

The Kent Compendium of Historic Parks and Gardens for Ashford District



Surrenden House, Ashford



June 2013

Surrenden House

Ashford, Kent

INTRODUCTION

SITE DESCRIPTION

LIST OF FIGURES

FIGURE 1: Boundary map of Surrenden Dering.

FIGURE 2: Key views map.

FIGURE 3: Key features map.

FIGURE 4: Aerial photograph.

FIGURE 5: Map of listed buildings at Surrenden Dering.

FIGURE 6: Listed buildings at Surrenden Dering

FIGURE 7: Ordnance Survey 1st edition, 25" map, sheets 54/14 and 64/2 (1862-75).

FIGURE 8: Ordnance Survey 2nd edition, 25" map, (1897-1900).

FIGURE 9: Ordnance Survey 3rd edition, 25" map, (1907 -1923).

FIGURE 10: Tithe map. Part of Pluckley Parish (1844). By kind permission of Kent History and Library Centre (KHLC).

FIGURE 11: Tithe map. Part of Little Chart Parish (1844). By kind permission of KHLC.

FIGURE 12: Ordnance Survey 1st edition, 25" map, combined detail from sheets 54/14 and 64/2 (1871). By kind permission of KHLC.

FIGURE 13: Development of the deer park 1830-40 and late C18.

FIGURE 14: Suggested Development of the deer park C17 and c.1626.

FIGURE 15: Map showing Surrenden Dering estate 1928, U350/E17/2. By kind permission of KHLC.

FIGURE 16: Ordnance Survey drawings, 1789. KCC Heritage Conservation Group.

FIGURE 17: William Mudge, An Entirely New and Accurate Survey of the County of Kent (1801)

FIGURE 18: J. Andrews, A. Drury and W. Herbert, A Topographical Map of the County of Kent in Twenty Five Sheets (1769)

FIGURE 19: Estate map, 1626, U275 P1. By kind permission of KHLC.

FIGURE 20: Views southwards from the house, 1985. (Private collection).

FIGURE 21: View of garden looking north, 1985. (Private collection).

FIGURE 22: South front of house, 1953, after fire. (Private collection).

FIGURE 23: Aerial view, 1946/79. KCC Heritage Conservation Group.

FIGURE 24: View of the park east from the house, 1930. (Private collection).

FIGURE 25: View of the park south from the house, 1930. (Private collection).

FIGURE 26: East front of house, sales catalogue 1928, U350/E16. By kind permission of KHLC.

FIGURE 27: The Avenue, c.1900. Postcard.

FIGURE 28: Surrenden, drawn by JP Neale, pub. 1826.

FIGURE 29: Surrenden, drawn by J Loch, pub. 1812.

FIGURE 30: Cedar of Lebanon.

FIGURE 31: Deer gate in haha where it is crossed by Greensand Way.

FIGURE 32: Deer park wall in Surrenden Road

INTRODUCTION

This report was researched and written by volunteers of the Kent Gardens Trust, and was edited by Virginia Hinze.

The extent of the area identified represents the historic boundary of the site, but does not necessarily cover all changes that may have been made to the designed landscape. Further information is available from the contacts listed below.

Kent Gardens Trust
www.kentgardenstrust.org.uk

Kent County Council
Heritage Conservation
Invicta House
County Hall
Maidstone
ME14 1XX
01622 696918
www.kent.gov.uk

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

With many thanks to the owners of Surrenden House for their help in preparing this report.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Age, rarity and survival: The site exhibits evidence of C17, C18, C19 and late C20 layouts and provides a contemporary setting for the present grade II listed house, the remaining portion of an 1850's rebuild by the architect William Burn.

Aesthetic value: The pleasure grounds contain several surviving mature ornamental trees, their size suggesting a C18 planting date.

Historic association: The Dering family, occupiers since 1480, were of considerable local standing and, after 1600, national figures as members of parliament.

The place has strong associations with American cultural and political activity in late C19 and early C20; it was visited by Henry James and is the setting for Gore Vidal's novel 'Empire'.

Evidential value: Significant surviving features include extensive mid C19 terracing and ha-ha surrounding the southern sides of the burnt down house. Retaining walls and balustrading built over the foundations of the C17 to mid C19 house, evidence of water control systems and C19 below-surface vaulting, the last housing a complete late C20 grotto.

The site's C18 deerpark (of C17 origins) survives, defined by at least 2km of surviving sections of its wall. Within the park are the remains of a further ha-ha, the main C18 entrance to the house, remains of an ice house and deer gates.

The walls of the C18 and C19 kitchen gardens of the estate still survive.

SITE DESCRIPTION

KENT
ASHFORD
PLUCKLEY PARISH

SURRENDEN HOUSE

TQ 9385 4525

SUMMARY OF HISTORIC INTEREST

A garden laid out in the late C20 over the foundations of a C17 house burnt down in 1952 and incorporating surviving C19 terracing and an earlier late C18 pleasure ground; the whole is set within a former deer park of C17 origins, the later, C18, enclosing walls of which survive. The present house was created from the surviving, north service wing of the C17 house, built c1850 perhaps by the architect William Burn.

CHRONOLOGY OF THE HISTORIC DEVELOPMENT

Surrenden lies in the parish of Pluckley and hundred of Calehill and became known as Surrenden Dering in C16 to distinguish it from the older Surrenden Chute, a few miles to the south in the parish of Bethersden. The surviving, present part of the mansion is known as Surrenden House.

In 1480, Robert Dryland granted his house and the feoffment of Surrenden with other lands in Pluckley and Little Chart, to Richard Dering. Robert had received these from Christian Dryland (perhaps his mother) who was the daughter and heir of John Haut of Surrenden. Christian had been married to John Dering, Richard's father, and in her widowhood had married Reynold Dryland (Kent History and Library Centre U350/T7). Thus Surrenden came to the Dering family, descending to Sir Edward Dering, the first baronet, early in C16.

Sir Edward, who rebuilt the house and created the C17 park, was interested in both gardening and garden design. He learnt to graft from his gardener, John, and planted 'a sumach tree from Virginia, a Duke Cherry tree and a May Cherry tree' in March 1621 and four years later, he bought walnuts at '4d per 100 to sett in ye best garden' for a total of 2s. 2d. He also bought two books on gardening and it was his library which was his real interest (Kent History and Library Centre U350 E5). He was an antiquarian of renown and his collection of books came to be of national importance, many now in the British Library.

At this time there was a walled enclosure to the west of the house and another, possibly a garden, to the north. These in turn were surrounded by small fenced enclosures, mainly orchards, leading to a network of fields and woods. A detailed map of 1626 names these fields, including some mentioned in the deed of 1480. The first mention of 'the park' comes in an account book for 1622 when an area of 19 acres was ploughed up for three successive years and crops of wheat taken. By 1625 the accounts imply that in future this would be used as a park and coneys (rabbits) were imported from Sir Thomas Culpepper's warrener at Hollingbourne to populate Surrenden (Kent History Centre). Deer are not

mentioned in the accounts except when Sir Edward hunted at Eastwell and Boughton which does not seem to have happened very frequently.

Having entered Parliament as MP for Hythe in 1627, Dering was made lieutenant of Dover Castle in 1629, an office he held for six years. He was anti-Catholic in his beliefs, becoming increasingly outspoken and, in 1642, was finally imprisoned in the Tower, only to join the Royalists on his release. His changeable nature meant that even this decision did not last and he later 'compounded', returning to the Parliamentary fold despite his house having been sacked by their soldiers (DNB). He came home to Surrenden where he was said to have died 'in poverty' in 1644, although his account books show that he was still carrying out maintenance on his property up until his death. These last accounts contain several references to his 'spring park' and pond which seem to have been in an area of 6.5 hectares outlined as an addition to the 1626 map, lying to the southeast of the house and surrounding an area of water still there today.

The second baronet, also Sir Edward, married Mary, daughter of Daniel Harvey who was a wealthy Turkey merchant and brother of William Harvey, the physician. Mary's brother, Daniel, became ambassador to Constantinople (1668-72) and these connections together with others to Baltic trading companies helped to restore the family fortunes. In 1662, Sir Edward became one of Charles II's commissioners to the Treasury, spending a considerable time in London where he built a house and garden, later becoming MP for East Retford in Nottinghamshire and, in 1669, MP for Hythe (Bond). Account books for Surrenden (1673-5) list all Dering's stock and crops growing but no deer are included. They do, however, mention 'the great garden' and 'my garden' in which he planted some orange trees which he had specially imported from Lisbon and it was maybe he who planted the surviving Cedar of Lebanon in the pleasure grounds.

Successive generations of baronets improved both the house and grounds while, at the same time, pursuing their parliamentary careers. Although no formal park is shown on the maps of Morden (1675-1705) or Parker (1719), Harris was able to state that 'this was a finely situated and elegant house with a very good library'. However, an extensive park was clearly being constructed as Hasted, who knew Sir Edward Dering, the fifth baronet, well (Cooke), refers in 1763 to the enlargement of the house and the emparkment which took place 1711-62 with the building of the surrounding brick wall. A new entrance to the estate was made in Little Chart c.1 km to the east of Surrenden, from where the approach to the house was through the new park.

During this period an enclosed garden was laid out 400m to the north of the house and some smaller gardens immediately to the west (Andrew's and Drury). By 1821 the western drive had been extended south-westwards and a new road (Surrenden Road) constructed 150m to the west of the existing road (Greenwood). This allowed the enlargement of the gardens to an area some 500m long (north to south) between the house and the new road (tithe map) ultimately becoming the basis of the present pleasure ground.

Some evidence of this improvement comes from Lord Camden who took dinner there in 1834, 'he went all over the house which will be a very fine one' and thought that the house was 'on a grand scale particularly in the reception of company'. Camden was taken on a tour of the new farm which had been built 500m to the west, at Sheerland, with which he appeared favourably impressed although his poor handwriting make his comments difficult to decipher (Kent History and Library Centre U1107/A13). At about the same time Greenwood noted that Surrenden 'is a fine Elizabethan structure, beautifully situated in an extensive park, well stocked with deer. The interior of the mansion is elegantly fitted out and decorated: the ceilings are unique. There are also some fine portraits, by Sir Godfrey Kneller, Sir Peter Lely and others'.

By 1840, the main structure of the grounds had been laid out but the eighth baronet added considerable embellishments to both house and gardens (tithe map). Between 1840 and 1857 Sir Edward Cholmley Dering built the ha-ha along the south and east sides of the house and constructed the terraces with ornamental stone balustrades with a gateway on the eastern side, formalising the main entrance to the house from the park (estate map, 1857). Sir Edward employed William Burn, an architect usually associated with the Scottish baronial style (Newman), to improve Surrenden and it is possible that it was he who was responsible for this design.

