# The Kent Compendium of Historic Parks and Gardens for Tunbridge Wells Borough



## Court Lodge, Lamberhurst

April 2014

# Court Lodge

Lamberhurst, Kent

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## INTRODUCTION

This site dossier and description have been prepared at the request of the owners of Court Lodge to provide the history of the designed landscape of this Manor house. It is anticipated that this document will form part of an application for Heritage Lottery Funding. This site is one of many sites that have been researched, visited and written up in this format across Tunbridge Wells Borough Council's area and a request will be made to the Council for it to be added to their list of Historic Parks and Gardens of local historic interest. The list is not conclusive and further sites may be added over time as research continues or information comes to light.

The research was largely carried out by volunteers of the Kent Garden Trust with support and training from Virginia Hinze.

The extent of the area identified represents the remains of the designed landscape and does not necessarily cover all remaining elements or the historical extent of landscape changes and takes no account of current ownership. Further information is available from the contacts listed below.

Court Lodge Estate
Church Road
Lamberhurst
Kent
TN3 8DU
www.courtlodgeestate.co.uk

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

Kent Gardens Trust
www.kentgardentrust.org.uk

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

With thanks to Mr and Mrs Morland, the owners of Court Lodge, Heather and Ian Dyke for their assistance in allowing access to the grounds, their family records and photographs.

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Court Lodge's landscape comprises historic, designed gardens, pleasure grounds and parkland which have evolved and expanded since the mid C18 under successive generations of one family. They provide an appropriate setting for a former Manor house (listed grade II) which is of C13 origins, rebuilt and enlarged in the C17 and C18 and extended in the C19. The gardens and parkland were also extended in the C19; two interconnected walled kitchen gardens (listed grade II) were built, for which the international landscape firm of Thomas Mawson and Son made proposals in the mid-1950s, some of which were implemented. The pleasure grounds were extended with ornamental planting and a surviving rockery which evidence suggests was built by James Pulham II of the nationally known firm of Pulham and Sons (who also installed a fernery, now gone, in the house).

A 9 hole golf course, one of the earliest in Kent, was laid out in the late C19 in the parkland. Redesigned in the 1920s, Sigfried Sassoon was a frequent golfer as he recorded in his autobiography "Memoirs of a Fox Hunting Man". A further redesign was undertaken in the 1970s by Cotton, Pennick, Lawrie and Partners, one of the leading golf architects in Europe when the golf course was enlarged. Dennis Thatcher maintained a flat and club membership when his wife Margaret Thatcher was Secretary of State for Education and Science in 1970s, illustrating Court Lodge's role as one of many historic houses in north Kent and Surrey (others include Chartwell and Bedgebury) which provided countryside retreats for political and financial figures in the late C19 and C20.

An extensive archive of family papers, documents and photographs is held by Maidstone History and Library Centre, Cumbria Archives and in private collections.

## SITE DESCRIPTION

KENT COURT LODGE
LAMBERHURST

TQ 68067 36598

## CHRONOLOGY OF THE HISTORIC DEVELOPMENT

The manor of Lamberhurst, of which Court Lodge was the principal dwelling house, can be traced back to the reign of King John (1199 to 1216). Hasted records that Nicholas de Kenith held the manor by a form of knight's service but he gave it to the abbot and convent of Robertsbridge in Sussex during King John's reign. By giving the manor to a monastic house the lord of a manor was released from any form of knight's service to the king. The de Kenith family continued to run the manor for an annual fee paid to the abbot. Nicolas de Kenith is recorded (John H Moon, Lamberhurst Essays) as having built the first

Court Lodge, known as the Halle, as a place to lodge when conducting his manor Courts although no date is given.

Successive abbots of Robertsbridge were lords of Lamberhurst manor from about 1200 until the dissolution of the monasteries by Henry VIII c1530. The abbot held most of the manor in hand but rented out the Halle and 40 acres of adjacent farmland to a variety of farmers, merchants and gentry. The Darell family of Scotney Castle were renting Court Lodge when Robertsbridge Abbey was closed. Court Lodge was granted by the King to Sir Henry Sidney of Penshurst Place. In 1568 Court Lodge is described as a wooden hall house, facing east and approached by a spur off the Old Goudhurst Road that could only be used by the Lord and his tenants (Lamberhurst: Jewel of the High Weald). Also recorded in a survey of Lamberhurst Manor for Sir Robert Sidney, Henry's grandson, are a gatehouse, a barn, a bakehouse and a kitchen separate from the hall (Lamberhurst: Jewel of the High Weald). Sir Robert Sidney sold the house to John Porter in 1607 who built the core of the present Court Lodge as a family home close to the original Halle. The Kent Hearth Tax Assessment for Lamberhurst, which was carried out on Lady Day in 1664, records that Mrs Ann Porter, the widow of John Porter's grandson, had 19 hearths suggesting that Court Lodge was then of significant size. The manor came into the possession of various families through marriage until by 1733 Edward Ayscoughe is recorded as having sold it to William Morland from Westmorland. Nine generations of Morlands or their descendants have now lived at Court Lodge. A survey by William Clout of Lamberhurst in 1750 shows that the manor of Lamberhurst comprised approximately 2000 acres (770ha) and was "part of the possessions of William Morland" (Kent History and Library Centre U200/P/1). This survey is the earliest evidence of a garden at Court Lodge; it is shown as occupying 2 acres (0.75ha) to the south and east of the house. The land to the south of the garden is denoted as park and extends south to the river Teise covering an area of 30 acres (11.5ha). This survey includes a drawing titled "The South East Prospect of the Court Lodge and Lamberhurst Church" which shows a wall south and east of the house enclosing the garden which contains some formal planting. Andrews, Dury and Herbert's map of 1769 also depicts a formal garden to the east of the house.

