

# Lyminge Rectory, Rectory Lane, Lyminge, Kent

Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment

Project Code: DA LR 20

Planning Ref: \*\*\*\*\*

Client: Canterbury Diocesan Enterprises

NGR: TR 16236 40689

Report No: 2020/97

Archive No: 4503

OASIS ID: \*\*\*\*\*

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August 2020

## Document Record

This report has been issued and amended as follows:

Version	Approved by	Position	Comment	Date
01	Jake Weekes	Project Manager		28/08/20

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## SUMMARY

*This desk-based assessment of land at Lyminge Rectory, Rectory Lane, Lyminge, Kent (TR 16236 40689, centred; Fig 1), was commissioned by Canterbury Diocesan Enterprises in July 2020 in view of proposed development of the site.*

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

*It is clear the archaeological potential of the PDA is high, with Bronze Age and Anglo-Saxon archaeology being the most likely from the current evidence, but also the possibility of Iron Age, Romano-British, medieval and post-medieval archaeology. It is also clear that important archaeology of any of the above periods may lie less than 0.3m beneath the current ground surface.*

*Given the likelihood of archaeological remains within the PDA in this case, an archaeological evaluation using a strip, map and sample method, much like that conducted by adjacent research excavations, would seem the most appropriate and cost-effective test within most of the PDA, with alternative arrangements to be discussed for areas within any current buildings to be removed: for example demolition to ground level followed by a watching brief on removal of current foundations.*

*All works should be carried out in liaison with the Local Authority Archaeologist.*

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This report presents a provisional desk-based assessment constituting rapid archaeological appraisal of land at Lyminge Rectory, Rectory Lane, Lyminge, Kent (TR 16236 40689, centred; Fig 1); it was commissioned by Canterbury Diocesan Enterprises in July 2020 in view of proposed development of the site.
- 1.2 The objective of the current research, verbally agreed with the client and in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), has been to view readily available evidence in order to assess the extent and nature of any heritage assets with archaeological interest within the Proposed Development Area (PDA), and thereby gauge the likelihood of heritage assets of archaeological interest being affected by groundworks within the PDA.
- 1.3 The report includes analysis and interpretation of the Historic Environment Record, map regression, aerial photographs and any existing site records analyses, with provisional historical contextualisation. Additional desk-based research and/or fieldwork may be requested by planning authorities or specified as conditions on any planning consent, although any request for further desk-based work should clearly demonstrate the benefits of such an approach as opposed to field evaluation, for example.

## 2. POLICY AND RESEARCH FRAMEWORKS

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

### *National policy*

- 2.2 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF2; DCLG 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.”<sup>1</sup>*

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

- 2.4 When determining planning applications, the following paragraphs are pertinent:

*“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 assets’ importance and no more than is sufficient to understand the potential impact of*

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<sup>1</sup>[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/728643/Revised\\_NPPF\\_2018.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/728643/Revised_NPPF_2018.pdf), page 54.

*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.*

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

*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.*

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

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

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

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

*195. Where a proposed development will lead to substantial harm to (or total loss of significance of) a designated heritage asset, local planning authorities should refuse consent, unless it can be demonstrated that the substantial harm or total loss is*

*necessary to achieve substantial public benefits that outweigh that harm or loss, or all of the following apply:*

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

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

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

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

*199. Local planning authorities should require developers to record and advance understanding of the significance of any heritage assets to be lost (wholly or in part) in a manner proportionate to their importance and the impact, and to make this evidence (and any archive generated) publicly accessible. However, the ability to record evidence of our past should not be a factor in deciding whether such loss should be permitted. Non-designated heritage assets of archaeological interest, which are demonstrably of equivalent significance to scheduled monuments, should be considered subject to the policies for designated heritage assets. Copies of evidence should be deposited with the relevant historic environment record, and any archives with a local museum or other public depository.*

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

*201. Not all elements of a Conservation Area or World Heritage Site will necessarily contribute to its significance. Loss of a building (or other element) which makes a positive contribution to the significance of the Conservation Area or World Heritage Site should be treated either as substantial harm under paragraph 195 or less than substantial harm under paragraph 196, as appropriate, taking into account the relative*

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

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

### *Local policy*

#### 2.5 Shepway Council Local Plan concerning proposed development of archaeologically sensitive land states:

*In accordance with Central Government advice, when dealing with proposals for development which would affect nationally important archaeological remains (whether scheduled as Ancient Monuments or not) and their settings, the District Council will presume in favour of their physical preservation in situ. Where remains are not considered to be of national importance or in situ preservation is not considered to be justified, a programme of excavation, recording and publishing of information gathered may be an alternative. This process of excavation and recording will be achieved either by obligations entered into under Section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, or through the use of conditions attached to planning permission in respect of the development proposed.*

*In all cases where development proposals are likely to affect archaeological remains, developers are urged to consult with the District Council as early as possible, and preferably before applications are submitted, to avoid possible costly delays at later stages in the planning process. Developers may be required to submit assessments of the archaeological importance of sites and the impact of their development proposals on that archaeology as information in support of planning applications.<sup>2</sup>*

### *Research frameworks*

2.6 The national and local policy outlined above should be considered in light of the non-statutory heritage frameworks that inform them. While the regional South East Research Framework for the historic environment (SERF)<sup>3</sup> is still in preparation, initial outputs are available on-line and have been considered in preparing this report, in order to take current research agendas into account.

### 3. LOCATION, GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

3.1 The PDA is situated on the southern edge of the village of Lyminge in South-East Kent. The ground is currently occupied by a house (The Rectory) with an outhouse to its south-west, within gardens. It is bounded to north by Dolphin Cottage, a detached residence set in lawned gardens; and on all other sides by open fields (Fig 1). The area lies at a height of approximately 109m OD.

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<sup>2</sup> <https://folkestone-hythe.gov.uk/planning/planning-policy/local-plan>

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.kent.gov.uk/leisure-and-community/history-and-heritage/south-east-research-framework>

3.2 Bedrock geology within the PDA is shown as West Melbury Marly Chalk Formation (chalk) on the south-east side of the PDA and Zig Zag Chalk Formation (chalk) to the north-west, with no overlying superficial deposits.<sup>4</sup>

#### 4. DESIGNATIONS

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

4.2 The Grade (I) Listed Church of St. Mary and St. Ethelburga, and remains of the older Church to south, lie 215m north-north-west of the PDA. This once Abbey church is now a parish church, but was the site of an Abbey founded by St. Ethelburga (wife of King Edwin of Northumbria) in around AD 633. The present church dates to c AD 965, with late-twelfth-, fourteenth- and early-sixteenth-century additions (HER Number TR 14 SE 178; Listed Building (I) – 1242122). There are two Grade (II) Listed monuments nearby; the first (a chest tomb dated to the early eighteenth century or earlier) is about 10 metres south of east end of nave of Church (HER Number TR 14 SE 174; Listed Building (II) – 1242125) and the second (a mid-nineteenth century chest tomb dedicated to Ann and William Broadbridge) is about 20 metres north of the church tower (HER Number TR 14 SE 167; Listed Building (II) – 1242124).

4.3 Other Grade (II) Listed buildings in the vicinity of the PDA include:

- The Old Rectory, 170m north-west of the PDA, this formerly timber-framed building dates from the sixteenth century, and has early-to-mid seventeenth-, late-eighteenth- and mid-twentieth-century alterations (HER Number TR 14 SE 170; Listed Building (II) - 1242129);
- Well Cottages, 180m north of the PDA, dating from the fifteenth century or early-sixteenth century, with late-sixteenth-century or early seventeenth-century alterations, late-seventeenth-century or early-eighteenth-century facade, and late-eighteenth-century or early-nineteenth-century alterations and additions (HER Number TR 14 SE 171; Listed Building (II) – 1242128);
- St Ethelburga's Well and Wall to north and south, Well-house and shelter, 220m north-north-west of the PDA. It was built in 1898, with possibly slightly earlier base, built over a spring said to have supplied Lyminge with water from Roman times until 1905 (HER Number TR 14 SE 177; Listed Building (II) – 1242250);
- Lyminge War Memorial, 230m north-west of the PDA in the Churchyard of St Mary and St Ethelburga. It is a First World War memorial, erected in 1921, with additions for the Second World War (HER Number TQ 14 SE 228; Listed Building (II) – 1447501);

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<sup>4</sup> <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>



- Lavender Cottage, 290m north-north-west of the PDA, probably mid-seventeenth century in origin, with eighteenth-century and nineteenth-century alterations and façade, (HER Number TR 14 SE 180; Listed Building (II) – 1242117);
- Broadstreet House, 340m south of the PDA, built between 1800 and 1832 (HER Number TR 14 SE 168; Listed Building (II) - 1242036).

