

ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESK-BASED
ASSESSMENT OF LAND AT 72 THE STREET,
APPLEDORE, KENT.



Figure 1: 1797 OS Surveyors Drawing map of Appledore

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Figure 1. 1797 OS Surveyors Drawing map of Appledore

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Appledore, a small village lies on the northern edge of Romney Marsh, 12 miles from Ashford. Located on the River Rother, which until it silted up in the Medieval period onwards, the village was originally a port and as well as fisheries included industries such as ship building. The earliest known human activity found in the wider Romney Marsh area is around 2000 BC, although the area was not heavily populated and little evidence is found of activity in the Bronze and Iron ages. Roman activity has been found in nearby Stone in Oxney, to the south west of Appledore with an alter stone to Mithras and Romans were located at Lympne. Kent suffered from Viking raids, and two raids occurred in the marsh area in 841 AD and 892 AD, where it is known that Viking longships rowed past New Romney and managed to get as far as Appledore. In 1380, the French also invaded Appledore, burning the village and church. On the outskirts of the village is the Royal Military Canal, built as part of the defence against a potential Napoleonic invasion.

It is thought that the origins of the name mean ‘at the apple tree’ and is recorded in old English as ‘aet paem apuldre’ before settling on its current spelling by 1610 AD. The Domesday book records the village as having 78 households, considered large for the period

with a church and six fisheries. Storms in the 13th century affected the water course of the River Rother, which eventually changed course to run out to the sea near Rye and meant that Appledore as a port lessened although situated on higher ground it retained its status especially when in 1359, King Edward III granted a charter for a weekly market and annual fair. The area of Romney Marsh has always been thinly settled compared to other parts of Kent, which accounts for the overall lack of buildings before the 19th century except in New Romney or Lydd. The society would have consisted of the sheep farmers, shepherds or fishermen. One of the reasons for the lack of people was that the marshlands were considered unhealthy due to the possibility of marsh ague, a form of malaria prevalent until the 19th century. The only people that lived there were those that had to. The region in the 18th century had a lack of settled gentry. By the 19th century the village had a school and Wesleyan Chapel as well as the construction of the railway with a station east of the village. Hasted, a 18th century historian, describes the parish as 'the soil of this parish is for the greatest part moorish, boggy, and senny; though some of the upper or northern part of it is sandy, with some coppice wood on it..... The houses are but meanly built, and mostly inhabited by graziers, lookers, and smugglers. The vast quantity of marshes which lie contiguous and come close up to it, make it very unhealthy,'

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In April 2019 Dr Paul Wilkinson MCIFA of SWAT Archaeology carried out an archaeological desk-based assessment of available data on land at 72 The Street, Appledore, Kent.

1.2 Historic mapping, aerial photographs and the HER records were studied and archaeological activity within 500m of the proposed development site is minimal.

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

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

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

2.0 HISTORICAL/ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Location

The Proposed Development Area (PDA) is located at the northern end of The Street in Appledore, Kent. The NGR to the centre of site is TQ 95568 29643 (Fig. 4).



