



# Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment in advance of the Proposed Development at Aylesford Lakes, Aylesford, Kent

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Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment in advance  
of the Proposed Development at Aylesford Lakes,  
Aylesford, Kent ME20 7DX

NGR: 573274 159312



Report for Aylesford Heritage Ltd

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## Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment in Advance of the Proposed Development at Aylesford Lakes, Aylesford. Kent

NGR: 573274 159312

### 1 SUMMARY

*Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT Archaeology) has been commissioned to carry out an archaeological desk-based assessment in advance of the proposed residential development at Aylesford Lakes, Aylesford, Kent (Figures 1-2) as part of the planning application submitted by Aylesford Heritage Ltd.*

*This Desk Based Assessment examines the wide variety of archaeological data held by Kent County Council and other sources.*

*Based on this data the potential for archaeological sites either on or in the near vicinity of the Proposed Development Area (PDA) can be summarised as:*

- *Prehistoric: High*
- *Iron Age: Moderate*
- *Romano-British: High*
- *Anglo-Saxon: Low*
- *Medieval: Low*
- *Post-medieval: High*
- *Modern: High*

*The Desk Based Assessment concludes that:*

- *The site has **high** potential for any archaeological discoveries.*

*The PDA is an area of agricultural fields not previously quarried adjacent to a group of quarries that now form lakes located at Tottington Farm, north west of Aylesford village. Aylesford is a civil parish situated on the River Medway, 4 miles northwest of*

*Maidstone, in the county of Kent and the southeast of England. The area is characterised as fields predominantly bounded by tracks, roads and other rights of way and active and disused gravel and clay workings. The sand and gravel quarries cover an area of c.5000 sqm and have been in existence for over 100 years beginning to the northeast of the church. In the early years they were known as 'Wagon's Pit' but were later referred to as 'Aylesford gravel pit'. They are a good source of gravel, flint, lower greensand chert, ragstone and sandstone.*

*Agricultural fields bound all three quarries to the north; the Rochester Road is located just east of the east quarry, the High Street and an area of low-density residential development are found just south and beyond this the River Medway. Industrial development bounds the west lake to the southwest (Figures 1-2).*

## **2 INTRODUCTION**

2.1 SWAT Archaeology has been commissioned by Aylesford Heritage Ltd to carry out an Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment to supplement a planning application for the proposed residential development at Aylesford Lakes, Aylesford in Kent (Figures 1-2). The report has accessed various sources of information to identify any known heritage assets, which may be located within the vicinity of the Proposed Development Area. The PDA is centered on National Grid Reference: NGR 573274 159312.

2.2 Archaeological investigations, both recent and historic have been studied and the information from these investigations has been incorporated in to the assessment.

This report is a desk-based appraisal from known cartographic, photographic and archaeological sources and is a research led statement on the archaeological potential of the proposed development.

2.3 It may be that intrusive investigations, such as a Geophysical Survey and/or an Archaeological Evaluation, with machine cut trial trenching, may be requested by the Local Planning Authority (LPA) as a Planning Condition.

2.4 The site falls within the Medway Valley Palaeolithic Project zone KT52. The Medway Valley is home to archaeological sites that date from the Neolithic period and particularly to a large number of Roman sites in close proximity to the Rochester Road. In 1861, local Maidstone geologist W. Benstead noted that the quarries were a potential source of Palaeolithic implements and the following year the discovery of mammoth remains were recorded in 'The Geologist'. Despite reports of mammoth, rhinoceros and horse remains in 1865, only woolly rhinoceros and straight-tusked elephant were recorded during an excursion to the quarry in 1869. Numerous teeth, remains of mammoth and a large mammoth tusk measuring 10ft were collected.

2.5 In 1883 workmen, accompanied by Benjamin Harrison, found Palaeolithic implements, specifically two pointed hand axes, although later reports claimed that these finds lacked provenance. F J Bennett claimed in a report dated 1904, to have found some 500 worked flints over a period of 10 years. A report in 1923 listed Lion, Usus, Bison, Irish elk, Red Deer, Horse, Rhinoceros, Straight-Tusked Elephant, Mammoth and Wild Boar among the mammalian remains and artefacts of the Chellean, Acheulian I, Acheulian II and the Mousterian type. There was little stratigraphical control and deposits were referred to as the 'low' or '25ft' terrace of the Medway, however, later reports have attributed them to the '2<sup>nd</sup>', 'Middle', 'Taplow' or "50ft' Terrace.

2.6 A geophysical survey (EKE5353/8464) was carried out in 1998 by The Clark Laboratory of the Museum of London Archaeology prompted by cropmark evidence of an enclosure and a Belgic cremation cemetery to the south. The survey confirmed the presence of the cropmark enclosure and an additional smaller enclosure (Appendix 1).

2.7 Following the geophysical survey, Canterbury Archaeological Trust carried out an evaluation of 7 trenches in 1999 (EKE5759). Trenches 1 & 3 contained no archaeological features or deposits. The remaining trenches contained pits and



ditches, dating from the late Iron Age period (mid first century), to the early Roman period (late first century) and some features were thought to be of prehistoric origin. The presence of 'opus signinum', ridge tile and domestic waste suggested settlement and occupation (trench 5) and many of the ditches were enclosure ditches that had been re-cut suggesting continued use over a period of time; Rowe Place Farm, Eccles, 2km northwest, is the site of the major villa estate of the Medway valley (Appendix 2).

2.8 An excavation was carried out at Parish Field in 1986 uncovering a Belgic Cemetery (EKE3950).

2.9 The University of Southampton opened a test pit (EKE14367) at Aylesford quarry, although no artefacts were recovered, a sequence of deposits was clarified. They carried out several desk-based assessments to review the collections of artefacts held at museums.

2.10 In 2006 Kent Underground Research Group carried out a survey of a sand mine at 32 Mount Pleasant and uncovered a 7m shaft and chamber (EKE13132).

2.11 Excavations in 1994 (EKE5098) and three watching briefs carried out at St Peter's School in 2005, 2008 and 2011 uncovered the remains of the 18<sup>th</sup> century vicarage and 3-chambered cellar dating to 1750 (EKE11542/10636/9002) and a watching brief (EKE10037) at the Old Mill House in 2004 discovered further details relating to the development of the mill house (HER Figures 11-17).

## **2.12 Geology and Topography**

The Geological Survey of Great Britain (1:50,000) shows that the PDA is set on Bedrock Geology of Folkestone formation – Sandstone and gault formation – Mudstone, sedimentary bedrock formed approximately 100 to 125 million years ago in the Cretaceous period in a local environment previously dominated by shallow seas. These rocks were formed in shallow seas with mainly siliciclastic sediments

(comprising of fragments or clasts of silicate minerals) deposited as mud, silt, sand and gravel.

Superficial deposits of River Terrace Deposits (undifferentiated) – Clay and Silt Gravel and River terrace Deposits 2 – Sand and Gravel, formed up to 3 million years ago in the Quaternary Period, in a local environment previously dominated by rivers depositing mainly sand and gravel detrital material in channels to form river terrace deposits, with fine silt and clay from overbank floods forming floodplain alluvium, and some bogs depositing peat; includes estuarine and coastal plain deposits mapped as alluvium.

### **2.13 Planning Background**

The National Planning Policy Framework (March 2012)

Policy 12 is the relevant policy for the historic environment:

#### **2.2.1 Conserving and Enhancing the Historic Environment**

Local planning authorities should set out in their Local Plan a positive strategy for the conservation and enjoyment of the historic environment, including heritage assets most at risk through neglect, decay or other threats. In doing so, they should recognise that heritage assets are an irreplaceable resource and conserve them in a manner appropriate to their significance. In developing this strategy, local planning authorities should take into account:

- the desirability of sustaining and enhancing the significance of heritage assets and putting them to viable uses consistent with their conservation;
- the wider social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits that conservation of the historic environment can bring;
- the desirability of new development making a positive contribution to local character and distinctiveness; and
- opportunities to draw on the contribution made by the historic environment to the character of a place.

2.2.2 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 (NPPF 2012).

#### **2.14 Local Policies**

Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council have planning policies on:

Heritage Assets Nov 2016

Listed buildings Nov 2016

Conservation Areas Nov 2016

#### **2.15 Regional Policies**

The South-East Research Framework (SERF) is on-going with groups of researchers producing a Resource Assessment, which will identify research questions and topics in order to form a Research Agenda for the future.

2.16 This Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment has been prepared in accordance with the guidance in the National Planning Policy Framework and the Good Practise Advice notes 1, 2 and 3, which now supersede the PPS 5 Practise Guide, which has been withdrawn by the Government. The Good Practise Advice notes emphasises the need for assessments of the significance of any heritage assets, which are likely to be changed, so the assessment can inform the decision process. Significance is defined in the NPPF Guidance in the Glossary as “the value of the heritage asset to this and future generations because of its heritage interest. That interest may be archaeological, architectural, artistic, or historical. Significance derives not only from

a heritage asset's physical presence, but also it's setting". The setting of the heritage asset is also clarified in the Glossary as "the surroundings in which a heritage asset is experienced. Its extent is not fixed and may change as the asset and its surroundings evolve".

2.17 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.

### **2.18 The Proposed Development**

The proposed development will comprise of a planning application for residential development with associated parking, access roads and landscaping.

### **2.19 Project Constraints**

No project constraints were encountered during the data collection for this assessment.

## **3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

**3.1** The Desk-Based Assessment was commissioned by Aylesford Heritage Ltd in order to supplement a planning application for the proposed residential development at Aylesford lakes, Aylesford in Kent, and to establish the potential for archaeological features and deposits.

### **3.2 Desktop Study – Institute for Archaeologists (revised 2011)**

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

*"a programme of study of the historic environment within a specified area or site on land, the inter-tidal zone or underwater that addresses agreed research and/or*

*conservation objectives. It consists of an analysis of existing written, graphic, photographic and electronic information in order to identify the likely heritage assets, their interests and significance and the character of the study area, including appropriate consideration of the settings of heritage assets and, in England, the nature, extent and quality of the known or potential archaeological, historic, architectural and artistic interest. Significance is to be judged in a local, regional, national or international context as appropriate". (CiFA 2014)*

## **4 METHODOLOGY**

### **4.1 Desk-Based Assessment**

#### *4.1.1 Archaeological Databases*

The local Historic Environment Record (HER) held at Kent County Council provides an accurate insight into catalogued sites and finds within both the proposed development area (PDA) and the surrounding environs of Aylesford.

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

#### *4.1.2 Historical Documents*

Historical documents, such as charters, registers, wills and deeds etc., were considered not relevant to this specific study.

#### *4.1.3 Cartographic and Pictorial Documents*

A cartographic and pictorial document search was undertaken during this assessment. Research was carried out using resources offered by Kent County Council, the Internet and Ordnance Survey Historical mapping (Figs. 3-13).

### **4.2 Map Regression 1769 - 1994**

4.2.1 In the A Drury, W Herbert Map of 1769 (Plate 9) the PDA is located in an area characterised by large hills or embankments set around the properties of 'Froghatt', 'Tudington', 'Cits Cote House' and 'Mouson Green'. The land is marked for the Earl of Aylesford. Aylesford village and the River Medway are to the south.

4.2.2 In the OS Surveyors Drawing map of 1798 the PDA is located in an area of open fields and within the land of Aylesford Place to the south. The west quarry is farmed as orchard or hop and the property of Lord Lees is northeast (Fig. 4).

4.2.3 In the OS Map of 1869 the PDA is within a patchwork of agricultural fields. A strip of land with a small stream and pond and scattered trees follow a circular pattern that may suggest a level change in the ground. 'The Friars erected 1240AD' is marked adjacent to the River Medway and 'Hospital of the Holy Trinity an Alms House dated 1607' is located within Aylesford village (Fig.7).

4.2.4 In the OS Map of 1896 a 'Sand Pit' has appeared to the north of St Peter's Church in the area of the east quarry and a Tramway leads from the Sand Pit to the 'Brick and Tile Works' to the west and onwards to the River Medway Quay. A note on the map confirms 'Two stone cists containing human remains found A.D.1886' within the Sand Pit. A second 'Sand Pit' is to the west within the area of the west quarry and on the site of a spring; a second tramway leads from the Sand Pit to the river. A 'Gold Armiloe found AD1861' is marked in fields on the north bank of the River Medway close to The Friars (Fig.9).

4.2.5 In the OS Map of 1907 the east Sand Pit has been extended and is now marked as the 'Site of Celtic Cemetery'. The Tramway has been removed. To the west, the Maidstone Corporation Sewage Works has been developed adjacent to the Sand Pit and the Tramway leads to the Wharf at the River Medway. Aylesford village has developed along the river and industry has moved into the area in the form of 'Chemical works' (Fig.9).

4.2.6 In the OS Map of 1931 the railway has arrived and is sited to the south bank of the river. The east quarry is marked 'Late Celtic urn field excavated 1886AD' and 'Bronze Age burials found 1886, 1889 and 1898AD' and has a new Tramway that leads directly to the river. The west quarry is marked as 'Nicopits (Sand)', the Tramway has been removed but an 'Engine House' has been added to the sewage works; Aylesford Sewage works (Malling R.D.C) has opened to the north (Fig.8)

In the OS Map of 1938 the east quarry has a small rectangular structure (Fig. 10) and in the OS Map of 1948 there has been very little change (Fig.11) and of 1961 (Fig. 12)

#### *4.2.7 Aerial Photographs*

The study of the collection of aerial photographs held by Google Earth was undertaken. In 1940 the PDA is predominantly formed by agricultural fields and the quarries east and west of Bull Lane (Plate 1). The sewage works is visible adjacent to the west quarry. In 1960 the east quarry has spread to the west of Bull Lane and the sewage works have developed further with access leading to the River Medway. The area south of the river has undergone substantial industrial and residential development (Plate 2).

4.2.8 In 1990 the east quarry has filled with water and the area surrounding it has been cultivated with grassland and trees. The quarry to the west of Bull lane has continued to spread west joining the west quarry to create one large quarry and has part filled with water. An industrial area has been developed east of the Rochester Road (Plate 3). By 2003 both quarries are filled with water and a smaller third quarry has opened north of the east quarry. By 2006 the water level of each quarry has increased and part of the third quarry has also been flooded and by 2015 all three quarries are flooded (Plates 4-5).

