



Land at High Knocke Farm, Dymchurch, Kent

Archaeological Desk-based Assessment

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SUMMARY

This updated desk-based assessment of land at High Knocke Farm, Dymchurch, Kent (TR 09685 28822 centred; Fig 1), was commissioned of Canterbury Archaeological Trust in November 2023 in view of proposed development of the site.

The report constitutes a rapid appraisal focussed on the Historic Environment Record, map regression, aerial photograph and existing site records analyses, with provisional historical contextualisation.

There is a possibility that remains from the Palaeolithic or Mesolithic periods might exist within the PDA from before the formation of the English Channel in the seventh-millennium BC; if such material did exist it would be below the deposits of shingle which have accreted here from c 4000 BC onwards, forming a barrier enclosing a lagoon. For much of the later Prehistoric, Romano-British, Anglo-Saxon and medieval periods the PDA lay on the inward edge of this shingle bank, bordering the inland tidal marsh. A lack of archaeological interventions in the vicinity means that aside from nearby Romano-British remains found during the moving of the sea wall, the use of this area of land prior to map evidence from the eighteenth century AD onwards is unknown. Such coastal areas have the potential for maritime archaeological remains, with the added possibility of organic preservation. Cartographic evidence from the mid eighteenth century onwards shows the PDA by this period was open farmland, possibly used for grazing, with only minor changes (the building of temporary farm buildings in at the extreme southern part of the PDA) evidenced in modern times.

Previous impacts to the PDA might be associated with groundworks from the construction of temporary farm buildings and any associated services, but this is unlikely to have completely removed earlier archaeological remains.

There is a chance that extant archaeological features, artefacts or ecofacts may be disturbed or destroyed by groundworks within the PDA. The destruction of preserved archaeology without proper record risks a major negative impact on the historic environment.

Further mitigation of the potential effects of development groundworks is likely to be a condition on planning consent.

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1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This updated report presents a provisional desk-based assessment constituting rapid archaeological appraisal of land at High Knocke Farm, Dymchurch, Kent (TR 09685 28822 centred; Fig 1); it was commissioned of Canterbury Archaeological Trust in November 2023 in view of proposed development of the site.

2. SCOPE OF STUDY AND CAVEATS

- 2.1 It is understood that the scope of this initial appraisal is of necessity limited by the context of its production. The research undertaken, verbally agreed with the client and in accordance with the *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2023), has treated only with readily available circumstantial evidence in order to provide an initial assessment of the potential extent, nature and significance of any archaeological evidence within and near the proposed development area (PDA).
- 2.2 The report includes analysis and interpretation of the Historic Environment Record (HER), National Heritage List for England (NHLE on-line), map regression, aerial and satellite photographs, and any existing site records analyses, with some provisional historical contextualisation where this might qualify archaeological data in a meaningful way through understanding the site's general history. It has been beyond the means of this project to pursue detailed questions requiring an in-depth study of primary documentary and cartographic sources at this stage. Only readily available maps showing significant topographical developments are reproduced.
- 2.3 A site visit was not considered a meaningful research activity in this case and has not been undertaken.
- 2.4 Both designated and non-designated heritage assets are considered in the report, for the purpose of providing additional context for consideration of the significance of potential archaeological heritage assets. This report is not expected to produce any detailed heritage statements pertaining to any extant and known heritage assets or their setting, or, for example, to provide any detailed historic landscape analysis or other research requiring specialist input, such as geoarchaeological, or Palaeolithic study. Such studies may form the basis of a developing mitigation strategy, and be requested as additional work by the Local Authority, but will necessarily form the basis of separate projects and funding.
- 2.5 The level of detail and scope of this assessment and report are sufficient for the findings of a rapid appraisal, pointing to the need for further study if likely/recommended. Any request made of the client for further desk-based work should clearly demonstrate the benefits of such an approach, however, as opposed to actual fieldwork, for example, which would provide direct evidence, rather than more, and probably equivocal, circumstantial evidence.
- 2.6 An interim impact assessment is offered with this report. This is clearly based on the circumstantial evidence gathered from desk-based assessment. This interim impact

assessment is offered chiefly as guidance to the client in terms of any potential for follow-on work. The interim impact assessment herein should not be considered or referred to as an 'impact assessment' *per se*, since we recognise that more fixed and specific detail of groundworks are required in order to compare with sufficient actual evidence from fieldwork for a full impact assessment. A further review point between this study and any follow-on fieldwork might indeed take the form of a standalone or add-on impact assessment, if and when a frozen design and particular strategy for development groundworks have been made available for consideration, and if sufficiently relevant, reliable, and detailed comparative data are available.

2.7 Relevant policy and research frameworks for the study are set out below as terms of reference.

3. POLICY AND RESEARCH FRAMEWORKS

3.1 This report has been prepared in accordance with national and local policy regarding heritage assets and with reference to research frameworks.

National policy

1.1 The NPPF sets out a series of core planning principles designed to underpin plan-making and decision-taking within the planning system. Paragraph 189 (NPPF 2023, 55) states that heritage assets are:

an irreplaceable resource, and should be conserved in a manner appropriate to their significance, so that they can be enjoyed for their contribution to the quality of life of existing and future generations.

1.2 By definition, the historic environment includes all surviving physical remains of past human activity. Heritage assets include extant structures and features, sites, places, and landscapes. Furthermore, the historic landscape encompasses visible, buried, or submerged remains, which includes the buried archaeological resource.

1.3 When determining planning applications, the following paragraphs (*ibid*, 56–8) are pertinent.

194. In determining applications, local planning authorities should require an applicant to describe the significance of any heritage assets affected, including any contribution made by their setting. The level of detail should be proportionate to the assets' importance and no more than is sufficient to understand the potential impact of the proposal on their significance. As a minimum the relevant historic environment record should have been consulted and the heritage assets assessed using appropriate expertise where necessary. Where a site on which development is proposed includes, or has the potential to include, heritage assets with archaeological interest, local planning authorities should require developers to submit an appropriate desk-based assessment and, where necessary, a field evaluation.

195. Local planning authorities should identify and assess the particular significance of any heritage asset that may be affected by a proposal (including by development affecting the setting of a heritage asset) taking account of the available evidence and any necessary expertise. They should take this into account when considering the impact of a proposal on a heritage asset, to avoid or minimise any conflict between the heritage asset's conservation and any aspect of the proposal.

196. Where there is evidence of deliberate neglect of, or damage to, a heritage asset, the deteriorated state of the heritage asset should not be taken into account in any decision.

197. In determining applications, local planning authorities should take account of:

a) the desirability of sustaining and enhancing the significance of heritage assets and putting them to viable uses consistent with their conservation;

b) the positive contribution that conservation of heritage assets can make to sustainable communities including their economic vitality; and

c) the desirability of new development making a positive contribution to local character and distinctiveness.

198. In considering any applications to remove or alter a historic statue, plaque, memorial, or monument (whether listed or not), local planning authorities should have regard to the importance of their retention in situ and, where appropriate, of explaining their historic and social context rather than removal.

Considering potential impacts

199. When considering the impact of a proposed development on the significance of a designated heritage asset, great weight should be given to the asset's conservation (and the more important the asset, the greater the weight should be). This is irrespective of whether any potential harm amounts to substantial harm, total loss or less than substantial harm to its significance.

200. Any harm to, or loss of, the significance of a designated heritage asset (from its alteration or destruction, or from development within its setting), should require clear and convincing justification. Substantial harm to or loss of:

a) grade II listed buildings, or grade II registered parks or gardens, should be exceptional;

b) assets of the highest significance, notably scheduled monuments, protected wreck sites, registered battlefields, grade I and II* listed buildings, grade I and II* registered parks and gardens, and World Heritage Sites, should be wholly exceptional.

201. Where a proposed development will lead to substantial harm to (or total loss of significance of) a designated heritage asset, local planning authorities should refuse

consent, unless it can be demonstrated that the substantial harm or total loss is necessary to achieve substantial public benefits that outweigh that harm or loss, or all of the following apply:

- a) the nature of the heritage asset prevents all reasonable uses of the site; and*
- b) no viable use of the heritage asset itself can be found in the medium term through appropriate marketing that will enable its conservation; and*
- c) conservation by grant-funding or some form of not for profit, charitable or public ownership is demonstrably not possible; and*
- d) the harm or loss is outweighed by the benefit of bringing the site back into use.*

202. Where a development proposal will lead to less than substantial harm to the significance of a designated heritage asset, this harm should be weighed against the public benefits of the proposal including, where appropriate, securing its optimum viable use.

203. The effect of an application on the significance of a non-designated heritage asset should be taken into account in determining the application. In weighing applications that directly or indirectly affect non-designated heritage assets, a balanced judgement will be required having regard to the scale of any harm or loss and the significance of the heritage asset.

204. Local planning authorities should not permit the loss of the whole or part of a heritage asset without taking all reasonable steps to ensure the new development will proceed after the loss has occurred.

205. Local planning authorities should require developers to record and advance understanding of the significance of any heritage assets to be lost (wholly or in part) in a manner proportionate to their importance and the impact, and to make this evidence (and any archive generated) publicly accessible. However, the ability to record evidence of our past should not be a factor in deciding whether such loss should be permitted.

206. Local planning authorities should look for opportunities for new development within Conservation Areas and World Heritage Sites, and within the setting of heritage assets, to enhance or better reveal their significance. Proposals that preserve those elements of the setting that make a positive contribution to the asset (or which better reveal its significance) should be treated favourably.

207. Not all elements of a Conservation Area or World Heritage Site will necessarily contribute to its significance. Loss of a building (or other element) which makes a positive contribution to the significance of the Conservation Area or World Heritage Site should be treated either as substantial harm under paragraph 201 or less than substantial harm under paragraph 202, as appropriate, taking into account the

relative significance of the element affected and its contribution to the significance of the Conservation Area or World Heritage Site as a whole.

