

ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESK-BASED  
ASSESSMENT FOR THE PROPOSED  
DEVELOPMENT AT HOOTSVILLE, CHAPEL  
WOODS, CHARING, KENT, TN27 0NP.

August 2019

# ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT FOR THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT AT HOOTSVILLE, CHAPEL WOODS, CHARING, KENT, TN27 0NP.

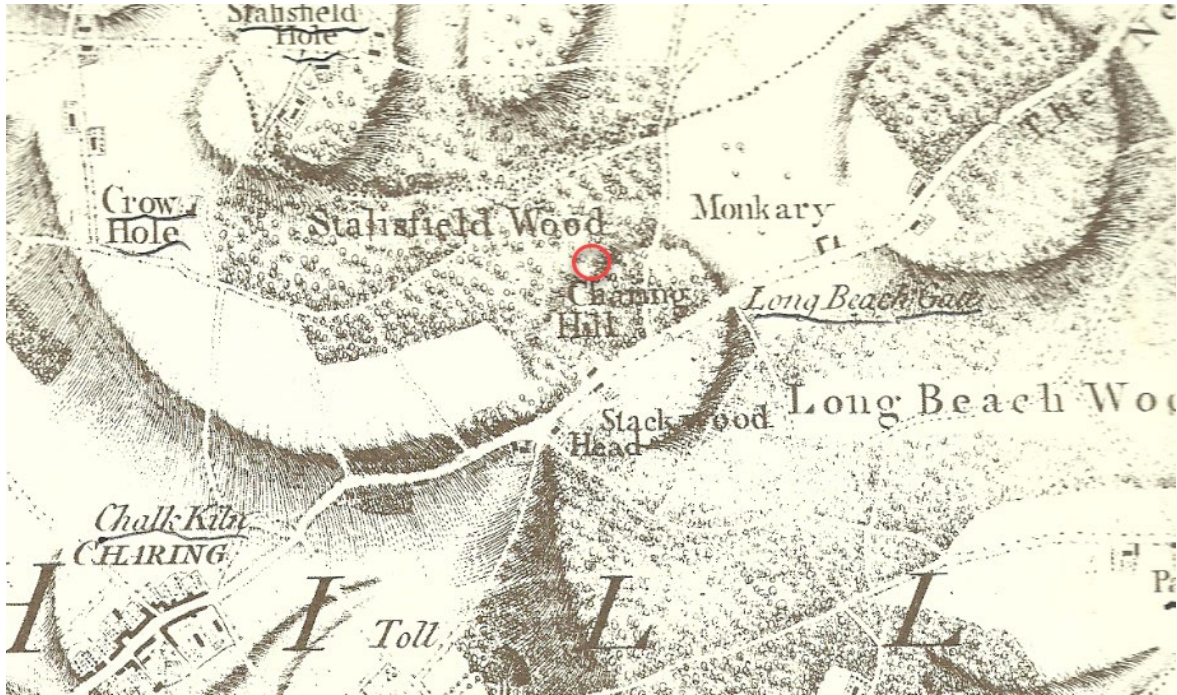


Figure 1: 1767 Andrews and Dury Map

1.0 INTRODUCTION.....	PAGE 3
2.0 HISTORICAL/ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND.....	PAGE 3
3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES.....	PAGE 5
5.0 DISCUSSION.....	PAGE 6
6.0 PARAMETERS.....	PAGE 6

Plate 1. Aerial image of the site in 1940s (Google Earth)

Plate 2. Aerial image of the site in 1960s (Google Earth)

Plate 3. Aerial image of the site in 1990 (Google Earth)

Plate 4: Aerial image of the site in 2003 (Google Earth)

Plate 5: Aerial image of the site in 2007 (Google Earth)

Plate 6: Aerial image of the site in 2018 (Google Earth)

Plate 7: View of the area for the proposed garage (facing ENE)

Plate 8: View of the area for the proposed garage from the road (facing W)

Plate 9: Looking area the site of the proposed menage (facing NNE)

Plate 10: Looking area the site of the proposed menage (facing SE)

Plate 11: Looking area the site of the proposed menage (facing SSW)