William Morland is credited with repairing and altering Court Lodge on becoming its new owner c1750 (Greenwood, An Epitome of County History Volume I County of Kent, 1838). William Morland died in 1774 having made his son Thomas heir in 1765. J Sprange in his Tunbridge Wells Guide published in 1797 records that Thomas "greatly added to the size and ornament of the building, and furnished it in a very neat manner; which, with the additions of pleasure grounds, gardens, and other improvements . . . renders it altogether a most desirable residence." Mudge's map of 1801 confirms Sprange's description in that the garden is shown extended. Thomas died in 1784 and his eldest son, William Alexander Morland, succeeded him.

William Alexander Morland remained lord of the manor for 63 years until his death in 1847. During that period various properties, farms and land around Lamberhurst were purchased (Morland family title deeds, Kent History and Library Centre). William Alexander had married Lydia Marriot in 1792 but they

had no children so on his death Court Lodge passed to his nephew William Courtenay Morland.

William Courtenay Morland continued to purchase properties, land and farms from 1848 to 1895 (Morland family title deeds, Kent History and Library Centre). He also embarked on major changes and additions to the gardens, including building the two walled kitchen gardens and to Court Lodge itself. A plan produced in 1849 by Whichcord & Son of Maidstone shows proposed alterations in the farmyard to replace the existing cart shed and barns with purpose-built enclosures for horses, poultry, pigs and calves. It is not known whether these alterations actually took place but the current (2014) courtyard is denoted as "Stable Yard" which with existing and proposed buildings alterations depicts a working farm to the north and rear of Court Lodge.

There is evidence that Morland commissioned James Pulham's firm to design and build both a fernery and a rockery. Morland's diary of 1867 records that he wrote to Pulham on two separate occasions: on 12 August to "Pulham as to conservatory" and later, on 26 November, to "Pulham as to rockwork". James Pulham in his book "Picturesque Ferneries and Rock-Garden Scenery" published c1877 includes "W C Morland Esq Lamberhurst Kent Fernery 1868" as one of his commissions. The fernery seems to have been installed in a single storey extension which was added to the west elevation of the house c1868, to create a new main entrance to replace the original one on the south side. The 1st edition OS map (1862-75) shows the roof of this extension to be partly glazed; photos of c1884 (private collection) show Henry Courtenay Morland, William Courtenay's younger son, and his wife Alice Maud Morland relaxing in the 'conservatory' part of this extension.

In 1890 a nine hole golf course was laid out in the parkland to the south of the house**,** extending down to the river Teise which then formed the southern boundary of the estate. The golf course was established by William Courtenay Morland (but instigated by his younger son Henry) as a private course at a time when there were only nine other courses in Kent and Sussex and most of those had been laid out only a few years earlier. The diaries of the Morlands (Kent Library and History Centre) show that family members were frequent players in the late C19 and early C20 with the poet Siegfried Sassoon, a regular visitor, recalling the course being maintained by sheep. Sassoon in his fictional autobiography "Memoirs of a Fox Hunting Man" published in 1926 refers to his early years playing golf at 'Amblehurst,' the fictional name for Lamberhurst. During the First World War the Club was suspended and the course fell into disuse. In the early 1920s, at William Courtenay's suggestion, local businessmen undertook responsibility for maintaining the greens. Initially the course had started and finished near Court Lodge but in 1923 when the course was redesigned the start and finish was moved to the southwest corner of the course (History of Lamberhurst Golf Club 1890-2000).

By 1897 (2nd edition OS map) the conservatory roof had been replaced by the current (2014) flat roof but another conservatory had been built along the entire east elevation together with various greenhouses in the walled garden adjacent to the north east corner of the house. A rifle range has been constructed in the

park approximately 150m south-east of the church (c175m east of Court Lodge) probably at the request of William Courtenay Morland's two sons Charles William and Henry Courtenay Morland, both of whom had followed careers in the army. During the late C19 and early C20 the park was used for a variety of celebrations, the relief of Mafeking in 1900, Edward VII's **c**oronation in 1902 and meetings of the Lamberhurst Territorial Volunteers c1882 (Lamberhurst Photos, Part Two the Henry Borrows photographic archive).

