



The Old Vicarage, Lympne, Kent

An Archaeological Desktop Assessment



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An Archaeological Desktop Assessment of land currently used as the garden of The Old Vicarage, Lympne, Kent, carried out by Judith East, owner and occupier of The Old Vicarage and member of the local history and archaeology society SHAL (studying history and archaeology in Lympne).

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1.0.0 Summary

This desk top study was carried out at the request of Folkestone and Hythe Planning Department on land which currently constitutes the garden of The Old Vicarage, Lympne, NGR TR 122 348, (figure 1) prior to a planning application to erect a single story dwelling on the land. The archaeological assessment was requested because Lympne is an area of antiquity and historical interest with the remains of a Roman fort, Stutfall Castle, and the as yet undiscovered Roman Harbour, Portus Lemanis in the area of the village. The proposed development at The Old Vicarage is located on the east side of the main house and is close to two Roman Roads, Aldington Road and Stone Street.

This desktop assessment was undertaken by Judith East MSc. who has owned and occupied the Old Vicarage since 1983 and is a committee member of the local history and practical archaeological society, SHAL (Studying History and Archaeology in Lympne).

2.0.0 Introduction

The proposed development site (NGR TR 122 348) is shown in figure 2 and is approximately 2,000 sq metres. It lies on level ground approximately 104m OD. The British Geological Survey (Geology of Britain Viewer) shows the site to be situated within the Hythe Formation – alternating sandy limestone (ragstone) and glauconitic sandy mudstones (hassock).

3.0.0 Aims and Objectives

The aim of this study is to determine, as far as is reasonably possible from existing records, any known or potential archaeological resource within the site in accordance with the guidelines set out in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists 'Standard and Guidance for Historic Environment Desk-based Assessment'.

4.0.0 Methodology

The project was undertaken by the following method:

- a. The collection of historical data from various sources mainly the County Archives, including maps of Kent published in 1769, the Tithe maps of 1841 and ordinance survey maps since 1882.
- b. The collection of existing archaeological and historic data from Kent Historical Environment Record. Also data from a watching brief which was commissioned when the foundations and basement were being dug for a new dwelling in the Old Vicarage garden, site code: OVWB/10/17. That development was located on the west side of the main house.
- c. Drawing on local knowledge that our family and other villagers have of the proposed development site and of the wider area.
- d. All the gathered information was correlated to present in this desktop assessment.

5.0.0 History of the Assessment Site

- 5.1.0 1769: The earliest record I found was A Topographical Map of Kent, by Andrews, Drury and Herbert (Figures 3, 4, 5). The map of Lympne showed the assessment site as being part of a large area of land without buildings, stream or any other land feature.
- 5.2.0 1841: Lympne Tithe Map and Award Schedule are dated September 1841 (figures 6 and 7). This shows the assessment area was part of a field tithe number 74 and known as Northern Town. It was listed as being arable. The land belonged to the Archbishop of Canterbury and was part of the Rectorial Glebe.
- 5.3.0 1854/55: The Archbishop of Canterbury released glebe land on the north side of field tithe number 74 to build a new vicarage as the existing vicarage near the church was substandard. (At the same time he released land on the south side of the field to build a village school).
- 5.3.1 1855: The building plans for the new vicarage contain certificates signed under oath by the architect, Stephen Barton Wilson after he surveyed the land. (Figure 8). Mr Wilson certified that there was no building on the land and no timber suitable to be used for building or to be sold. 'But there is stone under the Glebe which may be quarried and will be fit for use in erecting the proposed new vicarage and offices'. (Figure 9). We discovered the stone for ourselves when our daughter rebuilt the coach house as a dwelling in 2018.



Basement level for the coach house rebuild 2018

- 5.4.0 1882: The first Ordnance Survey map of 1882 shows the vicarage has been built and the assessment area for this desktop study part of the garden (figure 10). The house and garden are also featured, unchanged, on the Ordnance Survey maps of 1898, 1907, 1938 and 1978.

6.0.0 Archaeological and Historical Background

6.1.0 Kent Historic Environment Record

A search of the Kent Historic Environment Record (HER) of an area within 500m of the site centre was undertaken by Kent County Council Heritage Conservation (figure 11). The site lies outside the designated conservation area and in an area classified as post 1810 settlement. There are no Scheduled Monuments, Registered Parks and Gardens, Historic Parks and Gardens or NMP crop

marks within the search area. There are nine sites of historical finds within 500meters of the assessment area. Roman coins and pottery were found in an area north west of Shepway Cross and data from an as yet unpublished study strongly suggests a settlement in this area. There is also a possible Anglo Saxon cemetery located in the Shepway Cross/Lympne Hill area.

The entries for the area within 500m of the study site (figure12) are as follows:

6.1.1 Prehistoric

The Kent HER has two entries of prehistoric origin within 500m of the site relating to: Iron Age pottery found near Stutfall Castle dated between 800BC-42AD (TR13 SW36) and the find spot of three Iron Age coins dated between 800BC-42AD (TR13 NW196).

6.1.2 Roman Period

The Kent HER records two entries within 500m of the site.

Romano-British Samian and course-ware pottery and two Roman coins dated to circa 300BC (TR13 NW14).

Roman copper alloy coin dated between 355AD and 361AD (MKE69547).

