

# Heritage and Archaeological Assessment.

Land at Moat Road, Headcorn, Kent.

On behalf of Catesby Estates Plc.

Date: 19/09/2023 | Pegasus Ref: P21-3568

Author: AT / JT / DS / HA

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## Document Management.

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5	19 <sup>th</sup> September 2023	AT/JT/DS/HA	GS	Amended layout and development description; and, NPPF updates



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# 1. Introduction

1.1. Pegasus Group have been commissioned by Catesby Strategic Land Limited to prepare a Heritage and Archaeological Assessment to consider the proposed residential development of land at Moat Road, Headcorn, as shown on the Site Location Plan provided at Plate 1.



Plate 1: Site Location Plan.

1.2. The Site does not contain any principal Listed Buildings, or fall within a Conservation Area, however it contains some dilapidated former farm buildings relating to Moat Farm in the south-eastern area which may be considered to be curtilage Listed by the LPA due to their former association with the Grade II Listed 'The Moat', which is located approximately 35m south-east of the Site.

1.3. This Assessment considers any potential heritage constraints to the deliverability of the Site, which is being promoted for allocation within the emerging Maidstone Local Plan to provide 120 homes.

1.4. This Assessment provides information with regards to the significance of the historic environment to fulfil the requirement given in paragraph 194 of the Government's *National Planning Policy Framework* (the *NPPF*) which requires:

***"...an applicant to describe the significance of any heritage assets affected, including any contribution made by their setting".<sup>1</sup>***

1.5. In order to inform an assessment of the acceptability of the scheme in relation to impacts on the historic environment and archaeological resource, following paragraphs 199 to 203 of the *NPPF*, any harm to the historic environment resulting from the proposed

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<sup>1</sup> Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC), *National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)* (London, September 2023), para. 194.

development is also described, including impacts on significance through changes to setting.

- 1.6. As required by paragraph 194 of the *NPPF*, the detail and assessment in this Report is considered to be “proportionate to the assets’ importance”.<sup>2</sup>

### **Proposed Development**

- 1.7. The proposals to residentially develop the Site to provide 120 homes are illustrated on the Indicative Masterplan, an extract of which is presented at Plate 2 (below).

- 1.8. The description of development is as follows:

***‘Outline application (with all matters reserved except access) for the development of up to 120no. dwellings (Use Class C3) including demolition of existing buildings, means of access into the site from Moat Road (not internal roads), associated highway works,***

***provision of public open space, emergency / pedestrian access to Millbank and associated infrastructure including surface water drainage (with related off site s278 highway works to Moat Road).’***

- 1.9. Two broad parcels of residential development are proposed, one in the southern part of the Site and a larger parcel in the northern part. A series of public open spaces, green corridors, and attenuation features are proposed across the Site. Existing vegetation at the boundaries will be retained and augmented, and there will be new planting within. Vehicular access will be via Moat Road from the south. The former farm buildings located within the south-east corner of the Site will be demolished to accommodate an area of public open space.
- 1.10. This Indicative Masterplan has informed the heritage assessments that follow.

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<sup>2</sup> DLUHC, *NPPF*, para. 194.



Romsley Portishead Camberley  
 T: 01753 652194 F: 01753 400000 I: 01753 461610  
 T: 017861 559276 F: 017861 507276 T: 017861 507276

Rd Description  
 A Main Road  
 B District Road  
 C Minor Road

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Project	Meen Road, Headcorn		
Drawing	Sketch Layout Master Plan - 01		
Client	CASESBY ESTATES PLC		
Job No.	CA1621010	Date	08.11.22
Drawn	VLJ/JP	Rev	01
Author	VLJ/JP	Checked	JP
Status	PLANNING	Office	Romsley
Client Ref.			



Plate 2: Sketch Layout Master Plan





## 2. Site Description and Planning History

### Site Description

- 2.1. The proposed development Site covers 7.26ha and largely comprises agricultural land, characterised by open pasture with some remnant field boundaries. There is a collection of dilapidated former farm buildings in the south-east of the Site (illustrated and discussed in more detail below).
- 2.2. The southern boundary of the Site is formed by Moat Road, with trees lining the boundary, and an electricity substation at the south-west corner (immediately beyond the Site). To the north and east, the Site is bounded by residential estates. The western boundary is largely defined by mature vegetation, with more fields beyond and a small cluster of residential plots located near the north-west corner of the Site.

### Site Development / Map Regression

- 2.3. The 1841 tithe map and accompanying apportionment for the parish of Headcorn (Plate 3) record that the entire Site was then owned and occupied by 'The Master & Fellows of Saint John's Cambridge College' and containing a combination of fields, orchard, meadow and buildings, as shown in the table below.



*Plate 3: 1841 Tithe Map with Approximate Site Location outlined in red*

Plot No.	Owner	Occupier	Description
1528	The Master & Fellows of Saint John's Cambridge College	The Master & Fellows of Saint John's Cambridge College	Bank Field
1439	The Master & Fellows of Saint John's Cambridge College	The Master & Fellows of Saint John's Cambridge College	Moat House & Yard
1442	As above	As above	Barn Meadow
1443	As above	As above	Yard and building
1444	As above	As above	Yard and building
1445	As above	As above	Yard and building
1446	As above	As above	Drift way and saw pit
1447	As above	As above	Orchard

- 2.4. The First Edition Ordnance Survey map from 1876 (Plate 4) shows similar subdivision and land use, with the orchard clearly illustrated in the south-east corner of the Site, near the outbuildings pertaining to Moat Farm.
- 2.5. Ordnance Survey mapping from 1898 illustrates little change within the Site (Plate 5) aside from a new marked footpath in the south-western part and a possible change to the extent of the orchard in the south-east corner.
- 2.6. The subsequent 1908 map illustrates no notable changes (Plate 6).