Figure 1. 1767 Andrews and Dury Map of Bossingham

Figure 2. 1871 Historic OS Map

Figure 3. 1950 Historic OS Map

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

Figure 5. Proposed Development

*Hootsville is located within a small hamlet of houses on the Stalisfield Road to the west off the Faversham Road. The PDA resides in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty at the top of The North Downs in a remote area. Faversham is 12km to the north and the village of Charing 2km south west.*

*There is little by way of below ground archaeology in the wider area around the PDA. Essentially a heavily wooded area of scattered farmsteads. Deneholes were reported to the south west of the PDA (TQ 95 SE 6) that are likely to be Medieval or Post Medieval. Circa 170m north of the PDA, a Neolithic axe was discovered (TQ 95 SE 7) in 1967 being a chance find. The key archaeological feature in the area is that of a Medieval settlement located to the east of the PDA in Chapel Wood (TQ 95 SE 5). The potential area of the settlement is Scheduled (1018787) with footings of buildings and associated earthworks dating to circa 13/14<sup>th</sup> century. The remains may be those of Eversley Manor which, according to Hasted, a Historian in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century commented that it was situated 'above the hills within the bounds of Charing parish and partly within Stalisfield', it was 'anciently of some consequence as being one of the mansions of Bryan de Eversley, a man of much eminence in the reigns of Henry III and Edward I'. However, nearby Monkery Farm is also considered to be a possible site for Eversley Manor (TQ 95 SE 12). Also, to the north of the PDA is a Medieval mill mound (TQ 95 SE 4). It is likely that the area of the PDA was extremely wooded in the prehistoric period and not heavily populated. Charing is one of a number of settlements that lie below the North Downs where springs emerge from the chalk as does nearby settlements of Lenham and Hollingbourne. A site in Charing was given to the Church of Canterbury in the 8th century and remains in church hands until the reformation. The village is on the route of the Pilgrims Way. There is also the greenway which runs parallel to the Pilgrims Way. Both ancient paths thought to be of prehistoric origin. The greenway runs through the centre of the churchyard in Charing and the Pilgrim's Way to the north of the village. At the time of the Domesday, Charing at the time was a large settlement had 65 households, made up of 26 villagers, 27*

*smallholders and 12 slaves. There was land for 40 plough teams, 25 acres of meadow and 1 mill.*

## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

1.1 In August 2019 Dr Paul Wilkinson MCIFA of SWAT Archaeology carried out an archaeological desk-based assessment of available data on land at Hootsville, Chapel Woods, Charing, 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 on the southern side of the Stalisfield Road in a small hamlet of houses on the top of The North Downs, northwards of Charing in Kent. The NGR to the centre of site is TQ 97047 51005 (Fig. 4).