6.1.3 Saxon and Early Medieval

There are six entries of Saxon origin recorded within 500m of the study site:

Anglo-Saxon silver penny dated between 765 and 792 (TR13 NW150).

Anglo-Saxon gold shilling (thrymsa) dated 650 – 670 (TR13 NW149).

Anglo-Saxon silver penny dated 959 – 972 (TR13 NW177).

Possible imitation Ottonian silver penny dated 983 – 1040 (TR13 NW151).

Possible Anglo-Saxon cemetery indicated by 7th century pot shards dated between 410 and 1065 (TR13 NW54).

Anglo-Saxon vases dated between 410 and 1065 (TR13 SW25).

6.1.4 Medieval

The Kent HER records five entries of medieval origin within 500m of the study site. Lympne Castle, grade 1 listed building, main construction periods 1200 to 1912 (TR13 SW66).

Church of St Stephen, grade 1 listed building, main construction periods 1067 to 1880 (TR13 SW67).

Lympne Hall, grade II listed building, main construction periods 1500 – 1999 (TR13 SW70).

Medieval house north west of Lympne Castle, main construction periods 1400-2050 (TR13 SW137).

Anglo-Norman silver penny dated 1074 – 1077 (TR13 NW152).

6.1.5 Post Medieval

The Kent HER records six entries of post medieval origin within 500m of the study area.

Lympne Castle, grade 1 listed building, main construction periods 1200 to 1912 (TR13 SW66).

Church of St Stephen, grade 1 listed building, main construction periods 1067 to 1880 (TR13 SW67).

The Sanctuary, grade II listed building, main construction dates 1774 – 2050 (TR13 SW135).

Monument to Cathirn Knatchbull, grade II listed, dated 1724 (TR13 SW64). Monument to Elizabeth Woolly, grade II listed, dated 1800 – 1832 (TR13 SW63). Monument to John Knatchbull,

grade II listed, dated 1733-1766 (TR13 SW52).

6.1.6 Modern

The Kent HER records ten entries of modern origin within 500m of the study area:

Lympne Hall, grade II listed building, main construction periods 1500 – 1999 (TR13 SW70).

The Sanctuary, grade II listed building, main construction dates 1774 – 2050 (TR13 SW135).

The Pump House, grade II listed, main construction dates 1900 – 1932 (TR13 SW59). Well head about 2m north of hall range of Lympne Castle, grade II listed, main construction period 1900 – 1932 (TR13 SW57).

Shepway Cross, grade II listed, main construction date 1923 (TR13 SW38).

Pill Box, main construction dates 1939 – 1945 (TR13 NW138).

Gun emplacement, main construction dates 1939 – 1945 (TR13 NW144).

Three entries for Lympne Airport main construction dates 1940 - 1945: aircraft hanger (TR12 NW80), firing range (TR13 NW81) and ammunition dump (TR13 NW82).

6.1.7 Listed Buildings

There are ten listed buildings within 500m of the proposed development site:

Lympne Castle, grade 1 listed building, main construction periods 1200 to 1912 (TR13 SW66).

Church of St Stephen, grade 1 listed building, main construction periods 1067 to 1880 (TR13 SW67).

Lympne Hall, grade II listed building, main construction periods 1500 – 1999 (TR13 SW70).

The Sanctuary, grade II listed building, main construction dates 1774 – 2050 (TR13 SW135).

Monument to Cathirn Knatchbull, grade II listed, dated 1724 (TR13 SW64).

Monument to Elizabeth Woolly, grade II listed, dated 1800 – 1832 (TR13 SW63).

Monument to John Knatchbull, grade II listed, dated 1733-1766 (TR13 SW52).

Shepway Cross, grade II listed building, main construction date 1923 (TR13 SW38).

The Pump House, grade II listed, main construction dates 1900 – 1932 (TR13 SW59).

Well head about 2m north of hall range of Lympne Castle, grade II listed building, main construction period 1900 – 1932 (TR13 SW57).

6.2.0 A Watching Brief at The Old Vicarage, Lympne, Kent February 2018.

Dr Christopher Cole, Aldington and Romney Archaeology carried out an archaeological watching brief on groundwork for the construction of a new dwelling on land that had been the garden of the Old Vicarage, Lympne, Site Code OVWB/10/17. NGR TR121 349. He observed digging the foundations and basement for the house and the garage footings, digging the drainage channels and also a rainwater soak away. Dr Cole's conclusions were as follows:

'The results of the watching brief of Area 1, Area 2 and TR1 produced negative results. No archaeological features or finds were discovered. This leads to the understanding that the area is void of any archaeological material'.

6.3.0 Local Knowledge

6.3.1 My husband and I bought The Old Vicarage from the trustees of The Church of England in 1983 and moved in with our young family. The house was in a poor state of repair and the garden was

completely overgrown. Over the following years we refurbished the house and garden and the projects included a kitchen extension, digging new drains and soakaways, digging a garden pond, preparing and maintaining vegetable beds, clearing dead and surplus trees and planting an orchard. The hurricane of 1987 uprooted more than ten trees on our property, disturbing deep soil and, in the case of one or two huge trees, bringing up the underlying ragstone in the roots. Apart from a few Victorian bottles, nothing of historical interest has ever been found in the garden although we were always looking for anything that would connect the house with its history.