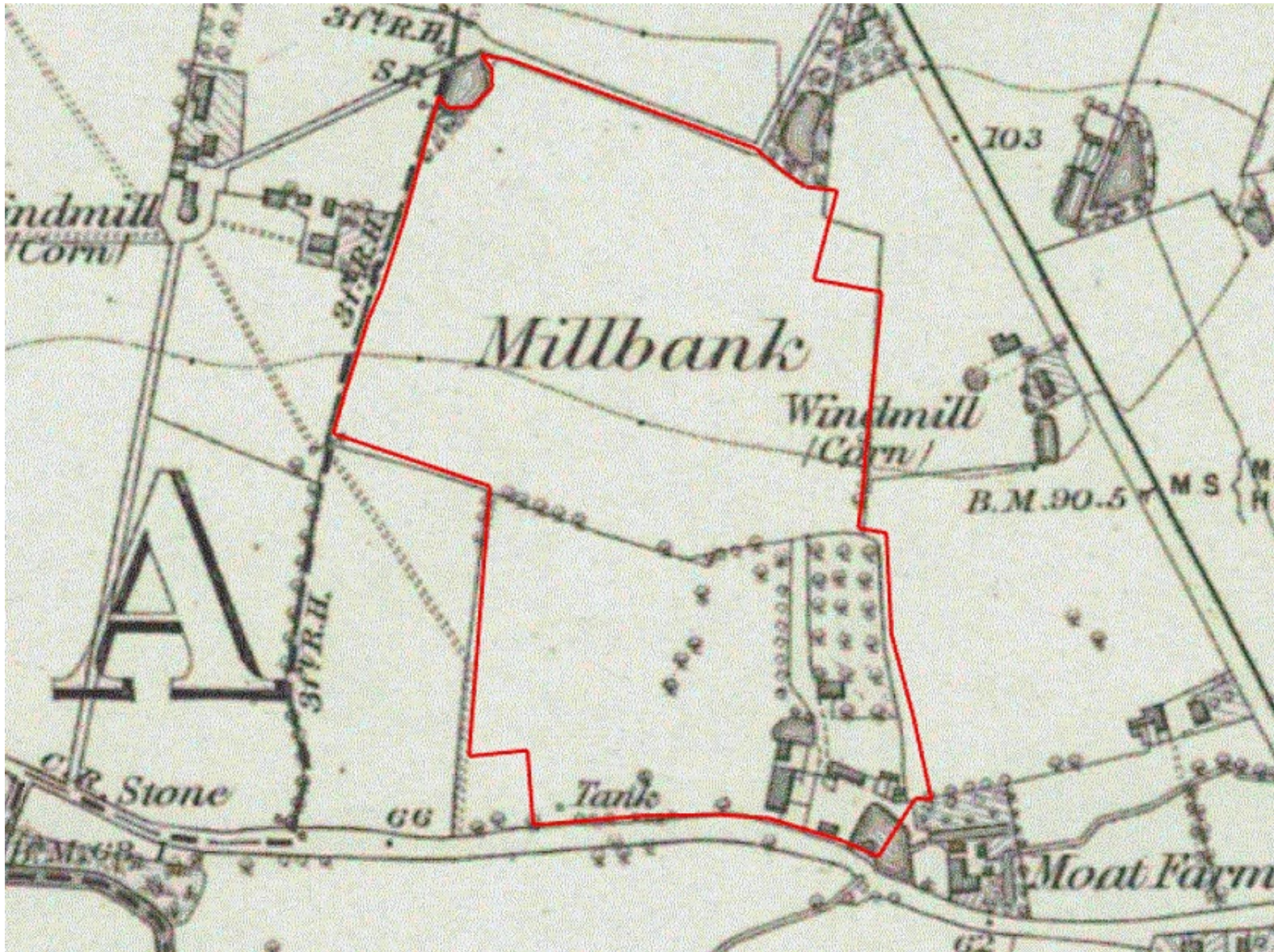


Plate 4: 1876 OS Map with Approximate Site Location outlined in red..

