Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment in Advance of the Proposed Development of Land at The Forstal, Blind Lane, Mersham, Kent.

National Grid Reference TR 604840 139191

Report for Forest Homes (Kent) Ltd

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SWAT ARCHAEOLOGY

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Summary

SWAT Archaeology has been commissioned by Forest Homes (Kent Ltd) to prepare an Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment of the proposed development area (PDA) of land at The Forstal, Blind Lane, Mersham, Kent.

This Desk Based Assessment is intended to explore and disseminate the known and potential heritage resource within the site and the surrounding area, and to assess the likely impacts of the development proposals on this resource. Based on this data the potential for archaeological sites either on or in the near vicinity of the proposed development can be summarized as:

- Prehistoric: **low**

- Iron Age: **low**

- Roman: **low**

- Anglo-Saxon: **low**

- Medieval: **low**

- Post-Medieval: **low**

- Modern: **low**

The village of Mersham sits within an area of archaeological interest and essentially consists of three parts. The conservation area is to the far north, 1km from the PDA, the second historic area is the Medieval cluster around the church (Grade I), Manor House (Grade II) and associated barn (Grade II*) with a Medieval metalworking site to the east. South of this area and separated by the railway cutting is The Forstal which itself contains a spread of Grade II listed Medieval and Post Medieval buildings.

The PDA is currently a field to the rear of properties in Blind Lane and also the village hall with its entrance in Church Road. Aside from the many listed buildings in The Forstal area, nothing has been found archaeologically, hence the low potential for archaeology in all periods, although finding archaeology cannot be discounted entirely. The excavations in the village were in relation to the Channel Tunnel Rail Link, which is to the north of the PDA in the

area around the church. That was when the Medieval metal working site was discovered. Aside from the village hall which was built on the site of a demolished outfarm at the rear of Goodrich Cottage, the PDA does not appear to have previously been built on, which means that there is likely to have been a low impact to any potential archaeology. However, the Google Earth photos suggest that there are cropmarks immediately to the west of the PDA, of which are unidentified but could relate to drainage of field boundaries or demolished buildings based on early maps, although these do appear to be outside of the PDA. The use of the PDA for residential development along with the village hall extension will require foundations and as a consequence the proposed development will have a high impact on any potential archaeology. The need for, scale, scope and nature of any further assessment and/or archaeological works should be agreed through consultation with the statutory authorities.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

1.1.1 Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT) was commissioned by Forest Homes (Kent) Ltd (the 'Client), to carry out an archaeological desk-based assessment of the proposed development area (PDA) of land at The Forstal, Blind Lane, Mersham, Kent centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 604840 139191 (Fig 1).

1.2 The Site

1.2.1 Mersham is 5km from the centre of Ashford and the PDA is 1.2km south of the A28 road from Ashford towards Hythe. The M20 also passes immediately south of the A28. The village sits on the lower Greensand Ridge. The proposed site sits at an average height of circa 43m AOD. The PDA very gently slopes towards the south west, towards the East Stour Valley bottom. To the north of the PDA the land rises sharply, reaching circa 70m AOD in the area of the church, which is approximately 500m north east of the PDA. The site consists of the village hall and car park on the western side of Church Road. This area is screened from the field of the PDA to the west by hedging and trees. The western side of the PDA includes a drainage ditch that separates the main part of the PDA from the field next door to the west of which the south east corner area will form part of the PDA and be the entranceway off Blind Lane for the proposed houses. Both fields

are currently grass. The southern and southern eastern boundary area of the PDA borders a number of bungalows of which face onto Church Road or Blind Lane. The north eastern corner on the eastern side of the village hall is the listed property of Goodrich Cottage.

1.2.2   The larger part of the village of Mersham is situated at the top of the slope 500m north of the church and is a conservation area. The PDA is in the area of the village known as The Forstal and the PDA is approximately 2 acres. Between the church and The Forstal, the area is dissected by the railway running on a west/east axis.   The railway comprises of both the Victorian Ashford to Folkstone line and to the north of that line, the High-Speed Channel Tunnel Rail Link (CTRL). Church Road rises more sharply than the land either side in order to pass over the railway. Therefore, many of the properties bordering Church Road are set lower than the road (Fig. 1)

1.2.3   The British Geological Society (BGS 1995) shows that the local geology at the PDA consists of bedrock comprising of Weald Clay Formation – Mudstone. This is a lower Cretaceous sedimentary rock from 136-125 million years ago. Weathered it is yellow/orange in colour and unweathered it is blue/grey. There are superficial deposits located in the far southern area at the PDA of Alluvium – Clay, Silt, Sand and Gravel. To the north of the PDA is bedrock of a band of Atherfield Clay Formation and rising further north of that, Hythe Formation Sandstone.

Geotechnical Information

1.2.4   There is known geotechnical information to the north of the PDA from the CTRL excavations. However, these were in the area to the north of the PDA of different bedrock geology being the Hythe Formation Sandstone. The solid geology there was capped in most places by a distinctive and very localised deposit, up to 50mm thick, consisting of a red/brown, weakly calcareous, sandy clay. This in turn was capped by pale orange/brown sandy clay, loessic drift material that blankets the Hythe Beds throughout the area.

1.3 The Proposed Development

1.3.1 The site is land north of Fairlawn, Blind Lane and to the west of the village hall in Mersham. The development is for four two-storey houses and three bungalows, along with an extension to the village hall and car park. As part of the proposals part of the existing drainage ditch north of the pumping station on Blind Lane is to be moved to the west (Fig. 2).

1.4 Project Constraints

1.4.1 No constraints were associated with this project.

1.5 Scope of Document

1.5.1 This assessment was requested by the Client in order to determine, as far as is possible from existing information, the nature, extent and significance of the Historic Environment and to assess the potential impact of development on Heritage Assets. The assessment forms part of the initial stages of the archaeological investigation and is intended to inform and assist with decisions regarding archaeological mitigation for the proposed development and associated planning applications.

2 PLANNING BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 National legislation and guidance relating to the protection of, and proposed development on or near, important archaeological sites or historical buildings within planning regulations is defined under the provisions of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990. In addition, local authorities are responsible for the protection of the historic environment within the planning system.

2.2 Heritage Assets

2.2.1 Designated heritage assets are defined in NPPF Annex 2 as:

'World Heritage Sites, Scheduled Monuments, Listed Buildings, Protected Wreck Sites, Registered Park and Gardens, Registered Battlefields and Conservation Areas designated under the relevant legislation.'

2.2.2   Designation is a formal acknowledgement of a building, monument or site's significance, intended to make sure that the character of the asset in question is protected through the planning system and to enable it to be passed on to future generations.

2.2.3   Statutory protection is provided to certain classes of designated heritage assets under the following legislation:

• Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990;

• Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979; and

• Protection of Wrecks Act 1973

2.3   National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)

2.3.1   The Historic Environment, as defined in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF 2012): 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.'

2.3.2   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. Heritage assets include designated heritage assets and assets identified by the local planning authority (including local listing)'.

2.3.3   NPPF Section 12: 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 12 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.

2.3.4   Paragraph 126 of the NPPF states that:

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.

2.3.5   Paragraph 128 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.

2.3.6   Paragraph 129 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 of 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.

2.3.7   The NPPF, Section 12, therefore provides the guidance to which local authorities need to refer when setting out a strategy for the conservation and enjoyment of the historic environment in their Local Plans. It is noted within this, that heritage assets should be conserved in a manner appropriate to their significance.

2.3.8   The NPPF further provides definitions of terms which relate to the historic environment in order to clarify the policy guidance given. For the purposes of this report, the following are important to note:

- **Heritage Asset**. This is 'a building, monument, Site, place, area or landscape identified as having a degree of significance meriting consideration in planning decisions'. These include designated heritage assets and assets identified by the local planning authority.

- **Significance**. The value of a heritage asset to this and future generations because of its heritage interest. This interest may be archaeological, architectural, artistic or historic. Significance derives not only from a heritage asset's physical presence, but also from its setting.

2.3.9   The NPPF advises local authorities to take into account the following points when drawing up strategies for the conservation and enjoyment of the historic environment;

• The desirability of sustaining and enhancing the significance of heritage assets and preserving them in a viable use consistent with their conservation;

• The wider social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits that the conservation of the historic environment can bring;

• The desirability of new development in making a positive contribution to local character and distinctiveness;

• Opportunities to draw on the contribution made by the historic environment to the character of a place.

2.3.10   In order to determine applications for development, Paragraph 128 (2.3.5 above) of the NPPF states that LPAs should require applicants to describe the significance of the heritage assets affected and the contribution made by their setting. Adding that the level of detail provided should be proportionate to the significance of the asset and sufficient to understand the impact of the proposal on this significance.

2.3.11   According to Paragraph 129, the LPA should also identify and assess the significance of a heritage asset that may be affected by a proposal and should take this assessment into account when considering the impact upon the heritage asset.

2.3.12   Paragraphs 132 and 136 consider the impact of a proposed development upon the significance of a heritage asset.

2.3.13   Paragraph 132 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. It is noted within this paragraph that significance can be harmed or lost through the alteration or destruction of the heritage asset or by development within its setting. Adding, as heritage assets are irreplaceable, any harm or loss should require clear and convincing justification. Substantial harm to or loss of a Grade II Listed Building or Registered Park or Garden should be exceptional. Substantial harm to or loss of designated heritage assets of the highest significance, notably Scheduled Monuments, Protected Wreck Sites, Battlefields, Grade I and II* Listed Buildings, Grade I and II* Registered Parks and Gardens, and World Heritage Sites, should be wholly exceptional.

2.3.14   Paragraph 133 states that where a proposed development will lead to substantial harm to 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 loss is necessary to achieve substantial public benefits that outweigh that harm or loss, or all of the following apply:

- The nature of the heritage asset prevents all reasonable uses of the Site; and

- No viable use of the heritage asset itself can be found in the medium term through appropriate marketing that will enable its conservation; and

- Conservation by grant-funding or some form of charitable or public ownership is demonstrably not possible; and

- The harm or loss is outweighed by the benefit of bringing the Site back into use.

2.3.15 Conversely, paragraph 133 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 securing its optimum viable use.

2.3.16 Paragraph 136 states that LPAs should not permit 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.

2.3.17 Paragraph 137 encourages LPAs to look for new development opportunities within Conservation Areas, and states that developments which better reveal or enhance the significance of a designated heritage asset and its setting, will be looked upon favourably.

• 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.

2.4   Planning Policy Guidance

Planning Policy Guidance that help to preserve the built and archaeological heritage are:

Conservation Principles, Policy and Guidance (Historic England, 2008)

2.4.1 Historic England sets out in this document a logical approach to making decisions and offering guidance about all aspects of England's historic environment. The Conservation Principles, Policies and Guidance are primarily intended to help us to ensure consistency of approach in carrying out our role as the Government's statutory advisor on the historic environment in England. Specifically, they make a contribution to addressing the challenges of modernising heritage protection by proposing an integrated approach to making decisions, based on a common process.

2.4.2 The document explains its relationship to other policy documents in existence at that time, including Planning Policy Statement 1: Delivering Sustainable Development (2005), which includes the explicit objective of 'protecting and enhancing the natural and historic environment' In this document, Heritage England provide detailed guidance on sustaining the historic environment within the framework of established government policy. In particular, the document distils from Planning Policy Guidance note (PPG) 15 Planning and the Historic Environment (1994) and PPG16 Archaeology and Planning (1990) those general principles which are applicable to the historic environment as a whole.

2.4.3 The policy document provides details about a range of Heritage Values, which enable the significance of assets to be established systematically, with the four main 'heritage values' being:

- **Evidential value**. This derives from the potential of a place to yield evidence about past human activity. Physical remains of past human activity are the primary source of evidence about the substance and evolution of places, and of the people and cultures that made them especially in the absence of written records, the material record, particularly archaeological deposits, provides the only source of evidence about the distant past.

- **Historical Value**. This derives from the ways in which past people, events and aspects of life can be connected through a place to the present. It tends to be illustrative or associative. Illustration depends on visibility in a way that evidential value (for example, of buried remains) does not. Places with illustrative value will normally also have evidential

value, but it may be of a different order of importance. Association with a notable family, person, event, or movement gives historical value a particular resonance.

- **Aesthetic value**. This derives from the ways in which people draw sensory and intellectual stimulation from a place. Aesthetic values can be the result of the conscious design of a place, including artistic endeavour. Equally, they can be the seemingly fortuitous outcome of the way in which a place has evolved and been used over time.

- **Communal value**. This derives from the meanings of a place for the people who relate to it, or for whom it figures in their collective experience or memory. Communal values are closely bound up with historical (particularly associative) and aesthetic values but tend to have additional and specific aspects. These can be commemorative and symbolic values reflect the meanings of a place for those who draw part of their identity from it or have emotional links to it. Social value is associated with places that people perceive as a source of identity, distinctiveness, social interaction and coherence. Spiritual value attached to places can emanate from the beliefs and teachings of an organised religion, or reflect past or present-day perceptions of the spirit of place.

2.5 Statutory Protection

Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979

2.5.1 Both above and below ground archaeological remains that are considered Nationally can be identified and protected under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979. Any works affecting a scheduled Monument should be preceded by an application to the Secretary of State for Scheduled Monument Consent (SMC). ⌗Geophysical investigation or the use of a metal detector requires advance permission from Historic England.

Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990

2.5.2 The legal requirements on control of development and alterations affecting buildings, including those which are listed or in conservation areas (which are

protected by law), is set out in the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990.

Enterprise and Regulatory Reform Act 2013

2.5.3   From April 2014, the act introduced changes to the Planning (Listed Building and Conservation Areas) Act 1990. This covers heritage planning and legal requirements around nationally and locally listed buildings and consent orders. It upholds levels of existing heritage protection, whilst also simplifying the process. Listed Building Heritage Partnership Agreements were introduced to allow listed building consent for specified works (other than demolition), to listed buildings covered by the Agreement, which would otherwise require several consents. Listed Building Consent Orders and Locally Listed Building Consent Orders have been introduced to allow local planning authorities to grant permission for works (other than demolition) to listed buildings in their area, which would otherwise require several consents. Where new buildings are listed, it is now possible to declare that specific features of the building, or specific buildings or structures attached to, or within the curtilage of the listed building are not of special interest. The demolition of unlisted buildings in conservation areas now requires planning permission rather than conservation area consent.

Hedgerow Regulations (statutory Instrument No. 1160) 1997

2.5.4   The Regulations apply to most countryside hedgerows. In particular, they affect hedgerows which are 20 meters or more in length; which meet another hedgerow at each end; are on or adjoin land used for: agriculture, forestry, the breeding or keeping of horses, ponies or donkeys, common land, village greens, Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) or Local Nature Reserves. The act is to protect important countryside hedgerows from removal, either in part or whole. Removal not only includes grubbing out, but anything which could result in the destruction of the hedge. A hedgerow is deemed important and therefore protected if it is at least 30 years old and meets a number of other criteria.

Treasures Act 1996

2.5.5   The act is designed to deal with finds of treasure in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. It legally obliges finders of objects which constitute a legally defined term of treasure to report their find to their local coroner within 14 days. An

inquest led by the coroner then determines whether the find constitutes treasure or not. If it is declared to be treasure then the finder must offer the item for sale to a museum at a price set by an independent board of antiquities experts known as the Treasure Valuation Committee. Only if a museum expresses no interest in the item, or is unable to purchase it, can the finder retain it. 'Treasure' is defined as being: (i) All coins from the same find, if it consists of two or more coins, and as long as they are at least 300 years old when found. If they contain less than 10% gold or silver there must be at least 10 in the find for it to qualify; (ii) Two or more prehistoric base metal objects in association with one another; (iii) Any individual (non-coin) find that is at least 300 years old and contains at least 10% gold or silver; (iv)Associated finds: any object of any material found in the same place as (or which had previously been together with) another object which is deemed treasure; (v) Objects substantially made from gold or silver but are less than 300 years old, that have been deliberately hidden with the intention of recovery and whose owners or heirs are unknown.

Burial Act 1857.