6.3.2 In 2018/2019 a new annex, The Harry Margary Hall, NGR TR120 349 (shown in figure 2) was built alongside the village hall next to our property. There was no requirement for an archaeologist watching brief during the construction. A founder member of SHAL (Studying History and Archaeology in Lympe) was involved in commissioning the annexe and, mindful of archaeological possibilities, was present at the digging stages of the construction. Nothing of archaeological interest was uncovered during the excavations.

7.0.0 Summary and Conclusions

The desktop assessment has established the following principle points:

- a. The assessment site lies outside the medieval settlement of Lympe and in an area classified as post 1810 settlement.
- b. The area under consideration has been arable land or Vicarage garden since the eighteenth century and there is no evidence of there ever having been any other use.
- c. The site is located in an area of land referred to on the Tithe schedule as Northern Town. It raises the question of how that name arose and if there could have been a settlement there at one time. The area has been relatively well developed since 1980 with the building of a village hall and car park and the laying of a football pitch. A children's play area has been installed and re-installed and the village hall extended a couple of times. No artefacts of historical significance have been disclosed by any of the large number of people involved in those projects. The recent developments described in this study sections 6.2.0, 6.3.1 and 6.3.2 would give a more reliable picture but these also revealed that nothing of historical significance was found during various projects. Of particular significance and reliability is the watching brief conducted by Dr Christopher Cole on groundwork just a few metres from the site being assessed for this desktop study. He reported that the area was completely devoid of anything interesting from an archaeological point of view. He said there was not even any evidence of past agriculture.

8.0.0 Illustrations

Figure 1. Map of Lymgne

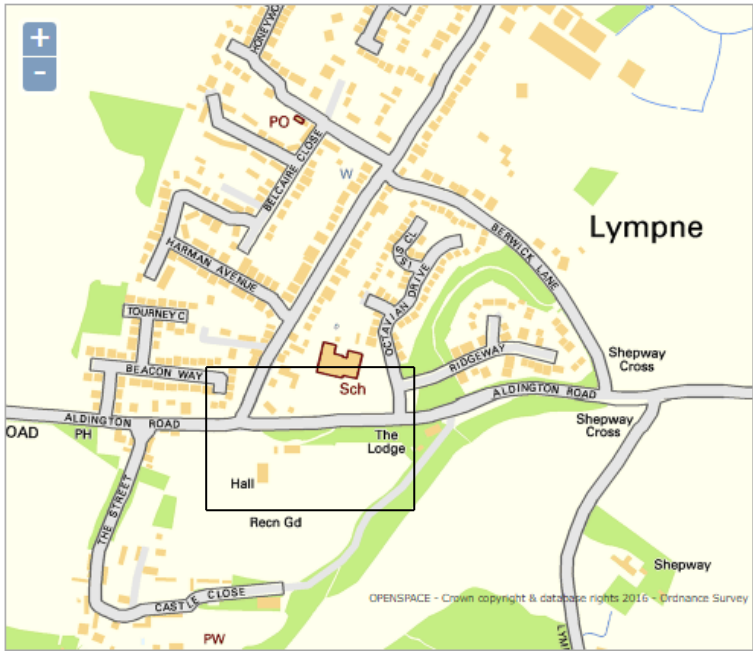
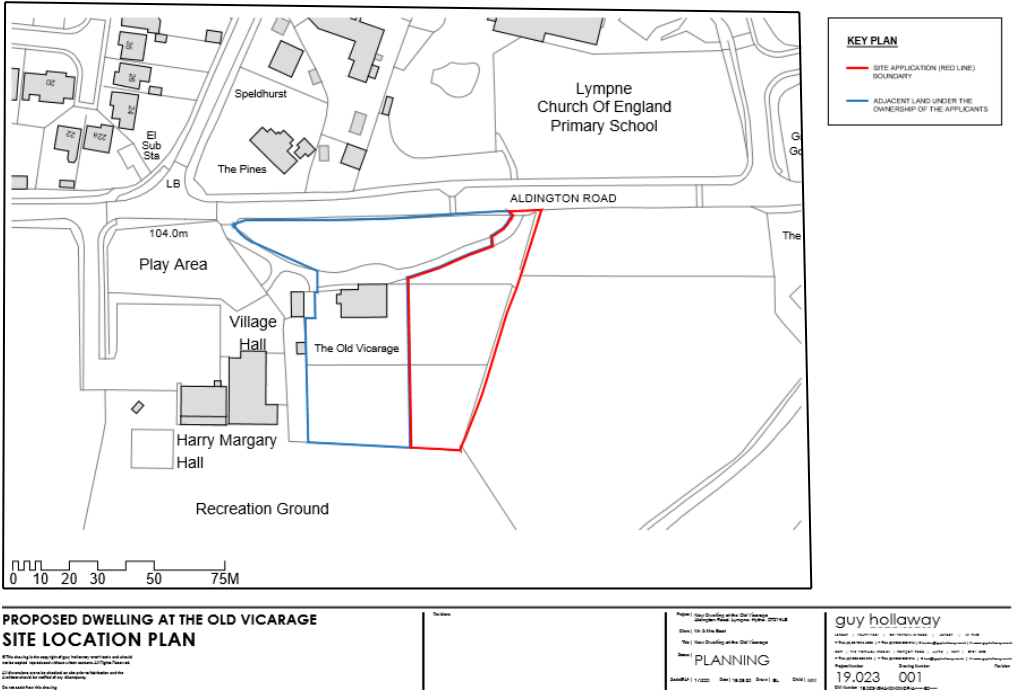