Figure 2: 1871 OS map of Appledore

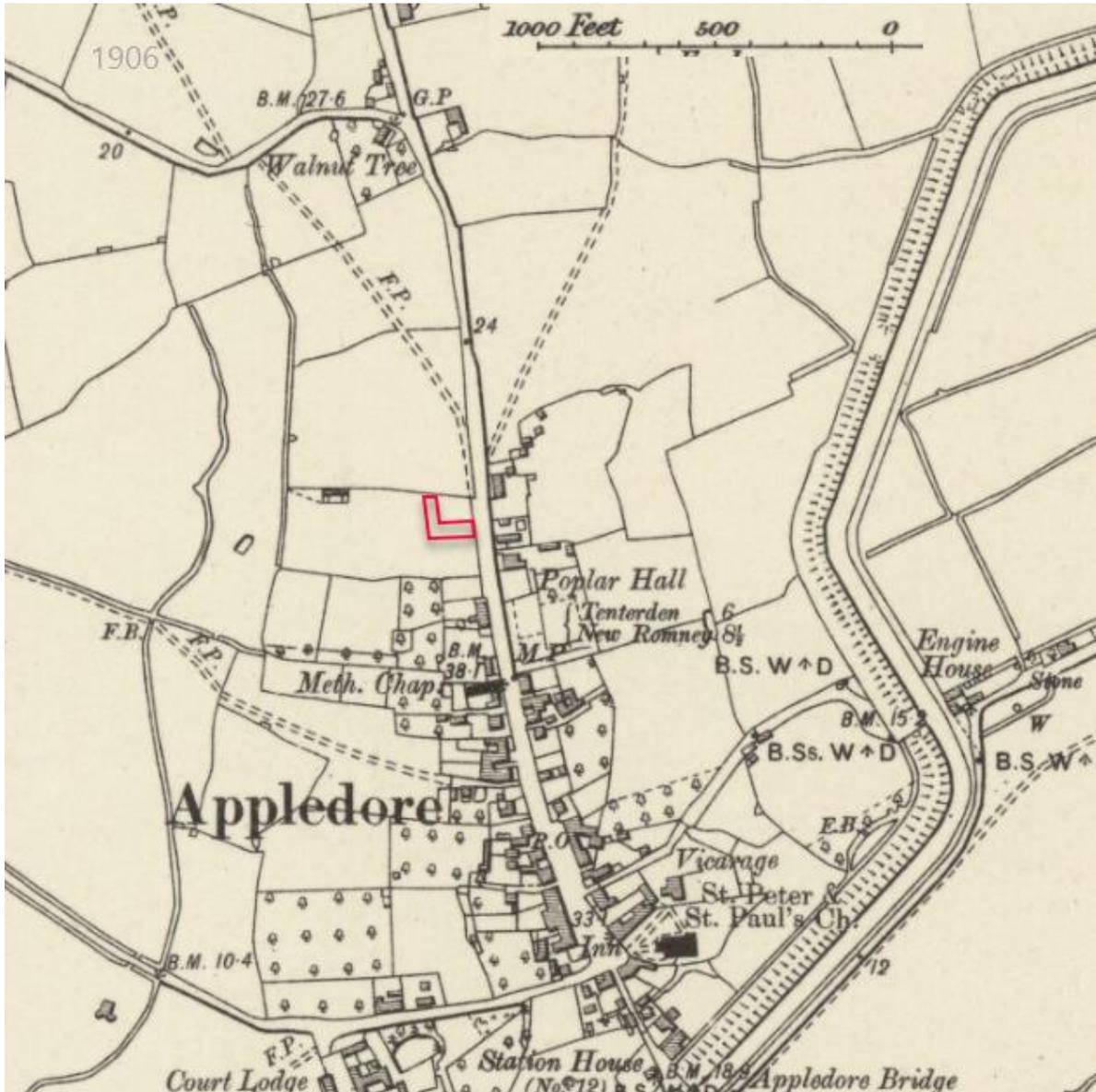


Figure 3: OS map surveyed in 1906

2.5 Historic Background

2.5.1 A map assessment of OS historic mapping shows that in 1797 (Fig. 1) the PDA was part of a field to the north of the main settlement area of Appledore with the village situated on higher ground. This area is mainly agricultural with fields of pasture with drainage ditches. By this period Hallhouse Farmhouse (TQ 92 NE 143) supporting Hallhouse Farm (MKE88079) and Poplar Hall (TQ 92 NE 145) supporting Poplar Farm (MKE88078) had been built on the eastern side of The Street. By 1871 and 1906 (Fig. 2-3), the situation is little changed at the PDA, although the Royal Military Canal had been built by this time leading to the beginnings of the growth of the village.

2.5.2 Assessment of the aerial photography (Plates 1-5) confirm that by 1929 a building had been located in the position of the current village hall and that the village continued to grow northwards on both sides of The street. By the 1940s, the property immediately north of the PDA had been built with no change in the early 1960s and it is not until 1990 do we see aerial photographic evidence of the property located within the PDA.