208. Local planning authorities should assess whether the benefits of a proposal for enabling development, which would otherwise conflict with planning policies but which would secure the future conservation of a heritage asset, outweigh the disbenefits of departing from those policies.

3.5 A footnote to paragraph 200b reads: "Non-designated heritage assets of archaeological interest, which are demonstrably of equivalent significance to scheduled monuments, should be considered subject to the policies for designated heritage assets".

Local policy

3.6 Applying the same general principles on a local scale, the relevant Folkestone and Hythe Local Plan (FHDC 2020, 397 and 399) policies are HE1 (Heritage Assets) and HE2 (Archaeology).

Policy HE1 Heritage Assets

The Council will grant permission for proposals which promote an appropriate and viable use of heritage assets, consistent with their conservation and their significance, particularly where these bring at risk or under-used heritage assets back into use or improve public accessibility to the asset.

Policy HE2 Archaeology

Important archaeological sites, together with their settings, will be protected and, where possible, enhanced. Development which would adversely affect them will not be permitted.

Proposals for new development must include an appropriate description of the significance of any heritage assets that may be affected, including the contribution of their setting. The impact of the development proposals on the significance of the heritage assets should be sufficiently assessed using appropriate expertise where necessary. Desk-based assessment, archaeological field evaluation and/or historic building assessment may be required as appropriate to the case.

Where the case for development affecting a heritage asset of archaeological interest is accepted, the archaeological remains should be preserved in situ as the preferred approach. Where this is not possible or justified, appropriate provision for preservation by record may be an acceptable alternative. Any archaeological investigation and recording should be undertaken in accordance with a specification and programme of work (including details of a suitable archaeological body to carry out the work) to be submitted to and approved by the Council in advance of development commencing.

Research frameworks

- 3.7 The national and local policies outlined above should be considered in light of the non-statutory heritage frameworks that inform them. While the regional South East Research Framework for the historic environment is still in preparation, initial outputs are available (SERF on-line) and have been considered in preparing this report, in order to take current research agendas into account.

4. LOCATION, GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

- 4.1 The PDA is situated on the south-eastern coast of Romney Marsh, between Dymchurch and St Mary's Bay. The ground is currently an irregular area of undeveloped open fields, with three ponds and some drainage ditches. There is a concentration of modern ancillary farm buildings to the south side (High Knocke Farm) and sheep pens towards the centre. It is bounded to north-west by the Romney, Hythe and Dymchurch light railway line; to the north-east by a field drain, with residences off Marshlands (Dymchurch), beyond; to the south-east by a field drain, with the A259 coastal road and the shoreline beyond; to the south by residences at High Knocke and to the south-west by a field drain with open fields beyond (Fig 1). The area lies at a height of approximately 2–3m above Ordnance Datum (OD).
- 4.2 Bedrock geology within the PDA is shown as Tunbridge Wells Sand Formation (sandstone), overlain by superficial deposits of Tidal Flat Deposits (clay and silt) (BGS on-line).
- 4.3 Recent work undertaken on the formation of the Romney Marsh during the later Holocene (Long *et al* 2007a) describes a complicated background within which the development of the PDA can be placed.
- 4.4 The marsh is surrounded by high ground that is formed by Cretaceous Hastings Beds and Wealden Clay deposits. These upland deposits were eroded during the Pleistocene period to form a wide valley that developed into a large sandy bay. At approximately 4000 BC sea level rise slowed, at which point a shingle barrier was formed by longshore drift. This began to develop across the bay in a north-easterly direction eventually extending as far east as Dymchurch (Long *et al* 2007b, 207). The PDA lies on the landward side of this shingle barrier.
- 4.5 Tides containing large amounts of sediment were able to enter the area behind the barrier around its north-east tip forming mudflats as the sediment settled (Eddison 2000, 34; Long *et al* 2007b, 196). The mudflats slowly backfilled the area behind the barrier, with this process largely keeping pace with the shingle bank as it continued to extend eastwards. Eventually the mudflats became substantial enough for colonisation by plant life resulting in the creation of a saltmarsh.
- 4.6 The marsh continued to increase in size until approximately 1000 BC at which point the sea began to slowly re-advance forming a lagoon (Eddison 2000, 35–6). The deposition of further marine silts preserved much of the vegetation as peat. These silts have been identified to the rear of the barrier, notably along parts of Spitalfield Lane and Ashford

Road during the First Time Sewerage Scheme (Holman 2020, 13). It was the deposition of these later sediments that allowed the eventual occupation of the marsh by man.

4.7 The present site lies on the inward edge of the shingle barrier, in an area that that would, in all likelihood, have been on the edge of the tidal marsh in the prehistoric and Roman periods, and after this, reclaimed land forming the north-eastern part of Romney Marsh (Long *et al* 2007b, 197).

5. DESIGNATIONS

5.1 The PDA does not affect or impact on any World Heritage Sites, Scheduled Ancient Monuments, Registered Battlefields, or Registered Parks and Gardens. Historic Landscape Characterisation has been checked on-line.

5.2 The PDA lies c 500m to the south-west of Dymchurch High Street Conservation Area, designated on 03/12/1971 (Fig 2).

5.3 Listed buildings in the vicinity of the PDA include the following.

- Martello Tower No. 25 (HER TR12 NW34; NHLE 1344174); 390m east-north-east of the PDA; one of a pair with No. 24 (HER Number TR 12 NW 4) guarding the main Marshland Sluice at the west end of Dymchurch village. They are the last surviving pair of towers in this formation. No. 25 has been restored on the outside only with the building of a new roof.
- No. 42 St Mary's Road, (West End Villa) (formerly listed as Khandala) (HER TR02 NE88; NHLE 1344177). 390m north-north-west of the PDA; a mid to late eighteenth-century red brick (largely Flemish bond) house, possibly with an earlier core.

6. ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL EVIDENCE

6.1 A search of the Historic Environment Records (HER: see Figs 2–5) as well as a list of reports of archaeological investigations not yet included in the HER was commissioned from Kent County Council Heritage Conservation Group. In addition, the CAT Annual Reports on-line and grey literature report lists and reports have been checked. The HER and reports search covers a radius of 500m around the PDA (centred on NGR TR 09685 28822). These records have been assessed in terms of their particular relevance to the PDA and only significant evidence is cited in this report. Further (on-line) historic environment records (National Monuments Records) were also consulted in comparison.

6.2 It has been considered beyond the means of this project to pursue detailed questions requiring an in-depth study of primary documentary and cartographic sources. General historical context for archaeological findings is provided where applicable/significant in terms of results, and a survey of published and unpublished maps (including geology and contour survey) has been undertaken. A full list of maps consulted is provided in the list of sources at the end of the report. Only maps showing significant topographical developments are reproduced here.

6.3 No pertinent geophysical surveys were available. Only photographs, images or results showing significant features or topographical developments are reproduced, the findings incorporated with map regression, documentary evidence and archaeological sections of the report as appropriate and fully referenced.

6.4 All results of analyses are presented below in synthesis and in order of chronology.

Prehistoric (c 500,000 BP – AD 43)

6.5 No archaeological remains are reported within the PDA or within a 500m radius of the PDA during this period. It is likely that throughout this time the PDA lay on the inward edge of the shingle barrier mentioned in 4.4 above, bordering a lagoon or tidal salt marsh (see Figs 6 and 7).

Romano-British (c AD 43 – 450)

6.6 During the Romano-British period the area to the north-west of the PDA, the future Romney Marsh, was a tidal lagoon protected from the English Channel by the shingle barrier referred to previously (Fig 6). It was accessed by a narrow channel to the north-east, in the vicinity of modern-day Hythe, to the west of which lay Lympne (*Portus Lemanis*), a Roman shore-fort.

6.7 In the nineteenth century large quantities of Romano-British pottery (HER TR02 NE1) were revealed over a wide area during the construction of the sea wall, 250m south-south-east of the PDA. This included coarse pottery and Samian-ware, the latter including at least two complete vessels that probably came from at least one cremation burial. Other finds included three coins and various other items. In 1978–1980 rescue-work in the same general area revealed features and pottery of first and second century date.

6.8 A Romano-British cemetery (HER TR12 NW6) along with Samian and other pottery was found in adjacent fields c 400m east-north-east of the PDA in c 1844–6, when the sea wall was moved 150 yards inland.

Anglo-Saxon (c AD 450 –1066)

6.9 In the late-Roman period the entrance to the tidal lagoon had begun to silt-up, necessitating the abandonment of Lympne (*Portus Lemanis*). In the post-Roman period, the former lagoon had become marshland, a process aided by land reclamation (such as the building of sea walls and drainage ditches) that allowed use of the land, especially for sheep grazing (see Fig 7). During this period the first settlements appeared on the marsh and along the coast, though further silting led to the need to reposition some of the coastal sites, such as Hythe and Romney.

6.10 Finds from this period within a 500m radius of the PDA include:

- A late Anglo-Saxon, or Anglo-Scandinavian lead alloy disc brooch (HER MKE113633) dating to the eleventh century AD, found 290m north-west of the PDA.

- A late Anglo-Saxon strap-end (HER TR12 NW2) found c 400m east-north-east of the PDA.
- A silver penny (HER TR12 NW48) minted during the reign of Cnut (AD 1016–1035), found c 400m east-north-east of the PDA.

Medieval (c AD 1066 – 1540)¹

6.11 Domesday Book records two settlements in the wider area, Organswick, to the north-west of the PDA, consisting of around five households, and Blackmanstone to the west, with fourteen households and a church, but nothing in the closer vicinity or on the coast, suggesting Dymchurch was founded post-Conquest (Domesday on-line sv Organswick/Blackmanstone). The church of St Peter and St Paul (HER TR12 NW36), at the centre of the village, was founded in the twelfth century, which may provide a date of the founding of the village.