2.5.6   Its purpose is to regulate burial grounds. It regulates where and how deceased people may be buried and provides for the exhumation of remains. The Act made it illegal to disturb a grave (other than for an officially sanctioned exhumation).

2.6   Local Policies

2.6.1   Ashford Borough Council, has a Heritage Strategy dated October 2017. The Ashford Borough Council Local Plan (2000), relating to the heritage assets of the Borough, many policies have now been superseded by other development plan documents or changes in national planning policy. However, three saved policies continue to apply until the adoption of the Local Plan 2030. EN16 Development in Conservation Areas sets out criteria that will be required to be met if development or redevelopment is proposed in a conservation area. EN23 Sites of Archaeological Importance protects important archaeological sites from development unless applications have adequately demonstrated that the site will be satisfactorily preserved in situ or by record. Thirdly, EN28 Historic Parks and gardens protects such elements of the heritage of the Borough from

development which would harm their setting or character. There are three policies in the Draft Local Plan that address the protection and enhancement of the heritage assets of the borough. Draft Policies ENV13 Conservation and Enhancement of Heritage Assets, ENV14 Conservation Areas and ENV15 Archaeology

POLICY EN16: Development in Conservation Areas.

2.6.2 Development or redevelopment within Conservation Areas will be permitted provided such proposals preserve or enhance the character or appearance of the area. Proposals must fulfil each of the following criteria: (a) the scale and detailed design of new work has respect for the historic, architectural and landscape context of the established character of the area; (b) the materials proposed to be used are appropriate to the locality and in sympathy with existing buildings; (c) the following are retained – buildings and streets of townscape character, trees, open spaces, walls, fences or any other features which contribute positively to the character and appearance of the area; (d) the development does not generate levels of traffic, parking, or other environmental problems which would damage the character or appearance of the area; and (e) the use proposed is appropriate.

POLICY EN23: Sites of Archaeological Importance.

2.6.3 In exceptional circumstances, permission may be given for development affecting important archaeological sites of regional or local importance, if the applicant has demonstrated that the site will be satisfactorily preserved either in situ or by record. Any archaeological recording should be by an approved archaeological body and take place in advance of development in accordance with a specification and programme of work to be submitted to and approved by the Borough Council.

POLICY EN28: Historic Parks and Gardens.

2.6.4 Proposals which would harm the character or setting of a historic park or garden will not be permitted.

2.6.5 The following policies are those is the draft 2030 Local Plan. The final draft was submitted to the Secretary of State in December 2017 for approval.

POLICY ENV13: Conservation and Enhancement of Heritage Assets (Draft 2030 Local Plan).

2.6.6   Proposals which protect, conserve and enhance the heritage assets of the Borough, sustaining and enhancing their significance and the contribution they make to local character and distinctiveness, will be supported. Proposals that make sensitive use of heritage assets through regeneration, particularly where these bring redundant or under-used buildings and areas into appropriate and viable use consistent with their conservation, will be encouraged. Development will not be permitted where it will cause loss or substantial harm to the significance of heritage assets or their settings unless it can be demonstrated that substantial public benefits will be delivered that outweigh the harm or loss. All applications which will affect a heritage asset or its setting should be supported by a description of the asset's historic, architectural or archaeological significance with an appropriate level of detail relating to the asset and the likely impact of the proposals on its significance.

POLICY ENV14: Conservation Areas (Draft 2030 Local Plan)

2.6.7   Development or redevelopment within Conservation Areas will be permitted provided such proposals preserve or enhance the character and appearance of the Area. Proposals should fulfil each of the following: (a) the scale and detailed design of all new development and alterations should respect the historical and architectural character, proportion and massing, including roofscapes, of the area, the relationship between buildings, the spaces between them and with their setting; (b) the materials proposed should be appropriate to the locality and in sympathy with the existing buildings; (c) buildings and streets of townscape character, trees, open spaces, walls, fences or any other features should be retained where they contribute positively to the character and appearance of the area; (d) the development should not generate levels of traffic, parking or other environmental problems which would damage the character or appearance of the area; and e. the use should be appropriate.

2.6.8   Proposals for inappropriate demolition, alteration or extension of buildings in Conservation Areas or which could prejudice important views into or out of a Conservation Area, will be resisted where such proposals would be detrimental to their character or setting.

POLICY ENV15: Archaeology (Draft 2030 Local Plan)

2.6.9   The archaeological and historic integrity of Scheduled Monuments and other important archaeological sites, together with their settings, will be protected and where possible enhanced. Development which would adversely affect such designated heritage assets will not be permitted. Planning applications, on sites where there is, or is the known potential for, an archaeological heritage asset, should include an appropriate desk-based assessment of the asset. In addition, where important or potentially significant archaeological heritage assets may exist, developers will be required to arrange for field evaluations to be carried out in advance of the determination of planning applications.

2.6.10   Where the case for development affecting a heritage asset of archaeological interest is accepted, the archaeological remains should be preserved in situ as the preferred approach. Where this is not possible or justified, appropriate provision for preservation by record may be an acceptable alternative. Any archaeological recording should be by an approved archaeological body and take place in accordance with a specification and programme of work to be submitted to and approved by the Borough Council in advance of development commencing.

Local Planning Guidance

2.6.11   The Kent Design Guide, 2008. Prepared by the Kent Design Group, it provides the criteria necessary for assessing planning applications. Helps building designers, engineers, planners and developers achieve high standards of design and construction. It is adopted by the Council as a Supplementary Planning Document.

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1   Introduction

3.1.1   This Desk-Based Assessment was commissioned by Forest Homes (Kent) Ltd to support a planning application. This assessment has been prepared in accordance with guidelines set out by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (see below) and in the National Planning Policy Framework and the Good

Practice Advice notes 1, 2 and 3, which now supersede the PPS 5 Practice Guide, which has been withdrawn by the Government.

3.1.2 The Good Practice Advice notes emphasizes 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.

3.1.3 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 its 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".

3.1.4 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 CIfA. 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.*

IFA (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 Designated Heritage Assets

4.2.1 There are a number of criteria to address and they include the impact of the proposed development on the significance of the Heritage Assets.

Heritage Assets

4.2.2 Any Heritage Asset which includes a World Heritage Site, Scheduled Monument, Listed Building, Wreck, Registered Park or Garden, Conservation Area or Landscape can be identified as having a degree of significance meriting consideration in planning decisions. Heritage Assets are the valued components of the historic environment and will include designated Heritage Assets as well as assets identified by the Local Planning Authority during the process of decision making or through the plan making process.

Setting

4.2.3 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 or may affect the ability to appreciate that significance or may be neutral.

Significance

4.2.4 The value of a Heritage Asset to this and future generations because of its heritage interest. That interest may be archaeological, architectural, artistic or historic. Significance may be informed by a number of factors which may include; assessment of the significance of the site, setting and building, where relevant, under a number of headings:

- Historic significance – the age and history of the asset, its development over time, the strength of its tie to a particular architectural period, the layout of a site, the plan form of a building, internal features of special character including chimneystacks and fireplaces,

- Cultural significance – the role a site plays in an historic setting, village, town or landscape context, the use of a building perhaps tied to a local industry or agriculture, social connections of an original architect or owner,

- Aesthetic/architectural significance – the visual qualities and characteristics of the asset (settlement site or building), long views, legibility of building form, character of elevations, roofscape, materials and fabric special features of interest,

- Archaeological significance – evolution of the asset, phases of development over different periods, important features, evidence in building fabric, potential for below ground remains.

4.3 Sources

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

Archaeological databases

4.3.2 Although it is recognised that national databases are an appropriate resource for this particular type of assessment, the local Historic Environmental Record held at Kent County Council (KCCHER) contains sufficient data to provide an accurate insight into catalogued sites and finds within both the proposed development area and the surrounding landscape.

4.3.3 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.

4.3.4 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.

Cartographic and Pictorial Documents

4.3.5 A full map regression exercise has been incorporated within this assessment. Research was carried out using resources offered by the Kent County Council, the internet, Ordnance Survey and the Kent Archaeological Society. A full listing

of bibliographic and cartographic documents used in this study is provided in Section 10.

Aerial photographs

4.3.6   The study of the collection of aerial photographs held by Google Earth was undertaken (Plates 1-8).

Secondary and Statutory Resources

4.3.7   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

4.3.8   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 ARCHAOLOGICAL 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 (500m radius centred on each site of the PDA), followed by a full record of archaeological sites, monuments and records within the site's immediate vicinity. There are no Conservation Areas, Scheduled Monuments, Registered Parks and Gardens, Historic Parks and Gardens or NMP cropmarks within the

search area. Time scales for archaeological periods represented in the report are listed in Table 1.

Prehistoric	Palaeolithic	*c.* 500,000 BC – *c.*10,000 BC
	Mesolithic	*c.*10,000 BC – *c.* 4,300 BC
	Neolithic	*c.* 4.300 BC – *c.* 2,300 BC
	Bronze Age	*c.* 2,300 BC – *c.* 600 BC
	Iron Age	*c.* 600 BC – *c.* AD 43
Romano-British		*c.* AD 43 – *c.* AD 410
Anglo-Saxon		AD 410 – AD 1066
Medieval		AD 1066 – AD 1485
Post-medieval		AD 1485 – AD 1900
Modern		AD 1901 – present day
Table 1: Classification of Archaeological periods		

5.1.2   There Kent HER records within the 500m assessment are relate to the PDA's position in The Forstal area of Mersham of which has a large number of Listed Buildings and farmsteads. Many of the records relate to finds and features found as part of the CTRL, predominately relating to the Medieval period. The table in Figure 16 details all the finds, features and buildings within the assessment area.

5.2   Designated Heritage Assets

5.2.1   One of the tasks of the site visit was aimed to identify any designated heritage assets within the wider context of the PDA in accordance with The Setting of Heritage Assets – English Heritage Guidance (English Heritage 2011).

5.2.2   This guidance states that "setting embraces all of the surroundings (land, sea, structures, features and skyline) from which the heritage asset can be experienced or that can be experienced from or with the asset" (The Setting of Heritage Assets, English Heritage 2011).

5.2.3   There are 16 listed heritage assets within the assessment area and two HER building records of a non-designated assets. Five of the listed assets relate to external memorials in the churchyard, of which the PDA has no impact and these assets are not included here. Full details of these can be found in Figure 16. The

remainder are a group around the Church leading along Church Street towards The Forstal area and the PDA. Goodrich Cottage is next to the PDA and The Farriers Arms opposite one of the entrance by the village Hall. Figure 19 shows the location of the village hall at the rear of the Goodrich Cottage. The extension to the hall will be on the side away from the rear of the cottage. The intervisibility between Goodrich Cottage and the proposed houses will be minimised due to the village hall and also vegetation around the edge of the hall car park. Intervisibility by the other properties do not occur due to their location, some set back lower that the road level and also that there are already existing properties fronting the road in Church Road and Blind Lane.

Table 1 Designated Heritage Assets

TR 03 NE 125	Medieval	Barn, 30m north west of Mersham Manor. Grade II* listed (1233497). Main construction periods 1300 to 1620. Timber framed and weatherboarded on ragstone base, with ragstone and red brick cladding to rear elevations. Plain tiled roof. Hipped roof with hipped streys to left and to right. Interior: 4 full bays with aisles with cantilevered terminal outshots, somewhat obscured by later divisions. One end bay and aisles extensively reconstructed c.1600, but main assembly and part of aisle (reversed assembly) probably contemporary with early C14 Mersham Manor
TR 03 NE 108	Medieval	Mersham Manor. Grade I listed (1233281). Early to mid-14th century, altered in the late 18th century and extended mid-19th century. Ragstone, painted to entrance elevation and extended with ragstone (part painted) with red brick dressings. Plain tiled roof. Hall house plan.
TR 03 NW 26	Post Medieval	Goodrich Cottage. Grade II listed (1233657). Dated 1737 with early core. Timber framed and clad with red and blue brick chequered brick on ragstone base. Plain tiled roof. Four bay lobby entry plan. Two storeys on plinth with hipped roof and stacks to right and projecting at end left. Four wooden casements on 1st floor, 3 on ground floor, with door of 6 raised and fielded panels to right with flat hood on brackets, and datestone over. Interior. catslide outshot to rear.
TR 03 NE 118	Medieval	Church of St. John the Baptist. Grade I listed (1276693). 12th century origin, expanded 13th century with 14-15th century fenestration. 19-20th century vestry. Ragstone with plain tiled roof. Important internal monuments particularly relating to the Knatchbull family.
TR 03 NW 23	Medieval to Post Medieval	The Farriers Arms. Public House, 16th century. Extended in the 18th-19th centuries. Grade II

		listed (1233523). Timber framed core, clad and extended with painted brick and tile hung to rear, with plain tiled roof. Main block of one storey and attic with hipped dormer and stack to centre left and 2 wooden casements, with 2 storey hipped wing to left with stack at end left, with glazing bar sash on 1st floor and with 2 storey wing to right with glazing bar sash on 1st floor, 2 wooden casements on ground floor and stack at end right. Central boarded door in raking porch. Catslide outshot to rear. Framed interior with moulded beams.
TR 03 NW 38	Post Medieval	Stables/outbuildings about 5-20m south and west of The Farriers Arms. Grade II listed (1276525). 18-19th century. Timber framed and weatherboarded and extended with ragstone with red brick dressings. Plain tiled roof. Single storey weatherboarded range with hipped roof. Wooden casements to left and end right, and double carriage doors to centre and sliding doors to right. Hoist housing/upper floor passage at end left with wooden casement and half-door below, joining onto 2 storey ragstone block, hipped to left, with central segmentally headed boarded door. Included for group value.
TR 03 NE 147	Post Medieval	Bridge House. Grade II listed (1276697). 17th century. Painted brick with plain tiled roof. Lobby entry plan. Two storeys on plinth with plat band. Half-hipped roof with moulded stacks to centre left. Three wooden casements on first floor, and 2 tripartite wooden casements with segmental heads on ground floor. Plank and stud door to centre with raking dormer, with hipped dormer in upper section. Reported timber framed interior. Investigations undertaken by Oxford Archaeology in 1999 prior to the relocation of the house revealed earlier floor levels. A possible clay floor and a brick floor were revealed in the NW and north rooms respectively, though no dating evidence was found. A watching brief during the moving of the house revealed possible late 14th century activity consisting of post holes, pits, and a gully. Some residual 12th century pottery probably relates to earlier activity in the vicinity rather than an earlier phase of the dwelling.
TR 03 NW 36	Post Medieval	Bell House. Grade II listed (1233520). 16th century, clad and extended in the 18th century. Timber framed, exposed to rear with brick infill, clad and extended with ragstone and painted brick. Plain tiled roof. Two storeys and attic on ragstone plinth with parapet to hipped roof with 2 flat dormers with stacks to end left and to end right. Regular fenestration of 5 sashes on 1st floor with sunken panels over and aprons below and 4 sashes on ground floor with gauged heads.