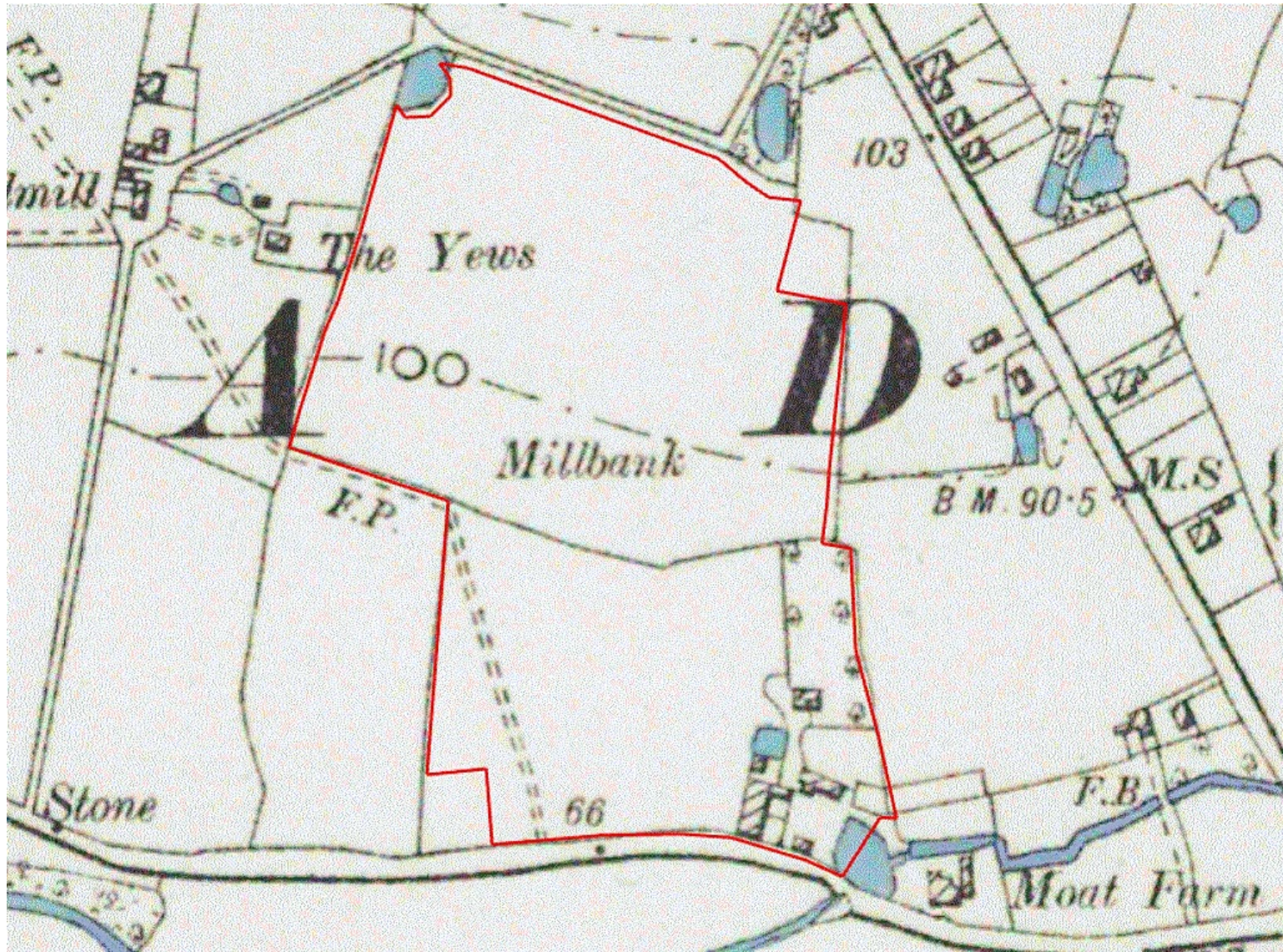


Plate 5: 1898 OS Map with Approximate Site Location outlined in red.