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES

3.1 The KCCHER records (Fig. 4) show that the majority of records are those of Listed Buildings and Farmsteads, predominately to the south of the PDA. In terms of below ground archaeology there are just two records, circa 500m to the north west at the Sewage Works two trenches founds Post Medieval pottery in 2006 during a watching brief (TQ 92 NE 29), although no features were found. Circa 400m to the south, south east is a findspot (TQ 92 NE 11) of a Medieval Seal from the 13th century discovered in 1981. Even in the wider region immediately around Appledore archaeology prior to the Medieval period is non-existent.

4.0 CONSERVATION AREA

4.1 The conservation area (Fig. 5) is predominately based along The Street. The majority of Listed Buildings are located at the southern end of The Street being the original core of the village with most houses dating from the late 18th century onwards following the construction of the Royal Military Canal. The PDA lies at the far northern extent of the conservation area with half of the PDA within and the western part of the PDA outside of the Conservation Area. Within this area there are a number of Listed buildings on the eastern side of The Street being the Grade II listed Popular Hall and Hallhouse Farmhouse. Due to vegetation along The Street there is no intervisibility between the PDA and these designated assets. The remainder of the houses along this end of The street are predominately from the 20th century and therefore the proposed development will have negligible impact upon the conservation area.

5.0 DISCUSSION

5.1 A review of the available data shows that the site of the PDA is of low archaeological interest. The proposed development is for a replacement residential house on the current house footprint, for which the Site would have already had a high impact upon any potential

archaeology. Therefore, the proposed development will not impact on any known archaeological resource. The need for, scale, scope and nature of any further assessment and/or archaeological works should be agreed through consultation with the statutory authorities.

6.0 PARAMETERS

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

Dr Paul Wilkinson PhD., MCifA., FRSA. Dated 26th April 2019



Plate 1: Aerial Photograph from 1929 (supplied by the client)



Plate 2: Aerial image of the site in 1940s (Google Earth)



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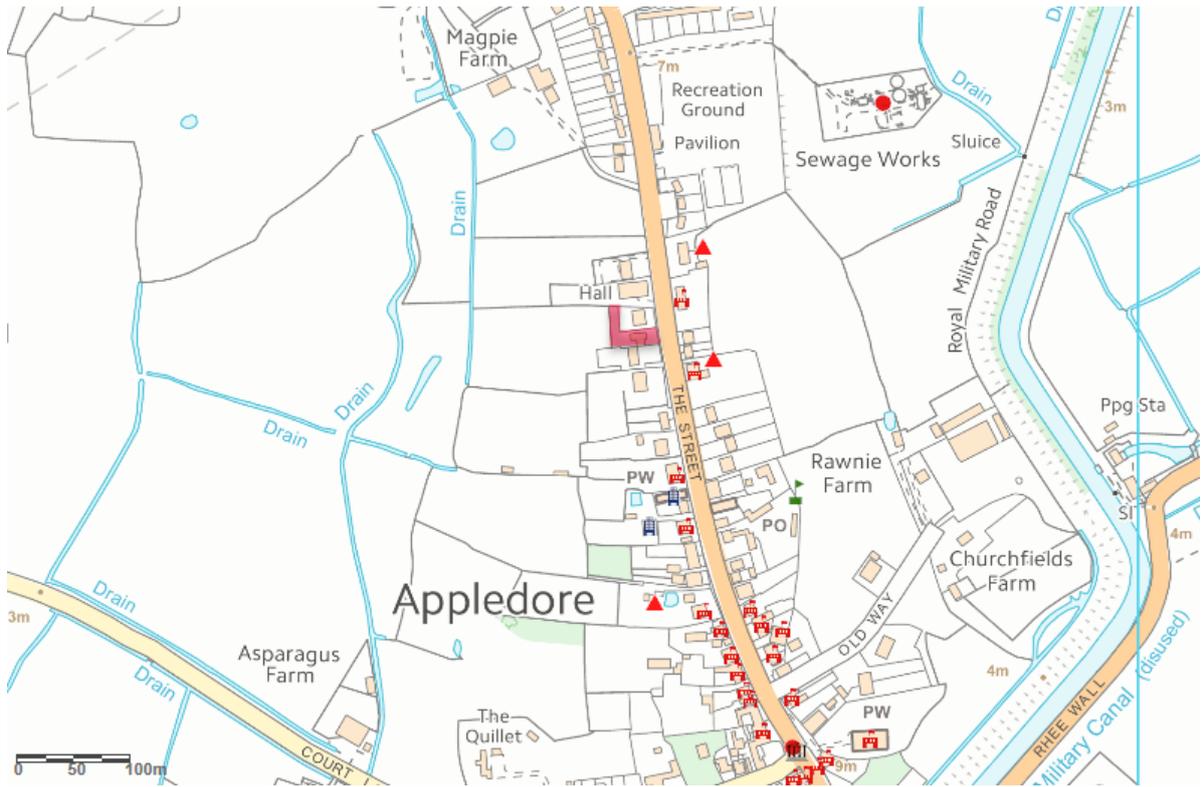