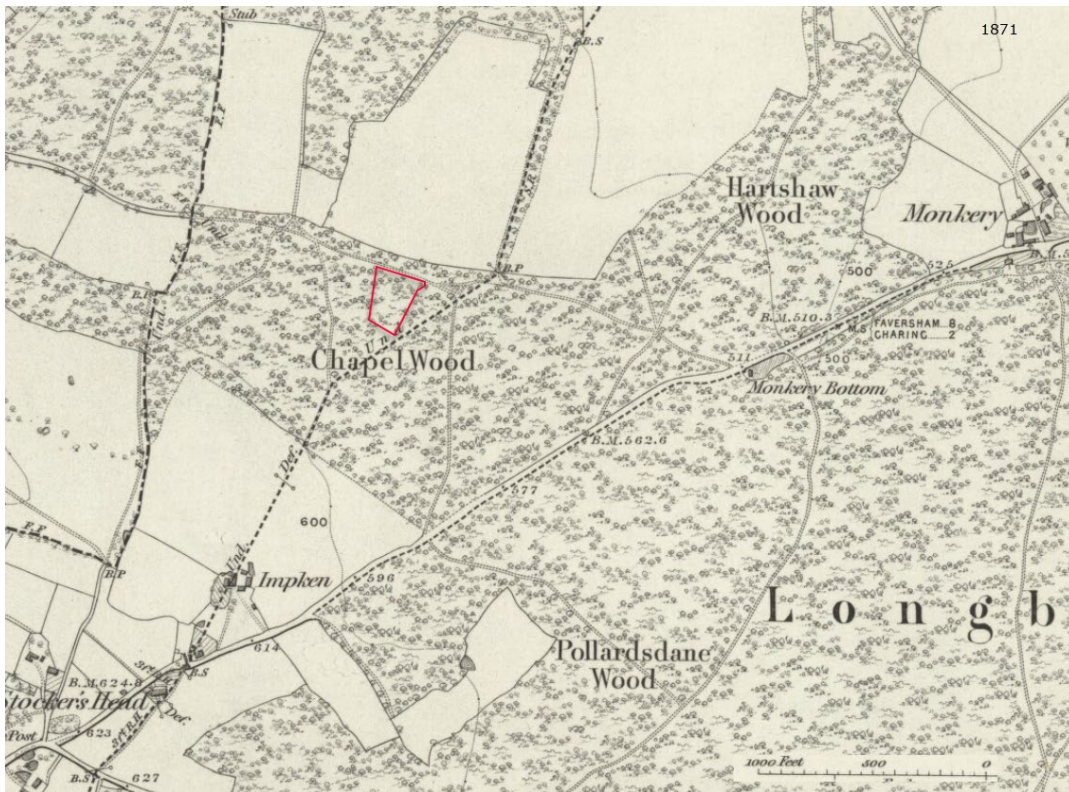


Figure 2: 1871 OS map

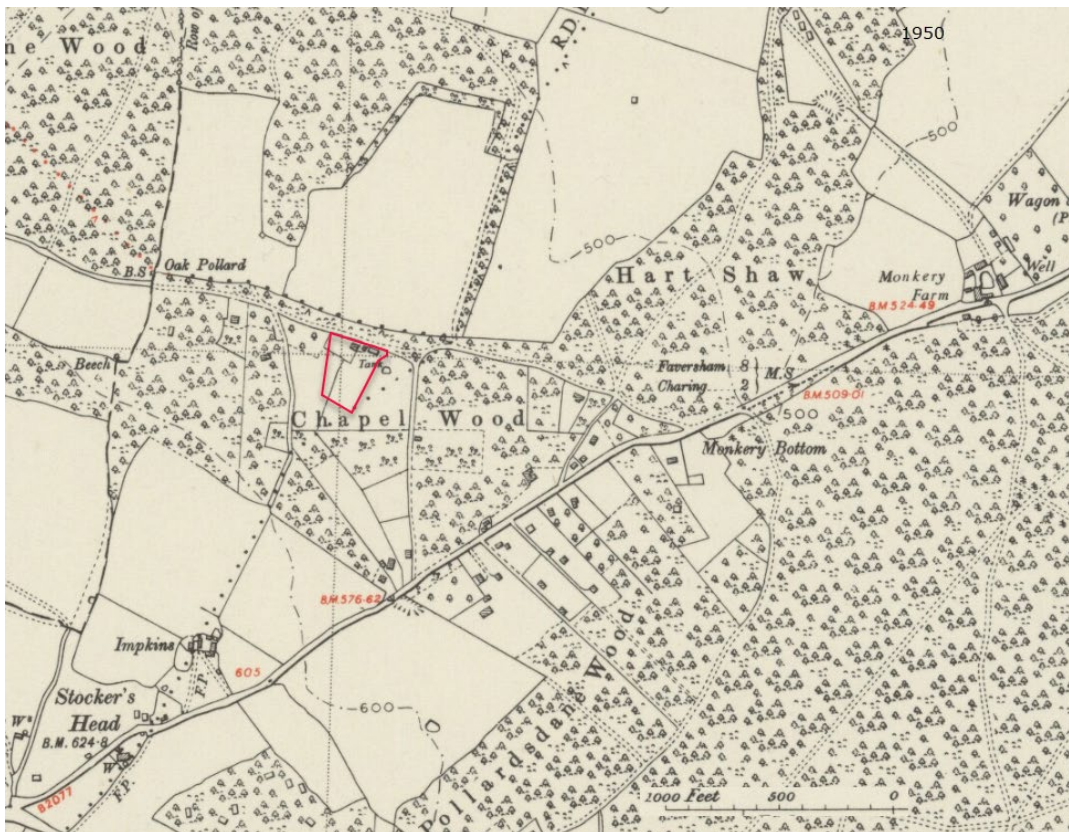


Figure 3: OS map surveyed in 1950

## 2.5 Historic Background

2.5.1 A map assessment of the Andrew's and Dury map of 1767 shows a sparsely populated and heavily wooded landscape of Stalisfield Wood with a few scattered farms. The nearest settlement is that of Monkary (Monkery Farm). There is no suggestion on this map that Stalisfield Road exists through the woods at this time other than possibly a track (Fig. 1). The PDA is not shown on the various 1797 Ordnance Surveyors Drawing, which suggests there is little of note in the area. By the 1871 OS historic map (Fig.2), the PDA remains within a large wood, now called Chapel Wood. There are either side of the PDA, tracks that run south from Stalisfield Road, through the wood and connect with the Faversham Road to the south. The track to the east being a hollow way that would have led into the north west corner of the Scheduled Monument. The junction of the Faversham Road with that of Stalisfield Road is called Monkery Bottom. There is no change in any of the subsequent OS maps until 1950 (Fig.3), when we can see at the PDA, there have been clearance of some of Chapel Wood and that there is now a couple of small buildings located along the northern boundary of the PDA. There is now also a couple of other small buildings on wooded plots also along Stalisfield Road. On the eastern side of the Faversham Road and at Monkery Bottom, there are now a number of residential plots.

2.5.2 Assessment of the aerial photography (Plates 1-6) suggests that the clearance of the area of the PDA had begun by the 1940s (Plate 1) but due to the overlap in the photograph it is uncertain. By the 1960s (Plate 2), there are clearly a number of buildings located within the PDA. There are small residential houses facing the road, surrounded by a number of different sized outbuildings suggesting the surrounding land was being used as pasture. By the 1990 (Plate 3), there is little change with perhaps the removal of some of the outbuildings. By 2003 (Plate 4), a number of the outbuildings had been removed and in progress was the construction of a new larger residential house located south of the existing residential property. By 2007 (Plate 5), the new property had been completed with a garage to the east and the old property demolished along with that of the remaining original outbuildings. Since then to the present day (Plate 6), there had been little change.