## 5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT

### 5.1 Introduction

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		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**

The Archaeological record within the assessment area is diverse and should comprise possible activity dating from one of the earliest human period in Britain through to the post-medieval period. The geographic and topographic location of Aylesford is within a landscape that has been the focus of trade, travel and communication since the Neolithic.

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, followed by a full record of archaeological sites, monuments and records within the site's immediate vicinity. Time scales for archaeological periods represented in the report are listed on the previous page in **Table 1**.

### 5.2 History of the site



5.2.1 Aylesford takes its name from the old English *Eeglesforda* meaning 'Aegel's Ford'. Quarrying began between 1865 and 1896, revealing the remains of mammals including mammoths, lions and bison and prehistoric tools. Bronze Age swords were found nearby and an Iron Age settlement and Roman Villa are known to have stood at the village of Eccles, suggesting continued occupation of the area from the earliest periods of human history.

5.2.2 Several chamber tombs can be found north of the village. 'Kits Coty house', is the remains of a burial chamber that is sited at one end of a long barrow. The monument is comprised of four large stones, three vertical and one sitting atop the former horizontally. It is approximately 11ft by 8ft and some 8ft high. To the south and lower down the hill are the remains of 'Little Kits Coty House' or 'Countless Stones', pile of stones that are fallen but arranged in a similar manner.

5.2.3 In 1886, an Iron Age cemetery was excavated by Arthur Evans, in which many artefacts were recovered including a bronze jug, pan and bucket with handles in the form of a human face from a cremation burial. A later excavation at Swarling gave rise to the 'Aylesford-Swarling' culture based on the Aylesford-Swarling pottery.

5.2.4 In 455AD Aylesford was the site of the Battle of Aylesford fought between the Britons and the Saxons some five years after the Saxons arrived in Britain and in which the Britons were victorious. The Saxon general Horsa, brother of Hengist and Catigern, brother of King Vortimer, fighting hand to hand, were both killed. Horsa is said to have been buried three miles north of Aylesford in a place known as Horsted or 'the place of Horsa'. There are many large stones dispersed over the fields nearby thought to indicate a burial ground. Catigern was buried one mile north of the village and a quarter of a mile west of the Rochester Road.

5.2.5 William the Conqueror took possession of Aylesford after the Norman invasion of 1066 and the church of St Peter and Paul, which is located on a hill to the south of the village is of Norman construction.

The Priory, also known as the Friars was founded in 1240 AD for the Carmelites just west of the village, on the north bank of the River Medway. It was confiscated by

the crown at the dissolution and then passed into private ownership. The Carmelite's purchased the property in 1949 and the head of the 12<sup>th</sup> century Prior General, Simon Stock, are retained at the friary.

5.2.6 In the 14<sup>th</sup> century one of the earliest bridges was built across the river Medway. The river was navigable as far as Maidstone until 1740 prompting the construction of the wharf at Aylesford close to the west quarry. The oldest buildings are on the north and south banks of the river. The Alms-houses date to 1607AD and the George was a former coaching Inn. Quarrying during the Victorian period brought further expansion to the village.

**5.3** This section of the assessment will focus on the archaeological and historical development of this area, placing it within a local context. Each period classification will provide a brief introduction to the wider landscape (500m radius centered on each site of the PDA), followed by a full record of archaeological sites, monuments and records within the site's immediate vicinity. Time scales for archaeological periods represented in the report are listed on page 15 in **Table 1**.

A preliminary review of the cultural heritage data shows that the site has **high** archaeological potential.

#### **5.4 Scheduled Monuments; Listed Buildings; Historic Parks & Gardens and Conservation Areas**

The PDA is located within a conservation area. Six events, four findspots, three monuments, one building, one farmstead are recorded within the confines of the proposed development area (PDA). Sixteen events, eighteen findspots, fifteen listed buildings, three monuments and one buildings are recorded within a c.500m vicinity of the PDA; Two listed buildings share intervisibility with the PDA. The Old Mill House (TQ75NW337) c.250m east of the PDA is a Grade II Listed house with construction periods ranging from 1600 to 1999. The Anchor Farm (TQ75NW127) is a post-medieval farmstead, c.400m east of the PDA with a 17<sup>th</sup> century farmhouse and farm buildings that range from late 16<sup>th</sup> century to 19<sup>th</sup> century.

## **5.5 Walkover Survey**

A walkover survey by the writer of this report was accomplished on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> August 2016. Weather conditions were dry and overcast. The reason for the survey was to:

1. Identify any historic landscape features not shown on maps
2. Conduct a rapid survey for archaeological features
3. Make a note of any surface scatters of archaeological material
4. Constraints or areas of disturbance that may affect archaeological investigation

The walkover survey was 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 artifacts.

The PDA consists of an area not previously quarried and adjacent to land containing three former quarries. The Rochester Road is east, the River Medway to the south. (Plates 7-8). The site varies in level from 3m -7m OD. The fields were walked with no archaeological remains or artefacts in the fields.

## **6. ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL**

### **6.1 Palaeolithic, Mesolithic, Neolithic and Bronze Age**

The Palaeolithic represents the earliest phases of human activity in the British Isles, up to the end of the last Ice Age. Palaeolithic dated material occurs in north and east Kent, especially along the Medway and Stour Valleys. The Kent HER has eleven records of archaeological evidence relating to this period within the assessment area.

6.1.1 Palaeolithic flints and mammalian remains have been found at Aylesford sand quarry (TQ75NW22) within the PDA and are now held at the Maidstone Museum.

Flakes and hand-axes collected by Burchell (TQ75NW176) and nine Palaeolithic flint hand-axes and two scrapers (TQ75NW126) have been found c.450m southwest of the PDA. Tunbridge Wells museum holds sixteen hand axes from the same site. Flint flakes and hand-axes discovered in 1916 (TQ75NW175) c.450m southwest are held at the Rochester Museum; sixteen hand-axes, part of the Sturge collection, one annotated 'brick earth' and another '1889' (TQ75NW177), a large number of finds from the Christy collection (ex Franks collection) annotated with '1884' and '1895' (TQ75NW178), the Wellcome collection annotated with '1914', '1936', '1937' and '1938' (TQ75NW180), hand-axes annotated with '1896' part of the Institute of Archaeology collection (TQ75NW182), the Harrison collection (TQ75NW179), the Warren collection (ex-Elliot collection) (TQ75NW181) and two hand axes, part of the Todd-White collection (TQ75NW181) all found c.450m southwest are held by the British Museum. Two struck flints were found on a watching brief in 2001 (TQ75NW144) c.300m northwest.

6.1.2 The Mesolithic period reflects a society of hunter-gatherers active after the last Ice Age. The Kent HER has three records of archaeological evidence from this period within the assessment area. A tranchet axe found in the 1970's (TQ75NW64) held at the Dartford museum, a second tranchet axe held at the Maidstone Museum (TQ75NW99) and a blade (TQ75NW65) held at the Rochester Museum were found c.450m southwest of the PDA.

6.1.3 The Neolithic period, the beginning of a sedentary lifestyle based on agriculture and animal husbandry, is represented within the assessment area by one record. Two stone axes (TQ75NW53), one chipped and one polished, found c.450m southwest of the PDA, are held at Cambridge University Museum.

6.1.4 The Bronze Age was a period of large migrations from the continent and more complex social developments on a domestic, industrial and ceremonial level. There are three records in the Kent HER within the assessment area for this period. In the 19<sup>th</sup> century Bronze age burials were found on the east of the gravel pit and three cists containing Bronze Age crouched burials were found on the western side (TQ75NW55) within the PDA.

A leaf-shaped sword (TQ75NW36) held at the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford and four looped and socketed axes, one with a square mouth and three ribs on the face, another with bevelled sides and a splayed cutting edge (TQ75NW37) were all found c.450m southwest.

6.1.5 The potential for finding remains that date prior to the Iron Age within the confines of the proposed development is therefore considered **high**.

## 6.2 Iron Age

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 tribe occupying the area that is now Kent, was Canterbury). The Kent HER has two records of archaeological evidence within the assessment area. A late Iron Age cremation cemetery (TQ75NW21) and two stone cists containing human remains were found in 1886 in a sand pit, within the PDA and a Belgic bronze torc (TQ75NW48) found in the River Medway and held at the Maidstone Museum was found, c.450m southwest, therefore the potential for finding remains that date to this period within the confines of the development site is considered **moderate**.

## 6.3 Romano-British

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 predominant feature of the Roman infrastructure within Kent is arguably the extensive network of Roman roads connecting administrative centres: the towns to military posts and rural settlements (villas, farmsteads and temples) increasing the flow of trade, goods, communications and troops. Canterbury or *Durovernum Cantiacorum* was a major town of the Roman province of Britannia and the regional capital and the Canterbury.

6.3.1 There are three records relating to this period within the assessment area. A coin of Antoninianus of Gordian III (TQ75NW57/100) was found in 1970 in a garden at Vicarage Close, within the PDA. Aerial photographs of Tottington Farm, a geophysical survey in 1998 and excavations in 1991 (TQ75NW82) within the PDA revealed an asymmetrical, rectilinear enclosure with rounded corners and a square feature inside suggesting late Iron Age/early Romano-British occupation.

6.3.2 The geophysical survey was carried out by the Clark Laboratory, Museum of London Archaeology Service in August-September 1998 following removal of the crop. The magnetometer survey was supplemented by a magnetic susceptibility survey with readings taken at 10m intervals using a Bartington MS2 meter and field sensor coil.

The survey confirmed the features shown on an aerial photograph supplied by KCC and showed an additional enclosure, one of which was not shown on the aerial photograph and was located at the north west corner of the survey (Appendix 1).

6.3.3 As part of the research for the DBA a search was made for crop marks in the vicinity of the PDA and about 900m to the north the 1970 GoogleEarth series shows a prehistoric field system possibly Bronze Age which shows a number of rectangular fields with collecting pens, funnel or crush, a race and then drafting gates to separate lambs from ewes (Plates 9-10).

6.3.4 To the north west of the PDA a sub-rectangular enclosure with additional round circles was also identified on the 1970 GoogleEarth series (Plate 11).

6.3.5 In 1999 Canterbury Archaeological Trust conducted an archaeological evaluation to the north of the PDA but on the same area as the geophysical survey (6.3.2). Trenches 1-3 contained no archaeology but in the remaining trenches pits and ditches were found and dated by pottery to the Late Iron Age-Early Roman period (mid 1<sup>st</sup> century BC to mid to late 1<sup>st</sup> century AD) although some features may be of prehistoric origin. There was no physical evidence for any structures or building foundations but the findings of *opus signinum* a type of Roman waterproof

pink mortar used for floors of villas and bath house plus the finding of a Roman ridge tile and Roman domestic waste does suggest there is a Roman building in the near vicinity (Appendix 2).

6.3.6 Given the geophysical survey and follow on archaeological evaluation actually within the proposed development area the potential for finding archaeological features or deposits from this period is considered **high**.

#### **6.4 Anglo-Saxon**

There is one record dating to the Anglo-Saxon period within the assessment area. A Saxon bronze buckle (TQ75NW20) was found on the Rochester road in the 1950's, c.400m southeast. Therefore, it is reasonable to conclude that the potential for finding remains dating to the Anglo-Saxon period in the PDA can be considered as **low**.

#### **6.5 Medieval**

There is one record dating to the medieval period within the assessment area. The Church of St Peter (TQ75NW24) is a Grade I listed building dating prior to 1145AD with later medieval alterations, c.500m south west of the PDA. Therefore the potential for finding remains dating to the medieval period is considered as **low**.

#### **6.6 Post Medieval to Modern**

The post-medieval period is well represented within the assessment area. Three buildings (TQ75NW135) dating to the 19<sup>th</sup> century survive at Aylesford quarry, tile, brick and pottery were found during a watching brief (TQ75NW144) in 2001 and a sand mine (TQ75NW402) with a 7m shaft and chamber was found to the rear of 32 Mount Pleasant, all within the PDA. The Old Mill House (TQ75NW337) is a Grade II listed building dating from 1600-1999, c.200m east of the PDA. A small arched tunnel (TQ75NW129) in yellow brick leads under the Rochester Road to the Aylesford quarry, c.350m south (Plates 20-21).

The Grade II listed arch and wall to the north of Trinity Court (TQ75NW229) constructed between 1607-1999, Alms-house of Trinity Court (TQ75NW308), dating from 1607-1892, 22-32 Mount Pleasant (TQ75NW271), dating from 1860-1870, the Methodist Church and Sunday School (TQ75NW341), dating from 1830-1870 are all found c.400m south.

Excavations at St Peters C of E School Annexe (TQ75NW120) at the Old Vicarage, revealed a 3-chambered cellar of brick construction and a pond and remains of the the 18<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> century vicarage (TQ75NW351) were found during a watching brief at St Peter's School, c.400m southwest. Two Grade II listed Chest tombs (TQ75NW257/263/264/239/296/ 309) dating between 1700-1732 and a table tomb dating from 1733-1766 (TQ75NW295/310/311) are all sited to the south east of Aylesford Church and c.400m south west.

The Grade II listed cast iron village water pump (TQ75NW240), dating from 1833 to 1866, is sited 10 yards east of Trinity Court, is c.400m south, 24 and 26 High Street, dating to 1767, is c.450m south west and Dorothy's House (TQ75NW253), dating to 1700-1732, is c.500m south. A tomb monument (TQ75NW251) dated 1891 is recorded 40 yards north west of Aylesford church, c.500m south west.

The environment around the PDA was largely agricultural. Anchor Farm (TQ75NW127/MKE84629) is a post-medieval farmstead located on the Rochester Road, c.400m east. It is a dispersed cluster of buildings with oast and detached farmhouse in an isolated position with less than 50% loss of original form. A field barn (MKE84630) with no associated yard is south west of Anchor farm, in an isolated position but within the PDA. The farmstead is completely demolished. The potential for finding remains dating to the post-medieval to modern period is therefore considered as **high**.