		Central half-glazed door in doorcase with engaged columns and entablature blocks bearing open pediment. Raking wall attached to right. Ragstone return walls, and exposed framed rear wings.
TR 03 NW 46	Medieval to Post Medieval	Denne and Projecting Walls. Grade II listed (1276579). 16th century or earlier core, re-fronted in the late 18th century. Timber framed origin, clad with galleted ragstone, extended with tuck-pointed red brick. Plain tiled roof. Two parallel ranges. Entrance front: 2 storeys on ragstone plinth, with 3 gauged brick arches on ground floor, and paired modillion eaves cornice to hipped roof with rear stacks. Four glazing bar sashes with louvred shutters on 1st floor, and 3 on ground floor with gauged heads. Door to centre left, with moulded panels and moulded circular central panel, with traceried semi-circular fanlight and pediment on fluted pilasters. Projecting from left a brick wall about 7 feet high with boarded gateway, projecting about 20 metres. Wall projecting to right, about 10 metres, on ragstone base. Rear wing clad in part in galleted ragstone. Rear range: C16 clasped purlin roof, with re-used smoke blackened timbers, and remains of even earlier cross roof.
TR 03 NW 82	Post Medieval	Brook Cottage. Grade II listed (1233524). Early 18th century. Red brick with tile hanging on first floor and plain tiled roof. Two storeys and attic with half-hipped roof and gabled dormer. Sash to left and glazing bar sash to right on 1st floor, and wooden casements on ground floor. Board door to end left in raking porch.
TR 03 NW 83	Post Medieval	Hannover Mill and Mill House. Grade II listed (1233522). C18 or earlier core, remodelled and greatly extended 1879. Milling machinery by Holmans of Canterbury. Red brick with some tile hung framing. Plain tiled roof. Half-courtyard plan. Main range: 2 storeys and attic. Mill building to right, with 2 hipped dormers, 2 segmentally headed casements on each floor with boarded doors between (on both floors). Three storey block to right, with half-hipped roof and central stack with 1 wooden casement on each floor and open passage- way doorway to ground floor. Brick on ragstone sluice and race walls (the whole mill complex is built on ragstone reinforced walls to stream side) extending some 20 metres upstream. Iron sluice gates with passage over. The wheel is a 12 foot diameter breast-shot wheel with 56 buckets driving 3 sets of stones originally, now only 2. The whole wheel and machinery is enclosed within the mill building.
TR 03 NE 171	Post Medieval	Bell House Cottage. Formerly Grade II listed. Late 18th century, mainly constructed of red

		brick, although the original rear wall is of Kentish ragstone and the rear extension is weatherboarded and has a half-hipped tiled roof with central brick chimneystack. It is thought to have been used as servants' accommodation for a larger detached house, Bell House (Listed at Grade II), situated to the south east
TR 03 NE 239	Post Medieval to Modern	The Annex, Mersham Manor. A 19th century building to the rear of Mersham Manor. Much modified. The building is shown on the Tithe Map of 1840. It is simply recorded as part of the house and gardens of Mersham Court Lodge in the Tithe Apportionment. It was probably an outbuilding, perhaps associated with the gardens of the manor.

5.3   Previous Archaeological Works

5.3.1   There have been a small number of reports produced in relation to evaluations and excavations as part of the CTRL in 1996-1997 in the area to the north of the PDA. These are covered below.

5.3.2   The Museum of London Archaeology Service (MoLAS) undertook an evaluation in the area of Little Hook Farm, circa 450m north, north west from the PDA (EKE5116).   The site was targeted as a result of a number of geophysical anomalies. Total trench length was 150m. Archaeological features were located in all trenches. An Iron Age east-west ditch was found, dated by large amounts of pottery, the amount of suggests that there may be an unidentified Iron Age settlement nearby with the ditch being part of the enclosure of the inhabited area that could lie northwards. A number of what has been interpreted as Post Medieval linear field boundaries were seen aligned south west to north east. No dating evidence was found in the ditches (*Unpublished Document: MoLAS. 1998. West of Mersham: An Archaeological Evaluation*).

5.3.3   An evaluation was undertaken by the Canterbury Archaeological Trust (CAT) in 1998 of land east of Mersham ahead of the CTRL construction (EKE5106) circa 350m north east of the PDA. The area investigated was north of the existing London to Folkestone railway. Ten trenches were excavated with archaeological features in two. These features included a number of pits and a large ditch. Dating evidence from one of the pits was prehistoric pottery dated to the Iron Age but is thought to be residual as the same layer had late Medieval/Post Medieval tile/brick. The ditch was on a west/north-west to east/south-east

alignment and it is possible that it is a continuation of the ditch found in the 1998 evaluation above. The direction of which towards the pond suggests it may well be for drainage as well as or instead of a boundary marker and possibly Medieval in date (*Unpublished Document: Canterbury Archaeological Trust. 1999. Archaeological Evaluation Report: East of Mersham*).

5.3.4 Another evaluation was undertaken by CAT in advance of the CTRL works in an area immediately south of the church in 1998, an area just under 1 hectare (EKE 5108) and circa 300m north east of the PDA. Archaeological features were found in seven of the nine trenches. Finds included 13th century pottery. Many pits and ditches especially in the southern area included iron slag derived from smelting (563kg was recovered). Many post holes and beam slots suggested the site had timber buildings associated with the iron-working. Further evaluation work was also done on the field immediately to the east, which found the continuation of a ditch but no metalworking activity. The site was interpreted as an early Medieval metalworking site. The site also contained late Anglo-Saxon artefacts suggesting the site may have started earlier. After 1200 AD, the site is quiet, then renewal of activity is seen circa 1475-1500 AD. Ditches marked the western and southern boundaries of the site but also carried water to the site. The site also included evidence of a new field system in the late Medieval period with only agricultural features from this point onwards *(Unpublished Document: Canterbury Archaeological Trust. 1999. Mersham, Kent: Detailed Archaeological Works – Interim Report).*

5.3.5 Investigations of earlier activity beneath Bridge House prior to its removal as part of the CTRL works. 7 test pits were dug within the house to determine earlier floor levels, and a watching brief was undertaken during the removal of the house circa 300m north east of the PDA (EKE11016).

Landscape Characterisation

5.3.6 The PDA is in an area characterised by KCC Historic Landscape Characterisation of 'scattered settlement with paddocks (post 1800 extent'. The fields to the south of the PDA are characterised as 'miscellaneous valley bottom paddocks and pastures. To the east is the 'village/hamlet 1810 extent' (Fig. 17).

Designation

5.3.7   A second world war Spitfire crash site, to the east of the PDA has been designated as Protected Military Remains (PMR) site under the Protection of Military Remains Act 1986 where the wreckage of all military aircraft (UK or other nations) that crashed in the United Kingdom, in United Kingdom territorial waters or in United Kingdom controlled waters are automatically protected irrespective of whether there was loss of life or whether the wrecking occurred during peacetime or in a combat. The exact location is not known but is in the area of the recreation field, south east of the pub on the southern side of the East Stour. (Fig. 18).

Stour Palaeolithic Area

5.3.8   The PDA is on the edge of the Palaeolithic area designated PCA 38 being a band north of the PDA running across Mersham and the steep slope.   This area covers the internal part of the Weald basin, where there is an undulating plain of solid bedrock formed variously of Weald Clay, Tunbridge Wells Sand and Wadhurst Clay. Of the Palaeolithic period, two findspots of handaxes are known. One is accurately located at Greenhill Farm Egerton (MKE3388) where a single handaxe was found on surface of a ploughed field. The other is the general Biddenden area. Consequently, the likelihood of Palaolithic remains is considered very low. Immediately to the south of the PDA is PCA 36, being the Stour alluvium and underlying deposits, within Wealden basin in vicinity of Ashford. The alluvium is of the Holocene period and can be underlain at its edges by Pleistocene slopewash deposits that are mostly likely to be of Late Devensian age. Few finds are known. The main site is the quarry at Conningbrook Manor (FWS_M_142). This has produced (very rare, for Britain) evidence of Early Upper Palaeolithic presence in form of a distinctive part-bifacially worked blade point.   The likelihood of finds is classed as low (Fig. 19).

0-100m Radius

5.3.9   There are six KHER entries for this area. Brook cottage, Grade II listed is on the eastern side of Flood Street dating from the early 18th century and is circa 100m south of the PDA (TR 03 NW 82). In the same area are the Grade II listed The Farriers Arms (TR 03 NW 23) and associated stables and outbuildings (TR 03 NW 38). Immediately next to the eastern boundary of the PDA by the village hall is the Grade II listed Goodrich Cottage with a data of 1737, although it has an

earlier core (TR 03 NW 26). To the west of Goodrich Cottage on the present site of the current village hall used to be a barn (MKE 88724). Circa 50m south of the PDA there used to be a row element to a building that has since been demolished that many be pickers huts (MKE 83201).

100-200m Radius

5.3.10   There are six KHER entries for this area. Hanover Mill is circa 150m south east of the PDA on the East Stour river. The mill and house are Grade II listed and originated in the 18th century with late 19th century extensions (TR 03 NW 83). To the east of the PDA, circa 150m and 120m respectively, is Bell House Cottage (TR 03 NE 171) and Bell House (TR 03 NW 36). The cottage used to be listed and is late 18th century and was possibly servant accommodation for the main house. The Grade II listed Bell House is 16th century clad and extended in the 18th century. Bridge House is circa 200m to the north, north east of the PDA and is Grade II listed from the 17th century (TR 03 NE 147). The house has moved northwards as a result of the CTRL and the original site is circa 180m north, north east of the PDA (TR 03 NE 69). The London and Dover Railway was completed by 1844 and passes within 200m north east of the PDA at its closest point (TQ 84 SW 1).

200-300m Radius

5.3.11   There are three KHER entries for this area. Two relate to Portable Antiquities Scheme finds, where the exact location of the find is not known and is recorded to a general grid square. Circa 300m north a Roman coin of Constantine I dating 322-325 AD was found (MKE 56489) and circa 300m south east of the PDA, a single Iron Age coin of Cunobelin was discovered (MKE 68755). The same area as the Iron Age coin is also attributed to a Second World War Spitfire crash site whose exact location is not known (TR 03 NE 240).

300-400m Radius

5.3.12   There are 14 KHER records for this area. The area south of the church, circa 350m east, north east of the PDA, a Medieval metalworking site was found with the main activity dating to 1050-1200 AD, although the site also contained Anglo-Saxon artefacts suggesting earlier use (TR 03 NE 64). Further excavation eastward in the area found boundary ditches plus pits (TR 03 NE 63). North East

of the PDA on the southern side of the churchyard are a number of listed tombs and gravestones from the 18th century, along with a church sundial (TR 03 NE 123, TR 03 NE 172, TR 03 NE 173, TR 03 NE 189, TR 03 NE 188). To the south west of the church is Mersham Manor, which is Grade I listed (TR 03 NE 108) from the early to mid-14th century. The nearby site was also a farmstead originally called Court Lodge (MKE 87420), along with an Annex (TR 03 NE 2389), a 19th century building being an outbuilding to the Manor, and a Grade II* listed barn probably contemporary with the Manor in the 14th century (TR 03 NE 123), circa 350m from the PDA that makes up the complex of buildings.

5.3.13 To the south, south west of the PDA is the Grade II listed building of Denne and projecting walls. Originally built in the 16th century and re-fronted in the 18th century (TR 03 NW 46). This being associated with The Den farmstead (MKE 83198). Circa 320m north west is the farmstead site of Jemmett's Farm. The farm itself has been demolished and after a number of years a new one built slightly to the east of the original site (MKE 83200).

400-500m Radius

5.3.14 There is one KHER record for this area. Sometime in the 19th century a Roman/Anglo-Saxon pottery of cinerary urn and cup and saucer was found circa 450m north east of the PDA (TR 03 NE 9). Ahead of the CTRL construction, evaluations at Little Hook Farm, circa 450m north west of the PDA found linear field ditches relating to the Iron Age dated by pottery (TR 03 NW 19). To the far north east of the assessment area is the Grade I listed church from the 12th century 9TR 03 NE 118). To the far south west of the assessment area is an outfarm that has been demolished (TMKE 56489).

5.4   Archaeological and Historical Narrative

5.4.1 Mersham means settlement of the Mǣrsas or famous ones. Being '*Maersa hām*' in old English. It was spelt Mersaham in 858AD, Merseham in 1086 AD and was Mersham by 1191 AD. It is thought this probably related to a tribe of victorious warriors. Forstal is a word rarely found outside of Kent and many minor settlements are referred to in Kent as '*forstals*'. It means a stall,

enclosure or standing place in front of a farmhouse and usually confirmed to the pastoral areas especially around the Weald.

5.4.2   There is little evidence within Mersham during the prehistoric, Iron Age and Roman periods. Although following the CTRL excavations at Little Hook Farm, it is though that an unidentified Iron Age settlement may exist in the area. In the north east of Mersham, there are two ring ditch cropmarks. In the wider area, 1km to the north west of the PDA on the outskirts of Sevington, Bronze Age ring ditches, fields systems and trackways have been found. Finds included struck flint. Pottery from the site all came from the Roman period with a gap in occupation in that area until the 12th and 13th century. The lack of Roman finds suggests the landscape fell out if use during the Iron Age and the area not intensively occupied by the Romans other than the Roman Road from Ashford towards the fort at Lympne passed circa 1km south of the PDA.

5.4.3   Hasted, an historian writing in 1798, comments that Mersham was given by one Siward and Matilda (his wife) or alternatively by King Ethelred to the monks of Christ Church. The village is believed to date back to Saxon times when the original church was replaced by a stone one in the 12th century. At the time of the Domesday Book in 1086 AD, the village was part of the Longridge Hundred and the Archbishop of Canterbury Christ Church held the lands. There were 48 householder, 39 villagers and 9 smallholders. There were 12 ploughland for 3 lord's ploughteams with 16 men's plough teams. In all there were 13 acres of meadow, Woodland, 2 mills, 2 salthouses and a church. One of those mills is possible that at Hannover Mill and the other Swanton Mill. Metal working was a significant feature to the village in the area to the south of the church in the early Medieval period, although it may have started earlier in Saxon times as it formed part of its dues to Christ Church Priory. The church was extended in the 13th century and new windows added in the 14th and 15th centuries.

5.4.4   East of the village three Anglo-Saxon burials were found in 1828, near Bower Farm. The burials included grave goods of brooches, buckles, sword, spearhead and knife. There were also some other possible burials from this period found elsewhere in the village in the 19th century, as well as a cinerary urn. This eastern area of the church formed part of the Medieval settlement area following

quarrying in 1967 where wells, pits and pottery was discovered from the 13th and 14th centuries.

5.4.5   A distinctive feature to Kent is the large-scale farmstead, often called a Court Lodge farm and is usually sited next to a church, which often developed as a manorial or estate farm. This appears to be the case here at Mersham. The Court Lodge is now known as the Manor House and the Court Lodge name has since passed to a nearby modern property.

5.4.6   Mersham Hatch on the north side of the A28, Ashford to Hythe Road is the seat of the Knatchbull family and has belonged to the family since the time of Henry VIII. The Knatchbull family have many internal monuments in the church and a family plot outside and was a major landowner in the area with Christ Church second largest.

5.4.7   Essentially the village was a farming community made up of many farmsteads with pasture and orchards. It consisted of three parts. The northern part by the Knatchbull park. The middle section of the village being mainly sheep pasture and the far southern area being of clay and cold and sterile soil, which used to be inaccessible in winter. The area in this time was a collection of hamlets and isolated farmsteads.

In 1801 the population was 571, rising to 722 by 1881 as a result of population growth as seen elsewhere during the same period. In 1844 the railway from Ashford to Folkestone passed through the village to the south of the church via a cutting. This necessitation a change in the road levels of Church Road in order than it could pass over the cutting. The opening of the M20 in the late 1970s, close to the main Ashford to Hythe Road further split Mersham from Mersham Hatch.   In the late 1990s, the Chanel Tunnel Rail Link was constructed immediately to the north of the Victorian railway and the cutting replaced in parts with a tunnel.

     5.5   Cartographic Sources and Map Regression

Andrews, Dury and Herbert map of 1769

5.5.1 Andrews, Dury and Herbert published their atlas some thirty years before the Ordnance Survey, immediately becoming the best large-scale maps of the county. This shows a sparsely populated landscape. The church and the cluster of buildings to the west of that can be seen. Moving down south westwards on the east side of Church Road is the location of Bell House. Further south west is a small road to the east towards the river in which the mill is currently. The southern corner is likely to be the Farriers Arms. Blind lane which traverses north west, takes a more rounded route back up towards Mersham Heath. On the western side of Church Road, one of the properties is likely to be Goodrich Cottage. However, there appears to be another building fronting the road broadly in the area of the Old Post Office. There are also two buildings showing on the northern side of Blind Lane and a larger group of buildings on Blind Line to the north West. This may be Jemmett's Farm. Otherwise, the area of the PDA appears to be fields. (Fig. 3).

Hasted, 1798

5.5.2 The area is still sparsely populated and the locations of buildings not dissimilar to the map above other than the church appears to be located too far to the north east along Church Street (Fig. 4).