Figure 2. Map of the plot



Figures 3,4,5. A Topographical Map of the County of Kent 1769

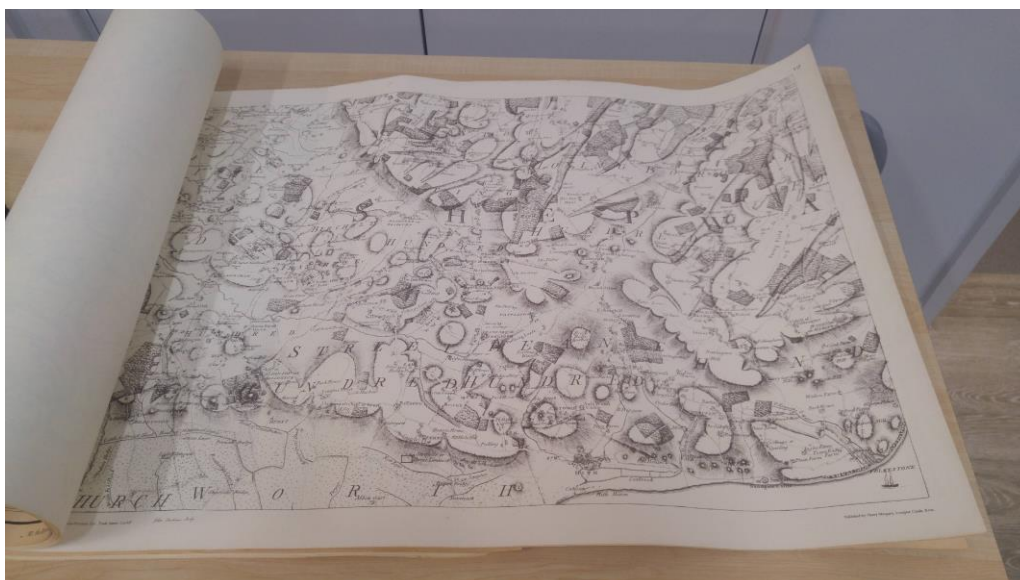
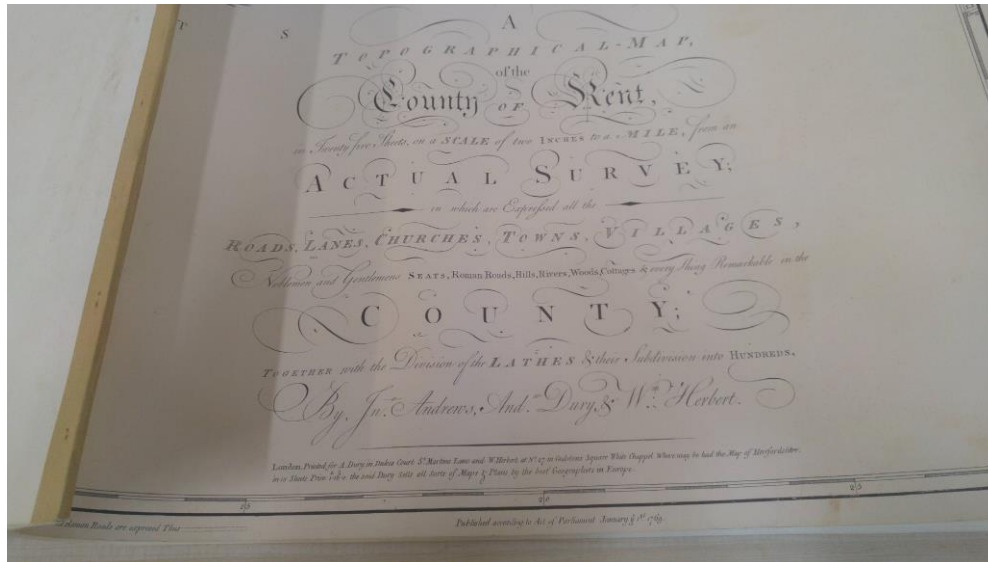


Figure 6. Tithe Map of Lymgne 1841 showing tithe 74 and the Aldington Road and Stone Street Junction