## **6.7 Summary of Potential**

The desk-based assessment has considered the archaeological potential of the site but this potential can only be tested by fieldwork. Research has shown that the PDA may contain archaeological sites and these can be summarised as:



- Prehistoric: **High**
- Iron Age: **Moderate**
- Roman: **High**
- Anglo-Saxon: **Low**
- Medieval: **Low**
- Post-Medieval and Modern: **High**

## 7. IMPACT ASSESSMENT

### 7.1 Introduction

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

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

## **7.2 Existing Impacts**

7.2.1 Cartographic regression (4.1.3), Topographic analysis (4.1.4) and Historical research (5.2) indicate that the site has largely been the subject of quarrying. Therefore, previous impacts to archaeological remains from quarrying are considered to be **high**.

7.2.2 Agriculture became gradually more intense over time and by the modern era it was mechanised. Although the farming process rarely penetrates below the upper layers of the ground, plough truncation can have a significant impact on preserved shallow deposits. The fields around the quarry site have been farmed for over 250 years, therefore the residual impact of the agricultural process on buried archaeology is considered to be **high**.

## **7.3 Proposed Impacts**

7.3.1 The general development of the site  
At the time of preparing this archaeological assessment, the extent of the proposed development was for the construction of residential housing, associated access roads and landscaping.

7.3.2 The very nature of construction will have a negative impact on below ground archaeological deposits through the movement of plant, general ground disturbance and contamination and excavation. Therefore, extensive impact can be expected within the development area once construction begins.

## **8. MITIGATION**

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.

The assessment has generally shown that the area to be developed is within an area of **high** archaeological potential. In areas that can be shown to have had little previous impacts a programme of archaeological mitigation will be required to a archaeological specification and timetable agreed with the local planning authority.

## **9. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS**

### **Setting of Listed Buildings**

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). 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).

There are no Listed Buildings within the PDA (Plate 12). The listed buildings are mostly found c.4-500m south and southwest. The PDA shares intervisibility with two Listed Buildings. The Old Mill House (TQ75NW337) is located c.100m east and Anchor farm (TQ75NW127) is located c.300m east.

#### **9.1 Archive**

Subject to any contractual requirements on confidentiality, two copies of this desk-based assessment will be archived with SWAT Archaeology.

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

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**

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Paul Wilkinson PhD., MCifA., FRSA.

20<sup>th</sup> February 2017

## **10 REFERENCES & BIBLIOGRAPHY**

IFA (2014) STANDARD AND GUIDANCE for historic environment desk-based assessment.

Hull, F. (1988) Ordnance Survey Historical Guides: Kent. Philip, London & Ordnance Survey, Southampton.

National Planning Policy Framework 2012.

Data provided by Kent HER

**APPENDIX 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES**

<b>KHER Ref</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Period</b>	<b>Description</b>
EKE11542	Event	N/a	Post-medieval	Watching brief, 2011, Alan Ward, St Peter's School, found remains of the 18 <sup>th</sup> /19 <sup>th</sup> century vicarage.
EKE13056	Event	c.250m E	N/a	DBA, 2010, Halcrow Group Ltd, Aylesford Flood Alleviation Scheme
EKE13132	Event	c.400m S	Post-Medieval	Field Survey, 2006, Kent Underground Research Group, Sand Mine at the rear of 32 Mount Pleasant
EKE5098	Event	c.500m SW	Post-Medieval	Excavations, 1994, Maidstone Area Archaeological Group, St Peters C of E School, 3-chambered cellar of brick construction and pond and a building that pre-dates the vicarage.
EKE5353	Event	c.150m W	N/a	Evaluation, 1999, Canterbury Archaeological Trust, Tottington Farm.
EKE5759	Event	c.150m W	Modern	Watching Brief, 2001, Canterbury Archaeological Trust, Aylesford Sand Quarry.
EKE8464	Event	c.50m N	Undated	Geophysical Survey, 1998, Clark Laboratory, Tottington Farm, cropmarks, small enclosure and main enclosure.
EKE10636	Event	N/a	Post-Medieval	Watching brief, 2008, Alan Ward, St Peter's School, ragstone and brick walling, a cellar and a culvert 18 <sup>th</sup> /19 <sup>th</sup> century.
EKE3950	Event	c.200m W	Iron Age	Excavation, 1986, Ashmolean Museum, Parish Field, Belgic Cemetery.
EKE14367	Event	c.200m W	Undated	Test pit, 2007, University of Southampton, Asheldham Quarry, Medway Valley Palaeolithic Project.
EKE9483	Event	c.500m S	Undated	DBA, 2007, University of Southampton, Medway Valley Palaeolithic Project, review of 1916 finds held by the Rochester Museum.
EKE9484	Event	N/a	Undated	DBA, 2007, University of Southampton, Medway

				Valley Palaeolithic Project, review of Burchell collection held by the British Museum.
EKE9485	Event	N/a	Undated	DBA, 2007, University of Southampton, Medway Valley Palaeolithic Project, review of Sturge collection held by the British Museum.
EKE9486	Event	N/a	Undated	DBA, 2007, University of Southampton, Medway Valley Palaeolithic Project, review of Christy collection held by the British Museum.
EKE9487	Event	N/a	Undated	DBA, 2007, University of Southampton, Medway Valley Palaeolithic Project, review of Harrison collection held by the British Museum.
EKE9488	Event	c.500m S	Undated	DBA, 2007, University of Southampton, Medway Valley Palaeolithic Project, review of Wellcome collection held by the British Museum.
EKE9489	Event	N/a	Undated	DBA, 2007, University of Southampton, Medway Valley Palaeolithic Project, review of Warren collection held by the British Museum.
EKE9490	Event	c.500m SW	Undated	DBA, 2007, University of Southampton, Medway Valley Palaeolithic Project, review of Todd-White collection held by the British Museum.
EKE9491	Event	c.500m S	Undated	DBA, 2007, University of Southampton, Medway Valley Palaeolithic Project, review of Institute of Archaeology collection held by the British Museum.
EKE9575	Event	c.200m W	Undated	DBA, 2007, University of Southampton, Medway Valley Palaeolithic Project, review of Jessop collection held by the Maidstone Museum.
EKE10037	Event	c.250m east	Undated	Watching Brief, 2004, Canterbury Archaeological Trust, Old Mill House.
EKE9002	Event	c.400m S	Post-medieval	Watching Brief, 2005, Archaeology South-east, St Peter's C of E Primary School, Brick, chalk and ragstone walls, probably 18 <sup>th</sup> century vicarage demolished 1957.
TQ75NW20	Findspot	c.400m S	Anglo-Saxon –	Saxon buckle found 1950's at Rochester Road

			Medieval	
TQ75NW21	Monument	c. 150m W	Iron Age	Iron Age cremation cemetery at Parish Field, two stone cists containing human remains found 1886.
TQ75NW22	Findspot	c.150m W	Palaeolithic	Palaeolithic flints found at the sand pit.
TQ75NW24	Listed Building	c.500m SW	Medieval	Grade I listed, Church of St Peter, pre 1145.
TQ75NW36	Findspot	c.500m SW	Bronze Age	Leaf shaped sword held at Ashmolean Museum Oxford, Evans collection.
TQ75NW37	Findspot	c.500m SW	Bronze Age	Four looped and socketed axes before 1930 held at British Museum.
TQ75NW48	Findspot	c.500m SW	Iron Age	Belgic bronze torc found in the River Medway.
TQ75NW53	Findspot	c.500m SW	Neolithic	Two Neolithic stone axes held at Cambridge University Museum.
TQ75NW55	Monument	c.150m W	Bronze Age	Bronze Age burials found on east side of gravel pit, three cists containing crouched burials held at Maidstone Museum.
TQ75NW57	Findspot	C,200m W	Roman	Coin of Antoninianus of Gordian III found at Vicarage Close 1970's.
TQ75NW64	Findspot	c.500m SW	Mesolithic	Tranchet axe held at Dartford Museum.
TQ75NW65	Findspot	c.500m SW	Mesolithic	Blade held at Rochester museum
TQ75NW82	Monument	c.100m N	Iron Age - Romano British	Crop marks of enclosure ditch, geophysical survey found a second smaller enclosure, excavations found ditches and pits, opus signinum, ridge tiles and domestic waste.
TQ75NW99	Findspot	c.500m SW	Mesolithic	Tranchet axe held at Maidstone Museum
TQ75NW100	Findspot	C,150m S	Romano-British	Coin of Antoninianus of Gordian III found at 2 Vicarage close in 1970's.
TQ75NW129	Building	c.350m SW	Post-medieval	Tunnel adjacent to 36 Rochester Road leading to quarry.
TQ75NW120	Monument	c.400m SW	Post-medieval	Post medieval building remains, 3-chambered cellar dating to 1750.
TQ75NW126	Findspot	c.500m SW	Palaeolithic	Nine flint hand axes and two scrapers.

TQ75NW127	Listed Building	c.400m E	Post-medieval	Gii Listed Anchor Farm, Rochester Road, farmstead.
TQ75NW135	Building	c. 150m W	Post-medieval	Three buildings at Aylesford quarry, workshops.
TQ75NW144	Findspot	c.150m W	Palaeolithic- Modern	2 struck flints, post-medieval tile, brick and pottery found on a watching brief in 2001.
TQ75NW251	Listed Building	c.500m SW	Post-medieval	GII listed Brassey tomb monument, 1891
TQ75NW253	Listed Building	c.400m S	Post-medieval	GII listed Dorothy's House, 1700-1732
TQ75NW229	Listed Building	c.400m S	Post-medieval	GII listed arch and wall to the north of trinity court, 1607-1999.
TQ75NW240	Listed Building	c.400m S	Post-medieval	GII listed village pump 10 yards east of trinity court, 1833-1866.
TQ75NW239	Listed Building	c.500m SW	Post-medieval	GII listed chest tomb 1700-1732
TQ75NW263	Listed Building	c.500m SW	Post-medieval	GII listed chest tomb 1700-1732
TQ75NW257	Listed Building	c.500m SW	Post-medieval	GII listed chest tomb 1700-1732
TQ75NW270	Listed Building	c.500m SW	Post-medieval	GII listed 24 and 26 High Street 1767
TQ75NW271	Listed Building	c.400m S	Post-medieval	GII listed 22-32 Mount pleasant 1860-1870
TQ75NW264	Listed Building	c.400m SW	Post-medieval	GII listed chest tomb 1700-1732
TQ75NW308	Listed Building	c.400m S	Post-medieval	GII listed Trinity Court 1607-1892
TQ75NW309	Listed Building	c.500m SW	Post-medieval	GII listed chest tomb 1700-1732
TQ75NW310	Listed Building	c.500m SW	Post-medieval	GII listed chest tomb 1733-1766
TQ75NW311	Listed Building	c.400m SW	Post-medieval	GII listed chest tomb 1733-1766
TQ75NW295	Listed Building	c.500m SW	Post-medieval	GII listed chest tomb 1733-1766
TQ75NW296	Listed Building	c.400m SW	Post-medieval	GII listed chest tomb 1700-1732
TQ75NW341	Listed Building	c.400m S	Post-medieval	GII listed Methodist church 1830-1870
TQ75NW337	Listed Building	c.200m E	Post-medieval	GII listed Old Mill house 1600-1999
TQ75NW175	Findspot	c.500m SW	Palaeolithic	Flake and hand-axes discovered 1916 held at Rochester Museum.
TQ75NW176	Findspot	c.500m SW	Palaeolithic	Flake and hand-axes, Burchell collection held at Rochester Museum.
TQ75NW177	Findspot	c.500m SW	Palaeolithic	Sixteen hand-axes Sturge collection held at the British Museum.



TQ75NW178	Findspot	c.500m SW	Palaeolithic	Palaeolithic artefacts, Christy collection held at the British Museum.
TQ75NW179	Findspot	c.500m SW	Palaeolithic	Palaeolithic artefacts, Harrison collection held at the British Museum.
TQ75NW180	Findspot	c.500m SW	Palaeolithic	Palaeolithic artefacts, Wellcome collection held at the British Museum.
TQ75NW181	Findspot	c.500m SW	Palaeolithic	Palaeolithic artefacts, Warren collection held at the British Museum.
TQ75NW181	Findspot	c.500m SW	Palaeolithic	Palaeolithic artefacts, Todd-White collection held at the British Museum.
TQ75NW182	Findspot	c.500m SW	Palaeolithic	Palaeolithic artefacts, Institute of Archaeology collection held at the British Museum.
TQ75NW351	Monument	c.400m SW	Post-Medieval	St Peter's School, Site of 18 <sup>th</sup> -19 <sup>th</sup> century vicarage.
MKE84629	Farmstead	c.400M E	Post-Medieval	Anchor Farm farmstead
MKE84630	Farmstead	c.200m W	Post-Medieval	Outfarm field barn.
TQ75NW402	Monument	c.250m W	Post-medieval	A sand mine with 7m shaft and chamber at 32 Mount Pleasant.

