



# Willowbank Phase 2, Spitfire Road, Sandwich Industrial Estate, Sandwich, Kent CT13 9LY

Written scheme of investigation for a programme of Archaeological Evaluation  
via Purposeful Archaeological Boreholing

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NGR: 633582 158383 (centred)

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## Document Record

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# Contents

## PART A: SITE AND JOB-SPECIFIC ISSUES

- 1 Introduction
- 2 Site location, topography and geology
- 3 Designations
- 4 Archaeological potential and significance
- 5 Aims and Objectives
- 6 Fieldwork methodology
- 7 Deposit modelling
- 8 Reporting
- 9 General
- 10 References

Figure 1. Boreholes from the study site and position of transects T1–T3

Figure 2. Boreholes from the study site and position of transects T1–T3 with modelled surface of bedrock (Thanet Formation/Chalk)

Figure 3. Boreholes from the study site and position of transects T1–T3 with modelled surface of bedrock (Thanet Formation/Chalk). Location of solifluction deposits (highlighted blue, BH 2/3) and possible cold climate fluvial gravels (highlighted red, BH 6/8)

Figure 4. Transect T1

Figure 5. Transect T2

Figure 6. Transect T3

Figure 7. Position of proposed archaeological boreholes

Appendix 1. Stonar, Sandwich, Kent. Detailed evidence base

## 1 Introduction

- 1.1 This specification sets out the requirements for a programme of evaluation via purposeful archaeological boreholing to be undertaken on land located at Willowbank Phase 2, Spitfire Road, Sandwich Industrial Estate, Sandwich, Kent CT13 9LY (NGR 633582 158383). The proposed investigations will form the first stage of a programme of archaeological work.
- 1.2 The work has been commissioned by Quayside Homes Ltd (an entity of Ramac Group) in preparation for the phased re-development of the overall site. Re-development comprises construction and landscaping for 303 dwellings, along with associated works. The overall site is split into five phases (1–5). Phase 1 has already been developed. The present works form part of Phase 2.
- 1.3 The Local Planning Authority (LPA) is Dover District Council. The planning references for the re-development proposals are DOV/20/00166 and DOV/21/01572. The LPA's archaeological advisors comprise the Heritage Conservation Group (HCG) of Kent County Council (KCC).
- 1.4 The planning application has been granted permission, subject to conditions, including the following archaeological conditions:
18. No development shall take place on any phases or sub-phase (excluding phase 1) until the applicant(s), or their agents or successors in title, has or have secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work on that phase or sub-phase in accordance with a written specification and timetable which has been submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority.
- Reason: to ensure that features of archaeological interest are properly examined and recorded.
19. No development shall take place on any phase or sub-phase (excluding phase 1) until details of foundation designs and any other proposals involving below ground excavation on that phase or sub-phase have been submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority. Development shall be carried out in accordance with the approved details.
- Reason: to ensure that due regard is had to the preservation *in situ* of important archaeological remains.
- 1.5 Ramac Group have commissioned Canterbury Archaeological Trust (CAT) to prepare the present written scheme of investigation (WSI) for archaeological evaluation via boreholing. This document seeks to provide a programme and an outline methodology for undertaking the archaeological work, the standards to be attained, the nature of the work and the format for reporting. Included as part of this document is a preliminary deposit model based on geotechnical data (Figs 1-7). The proposed investigations will form the first stage of a programme of archaeological work as set out in Condition 18, and will help inform Condition 19. The site is known to have been previously levelled, with ground levels raised up.
- 1.6 Further stages of archaeological work may be required subsequent to the results of this investigation following a decision from the KCC HCG. Any further archaeological mitigation works will be covered under separate WSI documents to be submitted to the LPA.
- 1.7 Geotechnical site investigations have previously been undertaken within the site as part of Phase 2 development works (Fig 1-7). Based on borehole lithology there are seven broad types of sediment in the borehole records, as recorded by Prof. Martin Bates; Pleistocene Geoarchaeologist, University of Wales Trinity St David (henceforth referred to as the Geoarchaeological Specialist). From base upwards these are:

1. Chalk – present in all boreholes.
  2. Thanet Formation – present in only BH 5. This forms a topographic high of bedrock (Figs 2, 3, 4 and 6).
  3. Angular gravels – present in BH 6 and BH 8 that may be late Pleistocene fluvial gravels for a south flowing channel in the Wantsum area.
  4. Dense clays or clays with chalk - present in BH 2 and BH 3. These are probably late Pleistocene cold climate solifluction deposits present at the base of a palaeoslope in the southwards trending Wantsum area.
  5. Coarse gravels or shelly gravelly sands – present in BH 6–8. Probably earlier Holocene storm beach and back-beach marine deposits associated with rising sea levels in the early/middle Holocene.
  6. Thick sequences of sands, sometimes with occasional laminations, gravel clasts or organic material. These deposits are present in all boreholes (and window sample holes) and continue to the ground surface (beneath topsoil/made ground) in BH 3, BH 6 and BH 7. The deposits are tidal channel sands or tidal sand flats of probable mid to late Holocene age.
  7. Clays or silty clays with occasional gravel clasts and rooting – present in all window sample locations as well as in BH 1–2, BH 4–5 and BH 8. They probably represent recent, late Holocene, tidal mudflats and/or saltmarsh sequences.
- 1.8 The present works are to comprise cutting of four purposeful archaeological boreholes (ABH1–ABH4; Fig 7) targeted on locations suggested by the Geoarchaeological Specialist. Each borehole is to be investigated and recorded by Geoarchaeological Specialist, with the archaeological works monitored by the KCC HCG. The four boreholes are to be excavated in order to ground truth the geotechnical investigation and to provide samples for detailed assessment of the changing late Pleistocene/Holocene environments of the Wantsum Channel. These investigations will directly fit into the Kent Research Framework for landscapes and environments (Bates and Corcoran,2019) where the following points are made:
- Other regions in which important, but poorly understood Pleistocene sediments exist are the Wantsum Channel in east Kent where sequences of sediments extend beneath the East Kent Marsh surface that probably document a range of late Pleistocene environments.
  - Better understanding the onset of flooding in the lower reaches of our river valleys and the nature of the landscape transformation resulting from this transgression in the early/middle Holocene is needed.

## 2 Site location, topography and geology

- 2.1 The overall site or proposed development area (PDA) is situated to the east of the A256 Ramsgate Road, on the northern bank of the River Stour with Sandwich town centre located to the south. The River Stour forms both the southern and eastern boundaries of the overall site which lies within a mixed industrial and residential setting. The Phase 2 development site is located within the centre of the overall site and comprises a mixture of industrial land and units to the west, with the eastern part mainly comprising scrubland with further industrial units located to the north and south.
- 2.2 The Phase 2 development site lies immediately south of a Scheduled Monument which is designated in respect of potential remains of the medieval town of Stonar (National Heritage List for England entry No. 1003120). The Scheduled Monument occupies a roughly L-shaped area which covers almost 4 hectares. To the south-west, the private houses of Stonar Garden fall outside the Scheduled area, as does land to the south of Stonar Road/Lancaster Way. To the

north of the Scheduled Monument lies Stonar Lake, the flooded workings of an abandoned gravel pit.

- 2.3 Key to understanding the significance of the Stonar site is the local coastal topography which itself is closely bound up with the complex evolutionary history of the Wantsum Channel – an ancient waterway that once separated the Isle of Thanet from mainland Kent.
- 2.4 Extending from the southern shore of the Isle of Thanet is the 4km long ridge of shingle known as the Stonar Bank. This is an ancient fossilized coastal feature, no longer forming. The shingle ridge is at its narrowest towards Thanet. Its deposition must have begun during the prehistoric period. In medieval times, long after the feature had become stabilised, the town of Stonar was established at its broad southern end, delimited on three sides by a great loop in the course of the River Stour, and directly opposite the important Cinque Port of Sandwich.
- 2.5 Stonar Bank has been extensively quarried for its valuable shingle and much of the area once covered by the medieval town is today occupied by deep, flooded workings that constitute Stonar Lake. Of the adjacent land, the bulk is covered by industrial units, houses and a network of roads (Stonar Road/Lancaster Way, Stonar Gardens, etc.), together with the nineteenth-century ruins of Stonar House. The ground around Stonar House itself is now partially wooded.
- 2.6 Large-scale nineteenth-century Ordnance Survey maps, dating from 1871–90 provide valuable details about the local topography and landscape as it was during the later nineteenth century, before the damaging quarrying. The only significant building shown is Stonar House, set within grounds depicted as parkland.
- 2.7 Underlying geology within the Phase 2 development site is recorded as comprising predominantly Thanet Formation bedrock of sand, silt and clay overlain by superficial sedimentary deposits comprising Tidal Flat Deposits of clay and silt (BGS online 2023; Figs 1-6). Bedrock geology of Margate Chalk, overlain by superficial Storm Beach Deposits of sand and gravel are mapped within the extreme northern point of the PDA, in an area of proposed access off Lancaster Way.
- 2.8 The Phase 2 development site is located on fairly flat ground at between 2 and 3m above Ordnance Datum (OD).

### 3 Designations

- 3.1.1 The site of Stonar represents an important heritage area both locally and nationally. A significant part of the area is a Scheduled Monument of national importance (List entry No. 1003120). This designated area may contain significant archaeological remains and deposits of the medieval period, including quaysides and the domestic and commercial properties relating to the medieval town and port of Stonar. The timbers of a successive number of medieval waterfronts are thought likely to survive. Despite damage by quarrying and development in the past, the medieval port of Stonar may still contain significant archaeological remains and deposits relating to its occupation, use and history.
- 3.1.2 One post-medieval building surviving within the Scheduled area, the nineteenth-century Stonar House, was formerly Listed Grade II but it has been subsequently delisted due to its ruined state. Other, non-designated (twentieth-century military) structures in the area are also of some historical interest but have not been listed.
- 3.1.3 Just under 500 metres to the south-west of Stonar, across the River Stour, the medieval town walls of Sandwich, together with the associated Fisher Gate and Barbican Gates are also Scheduled as Ancient Monuments (Monument Nos 1005173, 1005175, 1005177 & 1005184),

whilst Sandwich, itself, is regarded as one of the best persevered medieval towns surviving in England (Clarke et al 2010, 265–272; Newman 2013, 528). The important Scheduled Roman site at Richborough (Monument No. 469547) lies on higher ground to the north-west, some 1.85km distant.

## 4 Archaeological potential and significance

- 4.1 A detailed archaeological and historical overview has previously been prepared (Parfitt 2021b), a summary of which can be found below. The full report is appended to this document as Appendix 1.
- 4.2 Facing the Continent, the position of medieval Stonar on the Kent coast ensured the site's standing as a significant port for a considerable time. An impressive range of imported continental pottery discovered during excavations across the site has attracted the attention of archaeological ceramics specialists for many years. The large amounts of Dutch, French, non-local English and occasionally Spanish material present at the site constitute some key assemblages.
- 4.3 Historically, the site was regarded as being the great rival to the nearby Cinque Port of Sandwich, but a devastating raid by the French in 1385 led to Stonar being destroyed by fire, an event from which it never recovered. It would seem that the settlement had been completely abandoned by the end of the medieval period. Writing in the 1540s, Leland records that:
- 'Stonar... was once an attractive place. But now all that is to be seen is the ruined church. In ignorance some people call it "Old Sandwich" ' (translation from Chandler 1993).
- 4.4 The town seemingly reached its heyday during the thirteenth century, although its full extent can now only be guessed. It is immediately apparent that the site was very closely tied to the coastal topography, with open water a short distance to its east and south, marshland immediately to the west and a ridge of raised shingle (Stonar Bank) leading away to the north, connecting with Thanet. The limitations imposed by this local topography must suggest that the medieval settlement could never have been of any great size, and probably always somewhat smaller than neighbouring Sandwich.
- 4.5 A rental list for Stonar dating to the end of the thirteenth century provides some details of the size and character of the population at that date, recording about 120 tenants or heirs of tenants. In 1359 Edward III lodged at Stonar for nearly three weeks, in a house formerly belonging to Robert Goverils, waiting to embark at Sandwich for foreign parts (Boys 1792, 669). This clearly implies the presence of at least one substantial dwelling of reasonably high status within the town at that date and it would seem that the church also developed into a sizeable structure.
- 4.6 There is no cartographic evidence which provides any clear evidence for the layout or former extent of the medieval settlement. Harris (1719) quoting from a MS diary of Dr Robert Plot, dating to about 1693, says that:
- 'the Ruins of the Town of Stonar did remain till the Memory of Man and took up many Acres of Ground; but were lately removed to render the Ground fit for tillage... ' (note from Hardman and Stebbing 1942, 41).
- 4.7 The Rev. John Lewis in 1736 provides a further useful note:
- 'the Town stood on a rising ground... Some of the Foundations were remaining not many years

ago, and the Traces are still visible among the corn. At present there is only one farmhouse where *Stonore* anciently stood, about twenty roods from which, near the Road, on a little rising ground, stood the Church, of which there are now no remains left above ground.’ (from Hardman and Stebbing 1942, 41).

- 4.8 There have been a number of archaeological excavations and investigations on the site, with twentieth century shingle extraction providing the main catalyst for the work. The efforts of W.P.D. Stebbing, intermittently between 1935 and 1960, and Nigel Macpherson-Grant between 1969 and 1972 deserve special note.
- 4.9 The remains of the medieval town’s buildings, as revealed by excavation, appear to be somewhat ephemeral. Structural features were identified and recorded by Stebbing in the northern parts of the town between 1935 and 1960 but they were relatively limited, comprising several hearths and a stone-lined well (Hardman and Stebbing 1942, 38).
- 4.10 The general sequence of archaeological deposits exposed was described by Stebbing in his reports. From these it is apparent that the archaeological deposits on the site are quite shallowly buried and of no great thickness. This was largely confirmed in the work later undertaken by Nigel Macpherson-Grant. It seems highly likely that unrecognised amongst Stebbing’s ‘blocks of chalk, pieces of Folkestone Stone and broken tiles’ were the actual remains of simple buildings that had been mostly of timber.
- 4.11 Macpherson-Grant’s subsequent careful excavations were rather more successful in identifying such structures. His excavations, undertaken to the east and south-east of the church between 1969 and 1972 suggested a broad sequence for the development of the settlement in that area (Macpherson-Grant 1991):

1) *Late eleventh century*

The earliest traces of occupation identified were dated to the late eleventh century but structural evidence was sparse, implying that the focus of early settlement lay elsewhere – perhaps further to the south (see below).

2) *Mid- to later twelfth-century*

A scatter of post-holes associated with clay floors, occupation debris and pits were the first structural remains identified. These appeared to relate to a series of simple timber buildings, probably dwellings, that had been erected sheltering in natural sand-filled hollows between shingle ridges. The pottery dating suggested that these structures belonged to the mid to later twelfth century.

3) *Late twelfth to late fourteenth century*

The final phase of occupation identified was more intense and widely spread, with elements of an actual town plan including streets, houses and two wells, being identified. A metalled street (I), aligned roughly north-west by south-east was identified, bordered by two rows of houses located to the south-east of the church (Houses 5–11). This street perhaps joined with another (Street II) running north-east by south-west, lying further to the southeast, which was possibly bordered by warehouses. Finds associated with the later buildings were much more common than during the earlier phases, and included coins, a range of copper-alloy artefacts and large quantities of imported pottery (Dutch, French, some Spanish and non-local English, all of which point to significant wealth in the town. Most of the coins are survivals from the mid-thirteenth century but there is at least one penny of Edward II, dated 1310.

4) *Final destruction*



The documentary evidence indicates that Stonar was destroyed by a French raid in 1385, never to be resettled to any significant degree thereafter. The archaeological record seems to be largely in agreement, with clear evidence that many of the buildings excavated during the 1970s had been destroyed by fire, leaving their contents intact, sealed below layers of fire debris (Macpherson-Grant 1991, 48).

- 4.12 The wealth of artefactual material recovered from the excavated settlement site overall, largely uncontaminated by later, post-medieval occupation, makes Stonar a highly important site for medieval studies generally.
- 4.13 Another highly important aspect concerning the story of the Stonar site, effectively unconnected to its medieval history except through locational geography, is the site's role as part of a key military installation during the First World War and, to a lesser degree, during the Second World War and after. The area covered by the Scheduled Monument had been previously occupied by a dense complex of military buildings during the First World War and the Second World War, although the available evidence suggests that these may not have caused significant damage to the underlying medieval remains.
- 4.14 Within the Willowbank site, towards the mid to late nineteenth century, it formed part of largely undeveloped ground, other than the existence of a shipbuilding yard in the western area of the site. However, this was no longer in existence by 1907. Thereafter, a tennis ground and pavilion were located within the centre of the site. These were short lived and replaced by a sawmill and timber yard in the south-western part of the site. By 1969, an industrial estate had been established within the central and western part of the Willowbank site.

## 5 Aims and Objectives

- 5.1 The purpose of an archaeological evaluation as defined by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA 2020) is:
- ‘to determine and report on, as far as is reasonably possible, the nature of the archaeological resource within a specified area using appropriate methods and practices’.
- 5.2 These will satisfy the stated aims on the project and comply with the *Code of Conduct* and other relevant regulations of CIfA.
- 5.3 This is further explained as:
- ‘a limited programme of non-intrusive and/or intrusive fieldwork which determines the presence or absence of archaeological features, structures, deposits, artefacts or ecofacts, and their research potential, within a specified area or site on land, inter-tidal zone or underwater. If such archaeological remains are present field evaluation defines their character, extent, quality and preservation, reports on them, and enables an assessment of their significance in a local, regional, national or international context as appropriate’.
- 5.4 The main objective of the archaeological evaluation is to contribute to the heritage knowledge of the area through the recording of any buried archaeological or geoarchaeological remains exposed as a result of site investigative works.
- 5.5 Other objectives include:
- To determine, where possible, the nature and level of natural geology.
  - To determine the earliest deposits identified.
  - To determine the latest deposits identified.



- To determine the character and archaeological potential of deposits encountered, including as to whether deposits of palaeoenvironmental potential survive.
  - To determine whether any later archaeological (ie non geoarchaeological) remains survive on the site.
  - To determine the extent of any modern disturbance within the site.
  - To determine the depth of modern levelling that has been undertaken on the site.
- 5.6 The archaeological evaluation forms part of a larger scheme of archaeological works and any findings should be incorporated into the main post-excavation programme. The works will thus provide sufficient information for all parties concerned, particularly the LPA, to devise appropriate mitigation strategies, if required. The implementation of further archaeological works are to be expected in order to fulfil the planning conditions.
- 5.7 Assessment of the results will provide guidance on what additional mitigation measures would be appropriate. Such measures may, for example, include preservation *in situ* and/or further evaluation, detailed archaeological excavation, additional geoarchaeological works prior to development and/or an archaeological watching brief during construction work.
- 5.8 This specification sets out the requirements for archaeological evaluation via boreholing only. Further mitigation measures will be subject to other documents or specifications which will need to be agreed with the Client and the KCC HCG.

## 6 Fieldwork methodology

### 6.1 Overview

- 6.1.1 A suitably qualified geoarchaeologist (Prof. Martin Bates; the Geoarchaeological Specialist) will be employed to monitor the geoarchaeological boreholing elements of the work with an assistant as required. Any above ground clearance of vegetation or other obstructions will be undertaken prior to the commencement of work. No clearance of obstructions that might disturb below ground deposits shall be undertaken without discussion with the KCC HCG.
- 6.1.2 Geoarchaeological boreholing will be undertaken in accordance with the following methodology and in line with the KCC *Specification for Detailed Evaluation of Quaternary Deposits and Palaeolithic Potential* (Part B).

### 6.2 Geoarchaeological augering

- 6.2.1 Four boreholes will be excavated (ABH 1–4). The exact location of each bore-hole will have to take full account of the local ground conditions, including made ground thickness.
- 6.2.2 At each position, a small (typically 200–250mm diameter) starter pit will be excavated manually to a target depth of 1.0–1.2m: this will be monitored and logged by the attending archaeologist as part of the overall soil sequence: topsoil and turf etc will be stockpiled separately from lower deposits.
- 6.2.3 Initial drilling will be undertaken using a Terrier (or similar) drill rig taking 1m window samples or 1m undisturbed cores. Coring will continue from the current ground surface through the archaeological deposits and into the underlying superficial or bedrock geology. A maximum depth of 5m will be attained by this method. This will provide information on the general stratigraphy of the deposits, their potential and overall character. The cores will be fully examined and recorded.
- 6.2.4 Undisturbed core samples will be taken continuously in cohesive sediments and bulk disturbed samples taken from granular sediments. Where feasible, windowless cores will be taken within plastic sleeves. Where possible bulk samples will be attempted every half metre beneath the

starter pit. Where practicable, unless an impenetrable obstruction is encountered, augering will continue down until the borehole is at least 1m into identifiable pre-Quaternary bedrock. After drilling, each borehole will be backfilled with bentonite pellets and with any arisings not retained for sampling: the uppermost fill will be the separately stockpiled topsoil etc. No further reinstatement is envisaged, nor is it likely that any would be necessary. Upon completion of the borehole the hole will be backfilled with arisings and/or bentonite pellets.

- 6.2.5 It is considered a possibility that no single rig type will be able to penetrate the full sequence of deposits. Subsequently, depending on the depth and/or the nature of the identified sequence it may be necessary to consider alternative drilling methods following consultation with the KCC HCG, the Client and the Geoarchaeological Specialist.

### 6.3 *Processing*

- 6.3.1 Cores will be split at the CAT office in controlled conditions under the supervision of the Reporting and archiving will be undertaken in accordance with the relevant KCC generic requirements, (see Part B of this specification).

- 6.3.2 Cores will be split longitudinally and the exposed face of the contents will be cleaned, photographed, examined and logged, breaking the contents apart and taking subsamples for wet or dry sieving in the case of deposits suspected of containing potentially datable anthropogenic material and for the assessment of pollen, diatoms and ostracods/forams. The geoarchaeologist will select and recover subsamples for palaeoenvironmental assessment. In addition, material of post-glacial date may be submitted for radiocarbon AMS dating, with single entity macrofossils and identifiable small diameter roundwood selected where possible. Should Pleistocene minerogenic deposits be encountered samples for OSL dating may be recovered. Data from the field and core logs will be transcribed by into a database prior to deposit modelling being undertaken

## 7 Deposit Modelling

- 7.1.1 Following formation of the core logs the preliminary deposit model (Figs 1-7) will be updated to include the new results. Deposit modelling will be undertaken using RockWorks or an equivalent programme. The output will be exported as, as formatted logs, a digital excel file, a fence diagram along the borehole transect line, other transect drawings that have been prepared, and plans showing interpolated or spot elevations, depths and/or thicknesses.

- 7.1.2 Further details relating to deposit modelling can be found in Part B of this specification.

## 8 Reporting

- 8.1.1 A verbal or emailed preliminary report will be made to the Client and to the LPA's archaeological advisor shortly after completion of fieldwork, and a preliminary or final synthesised report within three weeks of that completion.

- 8.1.2 Reporting and archiving will be undertaken in accordance with the relevant KCC generic requirements, which form Part B of this document.

## 9 General

- 9.1.1 CAT will inform the KCC HCG of the start date of the fieldwork (at least five days before, or as mutually agreed) and arrange for monitoring visits. CAT will keep the KCC HCG informed of the progress of work and will notify them immediately if particularly important archaeological or geoarchaeological remains are encountered.

- 9.1.2 A permit to dig will be issued by the client prior to any intrusive works.
- 9.1.3 Following the watching brief, the scope of further works will be agreed with the KCC HCG and the LPA. These may include a phase of evaluation and more detailed excavation, archaeological watching brief during groundworks or, where feasible and appropriate, design measures to accommodate the preservation of archaeology.

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FIGURES

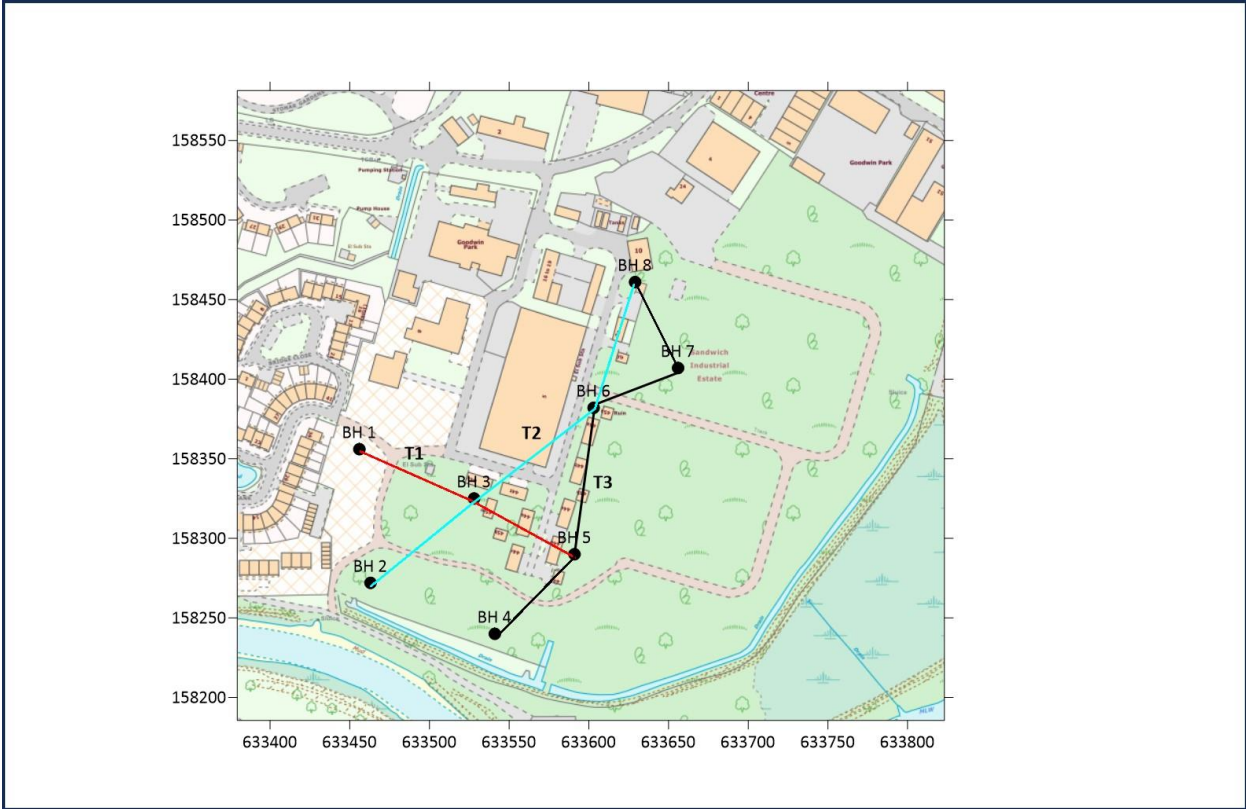


Figure 1. Boreholes from the study site and position of transects T1–T3

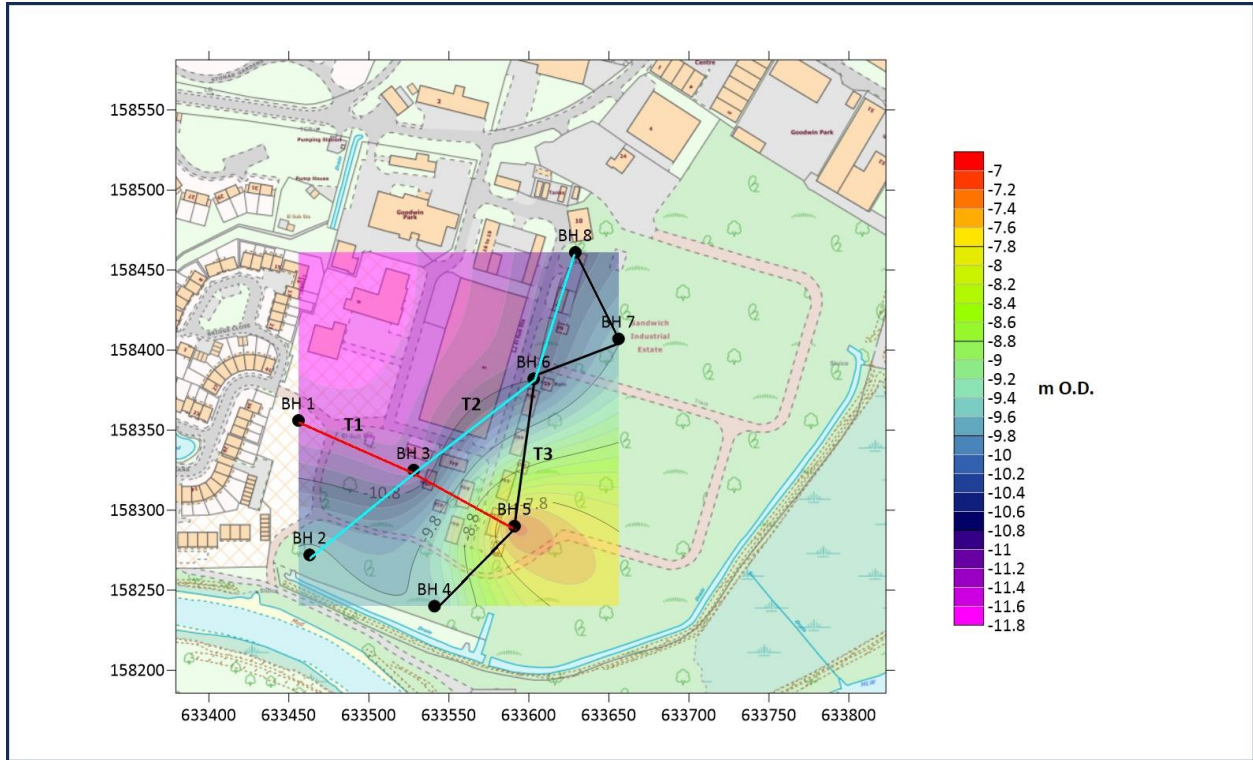


Figure 2. Boreholes from the study site and position of transects T1–T3 with modelled surface of bedrock (Thanet Formation/Chalk)

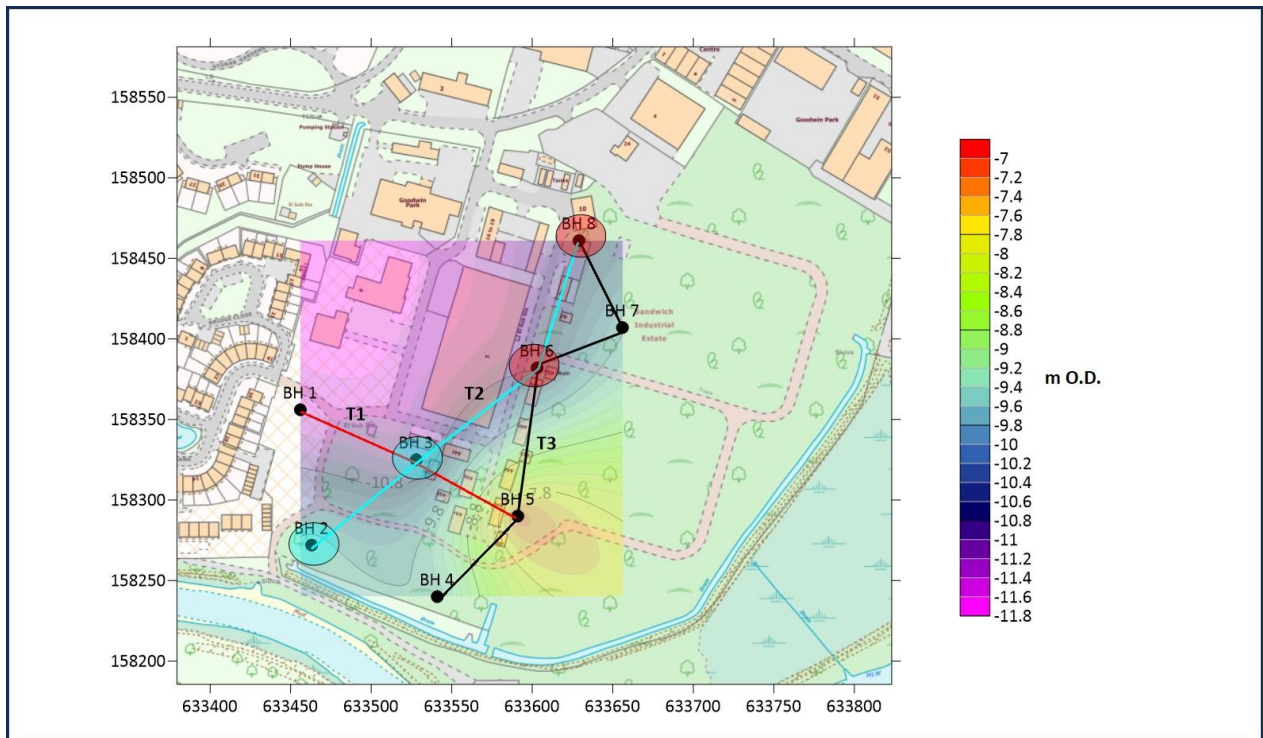


Figure 3. Boreholes from the study site and position of transects T1-T3 with modelled surface of bedrock (Thanet Formation/Chalk). Location of solifluction deposits (highlighted blue, BH 2/3) and possible cold climate fluvial gravels (highlighted red, BH 6/8)



