



View of site in 2019

# ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT OF LAND AT 21A NASH LANE, MARGATE, KENT

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Front cover: 2019 aerial photograph of the site

Figure 1. KCC mapping

Figure 2. Proposed Development

Figure 3. View of Site

MAP 1. Andrews Dury map of 1769

MAP 2. Ordnance Surveyors Drawing 1797

MAPS 3 & 4. Historic OS mapping 1872 & 1931-32

Plates 1-3. Aerial Photographs

Plate 4. View of the PDA

## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

1.1 In February 2020 Dr Paul Wilkinson of SWAT Archaeology carried out a rapid archaeological desk-based assessment of available data on land at 21a Nash Lane, Margate, Kent, located at National Grid Reference (NGR) TR 35724 69255 (Fig.1; cover). The proposed development seeks to provide erection of three chalet style bungalows and a single detached house together with associated access, parking and landscaping.

**1.2 Historic mapping, aerial photographs and the HER records were studied and shows that archaeological activity has been recorded within 500m of the proposed development area (PDA).**

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 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 and maps.

## **2.0 HISTORICAL/ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND**

### **2.1 Location**

Nash Road is located on the edge of a residential area, one mile south of the centre of Margate. The PDA is located in the south west side of Nash Lane and is an irregular shape area of land of some 0.15 hectare. Within the plot is 21 Nash Road with a detached two storey house along the south eastern boundary with a garden and undeveloped area of land making up the remainder of the PDA. A wooden shed sits in the northern corner. Either side are residential houses. Along the rear of the residential properties and their gardens is a long

strip of land that was previously a railway line between Tivoli Road and Westwood.

The Geological Survey of Great Britain (1:50,000) shows that proposed development site (PDA) at Manston Road is situated upon Bedrock Geology of Margate Chalk. There are no superficial deposits.

The KCC HER map shows a number of monument records and findspots in the area (Figure 1).

## 2.5 Historic Background

2.5.1 The Isle of Thanet has been occupied since prehistoric times. The evidence of early hunter gatherer peoples on Thanet which can be seen in the Pleistocene deposits of the island particularly at Pegwell Bay and Manston. The Neolithic period of Thanet is dominated by the rising sea level, which would have altered the geography of the region and affected local resources. Evidence on Thanet of the Neolithic period and Bronze Age period is seen through the funerary landscapes along with evidence of worked flint tools. During the Bronze Age it appeared people favoured the promontories and highest elevations for the location of barrows of which there are hundreds across Thanet, especially in the area of Thanet Earth. At Thanet Earth Beaker burials were found likely given Thanet's coastal position and proximity to the Continent, aside from the concentration of these burials around Stonehenge, the density seen on Thanet is the next known in the whole of the south east. By the Iron Age in the sixth century BC, the coastline was formed of tall cliffs that were impassable except in deep valley intersections.

2.5.2 Margate and Ramsgate were broad natural bays with smaller bays along the north and east coastline such as at Westgate and St Mildred's Bay, that would have allowed access for fishing boats. The earliest Iron Age features date to the fifth century BC and comprise of defensive settlements at North Foreland, Trinity Square, Margate and South Dumpton Down replacing the earlier Bronze Age landscapes.

2.5.3 The Roman army invaded Britain in 43 AD, and it is possible that they landed at nearby Richborough and Ebbsfleet. The Romans created major Kentish ports at Richborough, Dover and Lympne and therefore Kent was of considerable strategic importance. Roman villas have been found across Thanet.

Romano-British activity seems to cluster around both sides of the Dane Valley leading up to the present harbour with most of the activity concentrated at the seaward end of the valley on both high ground and further down the valley sides. Activity is similarly recorded further inland, also along the valley sides. The arrival of the Anglo-Saxons is celebrated in Thanet through the tradition of the arrival of Hengist and Horsa in 449 AD at Ebbsfleet near Cliffsend. Remains of the new settlers can be seen in the cemeteries that can be found throughout the island and the occasional evidence of dispersed settlement that has been found.