Burn, who was prepared to work in a variety of styles, is recorded as working at Eastwell Park, only 8km to the east, in 1848 on a neo-Jacobean block which was never finally built (DNB). Although there are no surviving records of the work at Surrenden, illustrations of 1826 and 1872 show the extensive changes to the east front. It was this baronet who had the characteristic round-topped Dering windows installed both in the main house and all the estate properties; they were thought to bring luck to the family. The final result is apparent in a painting by Rebecca Dulcibella Orpin of the eastern façade of the house taken from the park c.1870.

Sir Edward Dering died in 1896 to be succeeded by his son Henry, the ninth baronet, who only lived there for a few years before moving to one of the houses on the estate. Surrenden was rented to Walter Winans, a wealthy American, from c.1905 to 1913. Born in Russia, Winans, who had a wide social acquaintance, was a talented sportsman as well as being both a sculptor and painter, winning medals for shooting at the 1908 and 1912 Olympics and for sculpture in 1912. Gore Vidal, in his novel 'Nation', describes life at Surrenden at this time when there were visits from prominent American politicians and statesmen as well as the novelist, Henry James.

In 1918 a major sale of the outlying farms took place, a total of 1795 acres (726 hectares) being sold off (Kent History and Library Centre U1507/E487). Ten years later, in common with many other large estates, Sir Henry Dering was apparently having financial problems and the rest of the estate of 3824 acres (1500 hectares) had to be put on the market (U350/E16).

Most of the contents were sold off for £18,597 (the main library and antiquarian collection had been dispersed in the 1860s) and the land sold to a speculator, a

Mr Rampton, for £106,000, who then put the whole up for auction in lots (Kent History and Library Centre U350/E15). At this time the park still held the herd of deer and was 'largely surrounded by brick walls'.

The house and surrounding park were purchased for a school, Northaw, and the prospectus provides photographs of the house and grounds. The view eastwards from the house towards Little Chart shows open parkland with mature trees and a similar outlook southwards across the ha-ha towards Knights Wood; the park providing space for playing fields and a swimming pool.

In 1952 the house was burnt down except for the north service wing which was preserved to become the present house. This was bought by Mr and Mrs Noerr who lived there until the property was sold to the present owners in 1987. A photograph taken in that year shows that, by then, the site had been cleared and a lawn created over the footprint of the house, reputedly laid over the cellars. The garden to the southeast of the former mansion still retained the flower beds, the yew hedges and the open view southwards over the ha-ha.

Since 1987 much work has been carried out to maintain the C19 pleasure grounds, to refurbish and improve the house and to create the present garden. During this period the surrounding parkland has been planted with orchards and these, together with windbreaks, have grown up obscuring the historic open views to the east and south of the present garden. The site remains in private ownership.

SITE DESCRIPTION

LOCATION, AREA, BOUNDARIES, LANDFORM and SETTING

Surrenden Dering lies 1km east of the centre of the village of Pluckley, 8kms northwest of Ashford and 4kms south of Charing on the A20. The site is enclosed by Surrenden Road to the west, Swan Lane to the north and the Hothfield Road to the east from which Rooting Lane runs south-westwards to Knights Wood which forms the southern boundary (TN27 0PR). The 100 hectare site lies on the gently sloping southern side of the lower greensand ridge where it descends to the northern Weald and is surrounded by mixed farmland and woods with the occasional house, mostly part of the former Dering estate.

The walls built by the Derings as part of the historic designed landscape are a significant part of the bounds of Surrenden Dering. The northern boundary is formed by a 3.5m high brick on ragstone wall along Swan Lane (grade II listed); the initial section, from its junction with Surrenden Road forms the side of two separate walled gardens, previously kitchen gardens of the Surrenden Dering estate, (now Garden Cottage and Wenny House). The wall continues eastwards at c.2.5m high, at first forming the northern the northern boundary wall of Walnut Tree Farm (C19 brick with tiled roof and three Dering windows, grade II listed) for 1km to Little Chart at the site's extreme north-east corner.

The wall then turns southeast to form the first 200m of the site's eastern boundary, to the C18 entrance to the park, now the entrance to St Mary's Church. At this point the park wall turns directly south for 100m to form the boundary between the park and the grounds of the Gatte House and Gate Cottage (early C19 with Dering windows, grade II listed). Here it ends and the boundary, now fence and hedge, continues eastwards for 100m, as shown on the 1928 sales map, to rejoin the edge of the Hothfield Road and travel southwards for a further 500m to Rooting Lane, the south-east point of the site.

The western boundary, running south from the junction of Swan Lane and Surrenden Road, is first formed by the other major surviving length of wall (grade II listed), this also serving as the western side of the walled kitchen gardens (Garden Cottage and Wenny House). After 150m it turns to run 50m eastwards along the north edge of the Greensand Way which crosses Surrenden Road east/west at this point as a footpath. The wall then turns south again, running for 250m along the line of the western side of the course of a former C17 north/south road (shown on 1626 map) to meet the main driveway to Surrenden Dering. From the south side of the drive the wall continues for a further 200m southwards at which point there is a further alignment 30m eastwards, (leaving an east/west gap where the former road passed through) so that the wall then continues along the eastern side of this road to end at the south-western corner of the site.

The southern boundary abuts Knights Wood for its first 500m eastwards from the south-western corner and although at this point the park wall apparently ends, for the first 200m there is evidence of its footings visible where they are exposed. After this, however, the course of the boundary seems to be marked only by a ditch and bank, topped with a barbed wire fence. From the eastern end of the wood the boundary, formed of hedges, follows a footpath route for 200m north to skirt the west side of a group of buildings which include Rooting Manor (late C14, timber and plaster but refaced with brick C18, three Dering windows, grade II listed), Rooting Farm House (C18, Dering windows, grade II listed) and farm buildings now dwellings (C19, brick with Dering windows, grade II listed). From here the boundary follows Rooting Lane north-eastwards for 600m to reach the junction with the Hothfield Road, at the south-east corner of the site.

ENTRANCES and APPROACHES

The main entrance to Surrenden House is off the east side of Surrenden Road, 500m south of the junction with Swan Lane. This approach has been used since the fire in 1952 and may have been increasingly used since the mid C19 when the gate lodge was built (single story ragstone with a tiled roof and 'Dering' windows, grade II listed) standing on the north side of the drive which is marked on the 1837 tithe map. The present driveway, which leads north-eastwards for 300m, is initially bordered by beech hedges for 200m and then a 2.5m brick wall on the south side which forms the northern boundary wall of the garden. At the start of the wall is a secondary entrance, formed by 2.5m boarded double doors, sited on the course of a C17 roadway which crossed the drive in a north/south direction at this point. The drive continues to follow the wall for 100m, passing

other residences and out-buildings, to a gravelled area outside the front door on the north side of Surrenden House.

In C19 a driveway is shown on early OS maps branching off the line of the present drive at the point at which the garden wall is reached, now servicing recently built dwellings but previously circling the northern side of outbuildings, it finally linked with the C18 entrance drive from Little Chart on the eastern side of the main house.

In the C18 a main entrance had been constructed on the eastern side of the house when the deer park was laid out. This was reached through the park from the C18 entrance in Little Chart, 1km to the east, where a surviving C18/early C19, 3m wide 'deer-proof' entrance gate of ornamented wood is set in two square gate piers with rusticated ragstone quoins (grade II listed) embedded in the brick wall and now forms the entrance to the adjacent churchyard of the church of St Mary. The C18 driveway through the park, visible in a photograph c.1930, is now just a track through orchard and arable land. The driveway remained the main approach to the enlarged house in the mid C19, the entrance gates created at the same time to the forecourt on its eastern side, made of highly ornamented wrought iron and set in decorated ragstone pillars, still surviving. These pillars are linked by further wrought iron fencing to a set of lesser pillars attached to the stone balustrades topping a ha-ha.

In C17, the main entrance had been from the former C17 north/south road on the western side of the house, the drive following roughly the line of the eastern third of the present drive. When this north/south road was moved westwards to form Surrenden Road in C19, a further approach was also constructed from the centre of Pluckley village eastwards for 1km to reach Surrenden Road at the present lodge and main drive entrance. This approach, now planted with mainly sycamore and lime trees and known as the Avenue, is still accessible today on foot although not a public right of way.

PRINCIPAL BUILDING

The C17 house was burnt down in 1952 and the present house (grade II listed) consists of the remaining north service wing which had been built in mid C19 in a similar style to the earlier parts of the house. Brick built and tiled, the house has a number of the Dering 'lucky' windows (Pevsner) and has been extensively repaired and modified by the present owners to make good the damage from the fire.

Immediately to the north of the present house is a late C18 brick and tiled L-shaped building. The arm extending northwards from Surrenden is a stable block with a very high central arch and the arm then extending eastwards is a coach house with a similar high entrance arch. Both are grade II listed and now divided into flats.

GARDENS AND PLEASURE GROUNDS

The principal vista from Surrenden House is southwards where a door leads onto a paved area, bordered by herbaceous planting backed by shrubs and extending along the length of the south side of the building. At the eastern end is a conservatory and from here a broad brick path edged with stone chippings and bordered by lime trees, extends directly south for 50m to reach a wooden gazebo. On each side of the path to east and west, are lawns, the whole area being some 40m x 35m and occupying the footprint of the former house, being laid over the cellars with the outer walls marked by north/south hornbeam and field maple hedges to east and west. A low ragstone wall on the south side completes the boundary of this section of garden to the east of the gazebo, the wall creating a sharp drop on its far side where it becomes apparent that it is the remaining part of the southern façade of the former mansion. To the west of the gazebo the lawn continues southwards for 30m to a stone balustrade protecting a drop to a lower terrace.

From the mid-point of the lime avenue to the north of the gazebo, a shorter avenue leads at a right angle eastwards for 30m to the hedge of hornbeam and field maple, passing immediately in front of the house where there is a box parterre set in the lawn.

At the mid-point of this eastern hedge is an entrance to a further grassed area through which a mown grass path leads a further 35m eastward to the former C19 main entrance marked by wrought iron gates, no longer used. Stone balustrades extend round three sides of the grassed area with an inner mown perimeter path. Two topiaried yew trees mark the western entrance through the hornbeam hedge and two more are planted by the gates. There is a planting of deciduous trees along the northern and southern edges while beyond the southern balustrade is a 3m clipped yew hedge which is apparent in photographs of the mansion taken early in C20. On the eastern and northern sides, the former parkland is now farmland and windbreaks have been planted up to the boundary obscuring the former views of the Weald.