6.12 Finds from this period include:

- A copper alloy reliquary (HER MKE113593) found 290m north-west of the PDA.
- The site of a sixteenth-century beacon (HER TR12 NW5) c 400m east-north-east of the PDA, recorded as 'Brodhull' on William Lambarde's 'Carde' of c AD 1570.

Post-medieval (c AD 1540 – 1900)

6.13 A 1592 map (Fig 9) shows Dymchurch as a small settlement with a church to the north-east of the PDA, and the small settlements of Organswick and Blackmanstone to the north-west and west accordingly. It depicts the PDA as lying between 'Marshland Gutt' and 'Clobsden Gutt', which were sluices on High Knocke Wall, the south-western end of which is shown further down the coast past Clobsden Gutt. The PDA lies on featureless, reclaimed, land along the coast road between Gefferston and Clobden Courses (field drains).

6.14 The Andrews, Dury and Herbert map of 1769 (Fig 10) shows little changes in the vicinity of the PDA during the two centuries since the 1592 map. The 1797 Ordnance Survey (OS) drawing (Fig 11) however, shows the area subdivided into smaller fields, and maps more accurately the drainage ditches; the north-western side of the PDA is marked out by the drain running towards the Dymchurch to Tatnam Bridge Road.

6.15 Hasted, writing in 1799 (Hasted 1799, 264), records 'Dimchurch' (*sic*) as:

...situated wholly in the level of Romney Marsh, adjoining southward to the sea, from which it is defended by an artificial wall of great strength, being the sole barrier which prevents the sea from overflowing the whole extent of the Marsh. This wall is usually known by the name of Dimchurch wall, and is about three miles in length, extending from Brockman's barn, eastward of this place, as far westward as Wallend, about a mile

¹ Cf. Fig 8.

and an half from New Romney. As it is for the common safety, so it is supported by scots levied over the whole marsh, and the yearly expence of it is very great indeed, to the amount of 4000l. as the sea has lately increased with unusual force against it, insomuch as to call for every exertion for its preservation. It is more than twenty feet in height, and as much in width at the top, the high road from Hythe by Dimchurch to New Romney being along the summit for the greatest part of the length of it, and at the base it may be said to extend upwards of three hundred feet, being defended outward, down the sloping bank of it towards the sea, by a continued raddle work of overlaths and faggots, fastened to rows of piles in ranges of three feet width, parallel with the wall, one above the other, for a considerable way; and across contrariwise by numbers of iettees, knocks, and groins, from the wall towards sea, at proper distances, along the whole of it, to weaken the force of the waves, and at the same time stop the beach and shingle stones, which are continually thrown up, and to lodge them among the works, on the sides of the wall, as an additional covering and strength to it. Through the wall are three grand sluices, at proper parts of it, for the general sewing of the Marsh.

The country here looks very open, for there is scarcely a tree within the bounds of it, and for some miles further. The lands are chiefly grass, and towards the east there are great quantities of beach and shingle stones lying bare, with a very uneven surface, interspersed among the pastures, and continue so for a considerable breadth, as far as the town of Hythe, plainly shewing that the whole of it, as far as the foot of West Hythe-hill, was once covered by the sea, and in course of time, and by degrees, deserted by it.

6.16 The Mudge Map of 1801 (Fig 12) offers little detail above the OS drawing, save for labelling the area of the PDA as 'High Nook'. The First Edition OS map of 1877 (Fig 13) shows the PDA as consisting of three fields, more or less equally sized, divided by land-drains, and each containing a pond; a sheepfold is also shown on the boundary of the north-western and southern fields. The 1899 map shows much the same (Fig 14), though it also shows groynes at regular intervals along the coast to the south-east of the PDA.

6.17 Finds and features from this period include the following.

- Stack stands (earthwork platforms used to store hay) (HER 1535621) visible on aerial photographs of 1941, centred 280m west of the centre of the PDA. The scatter of mounds extends across an area measuring approximately 730m south-west to north-east and 480m north-west to south-east. There are 23 circular stack stands in total, measuring between two to six metres in diameter. The boundaries of post medieval plots visible on aerial photographs show that there was a single stack stand to each sub-division of land. By the time of the vertical aerial photographs of 1946, the stack stands had been levelled and were not visible in any form.
- Redspire, (HER MKE88348) a dispersed plan farmstead 360m north-north-east of the PDA, now completely demolished.
- Dymchurch Sluice Battery (HER TR12 NW8), c 400m east-north-east of the PDA, dating to 1798.

- A windmill and smock mill (HER TR02 NE104) 490m north-north-east of the PDA, built 1829 and demolished 1905.

Modern (c 1900 – 2000)

6.18 The 1908 Third Edition OS map (Fig 15) shows no changes within the PDA save for annotation – the labelling of the site of Roman coins discovered south-west of the PDA on the coast, and to their north the wider area is labelled ‘High Knock’. The 1950 OS map (Fig 16) shows, again, no changes in the PDA itself, but does record the gradual ingress of houses to the north-east and south-east, including a casino, as the coast became more popular as a residential and tourist destination. Also shown by this time is the Romney, Hythe & Dymchurch Light Railway (HER TR12 NW50), which opened in 1927 and is shown running along the north-western boundary of the PDA. Aerial photographs indicate further developments, although the 1940s image (Fig 17) shows a position similar to the 1950 map. By the time the 1960s image (Fig 18) was taken the whole of the north and south-eastern sides of the PDA were bounded by residential estates. The 1990s image (Fig 19) shows continued infilling of these residential areas and a small building to the west of the PDA. The 2003 image (Fig 20) shows no change, but the 2007 image (Fig 21) shows a set of buildings, including small ancillary buildings, in the very south of the PDA, evidently belonging to High Knock farm. There is some slight change in their plan/structure over time, showing these are temporary barns or farm buildings.

6.19 Wartime features in the vicinity of the PDA include:

- An extensive stretch of anti-invasion beach scaffolding (HER 1535069) visible on aerial photographs of 1942 as a structure extending from Littlestone-on-Sea to the northern end of Dymchurch, 250m south-east of the PDA.
- An anti-aircraft (dive) battery (HER MWX51312) 320m west-north-west of the PDA and previously noted from documentary sources is visible on aerial photographs of 1946 as the pale cropmarks of the platforms on which the guns were placed.
- A possible pillbox (HER MWX51495) at Dunkirk End, 320m north-east of the PDA.
- A battery (HER TR12 NW45) of four 6-inch breech-loading guns, c 400m east-north-east of the PDA.
- A bomb crater (HER MWX51331) west of High Knock, 130m south-west of the PDA.
- Three bomb craters (HER 1535151) visible on aerial photographs of 1941 as hollows close to houses at High Knock, to the south of High Knock Farm, 170m south of the PDA.
- A bomb crater (HER MWX51326) between Dunkirk End and High Knock, 210m north-north-east of the PDA.

- A bomb crater (HER MWX51451) visible on aerial photographs of 1941 as a hollow in a field between St Marys Bay and High Knock, 350m south-west of the PDA.
- A bomb crater (HER MWX51452) visible on aerial photographs of 1941 as a hollow in a small field amongst the houses of Dunkirk End, 390m north-north-east of the PDA.
- A bomb crater (HER MWX51454) visible on aerial photographs of 1946 as a circular hollow with a banked rim, in the recreation ground at Dunkirk End, 410m north of the PDA.
- A bomb crater (HER MWX51453) visible on aerial photographs of 1941 as a hollow on what was then the north-eastern side of the Marshland Sewer at Dunkirk End, 450m north-east of the PDA.

7. INTERIM IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Archaeological assessment

7.1 There is a possibility that remains from the Palaeolithic or Mesolithic periods might exist within the PDA from before the formation of the English Channel in the seventh-millennium BC; if such material did exist it would be below the deposits of shingle which have accreted here from c 4000 BC onwards, forming a barrier enclosing a lagoon. For much of the later Prehistoric, Romano-British, Anglo-Saxon and medieval periods the PDA lay on the inward edge of this shingle bank, bordering the inland tidal marsh. A lack of archaeological interventions in the vicinity means that aside from nearby Romano-British remains found during the moving of the sea wall, the use of this area of land prior to map evidence from the eighteenth century AD onwards is unknown. Such coastal areas have the potential for maritime archaeological remains, with the added possibility of organic preservation. Cartographic evidence from the mid eighteenth century onwards shows the PDA by this period was open farmland, possibly used for grazing, with only minor changes (the building of temporary farm buildings in at the extreme southern part of the PDA) evidenced in modern times.

Existing impacts

8.1 Previous impacts to the PDA might be associated with groundworks from the construction of temporary farm buildings and any associated services, but this is unlikely to have completely removed earlier archaeological remains.

Potential impacts

8.2 There is a chance that extant archaeological features, artefacts or ecofacts may be disturbed or destroyed by groundworks within the PDA. The destruction of preserved archaeology without proper record risks a negative impact on the historic environment.

8.3 Further mitigation of the potential effects of development groundworks is likely to be a condition on planning consent.