2.5.4 Margate name means 'Pool gate' or a cliff gap where there are pools. In old English it was 'meregeat', which by 1293 had transformed into Margate. At the time of the Domesday book in 1086 AD following William of Normandy's invasion in 1066 AD of England, only Monkton and Minster were recorded as manors on Thanet. Monkton had 89 villagers, 21 smallholders with a mill and two churches. Minster had 150 villagers, with 50 smallholders, church, salt house, fisheries and a mill. However, the church of St John is thought to have origins from 1050 although the current structure is from the 12th century. At this point it was a subsidiary chapel of Minster until 1275. This suggests by 1275, Margate was become more prosperous as a settlement. In 1229 Margate had actually become a limb port to Dover under the Cinque Ports. An organisation originally formed by 1100 for military and trade purposes.

2.5.5 North west of the PDA is Salmestone Grange, a scheduled monument that was a Benedictine monastic grange. The grange survives in the form of standing buildings and associated below ground remains. Historical records suggest that it was founded by the monks of St Augustine's Abbey, Canterbury during the 12th century. The grange operated as the administrative centre for part of their large, mainly arable, estate then covering most of the Isle of Thanet, and as a place of occasional quiet retreat for the monks. Lying towards the centre of the monument, the standing buildings form an irregular group and include a mainly north east-south west aligned, gabled domestic range and a small, detached, chapel to the west, (TR 36 NE 65). The range, Listed Grade II\*, was converted into a secular farmhouse in the 17th century and is now used as a dwelling. Investigations carried out in 1979 revealed evidence for possibly 12th century wall foundations beneath the ruined south western end of the domestic range.

2.5.6 By the Georgian period, Margate is still considered a fishing village. Hasted an historian writing in 1798 referred to it as a 'poor fishing town'. However, with the invention of the bathing machine rise in popularity of Seaside resorts, Margate began to attract attention. In 1769, Cecil Square was built and was the first Georgian square in a seaside resort. Other residential squares soon followed, along with assembly rooms and libraries. By 1797, the Theatre Royal has opened and by 1796 the Royal Sea Bathing Hospital built. By 1846, the first railway had come to town, Margate Sands, with a second by 1863 being the current station. The railway was raised on an embankment, which effectively divided the town from the surrounding countryside, although in the area of the PDA it was a cutting to allow for a bridge to cross into Nash Road and Nash Lane just north of the PDA. The railways led to further growth in Margate and the town continued into the early 20th century as a seaside destination with amusements parks now popularised by the working classes. The railway at the site became redundant in 1926 following a simplification of the Margate to Ramsgate lines.

## 2.6 Historic mapping & Aerial Photographs

A rapid map assessment of OS historic mapping shows that in the Andrews Dury map of 1769 (MAP 1) the area of the PDA was fields on the rural hinterlands on the south of the main settlement area of Margate. The PDA is close to an area of crossroads from Margate south towards Nash Court. To the east is a farmstead called Updown and north west is Salmestone Grange (MAP 1 & 2). The OS map of 1872 (MAP 3) shows the railway has arrived with a bridge from Nash Road taking the place of the earlier crossroads. There is little change other than the gradual expansion southwards of Margate towards the PDA, until the 1931-32 OS map where, there is now a house within the PDA and more houses are being built along what is Nash Lane. By this time the railway is no longer in use and the track is being lifted (MAP 4). The 1940s aerial photograph shows that the property at the PDA (Plate 1), with part of the land along the old railway line being used in part as allotments. New residential houses have now reached the area north of the PDA. The 1960s aerial photograph shows that the area of the old railway is overgrown. The area of the garden to the north of the house has a number of structures on it thought to be possible greenhouses.