## 3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES

3.1 The KCCHER records (Fig. 4) show that the majority of records are sparse being farmsteads or chance finds with the area most likely so heavily wooded since prehistoric times, that there has been little by way of activity across the area. However, the key HER

record is that of the Scheduled Medieval settlement in Chapel Wood just to the east of the PDA. The early pre-OS maps do not suggest that there is any settlement in the area of the PDA and it is thought that the western boundary of the settlement was limited to that of the hollow way to the east of the PDA. Of the minimal excavations that have occurred at the scheduled site, there is no suggestion of any activity that extends westwards from the hollow way. However, it is possible that Medieval field boundaries may exist in the wider area around such a Medieval settlement.

#### **4.0 DISCUSSION**

5.1 A review of the available data shows that the site of the PDA until the later part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, had not been built on, where map regressions suggests that the area has been heavily wooded from at least the Post Medieval period, if not since the prehistoric period and that there is low potential archaeologically at the PDA. The proposed development is for a new detached garage to be situated alongside the northern boundary which is south of Stalisfield Road, in an area that has young beech trees along the boundary fence and a semi-circular area of garden with small bushes. The proposed development is for a detached garage will be located in an area that previously had modern agricultural buildings that were demolished around the time the current house was built. The current owner of Hootsville who built the house in 2003, confirmed that the site of the proposed detached garage was a brick built dilapidated barn, which was levelled of which there is currently no sign of. The modern brick barn was likely to have truncated the area of the proposed garage and had a high impact upon any potential archaeology at the site. To the west of the house, is currently a grassed area that is proposed to become a 20mx30m menage. This area is on a slight slope and therefore some levelling will be required across the area with a cut into the slope on the western side and the ground raised up on the eastern side. Apart from the north east corner of the proposed menage being in the area of the previous house, which would have had a high impact historically with truncation on any potential archaeology in that area, the remainder of the menage has not been built on, which historically would have a low impact. The need for, scale, scope and nature of any further assessment and/or archaeological works should be agreed through consultation with the statutory authorities.