At the western end of the yew hedge, at the junction with the hornbeam hedge and foundations of the former house, is an entrance to further lawns to the south which were part of the terracing created in the mid-C19 and extending between the south side of the house and the ha-ha. This area is c50m x 43m, the northern and western edges sloping down about a metre to form a lower area in which is a rectangular c.17m x 8m pond. Until 1980, when the view across the park was still open, this area had been planted with ornamental flower beds but now it is formally planted with willow trees around the pond and a mix of deciduous shrubs atop the ha-ha along the southern boundary and the view obscured. The eastern boundary is formed of another 3m yew hedge planted on the top of this section of the ha-ha which links with the C19 yew hedge forming the eastern part of the northern boundary. The rest of the latter is formed of the line of foundations which, at the north-western point, abut a 1 metre brick retaining wall supporting the higher terrace, extending south from the gazebo and are part of the C19 scheme. This wall extends for 20m to a flight of six 3m wide stone steps bringing the western edge of this lawn to same

level as the area round the pond; the rest of this boundary is formed of a yew hedge planted some 35 years ago.

At the mid-point of this yew hedge, there is an entrance to a smaller lawn (14m sq) surrounded on three sides by more yew hedge, the fourth being the ragstone wall, topped by a stone balustrade, supporting the south end of the higher terrace. This wall is pierced by four arches allowing entrance to an undercroft, c.14m x 3m, probably mid-C19 and formed of brick pillars supporting a cross-vaulted roof. Transformed into a grotto over the past 25 years, much of the surface has been decorated with shells creating both formal patterns and fantastical figures following the tradition of this form of art. At the eastern end of the grotto is a passage and a smaller conduit running directly north towards the house. Until the mid-C19 the deer park extended right up to the house but with the construction of the terracing and ha-ha, it appears that this was built to carry away the rainwater from the central parts of the roof of the house. In the middle of the south wall of the grotto is a further drainage passageway which continues south towards the ha-ha. A view of the house and garden from the southwest c.1870 shows details of the terracing at this point and the steps descending either side of the undercroft to the level of the ha-ha. Flower beds and gravelled paths, setting off three large planters with ornamental trees, extend along the foot of the terracing on the southern and western sides of the house.

From the present lawn by the grotto an entrance in the western yew hedge leads to the pleasure grounds which form the largest area of the garden, extending some 350m from north to south and c.100m wide. These consist of mown grass edged by a mixed planting of deciduous and conifer trees with large specimens in the central area. C19 OS maps show paths running north/south on each side, that on the west (but no longer there) following the line of the former C17 roadway marked on the 1626 map. A grass terrace lies between the line of the eastern path and the foundations of the C17 house, now topped by hornbeam hedges. At the southern end of this terrace, the upper terrace can be reached by a broad flight of 7 steps eastwards or, alternatively, westwards a further flight of 5 steps descend to the lower level.

Although the tithe map of 1837 and the Andrews' map of 1769 both show gardens in the same position as the current pleasure grounds, the terracing was not carried out until 1840-57. Most of the ha-ha probably dates from the same time except, perhaps as suggested by the tithe map, the section leading south from the grotto and forming the eastern boundary of the pleasure ground, which could be earlier. After 230m it meets the perimeter wall of the park (also the site boundary) with which it forms the apex of a triangle. The wall, initially travelling north along the eastern side of the former C17 road, after 120m its course is removed 30m westwards to follow the western side, this shift being marked with a low wrought iron fence and gate. While largely intact, a length of wall in the middle section is missing, the course being marked for 100m by a bank sloping to the west with some remaining foundations.

At the northern end of the pleasure ground, beside the site boundary wall, an area, c.20 x 40m, has been separated off by a 1.5m hedge to make a kitchen garden, hedged to south and west and walled to north and east.

Many of the specimen trees of the pleasure grounds appear to have been planted in the C19, including a holm oak, sycamore (24'4", 7.4m girth) and black pine but four are particularly important because of their size and apparent age: the Wellingtonia (24', 7.3m girth), the tulip tree (19', 5.8m), the swamp cypress (13', 3.95m) and the Cedar of Lebanon (29½ft, 9m). The Wellingtonia would not have been planted before 1855 (Johnson) but the tulip tree and swamp cypress could be older. The cedar is very large, dating perhaps from the C18 or even earlier and it is possible that this was brought back from the Near East through the Dering connection with Turkey in C17. The tulip tree and cedar have recently been judged 'county champions'.

The exit from the pleasure ground at their north-east corner is up a bank to the northern point of the grass terrace. Late C20 stone walls line the eastern side of this narrow section of lawn providing retaining beds for herbaceous plants and shrubs with similar plantings on the opposite side which is backed by a wall. This is continued northwards for 30m to reach the western end of the present house where it opens out to provide an open grassed space, roughly 25m sq, surrounded largely by walls. To the west are two out-buildings, one a former game larder from which a 3m wall extends north, forming the eastern wall of the kitchen garden through which is an entrance with a wrought iron gate. At its northern end the wall joins the boundary wall of the property extending east and then south to enclose this area but allowing access between the end of the wall and the front door of the present house. The northern façade of the house forms the south side of the space.

To the east of the front door a driveway extends along the north and east sides to reach the backdoor and garages.

KITCHEN GARDENS

The site boundary walls at the junction of Swan Lane and Surrenden Road form the northern boundary of two kitchen gardens, together c.1hectare in area. Roughly equal in size (100m x 50m), they lie on either side of the former roadway shown on the 1626 map and which now forms the present entrance drive to Garden Cottage (C19 brick with tiled roof and three Dering windows, grade II listed), lying to the east, while Wenny House lies to the west with an entrance on Surrenden Road.

The eastern garden appears to have been created in the C18 when the deer park wall was built, being shown on the Andrews' map of 1769, while the western one was made early in the C19 when the course of Surrenden Road was changed to its present line. Both gardens appear on the tithe map of 1840 and the OS map of 1879 shows them to have been divided up by rectangular paths, the western one containing fruit trees as well as glass houses extending along the inner side of the northern boundary wall for c.50m.

On an aerial map of 1946 both gardens appear to have been ploughed, perhaps for the war effort, although the eastern one retained its path pattern. The

present layout of the gardens and the building of Wenny House dates from the late C20.

PARK

The site of the C18 deer park, now in multiple ownership, is apparent from the walls still standing, some two kilometres in all, mainly on the northern and western sides; described in the 1928 sales catalogue as 'a finely timbered and undulating park of 250 acres (100 hectares), the major portion of which has a walled boundary'. While the walls on the northern and western sides are intact, only 300m on the eastern and 200m of footings on the southern edges survive. There may possibly have been walls here which have been destroyed but some of this part of the boundary may have been post and paling which the early estate account books show to have been used in C17.

The deer park is now farmed in a variety of different ways and is crossed by a number of public footpaths as well as a track marking the line of the C18 drive from Little Chart to the house. To the east, the park is now arable land and to the west, surrounding Surrenden House, orchard, while the southern part, bordering Knights Wood and approximately ten per cent of the whole, is rough grazing with some timber (oak and beech), probably looking very much as it has done for the last 300 years. At the northern end of this grazed area there is still the pond marked on the 1626 map and, beside this, a swimming pool built by the school in the 1930s.

Early C19 prints suggest that the deer park may not only have extended up to the eastern and southern sides of the house but may also have extended around the western side, the area which became the C19 pleasure ground after the construction of the ha-ha. When the deer park was formed, another ha-ha was built to the north of Surrenden House and the coach house, extending directly north for 250m to the boundary wall along Swan Lane, thus dividing off an area 250 sq.m. from the main park. This appears to have been further subdivided and some remains of fence posts and deer gates survive, suggesting the creation of paddocks used for managing the deer herd. At present, part of this land is rough grazing and part growing soft fruit. It is also now crossed from east to west by the Greensand Way which allows good views of the park remnants and in particular an elaborate gateway through the mid-point of the north-south ha-ha which would have been used to bring deer to the paddock area. A lower gate is set within a short passage through the ha-ha built of ragstone and above this a further wooden gate appears to have been set between 'spoked' iron hoops to prevent the deer climbing onto the top of the ha-ha.

In the north-eastern corner of the park, 100m south of St Mary's Church are the remains of a late C18 to early C19 ice house, brick built and covered with an earth mound but partially demolished (grade II listed). It was probably used for hanging venison.

REFERENCES

- Edward Hasted, *The History and Topographical Survey of the County of Kent, Parish of Pluckley*: vol. 7, pp 463-478 (Canterbury, 1798).
- John Harris, *A History of Kent*. (London, 1719)
- C Greenwood, *An Epitome of County History: County of Kent* (London, 1838)
- John Newman, *Kent: West and the Weald* (London, Yale University Press, 2012), *The Buildings of England, founding editor, Nicholas Pevsner*.
- Maurice Bond, (ed.), *The Diaries and Papers of Sir Edward Dering Second Baronet, 1644 to 1684* (London, 1976).
- Rev. LB Larking, *On the Surrenden Charters*. Arch. Cant., vol. I (1858), p 60.
- John Philipott, Rouge Dragon, *The Visitation of the County of Kent, 1619*. Arch. Cant., vol. X, p. 327.
- R Cooke, *Letters of Edward Hasted to Thomas Astle*. Arch. Cant., vol. XXVII p. 140.
- Amicia de Moubray, *Mr Oakes' Gorgeous Grotto*, Country Life, 6th May 2004, pp 228-9.
- Susan Pittman, *Elizabethan and Jacobean Deer Parks in Kent*. Ph.D thesis.
- Post Office Directories, 1895-1920.
- Walter Winans, Wikipedia.
- Oxford Dictionary of National Biography (Oxford University Press, 2004-12).