## Plates



Plate 7. View of PDA (looking north)



Plate 8. View of PDA (looking north-west)



Plate 9. AP 2007 showing Prehistoric field systems to the north of the PDA

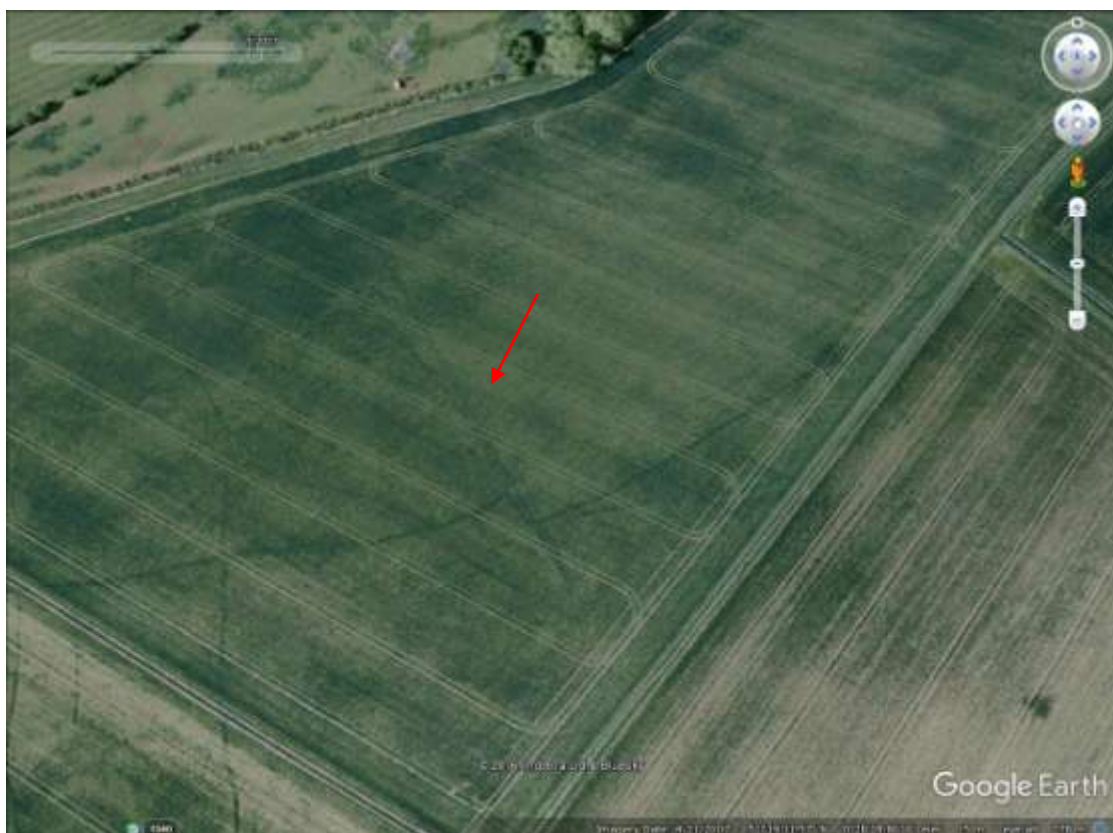


Plate 10. Closer view of collecting pens, funnel or crush, race and drafting gates



Plate 11. AP 2007 view of enclosures and ring ditches



Figure 1: Site location map, scale 1:20000.

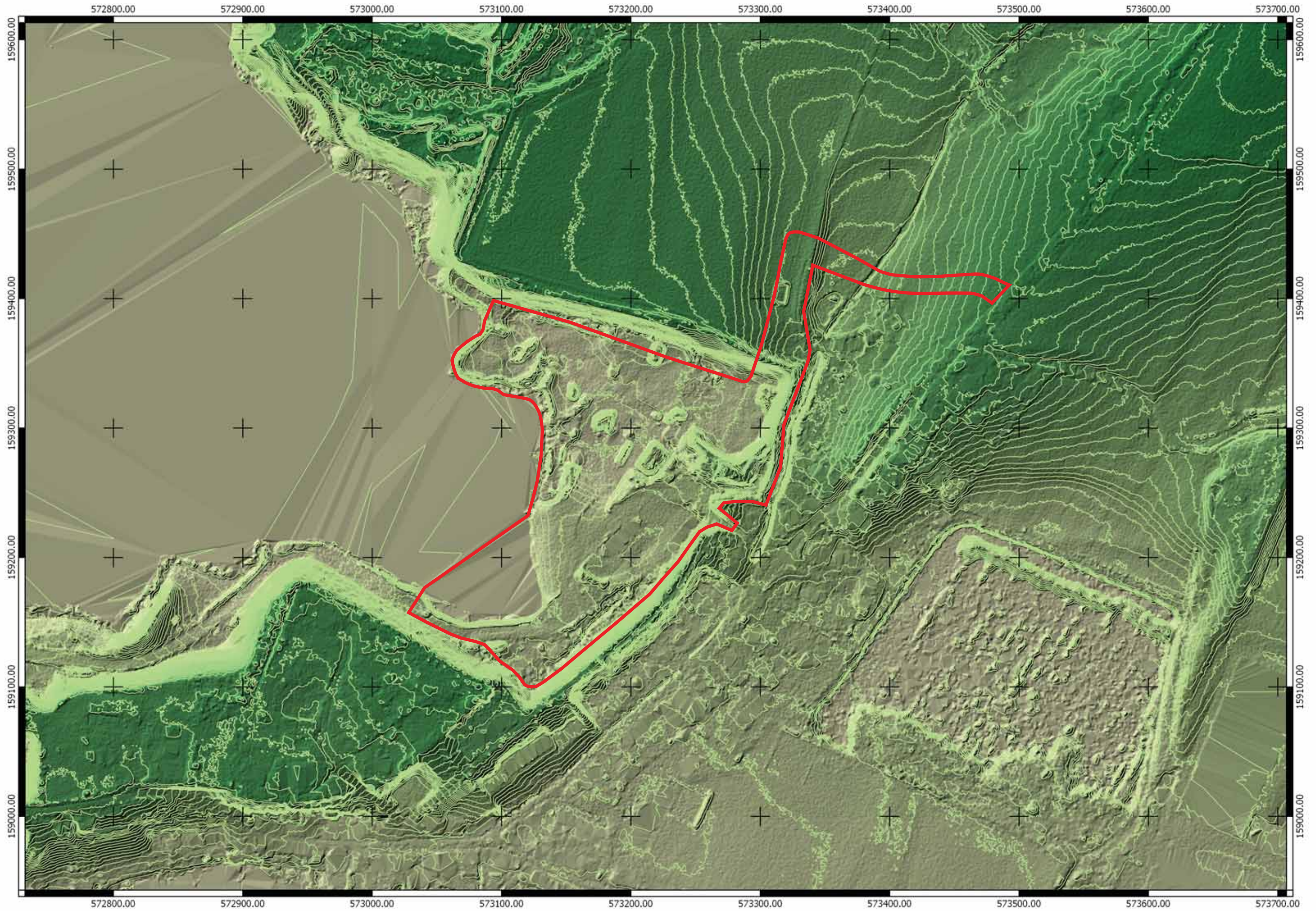


Figure 2: Digital surface model based on lidar data, scale 1:2500@A3

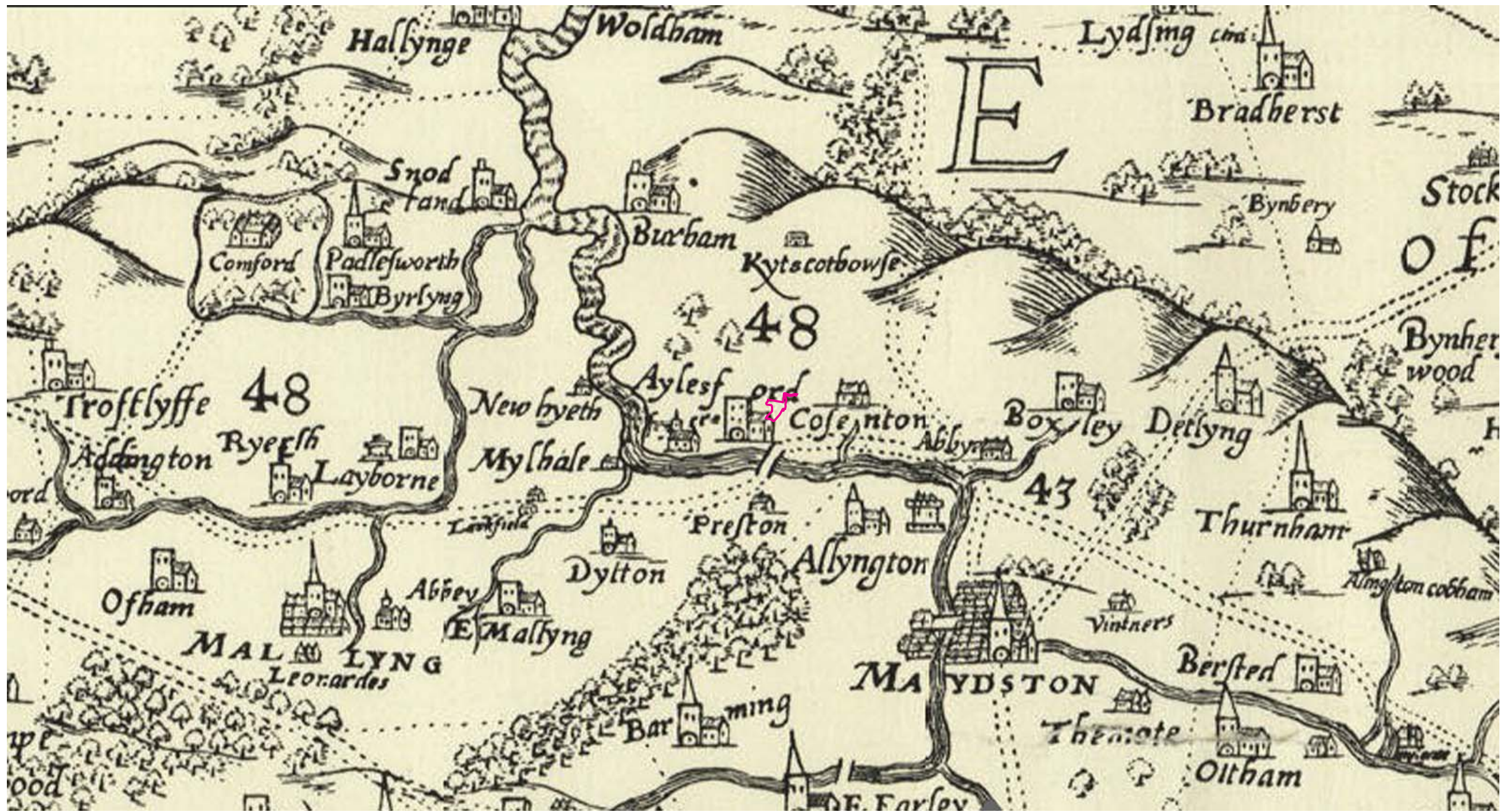


Figure 3: Symonson's Map of Kent 1596

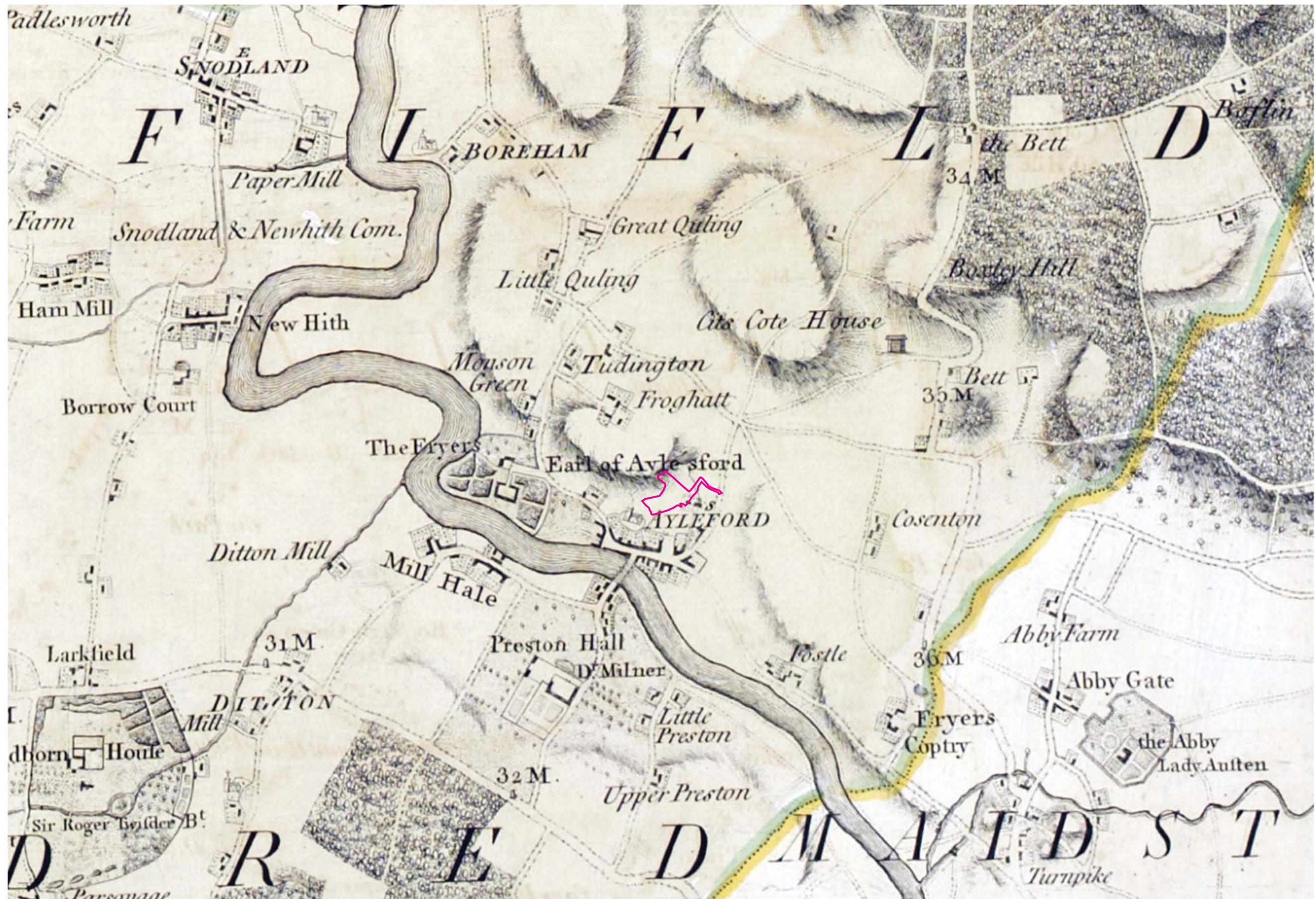


Figure 4: Topographical-map of the county of Kent from 1769, Publisher: A. Dury, W. Herbert.