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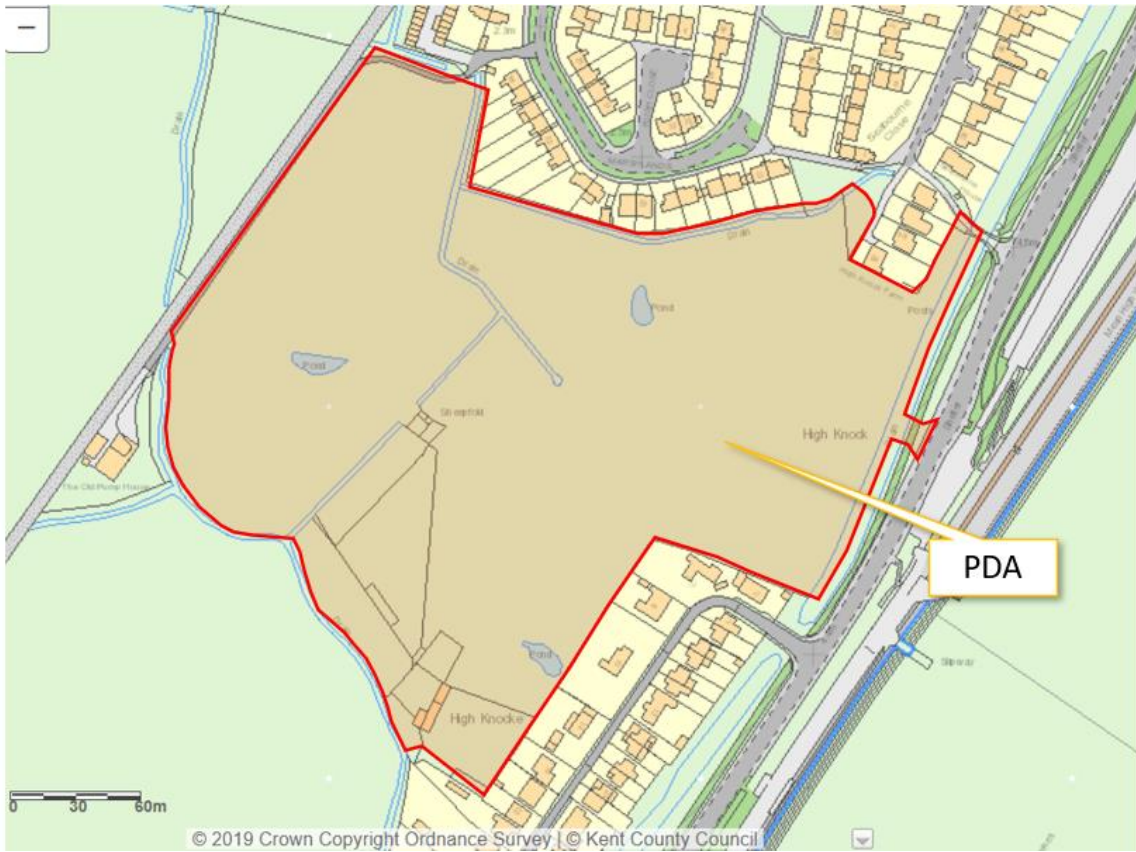


Fig 1. Location of the PDA



Fig 2. HER search of 500m radius of the PDA (centred) showing results for Conservation Areas

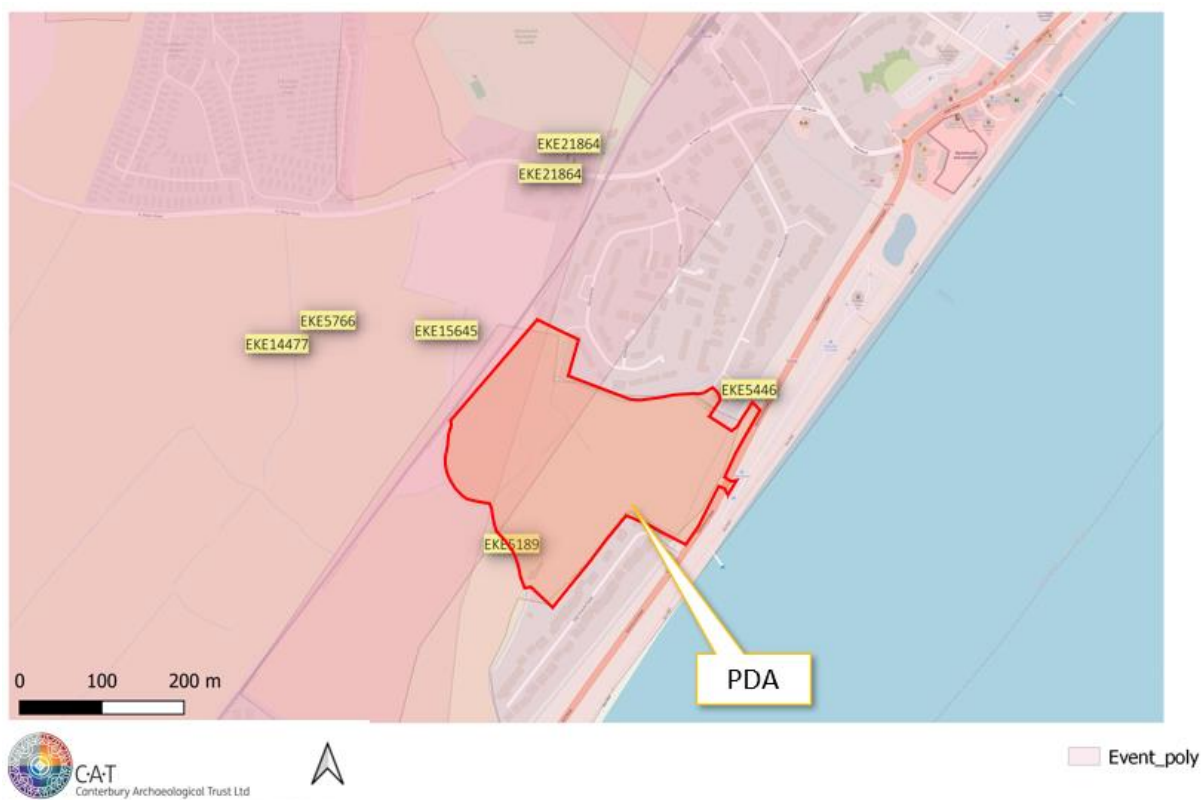


Fig 3. HER search of 500m radius of the PDA (centred) showing results for Events

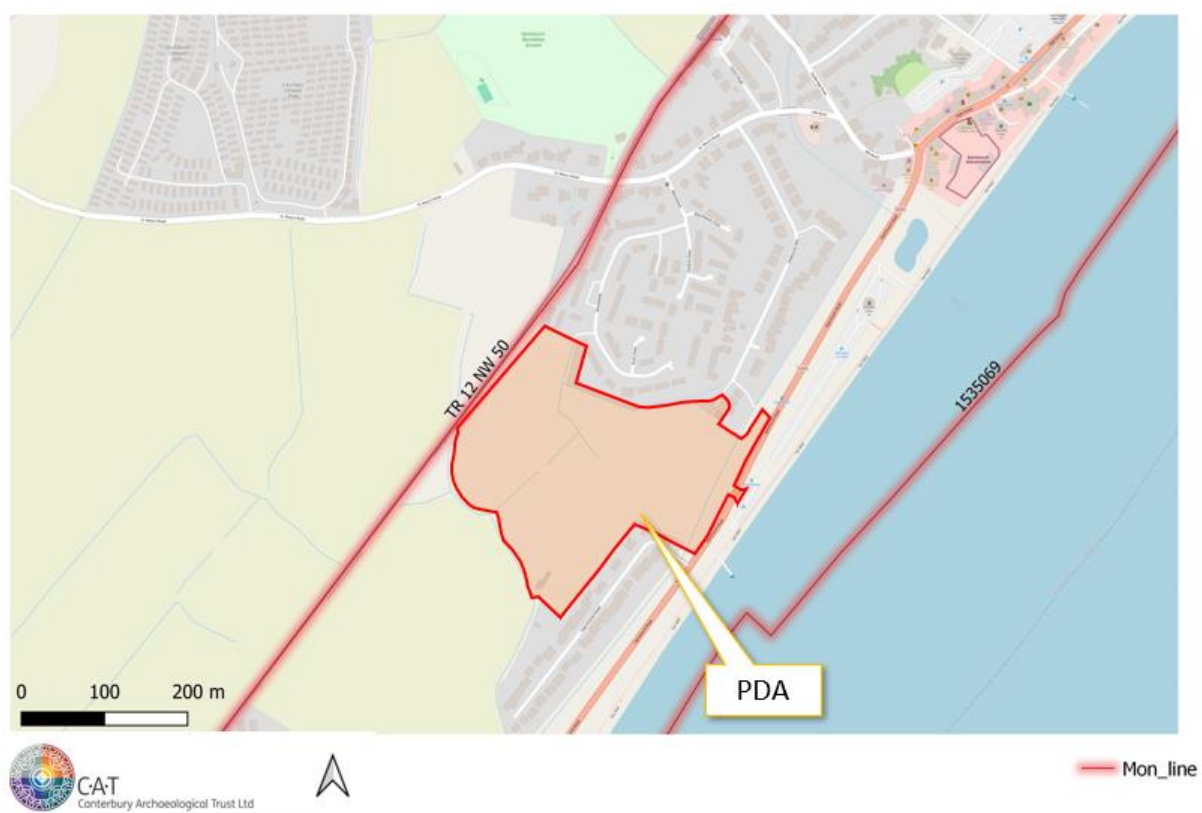


Fig 4a. HER search of 500m radius of the PDA (centred) showing results for Monuments (Line)



Fig 4b. HER search of 500m radius of the PDA (centred) showing results for Monuments (point)