## 5. ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL EVIDENCE

- 5.1 A search of the Historic Environment Records (HER: see Figs 2–5) as well as a list of reports of archaeological investigations not yet included in the HER was commissioned from Kent County Council Heritage Conservation Group. In addition, the CAT Annual Reports on-line and grey literature report lists and reports have been checked. The HER and reports search covers a radius of 500m around the PDA (centred on NGR TR 16236 40689). These records have been assessed in terms of their particular relevance to the PDA and only significant evidence is cited in this report. Further (on-line) historic environment records (National Monuments Records) were also consulted in comparison.
- 5.2 Reports from the University of Reading on the various excavations at Lyminge have been consulted.
- 5.3 It has been considered beyond the means of this project to pursue detailed questions requiring an in-depth study of primary documentary and cartographic sources. General historical context for archaeological findings is provided where applicable/significant in terms of results, and a survey of published and unpublished maps (including geology and contour survey) has been undertaken. Only maps showing significant topographical developments are reproduced here.
- 5.4 No pertinent geophysical surveys were available. Only photographs, images or results showing significant features or topographical developments are reproduced, the findings incorporated with map regression, documentary evidence and archaeological sections of the report as appropriate and fully referenced.
- 5.5 All results of analyses are presented below in synthesis and in order of chronology.

### *Prehistoric (c 500,000 BP–AD 43)*

- 5.6 Palaeolithic flints, horse and deer teeth were found in September 1911, 410m north-west of the PDA (HER Number TR 14 SE 9).
- 5.7 There is an Early Mesolithic flint-working site at Tayne Field, 255m north of the PDA. In total c 10–12,000 flints were recovered from the site, most of this debitage (85%), and there were a high number of cores compared to finished tools. It is thought that the site was used for manufacturing tools which were then taken elsewhere for use (HER Number TR 14 SE 208). Mesolithic flint flakes have also been found c 260m north-west of the PDA (HER Number MKE68725) and 390m north-west of the PDA (HER Number MKE68008).
- 5.8 Residual prehistoric flint has been uncovered 290m north of the PDA (HER Number TR 14 SE 214).

- 5.9 A polished stone axe 4 inches long and 2 inches broad, has been found 385m north-west of the PDA (HER Number TR 14 SE 24).
- 5.10 A Neolithic flint arrowhead has been found 400m north of the PDA (HER Number TR 14 SE 22).
- 5.11 A Neolithic pottery vessel has been found 400m north-west of the PDA (HER Number MKE68721).
- 5.12 Two flint scrapers have been found 445m north of the PDA (HER Number TR 14 SE 25).
- 5.13 There is a Bronze Age Barrow and Beaker Burial 320m north of the PDA (HER Number TR 14 SE 216).
- 5.14 A Middle Bronze Age ditch (see Fig 7), pit and *in situ* vessel were uncovered 60m north-west of the PDA on land to the southeast of the Old Rectory by a team from the University of Reading (Event EKE13109; HER Number TR 14 SE 206).
- 5.15 A circular enclosure, 35m in diameter, can be seen on the 2007 Google Earth image, to the south of Lyminge, 470m west-south-west of the PDA, (HER Number TR 14 SE 187).
- 5.16 The following surface findspots relating to the Iron Age have been recorded within 500m of the PDA:
- a gold torc, 50m west of the PDA (HER Number MKE108294);
  - **copper alloy coins:**
    - 285m south-west of the PDA (HER Number MKE108096);
    - 295m south-west of the PDA (HER Number MKE108162);
    - 305m west of the PDA (HER Number MKE108262);
    - 445m south-west of the PDA (HER Number MKE67706, MKE67707, MKE68921 and MKE68922);
  - **pottery vessels:**
    - 260m north-west of the PDA, (HER Number MKE68732, MKE68733, MKE68734, MKE68735, MKE68736, MKE68737 and MKE68738);
    - 430m north of the PDA (HER Number MKE68722).
- 5.17 In addition, a linear feature (Fig 21, Linear feature A) noted during the current assessment on 1940s, 60s and 90s aerial photographs (Figs 14–16) and satellite images (Figs 17ff) but not on maps, while probably pertaining Anglo-Saxon Lyminge (see below) might well relate in some way to prehistoric boundaries and features. The feature

can be most clearly seen in Lidar imagery (Fig 21),<sup>5</sup> on an initial east/west alignment passing directly to the north of the PDA, before turning south, then east-south-east, to be lost today in the altered local topography of a golf course. The feature could be some form of lynchet or bank, but, given the contour and angle of slope, perhaps suggests a hollow way, probably based on an ancient grain of the landscape which is picked up in the field to the west, for example.

5.18 A further interesting linear (Fig 21, Linear feature B) is visible on the Lidar and again some of the aerial photographs and satellite images, continuing towards the east on a slightly more northerly axis. Moreover, a circular feature, most clear on the 2013 satellite image (Fig 19), could be of note; this may result from fungal growth (cf. other more probably fungal rings to the south in the same image) or a natural solution hollow, but a ploughed-out barrow mound or pond barrow is another possibility.

#### *Romano-British (c AD 43 – 450)*

5.19 The PDA in the Roman period lay *c* 2km to the east of Stone Street, the road from Lympe to Canterbury, but there is a possibility that a minor road or track ran along the Elham valley from Lympe joining Watling Street at the Barham Downs in this period. There is evidence of an early Romano-British settlement at Westwood, to the immediate east of Stone Street (HER Number TR 14 SW 55) but while archaeology of this period at Lyming itself was historically reported to underlie St Mary and Ethelburga's church, 215m north-north-west of the PDA (HER Number TR 14 SE 178), recent excavations have not confirmed this.

5.20 There are many findspots from this period in within the HER search radius (distance given is an estimate only), however:

- a bronze pin, 90m north of the PDA (HER Number TR 14 SE 26).

- **silver coins:**

70m south-west of the PDA (HER Number MKE108559);

230m south-west of the PDA (HER Number MKE96565);

490m south-west of the PDA (HER Number MKE108151);

- **copper alloy coins:**

135m south-west of the PDA (HER Number MKE108493);

165m south-west of the PDA (HER Number MKE108091);

195m south of the PDA (HER Number MKE69015, MKE69016, MKE69017, MKE69018, MKE69019, and MKE69020);

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<sup>5</sup> Accessed via <https://houseprices.io/lab/lidar/map>

230m south-west of the PDA (HER Number MKE96566 and MKE96578);

295m south-south-west of the PDA (HER Number MKE108186);

- **copper alloy brooches:**

195m south of the PDA (HER Number MKE69021);

255m south-west of the PDA (HER Number MKE108114);

305m west of the PDA (HER Number MKE108258);

310m west-south-west of the PDA (HER Number MKE108244);

- a copper alloy buckle, 430m west of the PDA (HER Number MKE108025);

- **copper alloy vessels:**

145m south-west of the PDA (HER Number MKE108128);

445m south-east of the PDA (HER Number MKE108257);

- a copper alloy figurine, 395m north-west of the PDA (HER Number MKE67898);
- a copper alloy strap fitting, 175m north-west of the PDA (HER Number MKE67973);
- an aqua-blue glass bead, 165m south-west of the PDA (HER Number MKE108026);
- a nail cleaner, 295m west-south-west of the PDA (HER Number MKE108083).

5.21 Features noted during the current assessment on 1940s, 60s and 90s aerial photographs (Figs 14–16) and satellite images (Figs 17ff), while probably pertaining Anglo-Saxon Lyminge (see below) might well relate in some way to this period, as a continuation of use of prehistoric boundaries and landscape features, for example (see Fig 21).

#### *Anglo-Saxon (c AD 450–1066)*

5.22 Lyminge was one of the most important occupation and ecclesiastical sites in Anglo-Saxon Kent, being a royally founded religious centre, and has been the subject of an ongoing process of archaeological examination in recent years. Important features include an early hall (fifth to seventh centuries), a double Minster (monastery and nunnery, ruled over by an abbess), Royal Vill and later hall complex.

5.23 The minster centre lay 190m north-west of the PDA; in 2005 Canterbury Archaeological Trust uncovered boundary ditches, structural features (a barn, post-built timber buildings, sunken-featured buildings) and pits relating to an area of Middle Saxon occupation associated with the double minster (HER Number TR 14 SE 205). The earliest Anglo-Saxon occupation found on this site, 265m north of the PDA, consisted of a

sunken-featured building with two phases. This probably dated from the later fifth century and went out of use in the sixth century. The first phase consisted of a rectangular pit *c* 3.05m x 2.42m with posts at either end. When it was rebuilt the pit was re-dug and additional post holes were added. The pit was backfilled in two episodes with an unusually rich assemblage of objects. Subsequent to this use of the site a large timber great hall was built. It was 21m x 8.5m on an east-west axis. Its outer walls were of post-in-trench construction, the long-wall trenches being interrupted by pairs of substantial pits marking the position of centrally opposed entrances. There was an internal partition at the east end, creating a room 3.5m wide. The original floor levels had not survived medieval ploughing of the site. The hall was built in the early seventh century. It would have been a very high-status building, probably the centre of the Royal Vill. A second building on the same alignment and of similar construction technique was found to the east, extending beyond the limits of excavation. Objects were recovered from the foundation trenches of the building but could relate to the earlier occupation of the site, the construction of the building or its later use (HER Number TR 14 SE 209).