Maps

- Philip Symonson, *Map of Kent* (1596)
- John Speed, *Kent with her Cities and Earles Described and Observed* (1608-10).
- Estate map, *Surrenden Dering, 1626*, Kent History Centre and Library, U275 P1.
- Kent by Robert Morden* (1675-1703).
- J. Andrews, A. Drury and W. Herbert, *A Topographical Map of the County of Kent in Twenty Five Sheets* (1769)
- Ordnance Surveyor's Drawings, Pluckley, 1789 (KCC).
- William Mudge, *An Entirely New and Accurate Survey of the County of Kent* (1801)
- Christopher Greenwood, *Map of the county of Kent: from an actual survey made in the years 1819 & 1820*, engraved by S.I. Neele & Son, 352 Strand.
- Tithe map for Pluckley, 1837 (Kent History Centre).
- Tithe map for Little Chart, 1839 (Kent History Centre)
- Ordnance Survey 1st edn. 25" map, sheet 54/14 (surveyed 1871)
- Ordnance Survey 1st edn. 25" map, sheet 64/2 (surveyed 1871)
- Ordnance Survey 2nd edn. 25" map, sheets 54/14 and 64/2 (1897-1900)
- Ordnance Survey 3rd edn. 25" map, sheets 54/14 and 64/2 (1909)
- Estate map, Surrenden Dering, 1928(?). Kent History Centre, U350/E17/2.

Illustrations

- John George Wood (1768-1838), *Surrenden Dering*. (London, 7 Beaumont Street).

J Loch, engraved Hay, *Surrenden Kent*, (pub. John Harris, St Paul's Churchyard, 1812)
John Preston Neale, *Surrenden, Kent*, (pub. London 1812-25).
Rebecca Dulcibella Orpen, *View of the Entrance Front of Surrenden Dering*, painted c.1870, coll. National Trust, Baddesley Clinton.
Rebecca Dulcibella Orpen, *View of the Garden Front and Terrace of Surrenden Dering*, painted c.1870, coll. National Trust, Baddesley Clinton.
Postcard, *Surrenden, Pluckley*, c.1910. Private collection.
Postcard, *The Avenue, Pluckley*, c.1910. Ibid.
Sales Catalogue, *Surrenden Dering*, 1928. Kent History Centre, U358/E16.
Photographs, *Surrenden Dering*, early C20, (internet, source unclear).
South View looking towards Sea, c.1930. Private collection.
The Park (Front View), c.1930. Private collection.
Aerial photographs, *Surrenden 1946/47*, KCC Heritage Conservation Group.
Photograph, *south front following fire*, 1953. Private collection.
Photograph, *view southeast from above the grotto towards ha-ha*, c.1985. Ibid.
Photograph, *view south as above*. Ibid.
Photograph, *aerial view looking north*, c.1985. Ibid

Archival Items

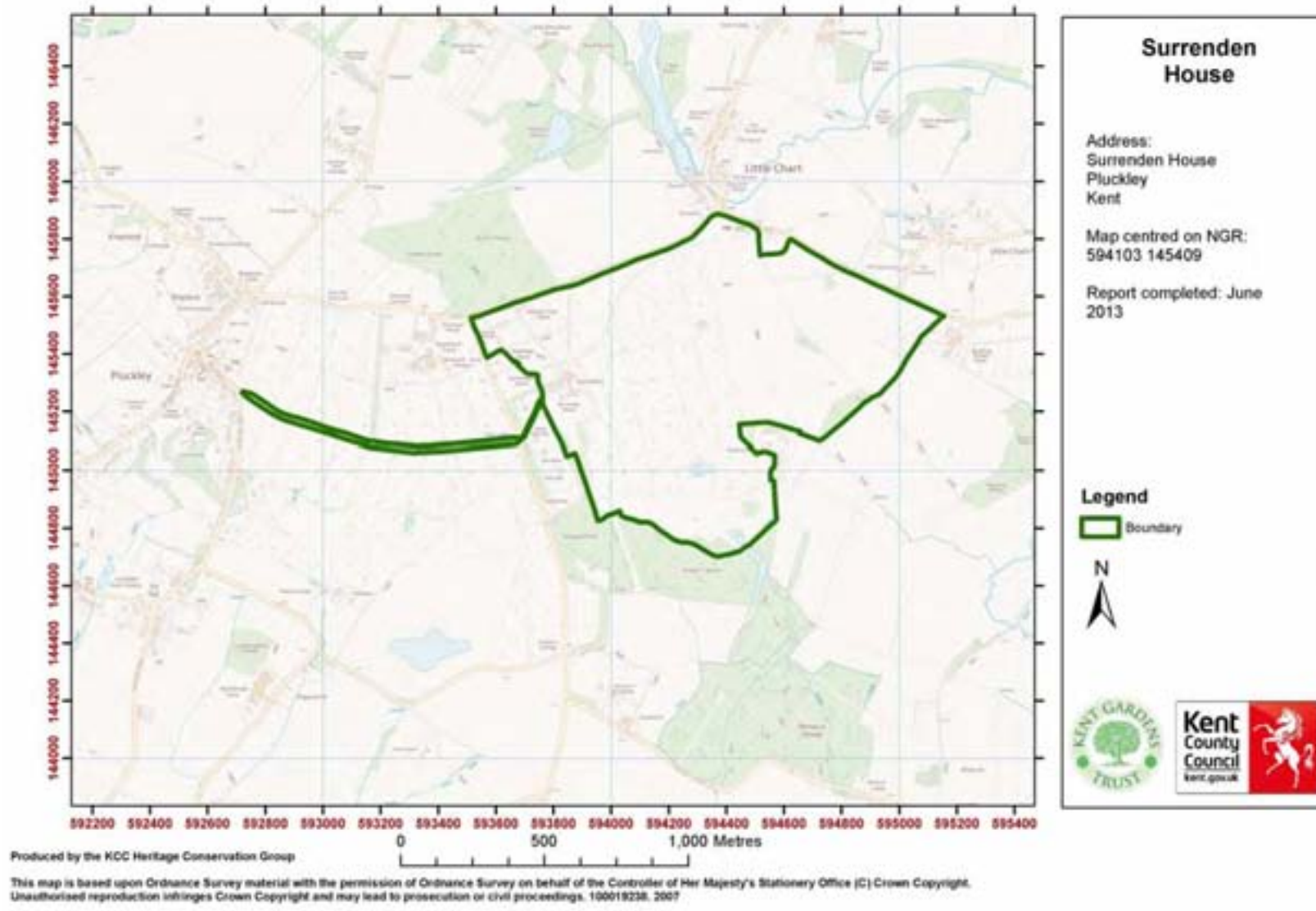
Title Deed, Surrenden Dering, 1480. Kent History and Library Centre, U350/T7
Memorandum, date not known, ?C16. Ibid, U350/F17/4
Collection of grants, C14-16. Ibid, U1107/E34
Sir Edward Dering, *His Booke of Expences, 1617-1628*. Ibid U350 E5.
Account book, 1642-4. Ibid, U1107/A13
Sir Edward Dering's (second baronet) Journal 1673. Ibid, U 2981 F1
Letter from Lord Camden, Ibid, U840/C203/6
Sales Details, Surrenden estate, outlying properties, 1918. Ibid, U1507/E487
Sales details, Surrenden estate, 1928. Ibid, U350/E16
Correspondence related to sale, 1928. Ibid, U350/E15.
Northaw School prospectus, c.1930. Private collection.

Research by Hugh Vaux

Virginia Hinze (editor)

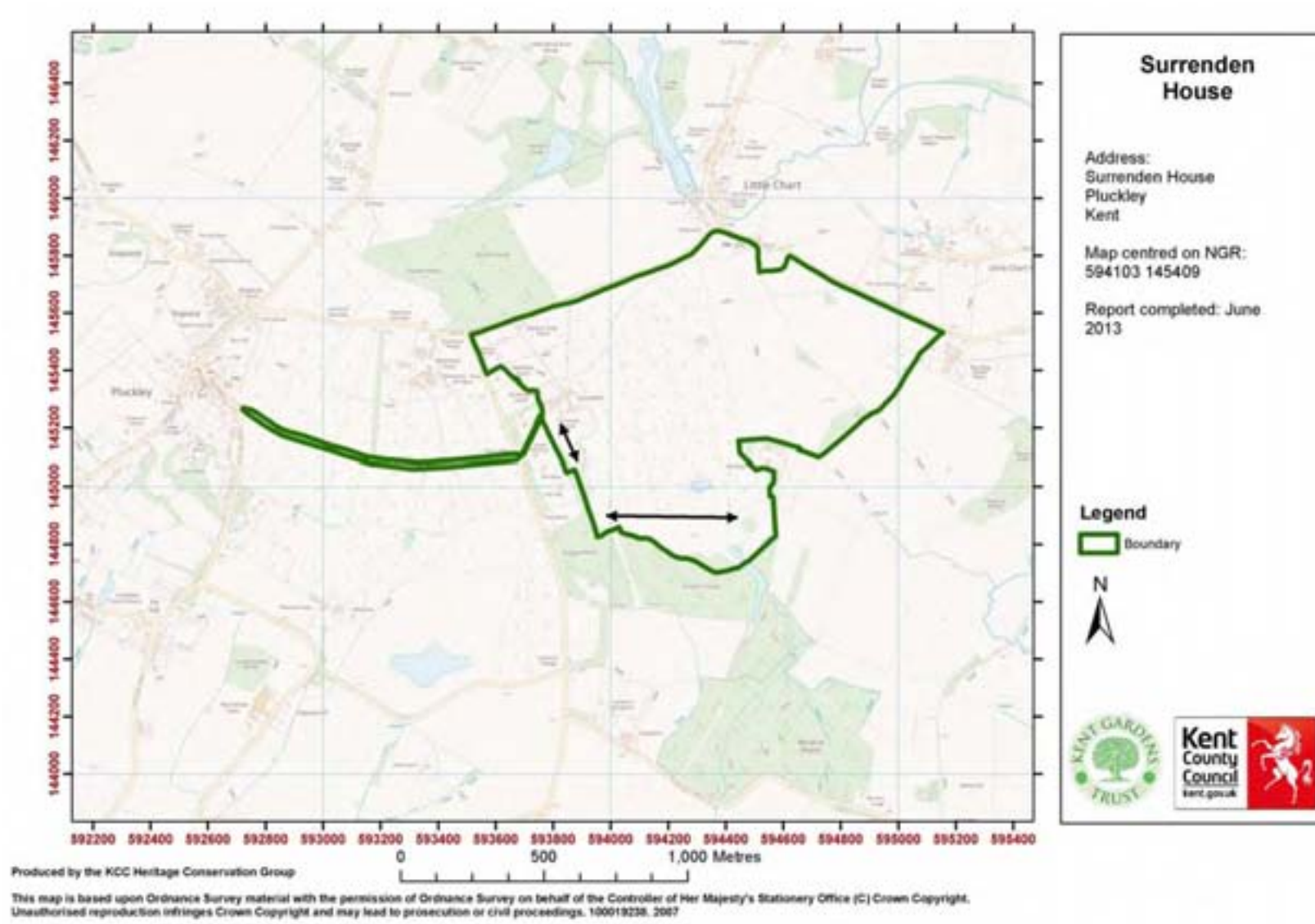
Kent Compendium of Historic Parks & Gardens – 2013 review of Surrenden House

