

# RAPID ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT OF LAND ADJACENT TO CARLTON AND CHART ROAD, ASHFORD, KENT

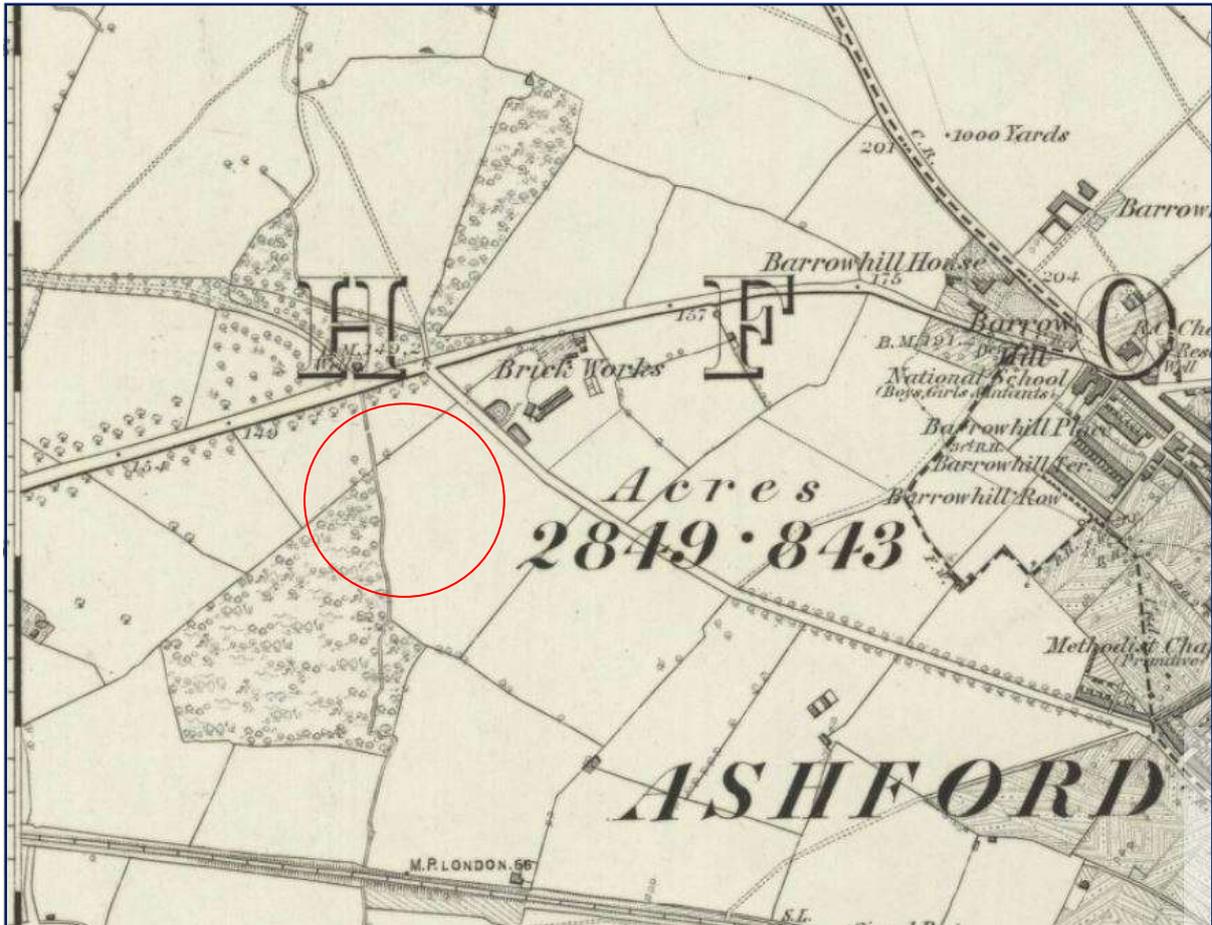


Figure 1. 1871 OS map of the location of development (red circle)

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Plate 1. 2018 aerial photograph of the site