Ordnance Surveyors Drawings 1797

5.5.3 This map shows the individual buildings and essentially shows an agricultural landscape. The area of the PDA is fields and on the eastern boundary can been seen Goodrich Cottage. The building to the south of it seems to have gone. The map still does not appear to show a drainage ditch in the area of the PDA. To the south of the PDA there appears to be an area of Green. To the north west of the PDA is the farmstead but the other buildings along Blind Lane are no longer showing. Also, Blind Lane now appears to have a 'kink' in the trajectory of the road. It may be that the footpath that currently passes to the south of Jemmett Farm follows the path of the old road. To the south east are the buildings associated with The Farrier Arms. Further south east of the Farrier Arms is the Mill building and the course of The East Stour passes this point. South west of the PDA a separate watercourse branches off The East Stour and the straight lines suggest this is man-made. To the east on the opposite side of Church Road

is Bell House and associated cottage. Moving north east up Church Road can been seen the cluster of buildings and the Manor House, annex and barn around the church. (Fig. 5).

Tithe Map from 1841

5.5.4 The tithe map shows greater detail. The PDA forms parts of the two fields designated 245 and 246 both of which are pasture with the owner as Jeremiah Goodrich and the occupier of the land Onslow Andrews. Part of field 246 within the area of the PDA now appears to follow the line of the present drainage ditch. A footpath crosses field 246 from Blind Lane towards the farmstead known here as Boys Farm (later known as Jemmett's Farm) essentially cutting off the corner of Blind Lane. The building designated 248 is Goodrich Cottage and 244 is a barn and yard at the rear, again, owned by Jeremiah Goodrich and occupied by Henry Rudd. The barn is within the PDA. The location of Farriers Arms and Hanover Mill can be seen to the east of the PDA. The area to the south of the PDA shows the course of The East Stour and the associated drainage ditches (Fig. 6).

Historic OS Map 1872 1:2500

5.5.5 This is the first properly scaled OS map. The PDA is part of a field designated 191 and 172. The farmstead seen to the north west has now changed its name to Jemmett's Farm. The eastern boundary of the PDA still shows Goodrich cottage and associated Barn. To the north east of the PDA can been seen the railway cutting and areas designated 193 and 194 are the banks alongside Church Road that have been constructed in order that the road rises to pass over the railway. This has necessitated a small change in the driveway up to Bell House. The area is still generally pasture. The Denne farmstead can be seen in the south west corner of the map and the area in to the north east of that now labelled The Forstal (Fig. 7).

Historic OS map 1898 1:2,500

5.5.6 No changes to the PDA are apparent other than the barn at the rear of Goodrich Cottage is no longer there, just a small outbuilding. A school has been built north east of Bell House up against the cutting of the railway. No other changes are noted. (Fig.8).

Historic OS map 1907 1:2,500

5.5.7   The PDA has not changed and the general area around is still fields. However, more properties are springing up along the southern side of Blind Lane. (Fig.9).

Historic OS map 1938-1939 1:2,500

5.5.8   There has been one change to the PDA in that there are now two new building next to each other showing to the south west of Goodrich Cottage on the western side of Church Road. North east of Goodrich cottage a new residential property has been built on the south side of the railway cutting. To the north west, Jemmett's Farm appears to have been demolished (Fig.10).

Historic OS map 1971-1972 1: 2,500

5.5.9   There have been significant changes in the area of the PDA. The part that showed 2 new buildings in the previous map now has a large rectangular building labelled village Hall. We know that this hall was built in 1963. To the south west of that is another new building labelled the post office located on the corner of Church Road and Blind Lane. More residential properties have been built on the southern side of Blind Lane. The drainage ditch within the PDA is now showing that there is a footbridge across the two fields. In the area of Hanover Mill a number of large agricultural buildings and silos have been built. To the north west there now appears to be a new set of farm buildings called Jemmett Farm in a slightly different location to the original buildings that were previously demolished (Fig.11).

Historic OS map 1972 1:2500

5.5.10   There does not appear to be any difference to the map above (Fig.12).

Historic OS map 1989-1992 1:2500

5.5.11 A new residential property has been built between the village hall and the Old Post Office. At the southern corner of the PDA, the residential property of Fairlawn has been built and to the west of that, also facing Blind Lane, a pumping station at the southern end of the drainage ditch in the PDA (Fig.13).

Historic OS map 1991-1993 1:2500

5.5.12   There do not appear to be any changes (Fig.14).

Post 1993

5.5.13   The major change in the PDA following the 1991-1993 map is that the village hall
          site has since become a car park to a new village hall built in the area to the rear
          of Goodrich Cottage. Residential houses have also been built between the school
          and Bell House on the eastern side of Church Road.

5.6   Aerial Photographs

1940s

5.6.1   This shows the PDA as part as pasture with the drainage ditch passing through
          the PDA with a number of bushes along the ditch. On the eastern boundary is
          Goodrich Cottage and to the south of that in the PDA is small unidentified
          building. Jemmet Farm to the north west is not in existence. To the north of the
          railway, higher on the slope the area is predominately orchard with pasture
          dominating the area around the PDA. (Plate 1).

1960s

5.6.2   The small building has been replaced with a new village Hall building to the
          south of Goodrich Cottage. Further south of that is the Old Post Office. To the
          north west, new Jemmett Farm buildings have been built. In the field next to the
          PDA there appears to a possible ditch line on a south west to north west axis to
          the west of the drainage ditch. It is unclear as to what this may be but could be
          drainage related or an old field boundary (Plate 2).

1990

5.6.3   No changes are noted to the PDA except that on the eastern and southern
          boundaries, residential properties and the pumping station has been built. In
          the field to the west of the PDA, there appears to be a number of cropmarks.
          One is the line seen on the previous photo but additional ones are seen. A
          shorted one on the same axis to the west, which appears to turn the corner to a
          north west/south east access heading towards the corner of Blind Lane by the

farm. It is possible that part of this this follows some of the old footpath. Again, it is not clear what they relate to. (Plate 3).

2003

5.6.4 The new village hall has been built in its present location at the rear of Goodrich Cottage. The previous building has been demolished and that area is now a car park for the village hall. The CTRL has been constructed to the north of the original railway line with a tunnel in the area to the north of the school which is grassed over. (Plate 4).

2007

5.6.5 The PDA appears to be arable. Some possible cropmarks can be seen to the west of the PDA. (Plate 5).

2008

5.6.6 No changes are noted (Plate 6).

2014

5.6.7 No changes are noted (Plate 7).

2017

5.6.8 No changes are noted other than the PDA has reverted to grass (Plate 8).

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. The walkover survey was undertaken on the 19th July 2018. No artefacts or archaeological features were identified in the walkover (Plates 9-19).

5.7.2 The PDA is grassed with the exception of the tarmacked parking area by the village Hall. The area of the drainage ditch has hedgerow along the northern part of its length incorporating some trees. The area between the village hall parking and the grass field is screened by a hedge. To the north of the PDA, the grassed field continues. In the area bordered by the rear gardens of the

properties in Church Road and Blind lane there is low fencing. The village hall sits slightly lower than the field to the west.

5.8　　Summary of Potential

Palaeolithic

5.8.1　The Palaeolithic period represents the earliest phases of human activity in the British Isles, up to the end of the last Ice Age. The Kent HER has no records from this period within the 500m assessment area. Therefore, the potential for finding remains that date to this period within the confines of the development site is considered **low**.

Mesolithic

5.8.2　The Mesolithic period reflects a society of hunter-gatherers active after the last Ice Age. The Kent HER has no records from this period within the assessment area. Therefore, the potential for finding remains that date to this period within the confines of the development site is considered **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 within the assessment area. Therefore, 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 no records from this period within the assessment area. Therefore, the potential for finding remains that date to this period within the confines of the development site is considered **low.**

Iron Age

5.8.5　The Iron Age is, by definition a period of established rural farming communities with extensive field systems and large 'urban' centres (the Iron Age 'Tribal

capital' or civitas of the Cantiaci). The Kent HER has two records from this period within the assessment area. One being the Iron Age linear field ditches found at Little Hook Farm circa 450m north west of the PDA. It is thought that an unlocated contemporary settlement may be nearby to the north. Under the portable Antiquities scheme (PAS), an Iron Age coin was found and is placed in the records circa 300m south east. However, PAS finds are normally located to a grid square rather than an exact location and therefore the find could have been found anywhere within the wider assessment area. The potential for finding remains that date to this period within the confines of the development site is considered **low**.

Romano-British

5.8.6   The Romano-British period is the term given to the Romanised culture of Britain under the rule of the Roman Empire, following the Claudian invasion in AD 43, Britain then formed part of the Roman Empire for nearly 400 years. The Kent HER has two records from this period within the assessment area. A Samian cup and saucer was found in the 129th century circa 450m north east of the PDA. Also, 300m north of the PDA a Roman coin was found. To the south, just over 1km from the PDA, is the route of the Roman Road from Ashford towards Lympne, which was the location of a Roman fort. The likelihood of chance finds cannot be discounted but the potential for finding remains that date to this period within the confines of the development site is considered **low**.

Anglo-Saxon

5.8.7   The Kent HER has one record from this period within the assessment area of which much is not known. This is a cinerary urn found in the 19th century. There is the possibility that the metal working seen to the east of the church has Anglo-Saxon origins. Therefore, the potential for finding remains that date to this period within the confines of the development site is considered **low**.

Medieval

5.8.8   The Kent HER has seven records from this period within the assessment area. The area around the church to the east has been identified as a metalworking site with slag, pits, ditches for water, and boundary ditches. The Grade I listed church has origins in the early Medieval period and next to the church is also the

14th century Grade I Manor House and Grade II* listed barn. South of the church by the East Stour river is the 16th century public house, The Farriers Arms, which is grade two listed and near to the PDA. Circa 350m south, south west of the PDA is Denne and projecting walls being a Grade II listed 16th property that may have an earlier core. The map regression suggests this area was likely to have been fields in this period. Although the Andrews and Dury map appears to show some additional buildings on the north side of Blind Lane and the west side of Church Road, south of Goodrich Cottage. Theses buildings are no longer here and may be either under more modern buildings on Church Road or undetected under the field at Blind Lane. It is possible that the road in Blind Lane changed trajectory to avoid the flood plain area of the East Stour or it may be due to some other unknown reason. In addition, some of the Google Earth maps suggests possible cropmarks of an unknown identity, that they may possibly relate to drainage ditches or field boundaries or perhaps they could be one of the demolished properties seen in the earlier maps. However, these appear to be located outside of the PDA area. Therefore, the potential for finding remains that date to this period cannot be entirely discounted within the confines of the development site but it is considered **low**.

Post Medieval

5.8.9   The Kent HER has 21 records from this period within the assessment area. Five relate to memorials and sundials in the church yard. The rest relates to buildings with the exception of the London and Dover Railway and six farmstead records. The farmsteads are discussed in the section below. A number of the listed buildings from this period are close to the PDA, especially Goodrich Cottage (Grade II), which is located immediately east of the village hall and is from 1737. Over the road at the Farriers Arms site, are the Grade II listed Post Medieval stables and outbuildings. Circa 100m south of the PDA is Brook Cottage, Grade II listed from the early 18th century situated in Flood Lane. To the east of the PDA on the eastern side of Church Road, circa 120m from the PDA, is the Grade II listed Bell House from the 16th century. That was clad and extended in the 18th century. As the house is set back from the road and that the road is higher than the surrounding land, there is no intervisibility with the PDA. Nearby is also Bell House Cottage, that used to be Grade II listed. Circa 150m south east of the PDA is Hanover Mill and Mill House dated to the 18th century but may have an earlier

core and remodelled extensively in the Victorian period. By the Manor House is a 19th century Annex being a much modified 19th century building. It is not listed but recorded as part of the group with the Manor House. Bridge House is to the north of the PDA. It was originally closer but was moved as part of the CTRL due to its Grade II listed status. Map regression confirms that the PDA was fields in this period, therefore the potential for finding remains that date to this period within the confines of the development site is considered **low**.

Modern

5.8.10 KHER has one record dating to this period being a Protected Military Remains site of a Spitfire Crash in 1940. The exact site is unknown but is thought to be circa 300m south east of the PDA. Therefore, the potential for finding remains dating to this period in the PDA is considered **low.**

Farmsteads

5.8.11 There are six farmstead records. One immediately in the PDA, which is on the site of the present village hall. This was an outfarm to the west of Goodrich Cottage which was a field barn as seen on the early maps that has since been completely demolished. Immediately south of the PDA on the southern side of Blind Lane, was another outfarm thought to be pickers huts, again this has also been demolished and residential properties built in this area. To the west of the PDA, was Jemmett's Farm seen on the Post Medieval maps. This farm was completely demolished and a newer farm called Jemmet Farm rebuilt slightly to the east. Mersham Manor was also a farmstead, originally referred to as a Court Lodge, as the house, barn and annex still exist, there has been only a partial loss of its original form. The other farmstead was in the area to the south, south west of the PDA, being The Den, which appears to have no apparent alteration as a farmstead and an outfarm on the outer edge of the assessment area, which has been demolished.

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.

5.8.13 The desk-based assessment has considered the archaeological potential of the site. Archaeological investigations in the vicinity, map research, the historical environment record results and recent archaeological investigations have shown that the PDA may contain archaeological sites and these can be summarised as:

• Prehistoric: **low**

• Iron Age: **low**

• Roman: **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 PDA was agricultural land, with pasture the most common use. Therefore, any impact on surviving archaeological remains would have been **low**.

6.2.2 The use of the PDA for residential development and the village hall extension will require foundations. As a consequence, the proposed development will have a **high** impact upon any potential archaeology within the area of the foundations. In addition, it is proposed to move the drainage ditch. The depth of which will also have a high impact on any surviving archaeological remains.

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 **low** archaeological potential for all periods. However, the possibility of finding remains from the Medieval period onwards cannot be discounted.

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 Kent County Council (Heritage) 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 Kent County Council, 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 Forest Homes (Kent) Ltd (and representatives) for the use of this document in all matters directly relating to the project.

Paul Wilkinson PhD MCIfA.

SWAT Archaeology

July 2018

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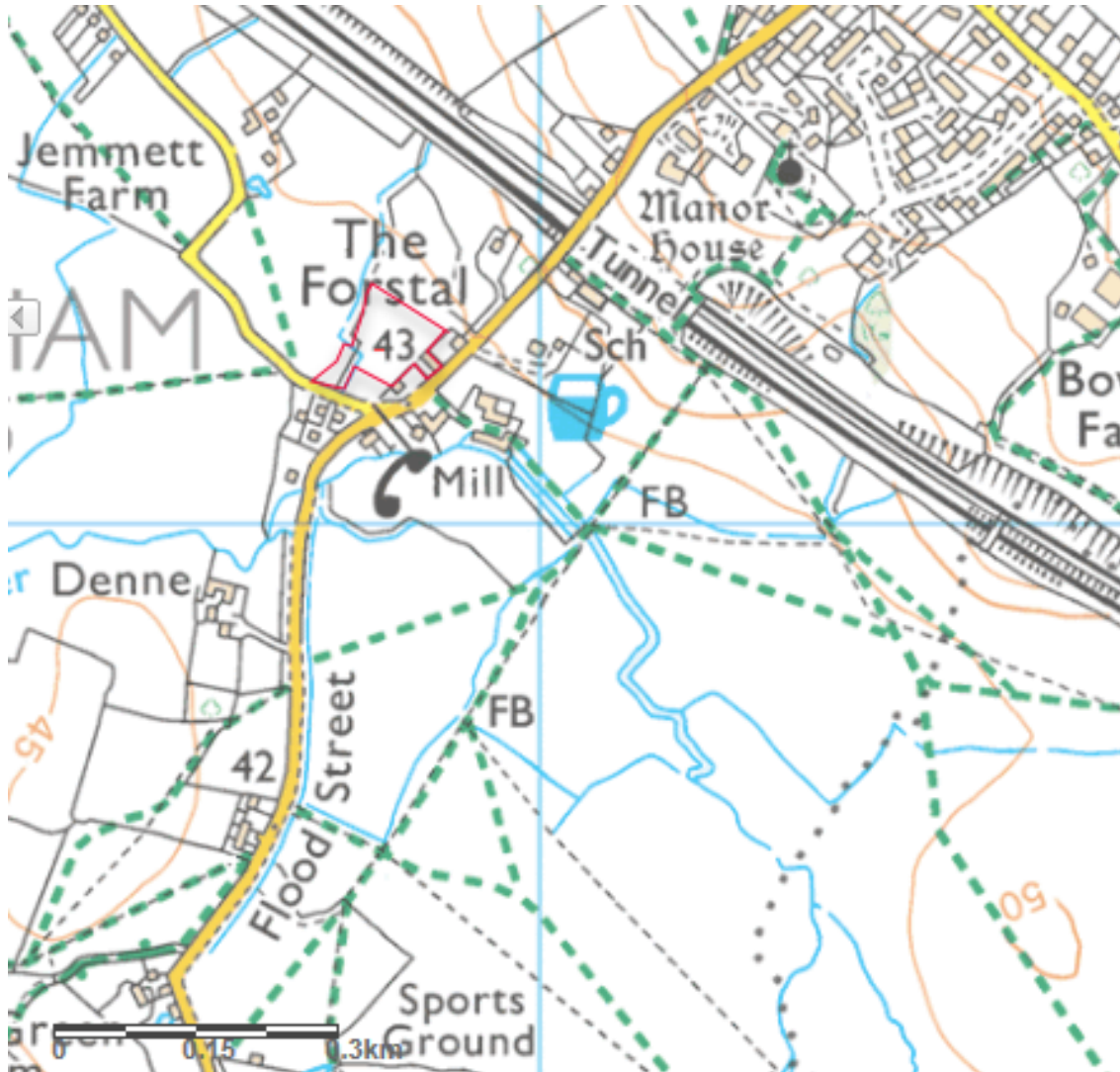https://www.ashford.gov.uk/planning-and-building-control/planning-policy/adopted-development-plan-documents/

Figure 1: Site location map, scale 1:10000.