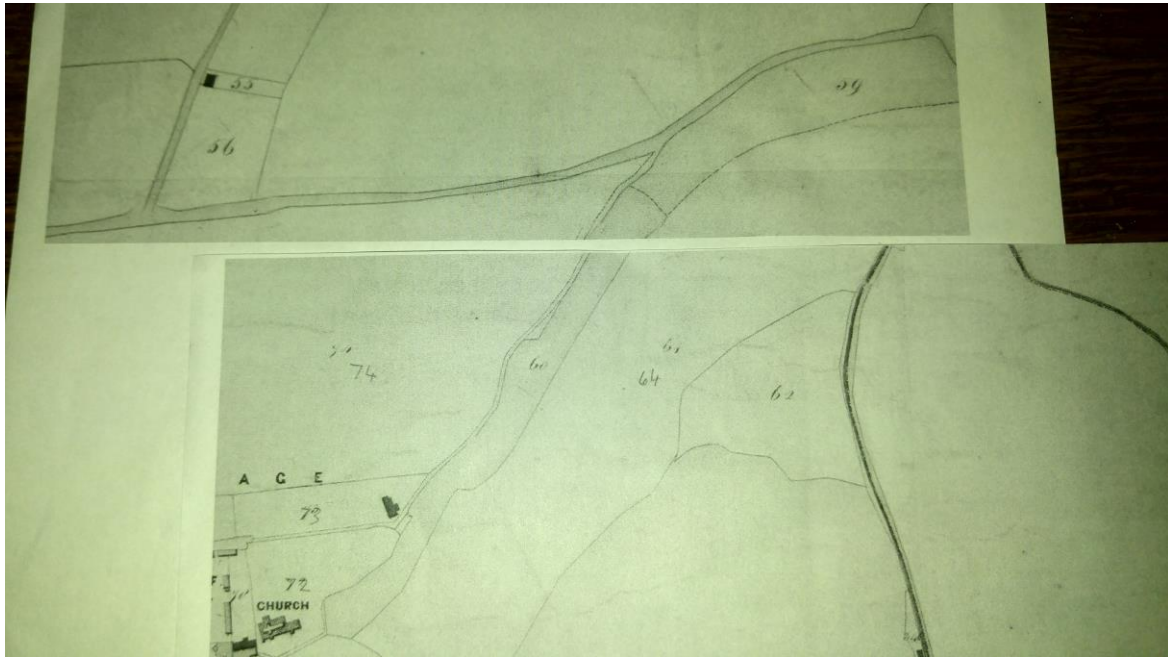


Figure 7. Lymgne Tithe Award Schedule

Lymgne Tithe award schedule - signed 21st

September 1841

Sheet 12							
Charles Willis	James Watts	100	Windfall field	Pasture	15.0.26	3.8.3	
Stephen Wratten	Stephen Wratten	207	House & Garden	---	0.0.23		
		340	Garden	Garden	0.0.7		
					0.0.30	0.2.0	
Venerable James Croft, as Archdeacon of Canterbury (Rectorial Glebe)	Thomas Mount	61	Beacon field	---	15.2.5		
		62	Hog Brook	---	3.1.34		
		66	Foddering Close	Pasture	5.3.9		
		69	Slip	Pasture	2.2.26		
		70	Pond Close	Pasture	4.1.7		
		73	Signal field	Pasture	1.1.24		
		74	Northern Town	Arable	15.1.2		
		87	Forge field	Arable	15.0.9		
		88	Eighteen & twelve acre field	Arable	32.3.7		
		214	Stake field	Arable	22.1.4		
		215	Inner twelve acres	Arable	12.1.24		
		216	Broom field	Arable	5.1.20		
		347	House and small field	---	0.2.35		
		78	Old Castle Office	---	1.0.39		
			Houses & Farm Yard	---	138.1.38	10.0.0	35.0.0
Rev Edwin Biron (Vicarial Glebe)	John Baker & Mark Newman	83		---	0.0.38		
	Thomas Mount	72	Vicarage House & Garden	---	13.5		
			Church Yard		20.3	0.5.0	

Whilst every care has been taken in transcribing information from old records which in themselves are prone to error or misinterpretation, visitors to this site need to recognise that there will be errors. Visitors who wish to verify information contained in this site should access the original tithe award schedules which are held on microfilm at the K.H.L.C.

Figure 8 Survey of the land in 1854 before building the Vicarage

No 5930 $\frac{2}{13}$

Stephen Barton Wilson of Frederick Place Gray's Inn Road London in the County of Middlesex Architect maketh Oath and saith that he has been accustomed to survey and value and to superintend the building and repairing of Houses and other Buildings and that he has lately surveyed the Glebe of the Vicarage of Lympne in the County of Kent and Diocese of Canterbury and that the Paper Writings hereunto severally annexed marked A. B. C. D. 1. D. 2. D. 3. D. 4. D. 5. D. 6. D. 7. D. 8. contain a Certificate of there not being any Buildings, and Plans and Specification of the work proposed to be done on the said Glebe, and a true and correct Estimate, according to the best of this Deponent's judgment and belief, of the Expense of such Work. And this Deponent further saith that the Materials on the Glebe fit to be employed in such Work, or to be sold, the particulars whereof are stated in the said paper marked A. are to the best of this Deponent's judgment and belief of the Value of *Sixteen pounds sixteen shillings*

Sworn at Hythe in the County of Kent the *fifteenth* day of *September* 1854
Before me

S. B. Wilson

Philip Lindlands
Justice of the Peace for the County of Kent

Figure 9. Survey of the land in 1854 before building the Vicarage (continued)