Plate 2. Aerial photograph 1960

Plate 3. Aerial photograph 1990

Plate 4. Aerial photograph 1960

Plate 5. Aerial photograph 1940

Figure 1. OS map 1871

Figure 2. OS map 1896

Figure 3. OS map 1907

Figure 4. OS map 1938

Figure 5. HER Data

Figure 6. Proposed development

*THE TOWN OF ASHFORD stands most pleasant and healthy, on the knoll of a hill, of a gentle ascent on every side, the high road from Hythe to Maidstone passing through it, from which, in the middle of the town, the high road branches off through a pleasant country towards Canterbury. The houses are mostly modern and well-built, and the high-street, which has been lately new paved, is of considerable width. The market house stands in the centre of it, and the church and school on the south side of it, the beautiful tower of the former being a conspicuous object to the adjoining country. It is a small, but neat and chearful town, and many of the inhabitants of a genteel rank in life.*

(Edward Hasted 1798).

## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

1.1 In January 2019 Dr Paul Wilkinson MCIFA of SWAT Archaeology carried out a rapid archaeological desk-based assessment of available data on land at Chart Road, Ashford in Kent.

**1.2 Historic mapping, aerial photographs and the HER records were studied and no archaeological activity has been recorded within 100m of the proposed development site.**

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

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

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

## **2.0 HISTORICAL/ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND**

### **2.1 Location**

The Proposed Development Area (PDA) is located within the settlement boundary of Ashford and located to the south west of the town. In the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries historic mapping shows the site was the location of brickworks and from 1871 the eastern boundary of the site was the main railway line from Ashford to Maidstone. The NGR to the centre of site is NGR 600047 143085 (Figure 3).



Figure 2. OS map surveyed in 1896

## 2.5 Historic Background

A rapid map assessment of OS historic mapping shows that in 1871 (Figure 1) the surrounding area of the PDA was open fields and the outlying landscape was mainly agricultural but to the left of the Proposed Development Area (PDA) were 'Brick Works'. The OS map of 1896 (Figure 2) shows the PDA was now part of the adjacent 'Brick Works'. The OS map of 1906 (Figure 3) show that the PDA is now the main centre of activity of the 'Brick Works' and to the south west of the PDA extensive quarries can now be seen. By 1938 the land to the west of the PDA is now quarried out but the 'Brick Works' is still in existence (Figure 4).

The aerial photograph of 1940 show that the 'Brick Works' are now abandoned with the 'Brick Works' building roofless and overgrown (Plate 1). By 1960 new warehouse type building have been constructed on the PDA (Plate2) and by 1990 the coloured portion of the

PDA (which dates from 1990) shows an industrial park with buildings and outside stored materials (Plate 3). The 2018 aerial photograph shows wholesale clearing of the surrounding landscape with the housing estate to the south west of the PDA demolished to be replaced with storage and factory units and a new road layout (Plate 4).

### **3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES**

3.1 The KCC HER records (Figure 5) show two sites of archaeological site in the vicinity of the PDA (Proposed Development Area).

100m to the east is the site of a former decontamination Plant (TR 04 SW 107) whilst to the SSE a WWII set of concrete dragons teeth tank traps (TR 04 SW 73).

### **4.0 DISCUSSION**

4.1 A review of the available data shows that no major archaeological sites are known within the 100m radius of the PDA and the proposed development is unlikely impact on the archaeological resource. It is likely that large areas of the site have been subject to brickearth extraction. However, it is advised that evaluation trenches across the footprint of the proposed development be undertaken prior to development and secured by Condition.