On his death in 1909 Court Lodge passed to William Courtenay's eldest son Charles William. The marriage settlement dated 13 June 1882 between Charles William Morland and Ada Mary Sperling records the estate then comprised c540ha (1400 acres). During the First World War the house was used as a hospital for sick and wounded soldiers. Ada Mary Morland, wife of Charles William Morland, records in her diary on 26 October 1914 that the dining room, library and "N" room were cleared for beds and the drawing room for an operating theatre for the twenty five wounded Belgians who arrived that day. A plaque hanging in the house records the Army Council's thanks. Charles William and Ada Mary Morland had no children so on Charles William's death in 1926 the estate passed to his younger brother Henry Courtenay Morland. Vesting deeds held by the Morland family solicitors dated 1926 and 1935, following the deaths of Charles William and his brother, show that the estate had by then reduced to c400ha (1050 acres) including 135ha (350 acres) of woodland. These deeds denote the areas surrounding Court Lodge to the west and north as Court Lodge's Home Farm.

Henry Courtenay Morland had spent his earlier life abroad with the army in Ceylon and subsequently on hunting trips in Africa and India (personal diaries Maidstone Archives). On his death in 1934 his elder son from his second marriage, William Morland, inherited Court Lodge. William Morland became President of the Golf Club in 1934, a position he held for 45 years. He and his wife Monica were regular players.

During the Second World War munitions were stored on the golf course and the army was in residence at Court Lodge. The park was commandeered and extensively damaged (History of Lamberhurst Golf Club). Pupils from Kings School Rochester were evacuated to the house and a plaque records the gratitude to William and Monica Morland for the hospitality shown to the staff and boys.

In c1950 William instructed Thomas H Mawson & Son, the foremost firm of landscape architects in the first half of C20, to prepare some plans for new houses to be located at the north end of the estate (Cumbria Archives), but it is understood (pers comm) that these plans were not implemented. The firm also prepared a plan titled "Proposed layout of Kitchen Garden".

During the 1960s the golf club had grown from 200 to 523 members and in 1968 a new clubhouse was built on land c100m northwest of Court Lodge with parking on an adjacent tennis court (History of Lamberhurst Golf Club), the club signing a new 40 year lease with William. In the mid-1960s the course was redesigned by C K Cotton, a well-known golfer and golf course architect.

Parts of the house were converted into several flats between 1948 and 1963. William had married Monica Bolton in 1935 but had no children so in the 1968 the ownership of Court Lodge was transferred to his nephew Nicholas V Courtenay Morland.

In 1972 leases were obtained from the Hussey Trust and Kenneth McAlpine, (adjacent landowners), by the Golf Club to extend the course south of the River Teise. The firm of Cotton, Pennick, Lawrie and Partners, the leading golf architects in Europe and responsible for the design of more than 300 golf courses worldwide, were engaged to redesign the whole course. William stood down as President of the Golf Club in 1979 after 60 years of a Morland as President but he and his wife resided at Court Lodge until 1981, William dying in 1987. Nicholas continued to make changes to the house and associated buildings by creating another flat, converting the stables and coach house into living accommodation and rebuilding a garage block with a flat above. The main staircase of the house was restored and features paintings of five generations of Morlands together with a series of plates depicting scenes from the garden in the C19

In 2012 Nicholas's younger daughter Heather and her husband returned from New Zealand to assist in the management of Court Lodge estate. The house and gardens remain in private ownership and management as does the golf course.

## SITE DESCRIPTION

## LOCATION, AREA, BOUNDARIES, LANDFORM, SETTING

Court Lodge estate lies on a sandstone ridge immediately to the east of the village of Lamberhurst in Kent and to the north of the river Teise which forms the boundary between Kent and East Sussex. The site lies immediately to east of village housing (and the former vicarage) along the B2162 on its north/south route through Lamberhurst**.** Royal Tunbridge Wells lies 10km to the west and Goudhurst is situated c3km to the east. The 25ha (61acres) triangular site is bordered to the south by the tree-lined river Tiese. The eastern boundary abuts agricultural land from which it is screened by a tree belt at the northern and southern ends; the central section abuts the parish church, its churchyard and access road to the church. The Lamberhurst Bypass, located approximately 200m from the eastern boundary, is screened by earth banking alongside its carriageways but the traffic noise is still audible

Court Lodge lies within the High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. The house and garden sit centrally within the estate on ground which slopes gently southwards and enjoy extensive views to the south over the golf course and the more distant Weald which are partially hidden by C20 tree planting close to the house.

## ENTRANCES AND APPROACHES

The principal entrance to Court Lodge is on the B2162 c100m north of the village of Lamberhurst. This entrance was, according to John H Moon in his Lamberhurst Essays (2002), never gated and is one of four entrances to Court Lodge. The drive from this entrance runs eastwards for c80m before turning slightly northeast for 230m across the links and fairways of the golf course before sweeping south onto a large gravelled area (15 x 25m) in front of the main, west front of the house. One of the series of plates depicting scenes of the garden in C19 shows this approach to the house. From the point where the drive turns north-eastwards, a public footpath runs eastwards for 350m across the park to the church. Originally a road to the church and maintained by the parish (minutes of parish meeting held 13 October 1851), it had become a footpath before 1897 (2nd edition OS map). William Courtenay Morland was said not like hearses passing the front of the house (pers. comm.).