Residential houses are being built on the northern side of Nash Lane. By 2003 (Plate 3), the garden structures are no longer there and a swimming pool is now in their place. The area of the old railway contains dense, mature vegetation. By 2017 (cover), The swimming pool has been filled in and a shed is now located in that area. In 2016, a planning application was granted to fill the area of the railway cutting from the removal of railway material from embankments elsewhere, for which the plans suggest that this could be an infill of up to 4m. This accounts for the lack of vegetation now seen in the area of the old railway.

### **3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES**

3.1 There is no Palaeolithic or Mesolithic period records in the area. A Neolithic pit in the area of the Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother Hospital, north east of the PDA was discovered during an excavation in 2005 containing worked flints and early Neolithic pottery sherds (TR 36 NE 454). The Bronze Age, a period of large migrations from the continent and more complex social developments on a domestic, industrial and ceremonial level is represented in the Manston Road area by cropmarks of Bronze Age barrows located north west of the PDA at Shottendane Farm (TR 38 NW 63). There were two Bronze Age burials in the area to the north east at the site of the Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother Hospital (TR 36 NE 459). In the area to the north west of the PDA, a later Prehistoric curvilinear enclosure, that was partially excavated in 2004 that contained worked flints and also a core (TR 36 NE 507). There are other undated cropmarks in this area of linear features and what could be possible Prehistoric enclosures (TR 36 NE 100; TR 36 NE 74). To the south west, is another undated cropmark of a rectilinear enclosure (TR 36 NE 492). A cropmark of a possible pit and enclosure is to the north east of the PDA thought to be late Prehistoric in the area of Draper's Farm (TR 36 NE 193). (To the north east of the PDA are possible Iron Age/Roman field systems and post holes (TR 36 NE 2473) and an Iron Age ditch (TR 36 NE 613)

3.2 The Anglo-Saxon period is represented to the west of proposed development area by a postulated Anglo-Saxon cemetery exposed during an archaeological investigation in 2000 (TR 36 NE 434). During the archaeological evaluation one trench exposed an east-west aligned feature which upon excavation was discovered to be a grave. The trench was enlarged and two further graves were uncovered. To the south of the PDA near Dene Chapel 20

Anglo-Saxon graves were excavated in 1923 (TR 36 NW 23). In addition, a number of graves were discovered in the vicinity of the chapel in 1848 (TR 36 NW 23). To the north east, are a number of Anglo-Saxon sunken featured building (TR 36 NE 2472; TR 36 NE 614).

3.3 The medieval period is represented within the assessment area by Salmestone Grange and in 2000 an archaeological investigation in the north-west area of the PDA uncovered two possible Medieval buildings, large ditches which were dated to the Medieval period and a palisade ditch, again dated by pottery from its infill to the Medieval period (TR 36 NE 433), and to the west, along with quarries, trackways and field boundaries (TR 36 NE 2467). The Post Medieval period is represented by Salmestone Grange and a number of listed memorials in the St John's Cemetery, west of the PDA. As well as the arrival of the railway line. Modern period is represented by a World War II pillbox, circa 150m south east of the PDA (TR 36 NE 2167) and to the north west, a Second World War Roadblock (TR 36 NE 682) and another pillbox (TR 36 NE 2179).

#### **4.0 DISCUSSION**

4.1 A review of the available data shows that the area is one of ancient activity given that a number of archaeological sites are known in the vicinity of the PDA from the Prehistoric period that includes Neolithic and Bronze Age with a possible Iron Age and Roman to the north east. The Anglo-Saxon period is also represented with a cemetery to the west and sunken features buildings to the north east. The area to the north west at Salmestone Grange was obviously an area of Medieval activity, although the area of the PDA in this period is likely to have been fields close to a crossroad, north of the PDA. It was only with the arrival of the railway in the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and the expansion of Margate southwards that meant the area became residential and that there was activity in and around the PDA. A railway bridge was placed at the crossroads, which meant that the railway line in the area of the PDA was in a cutting, which was later filled in in the early 21<sup>st</sup> century, which would have had a high/total impact upon any archaeology in the area of the railway line. In addition, the northern area of the PDA, that is garden, appears to have been a swimming pool in the late 20<sup>th</sup> century, which would also have had a high/total impact upon any potential archaeology in this area. Whilst it is appreciated that the area around has archaeological potential, the likelihood is that past activity in the area of the

PDA itself has potentially destroyed any possible archaeology although this does not apply to the entire site. Therefore, it is recommended that a watching brief be carried out in relation to any groundworks associated with the proposed development.