Figure 2: Proposed Development Area,

Figure 3: Andrew, Dury and Herbert Map from 1769

Figure 4: Hasted, 1798

Figure 5: Ordnance Surveyors Drawing, 1797
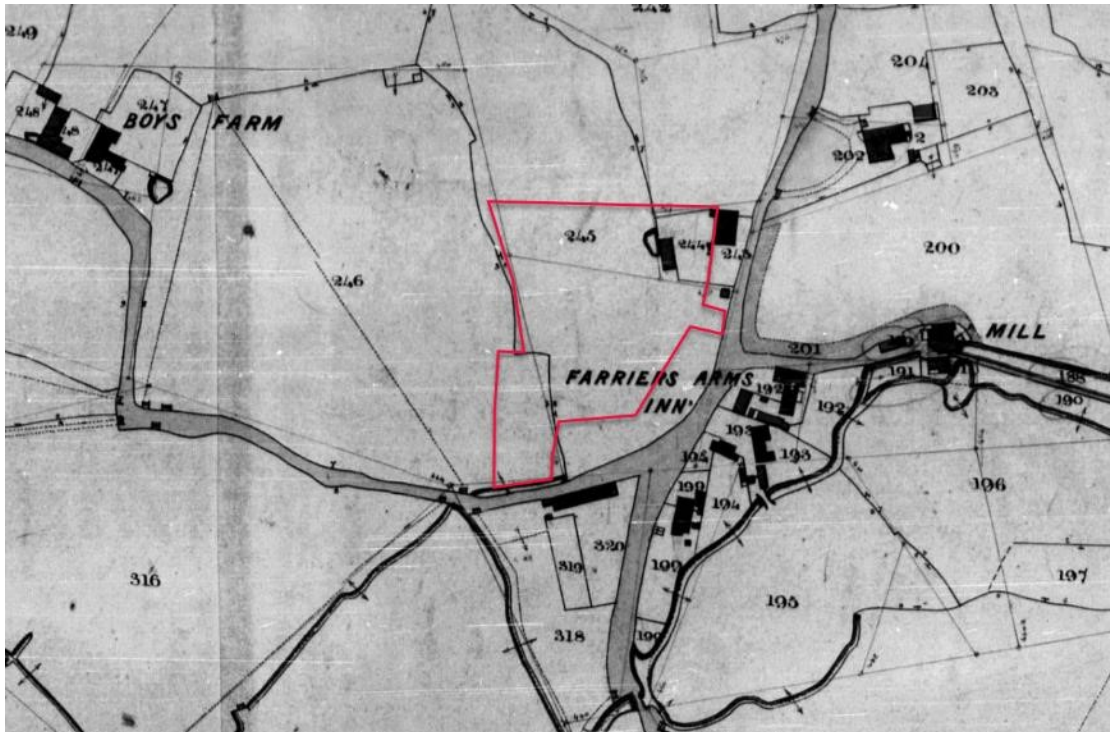
Figure 6: 1841 Tithe Map
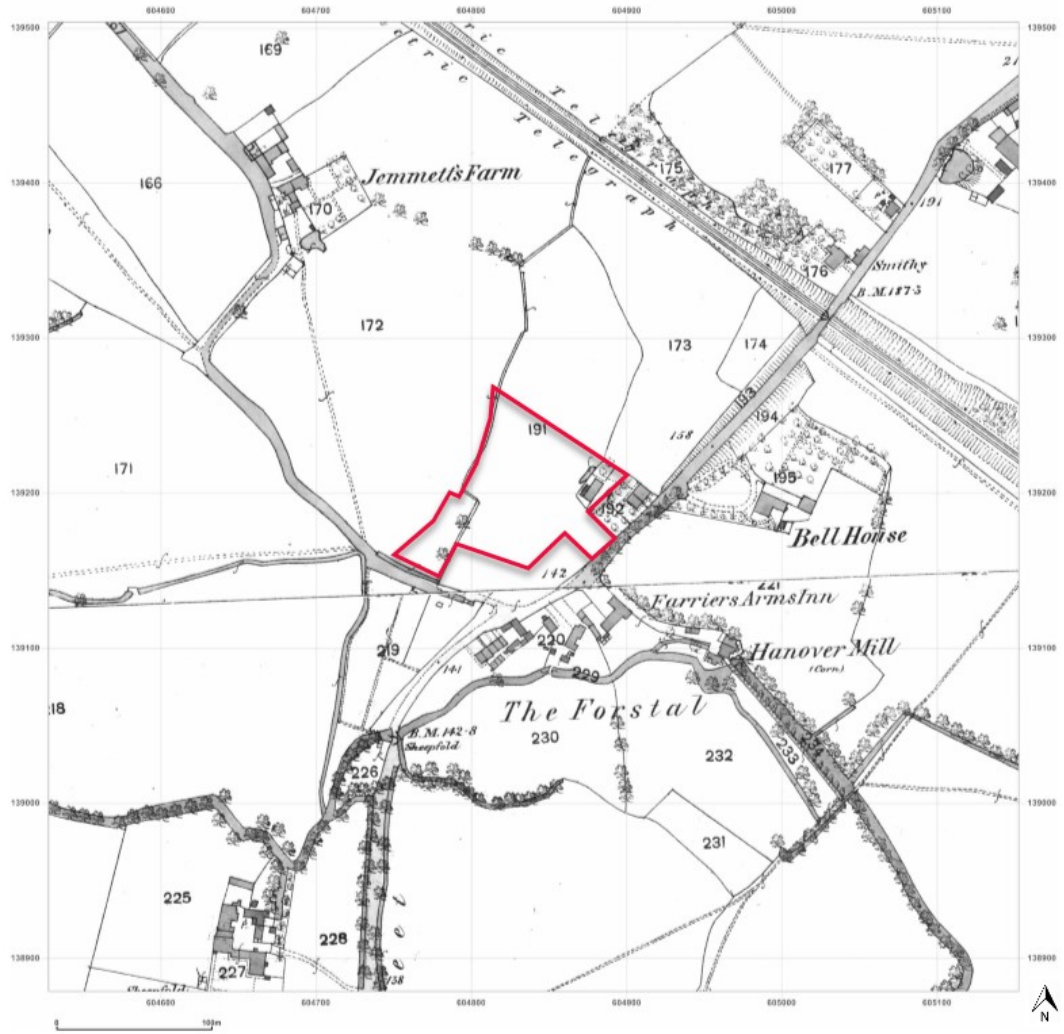
Figure 7: Historic OS Map 1871 1:2500
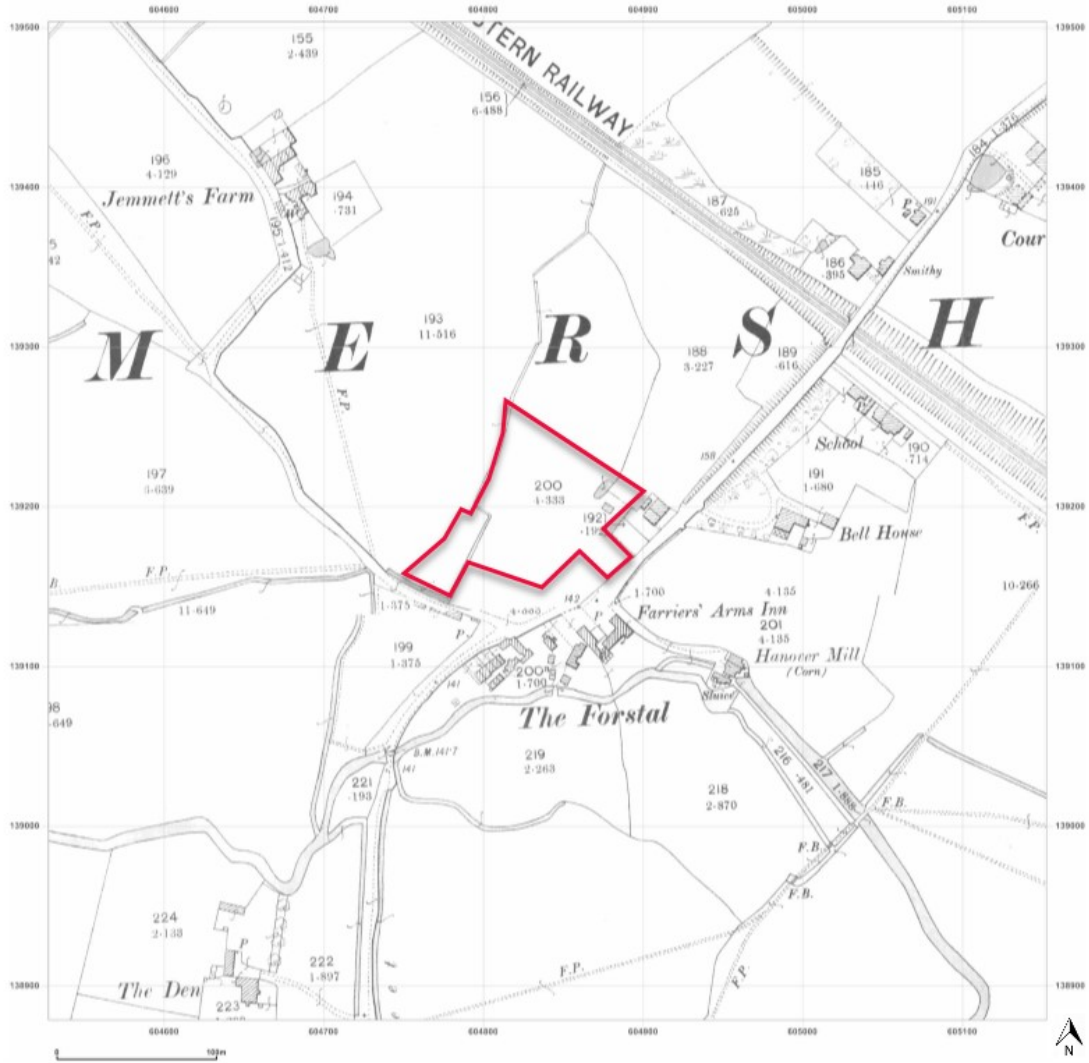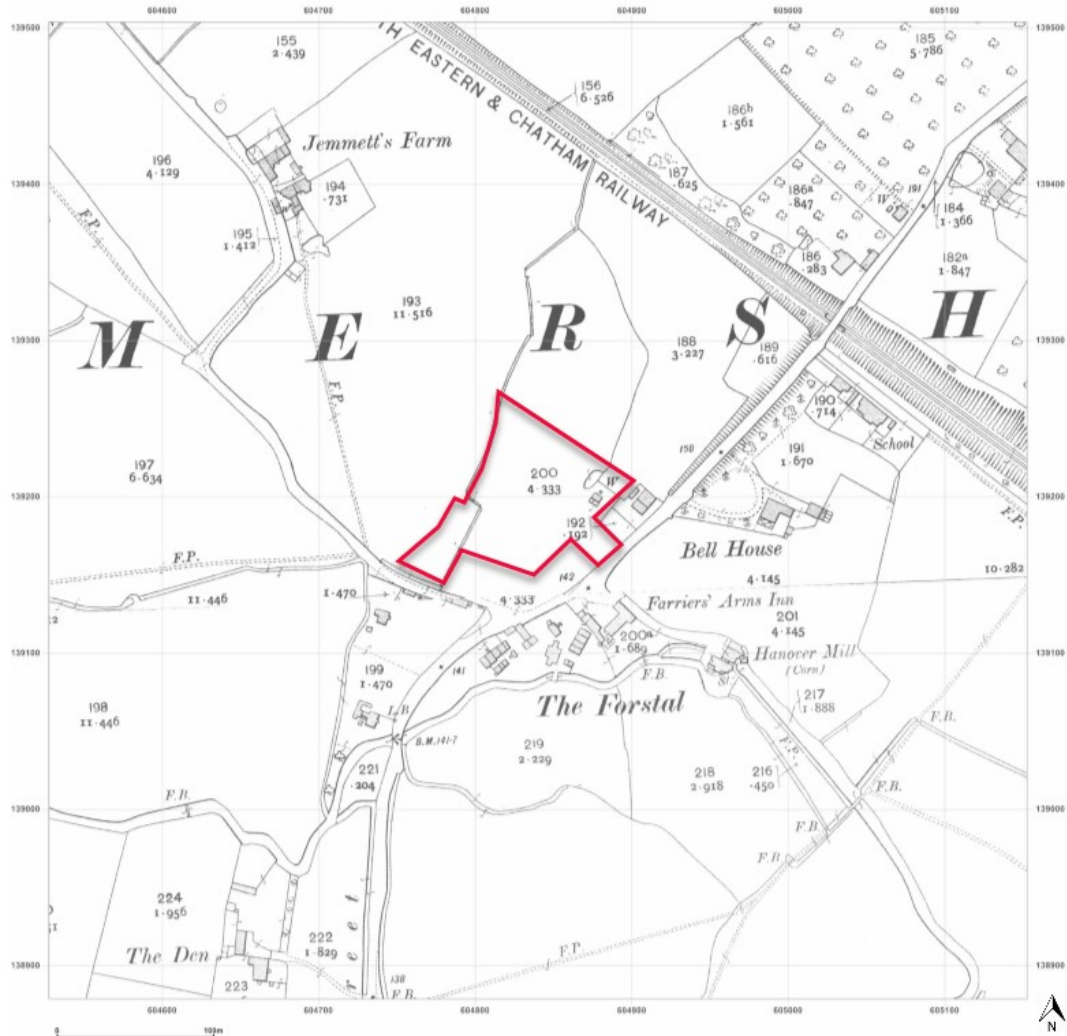
Figure 8: Historic OS Map from 1897-1898 1:2500