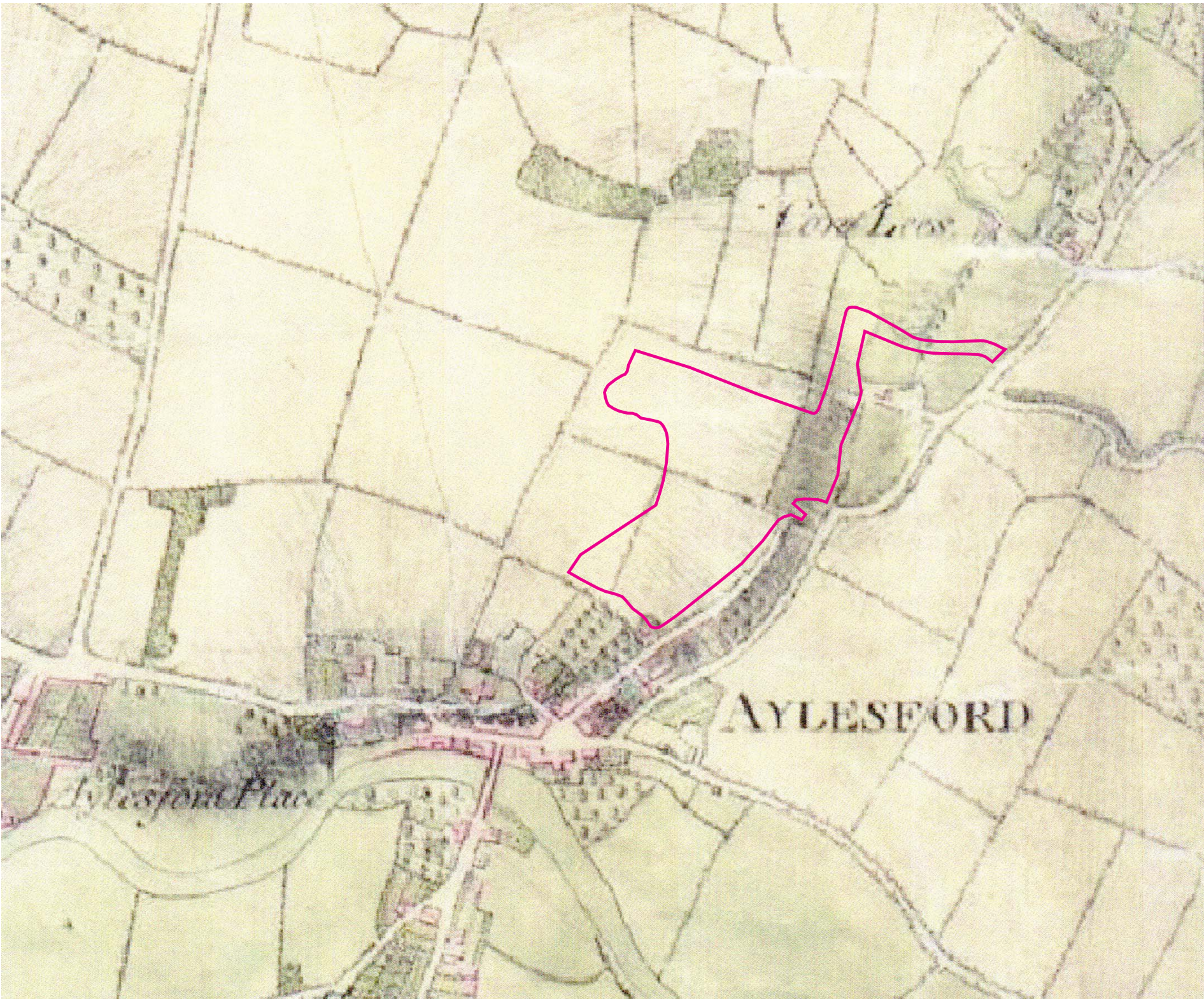


Figure 5: OS Surveyors drawing from 1769.

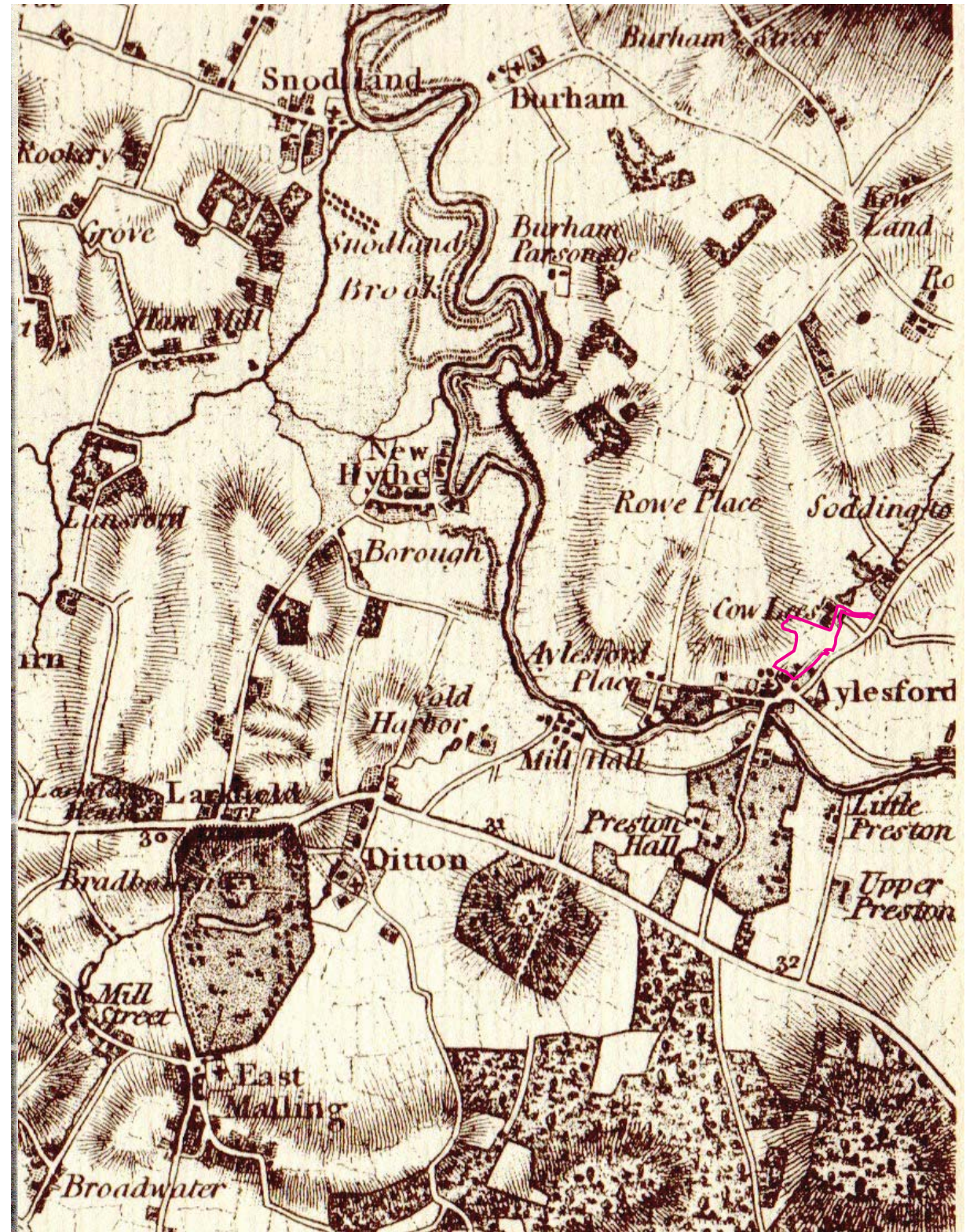


Figure 6: OS map, first edition from 1798.