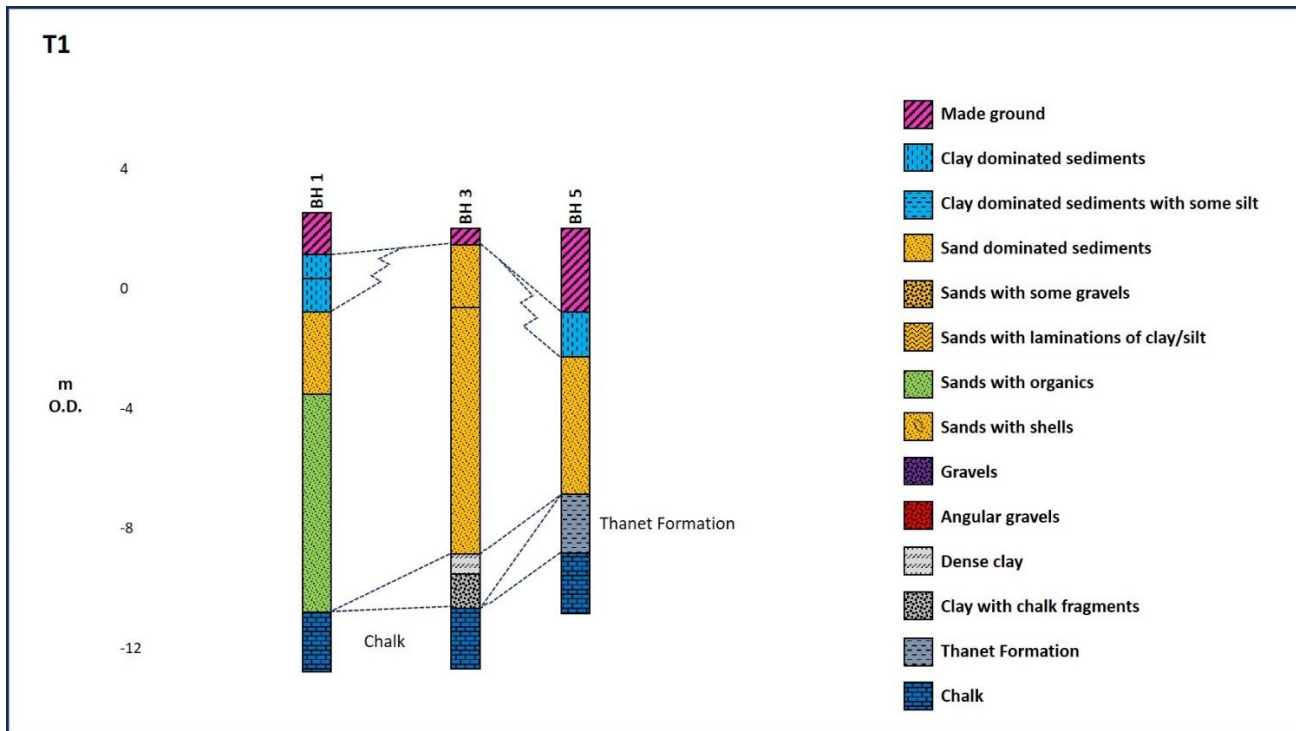


Figure 4. Transect T1

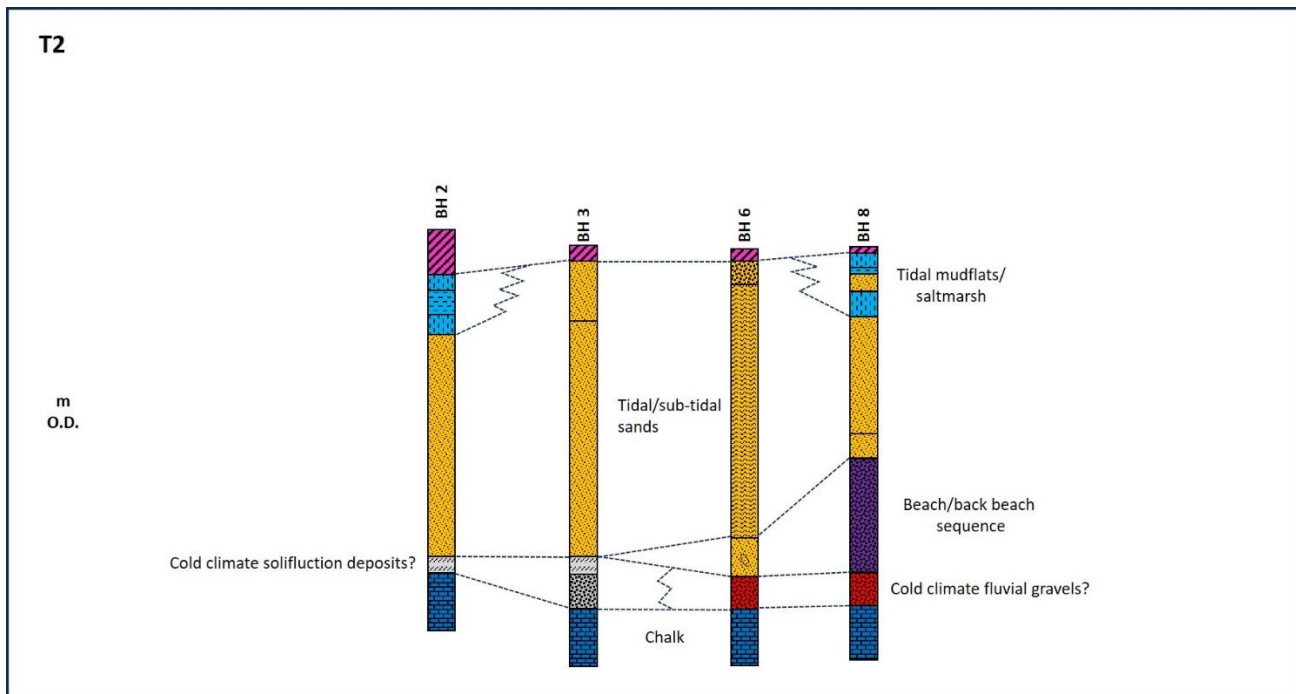


Figure 5. Transect T2

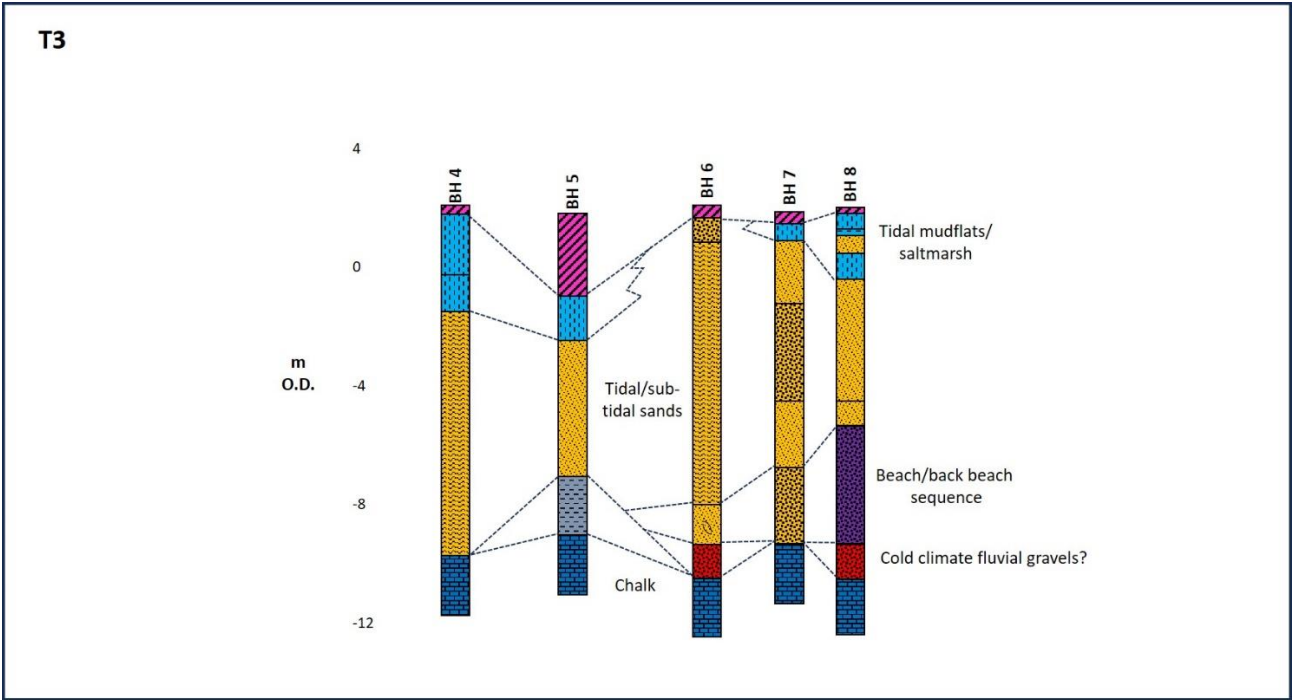


Figure 6. Transect T3

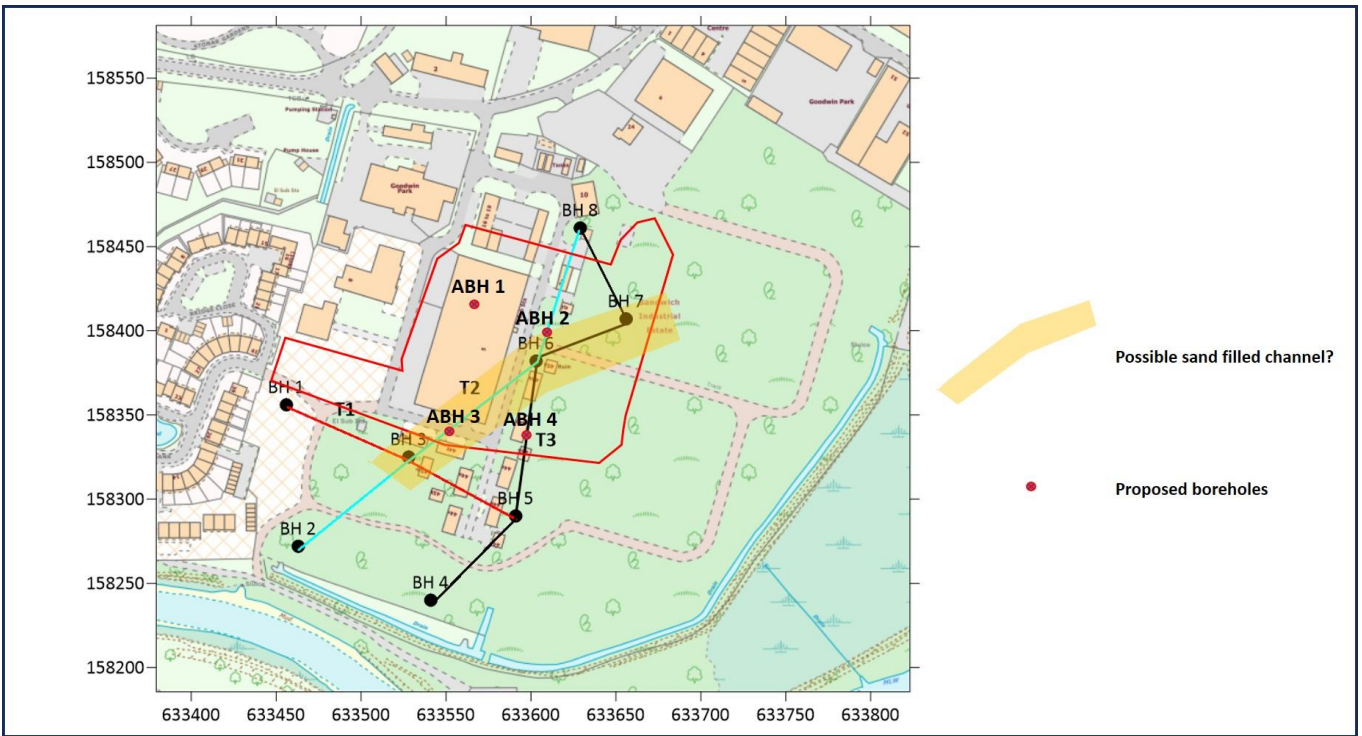


Figure 7. Position of proposed archaeological boreholes



## **SPECIFICATION FOR DETAILED EVALUATION OF QUATERNARY DEPOSITS AND PALAEOLITHIC POTENTIAL**

### **1. Introduction**

- 1.1 Detailed evaluation for Quaternary deposits and Palaeolithic potential involves targeted intrusive investigation of a site to determine in more detail the distribution of Quaternary deposits, and the nature and Palaeolithic potential of Quaternary deposits that are known (or thought very likely) to be present.
- 1.2 Detailed evaluation will typically use any, or a combination of, four methods of investigation: (a) windowless-samples, (b) cable/percussion boreholes, (c) cleaning/recording of standing sections and (d) machine-excavated test pits.
- 1.3 The approach, or approaches, required are specified in the site-specific Part A of the Kent County Council project specification.

### **2. General requirements**

- 2.1 Detailed evaluation will be carried out by archaeological organisations (from here on referred to as 'the Archaeological Contractor'), with recognised experience and expertise in the specified type of work to be undertaken. Registration with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) as a Registered Organisation (RO) will normally be considered as an indicator, but not a prerequisite, of such expertise and experience. A good working knowledge of the archaeology of Kent will also be considered highly desirable.
- 2.2 The work will be supervised on site at all times for the Contractor by a member of staff with the required level of experience and who will be responsible for the conduct of on-site work.
- 2.3 A designated specialist (or specialists) with Palaeolithic and Quaternary geological expertise should be engaged to supervise the work in the field in conjunction with the Contractor, and to carry out subsequent reporting of the results. A relevant PhD or equivalent research experience and a suitable body of previous work and practical experience, including a good working knowledge of the Quaternary deposits of the study region, would normally be considered a pre-requisite to demonstrate suitable expertise. CVs should be provided for any specialists.
- 2.4 The identity of the specialist (or specialists) and the scope of their work should be agreed with the County Archaeologist and planning authority before the work commences, and then the named specialist/s should carry out the agreed work. If it then becomes necessary for the agreed specialist/s to be replaced or for parts of the agreed work to be carried

out by anyone other than the agreed specialist/s, then these variations should also be agreed in advance with the planning authority.

- 2.5 Prior to any work being undertaken the Archaeological Contractor will inform the County Archaeologist and communicate details of the proposed team, including (if required) CVs for senior staff and specialists. Senior staff and specialists will need to demonstrate an appropriate level of experience and expertise and should preferably be, where appropriate, Members of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (MCIfA).
- 2.6 Prior to undertaking the evaluation the Archaeological Contractor will need to demonstrate that the necessary resources are in place to undertake the work, through to reporting. The Archaeological Contractor will have available appropriate specialists necessary to support the successful completion of the archaeological fieldwork and post-excavation work.

### **3. Pre-site requirements**

- 3.1 Prior to undertaking the evaluation the Archaeological Contractor will have gathered and considered the following information:
- relevant information on the Kent Historic Environment Record (HER) held by Kent County Council and maintained by the Heritage Conservation group
  - any earlier reports of fieldwork relevant to the site
  - Solid and Drift geology
  - geotechnical site investigation data (if available)
  - British Geological Survey on-line borehole data
  - any desk-based studies of the site
- 3.2 In certain circumstances the following will also be considered:
- relevant published secondary sources
  - relevant historic maps held at the Centre for Kentish Studies
  - aerial photographs where cropmarks are considered to indicate archaeology on or close to the site
- 3.3 The Archaeological Contractor will ensure that all reasonable measures have been taken to identify any constraints to undertaking the evaluation work. The Archaeological Contractor will seek information on the presence of services, any ecological constraints, the presence of Public Rights of Way, the presence of contaminated land or any other risks to health and safety. Attention will be paid to avoiding any trees, protected or otherwise, that are to be retained or to avoid damage to the roots thereof. Prior to the commencement of fieldwork the Archaeological Contractor shall agree with the developer,

or their agent, any fencing required during the works and requirements for reinstatement at completion. The Archaeological Contractor shall ensure that arrangements are in place for appropriate reinstatement prior to the commencement of any excavations.

- 3.4 The Archaeological Contractor will make provisional arrangements for the deposition of the site archive with an appropriate museum or suitable repository agreed with the County Archaeologist. The Archaeological Contractor will obtain a provisional accession number for the site archive from the recipient museum (except where the museum prefers to issue an accession number following completion of fieldwork) and any guidelines from the recipient museum regarding deposition of the site archive.
- 3.5 Full copies of the Specification must be issued to the field officer responsible for on-site work and a copy of the agreed Specification and any additional method statements must be available on site at all times. The team carrying out the evaluation must be familiar with the Specification and have access on site to any previous evaluation or survey reports.
- 3.6 The Archaeological Contractor will inform the County Archaeologist of the start date of the work (at least five working days before) and arrange for monitoring visits to be undertaken, using the Fieldwork Notification & HER Summary Form (see Appendix 1). The Archaeological Contractor will continue to keep the County Archaeologist informed of the progress of work and will notify the County Archaeologist immediately if particularly important archaeological remains are encountered.

#### **4. Aims and objectives**

- 4.1 The general aims of the detailed evaluation are to:
- establish with a high degree of confidence the nature, character, distribution, extent and depth of Quaternary deposits across the site
  - assess the Palaeolithic potential of the site, and establish its importance and significance in the context of national and regional research priorities
  - establish a robust model for the site's Palaeolithic archaeological remains, by identifying Historic Environment Areas (HEAs) of different character and potential (see section 9.7 below)
- 4.2 More-specific objectives of the detailed evaluation are thus to:
- ascertain (where Quaternary deposits are encountered) their extent, depth below ground surface, character, date and Palaeolithic potential

- establish the extent to which previous development and/or other processes have affected Quaternary deposits at the site
- establish the likely impact on any surviving Quaternary deposits of the proposed development
- determine the presence and potential of lithic artefact evidence and faunal remains in the sediments encountered
- determine the presence and potential of palaeoenvironmental evidence in the sediments encountered
- determine the presence of, or potential for, undisturbed primary context Palaeolithic occupation surfaces in the sediments encountered
- interpret the depositional and post-depositional history of any artefactual or biological evidence found
- establish correlations of any Pleistocene deposits found with reference to adjacent and regional sequences and to national frameworks
- assess in local, regional and national terms, the archaeological and geological significance of any Pleistocene deposits encountered, and their potential to fulfil current research objectives
- establish the likely impact of the proposed development upon any Palaeolithic remains, to identify priorities for further investigation, and to make recommendations on suitable methods and approaches for possible mitigation work

4.3 Further site-specific aims and objectives may be specified in Part A.

## **5. Scope and methods**

5.1 The detailed evaluation will involve any, or a combination of, the following four methods of investigation: (a) windowless-samples, (b) cable/percussion boreholes, (c) cleaning/recording of standing sections and (d) machine-excavated test pits. The site-specific specification (Part A) will determine which of these methods is applicable for the current site, and the number and location of interventions.

5.2 Generic specifications for the application of these methods are given below, but only those specified for this specific site (see Part A) need be followed in carrying out the evaluation work.

### **5.3 Windowless samples**

5.3.1 The layout and number of windowless samples will be in accordance with the site-specific specification (see Part A). Windowless sample locations may on occasion need to be slightly moved at discretion of the

on-site field supervisor and Palaeolithic specialist to avoid post-Palaeolithic remains or for other circumstances such as the presence of services or features such as trees, overhead cables, etc.

- 5.3.2 Windowless sample locations will be laid out initially following the locations previously determined (Part A), and the NGR and ground-surface height accurately located with a differential GPS system or Total Station. Augering will not take place where there is a risk of contaminating groundwater.
- 5.3.3 Windowless sampling will be carried out by an experienced contractor using a tracked terrier rig under primary supervision of the Archaeological Contractor with the Palaeolithic/Quaternary specialist/s also in attendance.
- 5.3.4 Windowless samples will be dug to 5m deep, unless otherwise specified. The first metre at each window sample location will be hand-dug to verify that natural sediments are present and there is no risk of encountering services, and the revealed sequence logged. If a starter pit larger than 20cm width is required it will be treated as a test pit (see section 5.6 below). If significant archaeology is encountered within the starter pit excavation will cease, the exposed features or deposits carefully cleaned and recorded and the County Archaeologist informed. The subsequent 4 m will be recovered as 4 x 1 m plastic tubes, which will be slit open on site, cleaned, digitally photographed and logged by the Palaeolithic/Quaternary specialist/s following standard sedimentary recording procedures.
- 5.3.5 Photographs of windowless samples will include one image with all four 1m tubes aligned parallel with a hand-tape (or other tape) with 1cm scale divisions laid along the length of the tube with 0 at the top, the top of each tube facing in the same direction, and with a board or other label giving the windowless sample unique identifier. Close-up views should also be taken of important sedimentary features and junctions.
- 5.3.6 Any archaeological and/or faunal remains encountered will be recovered. Samples may also be taken to evaluate for palaeo-environmental biological remains, if thought appropriate.
- 5.3.7 The ground surface at all window sample locations will be independently surveyed, and tied in with the OS Grid and Ordnance Datum with horizontal and vertical accuracy of  $\pm 2\text{cm}$ .
- 5.3.8 Voids left by sampling will be backfilled to the client/landowners requirements. Where required a bentonite grout will be used to fill the void left through augering, otherwise clean material will be used to backfill the void left by the sampling to ground level

## **5.4 Cable percussion boreholes**

- 5.4.1 The layout and number of cable percussion boreholes will be in accordance with the site-specific specification (see Part A). Boreholes may on occasion need to be slightly moved at discretion of the on-site field supervisor and Palaeolithic specialist to avoid post-Palaeolithic remains or for other circumstances such as the presence of services or features such as trees, overhead cables, etc.
- 5.4.2 Cable percussion drilling will be carried out by an experienced contractor using an A-Frame rig under the primary supervision of the drilling operative as advised by the Archaeological Contractor with the Palaeolithic/Quaternary specialist/s also in attendance.
- 5.4.3 Cable percussion boreholes will be drilled to a depth agreed with the County Archaeologist. Ideally this will span the full depth of Quaternary deposits at the borehole location, proving the underlying pre-Quaternary geology to a depth of at least 1m. The first 1.2m, or other depth based on an assessment of the ground conditions by a competent person, at each borehole location will be hand-dug to verify that natural sediments are present and there is no risk of encountering services, and the revealed sequence in this inspection pit will be logged, and where necessary, sampled. If significant archaeology is encountered within the starter pit excavation will cease, the exposed features or deposits carefully cleaned and recorded and the County Archaeologist informed. To minimise the risk of contaminating groundwater no drilling will take place within any area of standing water. If required the starter pit will be supported, stepped or battered as appropriate. To avoid contamination or collapse, all cable percussion holes should be cased as they progress.
- 5.4.4 Regular, accurate depth measurement should be made by the driller and communicated to the Palaeolithic/Quaternary specialist. These should be made whenever arisings are logged and sampled, and at each recorded interface between two sedimentary deposits. The log should include details of deposit colour, matrix, coarse component descriptions (clast size-range, degree of angularity roundedness, material and percentage of deposits) as well as any observed sedimentary structures. A series of working shots will also be maintained during the course of the fieldwork.
- 5.4.5 Subsequent drilling methodology will depend on the nature of the deposits encountered. Where deposits containing gravels within otherwise cohesive sediments, of low archaeological potential, are encountered, a clay cutter may be most appropriate to use. This will provide bulk samples which should be logged and retained where appropriate at 0.25-0.5m intervals. Wet gravels are best drilled using a shell bailer; these can similarly be logged and sub-sampled at agreed intervals (e.g. 0.25-0.5m).

- 5.4.6 Where fine-grained deposits with apparent or demonstrated palaeoenvironmental or archaeological potential are encountered, sealed U100 samples should be taken. These will provide both the sealed 45cm long U100 tube and a further 0.1m long bulk sample from the cutter attachment. Logs should be made on the basis of the observed sediments in either of the U100 tube and the bulk sample. The U100 core should be carefully labelled, indicating the uppermost end of the core. Where continuous U100 samples are to be taken, extra care must be given during the subsequent cleaning phase not to over-cut into undisturbed sediments. Sleeves will be labelled appropriately and handled with care, voids will be packed, splits taped, and cores will be stacked and carried horizontally.
- 5.4.7 Where agreed, U100 tubes should be opened off-site immediately after field work to provide detailed logs of their contents. Photographs of the U100 cores using an appropriate scale with 1cm scale divisions and with a board or other label giving the U100 sample's unique should be made.
- 5.4.8 Any archaeological and/or faunal remains encountered will be recovered and recorded as small finds.
- 5.4.9 Voids left by sampling will be backfilled to the client/landowners requirements. Where required a bentonite grout will be used to fill the void left through augering, otherwise clean material will be used to backfill the void left by the sampling to ground level.

## **5.5 Recording of standing sections**

- 5.5.1 Standing sections will be cleaned, recorded and sampled if appropriate at the locations given in the site-specific specification (see Part A).
- 5.5.2 Prior to recording and sampling sections will be cleaned using hand tools to create clear, vertical exposures through the sedimentary sequence. Where sections are deep, stepped sections should be used where practical to allow for safe access and recording.
- 5.5.3 The section should be photographed with the inclusion of appropriate photographic scales and a marked-up board indicating the site code, position and orientation of the section. Large sections should be photographed both in their entirety and as composite sections using a high resolution camera.
- 5.5.4 Sections should be drawn at a scale appropriate to their size and complexity. For example, small sections or exposures should be drawn at 1:10 or 1:20, larger running sections at 1:50 or greater. All plans and sections are to be levelled with respect to OD and are to be drawn on polyester based drafting film and clearly labelled.



- 5.5.5 Drawings should show surveyed section lines and nail positions, the upper and lower surface of the section as well as all major sedimentary boundaries and associated archaeological features. The section should also indicate the position of exposed archaeological finds and faunal material; the position of clasts should be added as appropriate.
- 5.5.6 Drawings should be annotated with unit numbers and, where appropriate, sedimentary descriptions. Unit/Context, find and sample numbers should correlate to the appropriate records in the site archive.
- 5.5.7 Sampling from the section should be undertaken once the first drawn and photographic records are complete. A further photographic record should be made after sampling and the sample locations added to the drawn record of the section.

## **5.6 Machine-excavated test pits**

- 5.6.1 The layout and number of test pits will be in accordance with the site-specific specification (see Part A). Test pits may on occasion need to be slightly moved at discretion of the on-site field supervisor and Palaeolithic specialist to avoid post-Palaeolithic remains or for other circumstances such as the presence of services or features such as trees, overhead cables, etc.
- 5.6.2 Each test pit will be dug by a tracked 10-20 tonne 360° mechanical excavator (or other suitable type to be agreed with the County Archaeologist) with a toothless bucket of approximately 2m width unless otherwise agreed. Each test pit will be one bucket-width wide, 3-4m long and up to 5m deep. If sediments are too tough for excavation to be achieved with a toothless bucket, then it is acceptable to switch to a toothed bucket, although the toothless bucket must be reverted to whenever possible. Excavation will cease at a shallower depth if it is clear that Quaternary deposits are not present, and that pre-Quaternary deposits have been reached; care will be taken to ensure that the presence of Quaternary deposits has not been masked by pre-Quaternary deposits having been redeposited on top of in situ Quaternary deposits. Excavation will cease if primary context Palaeolithic evidence is encountered, and the County Archaeologist informed.
- 5.6.3 Each test pit will be taken down in horizontal spits of 5-10cm, respecting the interface between sedimentary units when unit changes are encountered. The work will be directed by a recognised Palaeolithic specialist with experience of recording and interpreting Pleistocene sediments, who will record and number the sequence of sedimentary units as excavation progresses following standard descriptive practices. The textural characteristics (grain-size, consolidation, colour, material and sedimentary structures) of sedimentary units will be recorded, and the shape and nature of their lithostratigraphic contacts (dip, conformity

and overall geometry). Test pits will be entered at the maximum safe depth (based on an assessment of the ground conditions by a competent person) to record the upper stratigraphy. After excavation has progressed beyond this depth, recording will typically take place without entering the test pit. It may however be occasionally necessary to widen and step out the upper part of a test pit to allow direct access to its lower part, for instance for controlled artefact/fossil recovery, to investigate for the presence of an undisturbed landsurface, or for controlled sediment sampling.

- 5.6.4 On-site spit/sieve sampling. Spit-samples of at least 150 litres will be numbered, their position in the stratigraphic sequence recorded, and set aside at regular c. 25cm intervals as excavation progresses. At least 100 litres from each spit-sample will be dry-sieved on site through a c. 1cm mesh for recovery of lithic artefacts and faunal remains. If the sediment encountered is not suitable for dry-sieving (ie. too clayey), excavation will proceed in shallower spits of c. 5cm, looking carefully for the presence of any archaeological evidence, and the spit samples will also be carefully investigated by hand (using archaeological trowels) for any archaeological evidence. The remainder of the spit-sample may be sampled for palaeo-environmental biological remains (see details below) or clast lithology, if appropriate.
- 5.6.5 Palaeo-environmental sampling. The presence/potential for palaeo-environmental micro-biological evidence such as pollen, insects, molluscs and small vertebrates will be assessed for each sediment unit by field inspection by the Palaeolithic/Quaternary specialist. He/she will consider the potential of the sediments encountered, and guide sampling as appropriate (including specifying any special needs for off-site processing methods). Provision should be built into the archaeological programme for processing any samples taken and reporting on the results at the evaluation stage.
- 5.6.6 Chronometric dating. Consideration will be given to the suitability of any sediment units encountered for optically stimulated luminescence dating (OSL). Samples for analysis should ideally be taken with *in situ* dosimetry readings using a portable gamma ray spectrometer. This can be done under the guidance of the Palaeolithic specialist in the field at the evaluation stage if the appropriate equipment is available, or carried out subsequently. If suitable sediment is encountered it is advisable to take an OSL sample anyway, even without *in situ* dosimetry measurement, as this sample can still provide a date, in case there is no future opportunity for renewed investigation.
- 5.6.7 Section drawing and photography. A representative section from each test pit will be drawn at a scale of 1:20 and photographed in colour (digital) once excavation has reached its full depth, and at appropriate stages in the course of excavation if features of interest are revealed.

Other sections will also be drawn and/or photographed as appropriate, particularly where more complex stratigraphy is encountered. A series of working shots will also be maintained during the course of the fieldwork.

- 5.6.8 Backfilling. Each test pit will be dug in turn, and backfilled as soon as possible following excavation and the completion of recording. No test-pits will be left open untended or overnight. In exceptional circumstances (for instance by special request of the County Archaeologist) Palaeolithic test pits may be left open for longer periods if deemed safe to do so, but these will then have to be fenced off and marked with clear warning signs. The Archaeological Contractor shall ensure that arrangements are in place for appropriate reinstatement prior to the commencement of any excavations.
- 5.6.9 Post-Palaeolithic features. Careful attention will be paid to the presence of any post-Palaeolithic features or remains in the upper part of natural deposits. If post-Palaeolithic archaeological remains are encountered excavation will cease, the exposed features or deposits carefully cleaned and recorded; the County Archaeologist will be informed if significant remains are encountered. Where vulnerable archaeological deposits have been identified these will be appropriately protected from damage prior to backfilling. Consideration will be given to providing a marker in backfilled trenches to highlight vulnerable archaeological deposits should re-excavation be necessary. The Palaeolithic test pit will then be located in a different place to avoid affecting more recent remains.
- 5.6.10 Service avoidance. Before excavation begins the statutory authorities will be consulted, where this has not already been done, for information regarding the presence of any below/above ground services. The site will be walked over and inspected to visually identify, where possible, the location of above and below ground services. Test pit locations will be scanned before excavation commences with a Cable Avoidance Tool (CAT) to verify the absence of any live underground services. Any site procedures concerning permissions to dig will be followed.

## **6. Finds recovery, processing and treatment**

- 6.1 All artefacts recovered during the excavations on the site are the property of the Landowner. They are to be suitably bagged, boxed and marked in accordance with the United Kingdom Institute for Conservation, *Conservation Guidelines no.2* and on completion of the archaeological post-excavation programme the landowner will arrange for them to be deposited in a museum or similar repository agreed with the County Archaeologist and the Local Planning Authority.
- 6.2 Artefacts will be excavated carefully by hand. The Archaeological Contractor will use an appropriately qualified and experienced

archaeological conservator to assist in the lifting of fragile finds of significance and / or value.

- 6.3 Artefacts will be collected and bagged by archaeological context. The location of special finds will be recorded in three dimensions. Three-dimensional recording of in-situ flint working deposits will be carried out.
- 6.4 Where appropriate to address the research objectives of the archaeological evaluation, sieving of deposits through a fine mesh will be undertaken to maximise recovery of small artefacts. A strategy for such sieving will be agreed in advance with the County Archaeologist.
- 6.5 Records of artefact assemblages will clearly state how they have been recovered, sub-sampled and processed.
- 6.6 Excavated artefacts will be bagged upon recovery or placed in finds trays. They must not be left loose on site.
- 6.7 All metal objects, other than late post medieval objects, will be X-rayed unless otherwise agreed with the County Archaeologist.
- 6.8 Treatment of treasure. Finds falling under the statutory definition of Treasure (as defined by the Treasure Act of 1996 and its revision of 2002) will be reported immediately to the relevant Coroner's Office, the Kent Finds Liaison Officer (FLO) who is the designated treasure co-ordinator for Kent, the landowner and the County Archaeologist. A Treasure Receipt (obtainable from either the FLO or the DCMS website) must be completed and a report submitted to the Coroner's Office and the FLO within 14 days of understanding the find is Treasure. Failure to report within 14 days is a criminal offence. The Treasure Receipt and Report must include the date and circumstances of the discovery, the identity of the finder (put as unit/contractor) and (as exactly as possible) the location of the find.
- 6.9 Scientific dating. The Archaeological Contractor will make appropriate provision for the application of scientific dating techniques such as radiocarbon, dendrochronology, palaeomagnetic dating, OSL and thermoluminescence dating. The advice of the Historic England regional Scientific Advisor will be sought in advance of the application of these techniques. The Archaeological Contractor will agree with the County Archaeologist any necessary delay in completion of the reporting of the evaluation to enable provisional results to be included.
- 6.10 Where appropriate the guidance in the following Historic England papers will be followed:
  - "Guidelines on the recording, sampling, conservation, and curation of waterlogged wood" (1996)

- “Dendrochronology – guidelines on producing and interpreting dendrochronological dates” (1998)
- “[Centre for Archaeology Guidelines: Archaeometallurgy](#)” (2015)
- “Environmental Archaeology: A guide to the theory and practice of methods, from sampling and recovery to post-excavation (second edition)” (2011)
- “Animal Bones and Archaeology” (2014)
- “[Guidelines for the Curation of Waterlogged Macroscopic Plant and Invertebrate Remains](#)” (2008)
- “Human bones from Archaeological Sites: Guidelines for Producing Assessment Documents and Analytical Reports” (2004)
- “Geoarchaeology” (2015)
- “Archaeomagnetic Dating: Guidelines on producing and interpreting archaeomagnetic dates” (2006)
- “Luminescence Dating” (2008)
- “Guidelines on the X-radiography of archaeological metalwork” (2006)
- “Waterlogged Organic Artefacts: Guidelines on their Recovery, Analysis and Conservation” (2012)

## **7. Surveying and recording**

- 7.1 All interventions (test pits, boreholes, window samples and/or cleaned sections), deposits and finds will be recorded according to accepted professional standards. Sufficient data must be recorded to allow the required level of assessment and reporting (see section 9).
- 7.2 As a minimum, the locations and ground-surface level of all interventions need to be surveyed to 1cm accuracy.
- 7.3 All interventions should be recorded individually on separate record sheets, with each record sheet including details of the location co-ordinates (NGR to 0.01m) and ground surface height (OD), the sediment sequence encountered and any finds made and/or sampling carried out. A further more general record of the work, comprising a description and discussion of the archaeology, is to be maintained as appropriate.
- 7.4 A plan to indicate the location of the boundaries of the evaluated area and the site grid is to be drawn at a scale of 1:1250 (or a similar appropriate scale). Plans indicating the locations of the interventions are to be drawn at an appropriate scale. Sections will typically be drawn at a scale of 1:20, although can also be drawn at 1:10 or 1:50 if appropriate.
- 7.5 All section drawings will include a horizontal datum line, with both ends (and intervening points along the line if appropriate) tied in with the OS

grid to 0.01m accuracy, and with its height above OD surveyed to the same level of accuracy. All plans and sections are to be levelled with respect to OD.

- 7.6 All plans and sections are to be drawn on polyester based drafting film and clearly labelled.
- 7.7 A full colour digital photographic record of the work is to be kept, including general shots of work in progress and a day-to-day digital photographic record of the investigation. The photographic record is to be regarded as part of the site archive.
- 7.8 The Archaeological Contractor will ensure that the complete site archive including finds and environmental samples are kept in a secure place throughout the period of evaluation and post excavation works.
- 7.9 The site archive is to be consolidated after completion of the evaluation work, with all records and finds collated and ordered as a permanent record.

## **8. Reinstatement and completion of fieldwork**

- 8.1 On completion, all interventions will be backfilled or otherwise reinstated and left in a safe state to the requirements of the landowner / client.
- 8.2 Palaeolithic test pits should by default be backfilled directly after excavation of each has been completed, and before excavation of further test pits commences. In exceptional circumstances (for instance by special request of the County Archaeologist) Palaeolithic test pits may be left open for longer periods if deemed safe to do so, but these will then be fenced off and marked with clear warning signs.
- 8.3 Where vulnerable archaeological deposits remain in the ground these will be appropriately protected from damage as part of the reinstatement. Consideration will be given to providing a marker to highlight vulnerable archaeological deposits should re-excavation be necessary.
- 8.4 On completion of fieldwork the Archaeological Contractor will complete the relevant section of the Fieldwork Notification Form and submit it to the County Archaeologist.

## **9. Reporting**

- 9.1 Within three weeks of completion of the fieldwork (or longer in case of complex sites as agreed with the County Archaeologist) the Archaeological Contractor and specialist/s will produce a report, copies of which (as a minimum) are to be provided to:

- the Developer
  - the County Archaeologist
  - the Local Planning Authority
  - the Local Archaeological Society
- 9.2 When submitting the report to the County Archaeologist the Archaeological Contractor will provide written confirmation that the report has been submitted to the above parties.
- 9.3 If the Archaeological Contractor is required, contractually, only to submit reports directly to the developer or their agent, the Archaeological Contractor must inform the County Archaeologist in writing that they have completed the report and whom it has been forwarded to. The Archaeological Contractor must ensure that the developer is made aware of the need to circulate the report as in 9.1 above.
- 9.4 The Archaeological Contractor may determine the general style and format of the evaluation report but it must be completed in accordance with this specification. The report must provide sufficient information and assessment to enable the County Archaeologist and the Local Planning Authority to reach an informed decision regarding any further mitigation measures that may be required and to stand as an appropriately detailed report on the archaeological fieldwork for future research.
- 9.5 Reports that do not provide sufficient information or that have not been compiled in accordance with the relevant sections of this specification will be returned to the Archaeological Contractor for revision and resubmission.
- 9.6 The report will be submitted to the County Archaeologist in a heat-bound hard-copy and in digital format. The digital copy will be supplied in .pdf format and will contain all text, images and plans present in the hard-copy report in a single .pdf file.
- 9.7 **Report Format** - The final evaluation report will include as a minimum:
- 9.7.1 An **Abstract** summarising the scope and results of the detailed evaluation.
- 9.7.2 An **Introduction** including:
- a map showing the site location, with OS grid lines and a linear scale
  - the location of the site with National Grid Reference for the centre sufficient to locate the site to 1m accuracy (eg. TQ 44444 77777, or 12-figure NGR 544444 177777)
  - an account of the background and circumstances of the work



- a description of the development proposals, planning history and planning reference together with the archaeological condition (where appropriate)
- the nature of potential impacts arising from the proposals
- the scope and date of the fieldwork, the personnel involved and who commissioned it

9.7.3 An account of the **Archaeological Background** of the development site including:

- geology, soils and topography, including a description of the likely pre-Quaternary and Quaternary geology of the proposed development site and the surrounding area up to 3km from the site boundary, so far as could be interpreted prior to the evaluation work
- any known existing disturbances on the site
- background archaeological potential of the site for (a) Lower/Middle Palaeolithic, and (b) Upper Palaeolithic. This will include a review of known Historic Environment Record (HER) entries and other relevant records within the site, and for up to 3km from the site boundary. The HER entries will be quoted with their full KHER identifier (e.g. TR 36 NW 12)
- summary of any previous phases of archaeological investigation at the development site

9.7.4 A review of the **Aims and objectives** of the evaluation as specified in the site-specific (Part A) and generic (Part B) specifications must be detailed in the report, together with any further objectives identified during the course of the evaluation.

9.7.5 The **Methodology** employed during the detailed evaluation must be detailed in the report, including a description of the range and quantity of different interventions and a site layout plan showing all interventions. Any constraints on the evaluation will also be described. Simply referring to the methodology outlined in the specification is not acceptable.

9.7.6 The **Results** of the evaluation field work will be described for each trench/test-pit, borehole or standing section, including location, dimensions, nature of deposit encountered. The report will include, as appropriate, a detailed description of each intervention, tables summarising environmental samples taken, together with the results of processing and assessment.

9.7.7 Any results from the application of archaeological scientific techniques e.g. specialist dating will be included in the evaluation report.

9.7.8 An integrated **Quaternary stratigraphic framework** and deposit phases across the site, with interpretation of formation processes and deposit date, supported by (a) fence diagrams showing representative

stratigraphic cross-sections across the site and (b) an appendix with full sedimentary descriptions of the sequence in each test pit, the ground surface height (mOD) at each test pit, the depth and thickness of each sedimentary unit identified during excavation, the sampling of each sedimentary unit, the finds and palaeo-environmental evidence recovered from each sedimentary unit, and a representative photo of the full sequence in each test pit.

9.7.9 **Finds recovery**, including lithic artefacts and any larger mammalian fossils, including sub-sections (supported by tables as appropriate) covering:

- on-site sieve sampling for, and recovery of, artefacts tied in with the integrated Quaternary stratigraphic framework
- a summary report on any lithic artefacts recovered, describing their technology and typology, assessing their condition and degree of disturbance, their importance, significance and relevance to Palaeolithic research priorities, and their potential for further analysis
- summary reports on any mammalian bones and other palaeoenvironmental remains recovered, assessing their condition and degree of disturbance, their importance, significance and relevance to Palaeolithic/Quaternary research priorities, and their potential for further analysis, supported by any relevant specialist reports as appendices

9.7.10 A **Quaternary dating and stratigraphic framework**, tied in with the global MIS framework and any key site-specific regional horizons and nearby sites.

9.7.11 A **Site model of deposit character and Palaeolithic potential**, dividing the site into Palaeolithic Historic Environment Areas (HEAs) of differing character and potential, supported by an appendix giving attribute details for each separate Palaeolithic HEA of its characteristic Quaternary deposits, its potential significance for Palaeolithic remains (including palaeo-environmental remains) and suitable approaches to further investigation.

9.7.12 The area covered by the HEA model should include a buffer zone of 50m around the site boundary, although it is recognised that modelling of the buffer zone may be based on less substantive data than within the site.

9.7.13 An **Impact Assessment** will consider the potential effects of the development on the sub-surface Quaternary deposits and any likely remains. The report will highlight any areas of sensitivity within the site. Particular note will be made of any variations in the depth of overburden covering any Quaternary deposits.

9.7.14 The **Conclusion** will summarises the method, results, interpretation and impact assessment.

9.7.15 The conclusion will assess the potential of the site for preservation of Palaeolithic remains at the site, and the likely importance of any remains with reference to regional and national research priorities. It will then identify any priorities for further investigation, and make recommendations for suitable approaches and methods for any further mitigating work

9.7.16 The evaluation report will include comments on the effectiveness of the methodology employed and the confidence of the results and interpretation.