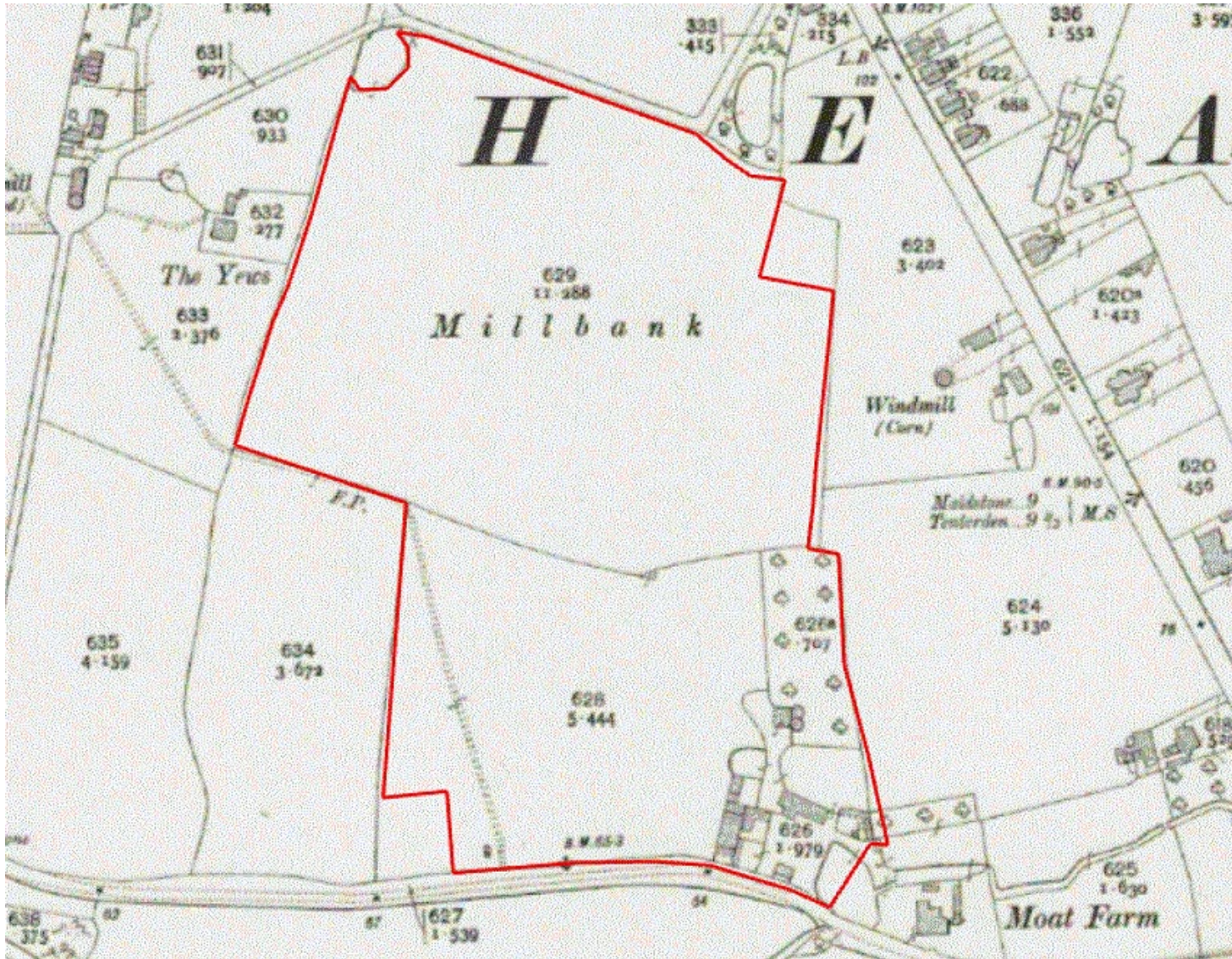


Plate 6: 1908 OS Map with Approximate Site Location outlined in red.

- 2.7. Activity is observable within the site on an aerial photograph from 1960, with a rectangular plan feature being recorded in the north-eastern part of the site on the 1970 Ordnance Survey map (Plate 7 & Plate 8). This activity and feature correspond with the construction of a Royal Observer Underground Monitoring Post (this will be further discussed in the archaeology section below).
- 2.8. The 1960 aerial photograph and 1970 map record additional field boundaries within the northern parcel of the Site and to the north of the farm buildings in the southern section. Also, the electricity substation had been constructed by 1960.



*Plate 7: 1960 Aerial Photograph of the Site with Approximate Site Location outlined in red.*

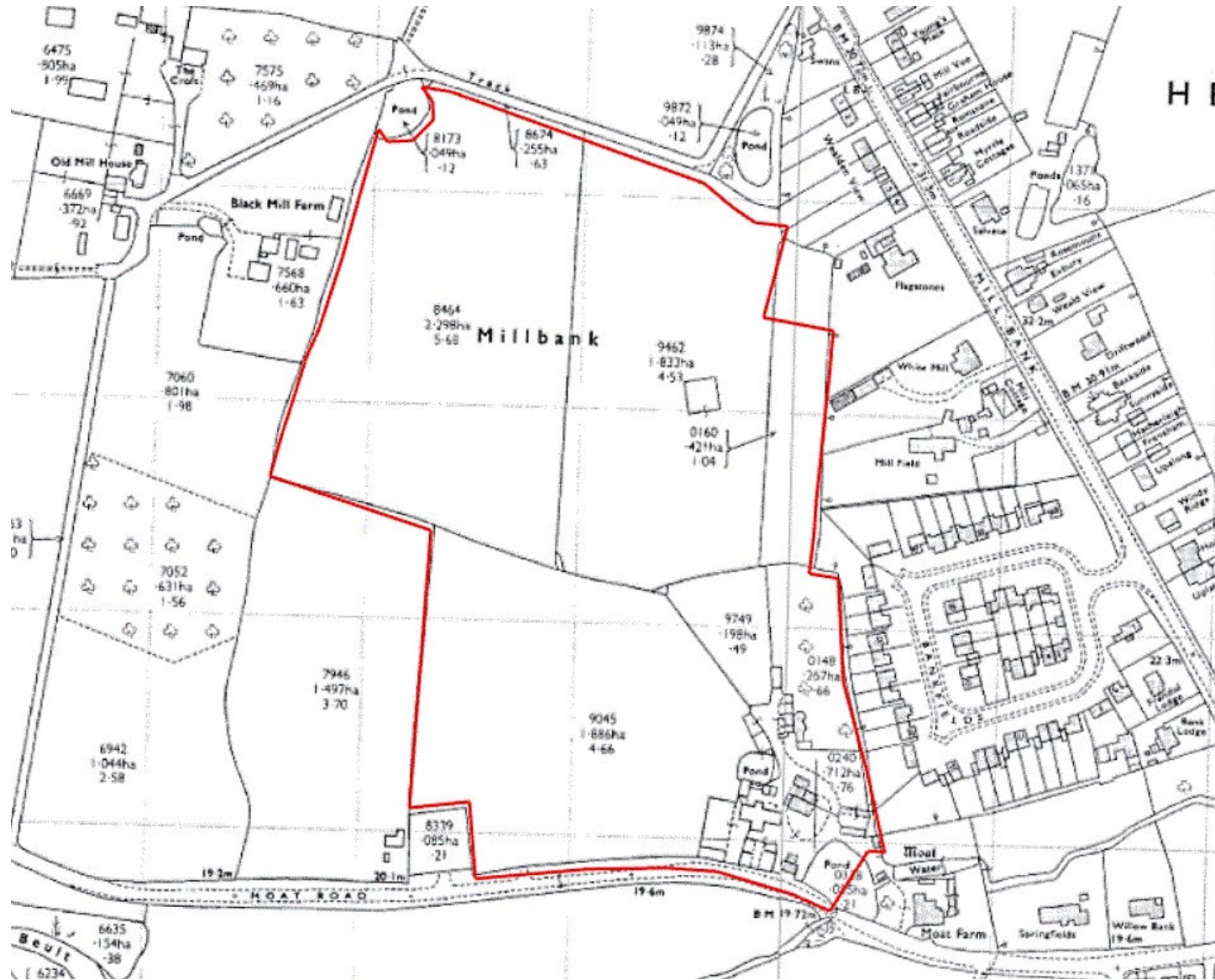


Plate 8: 1970 OS Map with Approximate Site Location.