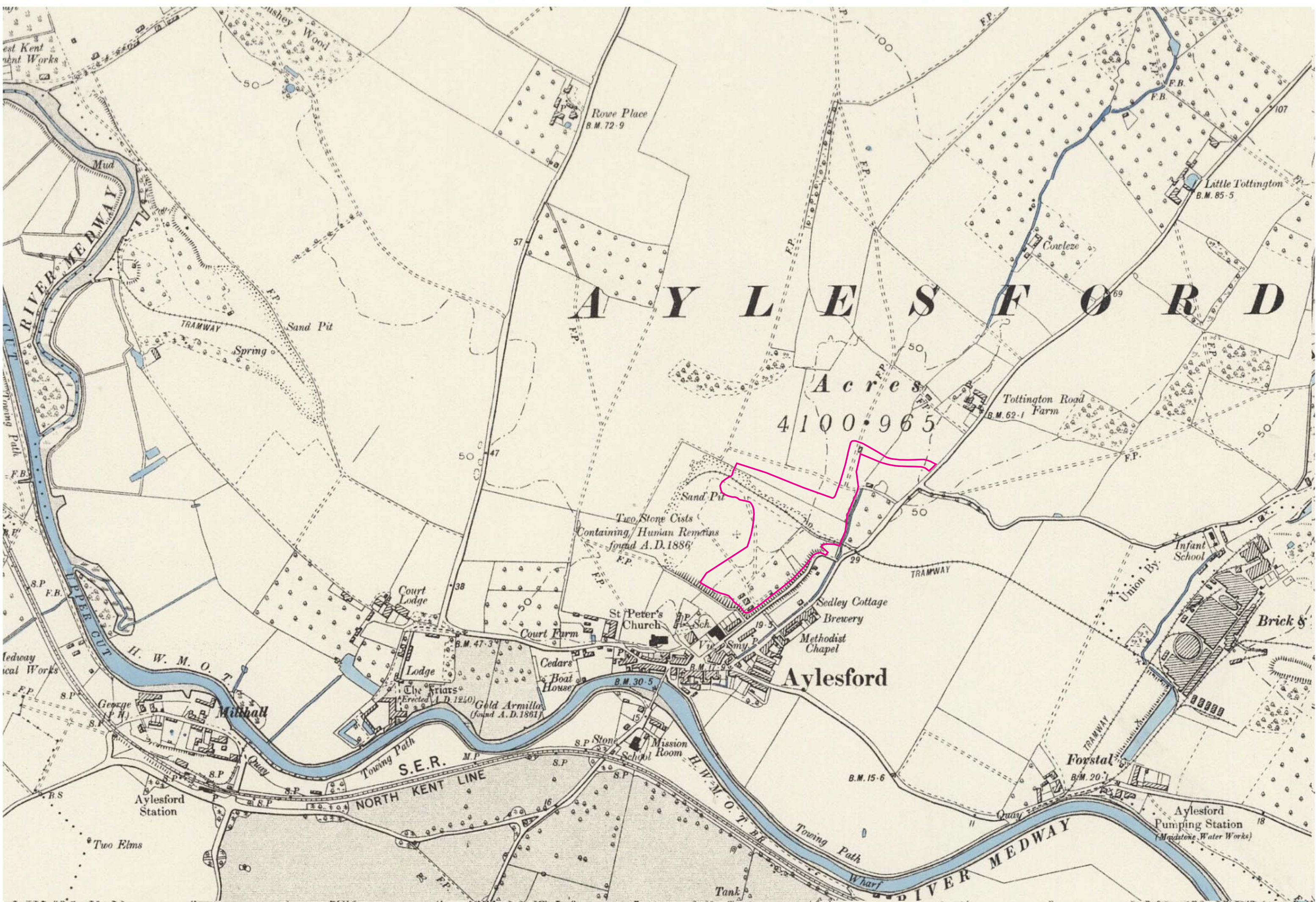


Figure 8: OS map from 1896, scale 1:6666

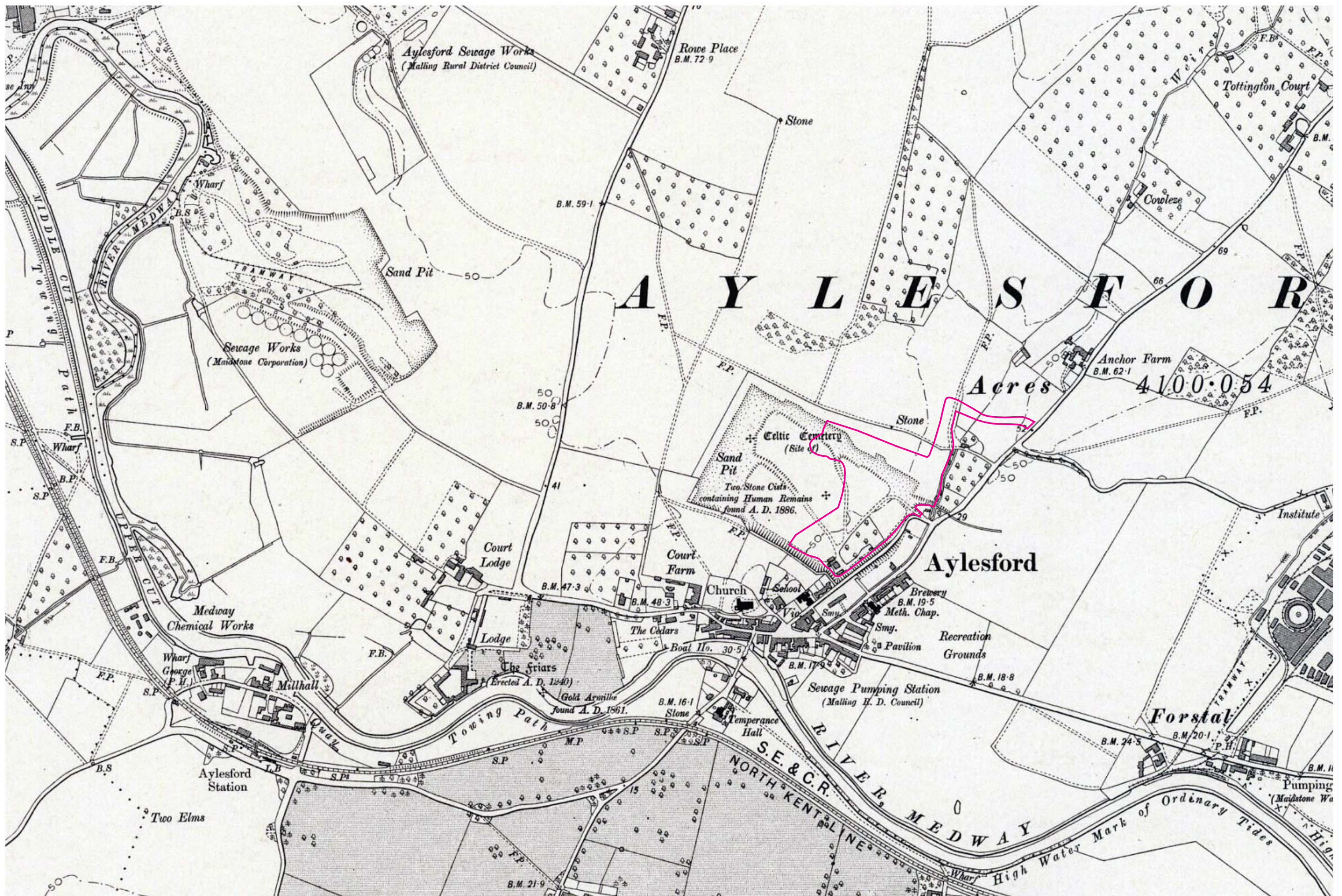


Figure 9: OS map from 1907, scale 1:6666

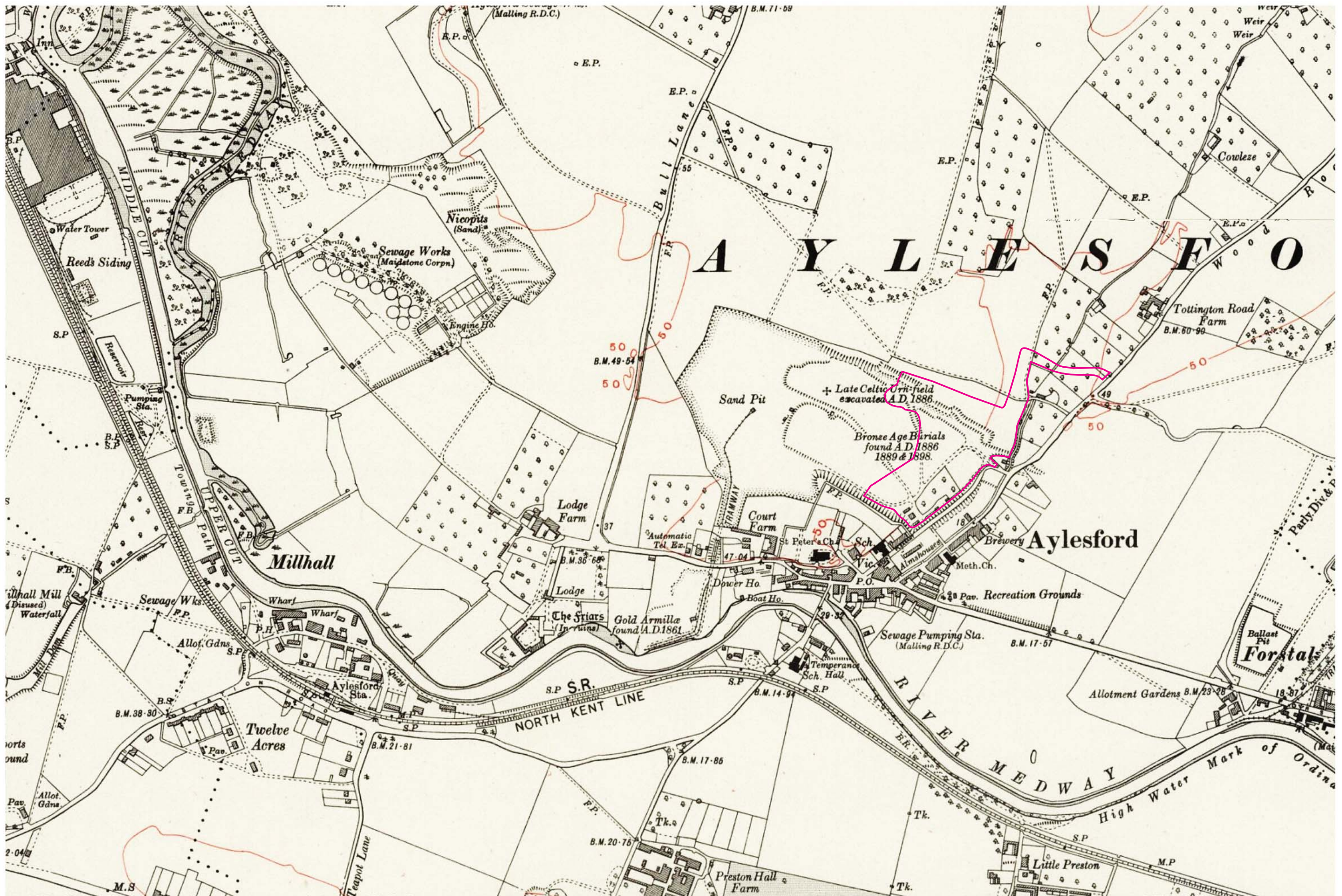


Figure 10: OS map from 1931, scale 1:6666

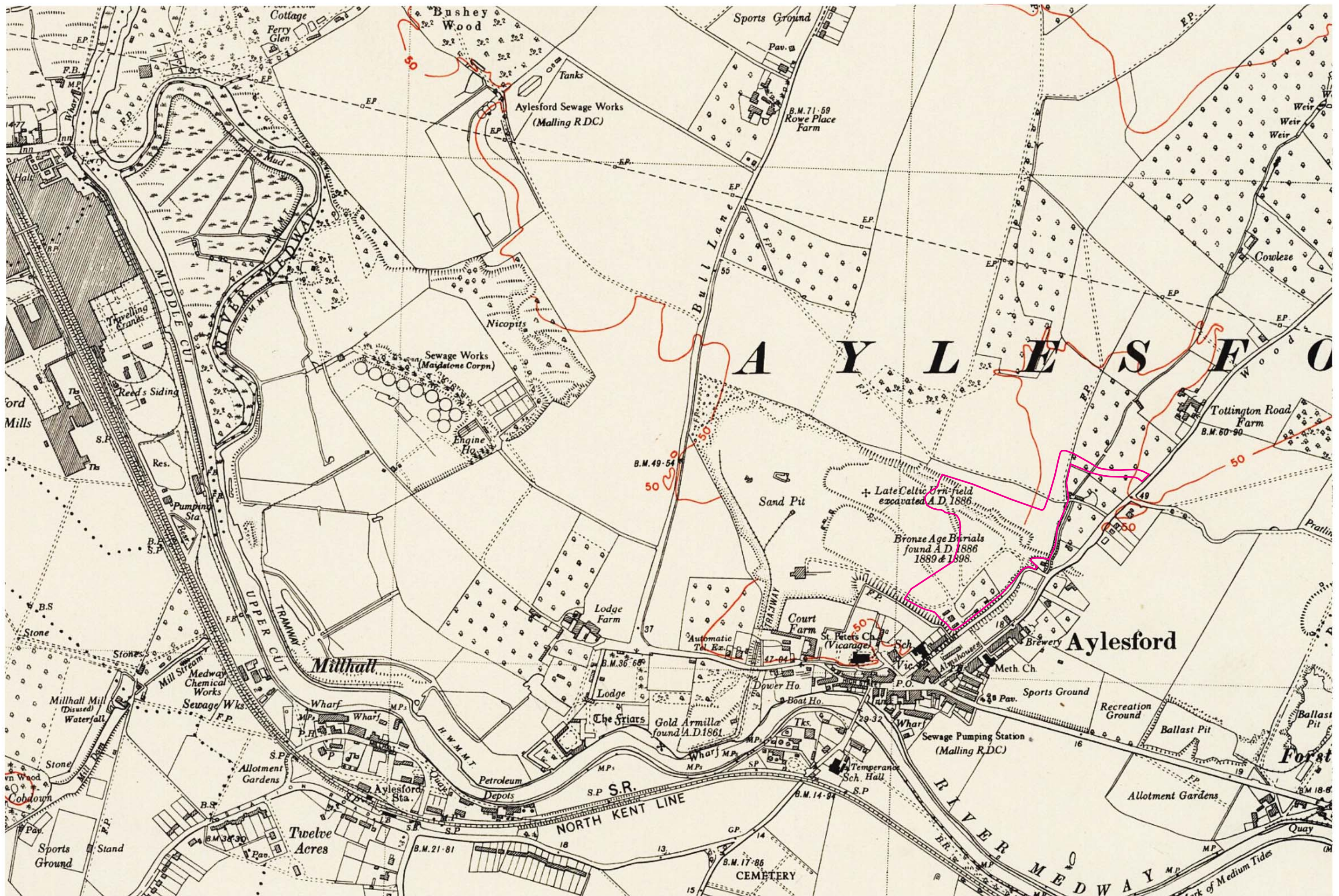


Figure 11: OS map from 1948, scale 1:6666

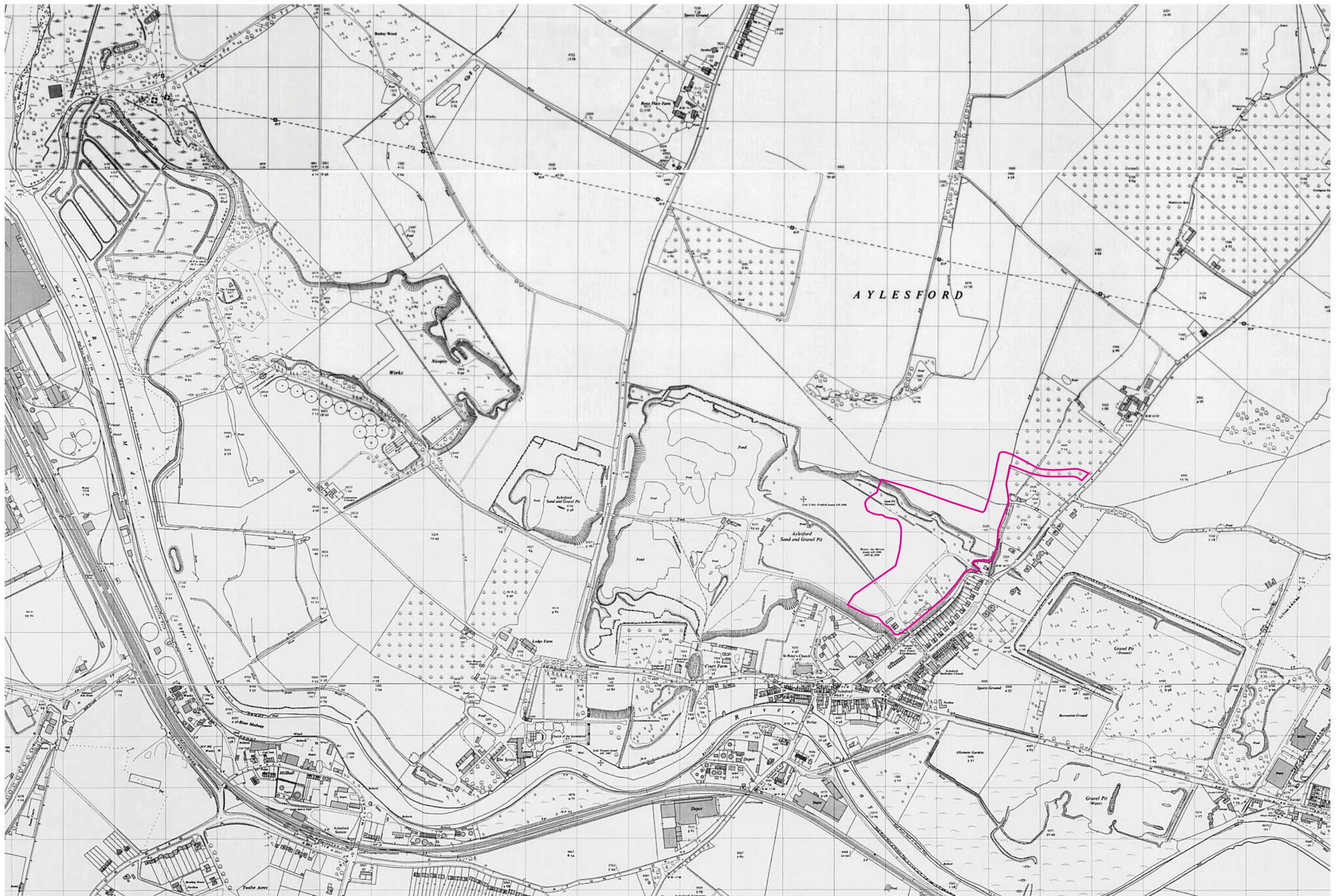
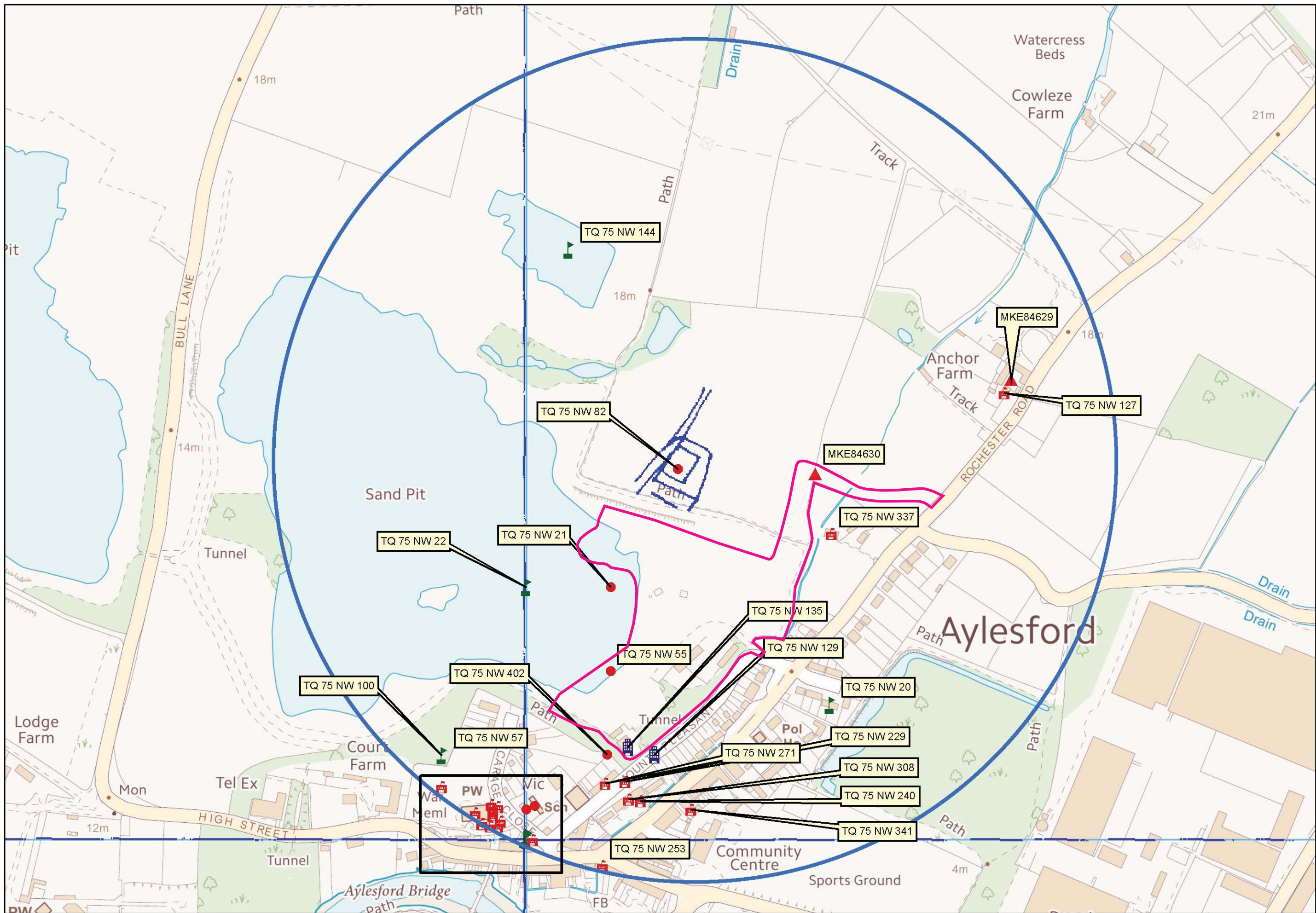