5.24 There are further sunken-featured buildings and Saxon–Medieval occupation evidence 290m north of the PDA (HER Number TR 14 SE 215), and in 2014, excavations at Tayne Field, 300m north of the PDA by The University of Reading and Canterbury Archaeological Trust revealed a very significant post-built hall complex; moreover, a geophysical anomaly, when excavated, revealed a complex host of features including an intact hearth (HER Number TR 14 SE 217).

5.25 Of key relevance to the PDA, however, are the findings south of the church from excavations in 2008–10, and especially the 2010 excavations (Fig 6). The latter (Fig 7) include a post-built timber hall and four sunken-featured buildings of fifth to seventh-century date, the nearest just a few metres north-west of the PDA. The hall structure was 12.8m x 4.6m in extent and had been truncated by one of the sunken-featured buildings at its western end. One of the sunken-featured buildings had been backfilled with domestic refuse and, beneath this, a rare iron plough coulter. The backfills were deposited at some point between *c* AD 580/600 and AD 640/660, although a slightly later date in the seventh century cannot be ruled out. The other sunken-featured buildings also contained backfilled domestic refuse, with sherds of pottery and glass, brooches, pins and beads. One of the buildings was backfilled in the eighth to ninth centuries AD (HER Number TR 14 SE 207). The University of Reading Site Director, Gabor Thomas, wrote of the 2010 excavation that:

*“...entirely unexpectedly, it brought to light an early Anglo-Saxon settlement focus lying on the eastern fringes of the Mid-Saxon monastic precincts.... the basic point to be made is that discovery allows us to propose a dynamic model whereby the settlement of Lyminge was comprehensively redefined at some point during the 7th century AD. During this hiatus the focus of activity shifted from a well-established site with late 5th-century origins (now located under the low-lying central portion of the village), to the upper slopes of a chalk spur chosen as the site for the church and spiritual core of the Anglo-Saxon monastic community brought to light by antiquarian excavations in the churchyard by Canon Jenkins in the 1850–60s...”*<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>6</sup> [http://www.reading.ac.uk/web/files/archaeology/2010\\_Excavation\\_Summary.pdf](http://www.reading.ac.uk/web/files/archaeology/2010_Excavation_Summary.pdf)

- 5.26 The site of a Battle between the Danes and Saxons is recorded on the HER 255m north-west of the PDA (HER Number TR 14 SE 30).
- 5.27 In 1890, a cemetery, with grave goods probably dating from the late-sixth century AD or a little earlier, was found 235m east of the PDA (HER Number TR 14 SE 11).
- 5.28 An array of findspots within the HER search radius (positions are general only) relate to this period:
- a claw beaker, to the north-west of the PDA (HER Number TR 14 SE 59);
  - gold foils, to the north-west of the PDA (HER Number TR 14 SE 62);
  - pottery, to the north-west of the PDA (HER Number TR 14 SE 63).;
  - a silver-gilt Carolingian rein/harness, 240m west-south-west of the PDA (HER Number MKE108291);
  - a silver penny, to the north-west of the PDA, (HER Number TR 14 SE 193);
  - a Carolingian silver penny, to the north-west of the PDA, (HER Number TR 14 SE 194).
  - **silver coins:**
    - 100m west of the PDA (HER Number MKE108175);
    - 120m south-west of the PDA (HER Number MKE108134);
    - 195m south of the PDA (HER Number MKE69013);
    - 230m south-east of the PDA (HER Number MKE1082);70
    - 310m west of the PDA (HER Number MKE108164);
    - 320m south-west of the PDA, (HER Number MKE96599);
    - 370m south-west of the PDA (HER Number MKE96759);
    - 370m south-west of the PDA (HER Number MKE108489).
  - **copper alloy buckles:**
    - 175m north-west of the PDA (HER Number MKE67971);
    - 350m west-south-west of the PDA (HER Number MKE80017);
    - 390m north-west of the PDA (HER Number MKE68010);
    - 395m north-west of the PDA, (HER Number MKE67899);

- a button brooch, to the north-west of the PDA (HER Number TR 14 SE 60);
- **copper alloy brooches:**
  - 30m south-west of the PDA (HER Number MKE108157);
  - 70m south-west of the PDA, (HER Number MKE96521 and MKE96522);
  - 100m west of the PDA (HER Number MKE108177);
  - 165m east of the PDA, (HER Number MKE67963 and MKE67964);
  - 270m west-south-west of the PDA (HER Number MKE108155);
  - 340m south of the PDA, (HER Number MKE67676);
  - 350m west-south-west of the PDA, (HER Number MKE80018);
  - 375m south-west of the PDA (HER Number MKE108169);
  - 410m south of the PDA (HER Number MKE108156);
  - 450m north-north-west of the PDA (HER Number MKE108145);
  - 485m west of the PDA (HER Number MKE108189; (HER Number MKE108199).
- a cruciform brooch, 395m south of the PDA (HER Number TR 14 SE 58);
- **copper alloy strap ends:**
  - 115m south-west of the PDA, (HER Number MKE108136);
  - 165m east of the PDA (HER Number MKE6796);
  - 305m west of the PDA (HER Number MKE108259 and MKE108260);
  - 310m west-south-west of the PDA (HER Number MKE108245);
  - 400m west of the PDA (HER Number MKE108419);
- copper alloy tweezers, 305m west-south-west of the PDA (HER Number MKE108267);
- a copper alloy hooked tag 430m south-west of the PDA (HER Number MKE108246);
- a copper alloy chape from the end of a scabbard, 430m south-west of the PDA (HER Number MKE108247);
- **copper alloy strap-fittings:**

215m south-west of the PDA (HER Number MKE108138);

490m south-west of the PDA (HER Number MKE108182).

- **copper alloy mounts:**

235m south-west of the PDA (HER Number MKE69045);

350m west-south-west of the PDA (HER Number MKE113726);

385m west-south-west of the PDA (HER Number MKE108154);

- a copper alloy stirrup, 320m south-west of the PDA (HER Number MKE96510);

- a copper alloy harness fitting, 230m south-west of the PDA (HER Number MKE96570);

- a copper alloy pin, 295m south-west of the PDA (HER Number MKE108153);

- **copper alloy unidentified objects:**

70m south-west of the PDA, (HER Number MKE96517);

175m north-west of the PDA (HER Number MKE67972);

- a bone bead, 110m west of the PDA (HER Number MKE108086).

5.29 The large linear feature noted during the current assessment (Linear feature A, see Fig 21) on 1940s, 60s and 90s aerial photographs (Figs 14–16) and satellite images (Figs 17ff), if indeed ancient, most likely relates to Anglo-Saxon Lyminge. Initially on a west/east alignment that seems to echo the general axes of significant linear features from the University of Reading excavations to the west, and, arguably, the grain of the Anglo-Saxon topography generally, the linear turns south some 20m beyond the boundary of the PDA, then east-south-east, to be lost within the golf course. To reiterate, the feature could be some form of lynchet or bank, but, given the contour and angle of slope, perhaps suggests a hollow way leading to and from the Anglo-Saxon settlement.

5.30 We have also noted a further interesting linear feature (Linear feature B, Fig 21), visible on the Lidar and some of the aerial photographs and satellite images, continuing towards the east. Again, a circular feature near the corner of the field, most clear on the 2013 satellite image (Fig 19), may result from fungal growth or a natural solution hollow, but a ploughed-out barrow mound is also a possibility here.