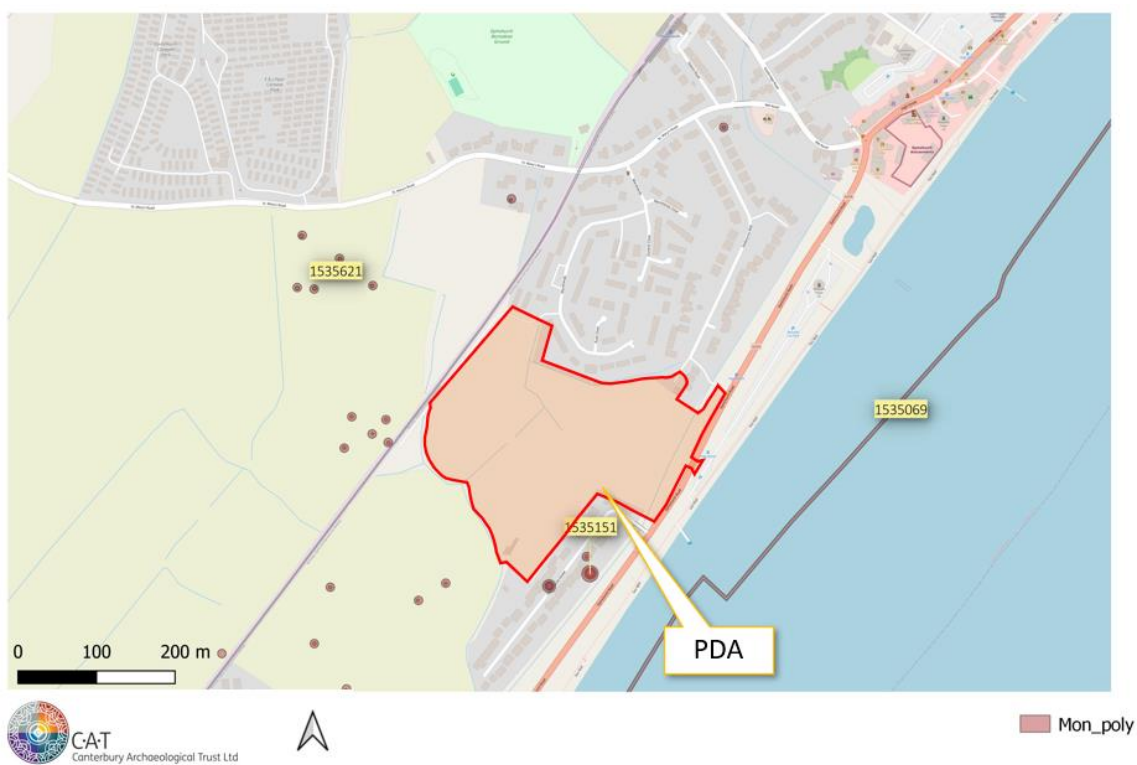


Fig 4c. HER search of 500m radius of the PDA (centred) showing results for Monuments (Poly)

Kent County Council - High Knocke Farm near Dymchurch - Historic Landscape Character

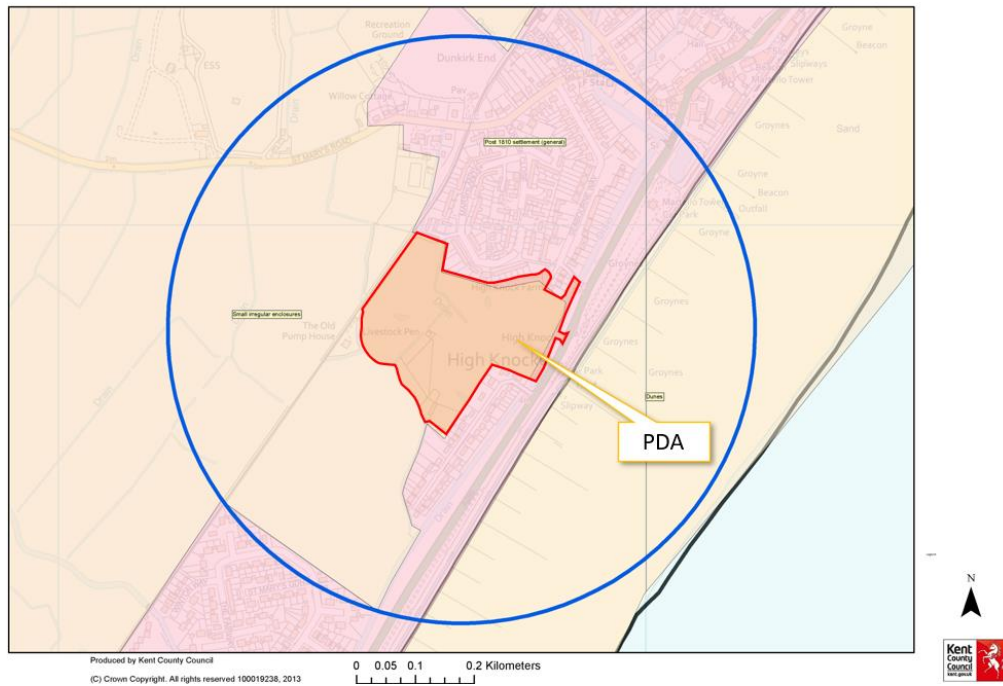


Fig 5. HER search of 500m radius of the PDA (centred) showing results for Historic Landscape Character

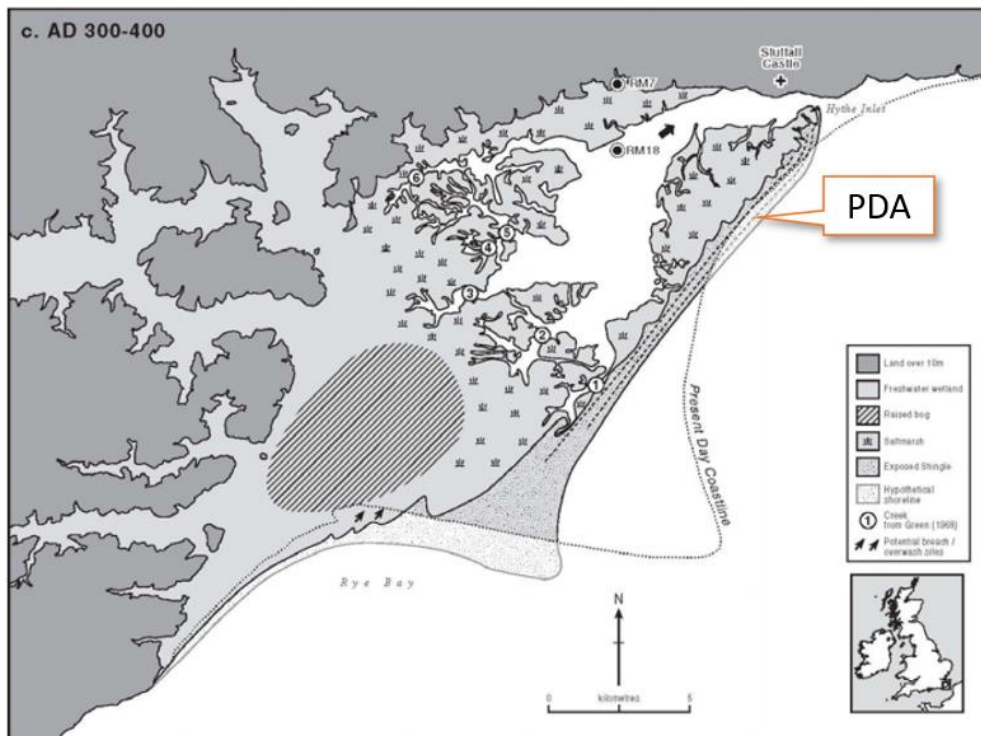


Fig 6. Reconstructed sea-level for AD 300–400 showing the PDA off the shoreline (adapted from Long *et al* 2006, Fig 5)

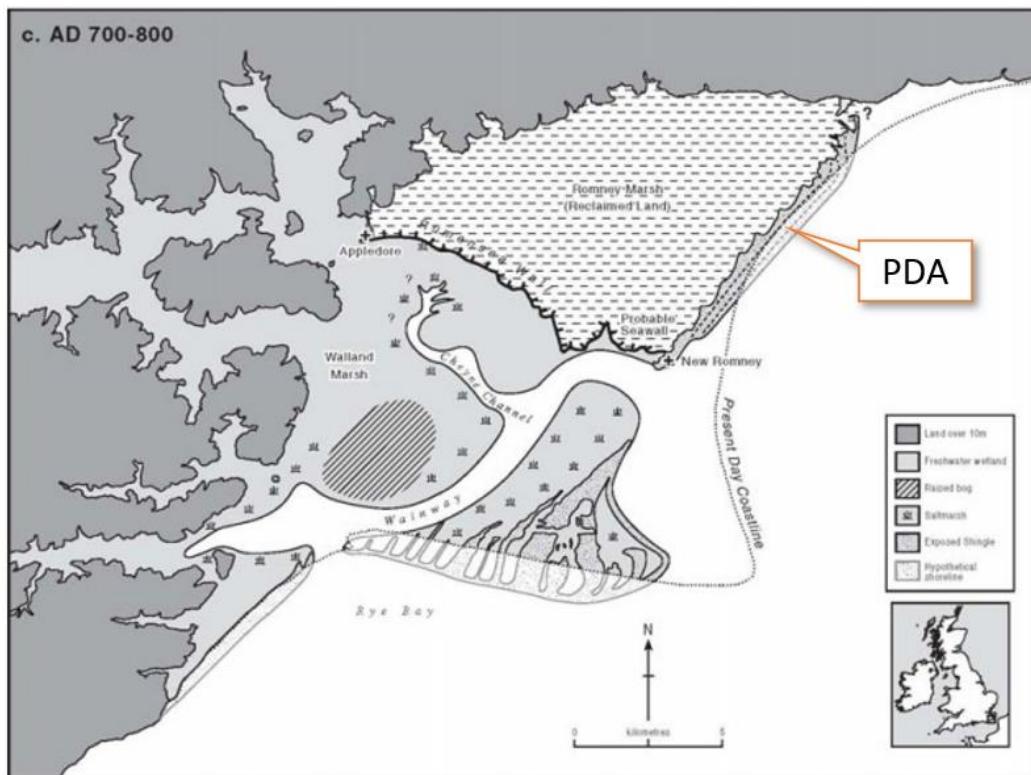


Fig 7. Reconstructed sea-level for AD 700–800 showing the PDA (adapted from Long *et al* 2006, Fig 6)