Figure 12: OS map from 1961, scale 1:6666

# Kent Historic Environment Record - Aylesford Quarries - Monuments and Cropmarks 1

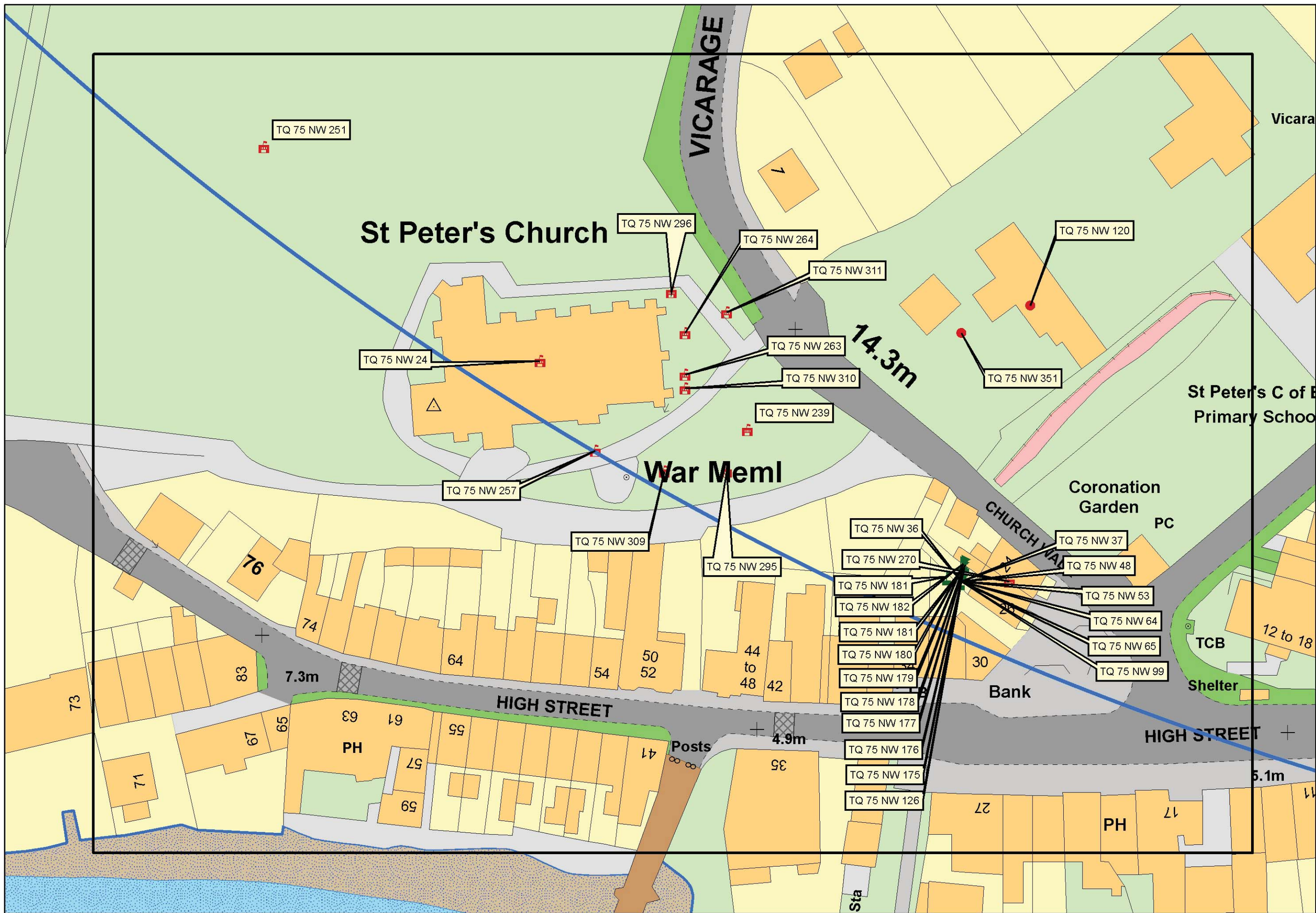


- Legend**
- Building
  - Crash Site
  - Farmstead
  - Findspot
  - Listed Building
  - Landscape
  - Maritime
  - Monument
  - Place
  - HEDGE
  - MON
  - Mon (poly)





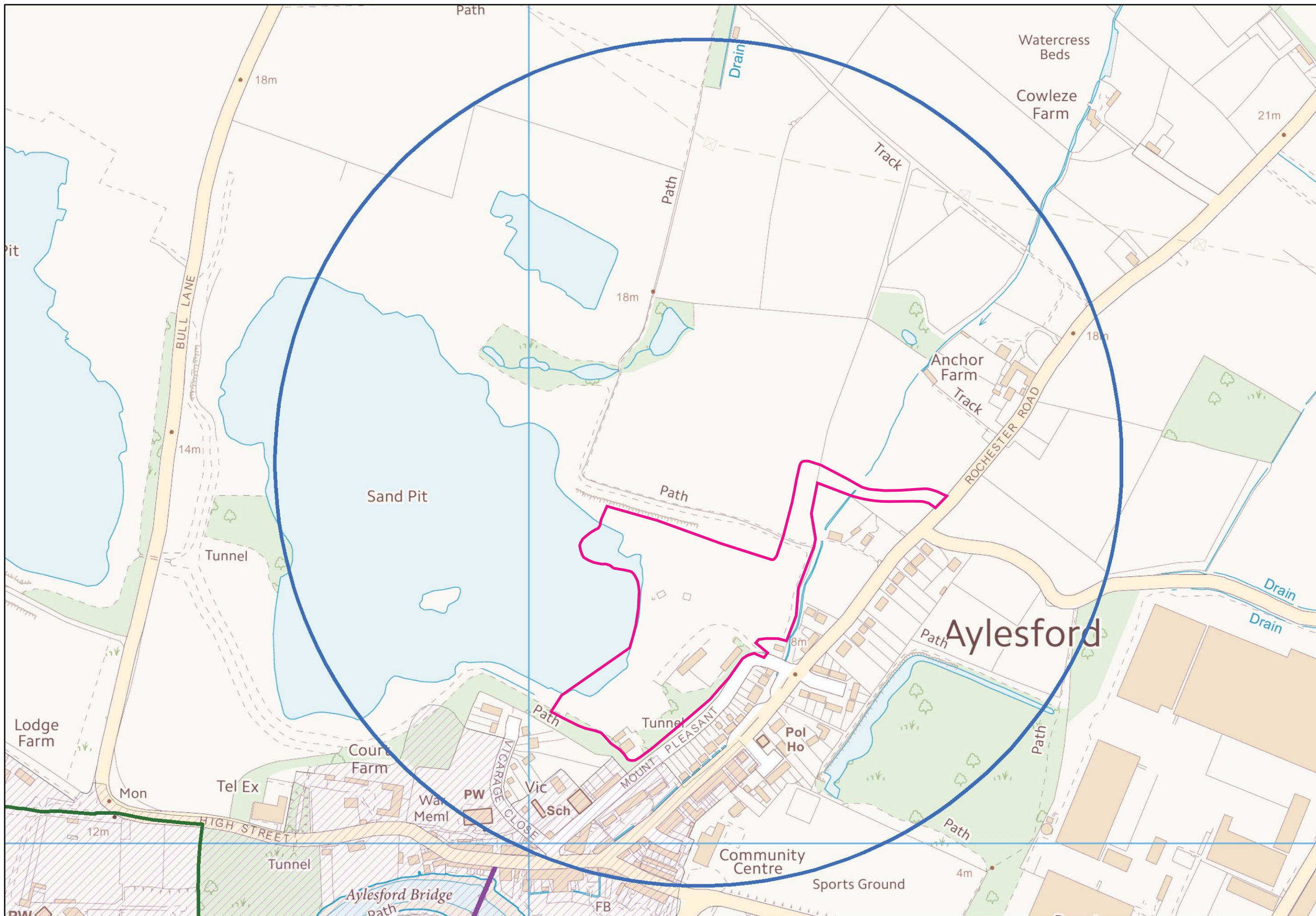
# Kent Historic Environment Record - Aylesford Quarries - Monuments 2



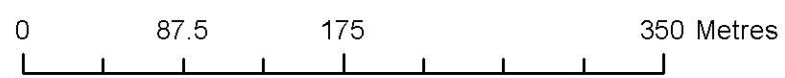
- Legend**
- Building
  - Crash Site
  - Farmstead
  - Findspot
  - Landscape
  - Maritime
  - Monument
  - Place
  - HEDGE
  - MON
  - Mon (poly)



# Kent Historic Environment Record - Aylesford Quarries - Conservation Areas



Legend  
Converted\_Graphics



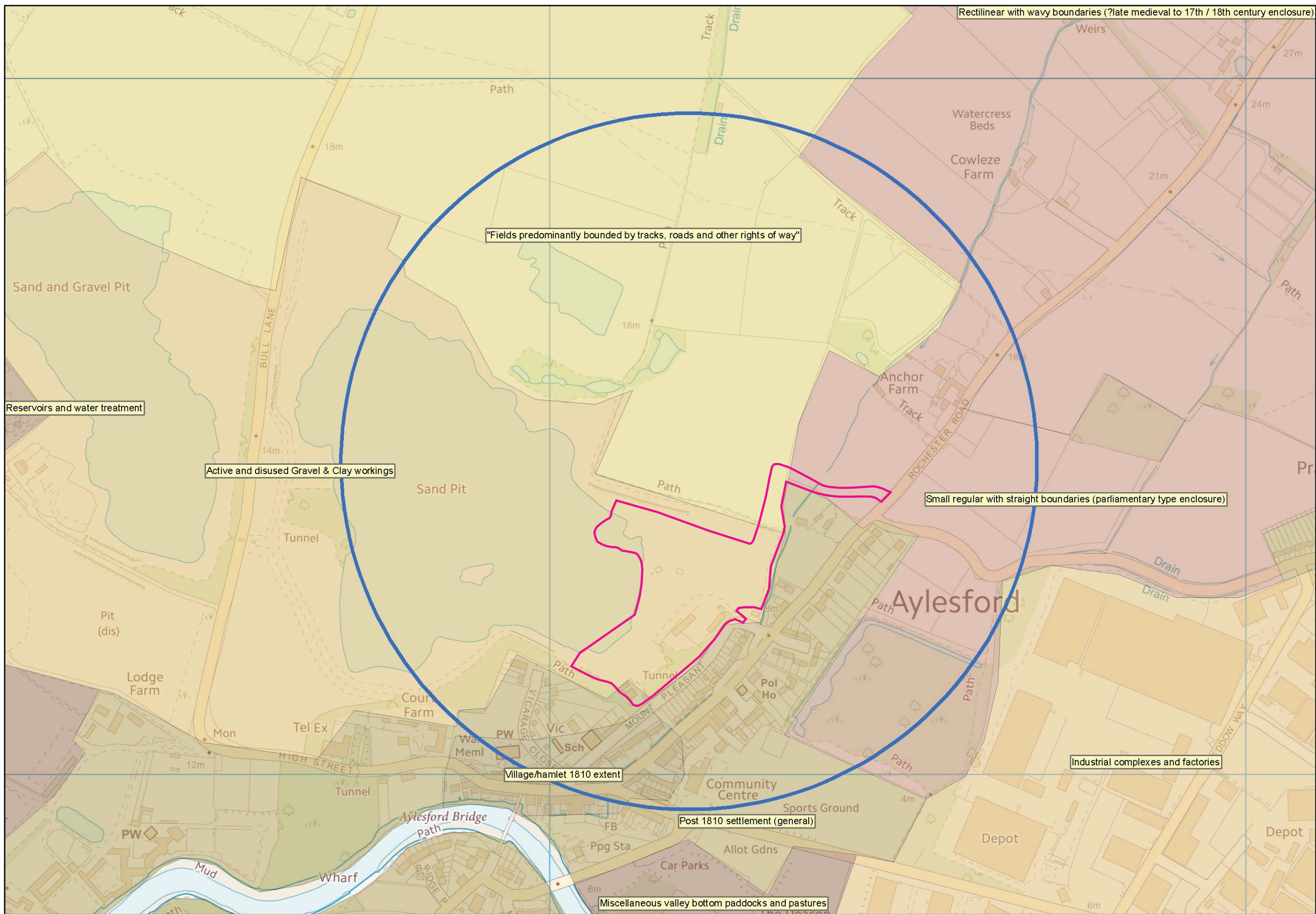
# Kent Historic Environment Record - Aylesford Quarries - Events