9.7.17 The report will include a quantification of the project archive contents, their state and future location.

9.7.18 **Figures / illustrations** – The report will include sufficient illustrations to support descriptions and interpretations within the report text. Figures are to be fully cross-referenced within the document text. As a minimum the evaluation report will include the following figures:

- a site location plan tied into the Ordnance Survey at 1:1250 and showing the site boundary. The plan will also include at least two National Grid points to 1m accuracy, north arrow and a linear scale
- a site layout plan showing all intervention locations at an appropriate scale and the distribution of Palaeolithic HEAs. A copy of the plan will be overlain on the proposed development plan where this is known. Projections of HEAs for 50m beyond the site boundary will be shown on the plan. This plan will also include two National Grid points, north arrow and a linear scale
- relevant section drawings as appropriate
- illustrations and/or photographs of significant finds

9.7.19 All report illustrations must be fully captioned and scale drawings must include a linear scale. Standard archaeological drawing conventions must be used. North must be included on all plans and will be consistent. Sections must indicate the orientation of the section and the Ordnance Datum height of the section datum.

9.7.20 Black & White or Colour photographs will be included to illustrate key archaeological features, interventions and site operations. All photographs will be appropriately captioned.

## **10. Archive preparation & deposition**

10.1 The site archive, to include all project records and cultural material produced by the project, is to be prepared in accordance with *Guidelines*

*for the preparation of excavation archives for long-term storage (UKIC 1990).* On completion of the project the Archaeological Contractor will arrange for the archive to be deposited in accordance with the provisional arrangements made with a suitable museum or repository at the onset of fieldwork. Any alternative arrangements will be agreed with the County Archaeologist and the Local Planning Authority.

## **11. Monitoring and liaison**

- 11.1 The Archaeological Contractor is to allow the site records to be inspected and examined at any reasonable time, during or after the evaluation fieldwork, by the client/developer, the County Archaeologist or any designated representative of the Local Planning Authority
- 11.2 Once the detailed evaluation fieldwork has been carried out, there will be an on-site meeting with the Archaeological Contractor, the specialist/s and the County Archaeologist to determine if further work is appropriate in order to meet the objectives.
- 11.3 The Archaeological Contractor will liaise closely with the County Archaeologist throughout the course of the evaluation and will arrange for on-site meetings at key decision points.
- 11.4 The Archaeological Contractor is to make contact with the local archaeological society and keep them informed on the progress of the evaluation. Subject to health and safety constraints the Archaeological Contractor will afford opportunity to the local archaeological society to visit the evaluation site. Copies of all reports will be provided to the local archaeological society.
- 11.5 The Archaeological Contractor is to circulate a completed Fieldwork Notification & HER Summary Form (Appendix 1) at the start and completion of fieldwork and at the completion of post excavation reporting stages.

## **12. Copyright and data protection**

- 12.1 Information submitted to the County Archaeologist in conjunction with planning applications automatically becomes publicly accessible and can be viewed by anyone at any time. In addition, the Local Planning Authority and Kent County Council are subject to the requirements of the Freedom of Information Act (2000) and Environmental Information Regulations (2004). Information may be subject to Fol or EIR requests and any documentation submitted in connection with the project may be made publicly available unless doing so contravenes the Data Protection Act (1998).

12.2 While copyright of reports and other information arising from the fieldwork remains with the originator, the Archaeological Contractor will undertake to make this information available to interested parties. The Archaeological Contractor will agree to allow reports of the fieldwork to be copied electronically and made available to interested parties for archaeological research. The reports may be made available on the Internet no sooner than three months after the submission of the report. Archaeological Contractors who believe that there are special reasons for not publishing the report on the Internet should reach a separate agreement with the County Archaeologist.

### **13. Health and Safety**

13.1 The Archaeological Contractor will conduct the work in compliance with the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974. The Archaeological Contractor will also follow the guidance set out in "Health and Safety in Field Archaeology" Standing Conference of Archaeological Unit Managers (now Federation of Archaeological Managers & Employers) 1997.

13.2 The Archaeological Contractor is expected to maintain a Health and Safety Policy and a procedures manual and have available appropriate expertise in Health and Safety advice. Site staff will have an appropriate level of training to enable them to carry out fieldwork safely.

13.3 The Archaeological Contractor will maintain the site in a safe condition. All hazards will be appropriately identified and managed. Deep excavations will never be left open untended, and will typically be backfilled shortly after excavation. If not backfilled, they will be appropriately fenced and signed.

13.4 The Archaeological Contractor will carry out a risk assessment prior to commencement of fieldwork and where appropriate a COSHH assessment. Risks and measures to reduce risk will be communicated to all working on and visiting the site.

13.5 The Archaeological Contractor will have available suitable site accommodation, welfare and toilet facilities.

### **14. KCC Historic Environment Record**

14.1 The Archaeological Contractor is to provide the Kent Historic Environment Record (HER) with copies of all reports in both heat-bound hard-copy and digital format (see 9.6 above).

- 14.2 Upon completion of the excavation the Archaeological Contractor will supply the Kent Historic Environment Record with a completed Fieldwork Notification & HER Summary form (see Appendix 1)
- 14.3 The Archaeological Contractor will supply the Kent Historic Environment Record with the following digital datasets:
- A .dxf file containing polygon data that describes in detail all excavated/monitored area boundaries, whether trenches, test pits, excavated areas or areas examined by watching brief. This .dxf file must be internally geo-referenced (i.e. the co-ordinate system used in the file must be the Ordnance Survey co-ordinate system).
  - A separate .dxf file that contains a number of Layers. Each Layer should represent a different phase of the archaeological remains on site. The name of each Layer must be the phase number used on the site accompanied by a date range (e.g. "2, from –2000 to –800", "7A, from 410 to 700" etc). Each layer must contain only the features relevant to that phase digitized as polylines. Where the dating is based on scientific dating methods such as radiocarbon, the dates must be calibrated calendar dates.
- 14.4 A guidance document has been produced for Kent County Council that will inform contractors as to how this information can be produced within AutoCad. This document is available from the County Archaeologist and Kent County Council Historic Environment Record.
- 14.5 The Archaeological Contractor should also provide a representative selection of digital site photographs illustrating the archaeology of the site and the operations of the investigation. These will be in .jpg format at a minimum 300dpi. These will be deposited with the County HER and will be used for presentations on aspects of the archaeology of Kent.
- 14.6 It is to be understood that photographs and notes taken by KCC Archaeological Officers in connection with the work that do not identify individuals or site locations may be used by KCC for outreach and publicity purposes, including on social media sites such as Facebook, Twitter etc. The Archaeological Contractor should, **preferably in advance** of the works, raise with the KCC Archaeological Officer any concerns that they or their client may have over the use and dissemination of images or information for outreach purposes. In such cases the Archaeological Contractor and their client will agree a protocol with the KCC Archaeological Officer for the appropriate dissemination and use of images and information which balances the concerns of the contractor and/or client with the objective of ensuring that the people of Kent are kept informed of the archaeological discoveries in the county.'

## 15. General

15.1 In carrying out the work the Archaeological Contractor is to abide by:

- all statutory provisions and by-laws relating to the work in question,
- the Chartered Institute of Field Archaeologists *Code of Conduct*,
- the Chartered Institute of Field Archaeologists *Code of Approved Practice for the Regulation of Contractual Arrangements in Field Archaeology*.



**APPENDIX 1. KENT COUNTY COUNCIL HER SUMMARY AND  
FIELDWORK NOTIFICATION FORM**

**HER & Fieldwork Notification Form**

<p>Sections <b>A</b> and <b>B</b> to be sent digitally to KCC Heritage Conservation Group <b><u>in advance of the start of fieldwork.</u></b>  Section <b>C</b> to be completed and sent <b><u>at end of fieldwork.</u></b>  Section <b>D</b> to be filled in and sent with completed report.</p>				
<b>SECTION A - PROJECT DETAILS</b>				
<b>Site/Project Name:</b>		<b>NGR:</b>		
<b>Site Address:</b>				
<b>Archaeological Contractor (inc name and address of project contact):</b>				
<b>Commissioning Body/Client:</b>				
<b>Development Proposals/Reason for Fieldwork:</b>			<b>Planning Reference:</b>	
<b>SECTION B - COMMENCEMENT OF FIELDWORK</b>				
<b>Type of Archaeological Fieldwork:</b>		<b>Site Supervisor:</b>		
		<b>Site Contact Details:</b>		
<b>Specification for Works?:</b>				
<b>Local Museum Notified:</b>				<b>Site Code:</b>
	<b>Date:</b>			
<b>Local Arch Soc Notified:</b>				
	<b>Date:</b>			
<b>START DATE:</b>		<b>ANTICIPATED DURATION:</b>		days/weeks

I (archaeological contractor) confirm that all necessary provision has been made for the resources to complete the archaeological fieldwork, post-excavation analysis and reporting in accordance with the agreed specification.			
<b>Name:</b>			
<b>On behalf of:</b>			
<b>Signed:</b>		<b>Date:</b>	
<b>SECTION C - COMPLETION OF FIELDWORK</b>			
<b>Date Fieldwork Completed:</b>		<b>Was fieldwork monitored by KCC/EH/Other?</b>	
<b>Further Fieldwork Anticipated:</b>		<b>Who?</b>	
<b>Map attached showing site location and extent of intervention?</b>			
<b>Summary of results (Continue on separate sheet if necessary):</b>			
<b>Agreed Reporting Stages and Program:</b>			

--	--	--	--

<b>Name:</b>			
<b>On behalf of:</b>			
<b>Signed:</b>		<b>Date:</b>	

**SECTION D - COMPLETION OF POST-EXCAVATION ANALYSIS & REPORTING**

Reports Submitted (Titles)	Copies to: (Number)						
	KCC	LPA	Arch Soc	Client	EH	Other	Digital Copies

<b>HER Data:</b>	
<b>Digital Mapping Data?</b>	<b>Notes:</b>

**Location and Destination of Archive:**

<b>Name:</b>			
<b>On behalf of:</b>			

<b>Signed:</b>		<b>Date:</b>	
----------------	--	--------------	--

## **Guidance for Completing the Kent Archaeological Fieldwork Notification Form**

### **Purpose**

The purpose of the form is to improve the notification, tracking and monitoring of archaeological fieldwork in Kent. Its primary purpose relates to archaeological work being undertaken for the purposes of planning and development but it is hoped that it will be also usable by archaeological societies and other bodies undertaking fieldwork in the county.

### **Approach**

- The archaeological body undertaking the fieldwork should fill in the form. Sections A and B should be filled in before fieldwork starts and submitted to the County Archaeologist. This may be submitted in digital copy to speed things along but a signed copy should follow in the post.
- Section A contains details of the project while Section B refers specifically to the onset of the phase of fieldwork. In signing section B the Archaeological Contractor is confirming that the necessary funds and resources to complete the works to the specification have been made available.
- The form should not be filled in separately for each period of an intermittent watching brief but should be filled in for major stages of fieldwork, for example separate phases of evaluation and excavation.
- Section C should be submitted at the completion of the fieldwork stage and should if known indicate whether further work is anticipated. This section sets out a brief summary of findings and what reports are to be submitted. For excavations these will include interim, assessment and full reports. Again the form may be submitted digitally with a signed copy to follow in the post. (The details of Sections A and B should remain filled in on the same form).
- Section D should be submitted as reports are submitted to the County Archaeologist. For excavations the form need not be submitted with interim reports but should be submitted with assessment and full reports.

**Stonar,  
Sandwich,  
Kent,  
Stonar Scheduled Monument**

**Appendix 1: Detailed evidence base**

Project Code: STNRS-DA-21

Client: Ramac Ltd

NGR: 633443 158679, centred

Prepared by: Keith Parfitt, BA; FSA; MCifA

June 2021

**Document Record**

This report has been issued and amended as follows:

Version	Approved by	Position	Comment	Date
02				22/06/2021

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# CONTENTS

List of figures

**1. General introduction**

**2. Designations**

**3. National planning policy**

**4. Topographical background to Stonar**

*The Wantsum Channel and its importance*

*Stonar Bank and coastal spits*

**5. Local topography of the Stonar site**

**6. Documentary history of medieval Stonar town**

*(by Margaret Sparks)*

**7. The archaeological evidence for medieval Stonar**

*Excavation history*

*Evidence for pre-medieval activity around Stonar*

*The medieval town of Stonar*

**8. Early Post-Medieval Stonar**

**9. Remains of the old town**

**10. The toll bridge, c.1755**

**11. The late eighteenth century**

**12. The Stonar estates sold, 1787(?)**

**13. The early nineteenth century**

**14. The mid nineteenth century**

**15. The late nineteenth century**

- 16. The early twentieth century**
- 17. The First World War and Richborough Port**
- 18. Stonar Camp, from June 1916**
- 19. The First World War buildings of Stonar Camp**
  - Building 7, Stonar House and its extensions*
  - Administrative buildings*
  - The living huts*
  - Washhouses, bathhouses, latrines, etc*
  - Cooking, dining, welfare and recreation*
  - Miscellaneous buildings*
- 20. The inter-War period**
- 21. Richborough Port for sale, from 1920**
- 22. The 'Famine Areas Children's Hospitality' scheme at Stonar Camp, May to December 1920**
- 23. The North and South Lakes between the wars**
- 24. Sandwich Cadet Company in Building 64, from March 1923**
- 25. Stonar House School, 1923 to 1939**
- 26. Part of Headquarter Offices (Building 4) leased to H.J. Osborne, 1923**
- 27. Building 70 leased to T.C. Grimwood, June 1924**
- 28. Major Wade's Memorandum, March 1924**
- 29. Cast Stone Ltd, from 1923**
- 30. The *Scrap Valuation* of July 1924**
- 31. Leases of Stonar Lodge, the Regimental Institute, and another building**
- 32. Messrs Pearson and Dorman Long Ltd lease Richborough Port, 1924**
- 33. Jewish refugees at Kitchener Camp, from January 1939**
- 34. The Second World War**



- 35. The late twentieth century**
- 36. The Wingham Engineering Co. Ltd, by 1948**
- 37. RAF Sandwich billeted at Stonar House, from 1947**
- 38. The RAF Sandwich domestic site, c. 1954**
- 39. Obsolescence**
- 40. Sandwich Industrial Estate, 1960s**
- 41. Stonar House in the late twentieth-century**
- 42. Historical importance of Stonar: general comments and conclusions**
- 43. Comments on the archaeology of the Scheduled area**
- 44. Bibliography**

## List of figures

**Fig. 1** Location map and modern Ordnance Survey map showing the position of Stonar  
(Based on Ordnance Survey mapping with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office, ©Crown Copyright Licence No. AL100021009)

**Fig. 2** Modern Ordnance Survey map showing the area covered by the Scheduled Ancient Monument

**Fig. 3** Map showing location of the Stonar Bank and two other coastal spits which blocked the former eastern entrance to the Wantsum Channel (based on LVRG 2006)

**Fig. 4** Map dated c. 1548; Stonar not shown (NB: North is to the bottom)

**Fig. 5** Map dated c. 1585; a single building is shown at Stonar (NB: North is to the bottom)

**Fig. 6** Detail of a tracing of a map of 1624, showing Henneberg Cross

**Fig. 7** Detail of a map from Lewis (1723)

**Fig. 8** Map of the Stonar area in 1769, published by Drury and Herbert

**Fig. 9** Detail of Boys' map of the Stonar area, 1775

**Fig. 10** Detail of map from Gostling (1777)

**Fig. 11** Ordnance Survey draft plan of the Sandwich and Stonar area, 1797

**Fig. 12** Map of the Stonar and Sandwich area, by William Mudge, 1801

**Fig. 13** Detail of Cary's map of the *Environs of Margate and Ramsgate* (1812)

**Fig. 14** Detail of Moule's Thanet map of c. 1848

**Fig. 15** Six-inch Ordnance Survey map of Stonar and Sandwich, published 1877

**Fig. 16** Detail of six-inch Ordnance Survey map of Stonar, surveyed 1872, published 1877

**Fig. 17** Detail of Stonar from the 25-inch Ordnance Survey map of 1907

**Fig. 18** Working plan of 2005 relating excavated medieval remains to local topography  
(based on CAT survey records and Perkins 1993)

**Fig. 19** The original 1821 excavation plan of Stonar church (above) with modern retrace (below)

**Fig. 20** Plan of House 6 following removal of 1385 destruction debris (after Macpherson-Grant 1991)

**Fig. 21** Metal and bone artefacts recovered from Stebbing's excavations (from Harman and Stebbing 1942, plate II)

**Fig. 22** French Saintonge bird painted polychrome jug (from Macpherson-Grant 1991)

**Fig. 23** Breton *ceramique onctueuse* cooking pot (from Macpherson-Grant 1991)

**Fig. 24** Plan of Richborough Port, 1918 (taken from Butler 1996, fig. 30)

**Fig. 25** Detail of a *General Plan of Richborough*, dated 21 February 1918

**Fig. 26** Detail of the 'numbered plan' of Richborough Port, early 1920s (*NB* west is at the top)

**Fig. 27** Stonar House in the 1920s, looking east

**Fig. 28** Another view, showing First World War extensions to north and south of original frontage

**Fig. 29** Stonar House and adjacent military buildings, 1927, looking east (©Britain from Above; EPW018588)

**Fig. 30** The Regimental Quartermaster's stores in use as riding school during the 1920s, looking SW

**Fig. 31** The Headquarters Offices in the 1950s (in use as dwellings)

**Fig. 32** The Headquarters Offices in use as Domestic Science Department of Stonar House School (from Butler 1999)

**Fig. 33** Huts in the south-western part of the camp during the 1950s

**Fig. 34** Truncated remains of huts (Buildings 20 and 19), looking north-east, showing roof construction, 1970

**Fig. 35** Huts (Buildings 20 and 19) looking south-east, 1970s

**Fig. 36** The former Church Institute in the 1950s, looking south-west

**Fig. 37** Detail of an aerial photograph of 1927 showing the Regimental Institute (©Britain from Above; EPW018584)

**Fig. 38** The former Regimental Institute in the 1970s, looking south-east

**Fig. 39** The former Regimental Institute in the 1970s, looking south-east, with a barrack hut in the foreground

**Fig. 40** The north end of the former Regimental Institute, looking north-east

**Fig. 41** Building 64, looking south, c.1938

**Fig. 42** Detail of *General Plan of Richborough*, 21 February 1918, showing location of YMCA building (centre)

**Fig. 43** Detail of 1920s *Ordnance Survey* map showing layout of Stonar camp

**Fig. 44** Advertisement placed in *The Times*, 3 July 1920

**Fig. 45** The Stonar House School grounds from the entrance drive to the south-west

**Fig. 46** Stonar House during its use as a school, looking north-east

**Fig. 47** Dining and other rooms in Stonar House, described as ‘two popular rooms,’ in the school prospectus

**Fig. 48** The balconies of the Stonar House quadrangle, looking south-west

**Fig. 49** The quadrangle, looking north-east

**Fig. 50** A bedroom in the quadrangle

**Fig. 51** The Student House, looking east(?)

**Fig. 52** The sitting room in the Student House

**Fig. 53** An Oxford Group House Party at Stonar House School in 1938

**Fig. 54** Stonar Camp in 1927, looking north before much demolition had taken place (©Britain from Above; EPW018589)

**Fig. 55** The south end of Stonar Camp in 1927 (©Britain from Above; EPW018583)

**Fig. 56** Detail of Ordnance Survey map for 1938

**Fig. 57** The southern edge of the North Lake advancing on Building 64 during the late 1930s (archaeological excavations in foreground)

**Fig. 58** Detail of aerial photograph, c. 1946 (©Google Earth)

**Fig. 59** Detail of the six-inch Ordnance Survey map of 1951. Building 64 still survives at the northern edge

**Fig. 60** The Wingham Engineering Co. from the air, mid-1950s

**Fig. 61** The site from the Ramsgate Road, looking east, mid-1950s

**Fig. 62** Crushing and grading plant on the southern shore of the North Lake, looking east, mid-1950s

**Fig. 63** The southern shore of the North Lake, mid-1950s

**Fig. 64** The stock piles, looking west, mid-1950s

**Fig. 65** Late twentieth-century plan, showing buildings demolished by the Wingham Engineering Co.

**Fig. 66** Detail of Ordnance Survey map for 1960, with the new RAF Stonar Camp and associated domestic buildings omitted for security reasons

**Fig. 67** Plan of RAF Sandwich domestic buildings at Stonar

**Fig. 68** Detail of 1961 Ordnance Survey map (1: 25,000) showing the building complex at Stonar

**Fig. 69** Detail of a 1960s aerial photograph (©Google Earth)

**Fig. 70** Modern LIDAR view of the study area

# Stonar Scheduled Monument, Part 2: Detailed evidence base

## 1. General introduction

**1.1** This report forms Part 2 of study concerned with the archaeology and history of Stonar, located to the north of Sandwich on the east coast of Kent (Fig. 1). It is based upon a detailed heritage assessment previously prepared by Canterbury Archaeological Trust (CAT) commissioned by the owners, R.M. Brookes Ltd (Parfitt and Seary 2018).

**1.2** Part 1 of the present study constitutes a general summary of the known archaeology and history of the Stonar site and sets out proposals for archaeological evaluation work to be undertaken in order to ascertain more details concerning the nature of any archaeology preserved within the area Scheduled as an Ancient Monument. Part 2 of the study, here, forms a more comprehensive assessment of the region and provides the detailed evidence base summarised in Part 1.

## 2. Designations

**2.1** The site of Stonar represents an important heritage area both locally and nationally, for several reasons. A significant part of the area is Scheduled as an Ancient Monument of national importance (List entry No. 1003120; Fig. 2). This designated area may contain significant archaeological remains and deposits of the medieval period, including quaysides and the domestic and commercial properties relating to the medieval town and port of Stonar. The timbers of a successive number of medieval waterfronts are thought likely to survive. Despite damage by quarrying and development in the past, the medieval port of Stonar may still contain significant archaeological remains and deposits relating to its occupation, use and history.

**2.2** Decisions concerning selection for Scheduling sites of national importance are guided by the Principles of Selection laid down by the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport. They relate to the basic characteristics presented by the monument and include:

- Period
- Rarity
- Documentation/Finds
- Group value
- Survival/condition
- Fragility/vulnerability
- Diversity
- Potential

**2.3** One post-medieval building surviving within the Scheduled area, nineteenth century Stonar House, was formerly Listed Grade II but it has been subsequently delisted due to its ruined state (see details below, text section **41**). Other, non-designated (twentieth century military) structures in the area are also of some historical interest but have not been listed.

**2.4** Just under 500 metres to the south-west of Stonar, across the River Stour, the medieval town walls of Sandwich, together with the associated Fisher Gate and Barbican Gates are also Scheduled as Ancient Monuments (Monument Nos 1005173, 1005175, 1005177 & 1005184), whilst Sandwich, itself, is regarded as one of the best persevered medieval towns surviving in England (Clarke et al

2010, 265–272; Newman 2013, 528). The important Scheduled Roman site at Richborough (Monument No. 469547) lies on higher ground to the north-west, some 1.85km distant (Fig. 1).

### 3. National planning policy

**3.1** The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF2; Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government February 2019) sets out a series of core planning principles designed to underpin plan-making and decision-taking within the planning system. Paragraph 184 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.”*

**3.2** 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. The historic landscape encompasses visible, buried, or submerged remains, which includes the buried archaeological resource.

**3.3** The following paragraphs are particularly pertinent to the proposed Stonar project:

*“185. Plans should set out a positive strategy for the conservation and enjoyment of the historic environment, including heritage assets most at risk through neglect, decay or other threats. This strategy should take into account:*

- a) the desirability of sustaining and enhancing the significance of heritage assets, and putting them to viable uses consistent with their conservation;*
- b) the wider social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits that conservation of the historic environment can bring;*
- c) the desirability of new development making a positive contribution to local character and distinctiveness; and*
- d) opportunities to draw on the contribution made by the historic environment to the character of a place.*

*189. 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 asset’s 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.*

*190. 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.*

*192. 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.”

#### 4. Topographical background to Stonar

**4.1** Key to understanding the Stonar site is the local coastal topography (Fig. 3), which itself is closely bound up with the complex evolutionary history of the Wantsum Channel – the ancient waterway that once separated the Isle of Thanet from mainland Kent.

##### ***The Wantsum Channel and its importance***

**4.2** The Wantsum Channel was formed when the lower reaches of the ancient River Stour, together with adjacent low-lying ground occupying a large depression in the chalk (the Richborough Syncline), became flooded after the last (Devensian) Ice Age. The early deposition of the Stonar Bank was probably a major factor in the Wantsum’s creation (Clarke *et al* 2010, 14).

**4.3** It would seem that a substantial coastal barrier, in the form of the Stonar Bank, had increasingly obstructed the River Stour’s access to the sea, and as the waters started to pond-up behind the spit, flooding of the adjacent lowlands ensued. Although a significant proportion of the water in the Stour continued to flow eastwards, obstruction of its direct exit to the sea led to it making a significant detour to the south to pass around the end of the shingle ridge, between the future sites of Sandwich and Stonar (Figs 1, 3–10, 12–14). Additionally, the river also formed a second, northern exit into the sea, near Reculver (Shephard-Thorn 1988, 37–8), so creating a continuous waterway connecting the English Channel with the outer Thames estuary. As a consequence, the chalk uplands of Thanet became an island, which it was to remain until late medieval times.

**4.4** Although it had already been in existence for many centuries before, the first clear written description of the Wantsum channel is provided by the Venerable Bede. Writing in c. AD 730 he describes how:-

‘To the east of Kent is the large Isle of Thanet containing according to the English way of reckoning, 600 *hides* [=ancient land unit], divided from the mainland by the River Wantsum, which is about three furlongs over [c. 600 metres] and can be crossed in two places only, for both ends of it run into the sea’

(Bede, *History of the English Church and People*, Book I, Chapter 25).

**4.5** Extending from present-day Sandwich in an arc around to Reculver on the north Kent coast, the Wantsum sea-channel, in fact, occupies a very special and important place in the historical geography of north-western Europe. It is immediately apparent from any modern atlas that this part of Britain lies closest to the Continent (Fig. 1), but today it is perhaps rather less obvious that the region also once lay close to the crossing point of two of Europe’s greatest ancient sea trading routes; one running down the River Rhine, across the southern North Sea and up the River Thames; the other running along the English Channel coast then either following the British coastline as far north as the Shetlands, or hugging the coast of mainland Europe up to Jutland and beyond (Bennett *et al* 2008, xv; Fig. 1). From at least the Early Bronze Age until the medieval period, these long-established sea routes were regularly used by travellers, traders, colonists and invaders moving around north-west Europe.



**4.6** The archaeological importance of the early Wantsum Channel as an artery for trade and as a focus for settlement in north-east Kent has long been recognised. Indeed, history, tradition and legend are inextricably interleaved with the very silts of the Channel itself. Accounts of the Roman Emperor Claudius and his conquest of Britain, of the landing of the early Anglo-Saxon semi-legendary warriors Hengest and Horsa, of the arrival of Augustine and his Christian monks, of St Mildred and her abbey at Minster, of the rise of medieval Sandwich and Stonar as international trading ports, of the monks of Canterbury's labours to create good grazing land from the emerging saltmarshes of the ever shrinking Wantsum Channel, and much more besides, are all represented here.

**4.7** The neighbouring medieval towns of Stonar and Sandwich lay towards the eastern entrance of the Wantsum and were initially well placed as trading ports. However, continual changes to the local coastal topography and the extended growth of two other, separate sand and shingle spits at the eastern mouth of the Channel meant that over the centuries it became increasingly reduced in width and difficult to access (Fig. 3).

#### ***Stonar Bank and coastal spits***

**4.8** The occurrence of three different marine spits at the eastern end of the Wantsum is intriguing and how they all came to be deposited is still not yet fully understood (Fig. 3). All are likely to be of considerable antiquity and traces of certain or probable Roman activity have been recorded on all three.

**4.9** Longest is the Deal spit, a broad sand spit bounded in part by a shingle bank on its seaward side. This has apparently been formed by long-shore drift from the south, and presently extends some 9km northward from Deal to Pegwell Bay. The spit continues its northward growth, pushing the mouth of the present River Stour ever closer towards Thanet (Fig. 3).

**4.10** A smaller spit is represented by the Sand Downs. This spit extends eastwards from Sandwich for a distance of about 1km. It stands at an elevation of between about 2 and 4 metres above Ordnance Datum and is largely composed of marine sand with a little shingle and some wind-blown sand. Perhaps deposited by the southerly branch of the River Stour as it entered the sea, before the outer Deal spit had grown this far north, it is separated from the Deal spit by the North Stream, flowing out from the foot of the Downs to the south-west (Fig. 3).

**4.11** Extending from the southern shore of the Isle of Thanet is the third spit, the 4km long ridge of shingle known as the Stonar Bank. This is an ancient fossilized coastal feature, no longer forming. It is thinnest closer to Thanet. Its deposition must have begun during the prehistoric period, perhaps beginning around 5000–6000 years ago (see above). Long after the feature had become stabilised, the medieval town of Stonar was established at its broad southern end, directly opposite Sandwich (Fig. 3).

**4.12** How this major coastal feature was formed remains a matter of regular debate. Like the Deal spit, it may well have grown from south to north through the processes of long-shore drift but Robinson and Cloet (1953) have suggested that it began as an offshore bay bar, when an extensive shingle bar migrated westwards, into a sheltered embayment under the influence of strong winds and currents (Moody 2008, 45). The shingle make-up of the Bank is up to 15m thick at Stonar (Pearce 1937, 278).

**4.13** Stonar Bank has been extensively quarried for its valuable shingle, mostly used in construction work and also as a raw material for the Staffordshire pottery industry (Moody 2008, 42; see below, text sections **15** & **16**). During the course of the shingle extraction a number of samples of non-local

stone, erratics perhaps derived from eroded glacial tills elsewhere, were identified amongst the mass of flint pebbles which make up the bulk of the Stonar Bank, further underlining the geological interest of this coastal feature (Baden-Powell 1942; Moody 2008, 48).

## **5. Local topography of the Stonar site**

**5.1** The original topography of Stonar itself, situated on the southern end of the Stonar Bank, is now quite difficult to visualize. Much of the area once covered by the medieval town is today occupied by deep, flooded shingle workings constituting Stonar Lake (Fig. 18). Of the remaining land, the bulk is covered by industrial units, houses and a network of roads (e.g. Stonar Road, Stonar Gardens and Lancaster Way), together with the nineteenth-century ruins of Stonar House. The ground around Stonar House itself is now partially wooded, creating further difficulties for ground inspection and survey.

**5.2** It seems probable that a certain amount of shallow, localised levelling and terracing has occurred across the area to accommodate the various buildings that have been erected on the site from the First World War onwards (many of these are now demolished and/or replaced by subsequent industrial structures and offices; Figs 2, 18 & 70).

## **6. Documentary history of medieval Stonar town**

*(based on a previously unpublished archive report for CAT prepared by Margaret Sparks)*

**6.1** The documentary history of the town of Stonar extends from about AD 1090 to 1385 and a little beyond, 1385 being the date of its destruction by the French, after previously suffering damaging inundation by the sea. The position of the town on an exposed shingle bank on the north side of Sandwich Haven made its life precarious. The site was only worth colonising and maintaining when there was sufficient trade in the Sandwich area and at the same time no undue danger from foreign enemies, or from the sea. If there was a Saxon settlement, for which there is no clear documentary evidence, it was no doubt ravaged by the Danes, especially in the early years of the eleventh century when Sandwich was severely damaged.

### **6.2 *The medieval Port of Sandwich and the growth of Stonar***

**6.2.1** The growth of Stonar was probably caused by rivalry between three landowners - the king, the monks of Christ Church and those of St Augustine's, Canterbury, for the control of Sandwich. Sandwich was a successful port with a good haven and herring fishery from which a useful income could be secured in harbour dues and customs. The Christ Church monks claimed that Cnut had given it to them, with all possible rights to each side of the haven and far upriver, but clearly they lost control of it, and were 'given' Sandwich by Edward the Confessor, according to Domesday Book. At the Conquest, Odo of Bayeux secured it, although by 1086 (and probably by 1076) Christ Church had it once more. Lanfranc 'recovered' Sandwich, according to Domesday Monachorum, but surprisingly St Augustine's Abbey had a small footing there, apparently in the middle of the town. They owned St Peter's church and thirty houses. They kept St Peter's until the Dissolution, after 1227 presenting the rectors alternately with the Mayor and Jurats.

**6.2.2** However, St Augustine's had no chance of controlling the waterfront at Sandwich after Lanfranc's recovery of the town, so they naturally tried to see what advantages could be had from developing the small fishing settlement which no doubt existed on the north shore of the haven. Cnut had granted to St Augustine's all the land called St Mildred's land, belonging to the former Abbey at Minster - most of the eastern half of the Island of Thanet, including the shingle spit (Stonar Bank) running south towards Sandwich, which had blocked the old entrance to the Wantsum

Channel at Ebbsfleet (see above). With this grant of 1027, and that of 1023 for Sandwich, Cnut set up St Augustine's as landlord on the north shore, and Christ Church as landlord on the south, with very contentious results. At an inquiry of 1127 the situation was clearly described:-

'Of recent times some people thinking that the other side of the harbour on the Abbot of St Augustine's land called Stonar would be a convenient place for ships to tie up in fair weather, have built little houses there for themselves because of the ships coming there. Whence it happens that St Augustine's men have secretly received the toll and customs from foreigners who have come there which the ministers of Sandwich and the port of Sandwich ought to have received. But when this became known the ministers of the port went over and justly took away from the Abbot's men forcibly whatever toll or custom they had wrongfully received.

Furthermore, there was a little boat in the harbour, belonging like the port of Sandwich to Christchurch, in which men and their goods coming or going to the market were carried, nor had anyone else any right to a ferryboat there, but after the Abbot's men began to live on their land at Stonar and secretly usurp the rights belonging to Sandwich, as is aforesaid, they secretly also used their ferryboat to carry men and their goods from the island of Thanet, for the Abbot had a great multitude of men there. Wherefore many disputes and quarrels without number broke out among them...'

6.2.3 The colonisation of the south end of the shingle spit in the 1070s and 1080s was clearly successful, since the earliest documentary reference to the town of Stonar is a charter of 1090 in which William Rufus sided with the Abbot of St Augustine's against the citizens of London, who claimed control of Stonar as a seaport subject to the City of London. By that date it had become large enough to be worth intervention from further afield. The king, unwisely, decided that Abbot Wydo and his convent should 'hold free and undisturbed, that land and the whole shore to the middle of the water without any objection and that the abbot of St Augustine's shall hold freely all rights and customs belonging to the aforesaid town'. A complementary charter confirming the Abbot's rights, but not mentioning the citizens of London, was issued the next year. These charters were confirmed by subsequent kings, up to the reign of Henry III.

6.2.4 Much of the evidence for Stonar comes from William Thorne's Chronicle of St Augustine's, written in the 1390s, but using the muniments of the Abbey. He does not, however, quote the documents of the dispute of 1127, mentioned above, which resulted in victory for Christ Church. The king, Henry I, took a hand in the matter, and instructed that a jury be called 'of twelve lawful men of the neighborhood of Sandwich, who are neither the men of the Archbishop nor the men of the Abbot', and that they should declare on oath who had owned the port, toll and maritime customs in their time and the time of their ancestors. They all agreed that Christ Church owned everything, including 'the maritime customs each side of the river' from Burgegate to Markesfliete, and the ferryboat'. In fact, this was a claim to control the river from the eastern side of Sandwich (?Burgegate) at least as far as Sarre and perhaps further. The Abbot of St Augustine's had control over the fleet or creek leading up to Minster, but no rights along the river, as is clear from later legislation in 1242 and 1313.

### **6.3 Development of Stonar**

6.3.1 In spite of this set-back, the St Augustine's authorities continued to develop Stonar. It had a church and a mill, and in 1193 a market. By the thirteenth century an embanked enclosure for pasture had been made on the west side of the peninsular (bounded by the Monk's Wall). The land is described as being 'within Henneberg' and the limit of the town on the north appears to have been Henneberg cross, which is marked on a map of 1624 (Fig. 6) as being roughly opposite

Richborough, perhaps where the Henneberg bank met the road from Thanet. The town itself was along the east and south sides of the peninsula, occupying the original shingle bank. Presumably, ships could run up on the beach as at Deal on the eastward side of the town, and tie up at a quay on the south, facing the Sandwich quay across the river.

6.3.2 From an archaeological point of view, knowledge of the ships and where they came from and what trade they brought is much to be desired, but the documentary evidence only provides scraps of information. The documents which were preserved about Stonar were, for the most part, kept amongst the muniments of Christ Church Priory, St Augustine's Abbey and the Town of Sandwich in order to record their presumed rights in Stonar, but not to give information about the number of inhabitants and their work and place of origin. However, certain accidental details can be gathered together. Obviously, the main purpose of the town was for shipping. Many foreigners were to be found there, especially Flemings from the Low Countries. There was trade in fish, and in wine and no doubt in other commodities usually bought and sold in Sandwich (Boys 1792, 507). The inhabitants of Stonar were themselves ship owners - in 1230 three men of Stonar took their ships to assist the king at Southampton, and in 1283 it was agreed that tenants of Stonar, 'when sailing over the sea or pursuing trading over the sea', should not be regarded as defaulters or absent from the Abbot of St Augustine's Court at Minster. A good deal of irregular activity took place in the harbour: in 1323 a complaint was made by Bertrand de Vylar, a merchant of the city of Bayonne, just north of the Pyrenees. He was going with a galley from Le Skluse (Sluys) in Flanders to Spain, and ran towards Sandwich to escape pirates. He anchored at Stonar, but his ship was boarded, he was assaulted and his goods carried away by a party of Cinque Ports men including members of the illustrious Alard family of Winchelsea, presumably conducting some private feud.

6.3.3 Stonar tenants owed suit of court to the manor of Minster, and as has been said, St Augustine's acquired the Stonar site when they were given 'St Mildred's land' by King Cnut. The manor of Minster comprised the eastern half of the Island of Thanet. The land was divided up into four areas with churches - the original Minster settlement in the west, and three daughter churches: St John's in the north, St Peter's in the east and St Laurence in the south. Near each church there was a demesne farm, Minster, Salmestone, Callis and Ozingell, and in addition there were two granges, Alland and Newlands, and a farm called Hengrove near Margate, all described as 'ancient demesnes'. There were three seaside settlements - Stonar, Ramsgate and Margate, and in a register of c.1290 a list records over thirty hamlets or farms from which the tenants owed gabulum rents and services. Cottars at Sarre ran a ferry, and those at Minster had carrying duties to take goods to and from Canterbury, from Minster Fleet by barge to Fordwich and then overland to Canterbury.

6.3.4 Stonar's position in all this does not emerge clearly from the Black Book and the St Augustine's Register still at Canterbury. It was not a borough like Fordwich, with burgage plots, and yet it was more than a fishing village like Ramsgate and Margate which paid dues in herrings and mackerel. There was an extensive marsh at Stonar, both within Henneberg and to the north towards Cliffsend. The 93 tenants who are listed as paying gabulum rents in Stonar each autumn at St Martin's tide were presumably paying for marshland and they are mentioned as keeping sheep in the marsh in an agreement of 1283. But some of the tenants listed held land elsewhere, so that the relation between the list of those who rented land in Stonar marsh and those who actually lived in Stonar is not clear. Since no arable land appears to have been allotted to Stonar, such as some of the tenants of Margate held, the impression created by the records suggests that the men of Stonar were entirely concerned with ships, with trading and fishing and the necessary service industries required, and that they kept a few sheep as a side-line. They were tenants of the court of Minster, but fealty, rents, reliefs and suits of court and not by any regular services associated with arable land.