A second entrance lies on Church Road which runs west to east from the B2162, c100m north of the house. This entrance, approximately 225m east from the B2162, runs due south for 80m passing two C19 estate cottages and the Coach House which forms the northern boundary to the courtyard on the north side of the house. This entrance was gated in the C19 and provided access to the Home Farm's various farm buildings and estate cottages. Church Road and its extension eastwards was the main road between Lamberhurst and Goudhurst **(**3km to the east**)** until c1815 when it was diverted around the northern perimeter of the estate. The old road (the present Church Road) became a private estate road, gated at its western end at the B2126 junction, and a right of way to the parish to the church. At the same time William Alexander Morland agreed to provide and maintain a new access road further east to the church from his private road to replace an old road to the church which, prior to c1815, had passed through the timber yard and an area of woodland which was subsequently to be incorporated into Court Lodge's garden.

The eastern end of the pre 1815 Lamberhurst to Goudhurst road (with its former lodge outside the boundary of the listed area) became another of the approaches to Court Lodge now (2014) gone with a lodge built c1890 (2nd edition OS map 1897) at the junction between the original and diverted roads, approximately 1.5km northeast of Court Lodge. Known as Daisy Cottage, it has now (2014) been replaced by a C20 farm building.

A further entrance, gone by the mid C20, lay 220m north along the B2162 from its junction with Church Road. A sketch of this area with the minutes of the Annual Vestry Meeting for 1851 does not show this entrance, suggesting that it was constructed between 1851 and 1862 (it is indicated on the 1st edition OS map of 1862-75). A drive ran 250m due south from its entrance along an avenue of coniferous trees which turns gently southeast at its extreme southern end onto the forecourt on the west elevation of the house. A lodge was built at the entrance in the early C20 which is now (2014) known as Pond Meadow (in separate private ownership). The 4th edition OS map (revision of 1938) shows

the avenue still in existence although the trees are depicted as less frequently spaced especially at the southern end. The drawings prepared by Mawson and Son c1950 do not show the avenue, suggesting that it had already been cut down but the drive is shown. The site of the avenue is now (2014) occupied by a driving range and parking for Lamberhurst Golf Club with its clubhouse built south of Church Road. Some evidence of the avenue's original tree locations is still visible on aerial photographs.

**PRINCIPAL BUILDING**

Court Lodge (listed grade II) is built from sandstone on the east, south and west elevations with red brick on the north elevation. The sandstone used in the construction is considered to have been sourced from the old Scotney Castle about 1.5 km to the southwest (Tunbridge Wells and its Neighbourhood, Paul Amsinck and Letita Byrne, 1810). The present house, repaired and altered by William Morland c1730, incorporates the earlier one built by John Porter c1610. The main entrance is on the west elevation, within a single storey, matching, sandstone flat-roofed extension which was added prior to c1870 (shown on the 1st edition OS map (1862-75). A patterned, tiled floor occurs throughout this extension which survives from the part of it built as a conservatory with a pitched, glazed roof and containing rockwork, ferns and plants on all walls (photographs, private collection). Evidence suggests that this rockwork interior with its ferns and wall plants now (2014) all gone was built by James Pulham II c1867. Prior to the western extension being built, the entrance to the house was on the south elevation and an engraving by Letitia Byrne in 1810 depicts it with a circular canopy over the main door supported on four circular pillars. A further engraving by C Greenwood in 1838 shows that this canopy had been removed. The basement directly below this earlier entrance reveals two large semi-circular recesses in the external wall which may be associated with this canopied structure.

By 1897 (2nd edition OS map) significant changes had taken place to the house. The western extension no longer has a pitched glazed roof over the conservatory but another conservatory has been erected along the entire east elevation of the house and westwards beyond against a south-facing wall of one of the outbuildings. By 1908 (3rd edition OS map), a large proportion of the conservatory along the east side of the house had been removed, with the entire structure gone by 1938 (4th edition OS map).

During the 1950s and 1960s the house was gradually converted into nine flats with the owners retaining the main part of the house for their use. More recently, in the 1990s, four garages facing the courtyard were replaced by a building containing five garages with living accommodation above. In 2013 two of the flats were converted into furnished holiday accommodation.

To the rear of Court Lodge and forming the north side of a courtyard is a coach house, dating from c1850 (Tithe and 1st edition OS maps), its stone matching that of the main house; it was converted into a dwelling in the early 1980s. A racquets court, shown on the 1st edition OS map but now (2014) demolished stood in the north-west corner of the courtyard. Some 60m to its north are two

brick cottages with peg tiled roofs, one pre-dating 1840 (Tithe Map) and the other built by 1862 (1st edition OS map). These cottages provided accommodation for a gardener and gamekeeper for Court Lodge during the C19 (one now, 2014, in separate private ownership).

## GARDEN AND PLEASURE GROUNDS

Court Lodge's 2.6ha (6.5acres) gardens are situated to the east and south of the house on ground which slopes very gently downwards in both directions.