Fig. 1 Boundary map



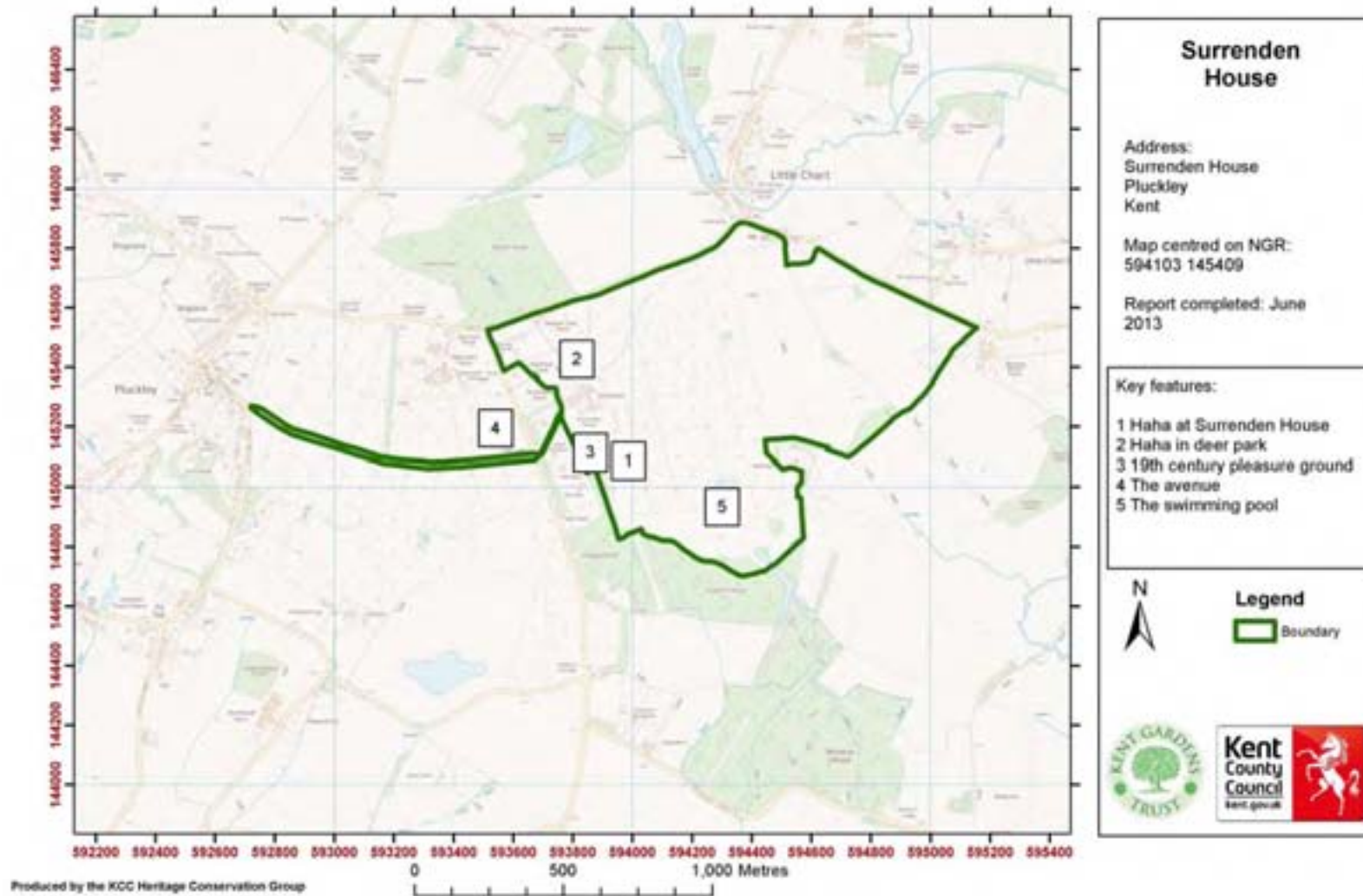
Kent Compendium of Historic Parks & Gardens – 2013 review of Surrenden House

Fig. 2 Key views map



Kent Compendium of Historic Parks & Gardens – 2013 review of Surrenden House

Fig. 3 Key features map



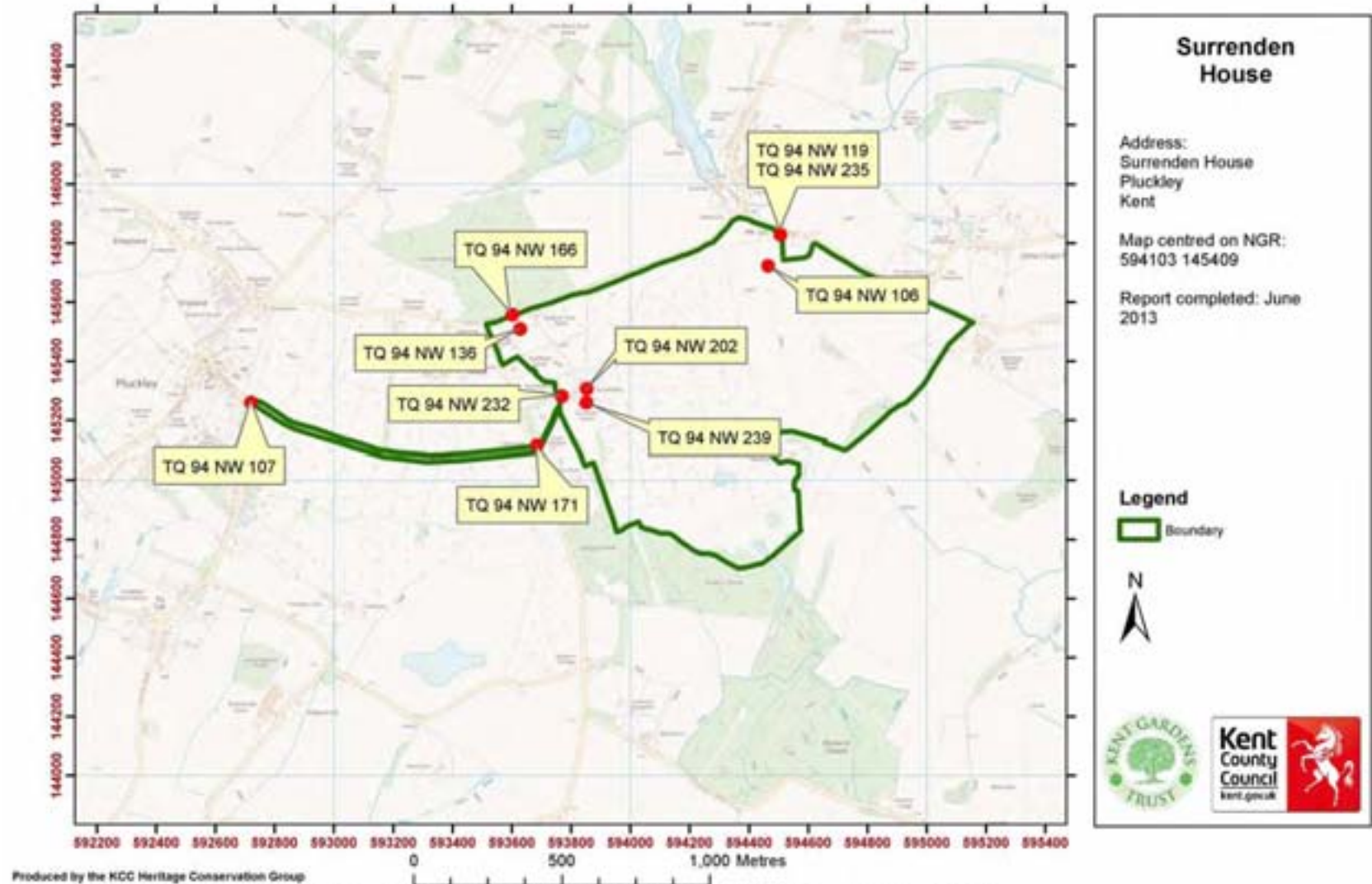
Kent Compendium of Historic Parks & Gardens – 2013 review of Surrenden House

Fig. 4 Aerial photograph (2012)



Kent Compendium of Historic Parks & Gardens – 2013 review of Surrenden House

Fig. 5 Map of listed buildings at Surrenden Dering



Doorcases with flat hoods over on scroll brackets. The east cottage has a modern L-wing addition behind.

Kent Historic Environment Record Reference: TQ 94 NW 136

The following text is from the original listed building designation:

In the following item:-

1. 5272 PLUCKLEY LITTLE CHART ROAD
Walnut tree Farmhouse TQ 9345/27/49 II

Delete Walnut Tree Farmhouse and substitute Garden Cottage
The description should be amended to read: Probably early C19 with modern additions. 2 storeys and attics red brick. Tiled roof. Principal elevation to south has 3 Dutch curved dormers; 3 double light Dering windows and Dutch gabled porch. Modern extensions to east and ground floor west.

1. 5272 PLUCKLEY LITTLE CHART ROAD
Walnut Tree Farmhouse TQ 9345 27/49 II 2. Probably C19. Ground floor red brick, first floor tile-hung. Hipped tiled roof. Three Dering windows.
Listing NGR: TQ9363045510

Kent Historic Environment Record Reference: TQ 94 NW 166

The following text is from the original listed building designation:

In the following item:- 1. 5272 PLUCKLEY LITTLE CHART ROAD
Garden wall to WalnutTree Farmhouse TQ 9345 27/49A II

Delete Garden Wall to Walnut Tree Farmhouse and substitute Garden wall to Garden Cottage.