## **6.4 'Agreement' with Christ Church**

6.4.1 Although Stonar flourished in the thirteenth century, the town and harbour caused St Augustine's much trouble. Continual watch had to be kept on the activities of Christ Church at Sandwich, and sometimes there were unwelcome landings at Stonar. In 1216 the Dauphin landed with a French army to assist the barons in their revolt against King John. The French overran the south-east and reached London, plundering the Abbot's manors in Thanet and elsewhere on the way. Damage at Stonar is not recorded. In the matter of Christ Church an agreement was made in 1242. 'Now because quarrels have often arisen... over lands, rents, maritime 'customs' and other various and divers rights, for the settling forever of all strife an arrangement was made in the year 1242' runs the introduction to the document as set out in Thorne's Chronicle, an ambitious prologue since strife was never entirely settled between two monasteries in the same small city. The arrangement was that the Abbot's men could have free passage by ship as far as Minster Fleet up the 'River of Sandwich', and free return, providing that the ships did not drop anchor, and that no trade or transference of goods was carried out on the river bank. Christ Church still kept rights on both sides of the river, as always, but the Abbot and the monks of St Augustine's should have 'their domain and accustomed rights in their town of Stonores and their lands'. In Stonar 'justice shall be done according to the quality of the offence as it has been accustomed hither to be done': justice in Stonar was already a debated subject, which was to be an expense and concern to the Abbots for the remaining life of the town. On the vexed question of the ferryboat a compromise was reached. The monks and the men of the Abbot's household could have free passage, but not the St Augustine's tenants.

6.4.2 Eventually in 1290 the ownership of Sandwich was taken by the king, 'whose bailiff had already been in controversy with the Mayor and Jurats in 1275. Queen Eleanor provided land for an exchange with Christ Church, and it was to her that the Prior and Convent conceded their rights. They maintained their quay with its crane at the north-west end of Strand Street, known as Monkenquay, and their lodging and other buildings just inside the Canterbury Gate. The quay was of importance for the transhipment of stone and other heavy goods from ships to barges for the journey up river to Fordwich. In the concession document, the Ferry was mentioned again: both Christ Church and St Augustine's monks and officials were to have free passage in it. Later the ferryboat was rented out by the Crown, and later still, its profits were given to St Bart's Hospital on the south side of Sandwich. (As the haven silted up a bridge became more appropriate, and the first bridge was built in 1755; see below, text section **10**). There is no record of the king continuing the quarrel with St Augustine's about maritime 'customs' and there is in fact evidence from a court case of 1313 that in the 'River of Sandwich' towards Minster the king did not take customs. But in any case, by 1290 the Men of Stonar had long ago formed an alliance with the Men of Sandwich, with the result that 'the Stonar problem' took on a rather different form for the Abbot and monks of St Augustine's.

## **6.5 Stonar and Cinque Ports**

6.5.1 It was noted in Domesday Book and in the Domesday Monachorum of Christ Church that Sandwich owes the king similar service concerning the sea as does Dover. The five ports, Hastings, Romney, Hythe, Dover and Sandwich whose duty it was to provide ships and men for the king, gradually formed a powerful confederation independent of the County of Kent, and from the twelfth century they had their own courts. A list of the ports in the Black Book of St Augustine's is headed 'these are the five ports of the kingdom of England which have liberties which other ports do not have. Their service is to the Crown'.

6.5.2 But the matter was more complicated. Each head port acquired members, some official and

corporate, others unofficial and non-corporate. It remained the responsibility of the head port to produce the ships, but there were mutual advantages in the association of the head port and its members. One advantage for a small place, such as Sarre, in joining Sandwich, was the right to plead only where the men of the Ports pleaded. Joining the confederation was seen as an opportunity to challenge the necessity of services due to ecclesiastical landlords - the men of Dengemarsh secured inclusion in a charter of Lydd in 1156 (a member of Romney) to counter the claims of the Abbot of Bath. Fordwich was a member of Sandwich: there was much controversy between the Mayor and Jurats and the Abbot of St Augustine's about their rights in the port. The men of Stonar similarly joined with the men of Sandwich. In 1280 it was recalled that the men of Stonar preferred to live under the yoke of Sandwich rather than be governed by the ancient liberties of the County, but their membership of the Cinque Ports was of no value to the king who would lose nothing if that town (Stonar) was submerged or destroyed. The date of Stonar's joining Sandwich is not known. Stonar was a non-corporate member of Sandwich by 1229 and had probably joined at the time of the Interdict 1207–13 when the men of Sandwich are known to have chosen a mayor to represent their interests while the monks of Christ Church Priory were in exile and Sandwich was under the control of the king.

6.5.3 The extent of the men of Sandwich's control of Stonar is revealed by a document transcribed in the Sandwich Custumal, headed 'Of the liberties and privileges claimed by the barons of Sandwich in the town of Stonore'. The basis of the Custumal was a 'collection of documents written by Adam Champneys in 1301 to provide written word which should remain 'for help and council of those who in time to come shall govern this town'. The 'liberties and privileges' were no doubt copied and adapted from an earlier statement. Firstly 'the whole soil of the town of Stonore' as far north as the cross at Henneberg was included in the Liberty of Sandwich. Then each year, after the choosing of the Mayor of Sandwich, the people of Stonar were to assemble in their church with the newly appointed Mayor and Jurats, and the Mayor was to appoint a deputy to represent him in Stonar, and 'six or eight of the better sort of inhabitants' to execute the office of jurat, as done in Sandwich. The Mayor is to hold court in Stonar and 'all justice of whatsoever kind and nature is given by the mouth of the Mayor of Sandwich', except for cases reserved for the Cinque Ports' Court of Shepway. The Abbot of St Augustine's, as landlord, should have a bailiff at the Mayor's court, just as the king had a bailiff in Sandwich. The Mayor's deputy should correct brewers, bakers, scolds and other delinquents, and have charge of orphans and the goods and chattels of intestates. In fact, most of the provisions for the government of Sandwich should apply to Stonar.

6.5.4 To a certain extent the monks of St Augustine's had to accept the power of the Cinque Ports in the thirteenth century. They recognised that their tenants in Fordwich and Stonar belonged to the Liberty of the Cinque Ports and noted in a late thirteenth century land book that at Stonar the seneschal of the Abbot had the right to attend all Stonar cases heard at Sandwich. William Thorne, writing at a later date, thought it worthwhile to include a version of the 'liberties and privileges' which he found in the St Augustine's muniments, remarking grimly that it was 'pleasing to set down the customs and lordship which those of Sandwich claimed to have in the town of Stonore' since the men of Stonar chose to live under their yoke. But the battle concerning jurisdiction was bitterly fought, as can be seen from the Calendars of Patent Rolls and the cases recorded by Thorne. The Abbot also had right to hold a court in Stonar. Thorne describes a case of murder in 1270. There was a dispute between two parties of Flemings, in which two men were killed. The Abbot's reeve arrested some of the Flemings and brought them to court in Stonar before the Abbot's seneschal. The Flemings said they were innocent, and threw themselves on the mercy of the town of Stonar. The Mayor of Sandwich then arrived and demanded the prisoners for trial in Sandwich, saying that the Abbot neither had, nor ought to have, such a court within the town of Stonar. Proceedings were held up, but the Abbot returned a polite answer to the Mayor and opposition was withdrawn. The trial continued before the seneschal, and the Flemings were acquitted.

6.5.5 The men of Stonar and Sandwich damaged the Abbot's property in various ways. In January 1266 they burnt two mills, one at Stonar and one at Ebbsfleet. They weakened the sea wall between Stonar and Cliffsend by carrying away stones, and they invaded the Abbot's marsh between Stonar and Ebbsfleet and carried away soil for filling up and repairing their quays at Sandwich. Not only this, but they also brought armed men with them in their boats for protection. By 1280 the Abbot had suffered enough: he issued a writ against the Mayor of Sandwich and others of the town, but they replied as usual that they would answer no plea except in their court in Sandwich. They further said that Stonar belonged to the Port of Sandwich.

6.5.6 In January the following year it was alleged that Henry de Apeldofeld, the seneschal and others of the Abbot's household had been assaulted, and then besieged in Stonar church for almost a day. A writ of the king was taken by force from the King's Sergeant, who was sent to Stonar by the Sheriff of Kent. Clearly the men of Sandwich were anxious to fight anyone who seemed likely to infringe their privileges, whether the Abbot, the King or even Stephen de Penchester, Warden of the Cinque Ports, who was influential in bringing about a settlement between the men of Stonar and Sandwich and the Abbot in 1283. The Abbot made concessions about the 'customs' owed by the tenants at Stonar, and confirmed their right to keep sheep in Henneberg, but the men of Stonar and Sandwich were not to damage the sea wall or the marsh, or hinder the Abbot's bailiff. One hundred marks was to be paid by the men to the Abbot, which was later commuted to ten casks of wine of the value of 30 marks.

6.5.7 After this settlement there is no immediate evidence for further controversy. In 1290 the king took over the control of Sandwich from Christ Church; but it is not clear how Stonar was affected by the change. Preparations for war with France in the 1330s will have kept the Mayor and Jurats of Sandwich occupied providing and provisioning ships, welcoming ships assembling in the haven, and waiting upon the king and members of his family en route for France and the Low Countries. Edward III came in 1341, 1345, 1350 and in 1359 and 1360 he actually stayed in Stonar. The war also brought fear of French raids, in 1338–9, in 1360 when Winchelsea was burnt, and in 1377 when Rye and Hastings were attacked. Sandwich and Stonar were both concerned in all this and were perhaps too busy with the work involved to make forays against their landlords.

6.5.8 There was however a new form of encroachment by the men of the Cinque Ports on the surrounding countryside outside their liberties. When they bought land in the country they refused the customary services of 'sullingmen' in a geldable area, and payment for 'scots and lots', and jury service. In the manor of Northbourne, belonging to the Abbot, 800 acres was thus occupied by men from Dover and Sandwich. An inquiry was made into this matter in 1364. Perhaps as a result of this, the matter of 'services' was brought up again at Stonar. Thomas Crabber, a leading townsman, and others had withheld services, with the result that their goods were distrained. They attacked the Abbot's officer and claimed back their belongings by force and arms. The Abbot claimed damages of £100. As usual, the men of Stonar said that since Stonar was within the liberty of Sandwich, they did not recognise the authority of any court but their own. On this occasion, the Abbot counter-attacked with the allegation that the town of Stonar was within the County of Kent and a parcel of the barony of St Augustine. A jury was called by the Sheriff of Kent which surprisingly stated that the town of Stonar was in the County of Kent. Damages were allowed to the Abbot, but only £20 marks.

6.5.9 This case was referred to in 1373 when the men of Stonar complained that they had paid an assessment for subsidy as part of the County of Kent, and then been assessed again as part of Sandwich. On that occasion, they wished to be included in the County, and were told to certify in chancery the details of the Crabber case, in order to substantiate their claim. The advantages of being a non-corporate member of the Cinque Ports no longer seemed so pressing.

## 6.6 The end of the town of Stonar

6.6.1 In 1280 it was remarked of Stonar that 'the king would lose nothing if that town were submerged or destroyed' since it was the duty of Sandwich as head port to provide the king with ships. But the saying was presumably based on the dangerous position of the town on its shingle peninsula, at the mercy of the sea and exposed to foreign raiders. A series of high tides, perhaps backed by a strong wind, could cause severe flooding, as occasionally still happens at Sandwich. In 1365 there was flooding, especially in the marshes north of Stonar, and again in 1380: on both occasions commissions were appointed to advise on the improvement of the sea-defences.

6.6.2 As a result of defeats in France, the English lost control of the Channel in the 1370s. Thorne remarks in his Chronicle that the French were 'scouring the seas like pirates with ships and galleys'. They were joined by ships of the Castilian fleet and in 1377 made a series of disastrous raids. They overran the Isle of Wight, destroying Newtown so that it never recovered, burnt Rye and in late August attacked Folkestone and Dover. There was great alarm: the men of Kent petitioned the king for the repair of royal castles; the citizens of Canterbury began the rebuilding of the city walls; and in following years private castles were built or reinforced, at Cooling in the Medway marshes, at Saltwood near Hythe and at Bodiam, to command the creeks leading up to the Weald. The license for Bodiam (1385) expressly stated that the castle was 'for the defence of the adjacent country and resistance to our enemies.'

6.6.3 The castle at Sandwich was repaired and garrisoned in 1384/5 when there was a great 'invasion scare'. The French and Castilian fleet was gathered at Sluys but kept in by a contrary wind. The king (Richard II) had gone to Scotland to fight a combined French and Scottish army, so that the citizens of the south coast towns felt exposed to foreign attack and without hope of assistance. Although the main French fleet did not sail, 18 ships made a raid in which Stonar was laid waste and destroyed with fire. The ships sailed on round Thanet but returned home without making further raids. Meanwhile all citizens of Sandwich were exhorted to remain in the town to assist in its defence. Fortunately, this 'invasion scare' came to nothing, and also a similar one the following year.

6.6.4 But Stonar, according to Thorne, was destroyed. In the *Historia Anglica* Thomas of Walsingham relates the 'scare' and the gathering of the fleet at Sluys, but he does not mention any raids on English soil, only the English capture of some French ships. Thorne, however, was writing about his own district, and about events in his lifetime and was clearly very interested in this 'immergency.' He saw it all as part of the wickedness of Sir Simon Burley, then Warden of the Cinque Ports, formerly tutor to Richard II and for some years virtually regent of England. Thorne believed that Burley had made a plot with the French king, ultimately for his own aggrandisement, and that Burley was out to despoil St Augustine's of land in Thanet. There was some truth in this last belief since Burley had acquired former possessions of Juliana de Leybourne who had been herself a benefactor of the Abbey and was buried in St Anne's Chapel there. Thorne's dislike of Burley was shared by Walsingham and many others. A modern historian has described him as 'at this period the real power behind the throne.... but he worked in such obscurity that little is really known about him'. The burning of Stonar was especially graven on Thorne's mind as part of a deplorable sequence of events concerning Burley. He regarded Burley's impeachment and death in 1388 as a just retribution.

6.6.5 Fortunately, there is confirmation for the French destruction of Stonar in the Register of Archbishop Henry Chichele, where instructions were given for the guidance of 'collectors of tenths'. In 1384 Stonar church had paid a normal contribution of 5 shillings to the ecclesiastical subsidy for the king (the same sum as St Clement's, Sandwich), but in 1416 Stonar is listed as exempt from



subsidy in company with the poor nuns of St Sepulchre's and the Hospitals of Harbledown and Northgate, Canterbury, and others. It is explained that Stonar has been almost destroyed by enemy attack. The same exemption was made in 1417 and 1419, though the reason is given in different words (making it clear that this was no 'rubber stamp' but a fact of history in the clerk's mind): Stonar totally destroyed by enemies from France', and 'Stonar which is too greatly impoverished as a result of enemy attack.'

6.6.6 Like Newtown in the Isle of Wight which was destroyed by the French in 1377, Stonar was not rebuilt, though no doubt some activity continued on the quays, and some people did live there. It was no longer a 'town' and the church ceased to function as a parish church, though presumably not immediately. Vicars were appointed, but became non-resident, like Andrew Bensted (1486–1492) who was also at that time a Canon of Lincoln, a Canon of Westbury-on-Trym and Rector of Offerd Cluny in Huntingdonshire. He simply collected an income from his various benefices and was probably an ecclesiastical civil servant. The church at Stonar became for a time the home of a hermit or anchorite - James Style who in 1479/80 gave books and vestments to the Mayor and Jurats of Sandwich for safe-keeping to provide goods for another hermit who might lodge there. Hermits were not at that time extraordinary in east Kent - one lived in St Pancras Chapel at St Augustine's Abbey in 1494 and two had cells in the grounds of the Blackfriars at Canterbury.

6.6.7 By the time of Leland's visit in the 1530s the town of Stonar had disappeared, and only the ruin of the church remained. Presumably the abandonment of the site was gradual. In the early years of the fifteenth century some people may have continued there, and there may have been trading at the quays until the silting up of Sandwich Haven made commercial life difficult in Sandwich, let alone Stonar. People passed through the site of Stonar on the road from Thanet to the Sandwich ferry, but clearly by the end of the fifteenth century there were few, if any, living there, and the 'town' of Stonar had failed.

6.6.8 Writing at the end of the eighteenth-century Edward Hasted noted:

'At present there are three houses in it, only one of which is situated where the town of Stonar antiently stood; about twenty rods from which, near the road, on a little rising bank, stood the church, of which there are now no remains left above ground' (Hasted 1800, 412).

## **7. The archaeological evidence for medieval Stonar**

### **7.1 Excavation history**

The important medieval site at Stonar has seen a number of archaeological excavations and investigations but it is readily apparent that much of the settlement area has been destroyed by twentieth century shingle extraction. Indeed, this was the catalyst for most of the archaeological work that has occurred on the site. The known investigations are listed below by date.

#### **1821**

Excavations on the site of the church by Henry Wood of Stonar House (Parfitt 2001a; Fig. 19 - see below).

#### **1911**

Further excavations on the site of the church by Major Gwilym Lloyd George. No details of this investigation now seem to be available, although further skeletons and tiles were discovered (Hardman and Stebbing 1942, 42).

### **before 1930**

Workmen employed at the gravel works made a number of potentially significant discoveries, of which no detailed archaeological record was apparently produced at the time. Excavations for shingle close to the Sandwich–Ramsgate road revealed much pottery, together with some human bones. In the smaller quarry on the eastern side of the spit, a ‘Roman galley’ was found preserved in the waterlogged gravels. The timbers had been cut with an adze. Experts were brought to see it and for a while the gravel was carefully removed from around it, but when the watchers went away the workmen tried to drag it out with a crane with the result that it broke up. The pieces were taken away, but what became of them is unknown. Not far from the galley was a roughly rectangular shaped ‘anchor stone’, with a hole cut through it for a rope (notes by B.W. Pearce, 1938).

### **1935–1960**

Archaeological investigations ahead of on-going shingle quarrying were carried out under the direction of W.P.D. Stebbing, intermittently between 1935 and 1960 (Hardman and Stebbing 1942). Many interesting artefacts (Fig. 21) and groups of pottery were recovered (Dunning 1941; Bruce Mitford 1952) but the structural evidence that could be recorded was relatively limited. A stone-lined well was noted, together with several hearths and a scatter of building material. Some further excavation of the foundations of the church and its graveyard was undertaken in 1948. To the east of the church, a grave lined with bricks of probable sixteenth century date suggested that burials were still taking place here after the main settlement had been abandoned (Stebbing 1950).

A collection of pottery and small finds from Stebbing’s excavations are housed at the British Museum, (Acc. Nos 1946.1001.2–78; 1969.0102.61–69). Two interesting skulls from the church’s cemetery were presented to the Museum of the Royal College of Surgeons (Stebbing 1950, 150).

### **1969–1972**

Further rescue excavations were conducted by Nigel Macpherson-Grant (Macpherson-Grant 1971; 1991; Wilson and Moorhouse 1971). Work in 1972 succeeded in locating the south-eastern corner of the church, together with a substantial portion of the associated graveyard, containing over 120 burials (Eley and Bayley 1975; Macpherson-Grant 1991; Anderson 1991) and possibly part of the southern churchyard wall (N. Macpherson-Grant pers comm.). The excavated finds are presently in store at Dover Museum, with the human bones held by Canterbury Archaeological Trust.

### **1987**

Salvage recording of newly exposed stratified medieval deposits revealed in the south face of Stonar Lake (Perkins 1993, 11).

### **1993–1994**

Wessex Archaeological Trust maintained a watching-brief on a new pipe-trench cut through the marshland area to the south of the town. This failed to reveal any significant remains, apart from a dozen timber stakes dated to the post-medieval period (Kent HER ref. TR 35 NW 190; Hearne et al 1995, 270–272).

Further to the west the medieval Monks Wall (see below) was sectioned by the same pipeline, which showed it to be of clay dump construction (Hearne et al 1995, 268–270).

### **2001**

Canterbury Archaeological Trust conducted a watching-brief on excavations connected with the renewal of the sewage system for houses at Stonar Close, just to the south of the medieval town site (Parfitt 2001b). A series of water-laid deposits consisting of a fairly complex sequence of interleaved alluvial clays and sands were recorded but no significant archaeological remains were revealed. In particular, there were no traces of any major structural timbers relating to water-fronts, harbour

walls, boats or ships. Nor was there any evidence of outlying buildings relating to the lost town. It would thus appear that the area lay well beyond the medieval settlement.

## **2002**

Canterbury Archaeological Trust undertook evaluation trenching at No. 2 Stonar Gardens, ahead of the construction of a rear extension (Rady 2002; Fig. 18). Two metallised surfaces, and associated levels, were located at a depth of 0.80m. Dated to the twelfth century or later, they perhaps represented a road connecting Stonar to Sandwich or an adjacent quay. There was no clear evidence for intensive medieval occupation in the vicinity.

## **2005**

Members of Canterbury Archaeological Trust undertook a contour survey of the Stonar area as part of a detailed study of medieval Sandwich (Clarke et al 2010; Fig. 18). Surviving finds and records relating to previous investigations at the site are dispersed across at least three museums (British Museum, Quex Park, Birchington and Dover Museum) and one archaeological contractor (Canterbury Archaeological Trust). The 1821 church excavation plan (Fig. 19) is held in the Sandwich Guildhall archives.

## **7.2 Evidence for pre-medieval activity around Stonar**

### **7.2.1 Prehistoric activity**

The Stonar Spit, extended southwards from the Ebbsfleet peninsula on the southern shore of the Isle of Thanet and its formation probably began during the prehistoric period. Although there is presently no clear evidence for any prehistoric habitation in the immediate area of Stonar itself, the Bank probably provided a ridgeway that was extensively used by early travelers moving between mainland Kent and Thanet.

### **7.2.2 Roman activity**

7.2.2.1 A light scatter of Roman material found at Stonar could provide evidence that the southern end of the Stonar Bank was in existence and inhabited by this period. Various antiquarian references and early Ordnance Survey maps (Figs 16 & 17) note the discovery of coins, pottery and other Roman finds at Stonar, but none of this material survives for re-analysis and the dating cannot now be wholly confirmed. Macpherson-Grant, reporting on excavations at Stonar between 1969 and 1972, records that, apart from one minute scrap of samian ware and one coin, no evidence for Roman occupation had been noted during the work (Macpherson-Grant 1991, 46).

7.2.2.2 Overall, the case for regular Roman occupation at Stonar is not yet wholly proven, although it has generally been accepted by many recent authors (e.g. Moody 2008,43). If Macpherson-Grant's information that a Roman coin hoard contained within an urn found to the south-east of Stonar House is accurate (Perkins 1993, 15), this would go some considerable way towards confirming settlement/activity on the shingle ridge. However, particular significance would attach to any fresh *in situ* Roman finds made at Stonar that could further reinforce the case.

7.2.2.3 If the case for Roman occupation at Stonar is accepted, it must follow that the Stonar Bank was at least partially in position by this time. If this is correct, it has an effect on our understanding of the width of the eastern entrance to the Wantsum Channel and important implications for access to the key Roman port at Richborough located further to the north-west (Figs 1 & 12; see below). Regardless of the precise details, it seems likely that by the Roman period the width of the eastern entrance to the Wantsum Channel had been significantly reduced (Dowker 1897; Hawkes 1968), so

that access for vessels sailing in from the English Channel, towards Richborough or Reculver may not have been straightforward (Fig. 3).

#### 7.2.2.4 *The 'Roman Galley'*

In 1938 B.W. Pearce, a senior archaeologist working at Richborough Castle, provided an interesting report obtained from one of the workmen digging at the fort. He recounts how in the gravel pit at Stonar, the timbers of a 'Roman galley' had been discovered some years previous (see above). The timbers seem to have been preserved in waterlogged shingle and showed evidence of being cut with an adze (Pearce 1938, 166; Perkins 1993, 7).

The Roman date of this vessel cannot now be confirmed but whatever its age, it certainly must have been of considerable antiquity. Rather than being 'Roman', it seems just as possible that this was actually a medieval vessel – apparently discovered in the eastern (seaward) side of the shingle bank. Quite how its positioning might have related to Stonar's main medieval harbour works, is not clear.

#### 7.2.2.5 *Roman quarrying for shingle*

Distinctive water-rounded, fist-sized flint cobbles regularly used in building work at Roman Richborough and in the villas at Sandwich (Parfitt 1980) and Minster (Parfitt et al 2008) are generally agreed to be derived from the make-up of the Stonar Bank. If this is accepted as being correct, it clearly confirms that the ridge was at least partially formed by the end of the first century AD.

#### 7.2.3 *Anglo-Saxon activity*

There is presently no clear archaeological evidence and scant documentary proof for Anglo-Saxon activity at Stonar, other than perhaps the existence of a ferryboat linking the southern end of the Stonar Bank with Sandwich. As detailed by Margaret Sparks above (text section 6), in 1027 King Cnut had granted to St Augustine's Abbey of Canterbury all the land called St Mildred's land, belonging to the former Abbey at Minster – most of the eastern half of the Island of Thanet, including the Stonar shingle spit. With this grant and a previous one of 1023 for Sandwich, Cnut set up St Augustine's as landlord on the north shore of the River Stour, and Christ Church, Canterbury as landlord on the south.

### 7.3 The medieval town of Stonar

7.3.1 Occupying the southern end of the Stonar shingle bank, the now deserted medieval town and port of Stonar was situated opposite Sandwich, delimited on three sides by a great loop in the River Stour (see above; Figs 1, 3–10, 12–15). Despite its obvious archaeological importance, much of the site was destroyed by commercial shingle extraction during the twentieth century. Major quarrying first began in 1897 when vast quantities of aggregate needed for the construction of Dover Harbour were dug here by the harbour contractors, S. Pearson and Sons Ltd (see below, text section 15.3), but commercial working continued until as recently as 1974.

7.3.2 Regarded historically as being the great rival to the nearby Cinque Port of Sandwich, a devastating raid by the French in 1385 led to the town of Stonar being destroyed by fire, an event from which it never recovered (see Sparks above, text section 6.6). It would seem that the settlement had been completely abandoned by the end of the medieval period. Writing in the 1540s, Leland records that:

'Stonar... was once an attractive place. But now all that is to be seen is the ruined church. In ignorance some people call it "Old Sandwich" ' (translation from Chandler 1993).

### 7.3.3 *The size of the medieval town*

7.3.3.1 Seemingly reaching its heyday during the thirteenth-century, the full extent of the medieval town at Stonar can only be guessed. It is immediately apparent that the site was very closely tied to the coastal topography, with open water a short distance to its east and south, marshland immediately to the west and a ridge of raised shingle (Stonar Bank) leading away to the north, connecting with Thanet (Fig. 3). The limitations imposed by this local topography must suggest that the medieval settlement could never have been of any great size (Fig. 18), and probably always somewhat smaller than neighbouring Sandwich.

7.3.3.2 A rental list for Stonar dating to the end of the thirteenth century provides some details of the size and character of the population at that date, recording about 120 tenants or heirs of tenants, among whom are seven women, a priest, clerks, a skinner, a cobbler, and millers. Together, they paid 44s. 5d in rent (Hardman and Stebbing 1942, 39–40). In 1359 Edward III had lodged at Stonar for nearly three weeks, in a house formerly belonging to Robert Goverils, waiting to embark at Sandwich for foreign parts (Boys 1792, 669). This clearly implies the presence of at least one substantial dwelling of reasonably high status within the town at that date and it would seem that the church also developed into a sizeable structure (Fig. 19).

7.3.3.3 There is no cartographic evidence which provides any clear evidence for the former extent of the medieval settlement. One of the earliest maps of the region available, dated to c. 1548, shows the Isle of Thanet and Sandwich, but fails to mark anything at Stonar at all, which falls in an area simply marked as ‘Sandwich Mershe’. In contrast, the Roman ruins of Richborough Castle are clearly shown (British Library ref: Cotton Augustus I.i., f.54; accessed on line 10.3.17; Clarke et al 2010, fig. 9.2; Fig. 4). A slightly later map, dated c. 1585, does mark Stonar and shows a single small building here, probably a house, set within a large oval field or enclosure (British Library ref: Royal MS. 18. D.III, f.22; accessed on line 10.3.17; Fig. 5).

7.3.3.4 Harris (1719) quoting from a MS diary of Dr Robert Plot, dating to about 1693, says that:

‘the Ruins of the Town of Stonar did remain till the Memory of Man and took up many Acres of Ground; but were lately removed to render the Ground fit for Tillage, and so much of them as could not be put to any Use composed that Bank which remains between the Two Houses; whereof that House next the present creek [Stonar House] borders upon the old Town; the other which is more remote, being of a later erection; but both are called Stonar.’ (note from Hardman and Stebbing 1942, 41; see text sections **8.8** and **11.12** for some further consideration of the location of the two houses both called Stonar).

7.3.3.5 The Rev. John Lewis in 1736 provides a further useful note:

‘the Town stood on a rising Ground... Some of the Foundations were remaining not many Years ago, and the Traces are still visible among the Corn. At present there is only one farm-house where *Stonore* anciently stood, about twenty roods from which, near the Road, on a little rising Ground, stood the Church, of which there are now no Remains left above Ground.’ (from Hardman and Stebbing 1942, 41).

7.3.3.6 Large-scale nineteenth century Ordnance Survey maps, dating from 1871–90 provide valuable details about the local topography and historic landscape as it was during the later nineteenth century, before the damaging quarrying and military occupation occurred. The only significant building shown is Stonar House, set within grounds depicted as parkland (Figs 15–17). A

small lodge house on the eastern side of the Ramsgate road, now demolished, marks the entrance to this estate, whose extent largely corresponds with the present study area.

7.3.3.7 A number of historical features are marked on these early Ordnance Survey maps (Figs 16 & 17). Across the area is noted: '*Site of the Town of Stonar, destroyed in the Reign of Richard II*', together with supposed site of '*LAPIS TITULI*' (see above, text section 2.7). About 140m north of Stonar House, the site of the church is shown as a dashed rectangular outline with trees, and hints of a central mound suggesting that a few traces of the structure may still have been visible on the ground then. Between the House and the church, the discovery of '*Stone Coffins & Human Remains*' is recorded, whilst in the area to the east of the House, '*Roman Coins, Urns, Swords, Axes, portions of Armour & Human Remains*' had been discovered.

7.3.3.8 Perhaps more intriguing are two low, hachured banks marked as '*Ancient Tidal Line*' (Figs 16 & 17). One of these extends north–south along the eastern side of the spit for some 500 metres, with another, slightly more sinuous one running roughly east–west, preserved in a strip of wooded ground around 125 metres to the north of the church site. Quite what is being depicted here is not entirely clear – perhaps natural ridges formed during the original deposition of the spit, but there could have been some human element to them. Early references to ploughing of the area (see above) might suggest that they were in part field banks or lynchets. Either way, both features are now destroyed.

#### 7.3.4 **Communications with the Stonar site**

7.3.4.1 Effectively surrounded by the River Stour/Wantsum Channel on three sides, much of the communication with medieval Stonar must have been by water. The only landward link was along the Stonar Bank to the north, connecting with the Isle of Thanet – itself cut off as an island from the Kentish mainland until the later medieval period.

7.3.4.2 Documentary evidence makes it clear that a long-established ferry ran the short distance (perhaps c. 500 metres) from the waterfront at Sandwich northwards to the dry land provided by the Stonar Bank. This ferry was certainly in existence before the Norman Conquest, and it may date back to early Anglo-Saxon times (Clarke et al 2010, 34). The land route beyond, running along the well-drained ridge constituting of the Stonar Bank is thus likely to have early origins and would have been important for travellers wishing to reach Thanet (Figs 3, 8 & 12). The site of the landing point for the ferryboat is likely to have been one key factor in the location of the developing settlement at Stonar. Quite possibly, the earliest buildings here were clustered around this ferry landing.

#### 7.3.5 **The structure of the medieval town**

7.3.5.1 The remains of the town's buildings, as revealed by excavation, appear to be somewhat ephemeral. Structural features were identified and recorded by Stebbing in the northern parts of the town between 1935 and 1960 but they were relatively limited, comprising several hearths and a stone-lined well (Hardman and Stebbing 1942, 38). The sequence of archaeological deposits exposed was helpfully described by Stebbing:

'Above the clean shingle, which is dredged from below water level is about 5ft 8ins [1.73m] of shingle with non-continuous seams of sand. Where the top of the shingle has not been disturbed, the parting between it and the occupation deposit is a buff sandy loam with scattered pebbles. Where disturbed, it shows an infiltration of muddy material from the early occupation....'

‘The occupation deposits can in many places be divided up into two beds, both from the contents and from a slight difference in composition. In one place this bedding was shown by a discontinuous course of blocks of chalk and finer chalk, while at another occurred a course of a few broken pale-buff haven-mud bricks of a late fifteenth or early sixteenth century type, measuring in width and thickness 4¼ ins by 2 ins. A section at the latter spot showed the medieval layer to be 13ins [0.33m] thick, while the thickness from the base of the bricks to the bottom of the concrete foundations of the 1914–18 war sheds was 17ins [0.43m]. The height of the concrete floor of the sheds nearest the present excavations is 13.93ft [c. 4.25m] above OD at Liverpool, and the top of the shingle on which the medieval layer rests is on the average 3ft [0.90m] below this’ [i.e. 3.35m OD, Liverpool = c. 2.95m OD, Newlyn].

‘The lower part of the above deposit is inclined to be clean and loose in composition but soon alters to a dark stiff earth which dries very hard. From the blocks of chalk, pieces of Folkestone Stone and broken tiles there is some evidence of buildings. A layer of tiles in one place seemed to indicate a paved floor, but no walling has as yet been exposed. The soil is full of decayed material, animal bones, shells of oyster, whelk, periwinkle, mussel and cockle (the first two far the most plentiful), although some handfuls of periwinkles at one spot showed the discarded remains of a feast. With these are wall plaster, ashes, charcoal and burnt flints, worn pot-sherds which had been lying about, and cleanly broken sherds of cooking pots and various coloured and decorated glazed wares...’ (Hardman and Stebbing 1942, 39).

7.3.5.2 From the above it is apparent that the archaeological deposits on the site are quite shallowly buried and of no great thickness. This was largely confirmed in the work later undertaken by Nigel Macpherson-Grant. It seems highly likely that unrecognised amongst Stebbing’s ‘blocks of chalk, pieces of Folkestone Stone and broken tiles’ were the actual remains of simple buildings that had been mostly of timber. Macpherson-Grant’s subsequent careful excavations (see below) were rather more successful in identifying such structures (Fig. 20) and based upon the writer’s own experiences in medieval Dover, without large-scale area stripping and working in plan, such slight remains can very easily go unrecognised (Parfitt et al 2006). We may therefore suspect that Stebbing’s brave efforts at the quarry face failed to identify much of the structural information which was actually present.

7.3.5.3 The excavations undertaken to the east and south-east of the church by Macpherson-Grant between 1969 and 1972 were rather more informative and have suggested a broad sequence for the development of the settlement in that area (Macpherson-Grant 1991):

1) Late eleventh century

The earliest traces of occupation identified were dated to the late eleventh century but structural evidence was sparse, implying that the focus of early settlement lay elsewhere – perhaps further to the south (see below).

2) Mid- to later twelfth-century

A scatter of post-holes associated with clay floors, occupation debris and pits were the first structural remains identified. These appeared to relate to a series of simple timber buildings, probably dwellings, that had been erected sheltering in natural sand-filled hollows between shingle ridges. The pottery dating suggested that these structures belonged to the mid to later twelfth century.

### 3) Late twelfth to late fourteenth century

The final phase of occupation identified was more intense and widely spread, with elements of an actual town plan including streets, houses and two wells, being identified (Fig. 18). A metalled street (I), aligned roughly north-west by south-east was identified, bordered by two rows of houses located to the south-east of the church (Houses 5–11; Fig. 20). This street perhaps joined with another (Street II) running north-east by south-west\*, lying further to the south-east, which was possibly bordered by warehouses (Wilson and Moorhouse 1971). \*[A continuation of this second road may perhaps have been subsequently located in a small excavation at No. 2 Stonar Gardens, some 130 metres to the south-west of the 1970s excavation area (see above, Rady 2002); Fig. 18].

7.3.5.4 The houses along Street I were all probably timber-framed, and built on a clay platform, into which trenches were dug to hold shallow footings of mortared chalk or flint. In plan, the houses generally consisted of two or three rooms, sometimes with brick or chalk floors (Fig. 20). The largest room was generally the kitchen, which fronted onto the street and contained a large brick hearth, a large broken-tile pot-stand, usually an oven and occasionally a fireplace. Most of these structures had eventually been destroyed by fire (Wilson and Moorhouse 1971; see below).

7.3.5.5 Finds associated with the later buildings were much more common than during the earlier phases, and included coins, a range of copper-alloy artefacts and large quantities of imported pottery (Dutch, French, some Spanish and non-local English; Figs 20, 22 & 23), all of which point to significant wealth in the town. Most of the coins are survivals from the mid-thirteenth century but there is at least one penny of Edward II, dated 1310.

#### 7.3.5.6 *Final destruction*

The documentary evidence (see Sparks above; text section 6.6) indicates that Stonar was destroyed by a French raid in 1385, never to be resettled to any significant degree thereafter. The archaeological record seems to be largely in agreement, with clear evidence that many of the buildings excavated during the 1970s had been destroyed by fire, leaving their contents intact, sealed below layers of fire debris (Macpherson-Grant 1991, 48).

7.3.5.7 The fact that Stonar was never extensively rebuilt, unlike Sandwich after its own major French attack of 1457, suggests that the lesser settlement at Stonar was no longer viable. In broad economic/geographical terms, this probably reflects the fact that the region could not really sustain two separate towns and ports in such close proximity once the political support of St Augustine's had disappeared.

### 7.3.6 *Stonar church and its graveyard*

7.3.6.1 The medieval town of Stonar was provided with just one large church (in comparison with three at Sandwich). This was located in the south-western quarter of the town and was dedicated to St Nicholas (Kent HER ref. TR 35 NW 245; Figs 18 & 19). Under the overall control of St Augustine's Abbey at Canterbury, the building is recorded in a number of medieval documents and formed an important meeting place for the town (see above, text section 6.5.3). Although some of the church would seem to have been destroyed by shingle extraction in about 1973, following Macpherson-Grant's emergency excavations (see above, text section 7.1), there remains a possibility that part of the building might yet survive on a finger of land projecting into Stonar Lake, fortuitously left because the ballast works conveyor plant occupied this spot (Figs 60 & 70).