### *Medieval (c AD 1066–1540)*

5.31 Domesday Book records Lyminge as a large settlement of 170 households in 1086, consisting of 121 villagers, 32 smallholders, and boasting Woodland 111 swine render, 3 mills, value 10 shillings, 1 fishery, and 3 churches.<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>7</sup> <https://opendomesday.org/place/TR1640/lyminge/>



- 5.32 There is evidence of Saxon–Norman occupation in Tayne Field, 245m north of the PDA. The site was certainly occupied *c* AD 1080–1175. A cluster of pits were located in the southern half of the site. These were mostly filled with cess sealed beneath capping layers. Buildings associated with this phase of occupation appear to have consisted of widely spaced timber uprights set upon flint post-pads. A number of boundary ditches were also found, one of which contained an articulated horse skeleton. (HER Number TR 14 SE 210).
- 5.33 Medieval ditches have been found at Tayne Field, 270m north of the PDA; these probably relate to fields laid out across the site after the Saxo-Norman domestic occupation of the site had ended. They are still visible as linear depressions across the unexcavated portions of the site (HER Number TR 14 SE 211).
- 5.34 St. Eadburg's Well lies 200m north of the PDA; this spring is the principal source of the Little Stour River. There is record of a bequest in 1484 for preservation by John Gardyn. In the nineteenth century a well house was built over the spring and in 1898 the present canopy and now disused chain pump were erected (HER Number TR 14 SE 31).
- 5.35 There was a medieval manor house, 300m north-west of the PDA (HER Number TR 14 SE 7).
- 5.36 Findspots from this period in within the search radius (distance given is an estimate only) include:
- a gold finger ring, 330m south-east of the PDA (HER Number MKE113773);
  - **pottery vessels:**
    - 130m north-east of the PDA, (HER Number MKE68720);
    - 250m north-west of the PDA, (HER Number MKE68718);
    - 445m south-west of the PDA, (HER Number MKE68716);
  - a copper alloy scabbard, 305m west of the PDA (HER Number MKE108271);
  - a silver brooch, 410m south-west of the PDA (HER Number MKE108242);
  - **silver coins**
    - 70m south-west of the PDA, (HER Number MKE96518);
    - 100m west of the PDA (HER Number MKE108179);
    - 145m south-west of the PDA, (HER Number MKE108127);
    - 195m south of the PDA (HER Number MKE69014);
    - 230m south-west of the PDA, (HER Number MKE96580);

270m south-west of the PDA, (HER Number MKE108129; (HER Number MKE108135

295m south-south-west of the PDA (HER Number MKE108183, MKE108184, MKE108185);

310m south-west of the PDA (HER Number MKE108152);

320m south-west of the PDA, (HER Number MKE96506, MKE96507, MKE96508, and MKE96509);

- a copper alloy coin weight, 320m south-west of the PDA (HER Number MKE108092);

- **copper alloy buckles:**

175m north-west of the PDA (HER Number MKE67917);

195m south of the PDA, (HER Number MKE69023);

230m south-west of the PDA, (HER Number MKE68909, MKE68910, MKE68911, and MKE96575);

235m south-west of the PDA, (HER Number MKE69026, (HER Number MKE69027, MKE69028, MKE69029, MKE69030, MKE69031, MKE69032, and MKE69033);

310m west of the PDA, (HER Number MKE96768);

335m south of the PDA, (HER Number MKE96770 and MKE96771);

385m south-west of the PDA, (HER Number MKE108140);

- a copper alloy brooch, 415m south-west of the PDA (HER Number MKE113769);

- **copper alloy strap ends:**

50m west of the PDA (HER Number MKE108132);

235m south-west of the PDA (HER Number MKE69038, MKE69039, MKE69040, and MKE69041);

395m south of the PDA (HER Number MKE96765);

- a copper alloy strap fitting, 175m north-west of the PDA (HER Number MKE67980);

- a copper alloy clothing accessory, 175m north-west of the PDA (HER Number MKE67970);

- **copper alloy purses:**

- 140m south-east of the PDA (HER Number MKE96769);
- 235m south-west of the PDA (HER Number MKE113622);
- 430m south-west of the PDA (HER Number MKE108480);
- a copper alloy seal, 175m north-west of the PDA (HER Number MKE67968);
  - a copper alloy seal matrix, 460m south-west of the PDA (HER Number MKE108495);
  - a copper alloy pendant, 175m north-west of the PDA (HER Number MKE67969);
  - copper alloy fixtures and fittings, 175m north-west of the PDA (HER Number MKE67975);
  - a copper alloy furniture fitting, 105m south-east of the PDA (HER Number MKE96761);
  - a copper alloy tap key, 285m south-west of the PDA (HER Number MKE108095);
  - **copper alloy mounts:**
    - 230m south-west of the PDA, (HER Number MKE96564);
    - 235m south-west of the PDA (HER Number MKE69043; (HER Number MKE69044);
    - 375m south-west of the PDA (HER Number MKE108142);
  - a copper alloy pin, 195m south of the PDA (HER Number MKE69022);
  - **copper alloy book fittings:**
    - 300m south-west of the PDA (HER Number MKE80029);
    - 320m south-west of the PDA, (HER Number MKE96600);
  - an unidentified copper alloy object, 330m south of the PDA (HER Number MKE96764);
  - a lead alloy dress hook, 330m south of the PDA (HER Number MKE96763);
  - **lead alloy seal matrixes:**
    - 235m south-east of the PDA (HER Number MKE108263);
    - 320m south-west of the PDA, (HER Number MKE108093, MKE108094, and MKE108137).

5.37 The features noted during the current assessment on 1940s, 60s and 90s aerial photographs (Figs 14–16) satellite images (Figs 17ff), and Lidar (see Fig 21) but not on maps, could well relate to this period. The notable large linear feature (Linear feature A) in particular perhaps suggests a hollow way, either continuing in use from earlier periods, or even forming in the medieval period.

*Post-medieval (c AD 1540–1900)*

5.38 Hasted writes in 1799:

*...the great Nailbourn valley... is very spacious and wide here, on each side of which the hills are high and very frequent, and the lands poor, but in the vale near the stream there is a tract of fertile lands and meadows, and the country becoming far from unpleasant, is as well as the rest of the parish exceedingly healthy. The valley extends quite through the parish from north to south; just above it, on the side of the hill, is the village of Liminge, in which is the parsonage-house, a handsome modern dwelling, and above it, still higher, the church. More southward in the valley is a house, called Broadstreet, the property and residence of the Sloddens for many generations.<sup>8</sup>*

5.39 The Andrews, Dury and Herbert map of 1769 (Fig 8) shows the PDA as lying just to the south/south-east of the main settlement, off a trackway that leads south past the small hamlet/farmstead of Broad Street. The Mudge Map of 1801 (Fig 9) shows a similar situation, though the trackway beside the PDA and heading south from the church is not shown. The trackway (later Rectory Lane) appears on the 1876 Ordnance Survey (OS) map (Fig 10); this map depicts the PDA as unoccupied land south of a spring, with Eastbrook Farm to the east and the church and rectory to the north-west, and a number of historic features noted, such as the location of the AD 804 battle, St Eadburg's well and the principal ecclesiastical features such as the monastery and nunnery. The 1898 OS map (Fig 11) shows no changes within the PDA, and little in the surrounds save for the construction of the local railway line to the east of the village, with Lyminge Halt, the station (opened between 1887–1889 but closed in 1947 when the line ceased to operate, and now a library) 350m north-east of the PDA (HER Number TR 14 SE 61).

5.40 Finds from the vicinity include:

- a gold finger ring, 65m north-west of the PDA (HER Number MKE69476);
- **silver coins:**
  - 230m south-west of the PDA, (HER Number MKE96579);
  - 285m south-west of the PDA (HER Number MKE108486);
  - 320m south-west of the PDA (HER Number MKE96505);

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<sup>8</sup> Edward Hasted, 'Parishes: Liminge', in *The History and Topographical Survey of the County of Kent: Volume 8* (Canterbury, 1799), pp. 78-91. British History Online <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/survey-kent/vol8/pp78-91>

490m south-west of the PDA (HER Number MKE108187, MKE108188, MKE108200, and MKE108202).

- a silver token, 320m south-west of the PDA (HER Number MKE96601);
- a base silver coin, 270m south-west of the PDA (HER Number MKE108131);
- a pottery vessel, 260m north-west of the PDA (HER Number MKE68724);
- a copper alloy vessel, 235m south-west of the PDA (HER Number MKE69035 and MKE69036);
- a copper alloy saddle, 235m south-west of the PDA (HER Number MKE69034);
- **copper alloy jettons:**
  - 90m south-west of the PDA (HER Number MKE108491);
  - 230m south-west of the PDA (HER Number MKE96567);
- a copper alloy button, 230m south-west of the PDA (HER Number MKE96571 and MKE96572);
- a copper alloy buckle, 230m south-west of the PDA (HER Number MKE96576 and MKE96577);
- a copper alloy strap fitting, 365m south-south-west of the PDA (HER Number MKE108133);
- **copper alloy unidentified objects:**
  - 235m south-west of the PDA (HER Number MKE69037);
  - 405m south-south-east of the PDA (HER Number MKE108261);
- **copper alloy mounts:**
  - 235m south-west of the PDA (HER Number MKE69042);
  - 490m south-west of the PDA (HER Number MKE108201);
- a copper alloy knife, 465m west-north-west of the PDA (HER Number MKE108126);
- **copper alloy book fittings:**
  - 165m south-west of the PDA, (HER Number MKE108090);
  - 375m south-west of the PDA (HER Number MKE80028);
- **copper alloy dress fasteners:**

70m south-west of the PDA, (HER Number MKE96519; (HER Number MKE96520);

230m south-west of the PDA, (HER Number MKE96573 and MKE96574);

- a copper alloy dress-hook, 405m south-south-east of the PDA (HER Number MKE108272);
- a silver dress fastener, 70m south-west of the PDA (HER Number MKE108560);
- a copper alloy hinge, 335m south of the PDA (HER Number MKE108148);
- a lead alloy powder measure, 230m south-west of the PDA (HER Number MKE96569).