Figure 4: Site plan 1:5,000 and KCC HER Data

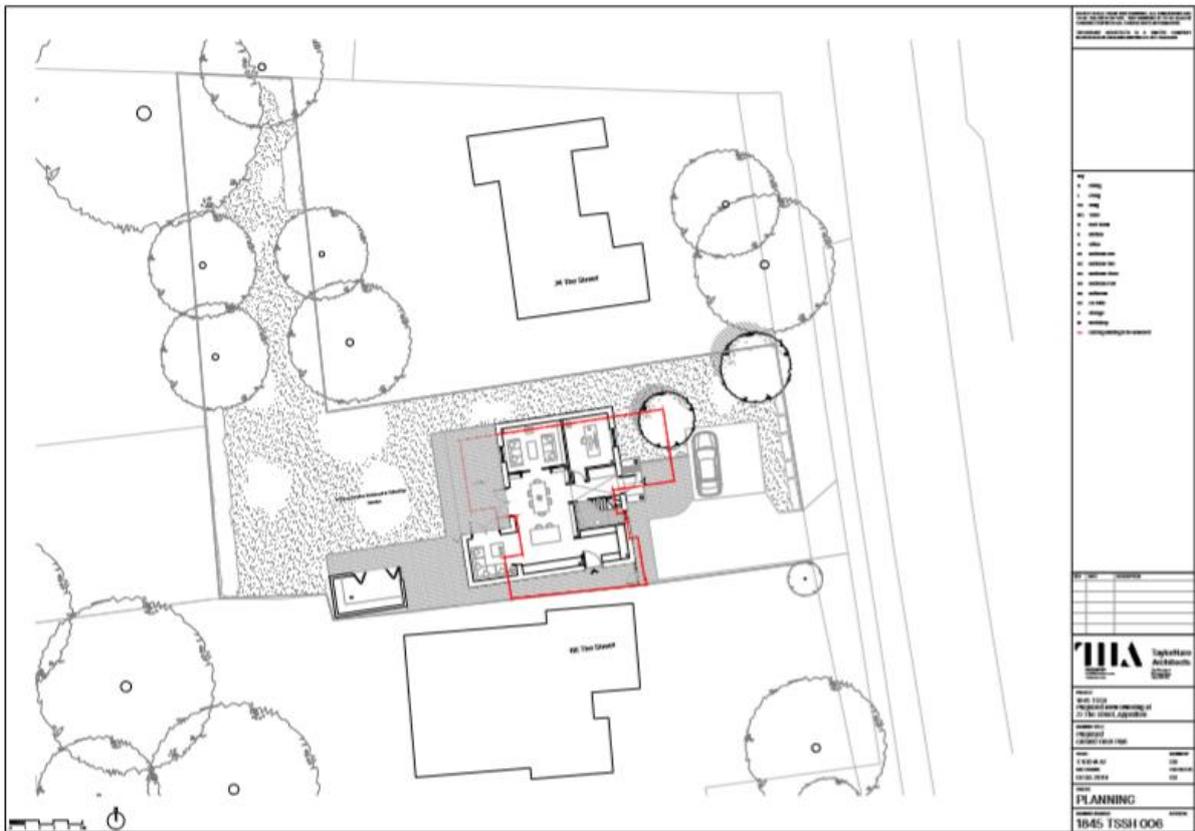