### **5.0 PARAMETERS**

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

Dr Paul Wilkinson PhD., MCIfA., FRSA. Dated 14<sup>th</sup> January 2019

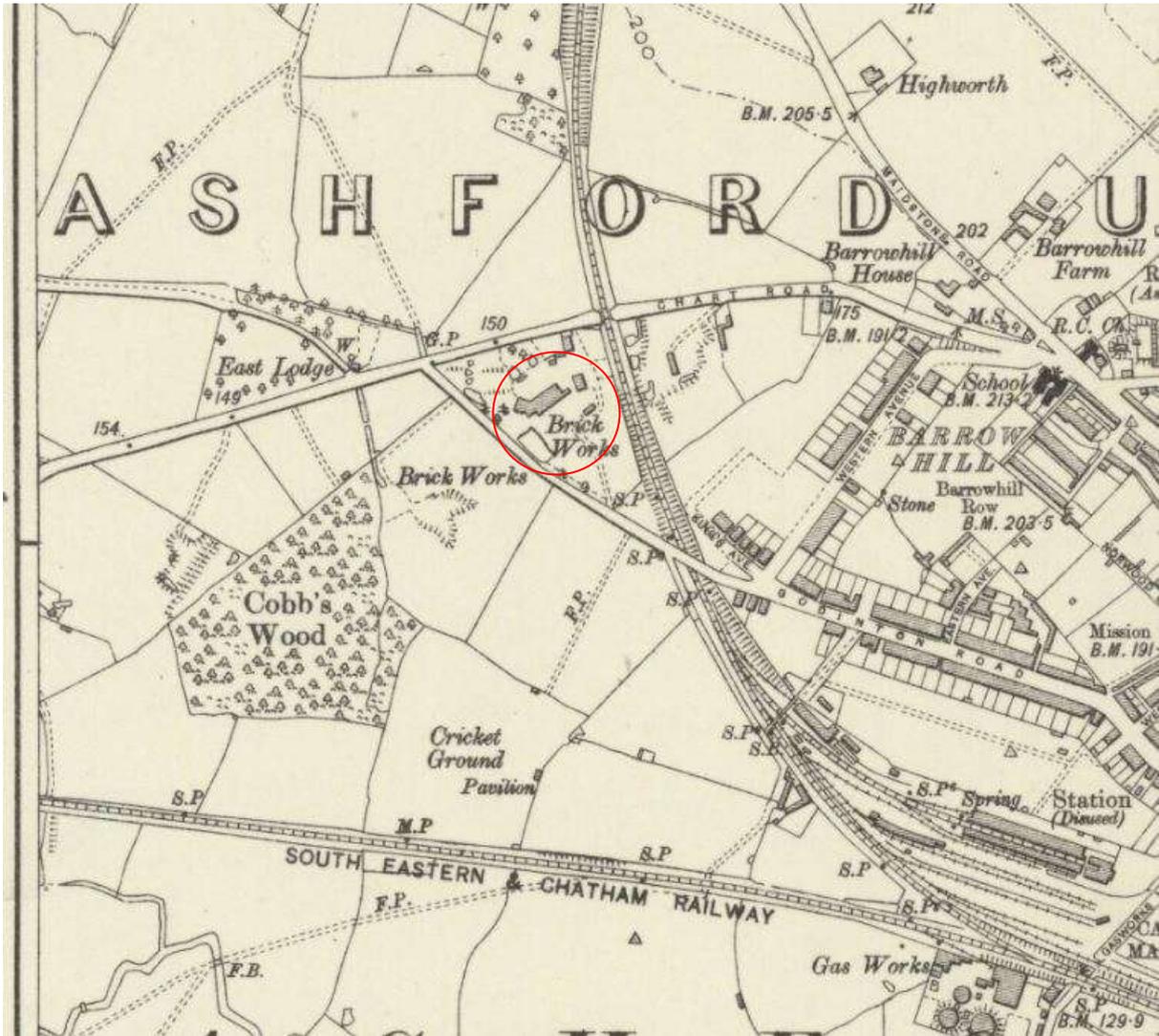


Figure 3. OS map of 1906 with PDA ringed in red

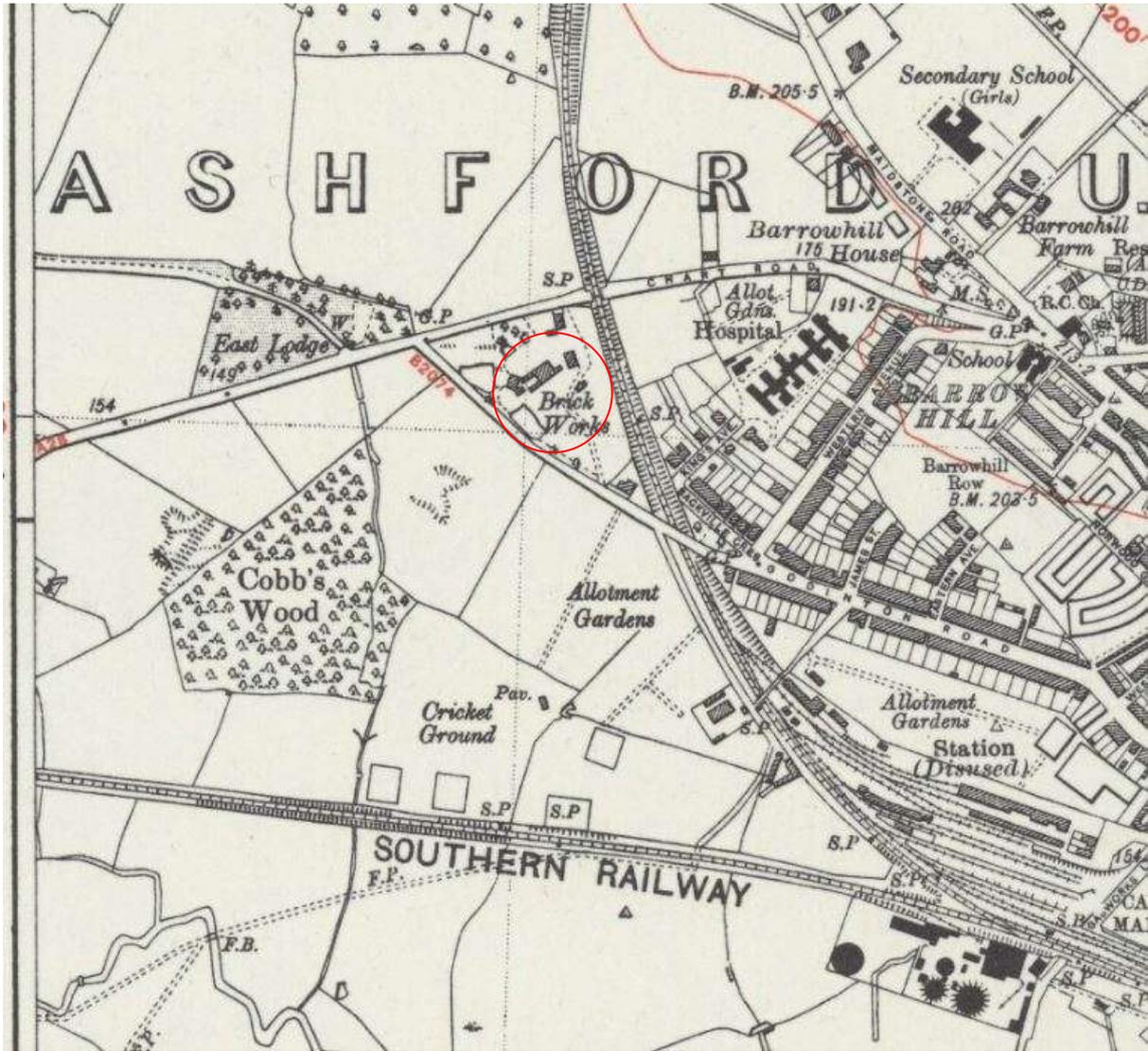


Figure 4. OS map of 1938 with PDA ringed in red



Plate 1. Aerial photograph of 1940 with PDA ringed in red



Plate 2. Aerial photograph of 1960 with PDA ringed in red



Plate 3. Aerial photograph of 1990 with PDA ringed in red



Plate 4. Aerial photograph of 2017 with PDA ringed in red



Figure 5. KCC HER data (January 2019)



Figure 6. Proposed development