## **5.0 PARAMETERS**

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

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## **6.0 REFERENCES**

SWAT Archaeology. 2014. Archaeological desk-based assessment of land at Manston Road, Thanet, Kent.

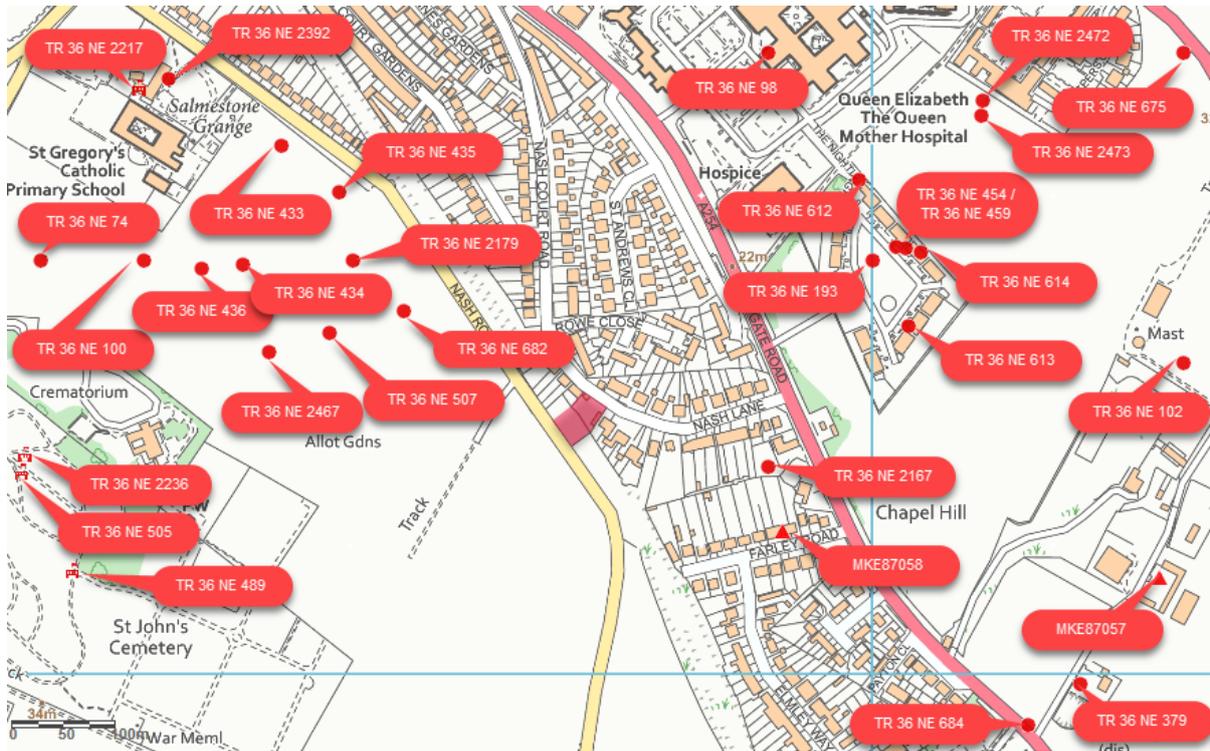


Figure 1. HER mapping (site highlighted in red)