The main lawn, the largest open area of the garden, lies on the east front and is accessed from the house via steps. The lawn extends c100m eastwards to the parish churchyard boundary wall. The south and most of the east perimeters of the lawn are surrounded by a variety of trees and herbaceous bedding. A circular path around this lawn (now 2014, gone) is shown on OS maps up to 1938 (4th edition OS map). Additional paths in front of the house (now 2014 gone) surrounded bedding (Lamberhurst Photos, Part Two, The Henry Burrows photographic archive)and depicted on one of the series of plates showing scenes from the garden I C19. To its north-east the lawn is enclosed by one of the flats and the rear wall of a series of garages but is separated from it by areas of paving, a variety of shaped beds and a small pond created by William and Monica Morland in the mid C20 (pers. comm) and known now as the Italian garden. Herbaceous beds extend eastwards from the Italian garden along the south side of the south wall of one of two interconnected walled kitchen gardens which extend, one north of the other, north-eastwards from the house.

A formal garden is laid out alongside the south elevation of the house and consists of a parterre c10 x 20m contained within a shaped yew hedge c2-3m high. The parterre is overlooked from a raised gravel patio directly in front of the house which is reached by a short flight of steps with an ornamental iron gate at the west end. A central flight of stone steps set in a grass bank creates the entrance from the patio to the parterre. The parterre consists of 19 shaped beds in a symmetrical pattern separated and connected by gravel paths with low clipped box hedging around the perimeter of each bed which contain spring bulbs and roses. Single clipped yew balls are located in a pattern on the edge of some beds. A sundial set in a circular lavender bed creates the central feature. A low stone wall c1m high, set on the southern, outer side of the yew hedge creates the parterre's boundary. The outline of the parterre garden and its central feature is shown on the 1st edition OS map (1862-75) suggesting it was established prior to this date. Photographs of c1900 (private collection) show that the enclosing yew hedge consisted of single specimens spaced around the perimeter and one of the series of plates depicts this area of the gardens in C19.

North of the main lawn a further, smaller lawn c60 x 70m is contained on its west and north sides by the brick walls of the two walled gardens. A perimeter path runs around its west, north and east sides, the path on the west and north sides set back from the walls to create beds containing a variety of plants. Early C20 photographs (private collection) and two of the series of plates depict intricate planting to these beds. Other beds containing heathers and

herbaceous plants are scattered within the lawn together with rhododendrons, azaleas and specimen trees, some of which suffered storm damage in December 2013.The lawn was planted with island shrubberies from the mid C19 to the early C20 (OS 1st to 3rd editions) although it is now (2014) known as the 'old tennis court' from its use for tennis in the early C20 (pers. comm). A late C20 rose garden is now (2014) gone.

North of the northernmost walled kitchen garden a grassy area extends northwards for 30m to a hedge forming the boundary with Church Road. A C21 gate has replaced an earlier gate onto the road. The western end contains a mature apple orchard with some C21 planting. An old road to the church passing through this area was diverted further east in c1815, allowing its garden and the walled kitchen gardens to the south to be created. Minutes of the Vestry Meeting held on 25 March 1851 record that this old road to the church used to run "through a shaw or wood, now a timber yard and garden at the back of Court Lodge" suggesting that the garden in this area was established by 1850. Derelict remains of a mid C19 building (shown on the 1st edition OS) survive against the outside face of the north wall of the walled garden at its eastern end. A further mid C19 outbuilding (noted as 'Carpenters Shop' on the Whichcord drawing of 1849 and still in existence on aerial photographs of 1964) and several paths which subdivided the area into five smaller plots (shown on the 1st edition OS map), are now (2014) gone. The c1950 Mawson & Son's drawing proposes for this area "red and black berries and raspberries" in long beds. Aerial photographs of 1964 show the entire area planted as orchard, now (2014) gone.

A tree belt forms the eastern boundary to this area, east of which the land slopes down gently eastwards to the northern end of a north/south linear pond. East of the pond a further line of trees on the eastern boundary to the garden screens the access road to the church. The pond is c70m long, varying in width from a few metres at the northern end to 15m at its widest point at the southern end and contains a small island. It is overgrown, partly with bulrushes and only holds water following heavy rain. The Tithe Map of 1840 shows this pond more rectangular in shape and only half the length recorded in 1871 (OS 1st edition) suggesting that it was extended as part of William Courtenay Morland's work to the gardens in the mid C19. The 1871 OS map records a path around the perimeter of the pond with a boathouse at its northern end (both now 2014 gone). Late C19 and early C20 photographs (private collection) and several of the series of plates depict the pond as a significant feature of the garden, with the area between it and the walled garden to the west containing a narrow lawn with a parallel path and a herbaceous border running north to south along the outside of the walled garden's eastern wall. A summer house (now 2014 gone), was situated at the north end of the wall.