1. 5272 PLUCKLEY LITTLE CHART ROAD
Garden wall to Walnut Tree Farmhouse TQ 9345 27/49A II 2. C18 wall of red brick on a base of stone rubble. About 12 feet in height, with brick pilasters at regular intervals.
Listing NGR: TQ9360245557

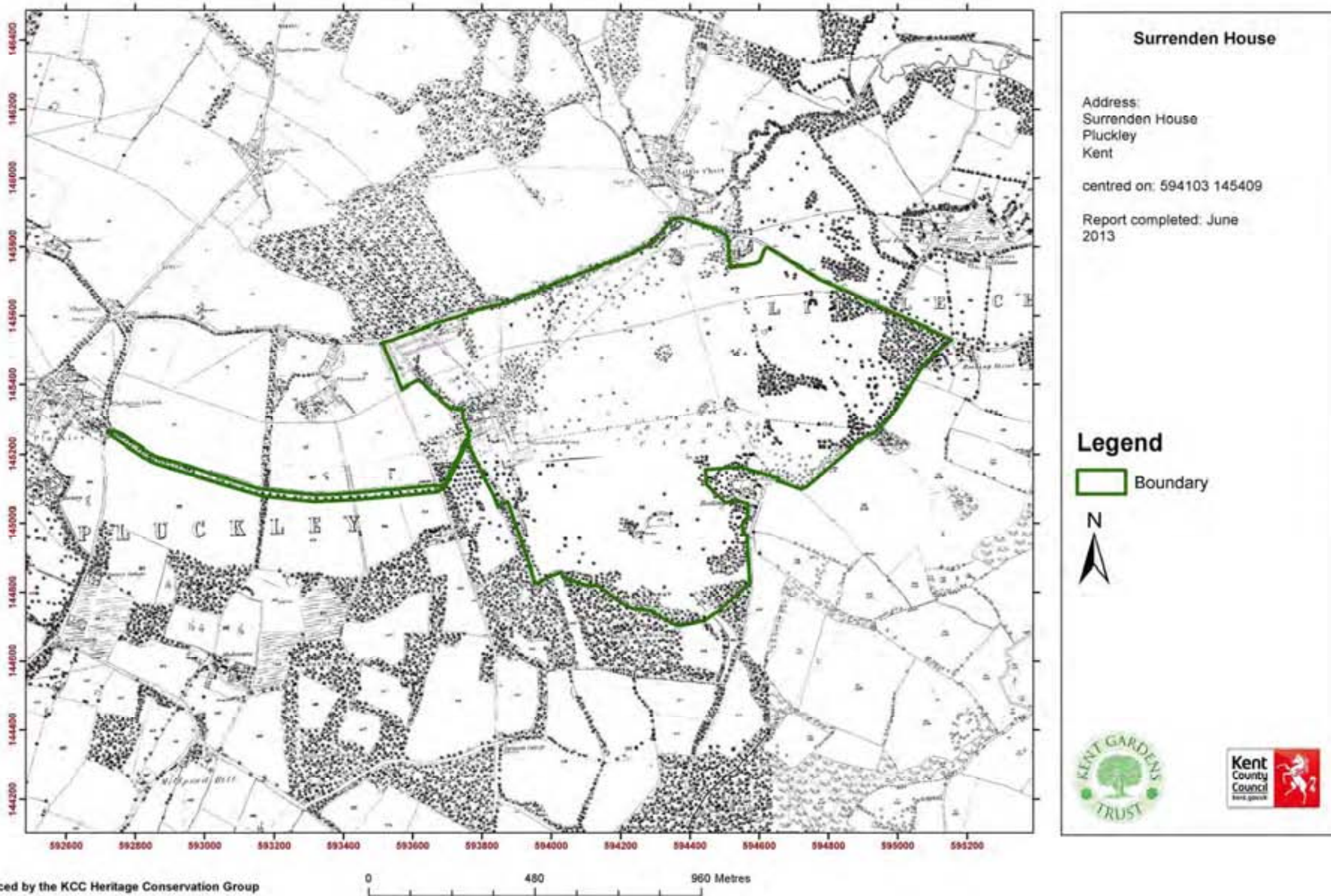
Kent Historic Environment Record Reference: TQ 94 NW 171

The following text is from the original listed building designation:

I. 5272 PLUCKLEY SURRENDEN PARK
Gate Lodge to former Surrenden Dering, about 250 metres south-west of Surrenden House TQ 94 NW 10/420 II

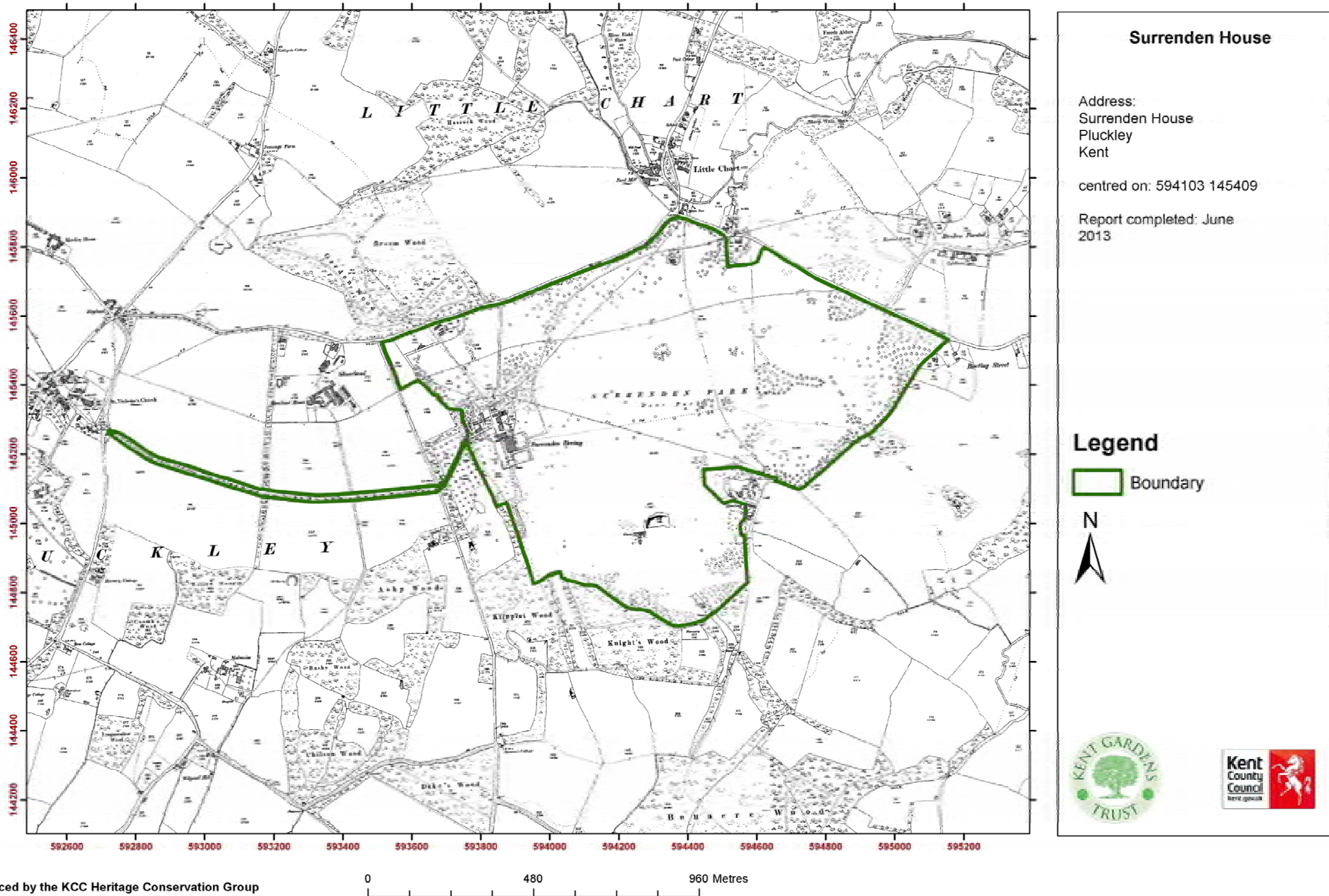
2. Mid C19 lodge built of squared Kentish ragstone. One storey and attics. Tiled roof with clustered chimney stack. Gable end has band of bricks set diagonally and a blocked in lancet with a brick surround. Stepped kneelers. Double lancet to ground floor, with painted brick surround, which form the distinctive Dering

Fig. 7 Ordnance Survey 1st edition, 25" map, sheets 54/14 and 64/2 (1862-75).



This map is based upon Ordnance Survey material with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office (C) Crown Copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown Copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. 100019238. 2007

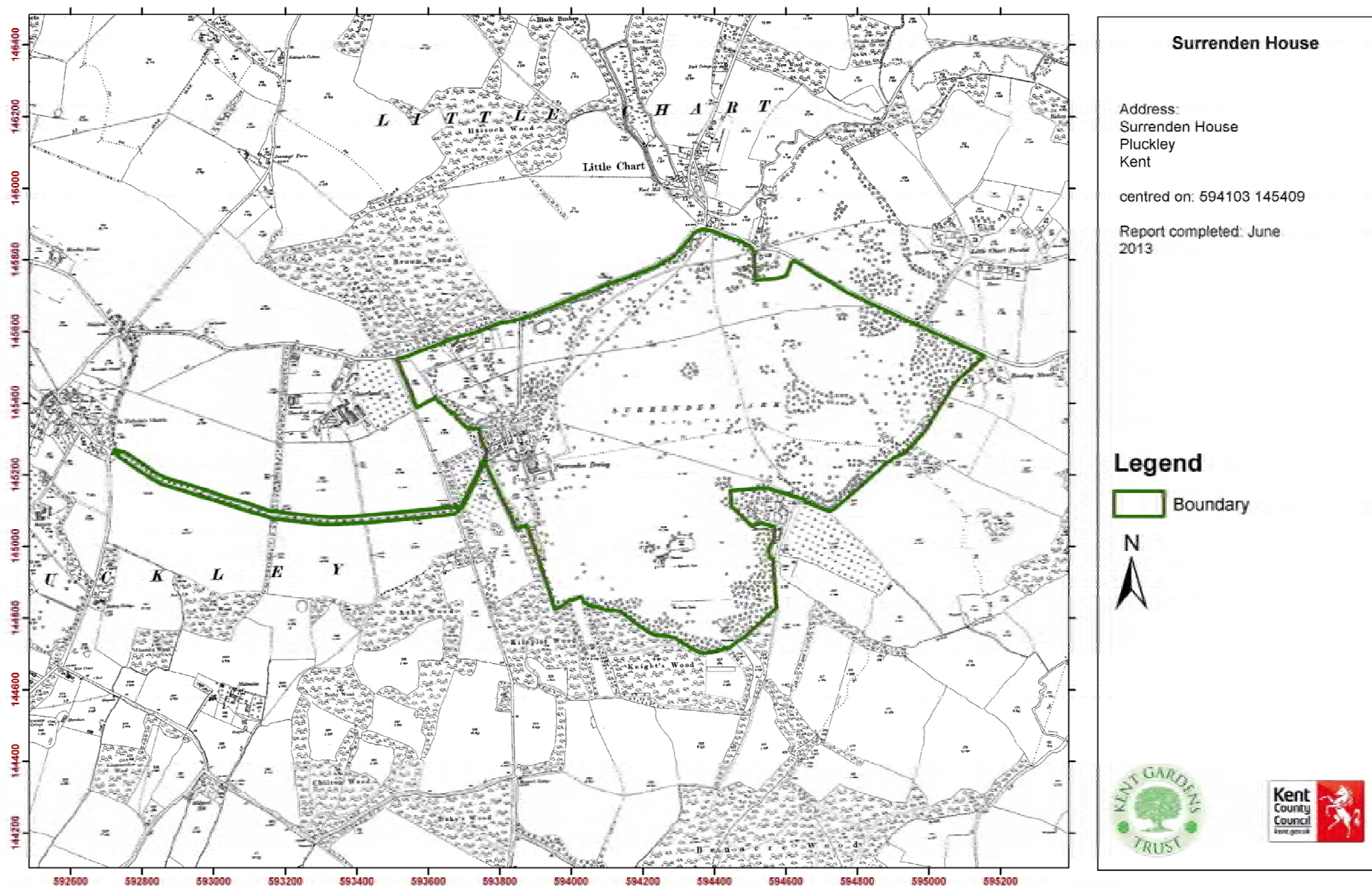
Fig. 8 Ordnance Survey 2nd edition, 25" map, (1897-1900).