Legend  
 Converted\_Graphics



# Kent Historic Environment Record - HLC



Rectilinear with wavy boundaries (?late medieval to 17th / 18th century enclosure)

"Fields predominantly bounded by tracks, roads and other rights of way"

Reservoirs and water treatment

Active and disused Gravel & Clay workings

Small regular with straight boundaries (parliamentary type enclosure)

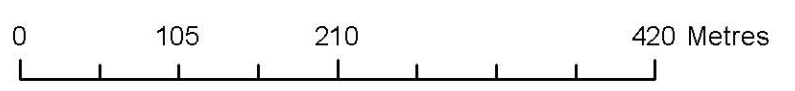
Village/hamlet 1810 extent

Post 1810 settlement (general)

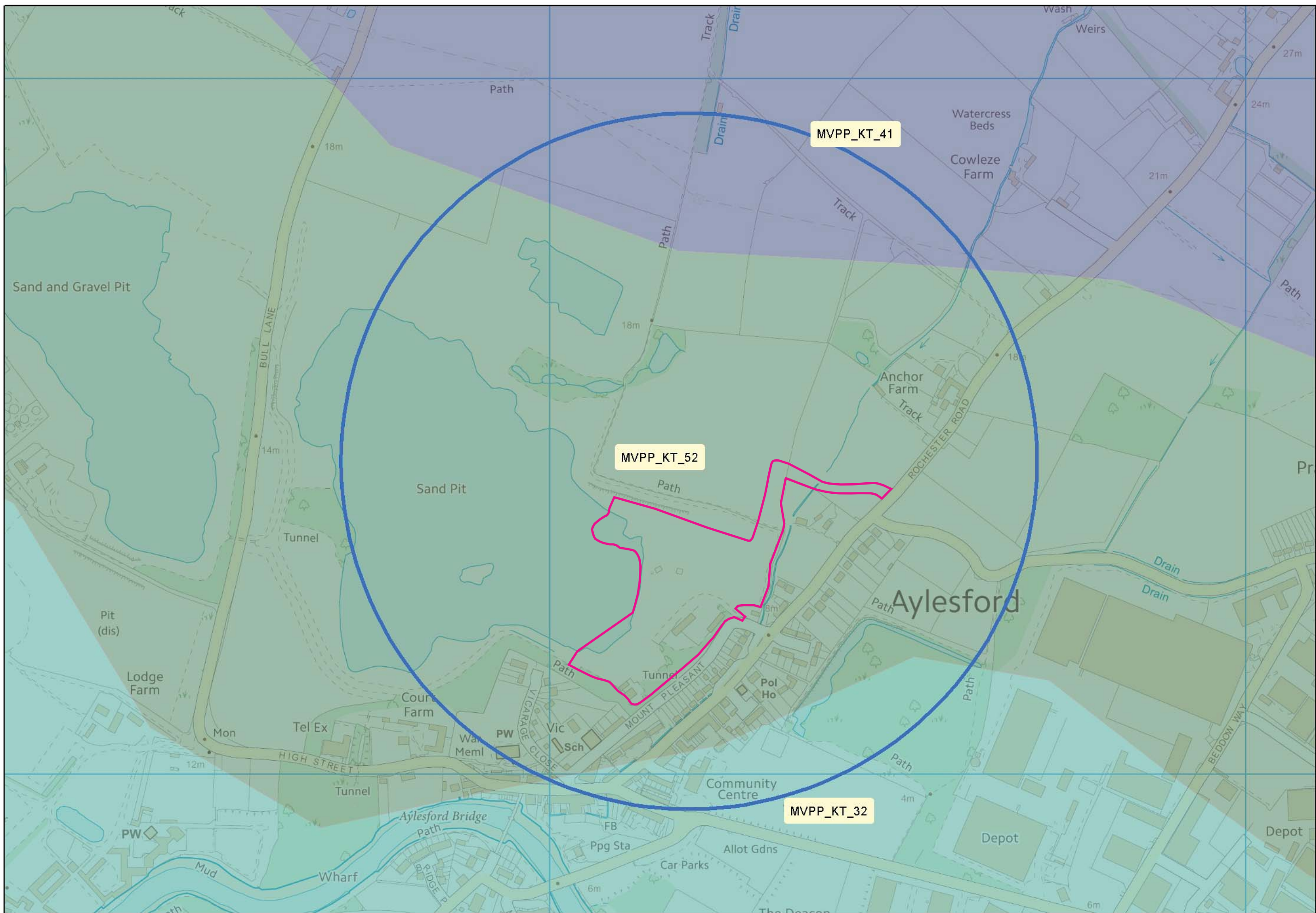
Industrial complexes and factories

Miscellaneous valley bottom paddocks and pastures

Legend  
 Converted\_Graphics



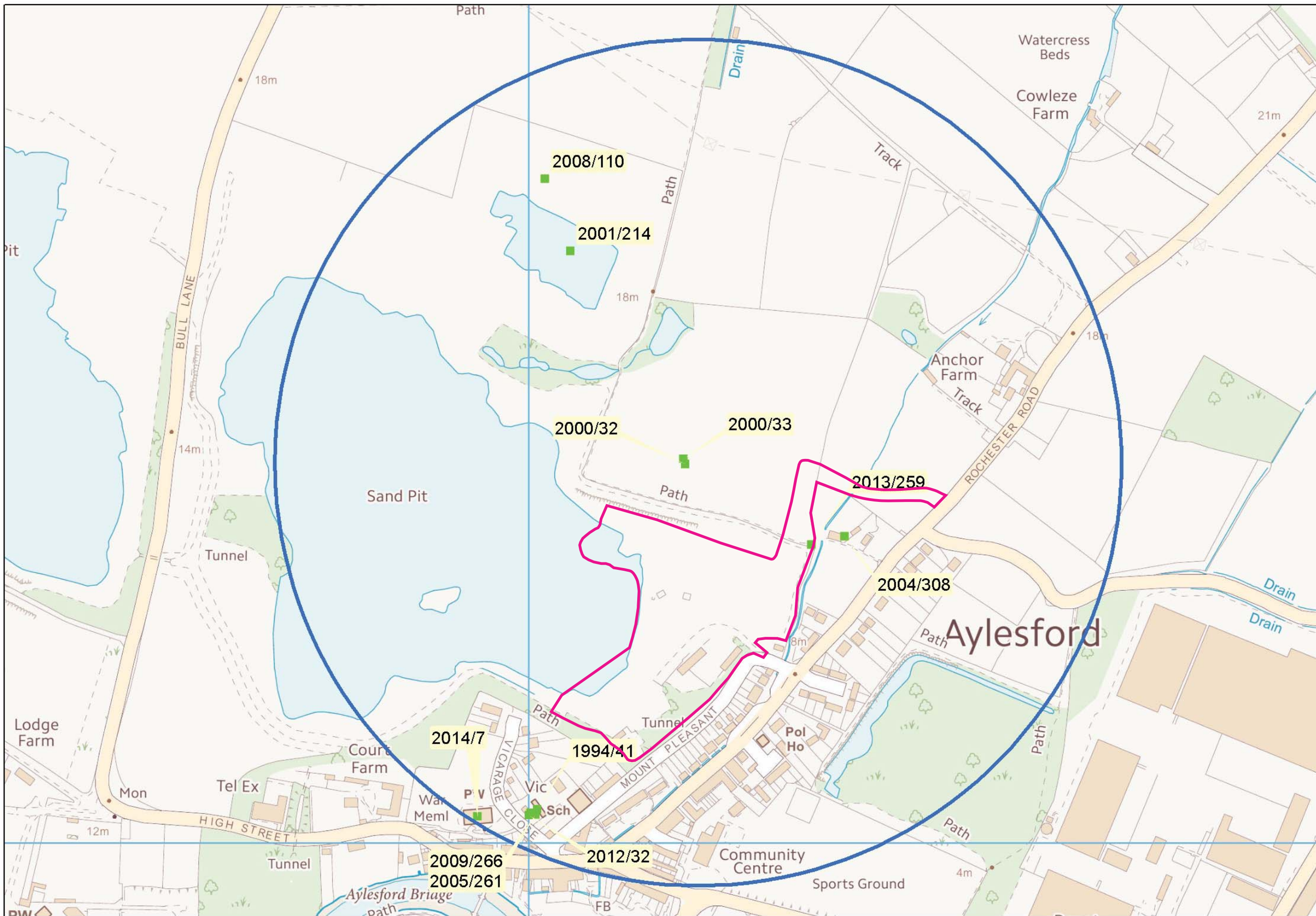
# Kent Historic Environment Record - MVPP zones



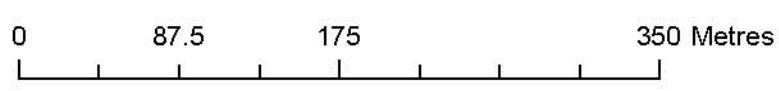
Legend  
Converted\_Graphics



# Kent Historic Environment Record - Reports



Legend  
 Converted\_Graphics



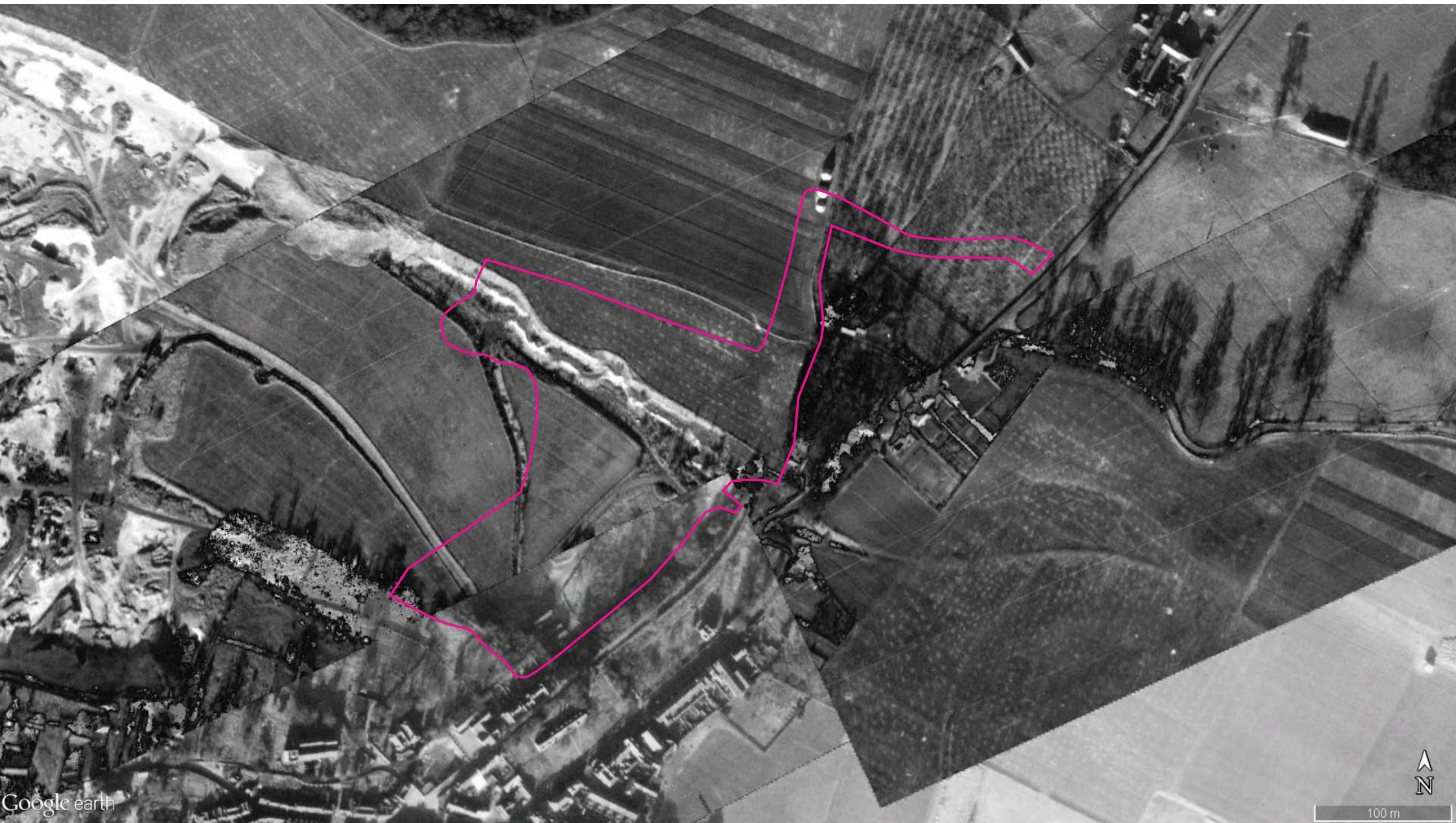


Plate 1: Google Earth aerial photograph from 1940.



Plate 2: Google Earth aerial photograph from 1960.





Plate 3: Google Earth aerial photograph from 1990.



Plate 4: Google Earth aerial photograph from 2007



Plate 5: Google Earth aerial photograph from 2013.



Plate 6: Google Earth aerial photograph from 2015.