## 5.0 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 28rd August 2019



Plate 1: Aerial image of the site in 1940s (Google Earth)





Plate 2: Aerial image of the site in 1960s (Google Earth)



Plate 3: Aerial image of the site in 1990 (Google Earth)





Plate 4: Aerial image of the site in 2003 (Google Earth)



Plate 5: Aerial image of the site in 2007 (Google Earth)





Plate 6: Aerial image of the site in 2018 (Google Earth)



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



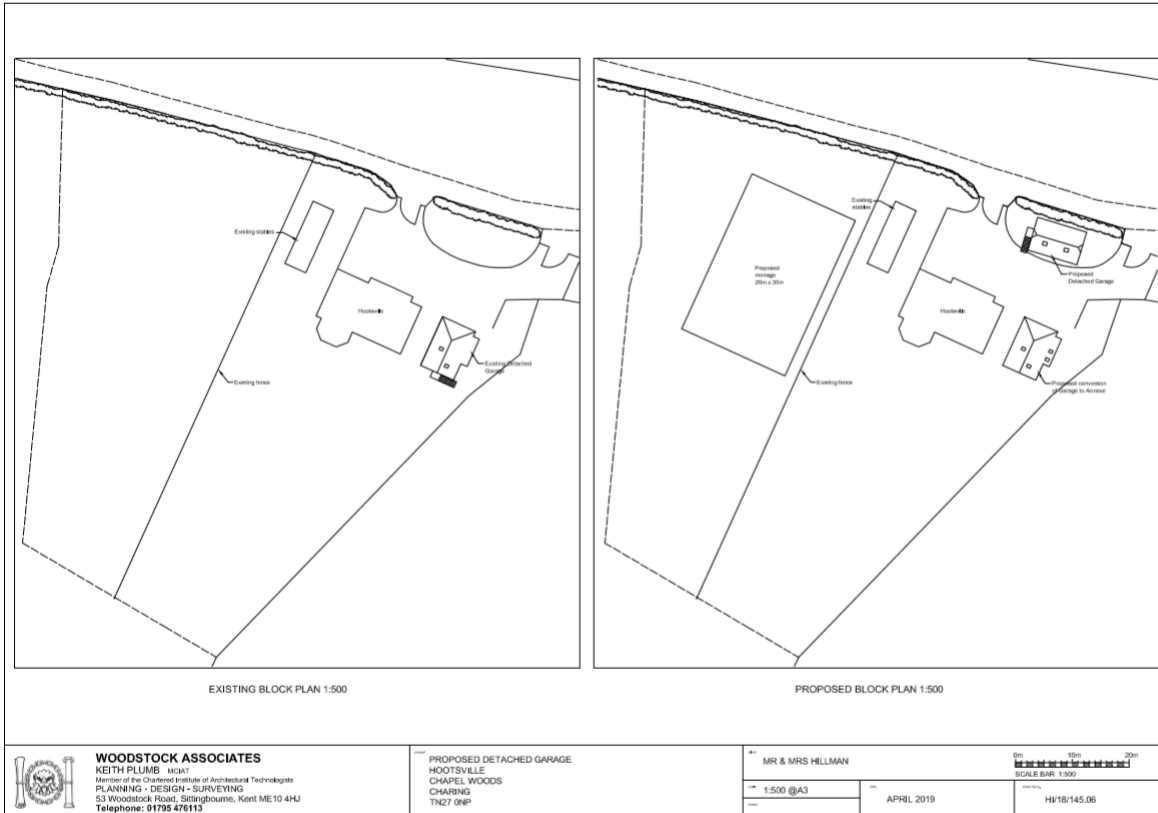


Figure 5: Proposed Development



Plate 7: View of the area for the proposed garage (facing ENE)





Plate 8: View of the area for the proposed garage from the road (facing W)



Plate 9: Looking area the site of the proposed menage (facing NNE)





Plate 10: Looking area the site of the proposed menage (facing SE)



Plate 11: Looking area the site of the proposed menage (facing SSW)