- 2.9. More recent aerial photographs show the Site from 1990 to 2021 (Plate 9 – Plate 12). The northern part of the Site had been re-amalgamated into a single field parcel by 2006, and notably, the monitoring post is no longer visible in any of the photographs.



*Plate 9: 1990 Aerial Photograph of the Site.*



*Plate 10: 2006 Aerial Photograph of the Site.*

- 2.11. Between 2015 and 2021 (Plate 11 & Plate 12), some of the farm buildings within the south-east corner of the Site had been demolished, and new, residential development had been built-out to the north.



*Plate 11: 2015 Aerial Photograph of the Site.*



*Plate 12: 2021 Aerial Photograph of the Site.*

## Planning History

- 2.12. The following planning history for the Site is held online by Maidstone Borough Council:
- **00/1910 | Application for the renewal of permission MA/95/1699 to convert oast to B1 office use, demolition of existing buildings and refurbishment of former granary. | Oast House, Moat Farm, Moat Road, Headcorn.** Application permitted: Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2001. No precise location plan is available.
  - **95/1699 | Renewal of MA/91/0230 to convert oast to B1 office use demolition of existing buildings and refurbishment of former granary as shown on dwg nos 2451.01 and O2A and O3 submitted 18.02.91 and 22.04.91. | Moat Farm Moat Road Headcorn.** Application permitted: Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> January 1996.
  - **91/0230 | Conversion of oast to office use (class B1) demolition of existing buildings and refurbishment of former granary as validated and amended by drawing no.2451/02/A received 22 April 1991 | Land At Moat Farm Moat Road Headcorn.** Application permitted: Friday 28<sup>th</sup> June 1991.
  - **86/1565 | Conversion of oast to single dwelling | Moat Farm, Moat Road, Headcorn.** Application refused: Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> December 1986.

### 3. Methodology

3.1. The aims of this Report are to assess the significance of the heritage resource within the site and study area, to assess any contribution that the site makes to the heritage significance of the identified heritage assets, and to identify any harm or benefit to them which may result from the implementation of the development proposals, along with the level of any harm caused, if relevant.

3.2. This assessment considers the archaeological resource and built heritage. It has been updated following comments from the Senior Archaeological Officer for Kent County Council (24<sup>th</sup> January 2023), who recommended that the following information was essential, prior to determination:

- Archaeological DBA;
- Special assessment of the ROC structure;
- Archaeological landscape assessment; and,
- Fieldwork (geophysical surveying and/or trial trenching).

#### Sources

3.3. The following key sources have been consulted as part of this assessment:

- The Kent Historic Environment Record (HER) for information on the recorded heritage resource within the vicinity of the site;

- The Portable Antiquities Scheme’s online database;
- The Kent Historic Landscape Characterisation Project;
- Documentary evidence held by Saint John’s College, Cambridge;
- The results of a geophysical survey of the site (Magnitude Surveys 2023; Appendix 9);
- The National Heritage List for England for information on designated heritage assets;
- Historic maps available online;
- Aerial photographs available online via Historic England’s Aerial Photo Explorer and Britain from Above;
- Historic England’s Aerial Archaeology Mapping Explorer;
- The Kent Archives online catalogue;
- Old photographs accessible via the Historic England Architectural Red Box Collection; and
- Other online resources, including Ordnance Survey Open Source data; geological data available from the British Geological Survey; and Google Earth satellite imagery.

3.4. For digital datasets, information was sourced for a 1km study area measured from the boundaries of the site. Information gathered is discussed within the text where it is of relevance to the potential heritage resource of the site. A gazetteer of recorded sites and findspots is included as **Appendix 1** and maps illustrating the resource and study area are included as **Appendix 2**.

3.5. Historic cartographic sources and aerial photographs were reviewed for the site, and beyond this where professional judgement deemed necessary.

3.6. Heritage assets in the wider area were assessed as deemed appropriate (see Section 6).

#### Site Visit

3.7. A site visit was undertaken by a Heritage Consultant from Pegasus Group on 30<sup>th</sup> November 2021, during which the site and its surrounds were assessed.

#### Photographs

3.8. Photographs included in the body text of this Report are for illustrative purposes only to assist in the discussions of heritage assets, their settings, and views, where relevant. Unless explicitly stated, they are not accurate visual representations of the site or development proposals nor do they conform to any standard or guidance i.e., the Landscape Institute Technical Guidance Note O6/19. However, the photographs included are intended to be an honest representation and are taken without the use of a zoom lens or edited, unless stated in the description or caption.

#### Assessment Methodology

3.9. Full details of the assessment methodology used in the preparation of this Report are provided within **Appendix 3**. However, for clarity, this methodology has been informed by the following:

- *CIfA's Standard and Guidance for Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessment*;<sup>3</sup>
- *Historic Environment Good Practice Advice in Planning: 2 – Managing Significance in Decision-Taking in the Historic Environment (hereafter GPA:2)*;<sup>4</sup>
- *Historic Environment Good Practice Advice in Planning Note 3 (Second Edition) – The Setting of*

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<sup>3</sup> Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA), *Standard and Guidance for Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessment* (revised edition, October 2020).