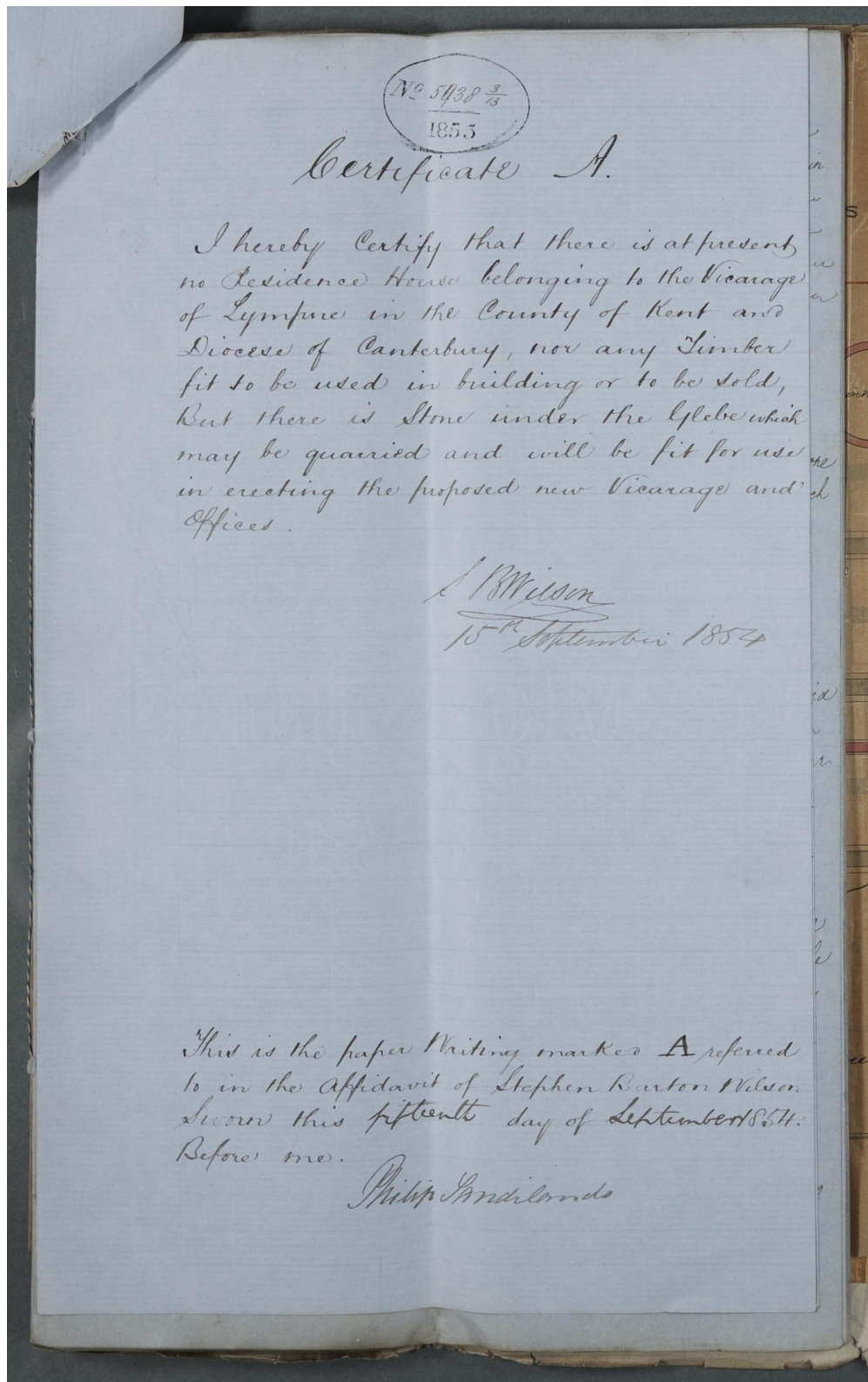


Figure 10. Ordnance Survey Map 1882

County Series

County: Kent

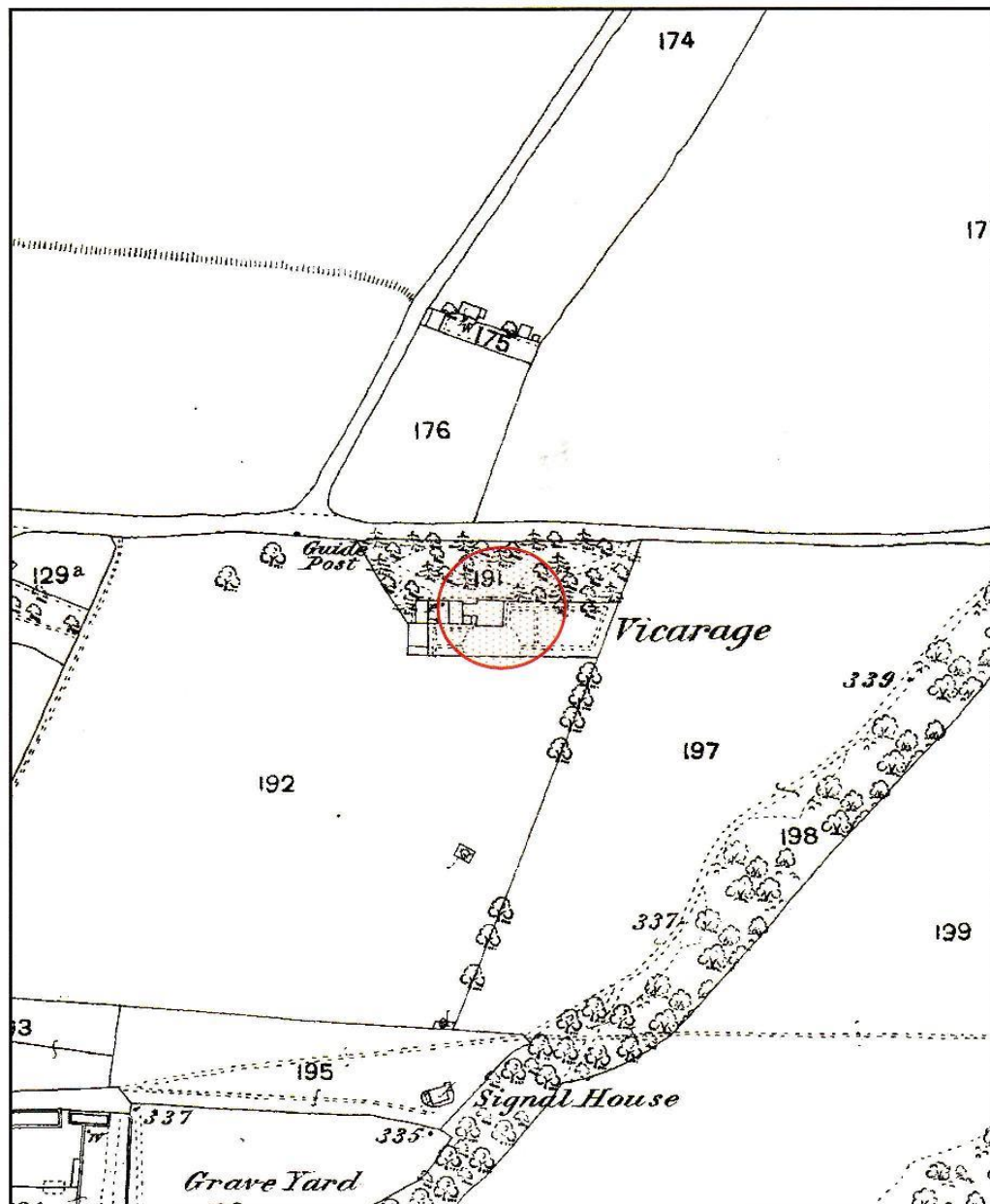
Published: 1882

my house history

3.1

SECTION 3 - Your House in its Neighbourhood

Scale 1:2500 25 inches to 1 mile



© Landmark Information Group and Ordnance Survey 2007

D46040250014

Figure 11. Area of Lympne within 500m of the proposed development site.