5.41 Historic features from this period include:

- the site of National School, High Street, 265m north-north-west of the PDA, first shown on the Ordnance Survey map 1862–1875 and demolished post 1960 (HER Number TR 14 SE 109);
- the Methodist Chapel on Church Road, 385m north-north-west of the PDA (HER Number TR 14 SE 224);
- the former Methodist Chapel on Wesley Terrace, 420m north-north-east of the PDA (HER Number TR 14 SE 223).

5.42 The large linear feature (Linear feature A) noted during the current assessment on 1940s, 60s and 90s aerial photographs (Figs 14–16) satellite images (Figs 17ff), and Lidar (see Fig 21) but not on maps, could well relate to this period. As has been noted, given the contour, the feature perhaps suggests a hollow way, either continuing in use from earlier periods or even forming in the post-medieval period.

*Modern (c AD 1900–2000)*

5.43 The 1938 OS (Fig 12) shows the PDA and its immediate surrounds as little changed from the end of the nineteenth century. There is evidence of residential building in the north side of the village, but no development in or around the PDA. At this time the nearest building to the PDA was the Vicarage to the north. By the time the 1945 OS map was produced (Fig 13) residential building had increased, and four new detached residences had been built to the immediate north of the PDA; this is also shown on an aerial photograph from the 1940s (Fig 14). The 1960s aerial photograph (Fig 15) shows the first evidence of building within the PDA – it shows the present house (Lyminge Rectory) set within gardens, as well as the construction of a driveway and small ancillary building (garage?); there is also an increase in the number of residences to the north of the PDA, closer to the centre of the village. From this time onwards, the 1990s aerial photograph (Fig 16) and satellite images (Figs 17 to 20) show the situation remaining unchanged to present.

5.44 Modern features mentioned in the HER include a George VI pillar box, at Lyminge Post Office on Station Road, 380m north-east of the PDA (HER Number TR 14 SE 189); a pillbox, 300m south-west of the PDA (HER Number TR 14 SE 182); and a modern tin or tin alloy mount, found 230m south-west of the PDA (HER Number MKE68912).

## 6. INTERIM IMPACT ASSESSMENT

### *Archaeological assessment*

5.45 It is clear the archaeological potential of the PDA is high. It lies within a known Bronze Age landscape with early and middle Bronze Age elements, and a known ditch a few metres to the west within the 2010 University of Reading excavation area, which contained noteworthy finds pertaining to domestic and ritual activity. Evidence from aerial photographs, satellite imagery and Lidar suggests further components of this prehistoric landscape may lie to the north, east, and south-east of the PDA. Late Iron Age and Romano-British activity nearby is suggested by findspots within the search radius of the HER, if not by any excavated features, though again features noted on aerial photographs, satellite imagery and Lidar could relate to these periods. Whether based on earlier landforms or not, the evidence of aerial photographs, satellite imagery and Lidar strongly suggests a continuation of the Anglo-Saxon landscape that has been recorded to within a few metres of the western boundary of the PDA; it may be that more of the early settlement, prior to its mid- Anglo-Saxon shift to the north, will be the most likely archaeology within the PDA itself, but this hypothesis may be questioned by new evidence of Mid or later Anglo-Saxon occupation here. Medieval and post-medieval findspots are again numerous within the search radius of the HER, and again features noted on aerial photographs, satellite imagery and Lidar may relate to these periods.

5.46 Critically, it is also clear from University of Reading photographs that important archaeology of any of the above periods may lie less than 0.3m beneath the current ground surface within the PDA.

### *Existing impacts*

6.1 Removal of tree roots in early periods, and ploughing for at least hundreds of years in a thinly topsoiled location, will very likely have truncated any archaeological deposits and features within the PDA, and groundworks from existing buildings and any associated services will also have had an impact; none of this is likely to have completely removed earlier archaeological remains, however.

### *Potential impacts*

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

### *Mitigation recommended*

6.3 Given the likelihood of archaeological remains within the PDA in this case, an archaeological evaluation using a strip, map and sample method, much like that

conducted by adjacent research excavations, would seem the most appropriate and cost-effective test within most of the PDA, with alternative arrangements to be discussed for areas within any current buildings to be removed: for example demolition to ground level followed by a watching brief on removal of current foundations. All works should be carried out in liaison with the Local Authority Archaeologist.



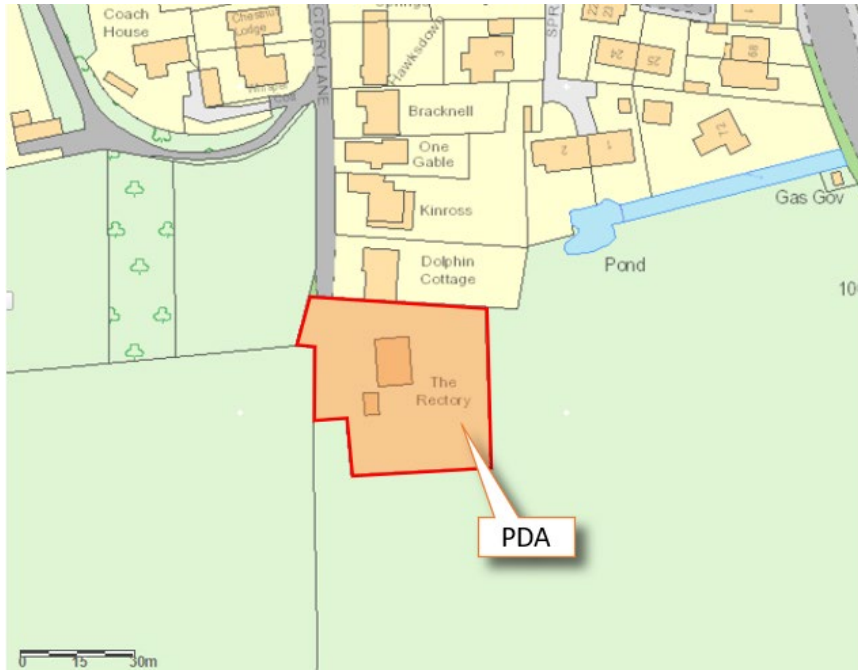


Fig 1. Location of the PDA

**Kent County Council - Lyminge Rectory - Designations**

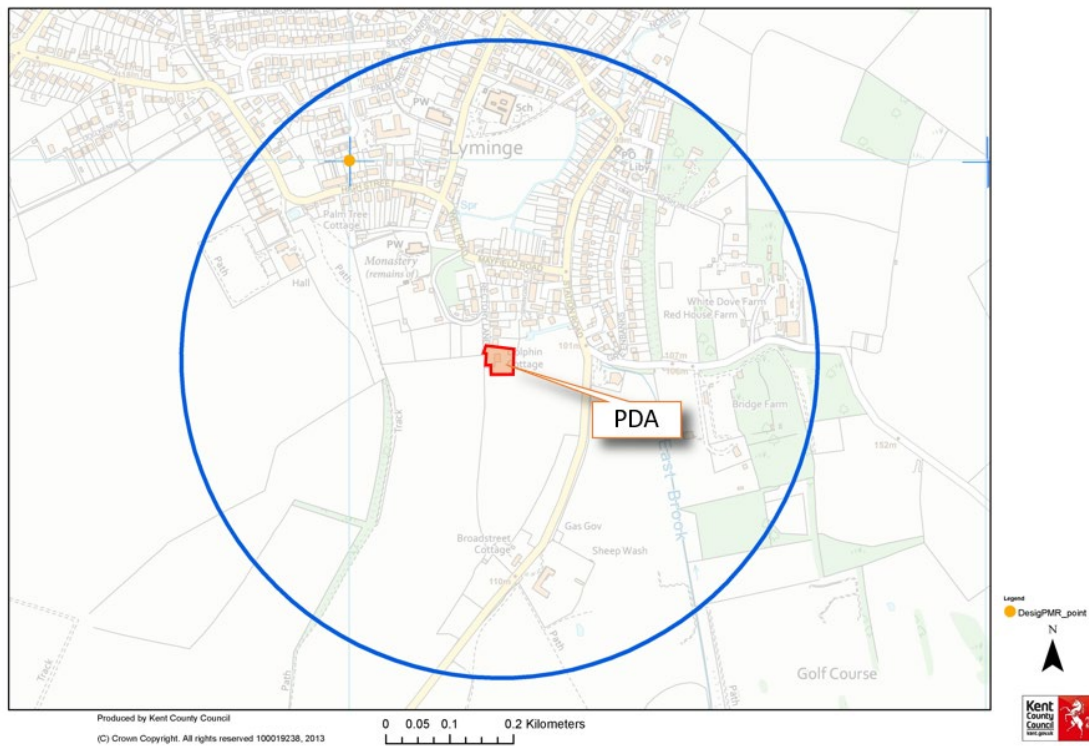


Fig 2. HER search of 500m radius of the PDA (centred) showing results for Designations