Figure 2. Proposed Development



Plate 1. Aerial c.1940 showing extent of site



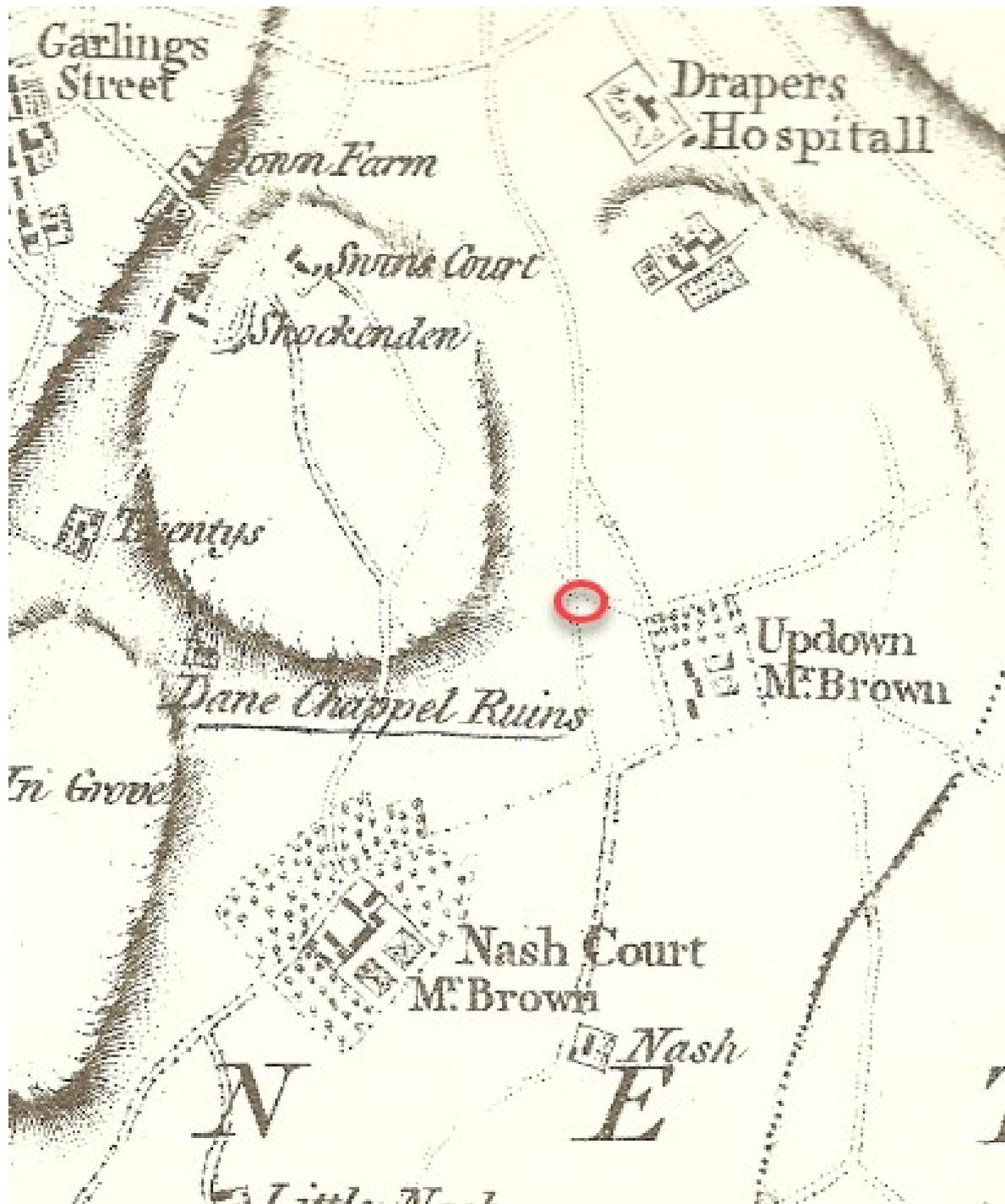