<sup>4</sup> Historic England, *Historic Environment Good Practice Advice in Planning: 2 – Managing Significance in Decision-Taking in the Historic Environment (GPA:2)* (2<sup>nd</sup> edition, Swindon, July 2015).

*Heritage Assets*, the key guidance of assessing setting (hereafter *GPA:3*);<sup>5</sup>

- *Historic England Advice Note 12 – Statements of Heritage Significance: Analysing Significance in Heritage Assets* (hereafter *HEAN:12*);<sup>6</sup> and
- *Conservation Principles: Policies and Guidance for the Sustainable Management of the Historic Environment*.<sup>7</sup>

### Consideration of Harm

- 3.10. It is important to consider whether the proposals cause harm. If they do, then one must consider whether the harm represents "*substantial harm*" or "*less than substantial harm*" to the identified designated heritage assets, in the context of paragraphs 201 and 202 of the *NPPF*.<sup>8</sup> With regard to non-designated heritage assets, potential harm should be considered within the context of paragraph 203 of the *NPPF*.<sup>9</sup>
- 3.11. The *PPG* clarifies that within each category of harm ("*less than substantial*" or "*substantial*"), the extent of the harm may vary and should be clearly articulated.<sup>10</sup>
- 3.12. The guidance set out within the *PPG* also clarifies that "*substantial harm*" is a high test, and that it may not arise

in many cases. It makes it clear that it is the degree of harm to the significance of the asset, rather than the scale of development which is to be assessed.<sup>11</sup> In addition, it has been clarified in a High Court Judgement of 2013 that substantial harm would be harm that would:

**"...have such a serious impact on the significance of the asset that its significance was either vitiated altogether or very much reduced."**<sup>12</sup>

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<sup>5</sup> Historic England, *Historic Environment Good Practice Advice in Planning Note 3 – The Setting of Heritage Assets (GPA:3)* (2<sup>nd</sup> edition, Swindon, December 2017).

<sup>6</sup> Historic England, *Historic England Advice Note 12 – Statements of Heritage Significance: Analysing Significance in Heritage Assets (HEAN:12)* (Swindon, October 2019).

<sup>7</sup> English Heritage, *Conservation Principles: Policies and Guidance for the Sustainable Management of the Historic Environment* (London, April 2008).

<sup>8</sup> DLUHC, *NPPF*, paras. 201 and 202.

<sup>9</sup> DLUHC, *NPPF*, para. 203.

<sup>10</sup> DLUHC, *Planning Practice Guidance (PPG)*, Paragraph: 018 (ID: 18a-018-20190723 Revision date: 23.07.2019).

<sup>11</sup> DLUHC, *PPG*, Paragraph: 018 (ID: 18a-018-20190723 Revision date: 23.07.2019).

<sup>12</sup> EWHC 2847, R DCLG and Nuon UK Ltd v. Bedford Borough Council.



## 4. Policy Framework

### Legislation

- 4.1. Legislation relating to the built historic environment is primarily set out within the *Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990*, which provides statutory protection for Listed Buildings and their settings and Conservation Areas.<sup>13</sup>
- 4.2. In addition to the statutory obligations set out within the aforementioned Act, Section 38(6) of the *Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004* requires that all planning applications, including those for Listed Building Consent, are determined in accordance with the Development Plan unless material considerations indicate otherwise.<sup>14</sup>
- 4.3. Full details of the relevant legislation are provided in **Appendix 4**.

### National Planning Policy Guidance

- 4.4. National Planning Policy guidance relating to the historic environment is provided within Section 16 of the

Government's *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF), an updated version of which was published in September 2023. The NPPF is also supplemented by the national *Planning Policy Guidance* (PPG) which comprises a full and consolidated review of planning practice guidance documents to be read alongside the NPPF and which contains a section related to the Historic Environment.<sup>15</sup> The PPG also contains the *National Design Guide*.<sup>16</sup>

- 4.5. Full details of the relevant national policy guidance is provided within **Appendix 4**.

### The Development Plan

- 4.6. Applications for Planning Permission are currently considered against the policy and guidance set out within the Maidstone Borough Local Plan (adopted 25<sup>th</sup> October 2017).
- 4.7. Details of the policy specific relevant to the application proposals are provided within **Appendix 6**.

<sup>13</sup> UK Public General Acts, Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990.

<sup>14</sup> UK Public General Acts, Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, Section 38(6).

<sup>15</sup> Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC), *Planning Practice Guidance: Historic Environment* (PPG) (revised edition, 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2019), <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/conserving-and-enhancing-the-historic-environment>.

<sup>16</sup> Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC), *National Design Guide* (London, January 2021).

## 5. The Historic Environment

5.1. This section provides a review of the recorded heritage resource within the site and its vicinity in order to identify any extant heritage assets within the site and to assess the potential for below-ground archaeological remains.

5.2. Designated heritage assets are referenced using their seven-digit NHLE number, HER 'event' numbers have the prefix 'EKE' and HER 'monument' numbers have the prefix 'MKE' or a preferred reference prefixed by TQ'.

5.3. A gazetteer of relevant heritage data is included as Appendix 1. Designated heritage assets and HER records are illustrated on Figures 1-4 in Appendix 2.