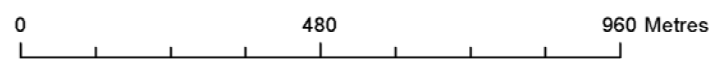
Produced by the KCC Heritage Conservation Group

This map is based upon Ordnance Survey material with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office (C) Crown Copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown Copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. 100019238. 2007

Fig. 9 Ordnance Survey 3rd edition, 25" map, (1907 -1923).



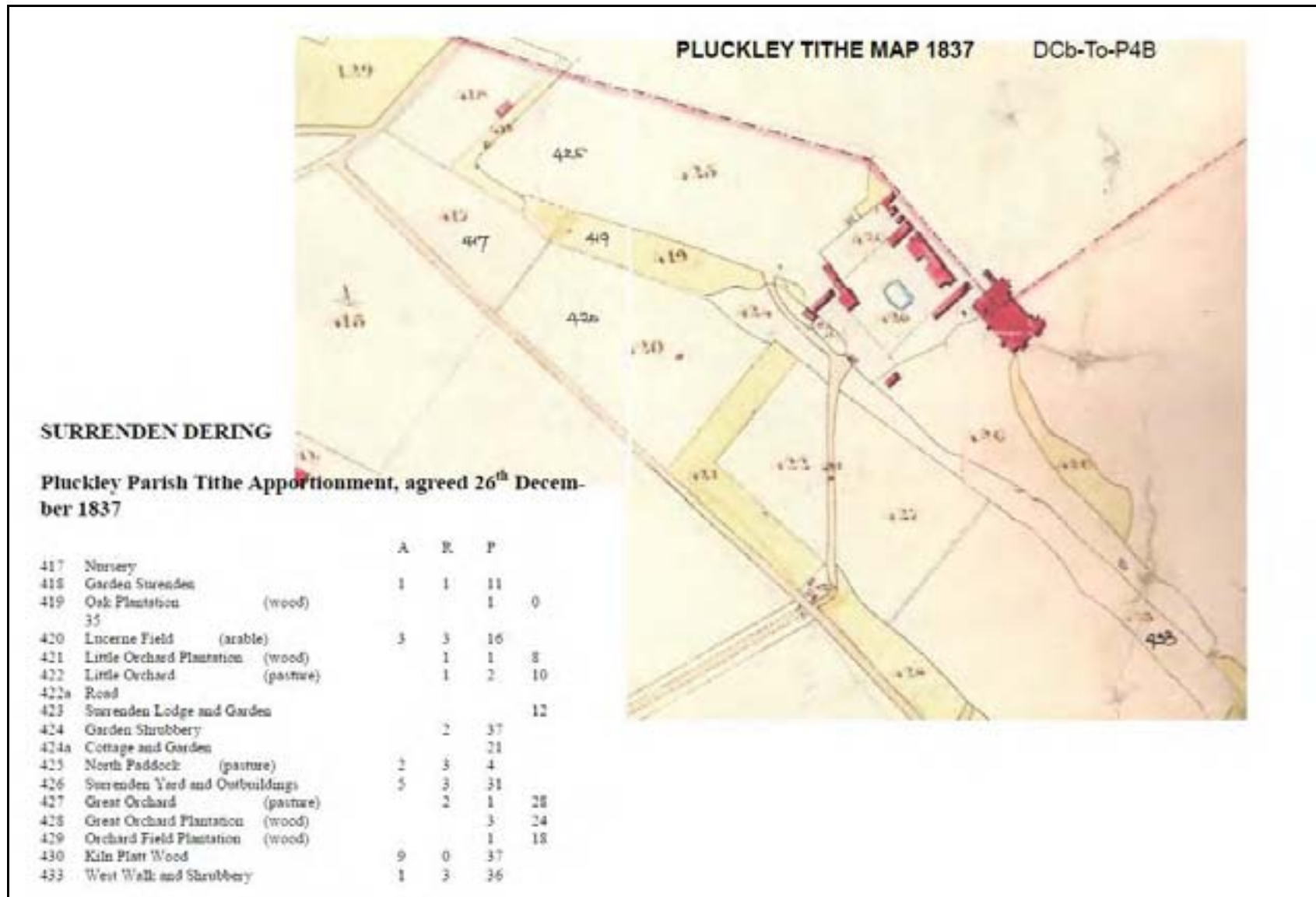
Produced by the KCC Heritage Conservation Group



This map is based upon Ordnance Survey material with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office (C) Crown Copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown Copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. 100019238. 2007

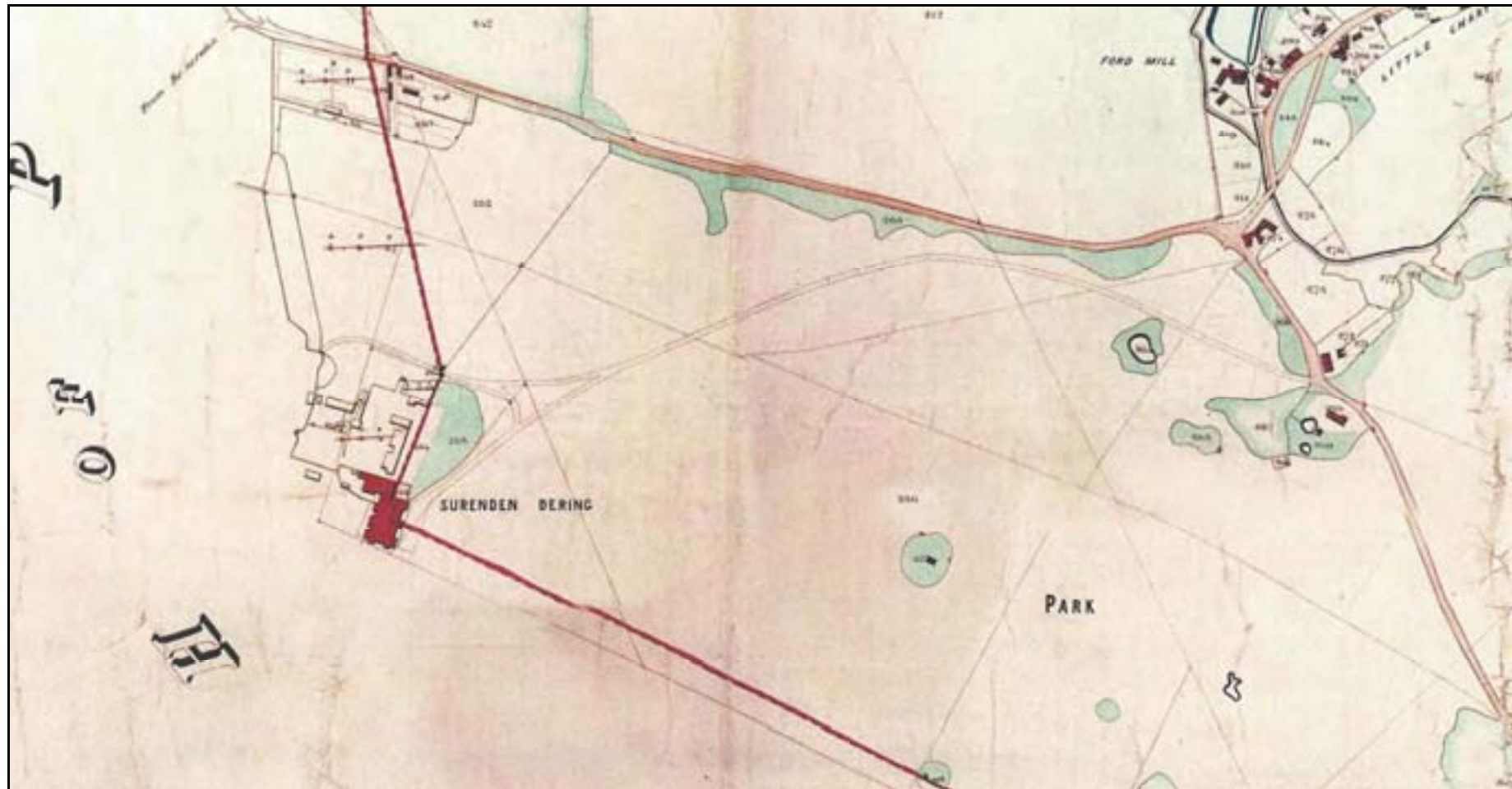
Kent Compendium of Historic Parks & Gardens – 2013 review of Surrenden House

Fig. 10 Tithe map. Part of Pluckley Parish (1844). Kent Library and History Centre (KHLIC).



Kent Compendium of Historic Parks & Gardens – 2013 review of Surrenden House

Fig. 11 Tithe map. Part of Little Chart Parish (1844). Kent Library and History Centre (KHLIC).