Plate 2. Aerial c. 1960s showing site



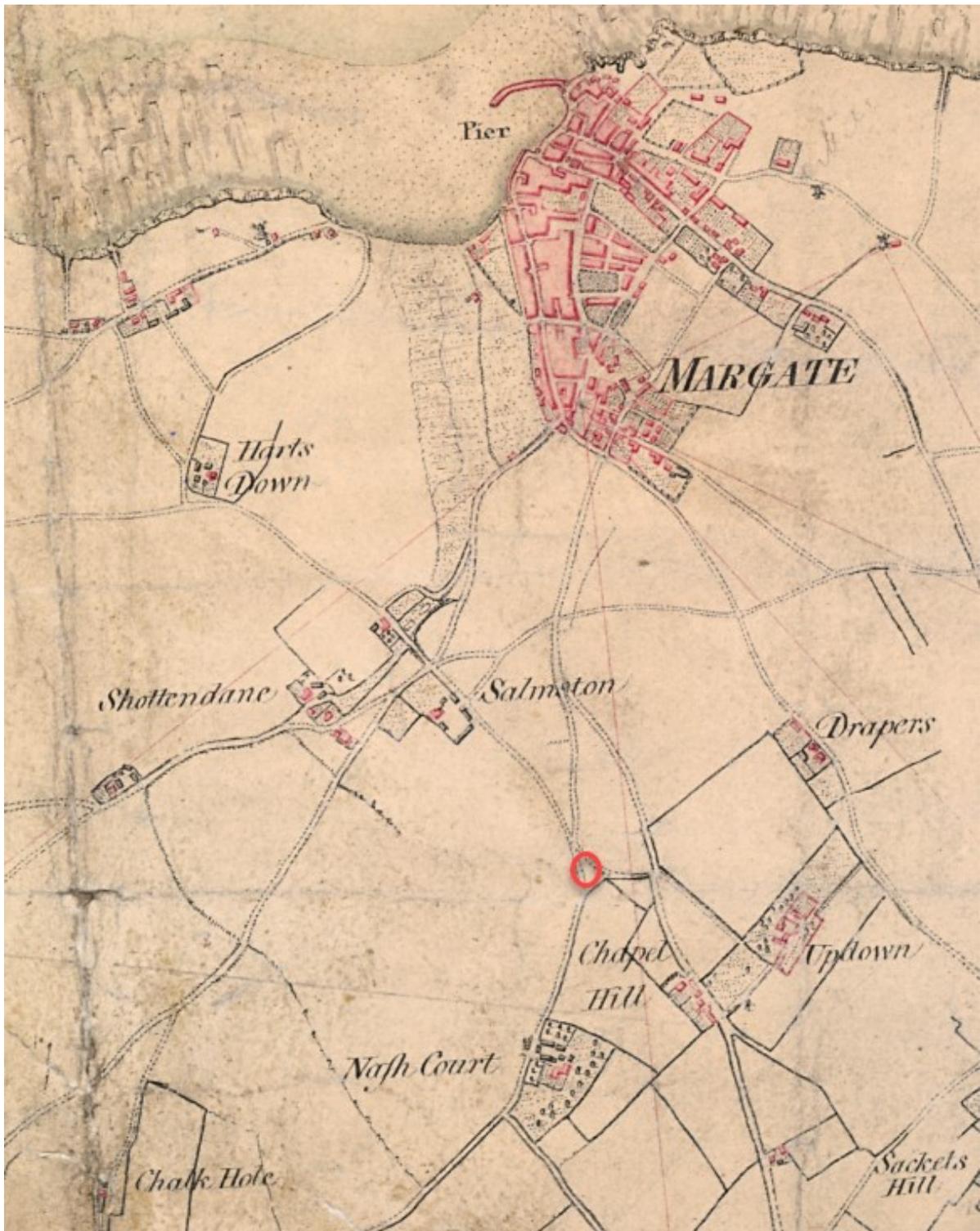
Plate 3. Aerial 2003