Kent County Council - Old Vicarage, Lympne - Conservation Area

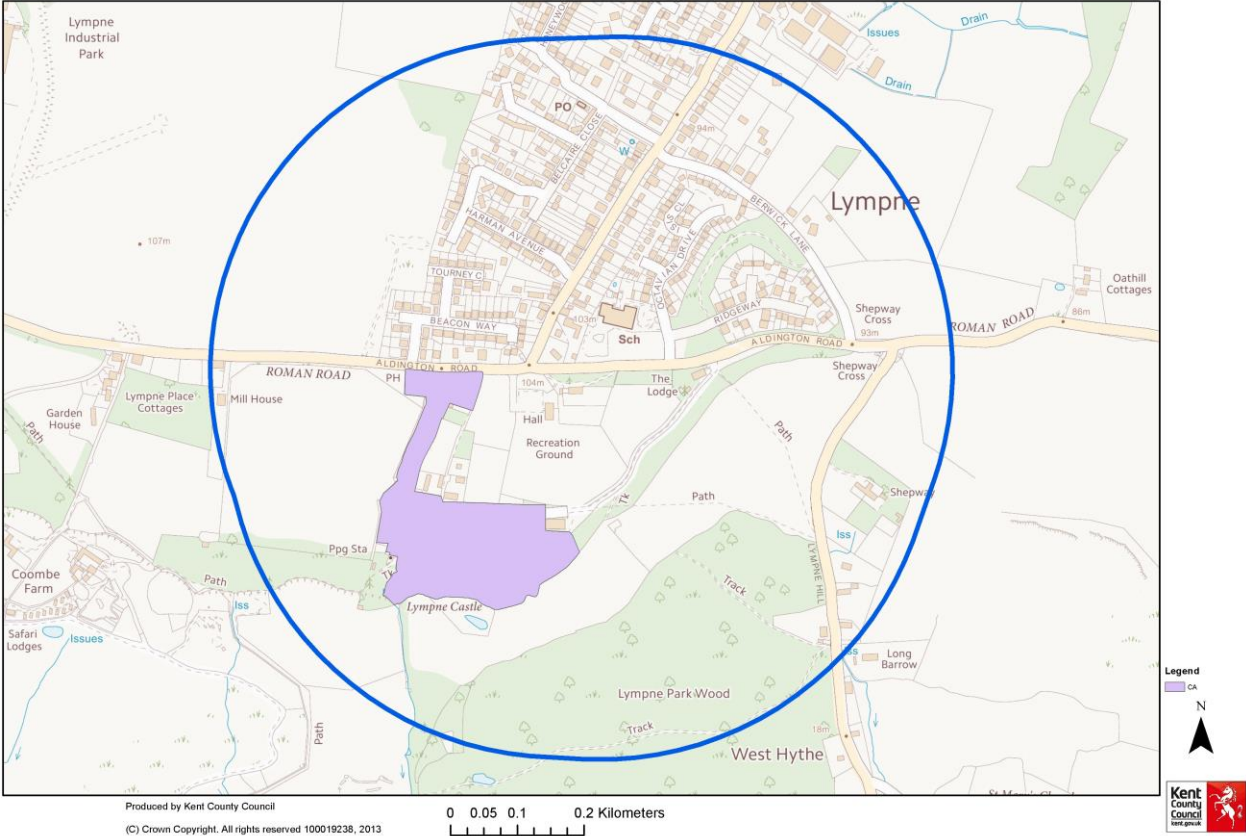
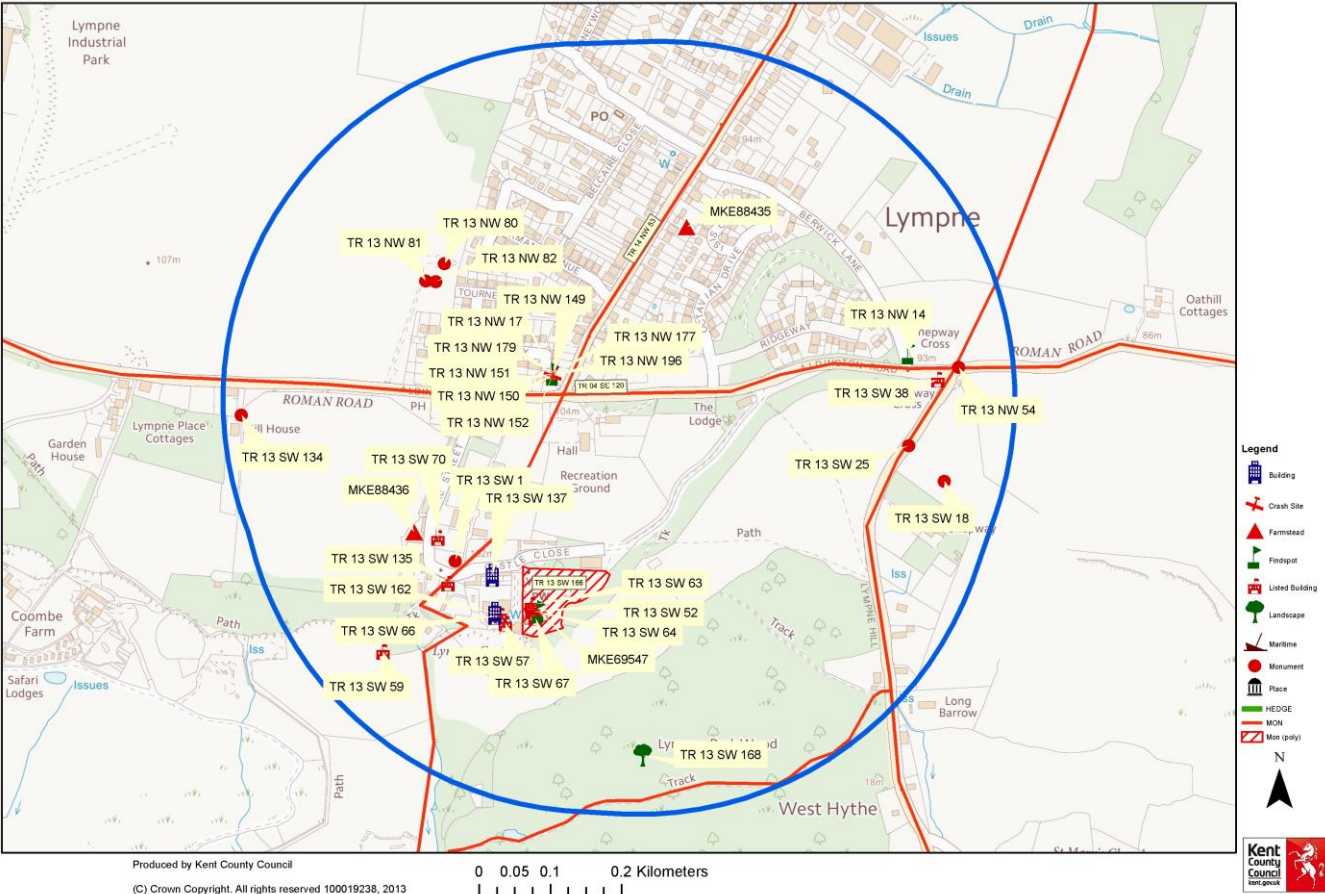


Figure 12. HER entries within 500m of the proposed development site

Kent County Council - Old Vicarage, Lympne - Monuments



9.0.0 References and Bibliography

- a) Geology of Britain Viewer: http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geology_of_britain/home.html
- b) Historic Environment Record Search, Lympe: Kent County Council Heritage Conservation, January 2020.
- c) Standard and Guidance for Historic Environment Desk-based Assessment 2014: The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
- d) A Topographical Map of Kent by Andrews, Drury and Herbert: from the private collection of the late Harry Margary, Lympe Castle
- e) Tithe Map of Lympe 1841: Kent Archives, Kent History and Library Centre, Maidstone
- f) Tithe Award Schedule for Lympe: <http://tedconnell.org.uk/> Kent Archives, Kent History and Library Centre, Maidstone.
- g) Plans for a New Vicarage for Rev Edwin Byron, vicar of Lympe 1854: Kent Archives, Kent History and Library Centre, Maidstone.
- h) Ordnance Survey Map Lympe 1844: 'My House History' publication.
- i) An Archaeological Report: A Watching Brief at The Old Vicarage, Lympe, Kent: Christopher Cole, February 2018.