South of the pond a section of garden c20m wide extends 60m southwards to the boundary with the churchyard. At its deepest point it is about 3m below the surrounding ground level. It is covered by a canopy of trees and shrubs including laurel, yew and rhododendron and is laid out with series of meandering paths with steps and rockwork to a pattern shown on the 1st edition OS map. Metal grills crossing the paths may be remnants of water features,

probably fed by a pipe from the pond to the north, within the rockery. This garden appears to be the rockery mentioned in William Courtenay Morland's diary entry of 1867 (Kent Archive and Library Centre) where he refers to his letter to "Pulham as to rockwork". A photograph (private collection) from the 1880s entitled 'Rock Garden' shows this area containing various plants within a sunken rockery some 20 years after construction.

**KITCHEN GARDEN**

Two brick-walled kitchen gardens (both listed grade II) lie to the immediate north-east of the house. Both are shown on 1st edition OS map (1862-75). Some of their walls appear to have base courses of sandstone comprising large stone blocks similar to those used in the construction of Court Lodge. The smaller, southernmost, garden c20 x 45m in area and known as the Bothy garden, is surrounded by c2m high brick walls (with buttresses at various points) on the north, east and south sides with close-boarded gate entrances set in arched openings. The western side is created by the rear wall of a garage block and flat (erected early 1990s to replace an earlier row of garages built after 1950) and two brick c1850 outbuildings with peg tile roofs. This smaller kitchen garden is currently laid to grass with a C21 timber greenhouse on a brick dwarf wall located towards the northern end. A variety of mid C19 brick sheds are built against the southern wall with some small C21 raised beds along the eastern wall. Various bricked up arched openings occur on the eastern and southern walls suggesting entrances to previous buildings erected against these walls. At the north end of the garden some walls from greenhouses or cold frames survive from the extensive number erected between 1897 and 1907 (2nd and 3rd OS editions).

A plan drawn by Whichcord and Son in 1849 shows this kitchen garden as open to the courtyard north of the house and the north end used as a melon ground. In c1950 William Morland commissioned Thomas H Mawson and Son to prepare a planting plan for the gardens. This proposes "standing ground, Dutch lights, glasshouses and frames" for this kitchen garden. Aerial photographs (private collection) of 1964 confirm that some of these proposals were implemented.

A close-boarded gate in the north wall leads into the second walled garden, c40 x 50m, which is completely enclosed by c 2m high brick walls (again buttressed and ramped at various points) except at the north-east corner where a gap in the walls marks the location of a summer house (shown on the 1st edition OS 1862-75) which collapsed c1980. The site of the garden, prior to the c1815 diversion of the old road to the church which ran through it, is recorded as wooded (Minutes of Vestry Meeting 1851); the wood is also shown on the Tithe Map of 1840 suggesting this walled garden was built mid C19. A plan produced by Whichcord and Son of Maidstone in 1849 identifies this area as "garden" but not specifically how it is enclosed.

Painted sections of the west and north walls record the positions of greenhouses now (2014) demolished. The remains of a mid C19 garden shed

survive against the south wall (1st edition OS 1862-75). The whole garden is laid to grass with a 1.5m wide gravel path extending from the entrance in the south wall and running parallel to, and 2m inside, the west wall. Brick edging and brick rubble surfacing (revealed by construction in 2013) survive from the mid C19 path layout which ran around the garden's perimeter and divided it into four quarters (1st edition OS 1862-75). Further surviving edging may be part of a feature indicated on the OS 1st edition at the intersection of the cross paths. An entrance midpoint on the south wall with an ornamental iron gate in an arched opening connects the north lawn with the former route of the central main path through the garden. Mawson & Son's drawing of c1950 proposes "borders and espaliers "along this central path. Aerial photographs of 1964 show a cultivated kitchen garden without "borders and espaliers", and the trees at all the path intersections shown on the 1st edition are now (2014) gone.

**PARKLAND**

To the south, west and north of the gardens, the majority of the former parkland is laid out and managed as part of a golf course. The largest area, lying immediately to the south of the house (c16ha, 38 acres) slopes gently southwards for 300m to the river Teise which provides the southern boundary of the estate and of its designed landscape. It is dotted with small clumps of trees around the fairways, sand bunkers and greens, a few of which comprise mature trees probably dating from the mid/late C19. The Clout Survey of 1750 denotes this area as "Park" and the Mudge map of 1801 also shows it enclosed, with both maps showing that it did not extend as far south as the river. The extension had occurred by the 1860s (1st edition OS map), the map showing small clumps of trees scattered around the northern half of the park. Subsequent editions of the OS maps show little change to the planting. A large number of trees were lost in the 1987 storm and new trees were planted by the golf club during the 1991/92 winter.

The eastern boundary is formed by a mid C20 belt of trees running north to south**,** separating the golf course from farmland beyond, together with the remains of a wooden fence. Nothing remains of a rifle range shown on the 2nd edition OS map which crossed this boundary to a target area which is now on the eastern side of the Lamberhurst bypass (built early C21**).**

Also along this eastern boundary, some 50m south of the former rifle range, is a spring known locally as Lady Well. This spring surfaces into a circular stone bowl set within a concave niche of sandstone about 2m high, set into the slope of an earth bank under a tree canopy. A set of stone steps provides access to the well. The stonework may date from c1775 and may have been sourced from redundant material during the rebuilding of Court Lodge (Lamberhurst Essays, John H Moon). The spring is denoted as "Ladywell" on Clout's 1750 survey of the manor and was the source of drinking water for Court Lodge and the church (History of Lamberhurst Golf Club 1890-2000).