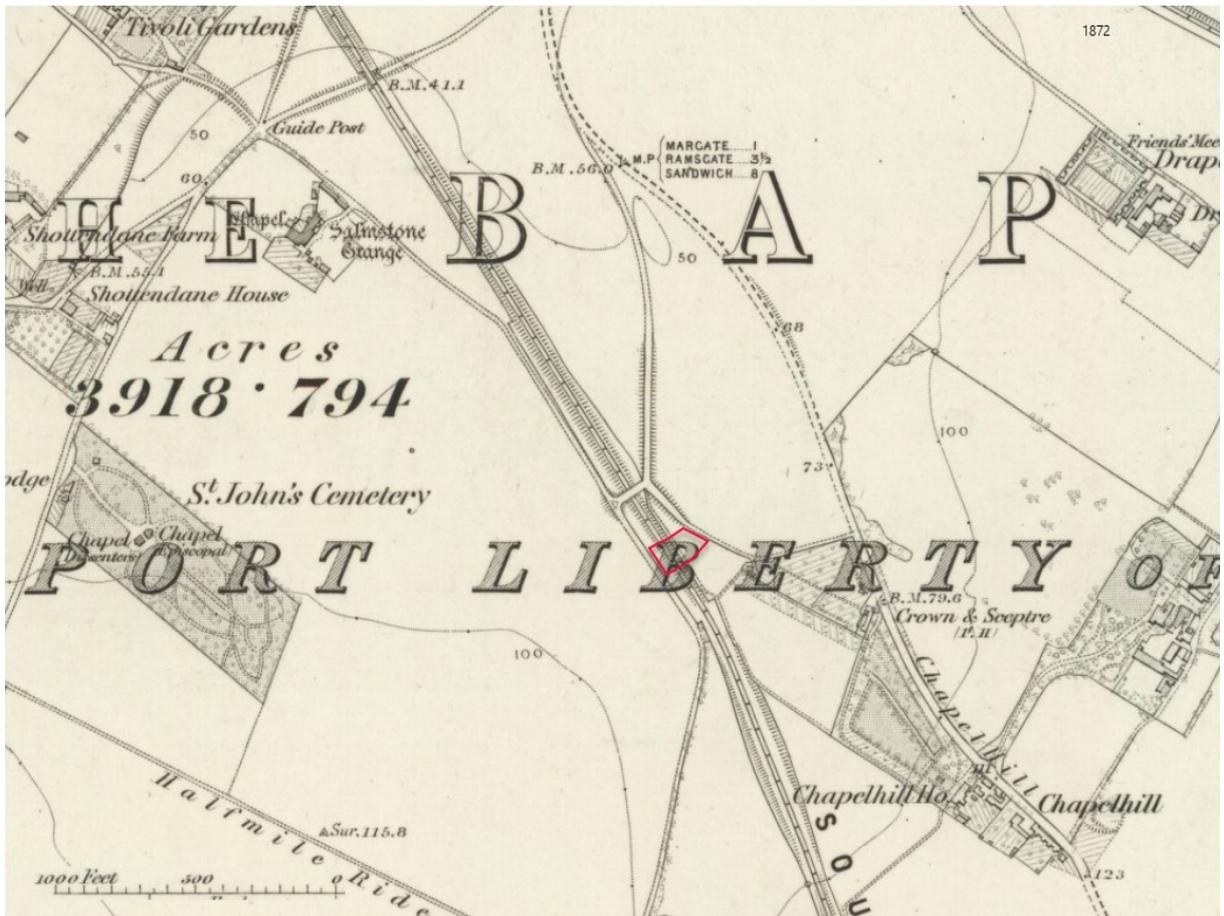
Plate 4. View across the PDA from Nash Lane (looking SSW)