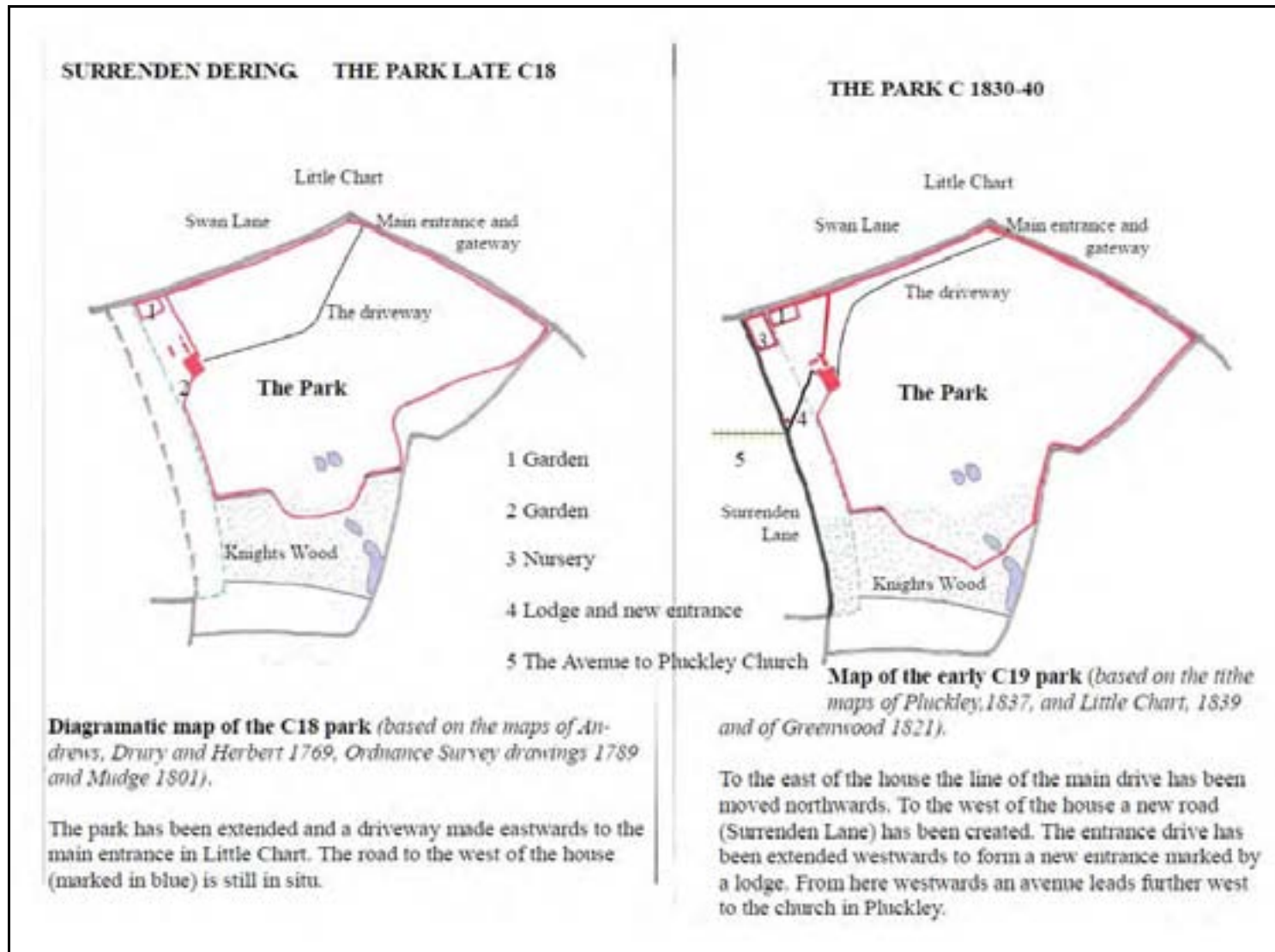
Kent Compendium of Historic Parks & Gardens – 2013 review of Surrenden House

Fig. 12 Ordnance Survey 1st edition, 25" map, combined detail from sheets 54/14 and 64/2 (1871).



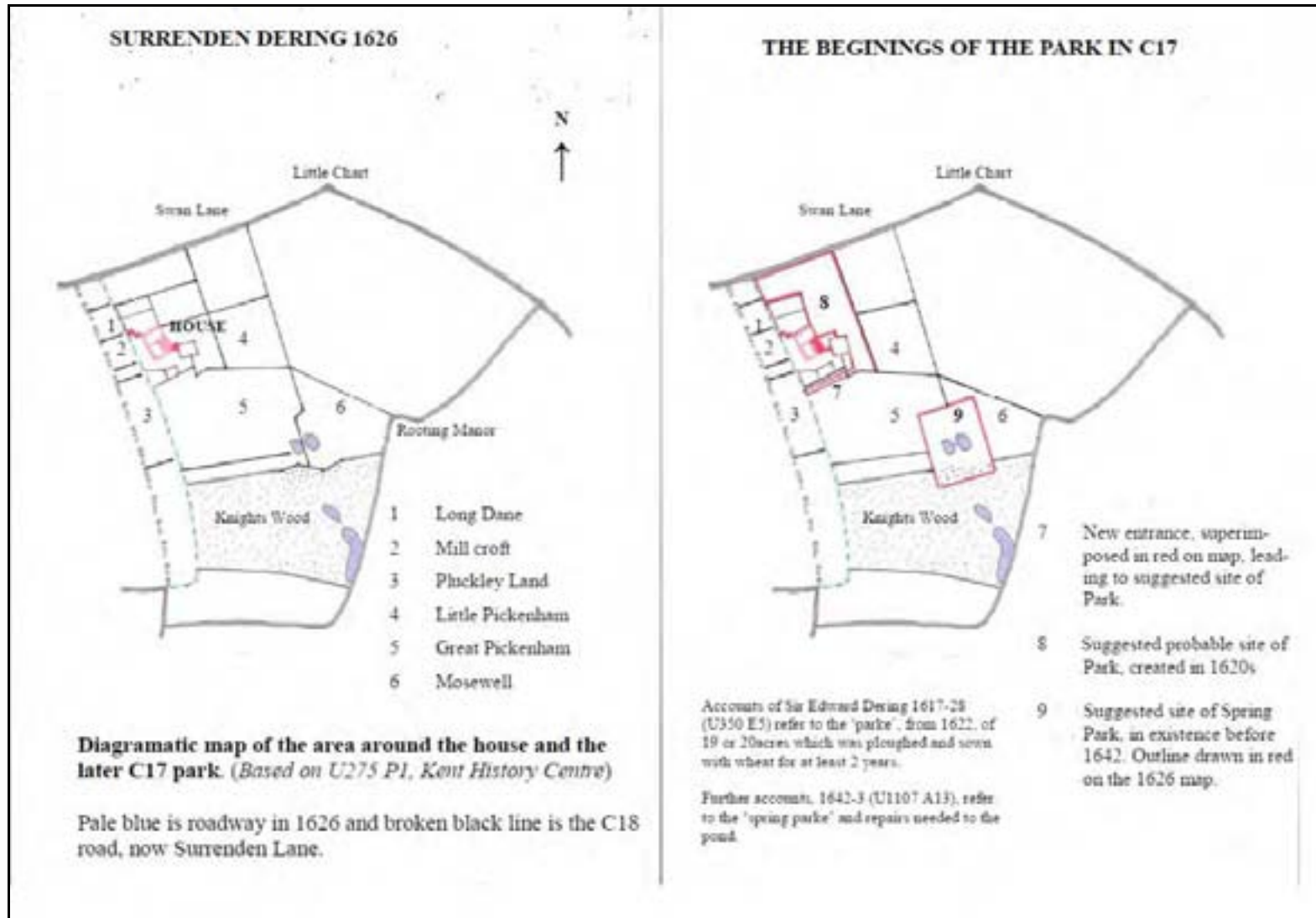
Kent Compendium of Historic Parks & Gardens – 2013 review of Surrenden House

Fig. 13 Development of the deer park 1830-40 and late C18.



Kent Compendium of Historic Parks & Gardens – 2013 review of Surrenden House

Fig. 14 Suggested Development of the deer park C17 and c.1626.



Kent Compendium of Historic Parks & Gardens – 2013 review of Surrenden House

Fig. 15 Map showing Surrenden Dering estate 1928, U350/E17/2 (KHLC).



Kent Compendium of Historic Parks & Gardens – 2013 review of Surrenden House

Fig. 16 Ordnance Survey drawings, 1789.



Fig. 17 William Mudge, An Entirely New and Accurate Survey of the County of Kent (1801)



Kent Compendium of Historic Parks & Gardens – 2013 review of Surrenden House

Fig. 18 J. Andrews, A. Drury and W. Herbert, A Topographical Map of the County of Kent in Twenty Five Sheets (1769)



Kent Compendium of Historic Parks & Gardens – 2013 review of Surrenden House

Fig. 19 Estate map, 1626, U275 P1 (KHLC).



Kent Compendium of Historic Parks & Gardens – 2013 review of Surrenden House

Fig. 20 View of garden looking north, 1985. (Private collection).



Kent Compendium of Historic Parks & Gardens – 2013 review of Surrenden House

Fig. 21 Views southwards from house.



Kent Compendium of Historic Parks & Gardens – 2013 review of Surrenden House

Fig. 22 South front of house, 1953, after fire. (Private collection).



Kent Compendium of Historic Parks & Gardens – 2013 review of Surrenden House

Fig. 23 Aerial view, 1946/79. KCC Heritage Conservation Group.



Kent Compendium of Historic Parks & Gardens – 2013 review of Surrenden House

Fig. 24 View of the park east from the house, 1930. (Private collection).



Kent Compendium of Historic Parks & Gardens – 2013 review of Surrenden House

Fig. 25 View of the park south from the house, 1930. (Private collection).



Kent Compendium of Historic Parks & Gardens – 2013 review of Surrenden House

Fig. 26 East front of house, sales catalogue 1928, U350/E16 (KHLC).



Kent Compendium of Historic Parks & Gardens – 2013 review of Surrenden House

Fig. 27 The Avenue, c.1900. Postcard.



Kent Compendium of Historic Parks & Gardens – 2013 review of Surrenden House

Fig. 28 Surrenden, drawn by JP Neale, pub. 1826.



Drawn by J. Neale

Engraved by W. Tomblinson

SURRENDEN.
KENT.

Printed by Debenham & Co.

London: Pub. Aug. 1826 by J. Neale at Bennett's Bricklayers, Broad St. opposite to St. Dunstons Church.

Kent Compendium of Historic Parks & Gardens – 2013 review of Surrenden House

Fig. 29 Surrenden, drawn by J Loch, pub. 1812.



Kent Compendium of Historic Parks & Gardens – 2013 review of Surrenden House

Fig. 30 Cedar of Lebanon.



Fig. 31 Deer gate in haha where it is crossed by Greensand Way.



Fig. 32 Deer park wall in Surrenden Road