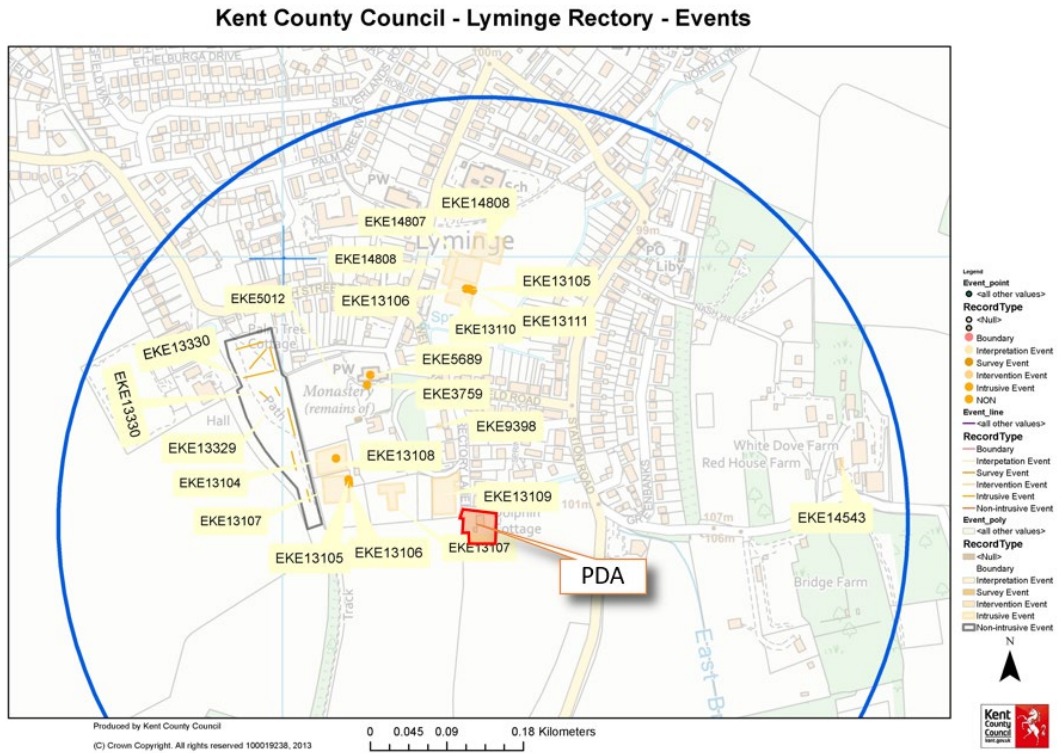


Fig 3. HER search of 500m radius of the PDA (centred) showing results for Events

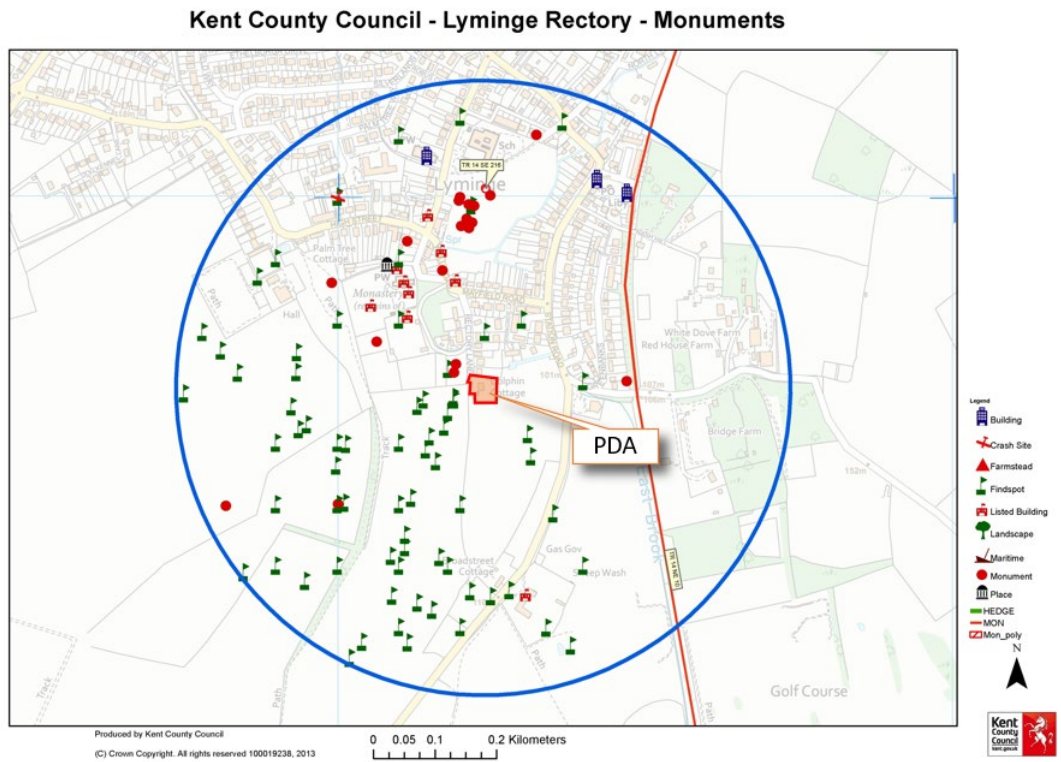


Fig 4. HER search of 500m radius of the PDA (centred) showing results for Monuments

Kent County Council - Lyminge Rectory - Monuments

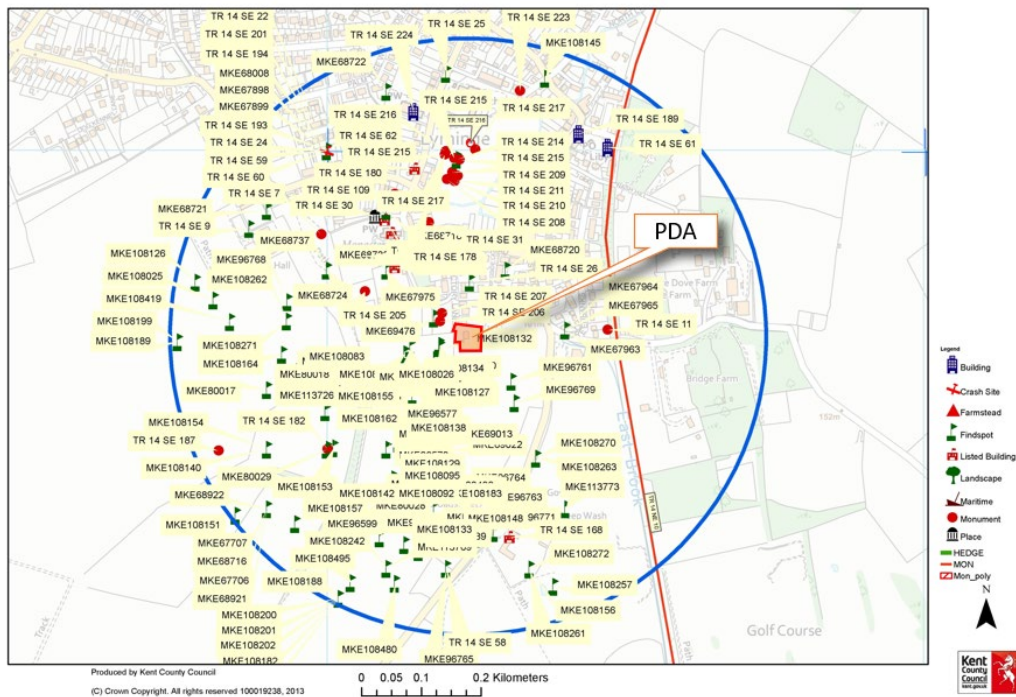


Fig 5. HER search of 500m radius of the PDA (centred) for Monuments with labels



Fig 6: Location of 2008, 2009 and 2010 excavations in relation to the PDA (after [http://www.reading.ac.uk/web/files/archaeology/2010\\_Excavation\\_Summary.pdf](http://www.reading.ac.uk/web/files/archaeology/2010_Excavation_Summary.pdf))



Fig 7: Bronze Age and early Anglo-Saxon features within the University of Reading 2010 excavation (after [http://www.reading.ac.uk/web/files/archaeology/2010\\_Excavation\\_Summary.pdf](http://www.reading.ac.uk/web/files/archaeology/2010_Excavation_Summary.pdf))