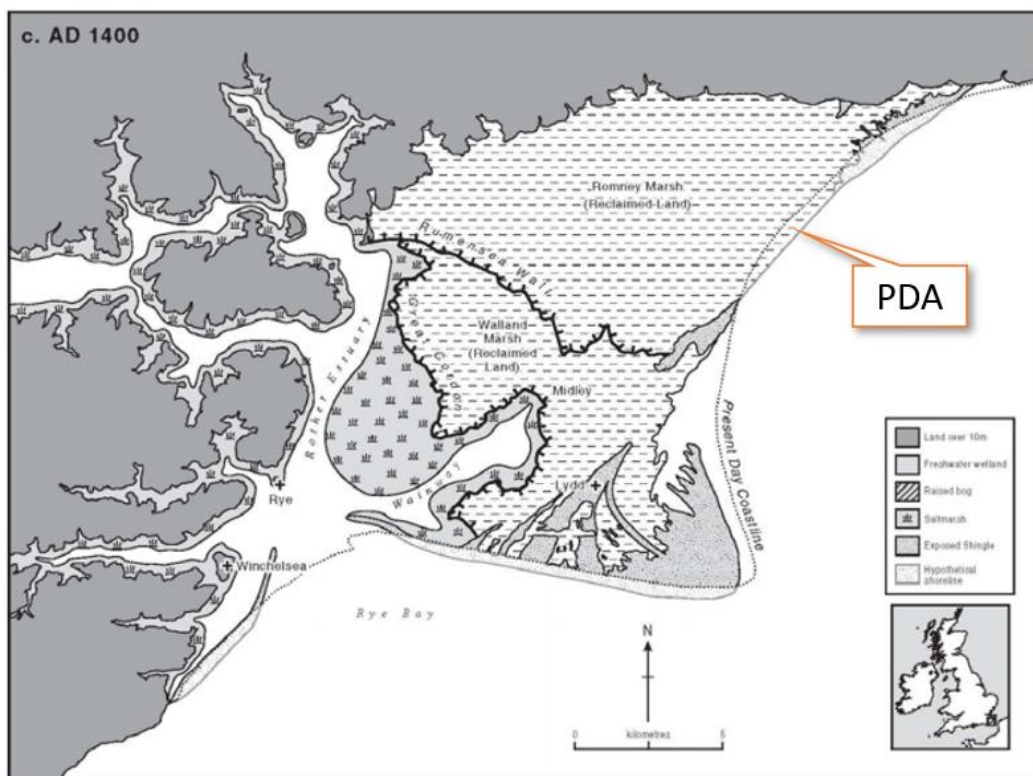


Fig 8. Reconstructed sea-level for AD 1400 showing the PDA (adapted from Long *et al* 2006, Fig 7)

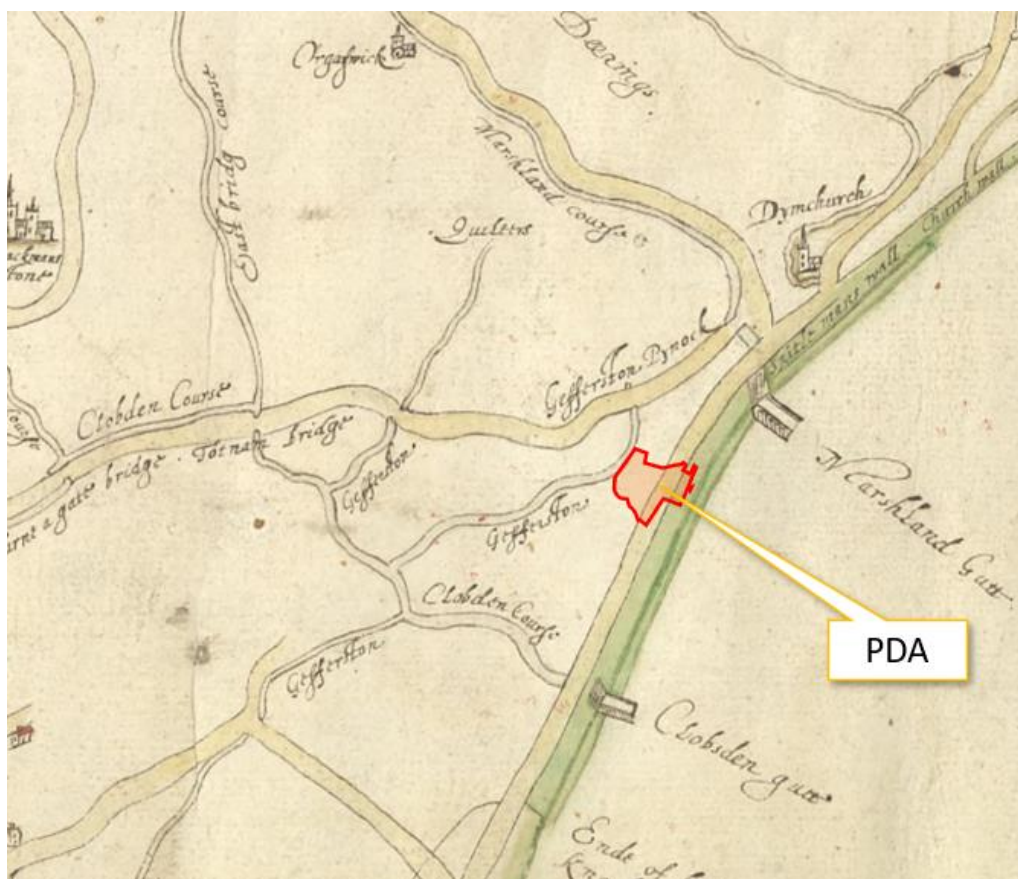


Fig 9. Extract from a 1592 map showing the location of the PDA (British Library Shelfmark: Cotton Augustus I.i f.24)

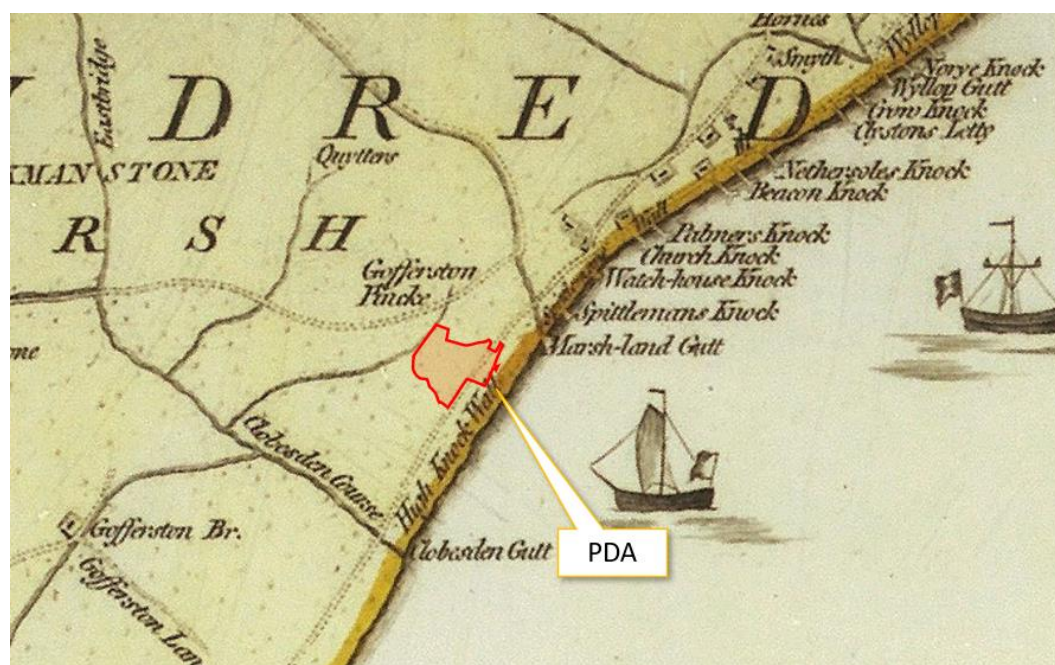


Fig 10. Extract from the 1769 Andrews, Dury and Herbert Map of showing the location of the PDA

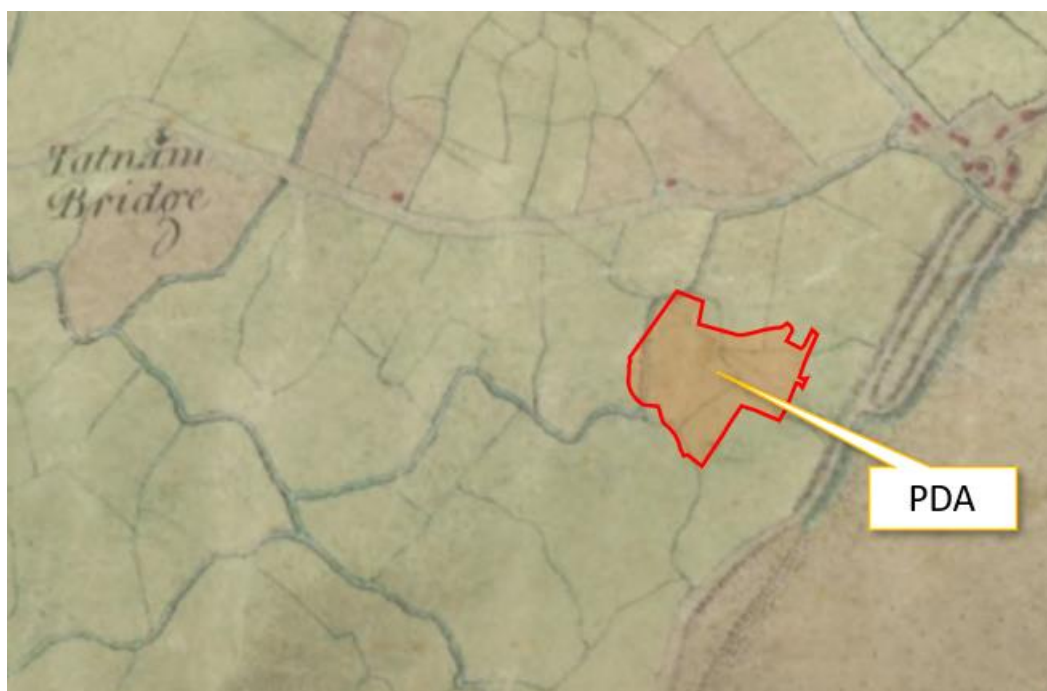


Fig 11. Extract from the Ordnance Survey (OS) drawing of 1797 showing the location of the PDA (British Library Shelfmark: OSD 105)