### Previous Archaeological Works

5.4. A geophysical survey was undertaken across the site in March 2023. The survey did not record any anomalies of probable archaeological origin, however evidence of past agricultural use and former field boundaries were identified. A large ferrous response associated with the site of the former Royal Observer Corps Underground Monitoring Post was also recorded, as were responses associated with other modern features. A few uncertain anomalies were recorded within the site, however agricultural and/or geological origins for these anomalies are considered more likely (ASWYAS 2023; Appendix 8).

5.5. The following archaeological works (EKE) have been recorded within the 1km study area:

- Watching brief at The Moat, Headcorn (12729), c.35m east of the Site.

- Watching brief at Moat Farm, Headcorn (20927), c.35m east of the Site.
- Detail Magnetometer Survey on land south of Moat Road, Headcorn, Kent TN22 9NT (16211), c.50m south-east of the Site.
- Evaluation at Long Meadow Hall, Headcorn (10890), c.350m south-east of the Site.
- Evaluation at the Foreman Centre, Headcorn (10889), c.425m south-east of the Site.
- Watching brief at the Foreman Centre, Headcorn (13050), c.460m south-east of the Site.

5.6. In addition, a number of historic landscape and desk-based surveys have been undertaken, as follows:

- Great Tong Historic Landscape Survey (4666), c.150m north-east of the Site.
- Land between Ulcombe Road and Mill Bank, Headcorn: Desk-Based Assessment (14366), c.135m east of the Site.
- Desk Based Assessment, Land at the Oast House, Lenham Road, Headcorn, Draft (14378), c.630m east of the Site.

5.7. The results of these works are discussed below, where relevant to the potential archaeological resource of the site.

## Topography and Geology

- 5.8. The Site lies across two bands of Weald Clay Formation Mudstone, a sedimentary bedrock formed between 133.9 and 126.3 million years ago during the Cretaceous period. Superficial geology is not recorded, with the site, which is identified as lying beyond the extent of alluvial deposits to the south.<sup>17</sup>
- 5.9. The bedrock geology of the site is not one of the four main geological contexts noted by the South–East Research Framework as holding the majority of key Mesolithic sites. It is however noted as being one of the other geological outcrops which have Mesolithic signatures, “*but at far lower densities*”.<sup>18</sup>
- 5.10. On the basis of recorded geological data, and recorded heritage in the vicinity, the geoarchaeological potential of the site is considered to be low.

## Archaeological Baseline

### Earlier prehistoric (pre-700 BC)

- 5.11. No earlier prehistoric remains have been identified within the proposed development site, and only a very small amount of heritage from these periods has been identified within the 1km study area.

- 5.12. The South–East Research Framework notes that heritage from the Upper Palaeolithic in the region is sparse, and based on the recorded geology within the site, Early Palaeolithic remains would not be anticipated. As noted above, the site is not identified as one of the main geological contexts for Mesolithic sites, and no remains from any of these periods have been identified within the site or wider study area.
- 5.13. Archaeological sites in the region from the Neolithic and early Bronze Age are typically represented by monumental sites, e.g. long barrows and causewayed enclosures in the Neolithic, and round barrows in the early Bronze Age. Scatters or flint artefacts are also recorded as providing indications of more or less populated areas.<sup>19</sup> No archaeological sites or findspots from these periods are identified within the site or wider study area. The geophysical survey has not identified any anomalies indicative of significant archaeological remains from these periods.
- 5.14. The only archaeology from these periods recorded within the wider vicinity of the site comprise two findspots of Neolithic flint axes, which are recorded as having been found c.380m south of Site (ref. 84SW7), and c.1km north–east of the Site (ref. MKE55729). The former is recorded as having been found within a stream bed, while

<sup>17</sup> British Geological Survey, *Geology of Britain Viewer*, <https://www.bgs.ac.uk/map-viewers/geology-of-britain-viewer/>.

<sup>18</sup> Pope M. *et al.*, 2011 with revisions in 2014, 2018 and 2019, *South East Research Framework Resource Assessment and Research Agenda for the Upper Palaeolithic and Mesolithic periods*

<sup>19</sup> Leivers, M., *South East Research Framework resource assessment seminar Neolithic and Early Bronze Age lithics in South East England: some preliminary notes*

the latter is identified a chance find during metal detecting, recovered from the plough soil.

- 5.15. From the middle of the second millennium BC, a major change is noted within the archaeological record of the region, with monuments going out of use and the archaeological record mainly comprising the remains of domestic occupation and agriculture.<sup>20</sup> No anomalies indicative of former field systems have been identified within the site by the geophysical survey.
- 5.16. Only a single feature dating to this period is recorded within the vicinity of the site, comprising a possible mid to late Bronze Age vessel which was found within a pit (84SW257), during trial trenching (ref. EKE17574) c.345m to the east of the Site. There was no evidence of a cremation within the vessel, however it is considered to represent a deliberate deposition.
- Iron Age (c. 700 B – AD 43) and Romano-British (AD 43 – 410)
- 5.17. The South-East Research Framework notes a marked change in the archaeological record of the region from the domestic and agricultural evidence typical of the earlier Iron Age periods, to a pattern of more centralised settlement, along with a recognisable burial custom of cremation and deposition, and new material culture from around 150 BC.<sup>21</sup> The South-East is noted as being particularly rich in terms of Roman archaeology with recorded activities including settlements, agriculture,

crafting, and metal working. The geophysical survey of the site has not identified any anomalies indicative of significant archaeological remains from these periods within the site.