Fig 8. Extract from the 1769 Andrews, Dury and Herbert Map of showing the location of the PDA



Fig 9. Extract from the 1801 Mudge Map showing the location of the PDA

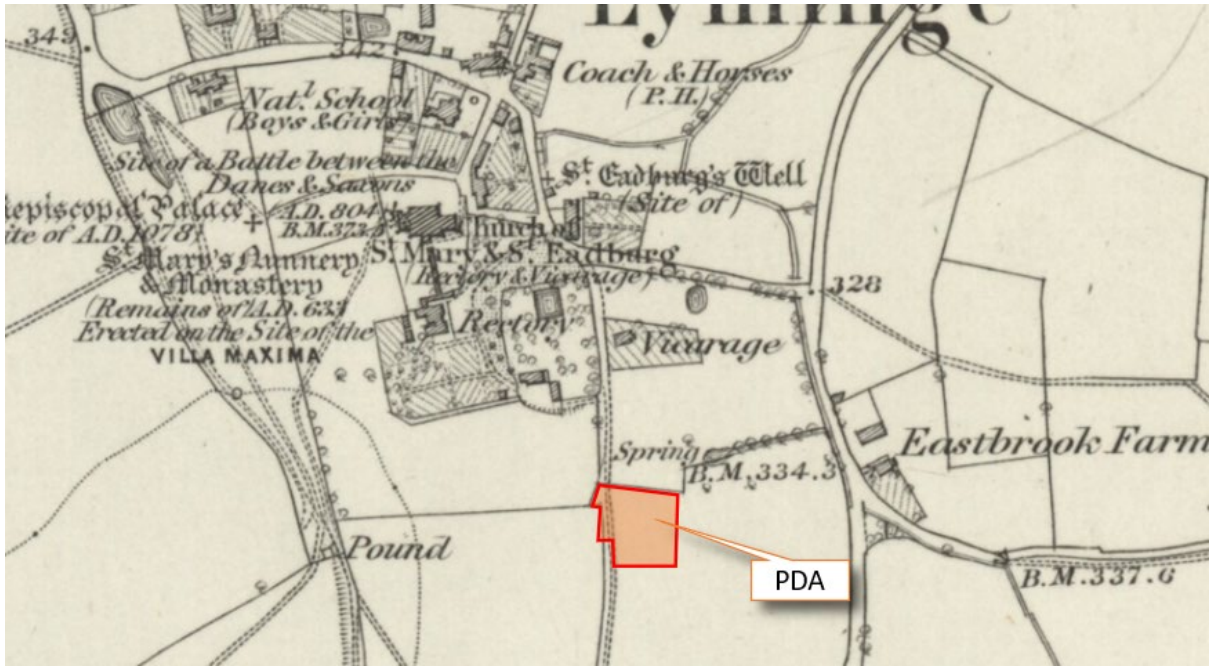


Fig 10. Extract from the OS Map of Kent LXVI (includes: Elham; Elmsted; Lyminge; Stowting.) Surveyed: 1872 Published: 1876 showing the location of the PDA

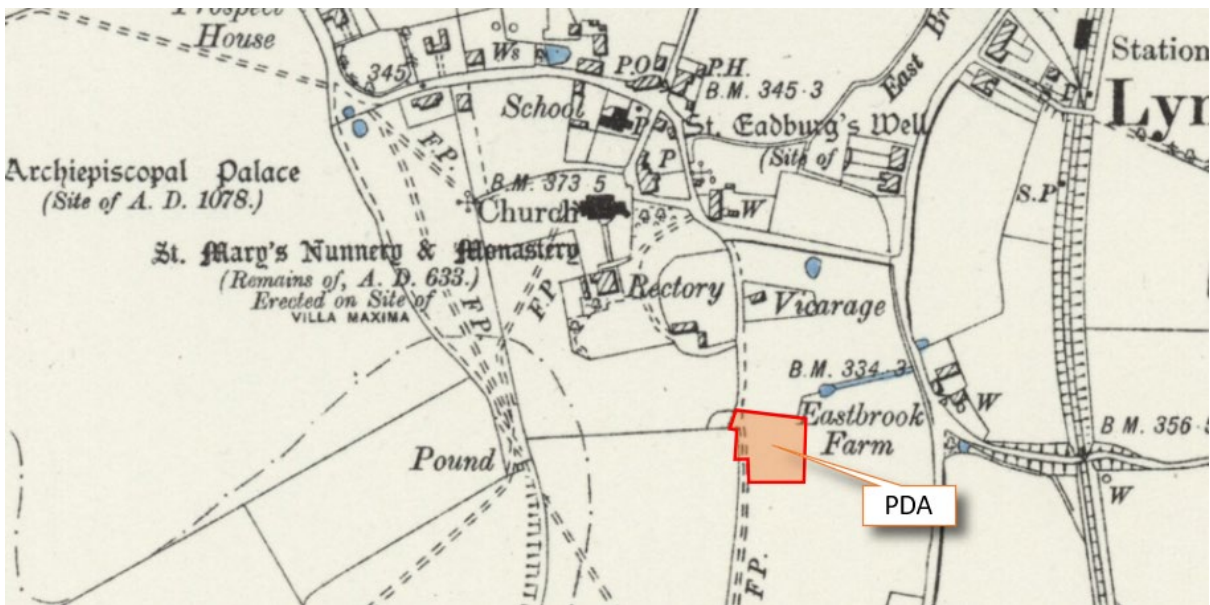


Fig 11. Extract from the OS Map of Kent LXVI.SE (includes: Elham; Lyminge; Postling.) Revised: 1896 to 1897 Published: 1898 showing the location of the PDA

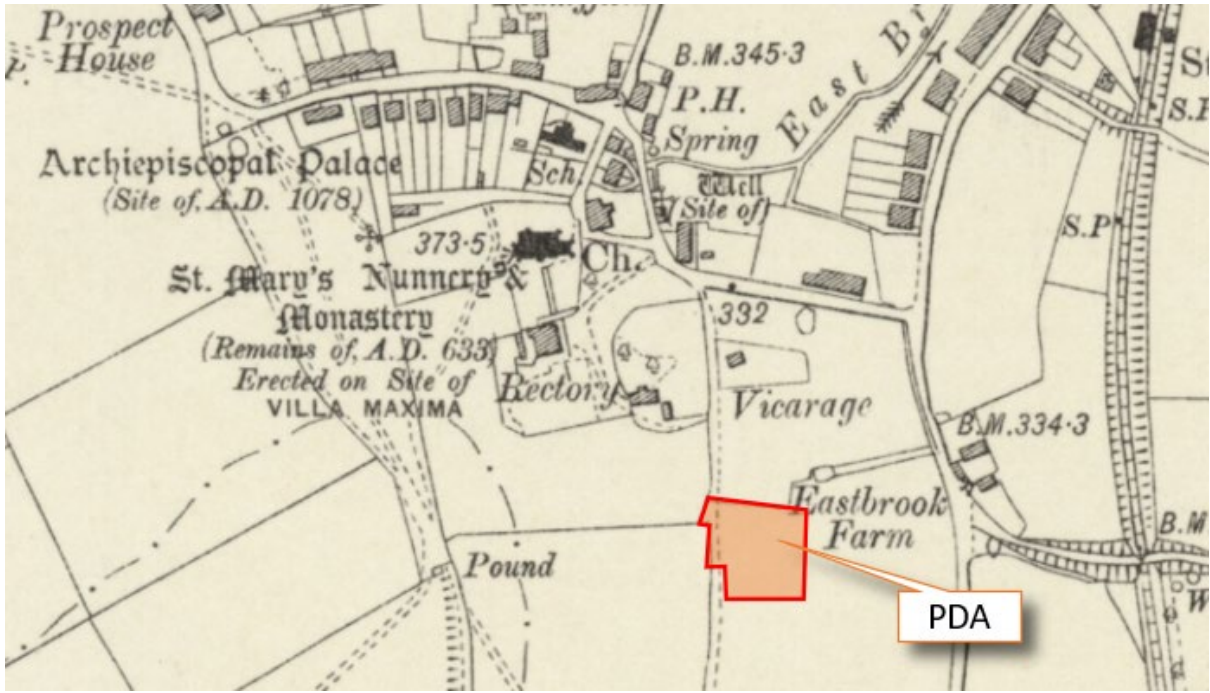


Fig 12. Extract from the OS Map of Kent LXVI.SE (includes: Elham; Lyminge; Postling.)  
 Revised: 1906 Published: c 1938 showing the location of the PDA

