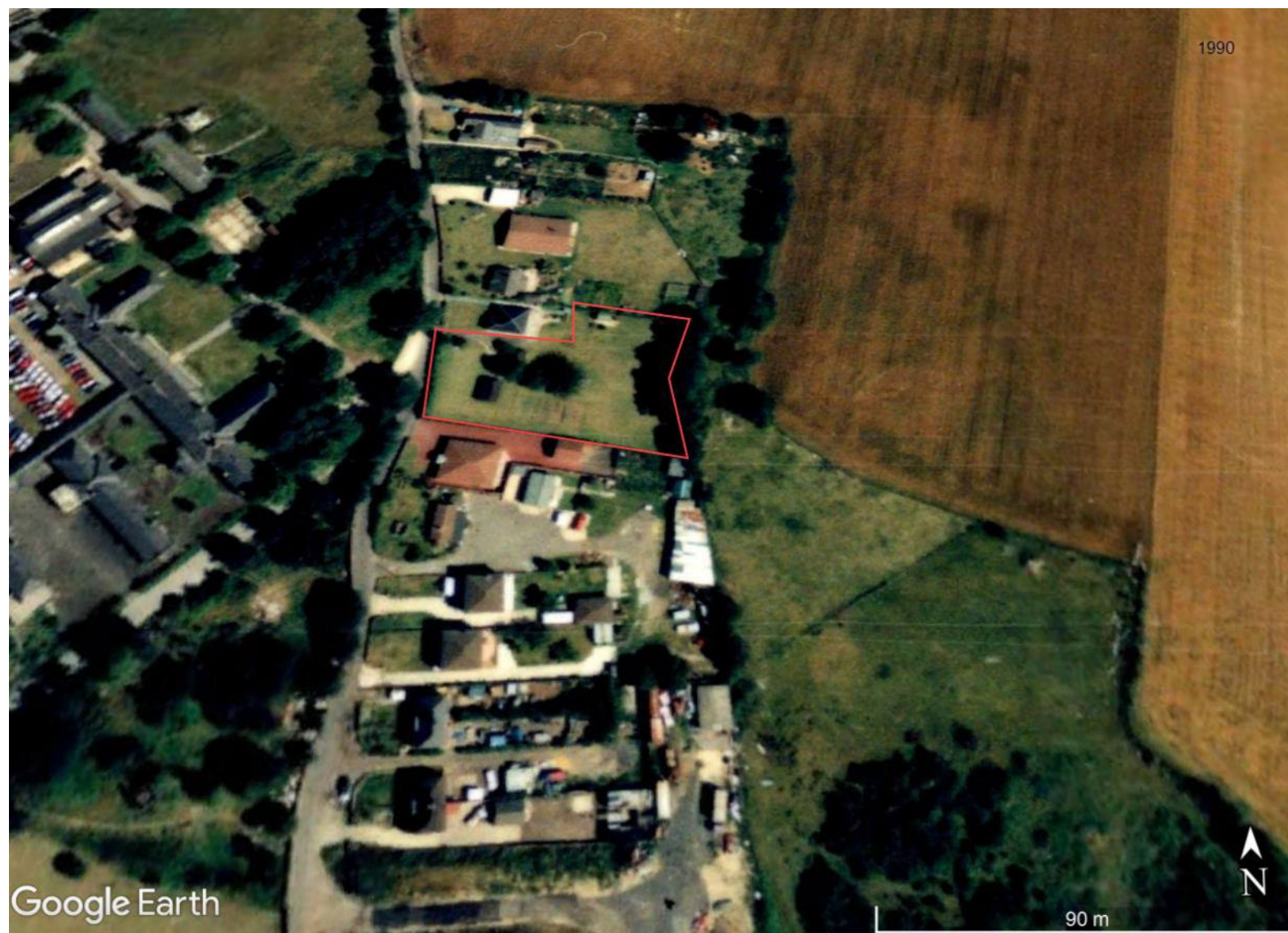


Plate 3: 1990 (Google Earth)



Plate 4: 2003 (Google Earth)



Plate 5: 2022 (Google Earth)



Plate 6: Entrance to the PDA (facing E)



Plate 7: View along the western boundary of the PDA (facing SSE)



Plate 8: View across the PDA (facing ESE)



Plate 9: View across the PDA (facing SW)



Plate 10: View across the PDA (facing W)



Plate 11: View across the PDA (facing ENE)



Plate 12: View of eastern side of the PDA (facing W)



Plate 13: Plate locations.