Figure 5: Proposed Development

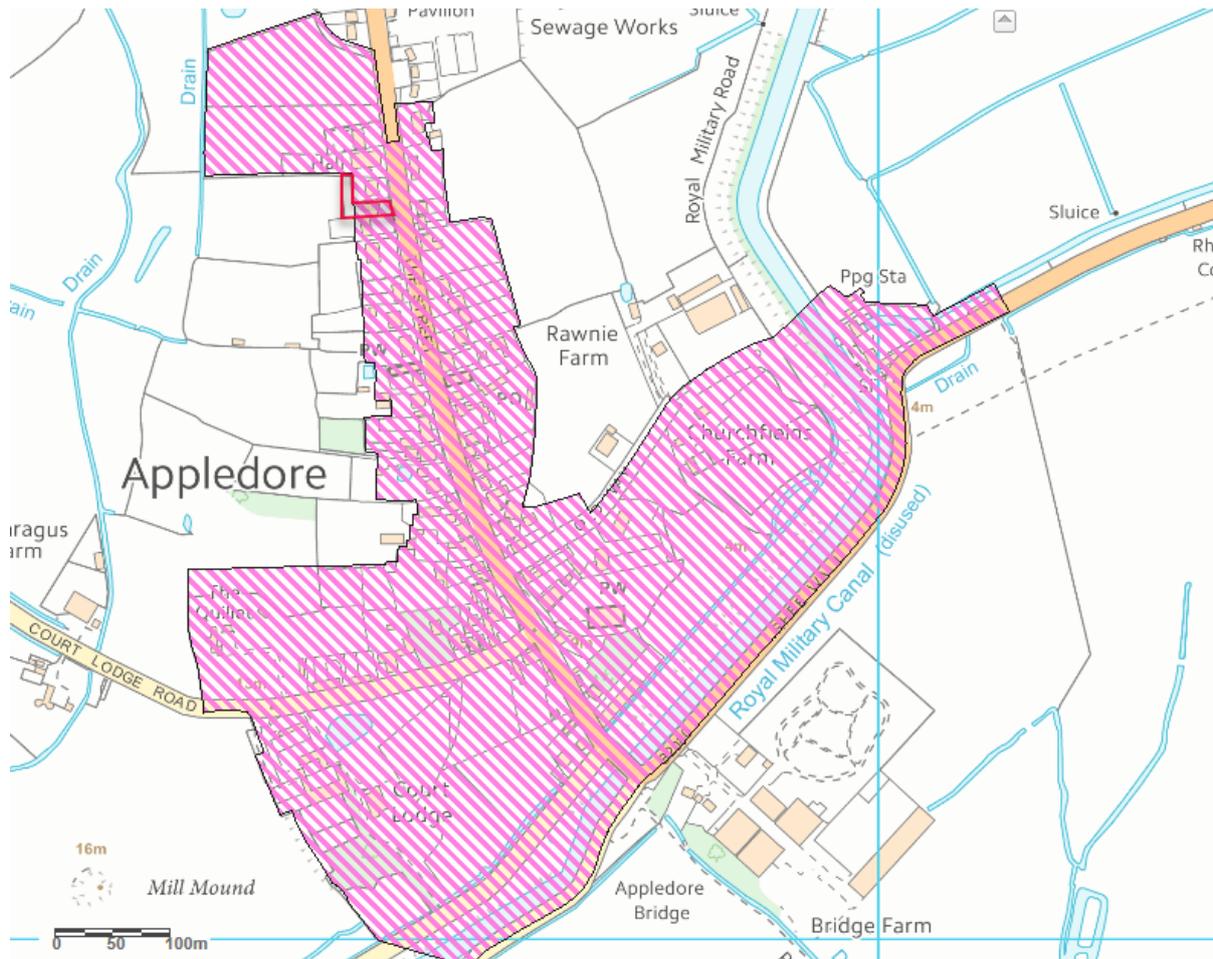


Figure 6: Conservation Area