Figure 9: Historic OS Map 1907 1:2500

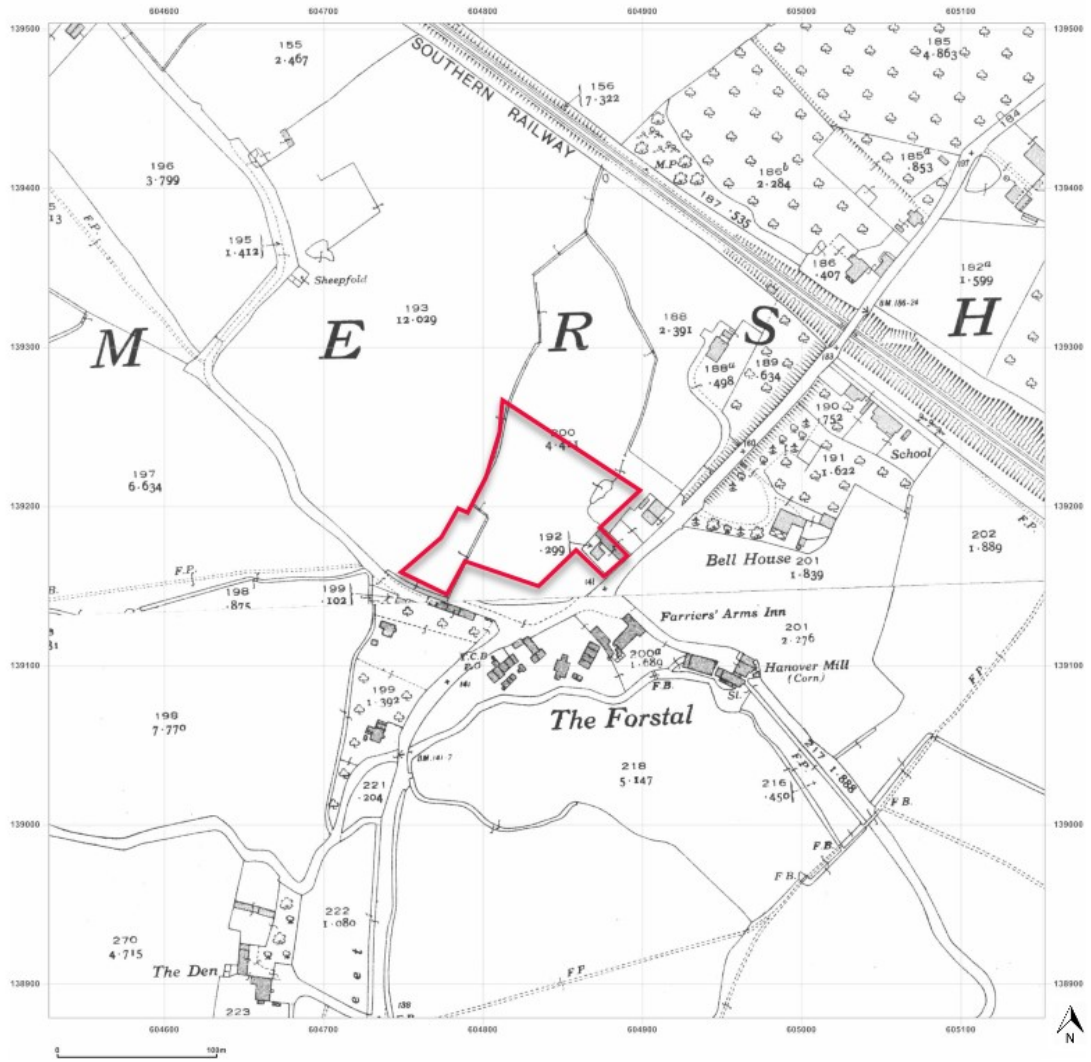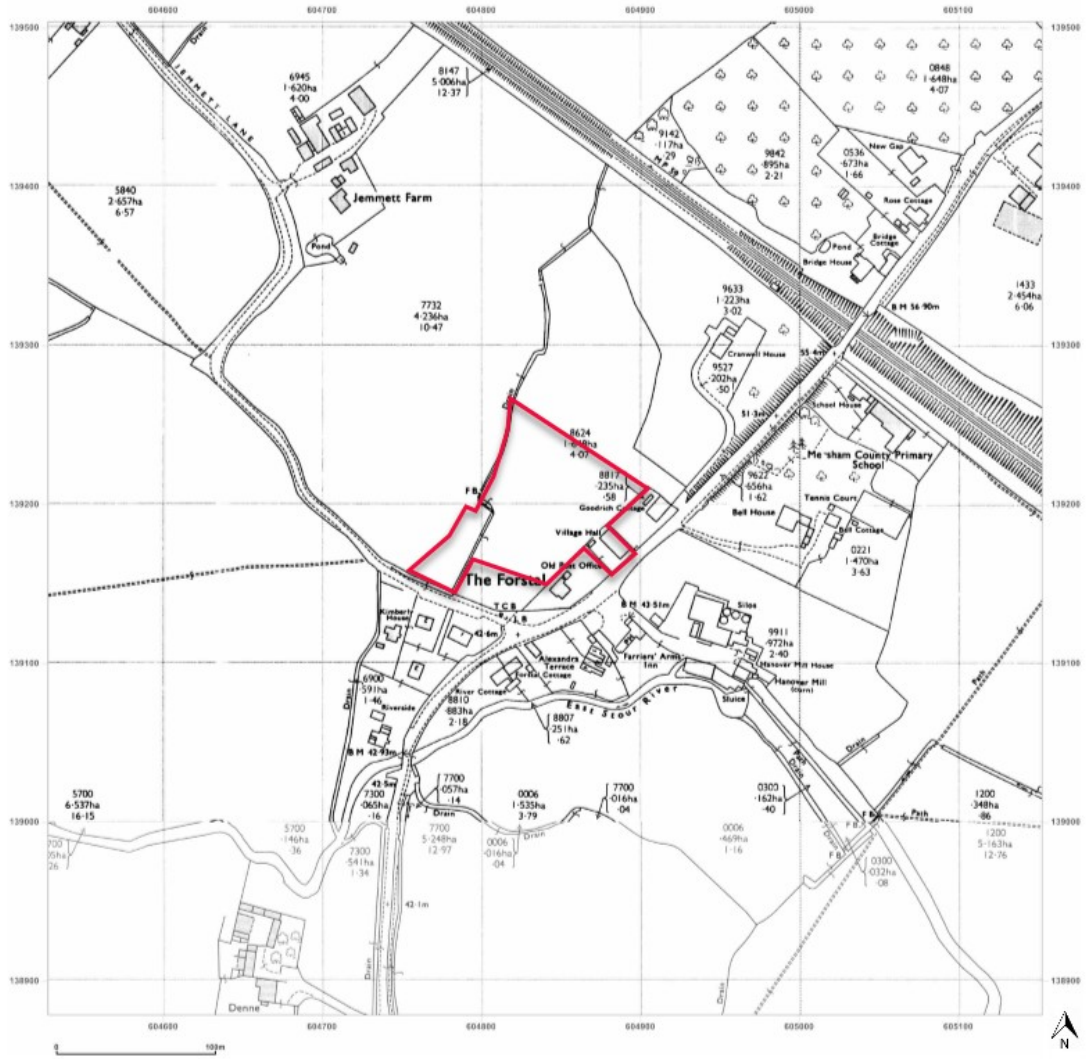*Figure 10: Historic OS Map 1938-1939 1:2500*

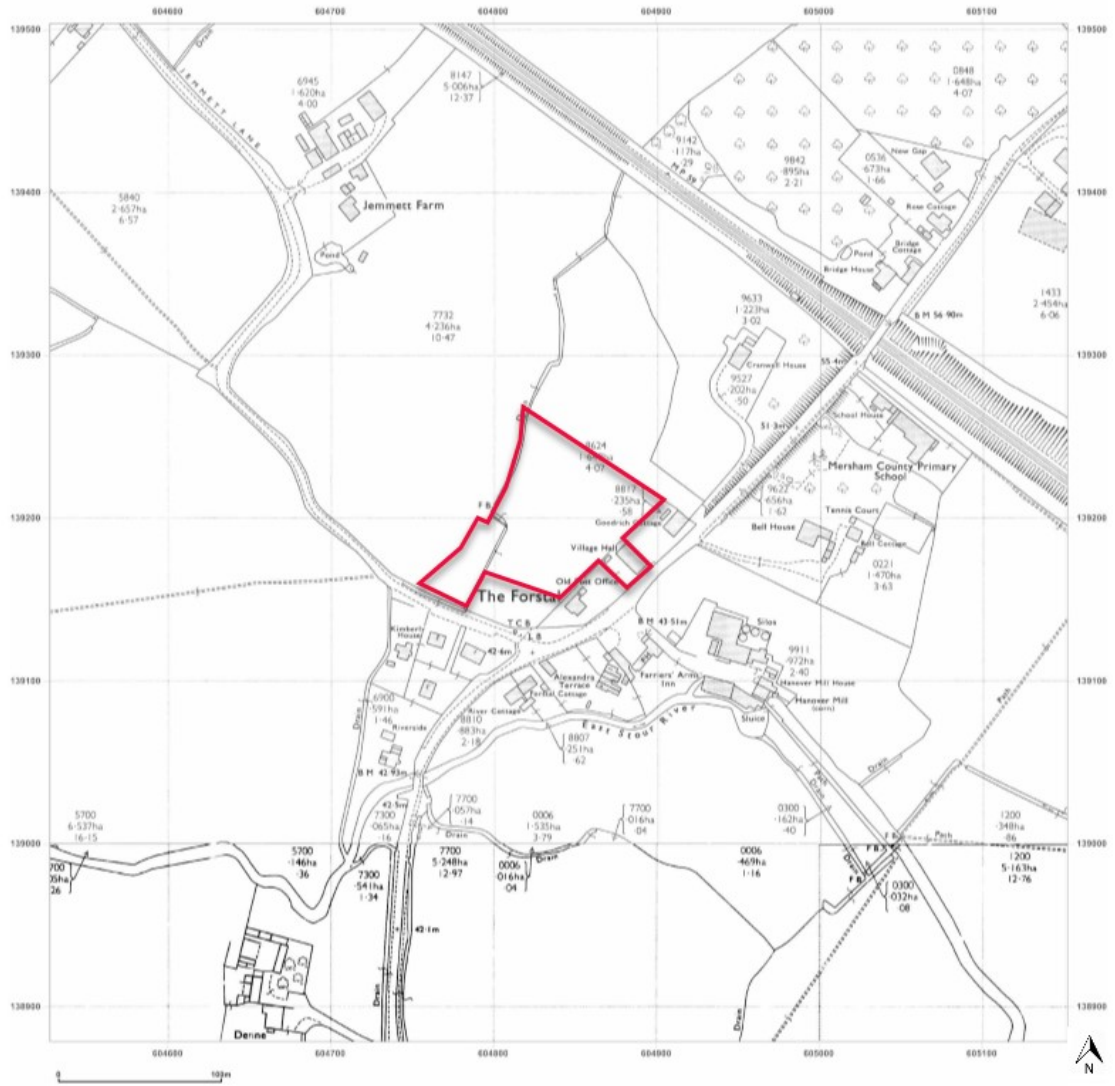*Figure 11: Historic OS Map 1972*

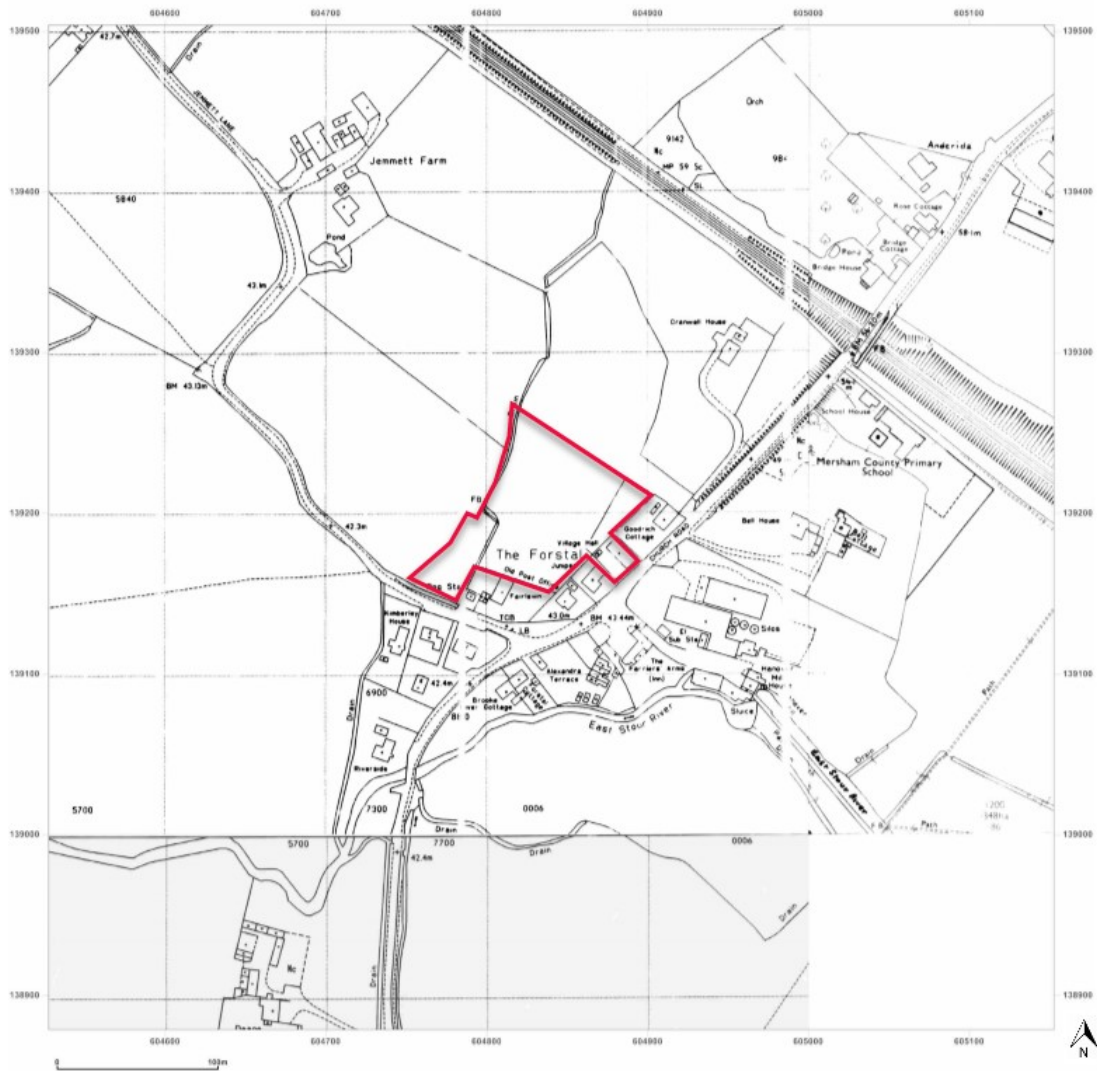*Figure 12: Historic OS Map 1971-1972 1:2500*