The majority of the parkland extending 150m west from the house and north to Church Road is occupied by the clubhouse, ancillary buildings and parking areas. A section of the parking area was previously a tennis court (2nd and 3rd

OS editions) A number of mature trees survive from the dense scatter recorded from 1871 until the early/mid C20 (1st to 4th OS editions).

North of Church Road a driving range and additional parking is laid out on the site of the former conifer avenue which formed an approach drive from the north to Court Lodge from at least 1862 (1st edition OS) until the mid C20. Indentations in the turf, visible on aerial photographs, indicate the former position of some of the trees. This area of park appears only ever to have been sparsely planted with a few individual trees, these now (2014) gone. The open grassed driving range is flanked on either side by areas of mixed woodland established at least by the early C19 (Tithe Map of 1840), the eastern area containing three ponds (which feed the pond east of the walled garden) and, until the mid C20, the site of the estate's former timber yard (1st to 4th OS editions). C20 houses and gardens in separate private ownership now (2014) occupy all the woodland areas.

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Ordnance Survey 25" to 1 mile: 3rd edition (1908)

Ordnance Survey 25" to 1 mile: 4th edition (1938)

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**Illustrations**

Photographs from late 1880s to 2014, private collection

Aerial photographs of 1964, private collection

A series of plates depicting scenes of the garden C19, private collection

**Archival Items**

Plan prepared by Whichcord & Son 1849 showing proposed alterations to farmyard

Morland family diaries and title deeds ref U200 and U813 Kent History and Library Centre

Minutes of Lamberhurst Parish Meetings 1851 Kent History and Library Centre ref p216/8/2

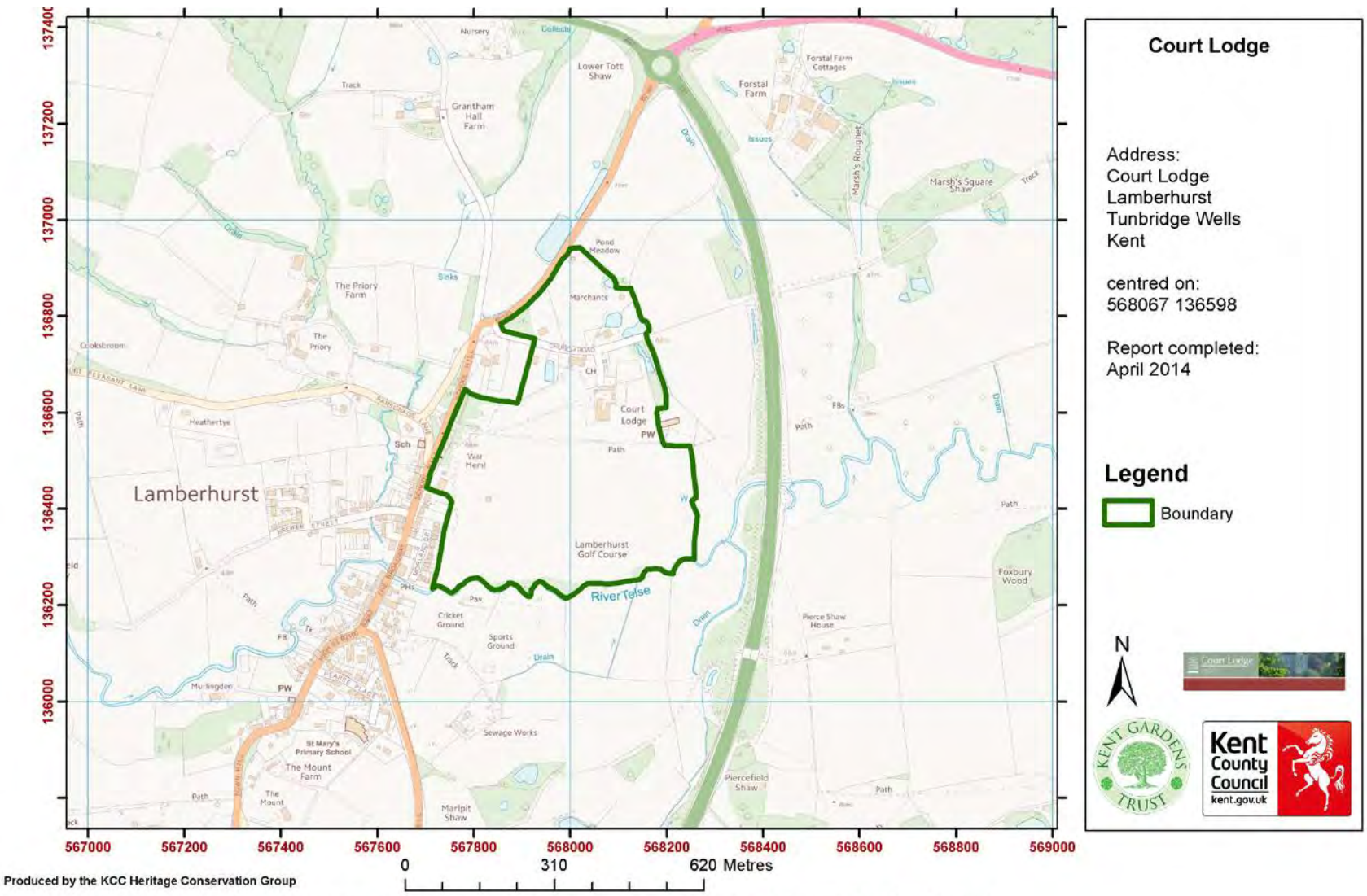
Various family papers, private collection