### 7.3.6.2 *Historical notes*

A church of 'S. Nicholas at Stanores' is first recorded in the eleventh century document copied into the *White Book of St Augustine* of the year 1200. A few other significant dates are available (notes taken from Hardman and Stebbing 1942, 41–42, there with a list of rectors):

1242, Abbot Robert freed the church of the small pension of 2s until then payable to St Augustine's Abbey.

1280–1, men from Sandwich assaulted the Abbot's officials at Stonar, burnt his mills and did much damage to his coast defences, and, finally pursued the men to Stonar church and besieged them in it all day.

1291, the taxation of Pope Nicholas IV valued the church at £5.

1384, the church of Stonar paid just 5s. to the King, a relatively small sum suggesting that it was by then a quite poor establishment

Hasted writing at the end of the eighteenth century records that:

'The church has been many years ruined, and at this time no remains of it are left. It is a rectory, valued in the King's books at 3l. 6s. 8d and the tenths at 6s. 8d.

In 1569, it is entered in Archbishop Parker's acts of visitation, that there were neither households nor communicants in this parish. In 1640 it was valued at £40, and here were then no communicants.

This rectory has always been appendant to the manor of Stonar, and as such, is now of the patronage of Mr. Luke Foreman, the present possessor of the manor' (Hasted 1800, 422).

7.3.6.3 At least four archaeological excavations on the site of the church at Stonar are recorded (see above, text section 7.1). Earliest was the work by Henry Wood, the then owner of the adjacent Stonar House, undertaken in 1821. A contemporary plan recording this work was discovered in Sandwich Guildhall some years ago (Parfitt 2001a; Fig. 19). Of subsequent work conducted by Major Gwilym Lloyd George in 1911 and Stebbing in 1948, virtually nothing is known (see above, text section 7.1). Nigel Macpherson-Grant's investigations during the 1970s, however, re-located the south-eastern corner of the church together with a substantial part of the associated graveyard (Macpherson-Grant 1991; see above, text section 7.1).

### 7.3.6.4 *Church excavations in 1821*

A number of years ago, an excavation plan of Stonar church was discovered in the attic of Sandwich Guildhall (Parfitt 2001a). The drawing is titled 'Ichnography of the Remains of the Supposed Foundations of the Ancient Church of Stonar, Kent. Discover'd on the 6<sup>th</sup> of November 1821 by Henry Wood Esqr; with the Position of the Bodies as they were actually found Interred therein and near'. The plan (Fig. 19) was drawn by Mr E.F. Stratton Reader, Town Clerk of Sandwich, in December of the same year and is dedicated to his Esteemed Friend, Richard Emmerson, Esqr, a local antiquary and sometime Mayor of Sandwich.

7.3.6.5 Plotted at a scale of 1 inch to 10 feet, the 1821 plan shows excavated walls of the church, together with twenty-three associated burials. Seven of these were found inside the church and sixteen outside. Eight of the skeletons were contained within vaults, including one that held four separate bodies. In the North Transept three adjoining vaults are depicted (Fig. 19).

7.3.6.6 The overall length of the church, as recorded by the plan, was at least 65 feet (19.81 metres), although the west end does not seem to have been exposed. Its maximum width was about 46 feet (14 metres). For comparison, the great aisled church of St Peter in Sandwich measures about 125 feet in length (38m) and 67 feet in width (20m).

7.3.6.7 The North Transept, Chancel and Choir are all labelled; no walls relating to the South Transept could be located. As shown, the broad Chancel is unusually short, being only about 13 feet in length. The Choir more probably represents a Nave; its north wall bows outwards quite markedly and is annotated as being ‘...irregularly curved’. Assuming that this wall had not slumped and was still *in situ*, such a structural anomaly might be indicative of an earlier phase of work incorporated into the main building, although no other evidence for structural phasing may be inferred.

7.3.6.8 The substantial width of the Choir and Chancel (just over 30 feet across), together with the 28 feet wide North Transept could suggest the original presence of aisles, although no traces of any associated arcade columns were located in the excavations. If correctly interpreted, such a plan would be typical of the collegiate churches of the mid to late thirteenth century.

7.3.6.9 Outside the church was the graveyard and human bones seem to have been discovered in this general area for many years. Most controlled was the work of Macpherson-Grant when more than 120 skeletons were recovered and analysed (Eley and Bayley 1975; Macpherson-Grant 1991; Anderson 1991). Part of the southern churchyard wall was also possibly located during Macpherson-Grant’s investigations (see above, text section 7.1).

### **7.3.7 The medieval waterfront at Stonar**

7.3.7.1 The documentary evidence, together with the quantity of imported finds recovered from excavations on the site, confirms that Stonar was a busy sea port. The location and details of any medieval waterfront at Stonar, however, remain uncertain.

7.3.7.2 Twelfth- and thirteenth-century land reclamation associated with the Monks Wall (see below, text section 7.3.8) would seem to imply that the western, landward, side of the Stonar Bank would not have been accessible to shipping during the medieval period (Figs 15 & 16). From this, it may be assumed that Stonar’s waterfront lay on either the eastern (seaward) or southern side of the medieval town. It seems likely that the ferryboat which crossed from Sandwich would have landed on the southern shore, directly opposite Sandwich town. What cannot be certain, however, is whether this was also the site of Stonar’s main medieval waterfront.

7.3.7.3 Nor can the precise nature of the waterfront at Stonar be certain: were there any quays and/or jetties here, or just open beach? In May 1215, when Louis the Dauphin of France arrived in England to contend with King John, he landed with a small fleet, unopposed at Stonar (see above, text section 6.4.1). It is said that being anxious to be the first one ashore Louis waded through the surf and climbed up the beach soaking wet (Brooks 2014). Taken at face value, this could suggest that there was then only the open shingle foreshore available for landing at Stonar, rather than any more elaborate quayside facilities; but it would be unwise to make too much of such a minor anecdote.

7.3.7.4 A series of a dozen substantial vertical wooden stakes discovered in alluvial clay during trenching work to the south of the main town site in 1993–94 initially looked promising as evidence of an early waterfront. Radio-carbon dating, however, suggested that these could be no earlier than the late seventeenth century – so dating to a period long after the main medieval town had been

abandoned (Hearne et al 1995, 270–272; see above, text section 7.1). They perhaps helped define some casual, post-medieval river-side revetment, rather than a formal quay.

7.3.7.5 The remains of the ancient wooden ship previously discovered in the gravel some distance further to the north (Pearce 1938; see above, text section 7.2.2.4) is intriguing and may be significant. Its location in the smaller quarry (later to become South Lake) places it towards the eastern side of the Stonar spit, not far from the course of the present River Stour. Its Roman date, however, cannot be certain and a medieval date perhaps seems just as likely. The find-spot might place the vessel close to the supposed area of the medieval waterfront (see above) but in the absence of any further details, little else can be safely concluded.

#### 7.3.8 *The Monks Wall*

Extending out from the western side of the raised Stonar shingle ridge, monks from St Augustine's Abbey enclosed a large tract of the adjacent marshland, probably during the twelfth century (the structure is mentioned in a document of 1280). The defending sea-bank still survives and is today known as the *Monk's Wall* (Figs 15 & 16). It encloses a roughly C-shaped area running out towards the River Stour and protects some 62 hectares (153 acres) of drained pasture abutting the Stonar Bank. This reclaimed ground would have been most easily approached from Stonar town. The bank was sectioned by a pipeline in the 1990s, which showed it to be of clay dump construction (Hearne et al 1995, 268–270; see above, text section 7.1).

## 8. Early Post-Medieval Stonar

**8.1** The French raid of 1385 would seem to be a disaster from which Stonar never really recovered (see above, text section 6.6). Stonar parish may slowly have begun to repopulate from the late sixteenth century onwards. Leland, in the 1540s found only 'the ruined church' on the site, which some people 'in ignorance [called] "Old Sandwich."' A map of c. 1548 seems to show Stonar devoid of houses (Fig. 4) and Archbishop Parker's Visitation, of 1569, apparently confirms this (Hardman and Stebbing 1941, 54). Another map, of c.1585, shows a single building here, within an enclosure (Fig. 5). Industry may have resumed, in a small way, in the parish, around the same date.

**8.2** Hardman and Stebbing credit Stonar's post-Dissolution owners, the Crispe family, with:

the brilliant idea of turning to profit the conditions which had ruined Stonar, [having] established on the seaward side the business of obtaining salt from evaporated seawater. It is stated in the Sandwich records for 1595 that "The Saultes at Stonard are assessed for £3." (Hardman and Stebbing 1941, 55).<sup>1</sup>

**8.3** Another map, supposedly of 1624,<sup>2</sup> shows two dwellings within the loop of the river at Stonar, to the east of the road from Sandwich to Ramsgate (Fig. 6). That to the north, is shown adjoining the road: that to the south, at a little distance.

**8.4** Thomas Crispe, of Quex, died in 1680, leaving Stonar to his four daughters, of whom the eldest, Maria-Adriana, married Richard Breton of the Elmes, Hougham. Richard Breton bought up the other daughters' shares, and, in 1682, sold Stonar to 'Sir George Rooke, of St Laurence, near Canterbury, vice-admiral of England, and privy-counsellor' (Hasted 1800, 421). The conveyance describes the estate as:

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<sup>1</sup> Might these have been the 'Saltworks' marked as an antiquity near Sandbank (or Back Sand) Point on old Ordnance Survey maps?

<sup>2</sup> There is a photocopy of a tracing in the CAT archive (reproduced here as Fig. 6).

All that the mannor of Stonar als Stonard with the rights members privileges and appurtenances thereunto belonging or reputed as part parcel or member thereof. And of the advowson and free donation of the parish church of Stonar [...]. And of all that messuage barnes stables outhouses edifices closes and gardens there unto belonging or appertaining. And of all those lands arable meadow and pasture fresh marsh and salt marsh to and with the said messuage used letten or enjoyed containing by estimation six hundred and ninety acres more or less and of all that tenement or cottage commonly called the Warren House als the Sheepheards Cottage. And of the Barnes stables and outhouses lately erected and belonging to the same tenement or cottage. All which said mannor messuage lands tenements hereditaments, and premises are situate lying and being in the parish of Stonar [...] late the inheritance of Thomas Crispe Esq and now in the occupation of Richard Harny[?] his assignes or undertenants.<sup>3</sup>

**8.5** The cottage ‘commonly called the Warren House’ may have been the northern of the two dwellings shown on the early maps. Hasted, in 1800, tells us how:

to the northward of the scite of the antient town of Stonar, about the place which was antiently called Hennebrigge, and is now known by the name of Littlejoy, is a large tract of sand, which was formerly a warren for rabbits, and granted by that name to the abbot of St Augustine; but the rabbits have been long since destroyed, on account probably of the damage done by them to the pasture of the adjoining marshes (Hasted 1800, 421).

This sounds like the sand and shingle bank which extended northward of Stonar and may have given Warren House its name.<sup>4</sup>

**8.6** In 1683 the Rural Dean reported to the Archbishop of Canterbury, that ‘Stonar [had] now but two houses upon it and one of them was lately erected, and that there [was] no church or parsonage house’ (Hardman and Stebbing 1941, 55). In the 1690s, Dr Plot explained how, when the site of the former town was cleared for agriculture:

so much of [the Stonar ruins] as could not be put to another use, composed that bank which remains between the two houses, whereof that house next the creek borders upon the old town; the other, which is more remote, being of a later erection, but both called Stonar (Lewis 1723).

Sir George Rooke died in 1709, leaving the manor of Stonar to his son, of the same name (Hasted 1800, 421).

**8.7** A map printed in Lewis’s *History and Antiquities [...] of the Isle of Tenet*, of 1723 (Fig. 7), corroborates the arrangement we have described, at Stonar, of two houses: the southern one further out from the road than the northern (although, here, to an exaggerated degree). Lewis wrote of Little Stonar as follows:

At present there is only one Farm-house where Stonore antiently stood, about 20 Rods from which, near the road, on a little rising ground stood the Church (Lewis 1723).

**8.8** Twenty rods works out at about 100m, which agrees well with the distance between the site of the former Stonar church and the present ‘Stonar House’ ruins within the current study area,

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<sup>3</sup> KHLC: U1255/T61.

<sup>4</sup> The map of 1624 (see above) seemingly shows ‘Henneberg Cross’ a little to the south of the present Stonar Cut: ‘Littlejoye,’ perhaps a little to the north.

although these represent a later rebuild.<sup>5</sup> In the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, this dwelling, together with its estate and vicinity, would be known as 'Little Stonar,' (e.g. Figs 11 & 15) or sometimes as 'South Stonar,' and would occasionally be called a 'farmhouse.' The other house, adjoining the road to the north (and perhaps the successor to 'Warren Cottage') was known as 'Great Stonar.' Confusingly, each of these houses would also, at times, be called, simply, 'Stonar House.'

## 9. Remains of the old town

**9.1** The site of the former medieval town of Stonar and, within it, of the church of St Nicholas, were never altogether forgotten. By the time they disappeared from the landscape, they were already a matter of antiquarian interest and speculation. In the early seventeenth century, Archbishop Ussher concluded Stonar to have been the site of the '*Lapis Tituli*' mentioned by Nennius.<sup>6</sup> In the late seventeenth century, Dr Plot recalled how:

the ruins of the town of Stonar did remain till within the memory of man, and took up many acres of ground, but [had] lately [been] removed to render the ground fit for tillage.<sup>7</sup>

**9.2** The site, being slightly elevated,<sup>8</sup> seems to have been turned into cornfields, whereas most of the parish was meadow and pasture, chiefly for sheep. In 1723, Lewis noted how, although there were no longer any remains of the church left above ground, foundations of some of the other buildings had been evident 'not many years ago, and the traces of them [were] still visible among the corn.'

**9.3** By 1768, the remains at Richborough and Stonar had attracted numerous antiquaries to Sandwich, who followed behind the plough collecting artefacts. They held their Society meetings at The Rose, where they dined on 'the *armus ovilli* boiled with a sauce *cum ostreis*,' and dated their communications '*Anno Mundi, AUC, or Anno Diluvii.*' At what they supposed to be '*Lapis Tituli*,' they uncovered only a 'few vestiges of [the] once populous town;'

but between the two remaining houses, the ruinous foundation of a church [was] discovered, from which a coffin and several coins were extracted.

A considerable tract of land [was] covered with a beach, as is the sea shore at and near Deal; from this marsh it may be rationally concluded, that the sea now retired to the distance of two miles from Stonnor once attained it.<sup>9</sup>

## 10. The toll bridge, c.1755

**10.1** Until the mid eighteenth century, Stonar communicated with Sandwich by a ferry at the southern end of the Ramsgate Road (see above, text section 6.4.2, etc.).

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<sup>5</sup> Great Stonar was rather further and fell outside the site of medieval Stonar. This statement has led some later writers to claim, in error, that there was only one house in Stonar at this date.

<sup>6</sup> Archbishop Ussher is celebrated by archaeologists for having, by meticulous scholarship, dated the creation of the world to 22 October in the year 4004 BC; sadly, his identification of *Lapis Tituli* is scarcely more credible.

<sup>7</sup> Dr Plot c.1693 quoted by Harris 1719.

<sup>8</sup> 'The seat of this ancient town is raised very little above the surrounding marshes, which, in spring tides, are often overflowed' (Seymour 1776).

<sup>9</sup> *Kentish Gazette* 17 August 1768.

This passage over the haven, in a ferry boat, being at all times inconvenient to the public, an act of parliament was obtained in 1755 for building a bridge between Sandwich and Stonar (Boys 1792).

This was duly erected and was the ancestor of the present turning bridge. It was repaired early in 1785, and 'the old materials, consisting of timber and iron,' sold at auction on 24 March.<sup>10</sup>

## 11. The late eighteenth century

**11.1** Frances, the wife of the second George Rooke, who was the 'eldest daughter of William, Lord Dudley,' survived her husband (Hasted 1800, 421). In 1769, 'the Hon Mrs Rooke,' accused the Mayor of Sandwich, and others, of entering her estate at Stonar, and removing 'a quantity of stones for the repairs of the highways of the parish of St Peter's in Sandwich;' the court found for her.<sup>11</sup> She evidently invested in the estate, making various improvements, including new salt works (see below).

**11.2** Stonar, at this time, remained primarily pasture,<sup>12</sup> and grass and hay were cut and sold 'at the Farm-House at Stonar'<sup>13</sup> – probably the precursor of Stonar House within the study area.

**11.3** Frances died without heirs in 1770, leaving Stonar to her nephew, John Ward, who, on the death of his father in 1774, became Lord Viscount Dudley and Ward. He seems to have proven something of a menace to the neighbouring Cinque Port of Sandwich. He helped overthrow that town's jurisdiction in Stonar, at a common assembly in 1773, when it was agreed:

that Stonar was not within the jurisdiction of Sandwich, but in the county at large [...]. Since which this place has been totally detached from Sandwich and the Cinque ports, and is now esteemed to be in the hundred of Ringslow [i.e. in Thanet], and within the jurisdiction of the justices of the county at large (Hasted 1800, 408).

**11.4** He would also promote the construction of the Stonar Cut, in 1775, which Sandwich vigorously opposed (see below).

### **11.5 *The salt works at Stonar, by 1768***

By August 1768, Frances Rooke had established new salt works at Stonar, just to the south of the later Stonar Cut (see below):

Part of [the Stonar estate had] been lately converted into a salt manufactory, by the honourable Mrs Rooke [...]; water is conveyed for this purpose from the river Stoure, which runs near it into a large reservoir, from which it is thrown by convenient engines into numerous pans of different dimensions, as gradually acquires a saline quality by the evaporations of the more aqueous particles. From these vessels which are composed of a clay-like earth, the salt is conveyed to proper receptacles and finished. Besides this plan [...] a canal has been dug from the salt house and enters the haven near Richborough Castle.<sup>14</sup>

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<sup>10</sup> *Kentish Gazette* 23 March 1785.

<sup>11</sup> *Kentish Gazette* 19 July 1769. Were these building stones from the ruins, or was it gravel?

<sup>12</sup> 'The ground of this estate affords good pasturage for cattle' (*Kentish Gazette* 17 August 1768).

<sup>13</sup> *Kentish Gazette* 18 June 1768 and 12 July 1769.

<sup>14</sup> *Kentish Gazette* 17 August 1768.

These arrangements, including the canal and two windmills for drawing-up the salt water, are shown, in unusual clarity and detail, in Drury, and Herbert's map of 1769, attended by two windmills for pumping (Fig. 8). The works were offered 'to be let and entered' on Lady Day 1775, described as being:

in good repair, and esteemed the most complete four-pan work in England, having both an open and a covered cistern, with a wind-pump to throw up the brine out of either into the clearer, and might be further improved to six pans at a small expence; also a dwelling house lately built, consisting of a kitchen, parlour, brewhouse, cellar and pantry, with four good chambers, a garden, and if required there will be added about twenty-two acres of land, and a stable to hold six horses.

The premises will be shewn at any time by William Smith at Stoner; and the terms known by applying at St Lawrence House, near Canterbury.<sup>15</sup>

**11.6** The newly built house, which we are elsewhere told 'adjoined' the saltworks, may well have been the one (or a predecessor of the one) known, in the early twentieth century, as 'Richborough Hall' – immediately to the south of the later Stonar Cut, on the opposite side of the road from the salt works.<sup>16</sup> The following year, Fisher's Kent guidebook found the salt works to be 'curious and worthy of observation:'

The sea-brine is drawn, during the hottest of the Summer months, into open, broad, shallow pans, of a great extent; where, having continued till the more watery particles have been exhaled by the sun; it is conveyed into large boilers and made in the usual method. The salt having thus undergone a double process, both by the sun, and by common fire, is found to partake so far of the qualities of bay-salt, as to answer all its purposes. It is perfectly white and clear, and supposed, from a variety of experiments, to be at least equal in strength to any made in the kingdom (Fisher 1776).<sup>17</sup>

**11.7** The salt works must have imported coal, by means of the Stour, to stoke the boilers, and by November 1784, they seem to have diversified into selling this commodity, too, on their premises.<sup>18</sup> Perhaps due to its new independence from its neighbour(?), cargoes of coals, 'in the storehouse at Stonar,' were free of Sandwich Paving Duty.<sup>19</sup> Around the same time, brick-making commenced here:

The Stoner Company, near Sandwich, Kent, are now making bricks in a peculiar manner, which will be hard, sound, well burnt, and warranted to endure any weather equally as well as stone. [...] The first clamp will be burnt off in a fortnight. Coals, in any quantity, sold by the said company, as usual.<sup>20</sup>

**11.8** The bricks were sold 'at Stonar Salt-Works,' and included 'malm stocks, common stocks, [and] red stocks by the thousand.'<sup>21</sup> The works were offered again in May 1790, including the aforesaid house:

Stonar Salt Manufactory to be let and entered on immediately [...] consisting of a reservoir, salt pans, and every necessary building for the making of salt, with a substantial messuage or tenement adjoining the said works. The whole containing by admeasurement twenty-eight acres, more or less.

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<sup>15</sup> *Kentish Gazette* 25 January 1775.

<sup>16</sup> KHLC: EK/U1507/E/663.

<sup>17</sup> Hasted's (1800) account of the works was closely based on this.

<sup>18</sup> *Kentish Gazette* 3 November 1784.

<sup>19</sup> *Kentish Gazette* 29 April 1788.

<sup>20</sup> *Kentish Gazette* 27 April 1785.

<sup>21</sup> *Kentish Gazette* 26 July 1785.

The situation is also very eligible for carrying on the coal trade, there being a good wharf on the River Stour, and a proper place to deposit a large quantity of coals.<sup>22</sup>

**11.9** In 1819, 'the old established and valuable marine salt works, situated at Stonar' were offered to let, being 'in full work, and in good repair,' and now including a 'manufactory of Epsom salts.'<sup>23</sup>

Cobbett, riding from Sandwich into Thanet in 1823, noted, 'soon after crossing the river, [...] a place for making salt.' The salt manufacturer at that time was E.F. Stratton Reader (Pigot 1824), town clerk of Sandwich, who, took a close interest in the antiquities at Stonar (see above, text section 7.3.6.4). The business may have decayed by the middle of the century, when Bagshaw observed: 'Within the last century salt works were carried on here, but this branch of trade has now entirely ceased.' (Bagshaw 1847). However, as late as 1851, the Census returns show fifty-two persons in Stonar employed at the salt works (Hardman and Stebbing 1941, 55). The works gave the name 'Salt Pans' to the vicinity, which remained in use well into the twentieth century.

#### **11.10 Great Stonar House rebuilt in the early 1770s?**

Late in July 1771, John Ward offered for lease, 'two considerable farms' at Stonar.<sup>24</sup> It seems unlikely that either of these were of recent construction, since this fact would doubtless have been mentioned in the advertisement. About 1776, Seymour wrote that Lord Viscount Dudley and Ward had lately erected:

a new stone house, fit to withstand the boisterous fury of the elements, with an extensive building, equally well contrived; to afford shelter and fodder to great herds of cattle, and large flocks of sheep (Seymore 1776, 749).

**11.11** In September the following year, this building seems to have been advertised 'to be let and entered upon at Michaelmas next,' when it was described as:

a new-erected, complete house, at Stoner, fit for a gentleman or farmer, calculated for carrying on the dairy and grazing business on a very extensive plan, with about five hundred acres of land, consisting of rich meadows and excellent sheep-walks, which are all tithe free; and the tenant will have the liberty of breaking up one hundred acres for tillage, if required.

For further particulars enquire of Mr William Bradley, at Stoner, who will show the premises, and is authorised to treat for the same or any other part of the Stoner estate.<sup>25</sup>

**11.12** The identity of this house is, as yet, very uncertain (although it could doubtless be resolved by further research). Given the similarity of date, it is tempting to identify this with the newly built house opposite the salt works (see above) and it would perhaps be rash to rule this out altogether – especially since Seymour (1776) mentions salt works 'in the vicinity of the house' (page 749). However, Seymour also states that this new house was 'about 20 rods from the place where formerly stood the church,' which instead suggests he is talking about Little Stonar (within the study area). This latter statement, however, is obviously copied out of Lewis' history and Seymour has evidently garbled his account. Considering the size of the estate attached to the house, and the 'extensive' farm building, which seems to agree with later references to a 'large barn,' our preferred hypothesis, for the time being, is that the house in question was Great Stonar – mid-way between Little Stonar and the salt works. Certainly, Great Stonar appears larger on late eighteenth- and early

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<sup>22</sup> *Kentish Gazette* 11 May 1790.

<sup>23</sup> *Public Ledger* 5 March 1819.

<sup>24</sup> *Kentish Gazette* 23 July 1771.

<sup>25</sup> *Kentish Gazette* 10 September 1777.



nineteenth-century maps, than it does on the Drury and Herbert's map of 1769 (see above; Figs 8, 13 & 14).

### **11.13 The Stonar Cut, 1776**

In wet weather, the convoluted course of the River Stour around Stonar seems frequently to have contributed to the flooding of the adjoining lands. A scheme was prepared to connect the two parallel stretches of the river by means of a cut across Stonar at its narrowest point. In 1775, Murdoch Mackenzie prepared an *Account of the River Stour, in Kent, with Observations on Messrs Dunthorne and Yeoman's Proposal for draining the Levels along that River*, and a bill was introduced in parliament. The Sandwich Corporation feared the cut would harm their navigation and opposed the bill vigorously, Sandwich historian William Boys being one of those who argued their case. The bill was passed in May 1776, but 'subject to restrictions which impaired its utility (Hardman and Stebbing 1941, 54). According to Seymour, the landowner, Lord Viscount Dudley and Ward, promoted the endeavour.

His lordship has lately obtained an act of parliament to make a cut through his ground, designed to drain the marshy lands in the vallies; this was; strenuously opposed by the town of Sandwich, which seemed apprehensive that the water of their haven being diverted into this new canal; it may prove a very considerable detriment to their trade and navigation (Seymour 1776, 749).

**11.14** Further works to the Cut seem to have been carried out in the mid-1780s. In May 1785, a 'bridge, gates and other works' were mentioned which it would be 'necessary to [make] in the New Cut at Stonar.'<sup>26</sup> A sale of materials 'at the New Cut' on 24 April 1786 may well represent the completion of these works.<sup>27</sup> Hasted later described:

a cut across the land, in length about a quarter of a mile, from one part of the river Stour to the opposite one, having proper flood gates across it, to be worked at certain times only, according to the direction of the act of parliament, passed in 1776 (Hasted 1800, 413).

## **12. The Stonar estates sold, 1787(?)**

**12.1** In March 1785, Lord Viscount Dudley and Ward offered his St Lawrence and Stonar estates for sale at auction, 'unless sooner disposed of by private contract.' They were described as:

divers estates at St Lawrence, near Canterbury; consisting of tythes and hop grounds; together with the mansion house of St Lawrence, and the lands occupied therewith and also three messuages or tenements, and farms, with the salt works, situate at Stonar, near Sandwich.<sup>28</sup>

**12.2** The three messuages are doubtless those at Great and Little Stonar, and the one by the saltworks. A similar advertisement appeared in April,<sup>29</sup> and another in May, by which time they were offering 'the advowson of the Church of Stonar' along with the 'manor and farms of Great and Little Stonar, and the saltworks at Stonar near Sandwich.'<sup>30</sup> Apparently in 1787, the Stonar estates were finally sold to Charles Foreman, of London.

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<sup>26</sup> *Kentish Gazette* 7 May 1785; also 25 May.

<sup>27</sup> *Kentish Gazette* 21 April 1786.

<sup>28</sup> *Kentish Gazette* 26 January 1785.

<sup>29</sup> *Kentish Gazette* 23 April 1785.

<sup>30</sup> *Kentish Gazette* 7 May 1785.

The official assessment of the yearly value remained at £23 based on the cultivated area. The fresh marsh of 140 acres was reckoned at 3s 4d per acre and the salt marsh of 240 acres at an average of 9d. No value seems to have been put on 12 acres of stone beach (bare shingle). But on the sale to Foreman the annual rent of the whole estate was estimated at £880 and the price at 25 years' purchase was £22,000 (Boys 1797, 835).

**12.3** Charles Foreman died in 1791 and, having no heirs, left the manor to his nephew, John Foreman, who in turn left it to his son, Luke Foreman, who held it at the end of the century (Hasted 1800, 421). Around that time, Hasted described Stonar as follows:

At present there are three houses in it, only one of which is situated where the town of Stonar antiently stood; about twenty rods from which, near the road, on a little rising bank, stood the church, of which there are now no remains left above ground. [...]

The high road from Sandwich [...] crosses this parish northward. The appearance of the whole of it is very inhospitable and dreary; the middle of it is covered with sea-beach. It is nearly a flat, without a tree to shelter it, and consists, almost all of it, of a continued level of marshes, much of which is bounded by the ouze of the sea adjoining to it, and consequently it is much subject to intermittent fevers, and is a very unhealthy situation. [...]

There are no parochial charities. The poor constantly relieved are not more than two, casually the same (Hasted 1800, 412 & 414).

#### **12. 4 *The Red Lion, by 1798***

By the end of the eighteenth century, there was a public house to the south of the Stonar Cut<sup>31</sup> – presumably the Red Lion which survived into recent times.

### **13. The early nineteenth century**

**13.1** By about 1817, there were 'nine dwellings' in Stonar parish (Brayley 1817), most of them, probably, in the vicinity of the Cut. Early nineteenth century maps at last give a more detailed impression of Little Stonar and its immediate surroundings – although these had probably changed little over the preceding century or more. Mudge's map, of 1801 shows the group of buildings at Little Stonar surrounded by low-lying meadows – probably, as in later times, defined by drainage ditches – especially to the south (Fig. 12).

#### **13.2 *Little Stonar sold, 1802?***

Early in 1800, Little Stonar (overlapping the present study area) was advertised for sale as follows:

Freehold and tithe free estate near Sandwich.

To be sold by private contract, all that messuage or tenement called Little Stonar Farm, with the barn, stable, lodges, and other convenient buildings thereunto belonging, together with 108a 1r 37p more or less, of exceeding rich arable, meadow, pasture, and marsh land; situate in the parish of Stonar, in the Isle of Thanet [...] adjoining Sandwich Bridge, in the tenure or occupation of Mr Hoile.

Possession of this estate (which is exonerated of land-tax) may be had at Michaelmas next.<sup>32</sup>

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<sup>31</sup> *Kentish Gazette* 26 June 1798.

<sup>32</sup> *Kentish Gazette* 23 and 27 May 1800.

Perhaps in 1802, it was sold to one Henry Sayer – doubtless a scion of an important Sandwich family of that name. He had it only briefly, however, since he and his wife Elizabeth would die within hours of each other, after a few days illness, on 20 September 1806. Various theories were advanced as to the cause: it was initially presumed that they had ‘caught a severe cold during a heavy shower of rain, whilst taking an airing in an open chaise’ a few days previously;<sup>33</sup> later it was surmised:

that they were accidentally poisoned, by a copper saucepan, which was corroded during a tour of a few weeks they had made, and had not been carefully looked to, by the servant, after their return. [... The] number of persons to witness the funeral, reached from the bridge up to their gate, so as to preclude carriages from proceeding [...]. To see hundreds of people in tears, was very distressing (Mockett 1836).

### **13.3 Stonar Barracks, by 1803**

Neilson tells us that Stonar House ‘during the Napoleonic Wars [...] became the centre of a Cavalry Camp,’ (Neilson *sd*) and Clark makes the same claim; both are clearly referring to Little, rather than Great Stonar, but neither gives a source for this claim. There are known to have been a Napoleonic camp, or camps, and barracks at Stonar, but so far we have not been able to determine exactly where these were. In mid June 1797, ‘three companies of Sandwich Volunteers were reviewed at Stonar,’<sup>34</sup> and in August 1799, ‘two brigades of guard encamped [there] on their way to Ramsgate Harbour;’<sup>35</sup> this camp was supposedly ‘near the saltworks.’<sup>36</sup>

**13.4** Barracks *proper* are referred to at Stonar in mid November 1803.<sup>37</sup> Around the end of July 1807, ‘part of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Heavy Dragoons or German Cavalry’ are thought to have taken up ‘the quarters lately vacated by the 18<sup>th</sup> Light Dragoons at Sandwich, Stonar, and Ramsgate,’<sup>38</sup> and in April the following year, ‘the 3<sup>rd</sup> Light Dragoons, German Legion’ were ‘quartered at Ramsgate, Stonar Barracks, and by the coast’<sup>39</sup> – an election in Sandwich had to be suspended until ‘the military were removed from Stonar and the Forts in the vicinity of Sandwich to the distance required by law.’<sup>40</sup> It seems unlikely that these barracks will have survived retrenchment after Waterloo. However, a public house known as the Canteen, or Canteen and Fleece (Bagshaw’s Kent 1849), which is known to have been in existence by c.1806, and which may well have been associated with the barracks, survived into the mid nineteenth century.<sup>41</sup> This seems from Census returns, to have been south of the saltworks but well to the north of Little Stonar – and the early barracks may well have been in that vicinity.

### **13.5 Little Stonar sold again, 1815**

Little Stonar seems to have remained in the Sayer family into the next decade.<sup>42</sup> In mid-June 1815, the ‘Little Stonar Estate’ was again advertised ‘to be sold by tender,’ when it was described as:

a singularly desirable freehold and tithe free estate [...] close to the town of Sandwich, consisting of an excellent and convenient family house, with servants apartments, and other suitable offices, coach-house, stables, barn, and numerous agricultural buildings,

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<sup>33</sup> *Kentish Chronicle* 26 September 1806.

<sup>34</sup> *Kentish Gazette* 16 June 1797.

<sup>35</sup> *Kentish Chronicle* 9 August 1799.

<sup>36</sup> *Kentish Gazette* 9 August 1799.

<sup>37</sup> *Kentish Chronicle* 11 November 1803.

<sup>38</sup> *Morning Post* 25 July 1807.

<sup>39</sup> *Globe* 22 April 1808.

<sup>40</sup> *Kentish Gazette* 22 April 1808.

<sup>41</sup> ‘Thomas Eastes, of the Canteen, Stonar, aged 78 years, 45 of which he had been landlord’ (*Maidstone Gazette* 23 December 1851).

<sup>42</sup> *Kentish Gazette* 28 June 1811; *Kentish Gazette* 23 February 1816.

a large productive garden partly walled, with choice fruit trees, and about 107 acres, more or less, of exceeding rich arable, meadow, pasture, and marsh land, the whole lying and adjoining together in the parish of Stonar in the Isle of Thanet [...] and late the property and residence of Henry Sayer, esquire, deceased.

The estate lies in a ring fence, and possesses the advantages of having exceedingly good roads to various market towns, from which it is distant – Ramsgate six miles and a half, Margate nine miles, Canterbury thirteen miles, Dover twelve miles, and Deal six miles. Possession of this estate (which is exonerated from land tax) may be had at Michaelmas next.

Also in like manner to be disposed of a very large and spacious newly erected building, adjoining Sandwich Bridge, and lately used as a riding school; together with a piece of pasture land, (tithe free), containing by admeasurement 1a 0r 19p, a little more or less, situate in the said parish of Stonar.

This estate is also exonerated from the land tax, and is worth the attention of coal merchants, being close to the Haven and Bridge at Sandwich, and on which is a wharf for supplying the shipping with ballast, and the building is well calculated for a coal storehouse, or it may, at a moderate expense, be converted into several dwelling houses.<sup>43</sup>

**13.6** The ‘riding school’ evidently fell within what is now ‘Felton’s Yard,’ across the southern end of Stonar, and may well have been the building shown on Mudge’s map of 1801 (Fig. 12). This site seems, later in the century, to have been developed as the ‘shipbuilding yard of Mr Samuel Masters [...] on the Stonar side of the river Stour.’<sup>44</sup>

**13.7** The Little Stonar estate may have been sold to ‘John Wood, esq.’ who lived there by 1820, when he married ‘Mary, only daughter of Mr Hooper of Sandwich.’<sup>45</sup>

### **13.8 Stonar church excavated, 1821**

In November 1821, a local paper reported:

A considerable number of graves have been discovered in a field belonging to Mr John Wood, at Stonar; some containing skeletons in a very perfect state, which must have been buried at least five or six hundred years since. From the foundations discovered, it is supposed to be the site of a church or chapel, being about the spot where the town of Stonar is conjectured to have formerly stood. Workmen are employed on the premises to endeavour to make further discoveries.<sup>46</sup>

In December, E.F. Stratton Reader, who operated Stonar Salt Works around this time (see above) prepared a careful ‘Ichnography of the Remains of the Supposed Foundations of the Ancient Church of Stonar, Kent. Discover’d on the 6th of November 1821 by Henry Wood Esqr; with the Position of the Bodies as they were actually found Interred therein and near’ (see above, text section 7.3.6.4; Fig. 19). This illustrated two glazed medieval floor tiles from the north transept, resembling some previously found at St Augustine’s Monastery, Canterbury, and at Northbourne Court, Great

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<sup>43</sup> *Kentish Chronicle* 9 June 1815 and *Kentish Gazette* 13 June 1815.

<sup>44</sup> *Thanet Advertiser* 6 March 1875.

<sup>45</sup> *Kentish Chronicle* 7 January 1820.

<sup>46</sup> *Kentish Chronicle* 9 November 1821.

Mongeham. Reader seems to have remained interested in the site down to the middle of the century:

Our friend Mr Reader [...] has been so fortunate as to reveal and trace out the foundations of the church and adjoining buildings of ancient Stonar. In the middle of the clump of trees which marks their venerable site we are able to picture the ancient church and add to our view of medieval Sandwich the important feature which it has lost, and thus to put together, as it were, the Chatham and Rochester of East Kent.<sup>47</sup>

### **13.9 Stonar House rebuilt, early nineteenth century?**

Stonar House was evidently rebuilt, either during the late eighteenth or early nineteenth century, but as yet we have no very solid evidence as to precisely when this happened. The original Listed-Building description suggests an early nineteenth-century date (English Heritage ID No. 177618):

Yellow brick early C19 two storey house with parapet and modern concrete tiled roof over. 9 windows with plastered flat arches over, glazing bars forming 12 squares each. Portico with pediment over brought forward on projecting entablatures and dentil course. Original wall pilasters. Modern square columns replace the original. 6 panel moulded door, moulded string over with alternate flowers and convex beads. Lead fanlight over with semi-circular arch, architraves and key stone.

In its present ruinous and heavily overgrown condition, it is difficult to tell, but historic photographs (Figs 27, 28 & 46) suggest this is plausible. One would hesitate to date Stonar House later than the first quarter of the nineteenth century. Some early nineteenth century plans of South Stonar Farm, possibly by John Adams, were sold by Christies in 1995, but, unfortunately, we have not been able to ascertain their whereabouts.

**13.10** The fact that neither the advertisements of 1800,<sup>48</sup> nor of 1815,<sup>49</sup> refer to the house as having been 'recently rebuilt,' perhaps excludes the eighteenth or opening years of the nineteenth century. The advertisement of 1843, tells us the house was 'a substantial mansion [...] in excellent repair';<sup>50</sup> perhaps, by then, it had been rebuilt, but sufficient years had passed for this not to be described as 'recent'?