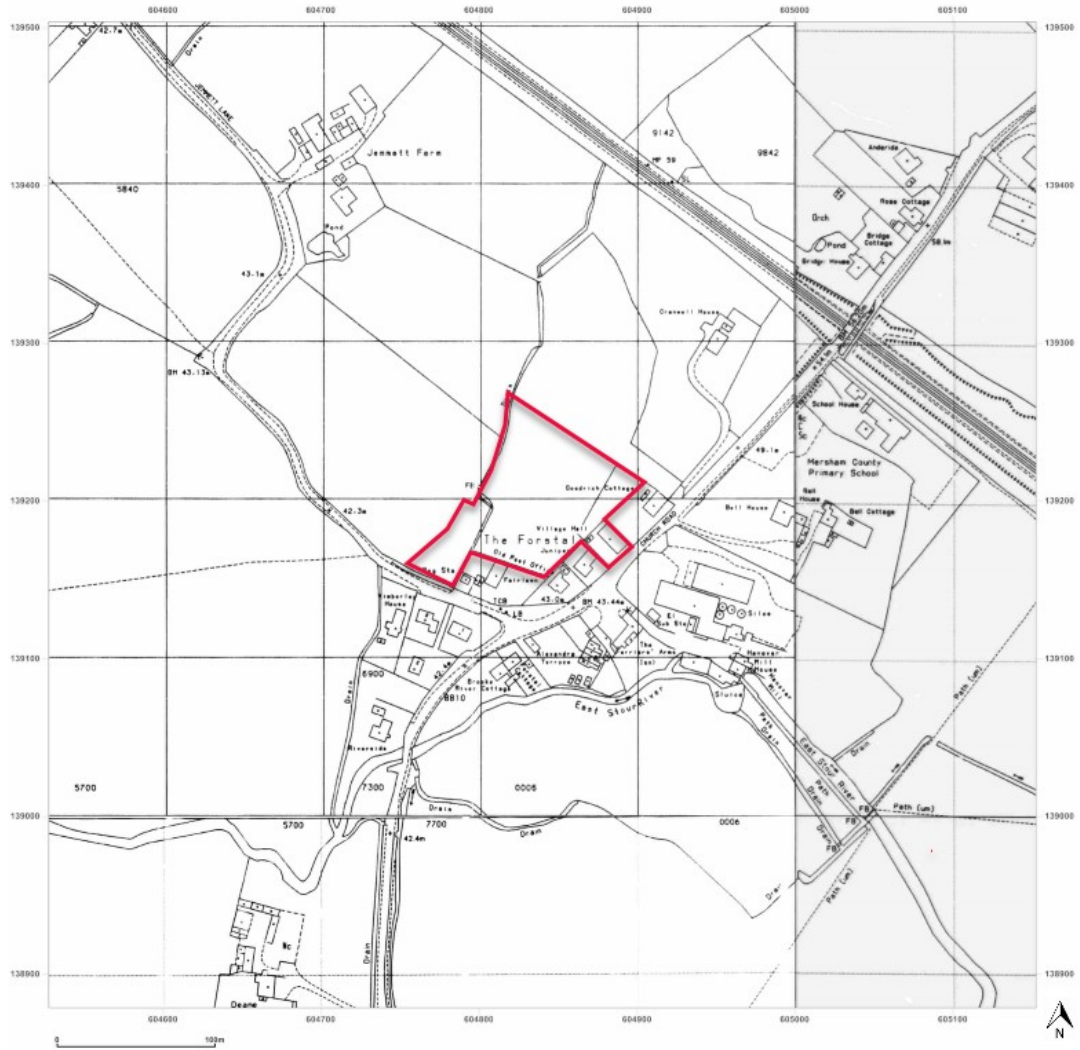*Figure 13: Historic OS Map 1989-1992 1:2500*

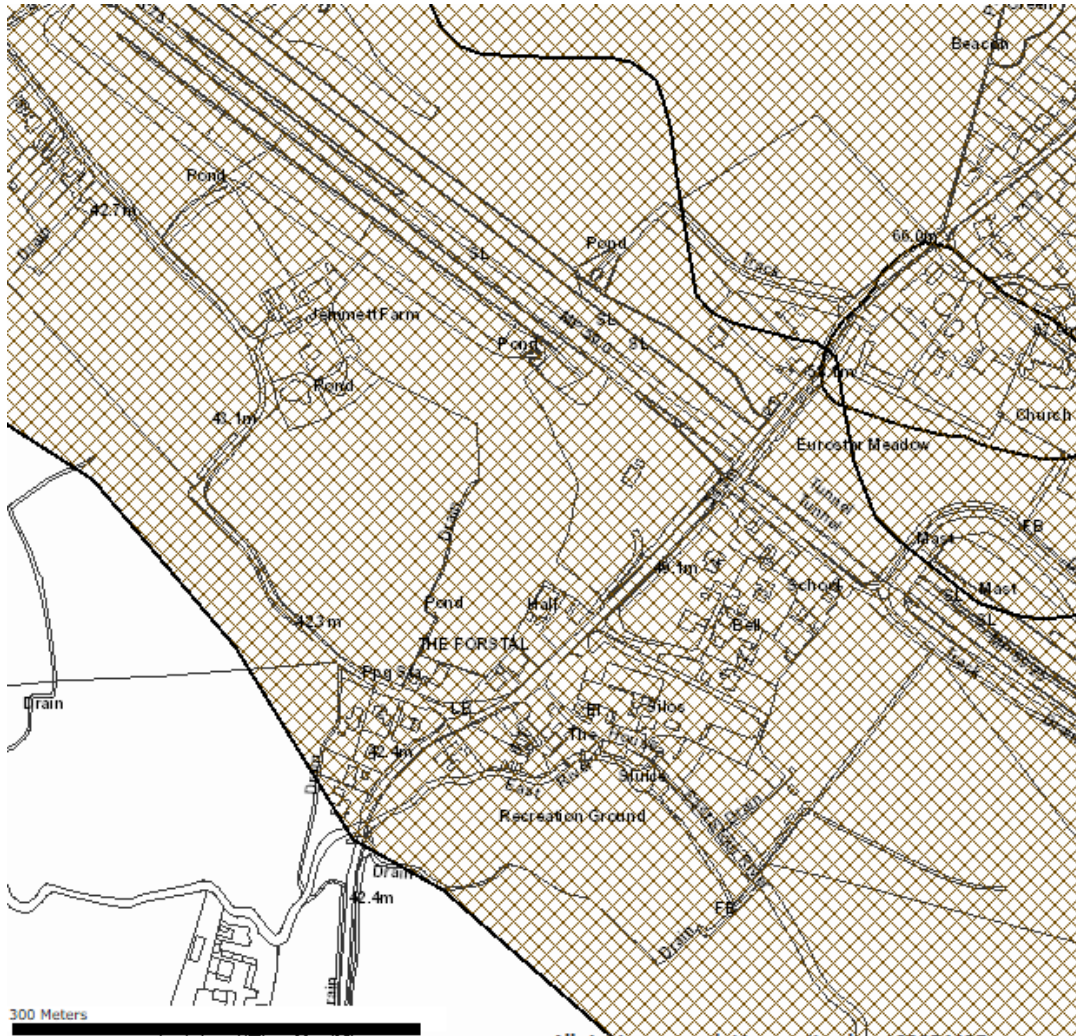*Figure 14: Historic OS Map 1991-1993 1:2500*

Figure 15: Ashford Borough Council Area of Archaeological Potential at the PDA

10   APPENDIX 1 – KCC HER DATA (SEE FIGURES 16-19)

KHER	Type	Location	Period	Description
	HLC			The PDA is in an area characterised by KCC Historic Landscape Characterisation of 'scattered settlement with paddocks (post 1800 extent'. The fields to the south of the PDA are characterised as 'miscellaneous valley bottom paddocks and pastures. To the east is the 'village/hamlet 1810 extent'.
TR 03 NE 9	Findspot	c. 450m NE	Roman / Anglo-Saxon	Cinerary Urn, cup and saucer. Samian saucer and cup and globular urn tentively identified as Saxon and exhibited in 1853.
TR 03 NE 63	Monument	c. 400m E	Medieval	Medieval metalworking site found in 1998 east of Mersham during CTRL. Features include a boundary ditch marking the southern boundary of the metal working site and pits
TR 03 NE 64	Monument	c. 350m ENE	Medieval	Metalworking site, south of the church backfilled with iron slag, ditches for water dating to 1050-1200 AD. Many features also contained late Saxon artefacts suggesting the site may have originated circa 850-1050 AD. Some renewal of activity occurred 1475-1500 AD but ended by 1775
TR 03 NE 69	Monument	c.180m NE	Post Medieval	Former site of Bridge House farm. It was a Grade II listed building that was moved prior to the CTRL construction. 17th century with 18th century major alterations, painted brick with plain tiled roof and timer framed interior.
TR 03 NW 19	Monument	c. 450m NW	Iron Age	Linear Field ditches, Little Hook Farm. Late Iron Age ditch and associated pottery was found in 1997, ahead of the CTRL. IT is suggested that an unlocated contemporary settlement may be nearby. Post Medieval field ditches were also observed.
TR 03 NE 123	Listed Building	c. 400m NE	Post Medieval	Tomb chest to Elizabeth Mantel dated 1761, 20m south of the

				church Grade II listed (1233473). Simple chest with 3 moulded piers along long sides and to corners on base with moulded top slab. Simple inscription panels.
TR 03 NE 125	Listed Building	c. 350m NE	Medieval	Barn, 30m north west of Mersham Manor. Grade II* listed (1233497). Main construction periods 1300 to 1620. Timber framed and weatherboarded on ragstone base, with ragstone and red brick cladding to rear elevations. Plain tiled roof. Hipped roof with hipped streys to left and to right. Interior: 4 full bays with aisles with cantilevered terminal outshots, somewhat obscured by later divisions. One end bay and aisles extensively reconstructed c.1600, but main assembly and part of aisle (reversed assembly) probably contemporary with early C14 Mersham Manor
TR 03 NW 83	Listed Building	c. 150m SE	Post Medieval	Hannover Mill and Mill House. Grade II listed (1233522). C18 or earlier core, remodelled and greatly extended 1879. Milling machinery by Holmans of Canterbury. Red brick with some tile hung framing. Plain tiled roof. Half-courtyard plan. Main range: 2 storeys and attic. Mill building to right, with 2 hipped dormers, 2 segmentally headed casements on each floor with boarded doors between (on both floors). Three storey block to right, with half-hipped roof and central stack with 1 wooden casement on each floor and open passage- way doorway to ground floor. Brick on ragstone sluice and race walls (the whole mill complex is built on ragstone reinforced walls to stream side) extending some 20 metres upstream. Iron sluice gates with passage over. The wheel is a 12 foot diameter breast-shot wheel with 56 buckets driving 3 sets of stones originally, now only 2. The whole wheel and machinery is enclosed within the mill building.
TR 03 NW 82	Listed Building	c. 100m S	Post Medieval	Brook Cottage. Grade II listed (1233524). Early 18th century. Red brick with tile hanging on first floor and plain tiled roof. Two storeys and attic with half-hipped roof and gabled dormer. Sash to left and

				glazing bar sash to right on 1st floor, and wooden casements on ground floor. Board door to end left in raking porch.
TR 03 NW 46	Listed Building	c. 350m SSW	Medieval to Post Medieval	Denne and Projecting Walls. Grade II listed (1276579). 16th century or earlier core, re-fronted in the late 18th century. Timber framed origin, clad with galleted ragstone, extended with tuck-pointed red brick. Plain tiled roof. Two parallel ranges. Entrance front: 2 storeys on ragstone plinth, with 3 gauged brick arches on ground floor, and paired modillion eaves cornice to hipped roof with rear stacks. Four glazing bar sashes with louvred shutters on 1st floor, and 3 on ground floor with gauged heads. Door to centre left, with moulded panels and moulded circular central panel, with traceried semi-circular fanlight and pediment on fluted pilasters. Projecting from left a brick wall about 7 feet high with boarded gateway, projecting about 20 metres. Wall projecting to right, about 10 metres, on ragstone base. Rear wing clad in part in galleted ragstone. Rear range: C16 clasped purlin roof, with re-used smoke blackened timbers, and remains of even earlier cross roof.
TR 03 NE 171	Building	c. 150m E	Post Medieval	Bell House Cottage. Formerly Grade II listed. Late 18th century, mainly constructed of red brick, although the original rear wall is of Kentish ragstone and the rear extension is weatherboarded and has a half-hipped tiled roof with central brick chimneystack. It is thought to have been used as servants' accommodation for a larger detached house, Bell House (Listed at Grade II), situated to the south east
TR 03 NE 172	Listed Building	c. 400m NE	Post Medieval	Chest tomb to Jane Morris dated 1781, 1m south of the church. Grade II listed (1276631). Chest on raised base, with raised and fielded side panels and wide balustershaped side piers. Moulded top slab.
TR 03 NE 173	Listed Building	c. 400m NE	Post Medieval	Sundial 5m south of the church dated 1763.Grade II listed (1276638). Stone with brass or bronze dial and dial plate. Turned

				baluster-shaped stem. Dial plate signed Elliott Bros. Base inscribed with memorial and names of churchwardens.
TR 03 NE 189	Listed Building	c. 400m NE	Post Medieval	Headstone to George Blechyden, dated 1743, 4m south east of the church. Grade II listed (1276694). About 3½ feet high with floriated scrolled shoulders to segmental cornice with Rocaille enrich- ment, 2 winged cherubs and crossed bones.
TR 03 NE 188	Listed Building	c. 400m NE	Post Medieval	Tow rows of 3 and 5 headstones about 5 to 15m south of the church. Grade II listed (1276695). First row, all about 2 feet high, with scrolled and shaped heads, the first with trumpets and cherub head, the second with skull in profile over crossed bones to Elizabeth Hann, d.1729 with winged cherub over raised and fielded panel. Second row of 5, all about 2½ feet high, the northernmost a double headstone, with scrolled shoulders and doubled cornice separated by small relief death's head with motif of winged hourglass and death's head. The adjacent stone, about 3 feet high with scrolled shaped head; and skull in profile over bones. Two adjacent similar stones, with Rocaille scrolled heads, with motif of open book within a heart over round-headed inscription panel, the other with indented rectangular panel. The fifth stone to John Home, d.1749. With scrolled shoulders to pediment shaped cornice with cherub in sunburst.
TR 03 NW 36	Listed Building	c. 120m E	Post Medieval	Bell House. Grade II listed (1233520). 16th century, clad and extended in the 18th century. Timber framed, exposed to rear with brick infill, clad and extended with ragstone and painted brick. Plain tiled roof. Two storeys and attic on ragstone plinth with parapet to hipped roof with 2 flat dormers with stacks to end left and to end right. Regular fenestration of 5 sashes on 1st floor with sunken panels over and aprons below and 4 sashes on ground floor with gauged heads. Central half-glazed door in doorcase with engaged columns and entablature blocks bearing open pediment. Raking

				wall attached to right. Ragstone return walls, and exposed framed rear wings.
TR 03 NW 38	Listed Building	c. 100m S	Post Medieval	Stables/outbuildings about 5-20m south and west of The Farriers Arms. Grade II listed (1276525). 18-19th century. Timber framed and weatherboarded and extended with ragstone with red brick dressings. Plain tiled roof. Single storey weatherboarded range with hipped roof. Wooden casements to left and end right, and double carriage doors to centre and sliding doors to right. Hoist housing/upper floor passage at end left with wooden casement and half-door below, joining onto 2 storey ragstone block, hipped to left, with central segmentally headed boarded door. Included for group value.
TR 03 NE 147	Listed Building	c. 200m NNE	Post Medieval	Bridge House. Grade II listed (1276697). 17th century. Painted brick with plain tiled roof. Lobby entry plan. Two storeys on plinth with plat band. Half-hipped roof with moulded stacks to centre left. Three wooden casements on first floor, and 2 tripartite wooden casements with segmental heads on ground floor. Plank and stud door to centre with raking dormer, with hipped dormer in upper section. Reported timber framed interior. Investigations undertaken by Oxford Archaeology in 1999 prior to the relocation of the house revealed earlier floor levels. A possible clay floor and a brick floor were revealed in the NW and north rooms respectively, though no dating evidence was found. A watching brief during the moving of the house revealed possible late 14th century activity consisting of post holes, pits, and a gully. Some residual 12th century pottery probably relates to earlier activity in the vicinity rather than an earlier phase of the dwelling.
TR 03 NW 23	Listed Building	c. 100m SE	Medieval to Post Medieval	The Farriers Arms. Public House, 16th century. Extended in the 18th-19th centuries. Grade II listed (1233523). Timber framed core, clad and extended with painted brick and tile hung to rear, with plain

				tiled roof. Main block of one storey and attic with hipped dormer and stack to centre left and 2 wooden casements, with 2 storey hipped wing to left with stack at end left, with glazing bar sash on 1st floor and with 2 storey wing to right with glazing bar sash on 1st floor, 2 wooden casements on ground floor and stack at end right. Central boarded door in raking porch. Catslide outshot to rear. Framed interior with moulded beams.
TR 03 NE 108	Listed Building	c. 400m NE	Medieval	Mersham Manor. Grade I listed (1233281). Early to mid-14th century, altered in the late 18th century and extended mid-19th century. Ragstone, painted to entrance elevation and extended with ragstone (part painted) with red brick dressings. Plain tiled roof. Hall house plan.
TR 03 NW 26	Listed Building	c. 30m E	Post Medieval	Goodrich Cottage. Grade II listed (1233657). Dated 1737 with early core. Timber framed and clad with red and blue brick chequered brick on ragstone base. Plain tiled roof. Four bay lobby entry plan. Two storeys on plinth with hipped roof and stacks to right and projecting at end left. Four wooden casements on 1st floor, 3 on ground floor, with door of 6 raised and fielded panels to right with flat hood on brackets, and datestone over. Interior. catslide outshot to rear.
TR 03 NE 118	Listed Building	c. 450m NE	Medieval	Church of St. John the Baptist. Grade I listed (1276693). 12th century origin, expanded 13th century with 14-15th century fenestration. 19-20th century vestry. Ragstone with plain tiled roof. Important internal monuments particularly relating to the Knatchbull family.
TQ 84 SW 1	Monument	c. 200m NE (at its closest point)	Post Medieval to Modern	London and Dover Railway. Built by the South Eastern Company, incorporated in 1836 and completed by 1844. The route ran from Dover to Folkestone and Ashford, and then virtually straight through the Vale of Kent to Redhill via Tonbridge.