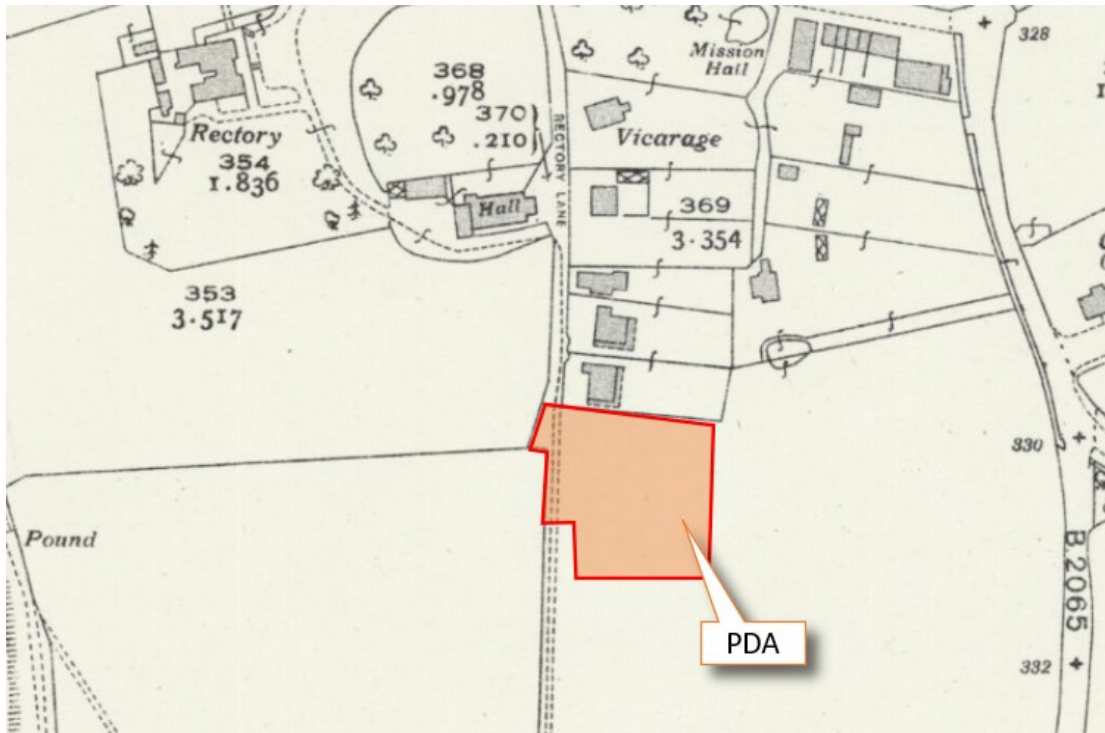


Fig 13. Extract from the OS Map of Kent LXVI.15 (Lyminge; Postling) Revised: 1939  
 Published: 1945 showing the location of the PDA



Fig 14. Aerial photograph from 1940 showing the location of the PDA (source: Google Earth)



Fig 15. Aerial photograph from 1960 showing the location of the PDA (source: Google Earth; [original misaligned])







Fig 18. Satellite image from 2007 showing the location of the PDA (source: Google Earth)

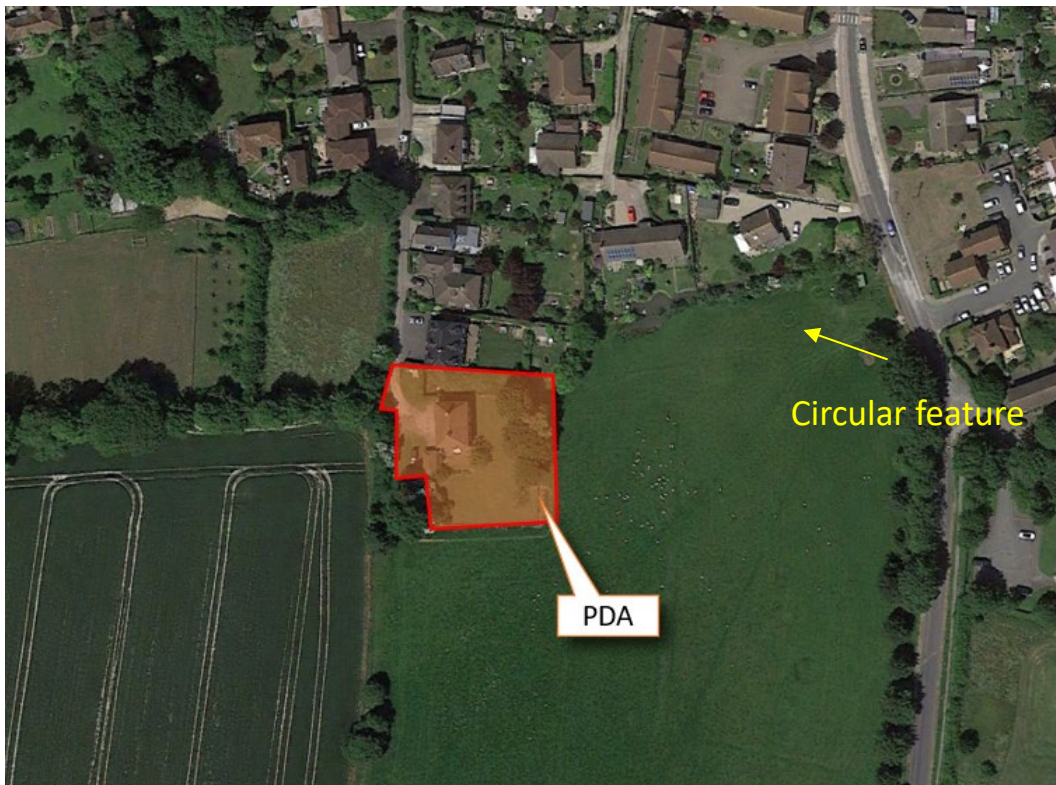


Fig 19. Satellite image from 2013 showing the location of the PDA and notable circular feature (source: Google Earth)



Fig 20. Satellite image from 2020 showing the location of the PDA (source: Google Earth)

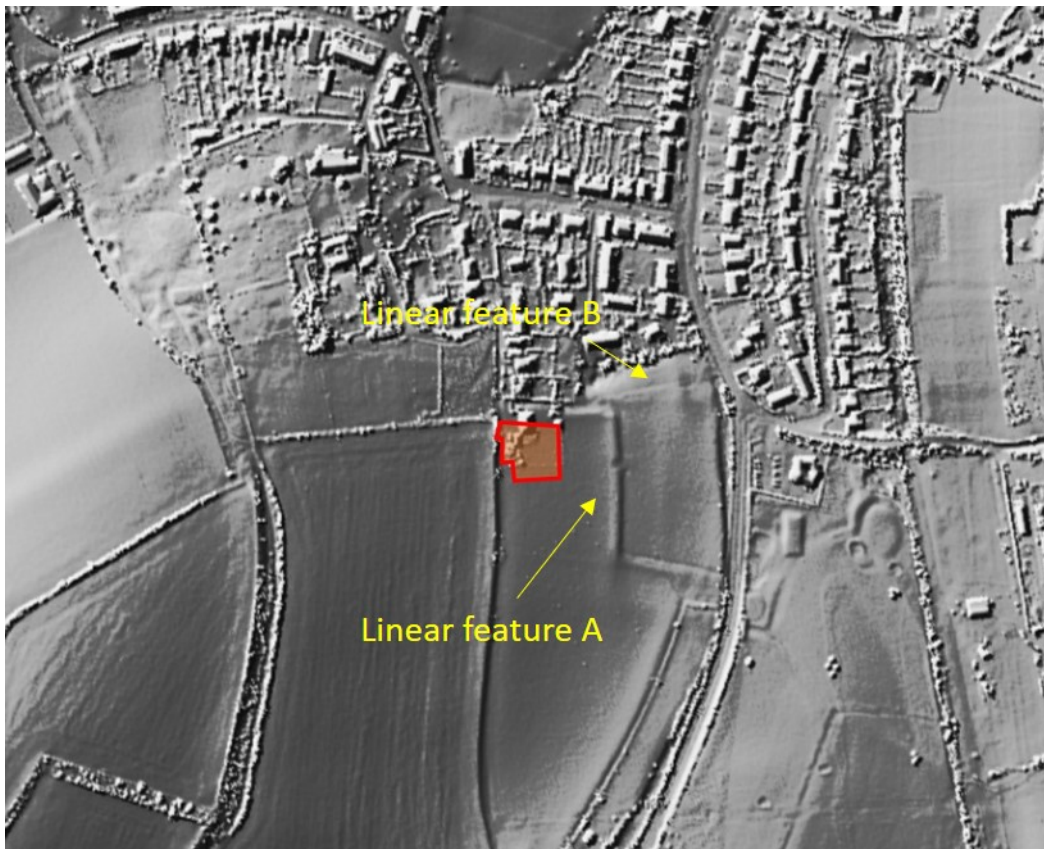


Fig 21: Lidar imagery showing the location of the PDA, the large linear feature (A) seen on aerial photographs and satellite imagery, and other possibly significant lost landscape features.