**13.11** It has been suggested that the various archaeological finds indicated near the house, on the First Edition Ordnance Survey map, may have been made during the rebuilding (Fig. 16). Might the aforementioned investigation of the Stonar Church ruins have grown out of these works? It is by no means implausible that John Wood should have rebuilt the house shortly after purchasing it. Although we are far from certain, therefore, we may tentatively suggest a date around 1820 for Stonar House.

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<sup>47</sup> *Kentish Gazette* 23 August 1864.

<sup>48</sup> *Kentish Gazette* 23 and 27 May 1800.

<sup>49</sup> *Kentish Chronicle* 9 June 1815 and *Kentish Gazette* 13 June 1815.

<sup>50</sup> *Kentish Gazette* 21 November 1843.

## 14. The mid nineteenth century

### 14.1 *Little Stonar in the mid nineteenth century*

Let us stand upon the bridge and look towards the beautiful meadows, studded with park-like trees, which form the site of the perished town of Stonar, of which we might say –

*“Et campos ubi Troja fuit.”*<sup>51</sup>

By the middle of the nineteenth century, the rebuilt Little Stonar went by the name of South Stonar House:

South Stonar House, in the ancient Parish of Stonar, the residence of J. Wood, Esq is situated at the southern point of the Isle of Thanet, distant from Sandwich not quite half a mile north (Greenwood 1838, 345).

**14.2** John Wood died on 21 March 1841.<sup>52</sup> In September the following year, the estate was put up to ‘let by tender:’

All those several pieces of marsh and meadow land, containing together (exclusive of certain reserved portions of gardens and plantations) 92a 3r 2p little more or less, situate in Stonar [...].

All which lands are in the highest state of cultivation, and were late in the occupation of John Wood, esq, deceased, and afterwards of his trustees.<sup>53</sup>

**14.3** Part of his household furnishings and utensils were put up for auction in October, including:

a comfortable sociable, one cart, cutting machine, a quantity of brewing and dairy utensils, beer casks, double and single harnesses, one saddle and bridle, two side saddles, horse cloths and rollers &c &c.

Also a quantity of household furniture; comprising tent bedsteads, with dimity furnitures (nearly new); wool mattresses, feather beds, bolsters and pillows, mahogany drawers, chairs, tables basin stands, dressing tables and glasses, night commodes, fenders, meat safes, and other articles.

The whole removed for convenience of sale from Stonar House, will be sold without reserve.<sup>54</sup>

**14.4** Mary Wood remained at Stonar House at the time of the 1841 Census, by which time, a Gate Lodge had been built to the south of the western end of the entrance drive – corresponding with the present entrance to the industrial estate. This survived until the 1950s and is clearly marked on the Ordnance Survey map for 1877 (Fig. 16). The drive was lined with trees, and the house was surrounded by trees. Stonar House itself was put up for sale in November 1843:

To be sold by private contract, the substantial mansion called Stonar House, in excellent repair, late the residence of John Wood, esq, deceased, situate near the town of Sandwich, abutting to the Ramsgate Road, and bounded for the most part by the navigable River Stour, with capacious coach-house and stabling, walled garden, shrubberies, lodge, convenient offices, and about 115 acres of rich pasture land,

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<sup>51</sup> *Maidstone and Kentish Journal* 8 August 1864. The quotation is from Virgil’s *Aeneid*: ‘and the fields where Troy stood.’

<sup>52</sup> *Kentish and Surrey Mercury* 27 March 1841.

<sup>53</sup> *Kentish Gazette* 13 September 1842.

<sup>54</sup> *Kentish Gazette* 24 October 1843.

surrounding the mansion, a portion of which is most tastefully planted with thriving timber and other trees.

NB: the house and offices to be let unfurnished in the meantime.

This estate offers peculiar advantages to a purchaser, being tithe free, scot free, with an almost nominal poor's rate, and the land tax redeemed. Its situation is also particularly eligible, being contiguous to excellent roads, good water carriage, and markets [...]. The celebrated Thanet Harriers are within an hour's ride and excellent coursing, with moderate other field sports, may be obtained in the neighbourhood. [...] The gardener at the cottage will show the premises.<sup>55</sup>

**14.5** The Ordnance Survey map of 1877 (Fig. 16) shows the stable and coach house as a long narrow building aligned east-west, somewhat to the north-east of the house, and the walled garden to the south-east of these.

**14.6** Possibly Stonar House did not find a buyer at this time, since it seems to have remained in the Wood family into the early 1880s. Bagshaw, in 1849, names 'Thomas Wood, Esq' as the owner of what he, perhaps erroneously calls 'Stone House' (Bagshaw's Kent 1847). By the time of the 1851 Census, it was one John Dunk Wood, gentleman – who was there until at least 1871;<sup>56</sup> in 1881, it was a Celia Ann Wood, but by July 1884, it had passed to a 'Lieut G.H. Cotton-Stapleton.'<sup>57</sup>

#### **14.7 'Great' Stonar House dismantled, 1842**

Around the middle of February 1837, 'Stonar House,' was advertised 'to be let by tender:'

with about four acres of land, laid out in garden, lawns, shrubbery, and plantations, and a new built double coach-house, stables for six horses, and every requisite outbuilding and appurtenances.

The rooms in this mansion are spacious, convenient, and numerous, and being replete with every convenience, it would form a very desirable residence for a large family or a most undeniable situation for a Boarding School establishment for which it is particularly well adapted. Its situation is pleasant and central, being about one mile from Sandwich, and adjoining the turnpike road from Dover, and that part of Kent to Ramsgate, Margate, and the Isle of Thanet, the population of which is numerous and respectable, and of a great part of which it commands delightful and extensive views.

The estate is at present unoccupied, and may be had on most reasonable terms.<sup>58</sup>

**14.8** Since Little Stonar is known still to have been occupied by the Woods at this time, the 'Stonar House' in question must have been that at Great Stonar, which appears to have been vacant at the time of the 1841 Census, and which was, indeed, about a mile from Sandwich. In June 1842, the materials of a 'Stonar House' were put up for sale:

Stonar House, near Sandwich.

Sale of superior building materials.

[...] a large assortment of valuable building materials of the very best description:

Comprising – a large quantity of floor boards, joists, and girders; principal and other

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<sup>55</sup> *Kentish Gazette* 21 November 1843.

<sup>56</sup> 1871 Census.

<sup>57</sup> *Globe* 21 July 1884, and *Standard* 22 July 1884.

<sup>58</sup> *Kentish Chronicle* and *Kentish Gazette* 14 February 1837.

rafters; ceiling joists, beams, and plates; ledged, panelled, and other doors, and door jambs, frames, lintels, &c. A quantity of sash frames and sashes of various descriptions, staircases, chimney pieces, partitions, skirtings, closet fronts, mouldings, battenings, wainscoting, Yorkshire stone paving, the whole of the bricks in and about the building, plain tiles, and various other articles.<sup>59</sup>

**14.9** Clearly, these are from a demolished house, and this was almost certainly Great Stonar. The Ordnance Survey map of 1877 shows only its site (Fig. 16).

#### **14.10 A cricket pitch, by summer 1840, and a drill ground**

Cricket had been played on the 'Stonar Salts' since at least the opening years of the nineteenth century.<sup>60</sup> By Summer 1840, the Sandwich Cricket Club had acquired an 'excellent piece of ground [...] at Stonar.'<sup>61</sup> Later in the century, this 'cricket field' seems occasionally to have been used for military training.<sup>62</sup> Possibly this was identical with the 'drill ground' where 'the four batteries [...] composing the right wing of the 1<sup>st</sup> Administrative Brigade of Cinque Ports Artillery Volunteers' exercised in April 1865.<sup>63</sup> There was an 'artillery camp at Sandwich' in Summer 1900, which might have been in the vicinity,<sup>64</sup> and in 1904, the First Cadet Battalion of the Buffs, East Kent Regiment formed 'a camp [...] from 4th June to 11th June, on ground belonging to W.J. Hughes, Esq, at Stonar.'<sup>65</sup> By August 1901, there was a 'lock-up shed on the cricket field.'<sup>66</sup> On balance, this would seem likely to have been well to the north of the present study area, although we cannot yet be certain.

### **15. The late nineteenth century**

The quaint old towers and buildings by the riverside [at Sandwich] are background to the spacious stretches of greensward, bounded on the one side by the beautiful groups of trees around Stonar House.<sup>67</sup>

**15.1** During the late nineteenth century, the Stonar meadows were often in request for fetes and picnics.<sup>68</sup> Much of the parish was still used for grazing,<sup>69</sup> albeit still at the mercy of the sea, which could rise up and drown whole flocks.<sup>70</sup>

#### **15.2 A revolver range, late nineteenth or early twentieth century**

At some point, presumably between 1898 and 1905, a revolver range was established on the eastern edge of the parkland to the north of Stonar House. This is marked on the 25-inch Ordnance Survey map of 1907 (Fig. 17) but it was eventually removed by gravel extraction (see below).

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<sup>59</sup> *Kentish Gazette* 7 June 1842.

<sup>60</sup> *Kentish Gazette* 18 July 1800.

<sup>61</sup> *Canterbury Journal* 15 August 1840.

<sup>62</sup> *Kentish Gazette* 10 May 1864; *Thanet Advertiser* 3 April 1875.

<sup>63</sup> *Kentish Gazette* 11 April 1865.

<sup>64</sup> *Thanet Advertiser* 30 June 1900.

<sup>65</sup> *Dover Express* 20 May and 10 June 1904.

<sup>66</sup> *Thanet Advertiser* 10 August 1901.

<sup>67</sup> *Canterbury Journal* 19 September 1891.

<sup>68</sup> *Thanet Advertiser* 28 July 1866.

<sup>69</sup> *Kentish Gazette* 10 September 1867.

<sup>70</sup> *Thanet Advertiser* 3 February 1877.



### **15.3 Ballast extraction for the construction of the Admiralty Harbour at Dover, 1898 to c.1908**

In 1895 Parliament decided that a grand ‘harbour of refuge,’ proof against torpedo attack, was needed at Dover for use of the Royal Navy, and that these works would also improve the commercial harbour. Plans were prepared by Messrs Coode, Son & Matthews, and included an extension to the existing Admiralty pier and the construction of a new ‘East Arm’ and a detached ‘South Breakwater.’ These were to be built using huge pre-cast concrete blocks, faced and paved with granite. Messrs Pearson & Sons provided the lowest tender for the works, which was accepted in November 1897.

**15.4** The specification for the Admiralty Harbour demanded the highest quality materials. The sand and shingle for the concrete blocks was to be procured ‘from Rye [...] or from the Thames, or such other source as may be approved by the engineers,’ and had to be perfectly clean and to have a specified proportion ‘of sharp and gritty sand to [...] coarser material.’<sup>71</sup> Messrs Pearson & Sons identified a promising supply nearer at hand, and by late January 1898, Sir Weetman Pearson, had leased, from Lord Greville:<sup>72</sup>

about a hundred and twenty acres of land at Stonar, which [consisted] entirely of beach of the best quality, for the purpose of making the large concrete blocks for the preliminary works of the great harbour at Dover.<sup>73</sup>

**15.5** ‘In a few weeks’ time,’ it was predicted, ‘an army of navvies [would] be encamped within a mile of Sandwich industriously at work:’

The blocks when made [would] be barged from a small pier and tugged to Dover. After the work [had] progressed sufficiently the blocks [would] be made at Dover, but [there was] no doubt beach [would] continue to be taken from the Sandwich neighbourhood.<sup>74</sup>

**15.6** Late in May, ‘the first pile for Messrs Pearson’s wharf’ was driven ‘for the purpose of conveying the concrete blocks by water for the National Harbour works at Dover.’<sup>75</sup> Around the start of July, navvies began arriving in greater numbers,<sup>76</sup> and by the end of October it was anticipated two thousand or so would ultimately be employed there.<sup>77</sup> A ‘saw pit,’ powered by a ‘large engine,’ was in use by mid-August.<sup>78</sup> By the start of June 1899, a ‘counting house,’ ‘timekeeper’s office,’ and ‘manager’s office’ are attested.<sup>79</sup> Later that year, the site was referred to as ‘Messrs Pearson’s blockmaking yard at Stonar.’<sup>80</sup>

**15.7** By December the following year, enough blocks had been shipped to Dover to reclaim a substantial site on the east side of Dover Harbour, upon which a new blockyard was established; materials were still imported from Stonar, however, and would be throughout much of the following decade:

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<sup>71</sup> TNA: ADM 213/35.

<sup>72</sup> *Thanet Advertiser* 2 August 1902.

<sup>73</sup> *Canterbury Journal* 29 January 1898.

<sup>74</sup> *Canterbury Journal* 29 January 1898.

<sup>75</sup> *Thanet Advertiser* 28 May 1898.

<sup>76</sup> *Thanet Advertiser* 2 July 1898.

<sup>77</sup> *Canterbury Journal* 29 October 1898.

<sup>78</sup> *Thanet Advertiser* 13 August 1898.

<sup>79</sup> *Thanet Advertiser* 3 June 1899.

<sup>80</sup> *Monmouthshire Beacon* 15 September 1899.:

On this reclaimed land [at Dover Harbour] an immense concrete block yard has been arranged, and is getting into full swing. The railway on the cliffs above brings the shingle from Dungeness and the sand from Stonar.<sup>81</sup>

**15.8** A workman who had been at Stonar during the construction of the Admiralty Harbour later told a visiting archaeologist, how:

in the course of the excavations a well was found [...] which lay close to the Sandwich–Ramsgate road. Several holes were dug on the site of the [northernmost rows of the, later, First-World-War Stonar Camp] huts [see below ...] and much pottery and some human bones were disclosed as if a burial ground had been penetrated. Also, in the smaller basin which was being worked by Messrs. Pearson & Co, a “Roman galley” was found. The timbers had been cut with an adze. Experts were brought to see it and for a while the gravel was carefully removed from around it, but when the watchers went away the workmen tried to drag it out with a crane with the result that it broke up. [...] Also not far from the galley was an “anchor stone”, a more or less rectangular mass with a hole cut through it for a rope (Pearce 1938, 166; see above, text section 7.1).

**15.9** This ‘smaller basin’ sounds like what would later be called the South Lake (see below), suggesting this observation may have been made late in the Admiralty Harbour works.

**15.10 *Messrs Pearson and Sons purchase Stonar House, 1899***

Stonar House was offered for sale in mid May 1899:

By order of trustees and with possession.  
Sandwich – close to the St George’s Golf Links.  
Important sale of the Stonar Estate, comprising residence, with gardener’s lodge, stabling, lawns, and walled kitchen garden, well timbered paddocks, with rookery and several valuable grazing and accommodation marshes; in all 108a 1r 17p.

Messrs Worsfold and Hayward, in conjunction with Messrs Baker and Giles, have been favoured with instructions to sell by auction, at the Bell Hotel, Sandwich, on Wednesday, 14<sup>th</sup> April, 1899, at 3 o’clock in the afternoon, in three lots, this highly desirable freehold estate. Stonar-house contains six bed rooms, dressing room, bath room, dining, drawing, and breakfast rooms, conservatory, and good domestic offices, and is surrounded by lawns, pleasure grounds, and well-timbered paddocks. The stabling contains four stalls, a double coach-house and harness room, with cow lodge, fowl-house, cart lodge &c. The sale also offers an unusual opportunity of obtaining a moderate-sized detached residence near to the St George’s Golf Links.<sup>82</sup>

**15.11** Doubtless interested in the sand and gravel under the premises, Pearson and Sons purchased the first lot, which included the house and other buildings, with their grounds, and an orchard, amounting to 35a 1r 36p, for £3,700; these were, at the time, in the occupation of one ‘Mr J.B. Joyce,’ whose tenancy was due to expire on 6 July. The house itself, Pearson and Sons seem to have continued to let to tenants.

**15.12** The second lot, comprising seven enclosures (together 69a 3r 19p) of ‘rich marsh land,’ described as adjoining the first, was presumably to the south. Another piece of ‘accommodation land adjoining the River, containing 4a 0r 2p, was bought by [...] Mr H.B. Atwood, for £510.’<sup>83</sup>

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<sup>81</sup> *Dover Express* 28 December 1900.

<sup>82</sup> *Times* 17 May 1899.

<sup>83</sup> *Thanet Advertiser* 24 June 1899.

## 16. The early twentieth century

**16.1** By 1905, the ballast pits had been connected to the South-Eastern Railway, by a track running southwards, part of the way along their eastern side. Pearson and Sons seem to have sought to dispose of the unwanted portion of their newly purchased Stonar House estate in July 1903:

A valuable block of rich pasture land, containing 457a 2r 5p (tithe free) in the Parish of Stonar, abutting the navigable River Stour, immediately opposite extensive wharves and warehouses in the town of Sandwich, and possessing long frontages to the Margate Road; adjoining Messrs Pearson & Sons Dover Admiralty Works, forming excellent sites for commercial premises requiring both road and deep-water frontages.<sup>84</sup>

### **16.2 *The Sandwich Haven scheme, from c. 1907***

Perhaps stimulated by Messrs Pearson & Sons' ballast extraction works and the construction of Pearson's Wharf, but also in anticipation of a breakthrough in the local coal industry, and by proposals for the East Kent Light Railway, a syndicate led by G. C. Solley, a Sandwich estate agent, sought to revitalize the old Sandwich Haven as a commercially viable port. Land was purchased near the mouth of the Stour; negotiations were made; and surveys and plans drawn up (Butler 1999, 5). The scheme, however, soon stalled – along with the troubled local mining industry – and was halted by the outbreak of the First World War.

### **16.3 *The North Lake, c. 1908?***

Late in the first decade of the twentieth century, the gravel pits at Stonar were flooded.<sup>85</sup> This is generally supposed to have been accidental, but we have not yet been able to confirm this. A contributor to the *Kent History Forum* website recorded what he called 'the legend' as follows:

The main pit was dry and had all kinds of machinery in the bottom working to recover the gravel. The work crew shut down one Christmas Eve afternoon and went home. It had been a very wet November/December and the River was a little higher than normal, no one was too worried. However, sometime during the night the River burst through at high tide and inundated the pit that then became a lake. I understand that there is quite a lot of machinery, a complete drying and sorting plant with engine and boiler as well as a couple of road locomotives (big steam traction engines), still down there.

### **16.4 *The South Lake, c. 1910?***

In March 1910, the *Dover Express* reported:

The old works have been flooded, and latterly new works were opened, but the water has already given trouble. To get rid of the water a tunnel was constructed, to connect the workings, beneath the pathway which runs from the Sandwich road to the river.<sup>86</sup>

Possibly the 'new works' referred to were also soon flooded, forming a second, smaller body of water shown in 1918 plans of Richborough Port (South Lake, see below).

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<sup>84</sup> *Thanet Advertiser* 4 July 1903.

<sup>85</sup> It is shown still dry on the 1907 Ordnance Survey map (Fig. 17).

<sup>86</sup> *Dover Express* 11 March 1910.

## 17. The First World War and Richborough Port

It was [...] decided early in the war that the base stores depot for railways and troops [...] and for the Inland Transport [...] should be situated on this side and not in France. Dover was selected as the port from which those supplies should be sent and Ashford as the depot for all the heavy material. Unfortunately, when they had got everything working the landslide occurred between Dover and Folkestone and that put Ashford out of court. He [Major-General A.S. Collard] had to look around and luckily his local knowledge of Kent came to his aid and he remembered that when Dover harbour was being built Messrs Pearson, the contractors, brought all their aggregate, cement, etc, for Dover harbour from Stonar. To do that they made a small quay in the River Stour at Sandwich so that they could bring their barges round to Dover and connected it by rail to the South-Eastern Railway. It occurred to him that it was all ready to do that again. He went down and had a look at it, and came to the conclusion that it was an ideal spot and that it would not only form an excellent place for the stores depot but that it was most suitable from which to send our barges straight to France.<sup>87</sup>

**17.1** Early in the First World War, the War Office's Directorate of Inland Waterways and Docks (IWD) – responsible for transporting equipment through France, to the Western Front – came up with a scheme to load up the barges at home, rather than on the other side of the Channel, so that they might pass directly into the French canal network.

**17.2** Seeking a more convenient military supply port for these barges, they hit upon Pearson's Wharf at Stonar. This site was well-placed for the Channel ports and the French canals; it was connected to the railway network; it was surrounded by an expanse of undeveloped land suitable for military camps and buildings; and it had abundant sand and gravel available for their construction. Also, the extensive surveys and plans which had been prepared as part of the Sandwich Haven scheme, had already done much of the work of designing the port, and could be requisitioned, along with the site, under the Defence of the Realm, Acquisition of Land Act, 1916 (DORA). Christopher Solley later complained that the War Office had requisitioned the entire plan, but had failed to offer any 'reward or recognition' in return (Butler 1996, 19).

**17.3** In March 1916, an Army surveyor sent to prospect the site found Stonar exceedingly peaceful, with 'sheep grazing on the rough grass as the only indication of life, except when the solemn stillness of the marshland was dispersed by the cry of wildfowl or the cawing of rooks' – doubtless in the Stonar House rookery. In May 1916 an advance party of four officers and three hundred and thirty other ranks arrived to start preparing the site (Butler 1996, 20).

**17.4** As the plan of 1918 shows, Richborough Port would ultimately occupy a vast area – nearly nine hundred hectares – united by a hundred kilometres of railway track (Butler 1996, 20, fig. 30; Fig. 24); the river mouth was dredged to improve the port, and later, a regular train ferry was established. Looking back, in 1919, a local journalist recalled how:

three years ago the whole of that wonder port was merely a waste of marshland stretching from Pegwell to Sandwich. During that time there grew up the great township of concrete hutments, institutes, slipways for the building of barges, power stations and foundries, railway sidings by the mile, wharves fitted with electric travelling cranes [...]. Great steam navvies swept away hills, reducing the surface to a level where required; [...] marshes were drained and land reclaimed. The course of the River Stour

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<sup>87</sup> *Whitstable Times* 26 April 1919 and *Dover Express* 23 May 1919.

had actually to be diverted, and [a] channel 330ft wide “manufactured” at a spot that was a few feet wide three years ago. [...] This great work was carried out by the officers and men of the of the Inland Waterways and Docks, and the whole thing stands as an everlasting memorial to the energy and fearless enterprise which has animated the work of our fine men.<sup>88</sup>

### **17.5 The Hutted Camps**

As the port expanded, there was intense pressure for troop accommodation. At first, they were billeted in Sandwich, or housed in barges on the river and tented camps, later in timber huts, and by the winter of 1917, in large permanent camps of concrete buildings. Stonar Camp was the first of these, perhaps ready for occupation late in 1916, and housing about 2,500 men, including most of the officers (Figs 25 & 26). The Haig, Kitchener, and Cowan camps followed (Butler 1996; Fig. 24).

Not until after the 1918 armistice [...] did the world learn of the achievements at Richborough – a tented city which was later replaced by huts and subsequently developed on more permanent lines, with the construction of concrete houses and workshops.<sup>89</sup>

### **17.6 One Sandwich resident recalled:**

My father was saved from being killed in the [First] World War as he was working for Simmonds, down at Stonar, as a bricklayer, building concrete huts for the soldiers.

**17.7** For the camps’ sanitation, a sophisticated sewage system was put in place – storing the waste in a large tank and discharging it into the Stour when the tide was low enough. About 1920, an *Account of the Construction and Working of the Port of Richborough* was prepared:

Camps.

Whilst the port was being developed, commodious camps were built of concrete blocks and sectional wooden huts to house military labour employed on construction work, the port working, and in the shops and barge-building yard. Accommodation was eventually provided in this manner for about 15,000 troops.

These camps were equipped with regimental institutes, lecture halls, dining halls and kitchens containing up-to-date cooking appliances. One such building fed 3,000 men every 24 hours (hot meals being always ready for the personnel of the marine and traffic formations). Another feature of these camps was the elaborate system of drainage.<sup>90</sup>

### **17.8 Winget machines and construction**

The concrete buildings of the camps were built on the recently devised ‘Winget’ system of modular building, using cast-concrete pillars and panels manufactured on Winget machines. The company which made these machines had been founded in 1908. At the Building Exhibition of 1911, they unveiled a concrete block making machine.<sup>91</sup>

Winget Limited [...] Warwick [...] a young, pushful [*sic*], and successful firm of manufacturers of machines which are supplied to the building trade for the making of concrete building blocks and concrete slabs. Wingets also make concrete mixers. The

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<sup>88</sup> *Thanet Advertiser* 24 May 1919.

<sup>89</sup> *Thanet Advertiser* 21 November 1950.

<sup>90</sup> TNA: MUN 4/6825.

<sup>91</sup> *Times* 3 May 1911.

concrete block-makers are remarkably ingenious and valuable machines, for they turn out blocks of all sizes, varieties and faces, of a kind used in recent years in the erection of prominent public and other buildings in this country and in many parts of the world. The firm has only been in existence a few years [...]. At the present time Winget machines are being used by the War Office, the Admiralty, and other public departments, and by the Crown agents for the colonies, and the firm looks forward to increasing official support, besides a growing business with private contractors.<sup>92</sup>

**17.9** The machines could be easily adjusted to produce concrete blocks of different sizes and shapes for different purposes. Also, judging by our observations in the former Church Institute on Stonar Camp, the mixture used in the machines could be varied, depending on the use of the blocks. In 1924 one of the typical one-hundred-and-twenty-foot concrete living huts was 'anatomised' in order to cost its building materials for re-sale. The Winget blocks in this structure included:

'single-flue blocks', one foot four inches square.  
'pier blocks', two feet eight inches by one foot four inches.  
'half pier blocks', measuring one foot four inches by nine inches.  
'panel slabs', measuring two feet four inches by two-and-a-quarter inches.  
'half panel slabs', measuring one foot four inches by nine inches by two-and-a-quarter inches.  
'quoins', measuring two feet eight inches by one foot four inches.

**17.10** Also mentioned, but not present in this 'typical' hut, were:

'double-flue blocks', measuring two feet eight inches by one foot four inches by nine inches.  
'partition slabs', measuring two feet eight inches by nine inches by four-and-a-half inches.  
and 'half partition slabs', measuring one foot four inches by nine inches by four-and-a-half inches.<sup>93</sup>

**17.11** The blocks were formed, using local gravel, in two blockyards, equipped with thirty-four machines, eleven mixers and six portable engines. German prisoners of War were at work in Stonar by July 1917.<sup>94</sup> Butler tells us that some of them were employed on the Winget machines, making concrete blocks for the Richborough Port buildings.

The output from the blockyards was not only used at Richborough but also in the construction of aerodromes and other works undertaken by the IW&D (Butler 1996, 21).

**17.12** The use of Winget machines at Stonar may have helped seed the use of this technology in housing schemes in east Kent between the wars: first for workers at the nearby Tilmanstone Colliery, and subsequently at Canterbury.<sup>95</sup>

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<sup>92</sup> *Warwickshire Advertiser* 7 October 1916.

<sup>93</sup> TNA: MUN 4/6251.

<sup>94</sup> *Thanet Advertiser* 14 December 1918.

<sup>95</sup> 'A committee from the Canterbury Corporation inspected 'the Winget machine that made the blocks from which the houses built at Tilmanstone Colliery are constructed of' (*Dover Express* 23 May 1919); *Whitstable Times* 24 May and 21 June 1919.

## 18. Stonar Camp, from June 1916

**18.1** This was the first of the camps at Richborough Port, and was under construction by June 1916. It was built to the north and west of Stonar House, which was, itself, converted, and greatly extended, to provide an officers' mess (Building 7, see below), with dining and other facilities in the old stable to the north-east (Figs 25 & 26). The Entrance Lodge seems to have been extended to provide the Adjutant's Lodge (Building 1). To the south of this a flat squarish meadow field, surrounded by drainage ditches to the east, west, and south, was adapted as a Parade Ground.

**18.2** The other camp buildings were confined between the Stonar House entrance drive, to the south; the Ramsgate Road, to the west; the North Lake, to the north; and the South Lake, to the east. The barrack huts, with their attendant latrines, wash houses, bath houses, kitchens, mess rooms, and canteens, were packed into a tight rectangle in the re-entrant between the North and South Lakes. These were 'bisected by a road running west to east,' from the camp's new main entrance from the Ramsgate Road (in the approximate position of the present gateway to the Stonar Lake). There were near symmetrical sets of barrack huts and facilities in each half of the camp. Each comprised two east-west rows of huts, aligned north-south, with wash houses, bath houses, and latrines, aligned east-west along the gap between the rows. In front of the huts in the middle and eastern portions of the camp, flanking the east-west road, were messes, cook houses, and canteens. There was an additional small short row of barrack huts along the southern edge of the southern half – perhaps provided slightly later for additional accommodation.

**18.3** A broad gauge railway, extending along the eastern side of the Ramsgate Road into the north-west corner of Stonar Camp, may have been used to import concrete blocks from the blockyard for the construction of the camp buildings. This branch ended hard-by the main entrance.

**18.4** Recreational facilities, for Stonar Camp and its neighbours, were provided, to the south of the barrack huts. These seem to have been built shortly after the other buildings, subsidised by public donations. In October 1916 it was announced:

An excellent scheme has been started for providing suitable recreation rooms with canteens attached, for soldiers now stationed in very large numbers at Stonar Camp, in close proximity to the town of Sandwich. [...] Apart from the large number of soldiers in camp at Sandwich Bay, and in billets in the town itself during the winter months, permanent buildings are being erected at Stonar, and it is computed that this military occupation (irrespective of the war) will shortly be about three times the number of the ordinary civil community of Sandwich. To erect and equip both institutes a sum of £4,000 is required to which the Church of England Soldiers' and Sailors Institutes Association has promised £900, under the rules of the society, one of which is that the Institutes are open and free to any man wearing the King's uniform without distinction of creed.<sup>96</sup>

**18.5** In referring to 'both institutes,' this may mean both the Church Institute (Building 6), and the Regimental Institute (Building 21). A YMCA Hut was provided in the north-west corner of Stonar Camp in May the following year.<sup>97</sup> Section "B" of the *Particulars of Richborough Port*, drawn up in, perhaps, 1923 or 1924 (see below), described the completed 'Stonar House and Camp' as follows:

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<sup>96</sup> *Lincolnshire Echo* 30 October 1916.

<sup>97</sup> *Dover Express* 25 May 1917.

This section is situated on the east side of the main Margate to Sandwich Road immediately south of Haig Camp and about ½ mile from Sandwich. The area is approximately 46 acres held under DORA.

There is a single track broad gauge railway extending as far as the main entrance to the camp adjoining HQ Offices and running parallel with the road. On the north-eastern corner there is another siding connection which runs round the eastern side of North Lake, this has been used mainly for carriage of gravel.

Electric lighting and power are obtained from a sub-power station in the camp which is supplied from the main power station.

Fresh water is supplied from the Sandwich Corporation and two cast-iron storage tanks, each having a capacity of 10,000 gallons, are situated in this camp. Sewage is carried to the main sewage disposal station close to Richborough Castle Halt. The camp buildings are built of concrete blocks set in cement mortar – six have steel principals to the roofs and the remainder are of wood – all the roofs are covered [with] felt and the floors are of wood or concrete.

Stonar House is a brick building to which additions have been built on, the walls being of concrete blocks and felt roofs with floors of wood.

Total ground area of buildings about 200,000ft super.<sup>98</sup>

**18.6** It was feared that the open channels and drainage dykes in the Stonar meadows might harbour malaria.

[Mosquitos] were most numerous in Stonar Camp, occurring in decreasing numbers in Kitchener, Cowan, Construction, and Haig Camps, in the order given.

These facts may be explained by the existence of certain shelter and of water close to the camp. With the exception of Stonar, where many trees and bushes were distributed, the camps were in open country. The proximity of numerous dykes was a feature of Stonar, Kitchener, and Construction Camps, and to a lesser extent of the other two, where filling-in had been done. The entire area, with its eighteen miles of dykes, had received an equal share of treatment in each section, on the approved antimalaria lines, and we must look to the existence of water in conjunction with bushes and trees, and to the prevailing winds; to explain the distribution of the insects.

Stonar Camp or Depot, which was always most infected, lies to the south near Sandwich. It is bisected by a road running west to east, with the southern portion thus cut off, constituting the most infected part in any of the five camps.

This section is nearest the meadows and numerous dykes. The many trees and bushes give shelter from the prevailing winds. Stonar Camp is bounded, on the east by the River Stour, on the north by a large artificial lake, and on the west by the main Sandwich to Ramsgate road (Talbot 1920).

**18.7** Early on, an 'antimalaria screened hut' was established in the 'more heavily-infected' southern half of Stonar Camp. The War Office and the Royal Army Medical Corps undertook antimalarial work, and 'a thorough war [was] waged against larvae and pupae in the waterways during the spring and summer of 1918.' Talbot later, in 1920, recalled:

Whilst engaged as laboratory assistant in the Royal Army Medical Corps, I was sent to Sandwich to help with the antimalarial work which was being carried on there. The War Office had established the nucleus of an entomological laboratory at Stonar Camp and some good practical work resulted. This has been described by the proper department, and much credit has devolved upon the officers concerned with the work.

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<sup>98</sup> TNA: MUN 4/6825.



A new and efficient laboratory has now been established where previously we had a small shed, sharing the work of the bacteriological section of the hospital. Thus, we laboured under many difficulties as regards laboratory work, and I shall always remember the regulation stove, which served either to freeze or to scorch, and which deposited dust like a volcano.

**18.8** We, as yet, know relatively little else of what transpired at Stonar Camp during the First World War. The IWD headquarters offices, on the western edge of the site, presumably oversaw the operation of Richborough Port as a whole, but as yet we have few details. The 330<sup>th</sup> Road Construction Company of the Royal Engineers is known to have been raised at Stonar Camp in January 1917; their War Diary is held by the RE Museum and may well contain relevant information. On 25 September 1917 a bomb supposedly fell ‘dangerously close to an ammunition dump at Stonar Camp.’<sup>99</sup>

## **19. The First World War buildings of Stonar Camp**

### **19.1 Building 7, Stonar House and its extensions (Figs 26–29)**

The *Particulars of Richborough Port*, drawn up in, perhaps, 1923 or 1924, describe this block as ‘Stonar House, including Barrack Quarters (2 floors) and other additions.’ They note that it was of ‘brick construction, [with] timber roofs covered [with] slates, [and with] boarded and concrete floors; they give its footprint as 15,117 square feet.’<sup>100</sup>

Stonar House ‘was adapted for use as an Officers’ Mess;’<sup>101</sup> Butler tells us it ‘was rather neglected when the [Royal Engineers] arrived in 1916, but it was soon restored and extended’ (Butler 1996; Butler 1999). The extensions, at least in footprint, dwarfed the original house, ranging around a large courtyard to the east. They were of two storeys, with continuous, open-fronted, galleried verandahs around the inward elevations. Besides officers’ accommodation, these are thought to have housed some kind of medical facility, but we as yet have no details of this and this may represent a confusion with the building’s later twentieth century use. More standard extensions were made to the north and south of the original house.

Late in January 1917, a fire was extinguished by the Royal Engineers, at Stonar House, using buckets of water. ‘The room on the right of the entrance, of the ground floor was gutted, but the fire was confined to that room.’<sup>102</sup>

### **19.2 Building 12, Old Stable Building, comprising Cook House, Mess Room, Garage Stores &c**

The *Particulars*, of 1923 or 1924, refer to this as the ‘old stable building, comprising cook house, mess room, garage stores &c,’ and note that it was of brick and timber construction, occupying 2,182 square feet.<sup>103</sup> Presumably, these facilities were for the officers in Stonar House, adjoining (Fig. 26).

### **Administrative buildings (Fig. 26)**

### **19.3 Building 1, The Adjutant’s Lodge**

The *Particulars*, of 1923 or 1924, term this building the ‘Adjutant’s Lodge’ and note that it had concrete-block walls, a timber-framed roof covered with slates, and floors of concrete and timber;

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<sup>99</sup> *Thanet Advertiser* 14 June 1938.

<sup>100</sup> TNA: MUN 4/6825.

<sup>101</sup> TNA: ED 109/2571.

<sup>102</sup> *Whitstable Times* 27 January 1917.

<sup>103</sup> TNA: MUN 4/6825.

they give its area as 568 square feet.<sup>104</sup> Another valuation document of 1924 calls it ‘Stonar Lodge,’ and map evidence suggests it formed around the nucleus of Stonar House’s nineteenth-century gate lodge (Fig. 16), which was presumably of more traditional construction than this suggests. This all seems to have been demolished when the Stonar Camp married quarters were built in the mid twentieth century (see below, text section 38).

#### **19.4 Building 2, The Regimental Quartermaster’s Stores (Fig. 30)**

The *Particulars*, of 1923 or 1924, call this building the ‘Regimental Quartermaster’s Stores,’ and note that it had concrete-block walls, timber floors, and a timber-framed roof, covered with corrugated asbestos, with a corrugated iron roof to the verandah. The building *proper* occupied 7,457 square feet, the verandah, 700.<sup>105</sup> Oddly, another valuation document of 1924 calls it ‘the guard room.’ Is it possible that this building was used by the Richborough Port police force after the First World War? (see below).

There appears to have been a large layby created on the opposite side of the Ramsgate Road, perhaps to facilitate deliveries to this store. This interrupted a drainage ditch hard by the side of the road, which would otherwise have severely constrained vehicles parking or turning.

#### **19.5 Buildings 4, 4a, & 4b, The Headquarter Offices (Figs 31 & 32)**

Butler, and others, consider the surviving First-World-War building nearest the Ramsgate Road to have been the ‘mess annexe [...] built by the Sappers on the lines of a senior officer’s colonial bungalow’ (Butler 1996 and 1999; Fig. 32). However, all of the plans we have seen of the Camp label it as ‘Headquarter Offices.’ The *Particulars*, of 1923 or 1924, term this building the ‘IWD headquarter offices &c,’ and note that it had walls of concrete blocks, and timber-framed roofs covered in part with asbestos slates, in part with felt, and in part with Ruberoid. The building *proper* occupied 8,387 square feet; the verandah occupied 1,842 square feet.<sup>106</sup>

Part of this building survives, albeit very heavily modified and fallen into great decay; its present form and evidence for its historical development have been recorded.

#### **19.6 Building 5, The General Office**

The *Particulars*, of 1923 or 1924, term this building the ‘general office,’ and note that it was of ‘timber construction covered [with] corrugated iron,’ and occupied 806 square feet.<sup>107</sup> Confusingly, this building number does not seem to feature in the numbered plan (Fig. 26). Being of timber construction, it may well already have been dismantled by that time. Alternatively, might it have formed part of the ‘Adjutant’s Lodge’ group of buildings (Building 1)?