MKE 56489	Findspot	c. 300m N	Roman	PAS find. A complete copper alloy Roman nummus of Constantine I or II 322-325 AD. Reverse 'SARMATIA DEVICTA' Victory advancing right holding wreath and palm pushing captive. Mint possibly Trier. It appears that the original flan has not been filed down after casting as there is still waste attached to the edge.
MKE 68755	Findspot	c. 300m SE	Iron Age	PAS find. Iron Age struck silver coin of Cunobelin, dating from circa 15-30AD. It is 13.9-16.1mm in diameter and weighs 1.3 grams. The unit is a Kentish issue. Discovered in 2004.
MKE 83198	Farmstead	c. 350m SSW	Post Medieval	The Den. A loose courtyard farmstead with building son one side of the yard. Farmhouse detached gable end on to yard. No apparent alteration.
MKE 83199	Farmstead	c. 480m SSW	Post Medieval	Farmstead south east of The Den. A loose courtyard farmstead with working agricultural buildings on one side. Farmhouse detached gable end onto yard. Farmstead completely demolished.
MKE 83200	Farmstead	c. 320m NW	Post Medieval	Jemmett's Farm. A loose courtyard farmstead with buildings to three sides of the yard including an L-plan element. Farmhouse detached side on to yard. Farmstead completely demolished and rebuilt to the east.
MKE 83201	Farmstead	c. 50m S	Post Medieval	Outfarm north west of The Forstal. Consists of a row plan element, farmstead completely demolished and could have been pickers huts?
MKE 87420	Farmstead	c. 400m NE	Post Medieval	Mersham Manor (Court Lodge). A loose courtyard plan with buildings to three sides of the yard. Farmhouse detached in central position. Altered with partial loss of original form (less than 50%).
MKE 88724	Farmstead	c. 0m	Post Medieval	Outfarm west of Goodrich Cottage. A field barn with no associated yard. Completely demolished. Now the site of the village hall
TR 03 NE 240	Crash Site.	c. 300m SE	Modern	Crash site of a Spitfire. A Supermarine Spitfire I (N3048) of 66 Sq, RAF Kenley, crashed 4th September 1940 near Mersham. Pilot bailed out, died of wounds. Aircraft written off. Site investigated 1978 but exact crash site remains undiscovered.

| TR 03 NE 239 | Building | c. 400m NE | Post Medieval to Modern | The Annex, Mersham Manor. A 19th century building to the rear of Mersham Manor. Much modified. The building is shown on the Tithe Map of 1840. It is simply recorded as part of the house and gardens of Mersham Court Lodge in the Tithe Apportionment. It was probably an outbuilding, perhaps associated with the gardens of the manor. |

Figure 16: KHER Monument Record
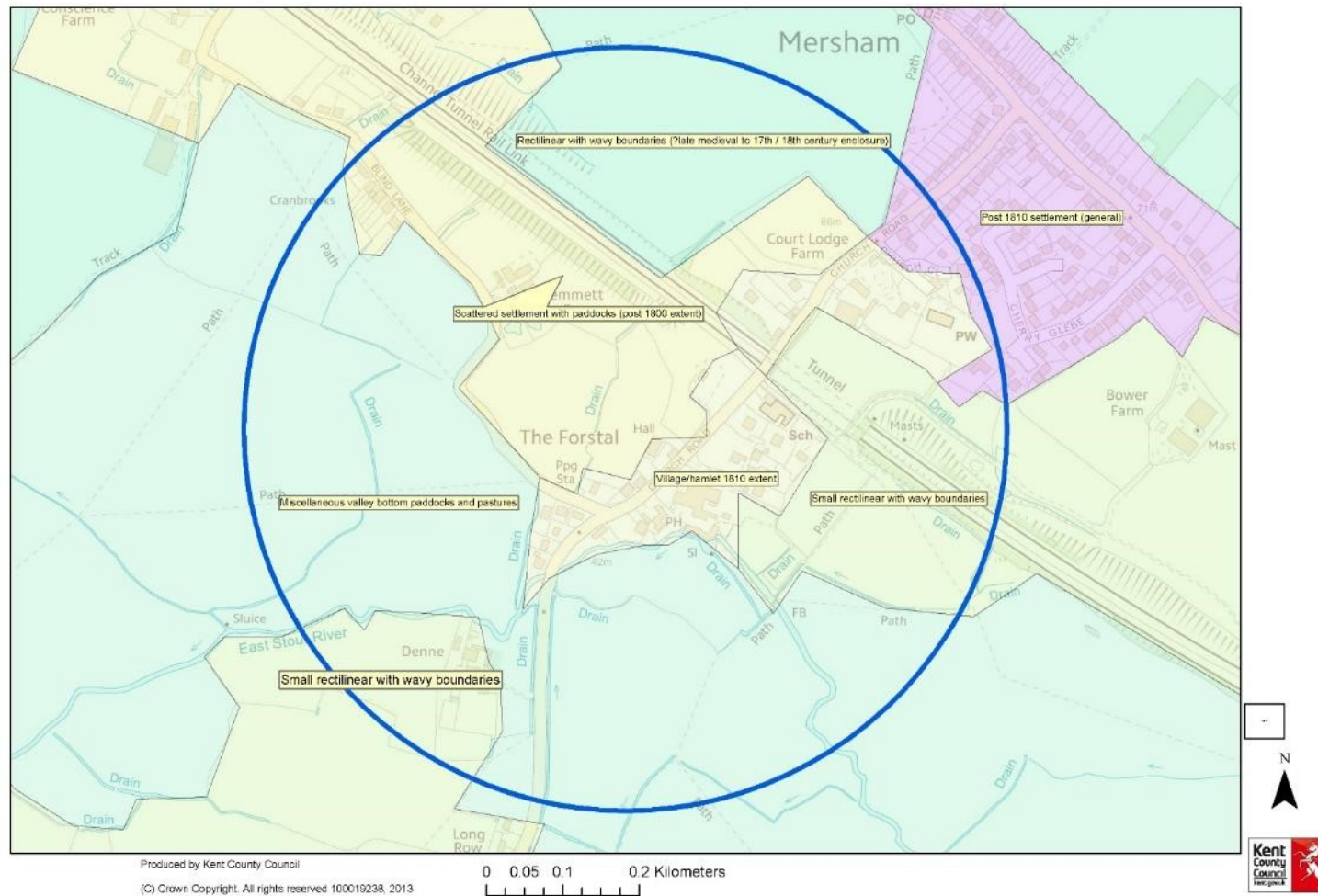
Figure 17: KHER Historic Landscape Character
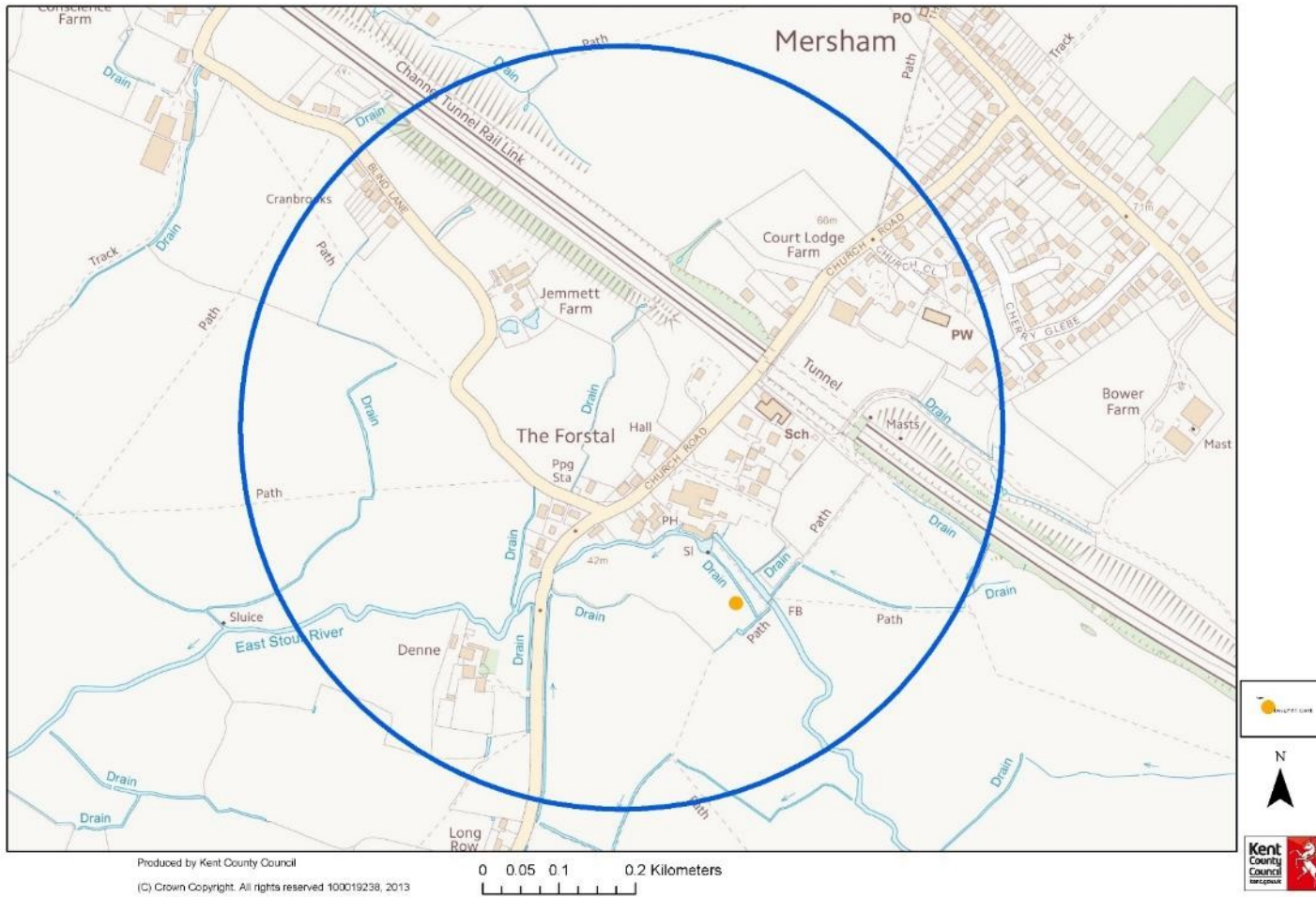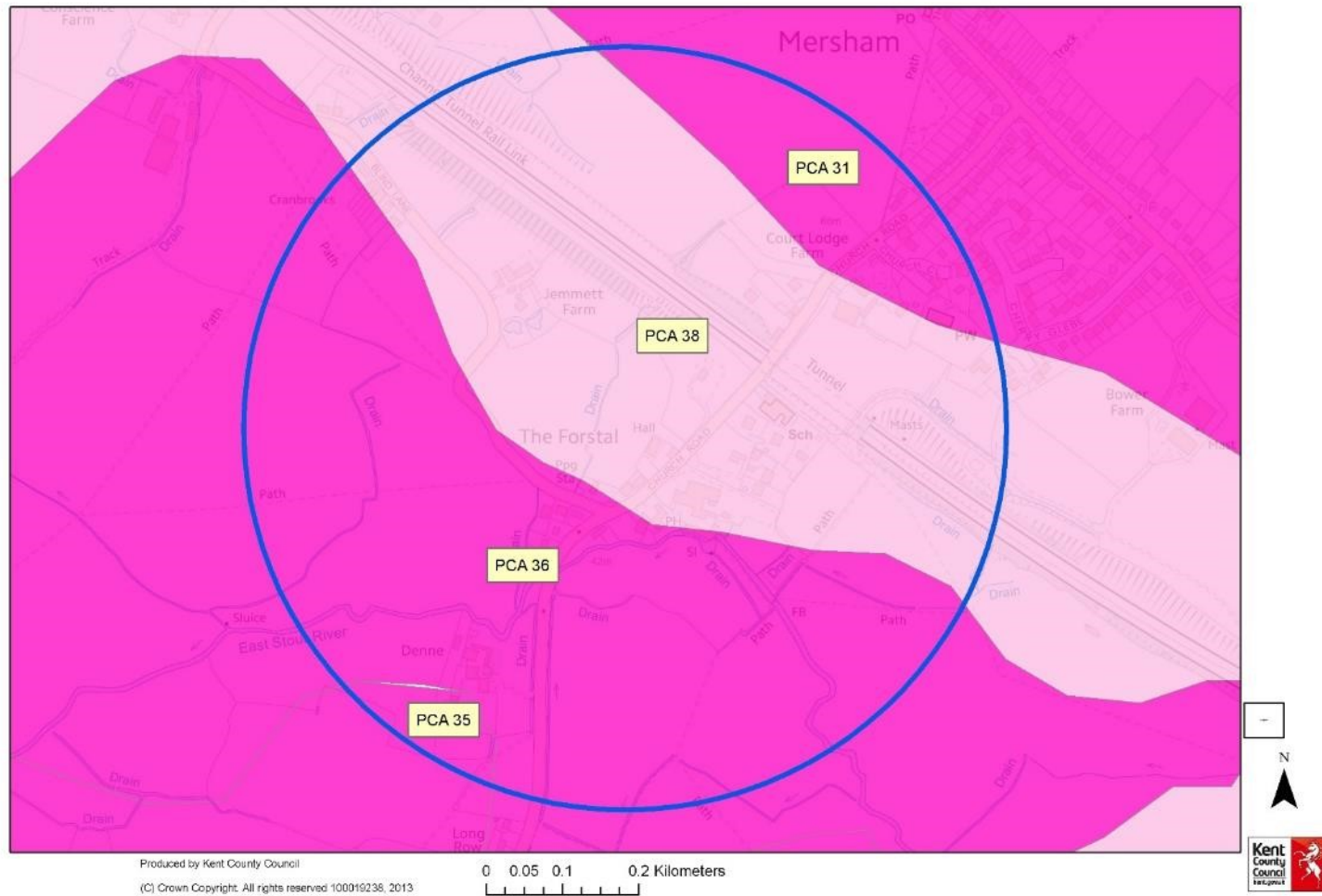
Figure 18: KHER Designations

Figure 19: KHER Stour Palaeolithic Areas

Plate 1: 1940s. All at an altitude of 932m (Google Earth).

Plate 2: 1960 (Google Earth)

Plate 3: 1990 (Google Earth)

Plate 4: 2003 (Google Earth)

Plate 5: 2007 (Google Earth)

Plate 6: 2008 (Google Earth)

Plate 7: 2014 (Google Earth)

Plate 8: 2017 (Google Earth)

Plate 9: View of the village Hall entrance (facing NW).

Plate 10: View across PDA from southwestern corner (facing NE)

Plate 11: View of the eastern boundary from the south western corner (facing E).

Plate 12: View along drainage ditch and proposed entranceway towards Blind Lane (facing SW).

Plate 13: View towards southern corner (facing S)

Plate14: View across proposed northern boundary (Facing ESE).

Plate 15: View across toward ditch on western boundary (facing WNW).

Plate 16: View across PDA towards south west corner (facing W).

Plate 17: View of proposed entranceway from Blind Lane (Facing NNE).

Plate 18: View of western edge of PDA from Blind Lane (Facing NE).

Plate 19: View of the rear of Goodrich Cottage and the existing village Hall and proposed northern boundary from Church Road (facing W)