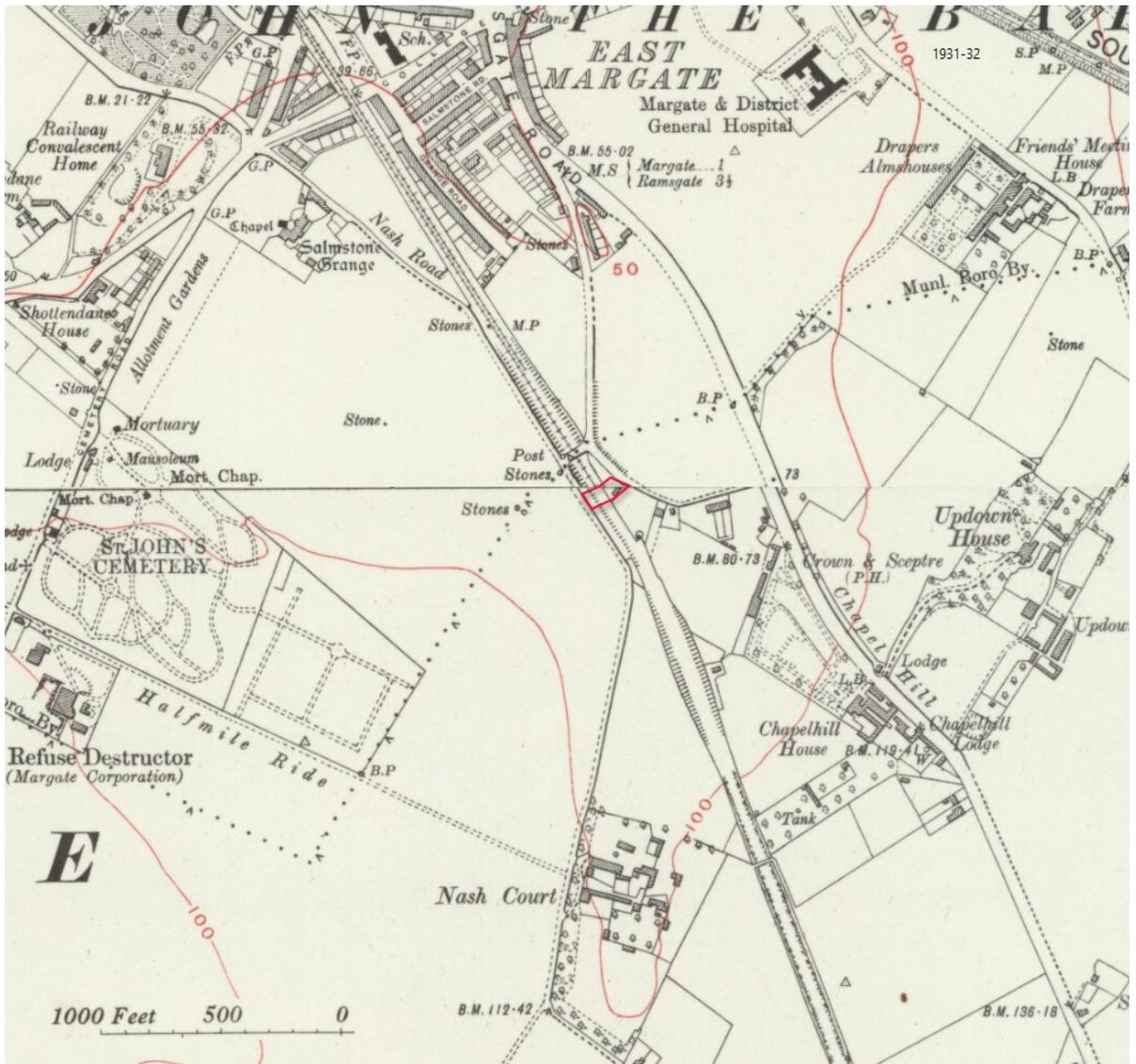
MAP 1. Andrews Dury map of 1769



MAP 2. Ordnance Surveyors Drawing 1797



MAP 3. OS map of 1872



MAP 4. OS map of 1931-32