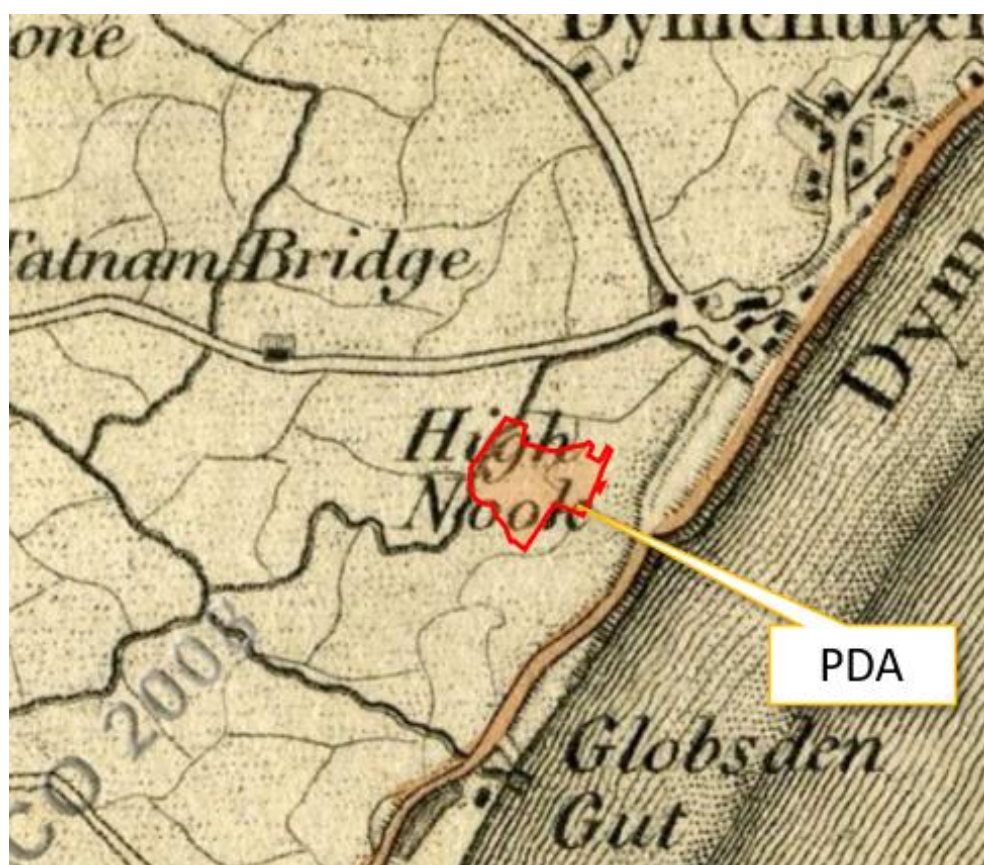


Fig 12. Extract from the 1801 Mudge Map showing the location of the PDA

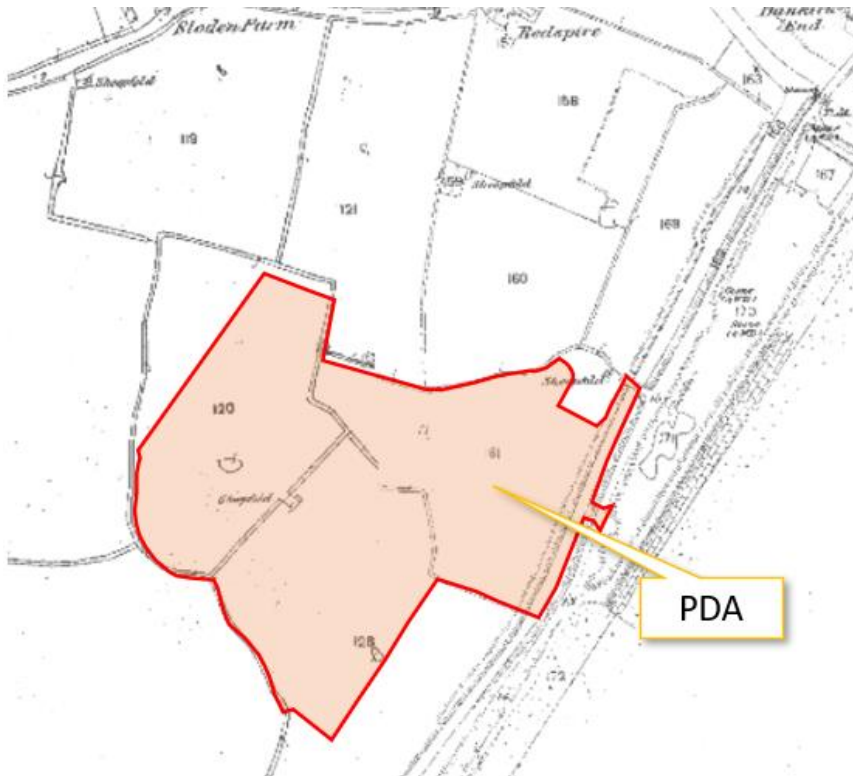


Fig 13. Extract from the First Edition OS Map of Kent LXXXI (includes: Brenzett; Ivychurch; Newchurch; Surveyed: 1871, Published: 1877 showing the location of the PDA

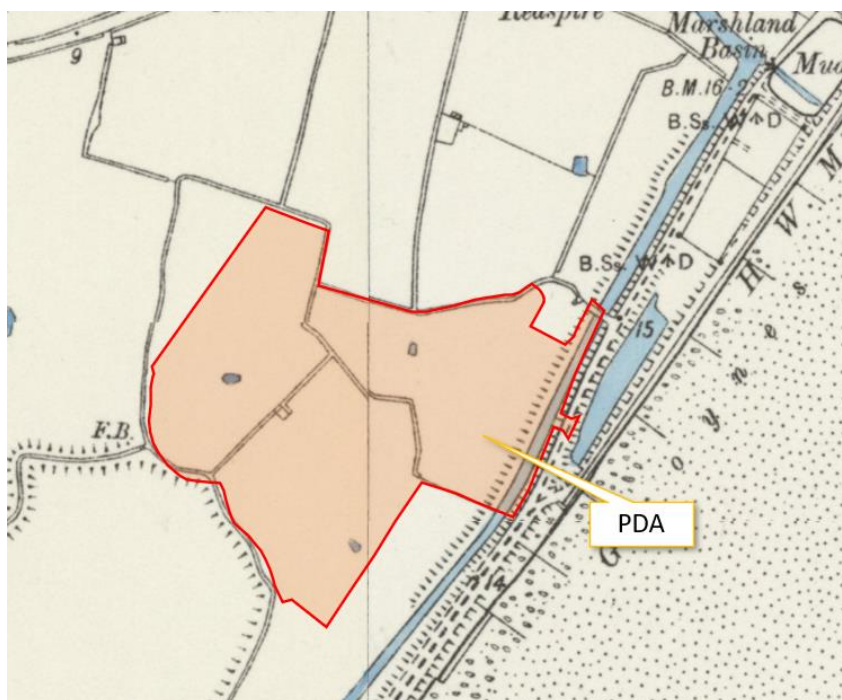


Fig 14. Extract from the Second Edition OS Map of Kent LXXXI.SE and LXXXII.SW (includes: Dymchurch; Newchurch) Revised: 1896, Published: 1899 showing the location of the PDA