#### **The living huts (Figs 26, 33–35)**

##### **19.7 Concrete huts**

There were four sizes of concrete living huts at Stonar Camp. They were all about twenty-feet wide, but they varied in length. Thirty-six of the huts, here, were sixty-feet long; twenty-four were seventy-five-feet; six, one hundred-and-ten-feet; and two, one-hundred-and-twenty-five feet. A glance at the numbered plan (Fig. 26) suggests that these were built up from either one or two, sixty-foot compartments, with or without an additional fifteen-foot compartment. Historic photographs show that the sixty-foot compartments were each of six bays: the fifteen-foot ones, single bays.

The six-bay compartments presumably each contained a single long barrack room. Butler (1996) tells us the Richborough-Port huts each housed either twenty-five or fifty men, so it may well be that

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<sup>104</sup> TNA: MUN 4/6825.

<sup>105</sup> TNA: MUN 4/6825.

<sup>106</sup> TNA: MUN 4/6825.

<sup>107</sup> TNA: MUN 4/6825.

each of these barrack rooms was for twenty-five. The single-bay compartments were evidently original to the huts, rather than later extensions. We suspect that these may have been single-sleeping rooms for non-commissioned officers – distributed among the barrack blocks to supervise the troops – but as yet, we cannot prove this.

**19.8** The great majority of the huts on the other camps at Richborough Port were either one-hundred-and-twenty- or one-hundred-and-thirty-feet long, which is to say they each comprised two of the longer compartments, with or without an additional short compartment. Haig Camp – immediately to the north of Stonar Camp – and supposed to have been the next camp to be built – had a few huts sixty- and seventy-five-feet long, but those on Kitchener and Cowan Camps were all ‘double.’ This doubtless represents increasing standardization as the construction of the camps progressed.

The bays of the huts were articulated by broad, shallowly-projecting buttresses, and were each provided with a timber-framed sash window in each side wall. There were broad, shallowly projecting axial chimneys in each of the end walls, or, if there was an additional single-bay compartment, in the partition between this and the adjoining six-bay compartment. Curiously, the hut doorways seem to have been placed in the end walls, passing through any chimney projection. This rules out proper fireplaces, suggesting the barrack rooms were heated by freestanding stoves, connected to the chimneys by pipes.

**19.9** The Stonar Camp huts seem to have had concrete floors. Their shallow-pitched roofs were of timber, of simple common-rafter construction, boarded and covered with felt. Most of the, slightly later, huts on the other camps had asbestos tiles.

#### **19.10 Four timber huts**

There were also four ‘timber sectional huts each [of] 962 square feet.’<sup>108</sup> These had been demolished by the time the numbered plan was drawn.

#### **Wash houses, bath houses, latrines, etc (Fig. 26)**

Very likely, each ‘block of latrines’ contained six water closets

#### **19.11 Building 39, The wash house and latrines at the western end of the southern half**

The *Particulars*, of 1923 or 1924, describe this building as ‘wash house, drying room, latrines &c,’ and note that it was of similar construction to Building 38 (the Ammunition Store), which is to say that it had concrete-block walls, a timber-framed roof, boarded and covered with felt, and a concrete floor; they give its area as 1,785 square feet.<sup>109</sup> The *Scrap Valuation* of July 1924 confirmed these details of its building materials; it gives what appear to be the dimensions of four compartments: one of them forty-two feet ten inches by twenty-two feet six inches by thirteen feet high; one thirteen feet six inches by twenty-two feet six inches by nine feet high; and the other two twenty-five feet four inches by four feet eight inches by eight feet high.<sup>110</sup>

#### **19.12 Building 40, The wash house and latrines in the middle of the southern half**

The *Particulars*, of 1923 or 1924, ‘ditto’ the description of Building 39, which is to say: ‘wash house, drying room, latrines &c,’ and note that this, too, was of similar construction to Building 38 (the Ammunition Store), which is to say that it had concrete-block walls, a timber-framed roof, boarded and covered with felt, and a concrete floor; they give its area as 3,184 square feet.<sup>111</sup> The *Scrap Valuation* of July 1924 confirms these details of its construction, gives its overall dimensions as

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<sup>108</sup> TNA: MUN 4/6825.

<sup>109</sup> TNA: MUN 4/6825.

<sup>110</sup> TNA: MUN 4/6276.

<sup>111</sup> TNA: MUN 4/6825.

eighty-five feet by twenty-two feet six inches by thirteen feet high, and tells that it contained four blocks of latrines, each twenty-one feet by four feet eight inches by eight feet high, containing, between them, twenty-four 'WCs complete.'<sup>112</sup>

#### **19.13 Building 41, The bath house in the southern half**

The *Particulars*, of 1923 or 1924, call this building a 'bath house,' and note that it was of similar construction to Building 38 (the Ammunition Store), which is to say that it had concrete-block walls, a timber-framed roof, boarded and covered with felt, and a concrete floor; they give its area as 1,125 square feet.<sup>113</sup> The *Scrap Valuation* of July 1924 gives its overall dimensions as seventy-five feet by fifteen feet six inches by thirteen feet six inches high and tells that it contained a 'boiler, hot water cylinder and supply tank' and tells us that it was divided into two 'bathhouses' each containing 'two rows of baths formed with concrete and each fitted [with] two taps and necessary piping.'<sup>114</sup>

#### **19.14 Building 42, The wash house and latrines at the eastern end of the southern half**

The *Particulars*, of 1923 or 1924, describe this building as comprising 'wash houses, drying rooms, latrines &c,' and note that it was of similar construction to Building 38 (the Ammunition Store), which is to say that it had concrete-block walls, a timber-framed roof, boarded and covered with felt, and a concrete floor; they give its area as 1,661 square feet.<sup>115</sup> The *Scrap Valuation* of July 1924 gives its overall dimensions as forty-two feet ten inches by twenty-two feet six inches by [thirteen] feet high, and tells it contained two blocks of latrines, each twenty-four feet nine inches by four feet eight inches by eight feet high.<sup>116</sup>

#### **19.15 Building 83, The wash house and latrines at the western end of the northern half**

The *Particulars*, of 1923 or 1924, describe this building as comprising 'wash houses, drying rooms, latrines &c,' and note that it was of similar construction to Building 38 (the Ammunition Store), which is to say that it had concrete-block walls, a timber-framed roof, boarded and covered with felt, and a concrete floor; they give its area as 1,661 square feet.<sup>117</sup> The *Scrap Valuation* of July 1924 gives its overall dimensions as forty-two feet ten inches by twenty-two feet six inches by thirteen feet high and tells it contained two blocks of latrines, each twenty-four feet four inches by four feet eight inches by eight feet high.<sup>118</sup>

#### **19.16 Building 84, The wash house and latrines in the middle of the northern half**

The *Particulars*, of 1923 or 1924, 'ditto' the description of Building 39, which is to say this provided a 'wash house, drying room, latrines &c,' and note that this building was likewise of similar construction to Building 38 (the Ammunition Store): concrete-block walls, a timber-framed roof, boarded and covered with felt, and a concrete floor; they give its area as 3,184 square feet.<sup>119</sup> The *Scrap Valuation* of July 1924 gives its overall dimensions as eighty-five feet by twenty-two feet six inches by thirteen feet high, and tells that it contained four blocks of latrines, each twenty-four feet nine inches by four feet eight inches by eight feet high.<sup>120</sup>

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<sup>112</sup> TNA: MUN 4/6276.

<sup>113</sup> TNA: MUN 4/6825.

<sup>114</sup> TNA: MUN 4/6276.

<sup>115</sup> TNA: MUN 4/6825.

<sup>116</sup> TNA: MUN 4/6276.

<sup>117</sup> TNA: MUN 4/6825.

<sup>118</sup> TNA: MUN 4/6276.

<sup>119</sup> TNA: MUN 4/6825.

<sup>120</sup> TNA: MUN 4/6276.

### **19.17 Building 85, The wash house and latrines at the eastern end of the northern half**

The *Particulars*, of 1923 or 1924, describe this building as comprising 'wash houses, drying rooms, latrines &c,' and note that it was of similar construction to Building 38 (the Ammunition Store), which is to say that it had concrete-block walls, a timber-framed roof, boarded and covered with felt, and a concrete floor; they give its area as 1,661 square feet.<sup>121</sup> The *Scrap Valuation* of July 1924 gives its overall dimensions as forty-two feet ten inches by twenty-two feet six inches by thirteen feet high and tells that it contained two blocks of latrines, each twenty-four feet four inches by four feet eight inches by eight feet high.<sup>122</sup>

### **19.18 Building 102, The bath house in the northern half**

The *Particulars*, of 1923 or 1924, refer to this as a 'bath house' and note that it was of similar construction to Buildings 62 and 64 (the 'mess rooms, cook houses &c'), which is to say that it had concrete-block walls, concrete floors, and steel-framed roofs, boarded and covered with felt; they give its area as 1,150 square feet.<sup>123</sup> The *Scrap Valuation* of July 1924 gives its overall dimensions as seventy-six feet six inches by twenty-one feet by twelve feet high, and tells us that it was fitted out like Building 41, which is to say it contained a boiler, [a] hot water cylinder and supply tank, and was divided into two bath houses, each with two rows of concrete baths, each fitted with two taps.<sup>124</sup>

## **Cooking, dining, welfare and recreation (Figs 26 & 36)**

### **19.19 Building 6, The Church Institute (Fig. 36)**

This building survives, albeit modified to provide an industrial unit; its present form and evidence for its historical development has been recorded.

This and the Regimental Institute seem to have been begun after most of the camp's other buildings, paid for by charitable donations out of concern for the troops' welfare and, in this case, their morality. The *Particulars*, of 1923 or 1924, term this building the 'church hall,' and note that it had concrete-block walls, a roof of steel construction covered with asbestos slates, and a timber floor; they give its area as 3,905 square feet.<sup>125</sup> The use of asbestos-slates perhaps agrees with its slightly later date.

Another valuation document of 1924 calls it a 'church,' and this is presumably the building to which Butler refers, when he writes of a church having been built out of Winget Blocks as part of the Richborough Port development (Butler 1996 and 1999). In terms of its footprint, it certainly gestured towards the idea of a church – with a kind of projecting aisles or transepts towards its 'east end,' and what may have been intended as a 'west work.' The main space was doubtless used liturgically, and would, as we have seen, have been 'open and free to any man wearing the King's uniform without distinction of creed.'<sup>126</sup>

### **19.20 Building 21, The Regimental Institute (Figs 37–40)**

This building survives, albeit modified, as an industrial unit; its present form and evidence for its historical development has been recorded.

The *Particulars*, of 1923 or 1924, describe this building as the 'regimental institute' and note that it had concrete walls and a timber-framed roof covered with felt; they give its area as 3,950 square feet.<sup>127</sup>

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<sup>121</sup> TNA: MUN 4/6825.

<sup>122</sup> TNA: MUN 4/6276.

<sup>123</sup> TNA: MUN 4/6825.

<sup>124</sup> TNA: MUN 4/6276.

<sup>125</sup> TNA: MUN 4/6825.

<sup>126</sup> *Lincolnshire Echo* 30 October 1916.

<sup>127</sup> TNA: MUN 4/6825.

It was originally rather longer than at present, its southern bays having been demolished, and the present south frontage supplied, in the 1960s. It seems originally to have terminated, at this end, in a low, sloping-roofed, lean-to-like structure, which is shown in an aerial photograph of 1927 (Fig. 37). It was markedly taller than the living huts.

#### **19.21 Building 61, The larder and store in the western half**

The *Particulars*, of 1923 or 1924, tell us that this building provided a larder and a store and note that it was of similar construction to Building 38 (the Ammunition Store), which is to say that it had 'concrete block walls, a timber-framed and boarded roof, covered with felt, and a concrete floor; they give its area as 939 square feet.<sup>128</sup>

#### **19.22 Building 62, The mess room and cook house in the western half**

The *Particulars*, of 1923 or 1924, note that this building provided a mess room, a cook house, *etc*, and note that it had concrete-block walls, a concrete floor, and a steel-framed roof, boarded and covered with felt; they give its area as 8,625 square feet.<sup>129</sup>

#### **19.23 Building 63, The canteen in the western half**

The *Particulars*, of 1923 or 1924, refer to Buildings 63 and 65 as the 'wet and dry canteens' – it is not yet clear which was which. They were of similar construction to Buildings 62 and 64 (the 'mess rooms, cook houses &c'), which is to say that they had, concrete-block walls, concrete floors, and steel-framed roofs, boarded and covered with felt; the *Particulars* give the area of each building as 4,000 square feet.<sup>130</sup>

#### **19.24 Building 64, The mess room and cook house in the eastern half (Fig. 41)**

The *Particulars*, of 1923 or 1924, note that this building provided a mess room, a cook house, *etc*, and note that it had concrete-block walls, a concrete floor, and a steel-framed roof, boarded and covered with felt; they give its area as 8,625 square feet.<sup>131</sup>

#### **19.25 Building 65, The canteen in the western half**

The *Particulars*, of 1923 or 1924, refer to Buildings 63 and 65 as the 'wet and dry canteens' – it is not yet clear which was which. They were of similar construction to Buildings 62 and 64 (the 'mess rooms, cook houses &c'), which is to say that they had, concrete-block walls, concrete floors, and steel-framed roofs, boarded and covered with felt; the *Particulars* give the area of each building as 4,000 square feet.<sup>132</sup>

#### **19.26 Building 66, The larder and store in the eastern half**

The *Particulars*, of 1923 or 1924, tell us that this building provided a larder and a store and note that it was of similar construction to Building 38 (the Ammunition Store), which is to say that it had 'concrete block walls, a timber-framed and boarded roof, covered with felt, and a concrete floor; they give its area as 939 square feet.<sup>133</sup>

#### **19.27 Building 103, The NCOs' Mess**

The *Particulars*, of 1923 or 1924, refer to this building as the 'NCOs' mess' and note that it had concrete-block walls, a concrete floor, and a steel-framed roof, boarded and covered with felt; they

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<sup>128</sup> TNA: MUN 4/6825.

<sup>129</sup> TNA: MUN 4/6825.

<sup>130</sup> TNA: MUN 4/6825.

<sup>131</sup> TNA: MUN 4/6825.

<sup>132</sup> TNA: MUN 4/6825.

<sup>133</sup> TNA: MUN 4/6825.

give its area as 3,787 square feet.<sup>134</sup> The *Scrap Valuation* of July 1924 gives its dimensions as one hundred and fifty-one feet five inches by twenty-five feet by nineteen feet high, plus a lean-to, with a corrugated asbestos roof, seventeen feet nine inches by twenty-five feet and ten feet high; from the numbered plan (Fig. 26) it is clear that this was at its eastern end.

#### **19.28 Building 879, Military Office**

The *Particulars*, of 1923 or 1924, identify this building as the 'military office,' and tell us it comprised a 'timber sectional hut,' occupying 487 square feet, plus a verandah of 185 square feet.<sup>135</sup>

#### **19.29 The YMCA (Fig. 42)**

The 'YMCA hut at Stonar Camp, Sandwich' had been completed by late May 1917.<sup>136</sup> This building is shown in the *General Plan of Richborough*, dated 21 February 1918 (Fig. 42), and was used as the venue for 'Demolition Sales' of material salvage from Richborough Port in January and February 1922. This building does not feature in the *Particulars of Richborough Port*, of 1923 or 1924, and had presumably been removed by that time.

#### **Miscellaneous buildings (Fig. 26)**

#### **19.30 Building 13, The water tower**

The *Particulars*, of 1923 or 1924, describe the 'water tower' as having 'reinforced concrete walls with [a] part concrete roof to [the] lower portion [and] reinforced concrete piers supporting tanks over; they give its area as 510 square feet.<sup>137</sup> Its position is not marked on the numbered plan (Fig. 26).

#### **19.31 Building 38, The ammunition store**

The *Particulars*, of 1923 or 1924, describe the 'ammunition store' as having concrete-block walls, a concrete floor, and a timber-framed roof, boarded and covered with felt; they give its area as 266 square feet.<sup>138</sup>

#### **19.32 Building 43, The electricity sub-station**

The *Particulars*, of 1923 or 1924, describe the 'electric sub-station' as being of similar construction to Building 38 (Ammunition Store), which is to say that it had concrete-block walls, a timber-framed roof, boarded and covered with felt, and a concrete floor; they give its area as 387 square feet.<sup>139</sup>

#### **19.33 Building 60, The workshop**

The *Particulars*, of 1923 or 1924, describe this building as a 'workshop' and note that it was of similar construction to Building 38 (the Ammunition Store), which is to say that it had concrete-block walls, a timber-framed roof, boarded and covered with felt, and a concrete floor; they give its area as 861 square feet.<sup>140</sup>

#### **19.34 A Septic Tank**

A 'septic tank' is shown, but not numbered, on the plan, to the north-east of the camp buildings, on the isthmus between the North and South Lakes (Fig. 26). We are not yet sure how far the

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<sup>134</sup> TNA: MUN 4/6825.

<sup>135</sup> TNA: MUN 4/6825.

<sup>136</sup> *Dover Express* 25 May 1917.

<sup>137</sup> TNA: MUN 4/6825.

<sup>138</sup> TNA: MUN 4/6825.

<sup>139</sup> TNA: MUN 4/6825.

<sup>140</sup> TNA: MUN 4/6825.

Richborough Port sewage arrangements had progressed when Stonar Camp began construction – might this have been part of the temporary measures at the outset?

### **19.35 Building 90, The incinerator**

A little around the south-eastern corner of the North Lake from the septic tank was an incinerator, doubtless part of Stonar Camp's waste disposal arrangements (Fig. 26). Each of the Richborough Port camps appears to have been provided with one.

### **19.36 Other small buildings**

The *Particulars*, of 1923 or 1924, noted that 'there [were] in addition various small unimportant buildings' – presumably unnumbered – on Stonar Camp.<sup>141</sup>

## **20. The inter-War period**

While the "Miner's Return" was being sung in the canteen at Stonar Camp, Sandwich, to celebrate Germany's surrender, Sapper Mitchell, who had been unable to speak for over two years through being gassed, had his voice return.<sup>142</sup>

**20.1** After the Armistice, Richborough Port quickly descended into something approaching chaos.

Richborough and Stonar are still towns that are in a state of bewildering transition. Great work is being done, but to the casual visitor there does not as yet appear to be any definite scheme. There is still a small stretch of land occupied by the military and at the moment it is not clear if the War Office will continue in control. The SE & C are prepared to take over the whole of the three and a half square miles of territory if the necessity arises.<sup>143</sup>

**20.2** Vast quantities of military equipment was returning to Stonar, in variable condition, from the continent. The troops, however, were in confusion over their employment:

The camp at Richborough is in its "winter of discontent" regarding the "demuddlisation," as an RE Corporal was heard to describe it. Those who have no positions open to them are being discharged, and others whose employers are frequently filling in forms in order to get back their men, are still in the Army at Richborough. A demonstration has been hinted at, but no definite information is at hand.<sup>144</sup>

**20.3** Security at the site was soon to suffer; during three days in February 1919, £200 worth of Army property was stolen.<sup>145</sup> Around that time, a report on Richborough Port noted the 'necessity for either policing the public road [...] or erecting some form of barrier capable of stopping pilfering which was very rife.'<sup>146</sup> The 'newly-formed police force at Richborough' made their first arrest – for the theft of some rubber piping from the Construction Camp – in late March.<sup>147</sup> Possibly, the police may have had their guardhouse in the former Regimental Quartermaster's Stores (Building 2) at Stonar Camp – we are not yet sure of this, however. At the end of July 1926 the Port of Richborough police force disbanded.

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<sup>141</sup> TNA: MUN 4/6825.

<sup>142</sup> *Globe* 14 November 1918.

<sup>143</sup> *Thanet Advertiser* 15 March 1919.

<sup>144</sup> *Thanet Advertiser* 11 January 1919.

<sup>145</sup> *Times* 13 February 1919.

<sup>146</sup> TNA: MUN 4/6365.

<sup>147</sup> *Thanet Advertiser* 29 March 1919.



At one point the amount of pilfering that went on at the mystery port reached formidable dimensions, and the police were kept busy tracking down offenders, but lately the port has ceased to attract the attention of the light-fingered brigade.<sup>148</sup>

**20.4** Alongside genuine wonderment at what had been achieved at Richborough Port, the local and national press wove a narrative of 'wartime wastage,' and the Government was under pressure to dispose of Richborough quickly for the maximum return. The matter was complicated yet further by the fact that different parts of the site had been requisitioned from several different owners. In September 1919, a *Times* special correspondent wrote, under the heading 'The Richborough Muddle:'

Richborough was called a mystery port during the war. It is really a greater mystery now. The more its record is probed into and its present functions examined, the less satisfactory does the position seem. It was created as an emergency measure, though there are large differences of opinion as to whether it was the best means of meeting the emergency. In the planning of it and in its subsequent history there are evidences of a record of wastefulness and mismanagement which it would be difficult to equal. Obviously, it was among the first of the special war establishments which should have gone on the return of peace.

**20.5** Over the top of all this, a great many different institutions and individuals had competing ideas as to what should be done with Richborough Port, its buildings, and facilities, and who should do it. The Sandwich Haven Wharves Syndicate was keen to revive their Sandwich Haven proposals, and convert Richborough Port into a commercial harbour. They could not afford to buy the site in its entirety, but they had sunk a great deal of money and expertise, into development before the war.

**20.6** If there was to be a great commercial and industrial centre at Stonar, which of its neighbouring towns should benefit? Sandwich and Ramsgate were both interested in absorbing this small, anomalous parish.

At present Sandwich contemplates taking Stonar into its boundaries and the local council would not be averse also to swallowing a piece of Eastry. To Ramsgate any extension of Sandwich in this direction is a highly important and far-reaching matter and it is one that must be considered by the local authorities unless they have no desire to participate in the great developments that are certain to take place within the next few years.<sup>149</sup>

**20.7** In January 1919 it was reported:

Much interest is being centred on the fact that the works at Stonar and Richborough are to be converted into centres for the employment of civilians. For the scheme will interest a great number of people, particularly boilermakers, riveters, blacksmiths, welders, platers, and all shipyard workers, as well as numbers of labourers of all kinds. At least 300 local men will be required in addition to the discharged soldiers already employed.<sup>150</sup>

The developments at Stonar are proceeding and there is reason to believe that before the spring is here a great body of civilians will be at the camp in dungaree, khaki having disappeared, and civilians taking the place of soldiers. The number of men required will be about six thousand and there is already a move in the direction of finding homes for several hundreds of them. There are

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<sup>148</sup> *Thanet Advertiser* 28 August 1926.

<sup>149</sup> *Thanet Advertiser* 9 February 1918; cf *Thanet Advertiser* 17 January 1920.

<sup>150</sup> *Thanet Advertiser* 11 January 1919.

some who express scepticism as to the value a big industrial community will be to the town. We share no such view. Thanet can find room for many thousands yet.<sup>151</sup>

**20.8** It was proposed that Sandwich could use huts on the Richborough Port camps to expand its accommodation:

During the War a part of Stonar became known as Kitchener's Camp and a lot of buildings were erected there. When Sandwich looked round for more fields to conquer there was nothing more natural than that this ready-made town should be acquired. Sandwich therefore at the suggestion of the Mayor, is to apply for powers to extend to Stonar and the dwellings already there are to be converted into workmen's houses if the scheme succeeds. Sleepy Sandwich is awakening.<sup>152</sup>

**20.9** Others suggested Thanet could purchase the huts for housing, and remove them.<sup>153</sup> The Ministry of Health, however, did not consider the thin-walled huts suitable for such use:

The housing problem at Sandwich has been aggravated by the refusal of the Ministry of Health to permit Kitchener Camp, Stonar, to be used for housing purposes. It had been hoped that the use of the Camp would be the beginning of an ambitious scheme of expansion.<sup>154</sup>

## **21. Richborough Port for sale, from 1920**

**21.1** Alongside sales of moveable equipment, 1919 saw a number of military buildings disposed of, piecemeal. In August, Margate Education Committee 'purchased a large hut from Stonar for £400, for use as a handicraft centre,' together with 'three Army huts at £101 each [...] for classes in gardening, metalwork, and shoemaking.'<sup>155</sup> In December 1919, 'Winget and other concrete building blocks', and timber huts were offered for sale.<sup>156</sup>

**21.2** By August 1919, Government shipments were decreasing, and the Army Council determined it was time to dispose of the Port of Richborough (Fig. 43). It was transferred to the Ministry of Munitions early in December, and advertised for sale, as a 'going concern.' by the Disposals Board from January 1920.<sup>157</sup> A *Times* advertisement (Fig. 44) in May of that year began:

Ministry of Munitions:

For sale by private treaty, Richborough, Sandwich, Kent.

This highly important property to be disposed of by private treaty as a whole or if not so sold, in sections, the latter for the purpose of identification being called A, B, C, D, E, and F. [...]

The vendor has entered into an undertaking to repatriate various material from the War Areas, and put on rail at Richborough material from France for delivery in this country. The benefit of these commitments will be transferred to a purchaser [...]

The property is large and well situated replete with all modern conveniences, and capable of handling 30,000 tons of traffic per week. There are extensive wharves, fitted with electric cranes and transformers, barge building yards with numerous slipways,

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<sup>151</sup> *Thanet Advertiser* 11 January 1919.

<sup>152</sup> *Thanet Advertiser* 16 October 1920.

<sup>153</sup> *Thanet Advertiser* 23 August 1919.

<sup>154</sup> *Thanet Advertiser* 15 January 1921.

<sup>155</sup> *Thanet Advertiser* 23 August 1919.

<sup>156</sup> *Kent and Sussex Courier* 12 December 1919.

<sup>157</sup> TNA: MUN 4/6365.

railway track and sidings and 3 passenger platforms, excellently arranged warehouses, workshops and camp accommodation of a permanent character.<sup>158</sup>

**21.3** Section “B” of the property comprised ‘Stonar House and Camp about 46 acres.’ The advertisement further mentioned how the ‘electric supply for the operation of the workshops, wharves, and also for the lighting of the shunting yards and camps, [was] obtained from a central power station.’<sup>159</sup>

**21.4** However, whereas, the Government owned the buildings outright, it did not own the lands on which they stood. The *Thanet Advertiser* commented:

The Government probably have powers under which they can sell land that does not belong to them and in any case they could, no doubt, find legal protection for any such action. It is, however, a fact that the Ebbsfleet Syndicate and other private owners and syndicates have rights over some of the land and their claims have not yet been dealt with since the land was taken. The fact that it is not Government property, but that the Government proposes to sell it, adds another mystery to the shrouded history of the wonder port.<sup>160</sup>

**21.5** The Port of Queenborough Development Company soon expressed an interest. The Haven Syndicate protested that:

the proposed sale of the Haven and the surrounding lands to a rival interest at Queenborough [could] only have the effect of putting an end to the prospect of increased public usefulness of the Haven, which [could] only be developed by works such as the owners of a competing port cannot be expected to carry out with energy.

**21.6** But, as Butler (1996) shows, the Syndicate had delayed too long, and had pretty-much missed their chance to revive their scheme. Late in March 1921, the Port of Queenborough Development Company, agreed to purchase ‘the whole, or such part as the Minister [of Munitions] may be able to acquire, of the land now occupied under the *Defence of the Realm (Acquisition of Land) Act 1916*.’ By February 1922, however, there were big doubts about the Queenborough Development Company’s ability to complete the purchase.<sup>161</sup>

## **22. The ‘Famine Areas Children’s Hospitality’ scheme at Stonar Camp, May to December 1920**

**22.1** Due to the scarcity of food and the depreciation of the currency after the First World War, Austria and parts of Germany sank into famine. In 1920, British families accepted a number ‘famine-stricken children from the starving areas.’ These were first received, from May onwards, at Stonar Camp – ‘a delightfully wooded estate of some 46 acres recently in military occupation’<sup>162</sup> – where they endured eighteen days’ quarantine ‘in comfortable huts formerly used by the Army.’<sup>163</sup>

Huts used during the war had to be cleaned out and furnished as bedrooms. Kitchens had to be equipped once more, stove and heating apparatus overhauled and all the incidentals necessary for the accommodation of 500 children and their attendant

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<sup>158</sup> *Times* 28 May 1920.

<sup>159</sup> A further advertisement, in *The Times* for 3 July, is transcribed in Butler 1996.

<sup>160</sup> *Thanet Advertiser* 24 January 1920.

<sup>161</sup> TNA: MUN 4/5079.

<sup>162</sup> *Warwickshire Advertiser* 5 June 1920.

<sup>163</sup> *Diss Express* 14 May 1920.

helpers to be completed. In addition to this a casualty hut had to be provided and a hospital fitted out.<sup>164</sup>

**22.2** In mid-June, four hundred children remained at the camp, awaiting transfer, and another 'five hundred children from Budapest' were expected 'as soon as the infection camp [was] cleared.'<sup>165</sup>

On arrival in England the children are taken to Stonar Camp, where they are kept under observation for three weeks. They are housed and fed in concrete huts, erected during the war for the accommodation of the IW and DRE, Stonar Camp forming part of the port of Richborough. Each hut holds 24 beds and is in the charge of a helper, known as the 'hut mother.' The whole is under an administrative staff, housed in what used to be the officers' mess. The children are fed in the large dining-halls of the camp, and the cooking is done in the camp kitchens. The food is ample and good, and there is water-borne sanitation. A large area is provided for play out of doors, and recreation huts are available in bad weather. Play-rooms are provided for the smaller children. Rest-rooms and a needle-room for the older children and a wash-house where they may deal with smaller laundry requirements are also provided. [...]. In the camp is a casualty hut, where all minor cases of illness or accident are dealt with by experienced VAD helpers [...]. Part of the vacant military hospital, about a quarter of a mile from the camp, has been taken over and fitted out, and is in [the] charge of a trained matron, with a VAD staff.<sup>166</sup>

**22.3** By early December, some 1,500 children had travelled to Stonar Camp 'from the famine areas of Central Europe,' since the spring, most of whom had been found homes for a year, but there were 'still about 200 boys [...] for whom no homes [had] so far been found, and the camp [had to] be cleared before December 16, as it [was] unsuitable for winter.'<sup>167</sup>

## **23. The North and South Lakes between the wars**

**23.1** In July 1920, it was announced that 'the two lakes at Stonar' were to be opened for angling:

at the moment the privilege is extended only to members of the Sandwich Society [...]. The lakes are unexplored regions and the sport they will offer is somewhat problematical. They are a result of the construction of Dover Harbour some years ago by Messrs Pearson, when thousands of tons of shingle were needed for concrete blocks. After the great recesses had been cut, water was allowed to enter, and [...] some fish have been put down.<sup>168</sup>

**23.2** Early in 1924, a committee was 'given discretionary powers to spend as much as they thought fit on stocking the Associations waters.'<sup>169</sup> Two years later, however, 'Stonar Lake' was poisoned 'owing to the extension of the operations of Messrs Pearson and Dorman Long Ltd' (see below):

Owing to a dump of chemicals on one side of the lake draining into it, the fish [had] all been poisoned. The dump was placed there in error.<sup>170</sup>

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<sup>164</sup> *Thanet Advertiser* 29 May 1920.

<sup>165</sup> *Times* 18 June 1920.

<sup>166</sup> *Times* 31 August 1920.

<sup>167</sup> *Hendon and Finchley Times* 10 December 1920.

<sup>168</sup> *Thanet Advertiser* 3 July 1920.

<sup>169</sup> *Thanet Advertiser* 31 May 1924.

<sup>170</sup> *Thanet Advertiser* 26 June 1926.

**23.3** In January and February 1922, a series of Demolition Sales were held at the ‘YMCA Stonar Hut’ – perhaps chosen because the adjoining branch of the Richborough Port railways made it convenient to assemble material here. The first sale, on 16 January 1922 comprised:

about 150 lots of useful timber, doors, etc. Comprising: 20 good panel doors with furniture complete, door frames, quantity  $\frac{3}{4}$ in and 1in grooved and tongued flooring, several squares of  $\frac{3}{4}$ in and  $\frac{1}{2}$ in matchboards, 4in × 2in and 4in × 3in quartering, matchboard partitions, suitable for sheds, fowlhouses etc, oddments, firewood, and other useful pieces.

Also [...] three useful well-designed and substantially built buildings suitable for bungalows, schoolrooms or sheds, measurements respectively 40ft × 30ft; 24ft × 32ft; 3ft 6in [*sic*] × 20ft; with ruberoid roofs, windows, doors, good sound floors and matchboard interior complete.<sup>171</sup>

**23.4** The third demolition sale included:

about 150 lots of useful timber. Comprising 5,000ft [of]  $\frac{1}{2}$ in and  $\frac{3}{4}$ in matchboarding, 5,000ft [of] 1in grooved and tongued floor boards, 1000ft [of] 4in × 2in, 600ft [of] 5in × 2in, and 700ft [of] 4in × 3in quartering, 6,000 square ft super ruberoid roofing in good condition, several 40ft span roof principals, with iron stay bars, glazed sashes and frames in various sizes, half-glazed and other doors, quantity “Uralite” asbestos sheeting, bricks, firewood, *etc, etc*, all in good, clean and dry condition.<sup>172</sup>

## **24. Sandwich Cadet Company in Building 64, from March 1923**

**24.1** In March 1923, ‘through the kindness of Major G.B. Wade RE,’ the Sandwich Cadet Company of the First Volunteer Battalion of The Buffs were provided with a hut on Stonar Camp (Fig. 26, Building 64).<sup>173</sup> They in fact leased the structure on a monthly basis, at least until 1924.

## **25. Stonar House School, 1923 to 1939**

**25.1** In 1920, Gladys Crook, Isabel Blackwell and Edith Joslin took over an old day-school, called the Stour House School, in Sandwich. The school soon prospered and outgrew its premises, and the principals wished to expand, ‘with the intention of receiving boarders in addition to day-girls and boys under the age of ten both as day-pupils and boarders. They [were] hoping to provide full secondary education for girls up to the age of eighteen.’<sup>174</sup>

**25.2** Stonar Camp and House, although under requisition, remained the property of S. Pearson & Son Ltd, until 14 November 1922, when they sold them to the Richborough Port vendors.<sup>175</sup> The house and concrete buildings now seemed to provide ideal school premises ‘close to the sea, smoke-free air and spacious accommodation,’ and readily available for lease. Miss G.E. Crook leased Stonar House for 21 years from 25 March 1923.<sup>176</sup> The school would seem to have opened in April 1923<sup>177</sup> (Figs 30, 45–53). Repairs to the house and works to a tennis court were underway in July.<sup>178</sup>

Situated amidst the war-time waste of derelict huts, a few hundred yards from the old toll bridge at Sandwich is a school of a unique character. The school, which caters

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<sup>171</sup> *Thanet Advertiser* 14 January 1922.

<sup>172</sup> *Thanet Advertiser* 25 February 1922.

<sup>173</sup> *Thanet Advertiser* 17 March 1923.

<sup>174</sup> TNA: ED 109/2571.

<sup>175</sup> TNA: MUN 4/6285.

<sup>176</sup> TNA: MUN 4/6285.

<sup>177</sup> TNA: ED 109/2572.

<sup>178</sup> TNA: MUN 4/6930.

for girls and small children in the kindergarten stage, is "Stonar House" [...]

Two years ago Miss G.E. Crook and Miss I.C. Blackwell took over the small private school at "Stour House," an establishment with nearly a hundred years' history, and later developed the idea of making use of the excellent wartime buildings in the vicinity. They therefore acquired the old officers' quarters which proved admirably suited for their purpose.

Much had to be done to make the place presentable, for the six acres in which the establishment stands had been allowed to develop into a miniature wilderness. Today, although there is still much uncleared ground, flowers and vegetables grow in abundance in the school and kitchen gardens. Gardening, in fact, is one of the distinctive features of this educational establishment. Each child has its own piece of ground to cultivate. [...] the building which, built in a quadrangle with wide verandahs, allows of open air sleeping. The rooms themselves strike a simple note, the most prominent feature being the neatness which meets the eye in every room. Neat distemper covers the wall, and this has been utilised in uncommon fashion in the geography room where a painted map of Europe in bright colours covers one wall and a map of England, executed by the children, occupies the whole of the floor. Large airy class rooms provide ample accommodation for the 86 pupils.<sup>179</sup>

**25.3** In Summer 1928, an International Youth Camp was organised by the British Fellowship of Reconciliation, housed 'in buildings used for the despatch of the Expeditionary Force in the Great War, part of which are now Stonar House School:'

British, French, German, Belgian, Austrian and Indian youth, and many other nationalities, were accommodated in the old military huts adjoining the school.<sup>180</sup>

**25.4** At the time of the first inspection of the school, in October of that year, the 'premises and equipment' were described as follows:

Stonar House during the War was adapted for use as an Officers' Mess. It has now, with great ingenuity, been transformed into the nucleus of a school which is completed by the utilisation of various buildings in the grounds.

The teaching accommodation comprises an assembly hall, a well-ventilated gymnasium, six classrooms that can take classes up to 20, three smaller classrooms, a library and a museum. Open-air work can be easily arranged for in suitable weather, particularly for the younger children. The laboratory is small and ill-equipped. The arrangements for the junior school are particularly pleasant.

The boarding accommodation is almost ideal. The pleasantly furnished bedrooms all look out onto a broad verandah on the first floor overlooking the quadrangle. There is an abundance of bathrooms, etc. The whole building is warmed by radiators and lighted by electricity. There are numerous sitting-rooms for girls and staff on the ground floor, which again is surrounded by a verandah.

[...] The buildings, some of which were constructed during the War in connection with the port of Richborough, stand in eight acres of ground, most of which is held under a twenty-one years' lease. There is a suitable playground, tennis courts, hockey field, etc. Practically all the vegetables required for the school are grown in the

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<sup>179</sup> *Thanet Advertiser* 5 July 1924.

<sup>180</sup> *Devon and Exeter Gazette* 14 August 1928.

gardens; cows and chickens are kept, in fact there is a small farm under the supervision of the Principals.<sup>181</sup>

**25.5** The inspectors' notes also mention six 'possible' studies, of which three were in general use; three common rooms for pupils, one for staff; a library; a dining room; twenty-three bedrooms; matron's and isolation rooms; a drying room, boot room, and a changing room.

**25.6** A Youth Summer School was held at Stonar House near Sandwich in August 1929 (Clark 2001). At an inspection in 1931, it was noted:

Since the last Inspection, two more of the buildings in the grounds have been adapted for the purposes of the school. One of these provides two pleasant classrooms, with a third room which is at present used as a cloakroom, but which could be transformed into a classroom when necessary. The other which adjoins the school guest house has been turned into resident accommodation for the assistant staff, who are thus able to spend their free time in another atmosphere than that of the school building.

A very useful addition has been the laboratory built onto the main school. It is large enough for the present purposes, well ventilated and fairly well lighted. [... The] catering and domestic arrangements generally appear to be excellent, while the nature of the buildings gives the school a character and attraction which are quite its own. [...] A small room is set apart for the library and the collection of books overflows into an adjoining room. [...]

The school is divided into three Houses, who compete in work, sport and conduct; each has a "House room" furnished by the girls, where trophies are displayed and House meetings held.

