# ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT OF LAND AT ANNFIELD, COOMBE WOOD LANE, HAWKINGE, KENT



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Front cover: 1860 OS map of Hawkinge

Plate 1. 2017 aerial photograph of the site Figure 1. Site plan

## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

1.1 In November 2017 Dr Paul Wilkinson MCIFA of SWAT Archaeology carried out a rapid archaeological desk-based assessment of available data on land at Annfield, Coombe Wood Lane, Hawkinge in Kent.

# **1.2** Historic mapping, aerial photographs and the HER records were studied and archaeological activity has been recorded within 500m of the proposed development site.

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

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

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

# 2.0 HISTORICAL/ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

## 2.1 Location

The Proposed Development Area (PDA) is located on the east side of the village of Hawkinge, north of the A20 and with the Canterbury Road to the west. The Hawkinge Community Centre is located to the north west of the PDA. The NGR is 622050 139729.

## 2.5 Historic Background

The name of the village' Hawkinge' derives from a Viking word 'hafoc', which a means a type of hawk, and with the attachment of the Anglo-Saxon word 'ing' meaning settlement.

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The parish church built in the late 11th to 12<sup>th</sup> century was the heart of the medieval village and the community based on agriculture slept quietly through the centuries.

In 1915 the Royal Flying Corps (RFC) moved into land at Hawkinge overlooking the English Channel and within weeks were flying sorties.

In 1923 following the expansion of the air service- now called the Royal Air Force the station expanded and on the outbreak of war with Germany the station changed its status from a training station to a fighter station and played a significant part in the Battle of Britain. In 1945 the station closed and from 1980 the area has been transformed by the build of housing estates.

A rapid map assessment of OS historic mapping shows that in 1861-90 the area of the PDA was open fields and apart from the airfield and associated infrastructure the outlying landscape was mainly agricultural.

#### **3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES**

3.1 The HER records show that known important archaeology is located at 125m to the north of the site where an archaeological investigation prior to development revealed numerous Prehistoric and Romano-British features which included pits, postholes and field systems.

To the north east at about 100m another important archaeological investigation revealed the remains of a Late Iron Age settlement (TR 23 NW 208) whilst nearby medieval or postmedieval field systems were revealed in another archaeological investigation prior to development (TR 23 NW 209).

#### 4.0 DISCUSSION

4.1 A review of the available data shows that major archaeological sites are known within the 500m radius of the PDA.

#### **5.0 PARAMETERS**

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

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Plate 1. Aerial image of the site in 2017 (red target)



Figure 1. The site