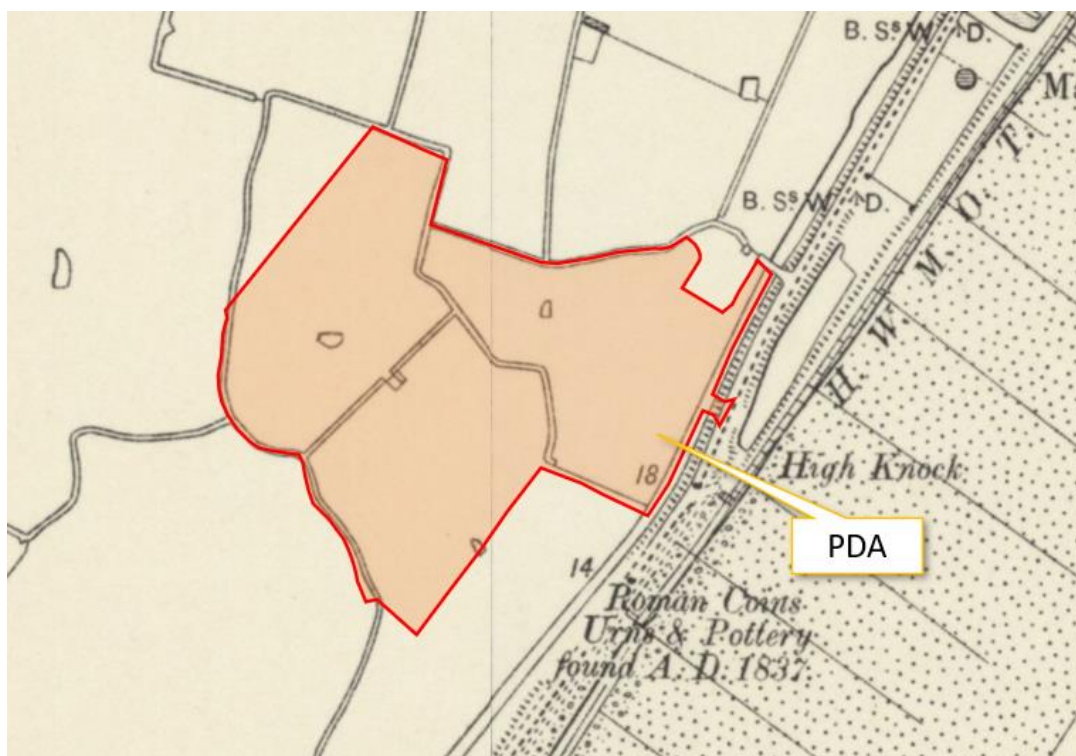


Fig 15. Extract from the Third edition OS Map of Kent LXXXI.SE and LXXXII.SW (includes: Dymchurch; Newchurch; St Mary in the Marsh) Revised: 1906, Published: 1908 showing the location of the PDA

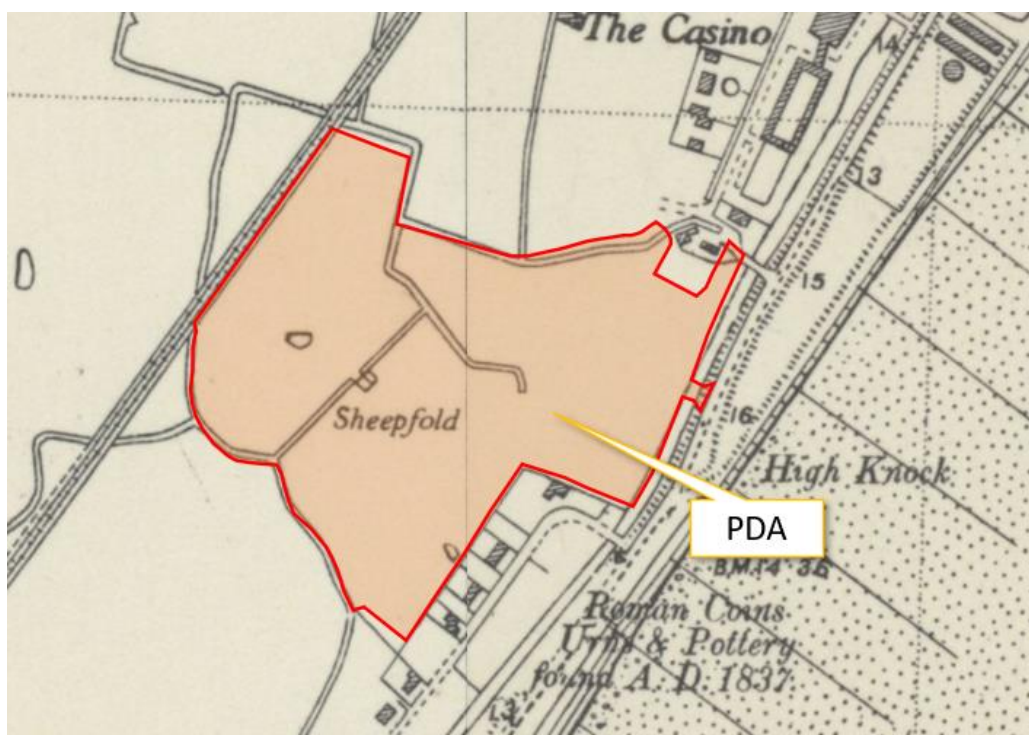


Fig 16. Extract from the OS Map of Kent LXXXI.SE and LXXXII.SW (includes: Dymchurch; Newchurch; St Mary in the Marsh) Revised: 1938, Published: c 1950 showing the location of the PDA

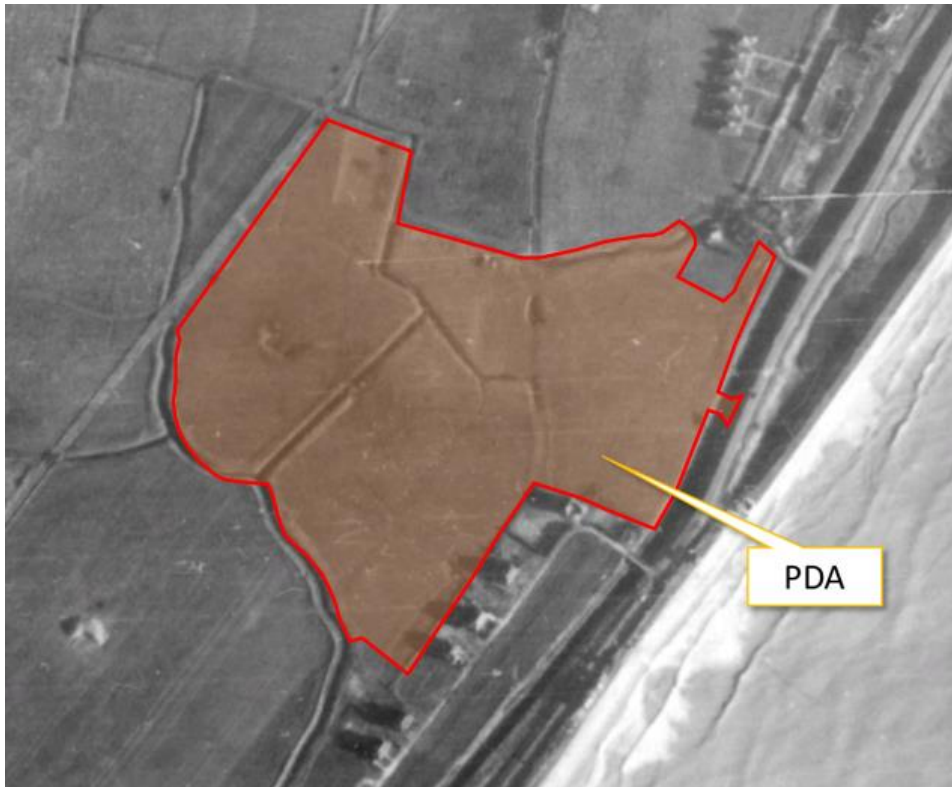


Fig 17. Aerial photograph from the 1940s showing the location of the PDA (source: Google Earth)

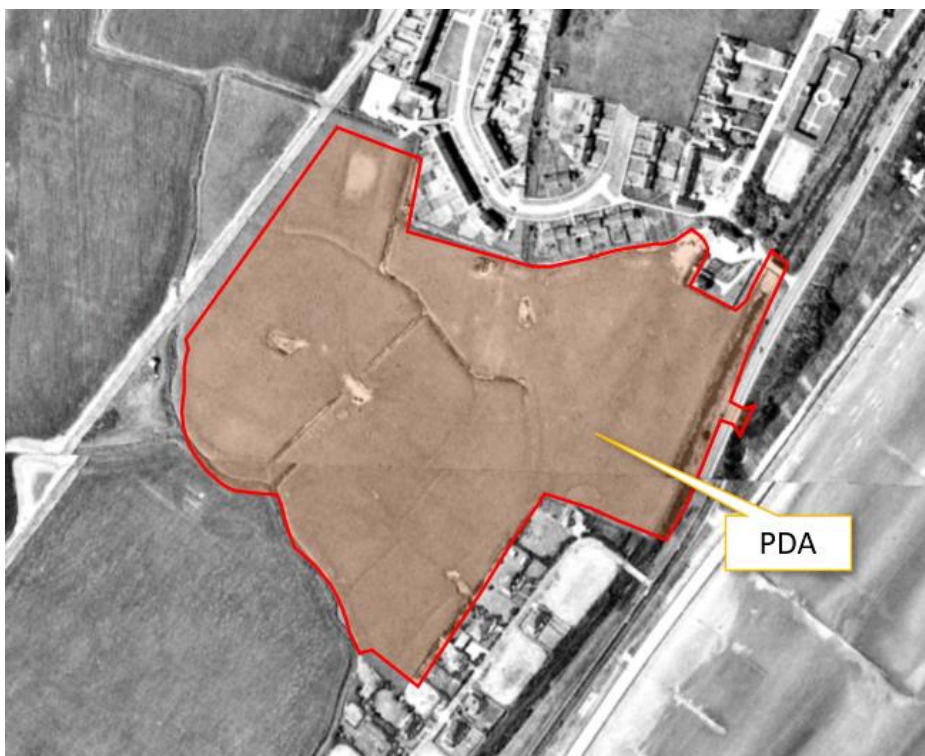


Fig 18. Aerial photograph from the 1960s showing the location of the PDA (source: Google Earth)



Fig 19. Aerial photograph from 1990 showing the location of the PDA (source: Google Earth)



Fig 20. Satellite image from 2003 showing the location of the PDA (source: Google Earth)



Fig 21. Satellite image from 2007 showing the location of the PDA (source: Google Earth)



Fig 22. Satellite image from 2013 showing the location of the PDA (source: Google Earth)



Fig 23. Satellite image from 2017 showing the location of the PDA (source: Google Earth)



Fig 24. Satellite image from 2020 showing the location of the PDA (source: Google Earth)