- 5.18. Within the Site, three Romano-British findspots have been recorded. They comprised an incomplete copper alloy seal box lid (79691), a silver zoomorphic terminal from a finger ring or bracelet (79692), and a copper alloy key handle in the form of a lion (79693). All artefacts were found by the same individual and their precise findspots are not recorded (i.e. they have been assigned six-digit national grid references) and therefore could have been found beyond the site. No associated features were recorded, and no anomalies have been recorded within the site by the geophysical survey, which are considered to indicate Romano-British activity.
- 5.19. Late Iron Age/Early Romano-British activity was recorded during an archaeological evaluation c.370m east of the Site (ref. EKE17574). During the works two late Roman furnace pits were found, accompanied by pottery, burnt clay, and charcoal. A further ditch and ditch terminus were also recorded during the works, accompanied by a very small pottery assemblage (ref. 84SW258).
- 5.20. One further findspot, of an Iron Age lead alloy weight (ref. 95623) is recorded c.150m south of the Site.
- 5.21. A review of Portable Antiquities Scheme records has identified three findspots of probable Roman date in the

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<sup>20</sup> Champion, T., 2011 with additions in 2018 and 2019, *South East Research Framework Resource Assessment and Research Agenda for the Middle Bronze Age to Iron Age periods*, p.2

<sup>21</sup> Ibid.

vicinity of the site. A review of these records however indicates these are the same finds as are recorded within the Site, referenced above (refs. 79691, 79692, and 79693).

Early medieval (410 AD – 1066) and Medieval (1066 – 1539)

- 5.22. No early medieval to medieval remains have been identified within the proposed development site, which is likely to have formed part of the agricultural hinterland to nearby settlements from at least this period. This is supported by the results of the geophysical survey, which did not identify any anomalies indicative of significant archaeological remains from the medieval periods, however it recorded evidence of past agricultural use, including cultivation, and former field boundaries. The historic settlement core of Headcorn (ref. 84SW16), is recorded c.350m south-east of the Site.
- 5.23. The remains of the homestead moat at Moat Farm (84SW5) are recorded c.40m south-east of the Site boundary. The HER data for this monument identifies that the road constructed between Headcorn and Staplehurst destroyed all traces of the south side of the moat, and the eastern side was filled in leaving no traces. The western side was incorporated into a pond.
- 5.24. The Tithe map of 1841 suggests that a pond which once extended into the south-eastern area of the site may have once been a feeder body of water for the moat (Plate 13).



*Plate 13 Extract from the Tithe Map of 1841*

- 5.1. A late medieval ditch (84SW259), potentially representing a former field boundary, was recorded during evaluative works c.300m north-east of the Site.
- 5.2. Approximately 35m south-west of the Site is the recorded findspot of an incomplete medieval copper alloy purse (96034), and c.40m north of the Site a findspot of a medieval or post-medieval gold finger ring is recorded (ref. 79678). No associated features have been recorded, therefore these likely represent chance losses.
- 5.3. Approximately 150m south of the Site, medieval findspots of a lead alloy seal (95622) and a lead alloy seal matrix (95810) are recorded. These are given the same location as The Iron Age weight referenced above, and are recorded as having been found by the same metal detectorist. It is therefore assumed that the locations of

the findspots are approximate, and should be treated tentatively.

- 5.4. A review of the PAS database has identified medieval finds in the vicinity which correspond to those mentioned above. These will therefore not be repeated here.

Post-medieval (1540 – 1750), Early Modern (1750 – 1901), Modern (1901 – present)

- 5.5. Within the Site, there is one recorded post-medieval 'monument', namely the farmstead relating to Moat Farm (82239) which extends into the south-eastern section of Site. The HER describes it as a dispersed multiyard farmstead which has been significantly altered to the point of more than a 50% loss of fabric.
- 5.6. The site of a former Royal Observer Corps Underground Monitoring Post (84SW26) is recorded in the north-eastern section of Site. This is thought to have been completed by 1961, with evidence for its construction being visible on aerial photographs from 1960 (see Plate 7 above). It was abandoned in 1968 due to defence cutbacks.

*Underground Monitoring Post*

- 5.7. In response to the commentary received from the Senior Archaeological Officer in January 2023, further research has been undertaken with regard to the former Royal Observer Corps (ROC) Underground Monitoring Post

recorded as having been located in the north-eastern section of Site (84SW26).

- 5.8. ROC Underground Monitoring Posts are underground structures constructed throughout the United Kingdom as part of the ROC's nuclear reporting role between 1955 and 1991. The first monitoring post was constructed in Farnham, Surrey, in 1956, with a number of trials subsequently taking place in order to test the standard design of construction that was utilised at the majority of locations.<sup>22</sup> The Headcorn ROC monitoring post is understood to have been constructed to the standard design, and there is no evidence that it served any higher role such as group headquarters based upon its size and location.
- 5.9. The composition of the monitoring posts responded to the operational role of the personnel based at the sites, specifically: the detection of a nuclear detonation; recording of its strength and type; monitoring the passage of the radioactive fallout; and the reporting of all relevant information to group headquarters for up to 14 days following an attack.<sup>23</sup>
- 5.10. A plan of the standard monitoring post design is provided at Plate 14.

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<sup>22</sup> Ccofrost, W.D. & Thomas, R.J.C., 2004, *Cold War: Buildings for Nuclear Confrontation 1946-1989*, p.80.

<sup>23</sup> Ibid.