**25.7** Seeking to provide strong role-models for the girls, these houses were named after Edith Cavell, Grace Darling, and Mary Slessor.<sup>182</sup> By 1933 Stonar House had 121 pupils; 'art and craft rooms' had recently been provided.<sup>183</sup> The School Inspection of 1935 noted:

The buildings are a private house with various additions, situated in pleasant and open grounds and used earlier in connection with the billeting of officers and troops connected with Richborough port during the Great War. In the simplest manner compatible with health, some of the disused hutments in the grounds have been taken over by the school and converted to various educational uses.

All the domestic and boarding arrangements are excellently carried out; the classrooms are adequately heated, lighted, and ventilated and the pupils live an open-air life which appears to agree with them.

The extension which has been so thoughtfully planned and carried out consists of an extension to the guest house which is situated at the end of an avenue near the main road. In this building, known as the "Student House," there is accommodation for fourteen pupils. This accommodation includes a dormitory arranged as seven wide cubicles each capable of accommodating two pupils. Suitable offices are adjoining. There are also a large combined lounge and dining room, a sewing room, a large kitchen where cookery can be taught with a scullery and housemaid's pantry attached, as well as private rooms for two Mistresses. [...]

Except Stonar House itself, all the buildings are of one storey and of grey concrete. There are many disused hutments of the same neutral coloured type among and

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<sup>181</sup> TNA: ED 109/2571.

<sup>182</sup> *Thanet Advertiser* 9 June 1933.

<sup>183</sup> *Thanet Advertiser* 9 June 1933.

opposite to those buildings which the School has converted to its own use, without taking into account the acres so covered beyond the boundaries of the School's grounds. [...] It would be wise, if the School is to continue in these semi-permanent structures, to differentiate those in use from the rest by redecorating them outside and perhaps painting them some distinctive colour. At the same time, application might be made to the landlords for the destruction of those hutments of which the School does not propose to make use of in future where they occur among those which have been converted into school buildings. [...]

Since 1931, a glass covered verandah has been added to the classroom used by the Kindergarten. The resulting room makes a pleasant impression throughout. [...] The school has recently been lighted by electricity throughout. It may be found advisable to install a light in the avenue leading from Stonar House to the Student House for use in winter. [...]

The room set apart as a Library has recently been fitted with shelves arranged in bays, and with suitable furniture.<sup>184</sup>

**25.8** The new 'Student House' seems to have abutted the north-west corner of Stonar House. It appears to have been of prefabricated construction, perhaps of timber and asbestos panels.

**25.9** With the outbreak of the Second World War, the MOD requisitioned the land, and the school was forced to decamp. Luckily one of the Heads had relatives in Wiltshire who alerted her to Cottles Park at Atworth<sup>185</sup>. The entire school community was packed up and moved from Kent to Wiltshire. As an independent day and boarding school for pupils of Nursery to Sixth Form age, the school continues to thrive at Cottles Park today, still retaining its earlier name as Stonar School.

## **26. Part of Headquarter Offices (Building 4) leased to H.J. Osborne, 1923**

**26.1** In mid-November 1923, H.J. Osborne, of Rugby, applied for a three- to five-year lease of:

one wing of the concrete building known as the Old General Offices together with the land between the building and the road, and for approximately 20 feet in the rear. This wing consists of six rooms and a covered corridor, being situated in Stonar Camp, near the main Sandwich/Ramsgate Road.

[...] He wishes certain alterations to be made necessary to equip the premises as a dwelling house and is prepared to pay the cost of this work provided the owners of the Port will supply such of the necessary fittings as are available at Richborough. Any fittings which are not so available, Mr Osborn will himself purchase, and he will undertake that the whole of the alterations shall be carried out to the satisfaction of the Local Manager for the time being.<sup>186</sup>

**26.2** Albert W. Wyon, the receiver and manager of the Port recommended approval. Osborn took a lease for 'five years from 25 December 1923, determinable at end of three years.'<sup>187</sup> Mid twentieth century aerial photographs suggest other portions of this building would also be converted in this way.

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<sup>184</sup> TNA: ED 109/2573.

<sup>185</sup> *Wiltshire Times* 7 July 1945.

<sup>186</sup> TNA: MUN 4/6251.

<sup>187</sup> TNA: MUN 4/6285.



## **27. Building 70 leased to T.C. Grimwood, June 1924**

**27.1** Late in November 1923, T.C. Grimwood, of Maida Vale, sought to lease one of the one-hundred-and-ten-foot long 'concrete living huts' on Stonar Camp (Fig. 26, Building 70), together with 'the time office at the rear [...] for the purpose of slaughtering horses, the flesh being exported to the Continent for human consumption.' Provisional terms were drawn up, as follows:

- 1 No horses will remain on the premises overnight.
- 2 No stock of meat or hides etc will be kept on the premises as these will be removed daily.
- 3 Only horses perfectly fit and passed by the Government Veterinary Officer as fit for human consumption will be dealt with.
- 4 He is prepared to conform in every way to the rules of the Port.
- 5 The premises will be kept in a perfectly clean and healthy condition, to the satisfaction of the Local Sanitary Surveyor and Veterinary Surgeon.
- 6 Slaughter will be carried out in the most humane manner as approved by the Authorities concerned.<sup>188</sup>

**27.2** Grimwood took a yearly lease from 10 June 1924, although this may have been short-lived.

**27.3** Early in 1924, Messrs Mitchell & Son of Broadstairs negotiated for the materials of the Haig, Stonar, Kitchener, and Cowans Camps, but offered very small sums.<sup>189</sup>

## **28. Major Wade's Memorandum, March 1924**

**28.1** On 29 March 1924, Major Wade released a memorandum giving numbers, dimensions, and general constructional details of the 'Standard Concrete Huts' at the Stonar, Kitchener, Cowan, and Haig Camps. The list excluded huts that had already been let, because these were not available to be dismantled for sale; there were two-hundred-and-two remaining, across the four camps. Evidently, one of the seventy-five-foot huts had been let, and two of the one-hundred-and-ten-foot ones – one of the latter may well have been Building 70 (see above). Wade then anatomised a typical one-hundred-and-twenty-foot huts into its building materials, assigning them re-sale values. Such a hut comprised:

sixty-four 'single-flue blocks,' measuring one foot four inches square by nine inches;  
four hundred and forty-two 'pier blocks,' measuring two feet eight inches by one foot four inches by nine inches;  
seventeen 'half pier blocks,' measuring one foot four inches by nine inches by nine inches;  
six hundred and ninety-six 'panel slabs,' measuring two feet four inches by nine inches by two-and-a-quarter inches;  
one hundred and thirty-six 'half panel slabs,' measuring one foot four inches by nine inches by two-and-a-quarter inches; and  
forty-four 'quoins,' measuring two feet eight inches by one foot four inches by nine inches.

**28.2** The roof timbers amounted to:

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<sup>188</sup> TNA: MUN 4/6251.

<sup>189</sup> TNA: MUN 4/6251.

six hundred feet of principal rafters ('roof principals'), measuring five by two inches;  
two hundred and four feet of collar beam, measuring five by two inches;  
two hundred and forty-two feet of wall plate, measuring four and a half inches by three;  
seven hundred and thirty-eight feet of purlins, measuring four by two inches;  
one hundred and twenty-three feet of ridge, measuring five by two inches;  
two hundred and forty-six feet of fillets, measuring two and three-quarters of an inch by one and a half;  
two hundred and forty-six feet of fascia, measuring seven inches by three-quarters of an inch;  
fifty-six feet of barge boards, measuring seven inches by one;  
one thousand five hundred and twenty-one feet of floor joists, measuring four and a half inches by one inch; and  
four hundred and seventy-six feet of joist plates, measuring four and a half inches by three inches.

**28.3** There also were two thousand, four hundred and forty square feet of floorboards, one-inch thick; one hundred and thirty-four six-inch asbestos tiles and the same number of eight-inch tiles, twenty-four windows; two doors, and various miscellaneous items such as stoves and shades worth about £2. On this basis, Wade estimated 'the approximate selling value of a standard 120' × 20' concrete hut at £55,' and suggested that 'the selling value of [the] different standard huts [increased] or [diminished] with their dimensions. That is to say, a 60' × 20' hut would have a selling value of £27.10.0, and so on.'

## **29. Cast Stone Ltd, from 1923**

**29.1** By mid October 1922, Concrete Specialties Ltd was seeking a lease of land and buildings at Richborough to house a 'proposed undertaking of concrete block making.' They also wanted electricity and water; second-hand furniture and equipment; portable 'Decauville' railway track and tip trucks to hire; and a supply of ballast from the southern end of the North Lake. The management of Richborough Port investigated the 'quantity of ballast that [could] be readily obtained from the south end of Stonar Lake without undermining Stonar Camp buildings or endangering the roadway. And the cost of extracting and shipping it.'<sup>190</sup> On 23 October Major Wade informed the Port manager:

As you are aware, there are only nine MSC type wagons in the Port and six of these were included as pivotal. Should it be decided to supply ballast in the near future to Concrete Specialties Ltd: in accordance with the proposed agreement, these tipping wagons would be the most useful means of conveying this material, and it is suggested that if this agreement be completed, these wagons be retained.

**29.2** On 22 February 1923, Concrete Specialties' W.A. Morling, pressed for a decision, complaining: 'orders are coming in every day, as there is a shortage of bricks here [...] I want to go from "refreshment to labour", and hard labour at that.' By 18 April, the company – now known as 'Stonar Concrete Construction Ltd', had acquired a lease of some land at Richborough Port. However, by October, their backer had absconded and it was it was feared they were bankrupt, some of their machinery was seized. The scheme was revived, under the name 'Castone Ltd' in 1924. They seem, soon, to have adopted the more intelligible name of 'Cast Stone Ltd.'

A pioneer industry in the revival of Richborough for purposes of peace is that of Cast Stone Ltd, an enterprise which, inaugurated on the 17<sup>th</sup> July 1924, has steadily

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<sup>190</sup> TNA: MUN 4/6930.

progressed [...]

The works, which employ a considerable number of hands – all, by way [...], ex-servicemen – cover an area of four acres, with the head office in the premises formerly occupied as a war-time fire station.

Under pressure machinery of the most up-to-date type, precast concrete products of all descriptions are efficiently turned out to specification or to order.

Slabs, blocks, lintels, heads, sills, steps, kerbs, channels, etc, – from a sundial to a bird bath – may be had, all made from the famous Stonar ballast, which supplied the material for the construction of Dover admiralty Harbour. In fact, it is upon Pearson's old site that the present successful operations are being carried out. [...]

We have been carrying out orders for the Government and for Messrs Pearson & Dorman Long in connection with the latter for their housing scheme at Betteshanger [...] if you want gate posts, fencing, or flower pots made from material trodden under foot by the Roman legions of Caesar – material that has defied the ravages of time and the salt sea air at Richborough Castle.<sup>191</sup>

**29.3** They would still be at Stonar, as 'artificial stone makers' in 1929.<sup>192</sup> Naturally, they were based in one of the blockyards, but they would have been taking gravel from the workings adjoining Stonar Camp.

## **30. The Scrap Valuation of July 1924**

**30.1** In mid-June 1924, there seems to have been the intention to sell some of Richborough Port's remaining concrete buildings as scrap.

'You will recollect that I asked you when you last went to Richborough to take note of the buildings in Haig and Stonar Camp Area, as I might want the scrap value of certain of these.'

**30.2** Most or all of the buildings on Haig Camp were under this threat; at Stonar Camp, the buildings in question included:

Nos 39, 40, 43, 83, 84, 85, Wash houses and latrines  
No. 41 Bath house 1125ft super ground area  
No. 102 Bath house 1150ft super ground area,  
both including equipment

**30.3** The wash houses on the other camps were generally considered worthless, but those on Stonar Camp were to be valued 'on a scrap basis [...] because they [had] proper WCs.' Also, of interest were the northernmost row of buildings on the camp, nearest the southern edge of the North Lake:

'While you are about it, will you let me have the scrap value of the following buildings in Stonar Camp separately: 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103.'

**30.4** These buildings were obviously, by now, under threat from gravel extraction at the southern end of the North Lake. The resulting document tells us that the specified buildings were:

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<sup>191</sup> *Thanet Advertiser* 14 November 1925.

<sup>192</sup> *Kelly's Isle of Thanet* 1929.

constructed with concrete block walls, roof being of wood and felt, corrugated iron or corrugated asbestos, and [were] generally in fair condition.  
No allowance [was] made for removal of concrete block walls as it [was] highly probable that these could be disposed of for hard core.  
All fittings in the buildings [were] included in the valuation.

**30.5** Details of individual buildings from this *Valuation* are included in text section **19**, above.

## **31. Leases of Stonar Lodge, the Regimental Institute, and another building**

**31.1** In 1924, a Mr Bruce, one of the Richborough Port staff, leased Stonar Lodge (Building 1) on a weekly basis.

**31.2** Hallet & Co leased a 'small office &c' in Stonar Camp, also by the week. This may perhaps have been Building 14, a sixty-foot long concrete hut, which mid twentieth century aerial photographs show whitewashed and repaired, with smoking chimneys.

**31.3** The Sandwich branch of the British Legion leased the 'Stonar Institute' – presumably the former Regimental institute (Building 21).

## **32. Messrs Pearson and Dorman Long Ltd lease Richborough Port, 1924**

**32.1** Late in 1923, the Port of Queenborough Development Company, who had agreed to purchase Richborough Port in 1921, but who had long given cause for concern, finally failed.<sup>193</sup> Pearson and Dorman Long Ltd, who were, at this time, developing Betteshanger Colliery, leased a number of huts on Stonar Camp, yearly from 1 September 1924, to provide 'Sinkers' Huts.'<sup>194</sup>

Messrs Pearson, Dorman Long and Co, it is stated, have acquired a number of the military huts of concrete construction at Stonar Camp, and are proposing to convert them into cottages for mine-workers at Betteshanger Colliery.<sup>195</sup>

Near the Sandwich portion [of Richborough Port] Messrs Pearson and Dorman Long are converting the disused concrete army huts into homes for miners who, it is hoped, will soon be employed in the East Kent coalfields.<sup>196</sup>

**32.2** The other equipment and facilities of Richborough Port (Figs 54 & 55) were similarly tempting, and a lease of Richborough Port to Pearson and Dorman Long had been proposed in mid July 1924.<sup>197</sup>

Pearson and Dorman Long Ltd [...] would take Richborough only if allowed access to the railway, for without that it would be useless. [They] should [not] be called upon to expend an enormous sum on bridges.<sup>198</sup>

Mining operations needed heavy workshop facilities for the maintenance of their machinery. Such workshops, equipped with the most modern tools, lay vacant at the port only three miles away. Pearson, Dorman Long Ltd arranged to lease the whole port

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<sup>193</sup> *Thanet Advertiser* 8 December 1923.

<sup>194</sup> TNA: MUN 4/6285.

<sup>195</sup> *Dover Express* 19 September 1924.

<sup>196</sup> *Thanet Advertiser* 22 November 1924.

<sup>197</sup> TNA: MUN 4/6285.

<sup>198</sup> *Thanet Advertiser* 21 November 1925.

area in 1925, intending to use the workshops for their own maintenance purposes and hoping to let as much as possible of the rest to any interested parties who might appear.

**32.3** In 1926, Sandwich Town council opened negotiations with Messrs Pearson and Dorman Long to obtain electricity from their newly acquired power station at Stonar,<sup>199</sup> and in July 1929 the firm sought rights ‘to supply electricity to the whole Richborough Port area.’<sup>200</sup> Making use of the curious electoral situation in this scarcely occupied parish, early in 1930, their foreman was elected unopposed to the vacant seat on the Isle of Thanet Rural District Council as the representative for Stonar.<sup>201</sup> By the end of the year, Pearson and Dorman Long had developed detailed and far-reaching proposals for Richborough.<sup>202</sup> Little ultimately came of these, however, and the premises passed to the National Coal Board, on nationalization in 1947.

**32.4** At some point, Pearson and Dorman Long diversified into gravel extraction. When Ramsgate built its vast new seafront Bathing Pool in 1935, ‘the concrete used for the work was made from aggregates and sand supplied from the Stonar pit of Messrs Pearson and Dorman Long Ltd.’<sup>203</sup> The term ‘Stonar Ballast’ became conspicuous in their operations, as they prospected for more.

The boreholes of Messrs Pearson and Dorman Long at Stonar were put down over the whole area from which it was expected that payable depths of shingle could be dug or dredged. [...] Practically the whole of this shingle lies on the east side of the Sandwich–Ramsgate road. [...] To the south of Stonar House the boreholes showed only silt and sand (Hardman and Stebbing 1940, 75).

**32.5** With increased extraction came new archaeological discoveries within the:

land belonging to Messrs. Pearson, Dorman Long & Co., a little south of the large basin called Stonar Lake. This part of Stonar lies on a wide bank of flint shingle up to 50 feet thick which is now being dredged for the Staffordshire potteries (Pearce 1938).

Further finds were made along the course of new railway lines being laid around the eastern and southern sides of the lake (see above, text section 7.1).

**32.6** By 1938, the northernmost row of huts at Stonar Camp had been demolished (Pearce 1938; Figs 56 & 57).

### **33. Jewish refugees at Kitchener Camp, from January 1939**

**33.1** In 1939, the Home Office allowed Jewish refugees from occupied Europe, the use of the former Kitchener Camp.

Richborough Camp is now to be used as a haven of safety for German refugees. [...] The owners of the land, Messrs Pearson and Dorman Long Ltd, have placed the camp at [the Council for German Jewry’s] disposal and it stated that that they have “determined

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<sup>199</sup> *Thanet Advertiser* 6 March 1926.

<sup>200</sup> *Thanet Advertiser* 26 July 1929.

<sup>201</sup> *Thanet Advertiser* 4 April 1930.

<sup>202</sup> *Thanet Advertiser* 5 December 1930.

<sup>203</sup> *Thanet Advertiser* 26 July 1935.

with great generosity to make no profit out of the occupation of their property by the refugees.”<sup>204</sup>

**33.2** They quickly repaired the decrepit buildings. The story of their time at Kitchener Camp, and of their role in the war effort, is well attested at TNA and elsewhere, and would make a salutary study for those inclined to blame our present problems on refugees:

Four months ago Richborough, the famous war-time “mystery port,” was merely a collection of ugly derelict stone [*sic*] buildings with roofs and windows shattered, rusty disused railway lines and mud tracks – certainly no place to think of finding a home. Now the story is very different. The refugees from Germany, who have come to Richborough in their hundreds, have worked a miracle, and the cinema, the construction of which took only a few weeks, represents the latest result of their efforts.<sup>205</sup>

## 34. The Second World War

**34.1** Richborough Port would, naturally, play a considerable role in the Second World War. The Navy used the port facilities and would re-open the vacated Kitchener Camp as HMS Robertson in July 1943 (Butler 1996, 84). Manufacturing sites on the Port were brought back into service. War Agriculture was prosecuted in connection with something called ‘Stonar Farm’ – it is hard to know what can have been meant by this.<sup>206</sup> Stonar Camp underwent a variety of uses, divided into military and civil sections. Stonar House was brought back into use in part as officer accommodation, and in part as a recording station:

A special service of particular importance was rendered by a section of the aliens [*i.e.* the refugees], monitoring and recording day and night the broadcasts from all the German stations. A section of Stonar House was equipped with scores of receiving sets (Bentwich 1971, 155).

**34.2** Some of the personnel of the new Sandwich RADAR station – about a mile away, beside the White Mill on the Ash Road – are thought to have been accommodated in the concrete huts (Fig. 58).

## 35. The late twentieth century

**35.1** The Second World War was followed by an uneasy peace, with authorities anticipating an attack by air from the east. There was a marked downturn in political relations in 1946. The perceived threat, especially after 1949, included the possibility of a nuclear assault. Because any attack was still expected to be deployed by high-flying bomber aircraft, early warning was a defence priority, and the wartime RADAR infrastructure would be extended and improved. Stonar and the other camps were again vacated and soon fell back into decay.

Today they stand, uninhabited, grass and bushes climbing the walls and the weather beating through the broken, tumbledown remains, ghost shadows of a vital wartime

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<sup>204</sup> *Thanet Advertiser* 20 January 1939; cf *Thanet Advertiser* 31 January 1939 and 10 October 1939.

<sup>205</sup> *Thanet Advertiser* 16 June 1939.

<sup>206</sup> *Whitstable Times* 17 July 1943.

civilisation which faded as the troops were demobilised and the world returned to shaping a peaceful future.<sup>207</sup>

**35.2** The inevitable plans to revive the port commercially came to nothing, but many parts of the complex were adapted to industrial use.

‘The refugee camp and the “Q” port, after the World War was over, were turned to productive uses of light industry on a scale which had been unknown in the region. The international firm of Pfizer established their centre in England for the manufacture of healing pharmaceuticals [...] The old huts in the Haig and Kitchener Camps were used for a rubber industry, and a factory of marine engines. A little further towards Ramsgate the landscape was changed with three huge chimneys of the electricity generating station for the region’ (Bentwich 1971, 157).

## **36. The Wingham Engineering Co. Ltd, by 1948**

**36.1** By 1948, Stonar Camp had been taken over by the Wingham Engineering Co. Ltd, who resumed the encroachment of the North Lake on the northern edge of Stonar Camp (Fig. 65).

The Wingham Engineering Co Ltd.  
Stonar Ballast.  
Washed and crushed shingles. Washed sand.  
Tarmacadam manufacturers.  
Road Making. Roller and plant hire.  
Wingham, Canterbury.<sup>208</sup>

**36.2** By the mid-1950s, all of the huts in the northern half of the camp had been demolished, and some of those on the southern half had been cut in half, to make way for stock piles and crushing and grading plant (Figs 58–65).

## **37. RAF Sandwich billeted at Stonar House, from 1947**

**37.1** In April 1942, construction of a new Ground Control Intercept (GCI) radar station had begun on the south side of Ash Road, to the west of Sandwich. Whereas the existing Chain Home and Chain Home Low radars all looked out to sea, the new GCI stations were designed to continue tracking hostile aircraft once they had passed inland. This first station at Sandwich was of the ‘Intermediate Transportable’ type, pending the construction, in 1943, of a permanent ‘Final’-type station, with a brick-built operations block, known as a ‘Happidrome.’ This station remained operational after the war, but the operations room was damaged by fire in June 1945 and replaced by temporary facilities.<sup>209</sup> Early in November 1946:

A conference was held on the station to discuss rebuilding and re-forming the station and discussed in some detail the future prospects of the station including the possibility of constructing an Auster landing strip. [...] and the] possibility of taking over a vacated hutted camp (Stonar Camp) to accommodate all personnel.<sup>210</sup>

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<sup>207</sup> *Thanet Advertiser* 21 November 1950.

<sup>208</sup> *Dover Express* 4 June 1948.

<sup>209</sup> Nick Catford, ‘RAF Sandwich (‘YTM’) R3 GCI ROTOR’ article on *Subterranea Britannica* website.

<sup>210</sup> TNA: AIR 29/1957.

**37.2** The Camp was inspected and its facilities approved. By the middle of that month, the staff – some of whom were billeted at premises in Strand Street, Sandwich – were:

looking forward to the time when they may operate in more comfortable quarters and especially to the time when they may be housed in one camp with more satisfactory recreational facilities.<sup>211</sup>

**37.3** At a conference in December, however:

it was agreed to transfer the request for billeting of the Station from Stonar Camp to Stonar House proper. The Conference visited both sites and it was agreed that if this request were successful the billeting problems of the Station would be solved.<sup>212</sup>

**37.4** On Christmas Day, verbal permission was received ‘for the station to take over Stonar House on a temporary basis.’ On inspection, however, ‘it was found that the whole water system had not been drained and [had] consequently frozen over.’ By 28 March ‘all personnel [had] moved to new billets at Stonar House:’

The station has now transferred to Stonar House. All domestic facilities are now satisfactory and the billets are adequate and habitable. The technical changeover is progressing, but unfortunately rather slowly. All personnel are looking forward to more active Operations which it is hoped will come with the improvement of weather conditions.<sup>213</sup>

**37.5** The station became operational early in August 1947,<sup>214</sup> but there was still work to be done to repair and refurbish the neglected Stonar House:

Preparations for the annual inspection by the Air Officer Commanding No 11 Group have been expedited, and, in particular, the Domestic Site at Stonar House is still in the course of rehabilitation from the state of a semi-derelict building to the efficiency and neatness of an RAF station.<sup>215</sup>

**37.6** By mid-May, a room (or rooms) in the house had been fitted out as ‘the Clipper Club,’ for entertainment. This was doubtless named ironically, after the business-class lounges that Pan American World Airways maintained at many airports where they operated.<sup>216</sup> The station advertised for additional staff in October:

Applications are now invited from ex-RAF officers and airmen and ex-WAAF officers and airwomen to join the [No 3500 (County of Kent) Air Defence Unit, Auxiliary Air Force]. Vacancies exist for clerks SD, teleprinter operators and attendants, telephonists, radar operators and mechanics, RT operators and wireless mechanics, drivers MT, cooks, administrative staff, etc [...] Adjutant, No. 3500 (County of Kent) Air Defence Unit, RAF Station, Sandwich.<sup>217</sup>

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<sup>211</sup> TNA: AIR 29/1957.

<sup>212</sup> TNA: AIR 29/1957.

<sup>213</sup> TNA: AIR 29/1957.

<sup>214</sup> TNA: AIR 29/1957.

<sup>215</sup> TNA: AIR 29/1957.

<sup>216</sup> *Wikipedia* article on Pan American World Airways.

<sup>217</sup> *Whitstable Times* 18 October 1947.



**37.7** On 16 January 1949:

a fire occurred at 05.45 hours in the Officers Mess and Sergeants Mess, Stonar Camp. The Kent Fire Brigade was called and the fire was quickly under control and extinguished. Slight damage was done mostly to floor boards and joists. Smoke discolouration occurred in most ground floor rooms. The fire originated in the back of the boiler room. The assumed cause was cloth drying on the hot pipes coming into contact with the boiler flue and igniting.<sup>218</sup>

## **38. The RAF Sandwich domestic site, c. 1954**

**38.1** In 1949, as the international situation worsened, RAF Sandwich was chosen to participate in the new ROTOR programme, albeit relocated underground in a bunker at Ash – which became operational the following year. In February 1953, the operational element of RAF Sandwich was retitled 491 Signals Unit.<sup>219</sup> The Sandwich RAF station was extended in the early 1950s, probably 1953 or 1954, and was granted the freedom of the town on 5 July 1955 (Wanostrocht 1993, 15). It housed personnel from RAF Ash, and possibly others. The RAF station's crest reputedly featured Sandwich's famous Barbican and the motto 'We take our toll'. It is tempting to see the motto as a canting reference to the Sandwich Toll Bridge at the south-west corner of the site.

**38.2** Stonar House was within the camp and was used for officers' accommodation, and possibly as a medical centre, but it is unlikely any of the remaining First-World-War huts were used, unless for storage.

**38.3** New concrete huts with corrugated asbestos roofs and Air-Force-blue woodwork were built, to the south of the First-World-War camp, to house the stations' personnel, along with married quarters – large, well-built, two-storey brick houses with garden plots behind laid out behind serpentine drives, and around three sides of a grassy lawn, in the north-west corner (Figs 66 & 67). The construction of the Camp's many new buildings may have uncovered archaeological remains and reignited an old debate over the former whereabouts of Stonar:

Historians living and dead differ about its site, and each is quite certain that the others are wrong!

Some say it stood a quarter of a mile north of the toll-bridge, on the east side of the Ramsgate–Sandwich road.

Even this school of thought is split. Some say it lies under the RAF station, others insist it is under the adjoining Wingham Engineering Company premises.

The other historians declare that Stonar stood about a mile from the RAF station, at the spot now called Stonar Cut.

[...] Councillor WPD Stebbing, of Deal, is one local historian with no doubt on the matter.

He told a reporter, "I have been excavating for about 20 years, finding pottery etc, and I am quite positive the town of Stonar stood where now stands the engineering works."

The Mayor of Sandwich (Alderman J.J. Thomas) [...] maintains it stood roughly where the RAF station is today. And he is supported in this by officers at the station.<sup>220</sup>

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<sup>218</sup> TNA: AIR 29/1957. The boiler house was situated in the basement (*Thanet Advertiser* 25 January 1949).

<sup>219</sup> Nick Catford, 'RAF Sandwich ('YTM') R3 GCI ROTOR' article on *Subterranea Britannica* website; TNA: AIR 29/2935.

<sup>220</sup> *Kent Messenger* 21 September 1956.

## 39. Obsolescence

### 39.1

RAF Sandwich survived the cuts in the 1957 Defence White Paper and was to become a satellite control station with improved equipment and reduced personnel.<sup>221</sup> In December 1957, however, 'confirmation of the unit's function as the sole RAuxAF (Fighter Control) Summer Camp venue for 1958 was received.' This implied 'a run-down or cessation in the operational role of the station by April/May, 1958,' and it was predicted that 1957 would prove to have been 'the last complete operating year of the GCI at Sandwich.'<sup>222</sup> The station remained in use on a non-operational basis for RAuxAF FCU summer camps before the site was placed on care and maintenance on 20th September 1958.<sup>223</sup>

On 18 April, the bulk of the operations personnel left the station and the door was closed on the GCI as a regular operational station. It is possible that a small amount of operational work will be undertaken during the summer while auxiliary units are in camp so that the unit will not be completely lost to the control and reporting organisation yet.<sup>224</sup>

The season of RAAF Summer Camp came to an end on 21 September. The rest of the month was spent in the winding-up of inventories and the reduction of status of RAF Sandwich to [Care and Management] Party Sandwich. The Officers' Mess non-public account was closed on 30 September and the Mess then ceased to function as such. Up to this date no firm policy of the future of the Station has been received.<sup>225</sup>

**39.2** The domestic site had been vacated by the start of December, although the married quarters were retained under the control of RAF Manston for use by families of airmen posted overseas.<sup>226</sup>

## 40. Sandwich Industrial Estate, 1960s

**40.1** Wingham Engineering Company remained in operation into the early 1970s, by which time most of the smaller sand and gravel had been extracted, and larger 'blue stones' were dredged for ceramic use. By the start of 1965 permission had been granted to redevelop Stonar Camp (both old and new) as an industrial estate (Figs 68 & 69). The County Planning Officer had noted archaeological importance of the area and referred it to the Ministry of Works – an earlier report had advised that the Ministry be allowed to conduct any excavation in the area. By the end of the decade, pretty much the entire site was in industrial use. Around 1972, plans were drawn up to extend the Industrial Estate into the field to the east, and the present concrete roads were laid, but the new section was never developed. The said field has since been used to dump large quantities of chalk.

**40.2** In 1975, the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority carried out experiments in Stonar Lake.<sup>227</sup> The Stonar Camp Married Quarters were sold to a private company, and became a housing estate, in the early 1990s. Early this century, part of the camp was demolished to make way for a luxury housing development.

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<sup>221</sup> Nick Catford, 'RAF Sandwich ('YTM') R3 GCI ROTOR' article on *Subterranea Britannica* website.

<sup>222</sup> TNA: AIR 29/2935.

<sup>223</sup> Nick Catford, 'RAF Sandwich ('YTM') R3 GCI ROTOR' article on *Subterranea Britannica* website.

<sup>224</sup> TNA: AIR 29/2935.

<sup>225</sup> TNA: AIR 29/2935.

<sup>226</sup> Nick Catford, 'RAF Sandwich ('YTM') R3 GCI ROTOR' article on *Subterranea Britannica* website.

<sup>227</sup> TNA: AB 15/7404.

## 41. Stonar House in the late twentieth century

**41.1** Around the start of 1965, H. Hamberstone of Margate Motors Ltd applied for permission to demolish Stonar House, wishing 'to develop the site for light industry'. It seems already, to have been a Grade II Listed Building, although it was, or had been, Crown Property, so it featured on the Crown Property list, rather than the main list. By this time, however, it was very dilapidated. The Ministry of Housing and Local Government advised that it was 'an eighteenth century house whose principal features are a centre window emphasised by Venetian shutters and a good doorway,' and recommended a 'photographic record perhaps supplemented by drawings and report' ahead of demolition.<sup>228</sup> Stonar House was not, however, demolished, and seems, in 1970, to have been added to the main list (see above, text section **13.9**).

**41.2** Stonar House was de-listed in 1997 due to its advanced state of decay. Soon afterwards, it was burnt down, and it is now an overgrown ruin.

The married quarters are now in private occupation and now form Stonar Gardens (officers) and Stonar Close (other ranks). [...] The hutted camp now forms the Sandwich Industrial Estate. In recent years the west side of the camp which was part of the industrial estate was demolished to make way for new luxury housing but many of the other camp buildings survive including the Standby Set House, Main Stores, MT Section, Sick Quarters, Fire Station and some of the WRAF accommodation blocks.<sup>229</sup>

## 42. Historical importance of Stonar: general comments and conclusions

**42.1** Positioned on a shingle beach ridge (Stonar Bank) which is of considerable interest and significance in terms of coastal geomorphology, the deserted medieval settlement of Stonar in north-east Kent represents a site of very special archaeological and historical interest. The almost complete desertion, during the late fourteenth century, of the small but reasonably prosperous medieval town located here represents an unusual occurrence in southern England.

**42.2** The settlement's position on the Kent coast, facing the Continent (Fig. 1), ensured its standing as a significant port for a considerable time, with the impressive range of imported continental pottery discovered here having attracted the attention of archaeological ceramics specialists for many years (e.g. Dunning in Hardman and Stebbing 1941; Macpherson-Grant 1991). The large amounts of Dutch, French, non-local English and occasionally Spanish material present at the site represent some key assemblages (Figs 22 & 23).

**42.3** The wealth of artefactual material recovered from the settlement site overall, largely uncontaminated by later, post-medieval occupation, makes Stonar a highly important site for medieval studies generally. Unfortunately, ancient Stonar and its surrounding landscape has not survived intact. Starting during the late nineteenth century, extensive quarrying of the shingle ridge led to many thousands of tonnes of beach material being taken away and much of the southern part of the ridge is now gone, leaving the original Stonar Bank as a local coastal feature severely damaged (Figs 17 & 18).

**42.4** The same quarrying for shingle also led to extensive destruction of a substantial area of the medieval settlement, with perhaps as much as three-quarters of the town's original extent being completely removed. From the somewhat limited archaeological works which were undertaken

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<sup>228</sup> KHL: CC/C-PL/2/AHI-22/27.

<sup>229</sup> Nick Catford, 'RAF Sandwich ('YTM') R3 GCI ROTOR' article on *Subterranea Britannica* website.

during this process, it is clear that the destruction caused to the site represents a major loss to British archaeology.

**42.5** In the absence of any contemporary cartographic information (Figs 4 & 5), the overall layout of the medieval town of Stonar is now difficult to reconstruct (Fig. 18). The undisturbed area of ground at the southern tip of the Stonar bank that is Scheduled as an Ancient Monument (Fig. 2) represents the 'best guess' estimate as to where the last surviving portion of the once important medieval town and its harbour facilities are located. The present study reaffirms this conclusion.

**42.6** Details of the local topography can perhaps provide some additional evidence as to the former extent of the medieval settlement area. Wetland researchers have frequently demonstrated how in many low-lying, watery environments across southern Britain, even very slight rises in elevation have often been exploited by early settlers taking advantage of drier ground, whilst still remaining close to the rich resources offered by adjacent marshes and open water. This general observation would seem to apply to the Stonar site, where the well-drained shingle of the Stonar Bank rises up to 2.50m above the surrounding marshlands (Figs 3 & 18).

**42.7** The shingle of the Stonar Bank thus offered an area of higher, drier land immediately adjacent to the River Stour and its associated wetlands. The focus of medieval Stonar may thus be expected to lie across the shingle deposit, largely avoiding the wetter marshland clays. This is borne out by the available archaeological evidence and it may be concluded that the configuration of the local geology strongly influenced the extent of the early settlement, even allowing for any encroachments down to the river and onto the fringes of the marshland. Medieval settlers are likely to have gravitated towards the highest part of the ridge. Here the densest occupation and perhaps some of the earliest structures might be expected. Amongst these structures was the church of St Nicholas, first recorded in the eleventh century (Fig. 19).

**42.8** The earliest pottery identified dates to the late eleventh century, which closely tallies with the earliest documentary record of 1090 (see Sparks above, text section 6). Nevertheless, habitation in the area at an earlier date seems quite likely. It is difficult to gauge what evidence for primary occupation might have been removed by quarrying, without record. Based on the local topography and Macpherson-Grant's investigations, Fig. 18 presented here represents the closest representation of an overall town plan presently available for Stonar.

**42.9** Documentary references indicate that after abandonment, during the later seventeenth century, part of the area of the old medieval town on the Bank had been cultivated, with buried foundations grubbed out to ease the passage of the plough (see above, 7.3.3.4). Such ploughing clearly indicates that the land here was dry enough to cultivate, whilst the effort involved in removing buried foundations suggests that the ground was reasonably productive and worthy of the labour involved. It has only been in modern times, with appropriate land drainage systems, that any of the adjacent marshlands have been ploughed.

**42.10** Another highly important aspect concerning the story of the Stonar site, effectively unconnected to its medieval history except through locational geography, is the site's role as part of a key military installation during the First World War (Figs 25, 26 & 54) and, to a lesser degree, during the Second World War and after (Fig. 67). The area covered by the Scheduled Ancient Monument had been previously occupied by a dense complex of military buildings during the First World War (Figs 25 & 26) and the Second World War, although the available evidence suggests that these may not have not caused massive damage to the underlying medieval remains (Fig. 57).

### 43. Comments on the archaeology of the Scheduled area

**43.1** The church and much of the area covered by the medieval settlement at Stonar was destroyed by shingle digging between 1898 and 1974, with no hope of anything surviving in the area now occupied by Stonar Lake. The northern limits and central portions of the medieval town have been lost to this quarrying, leaving just the southern part of the settlement, perhaps with associated quays and jetties, as the last surviving part of the site. For protection, this area has been Scheduled as an Ancient Monument since August 1968 (Fig. 2).

**43.2** The area covered by the Scheduled Ancient Monument, south of Stonar Lake (Fig. 2), is believed to encompass the site of the last remains of the medieval town (southern part) but there have been no formal archaeological investigations here aimed at establishing the full extent, depth and survival of any archaeology in this region. Previous excavations have indicated that the archaeological deposits present on the site are quite shallowly buried and of no great thickness (generally no more than one metre). Excavation has also demonstrated that the remains of many of the medieval structures present here are quite ephemeral (Fig. 20) and could be easily missed or not recognised in small interventions.

**43.3** Investigation by Macpherson-Grant has suggested that the ground in one area to the south of the church contains only 'minimal archaeology' (Perkins 1993, map 2). Nevertheless, the presence of a road and stratified deposit at No. 2 Stonar Gardens might suggest a different conclusion (Fig. 18). It is probably reasonable to assume that the occurrence of medieval deposits across the Scheduled area is variable, both in terms of thickness and complexity.

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