Kent Historic Environment Record References: TQ 63 NE 124

**Michael O'Brien**
**Virginia Hinze (Editor)**

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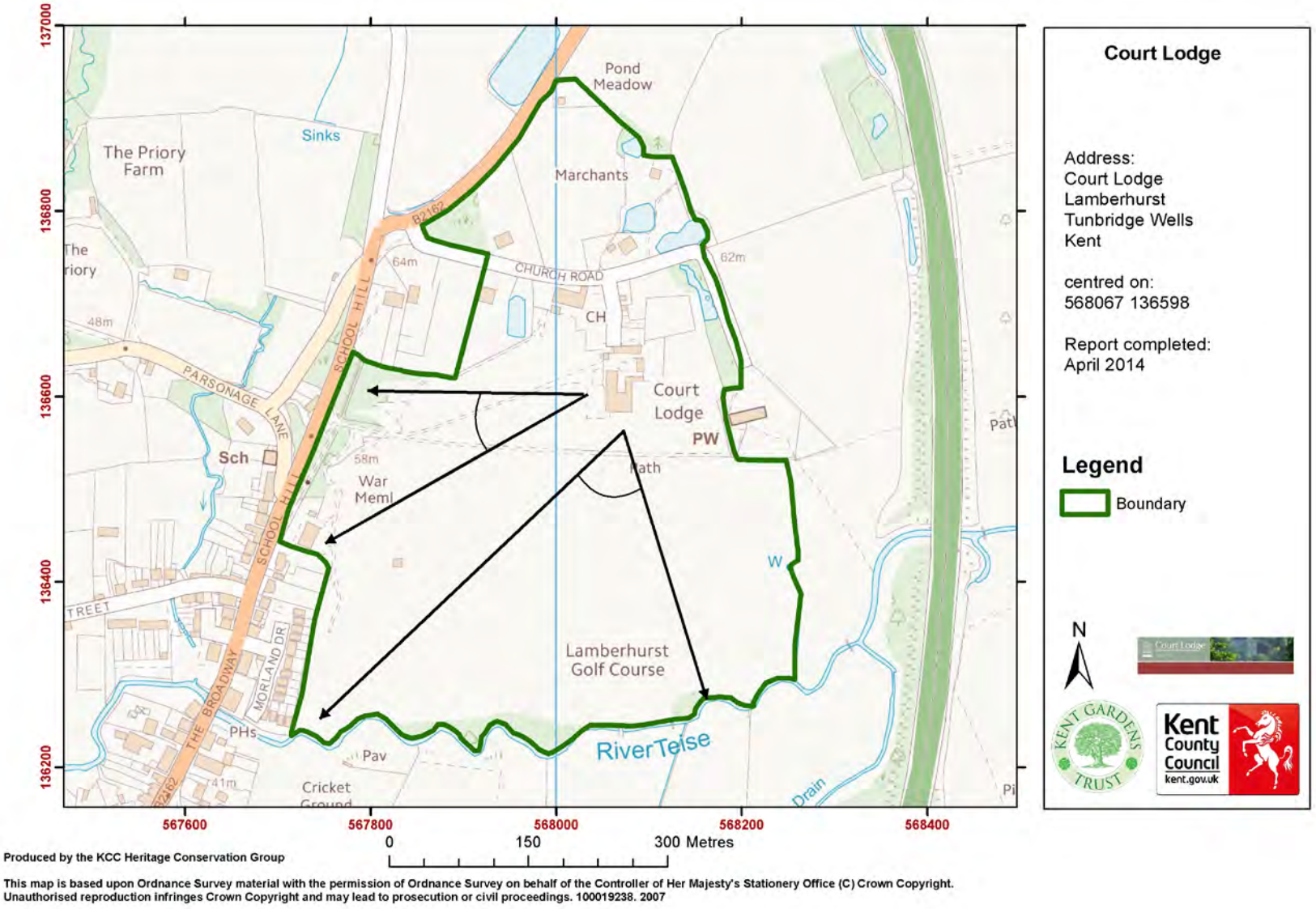
**Fig. 1 Boundary map**




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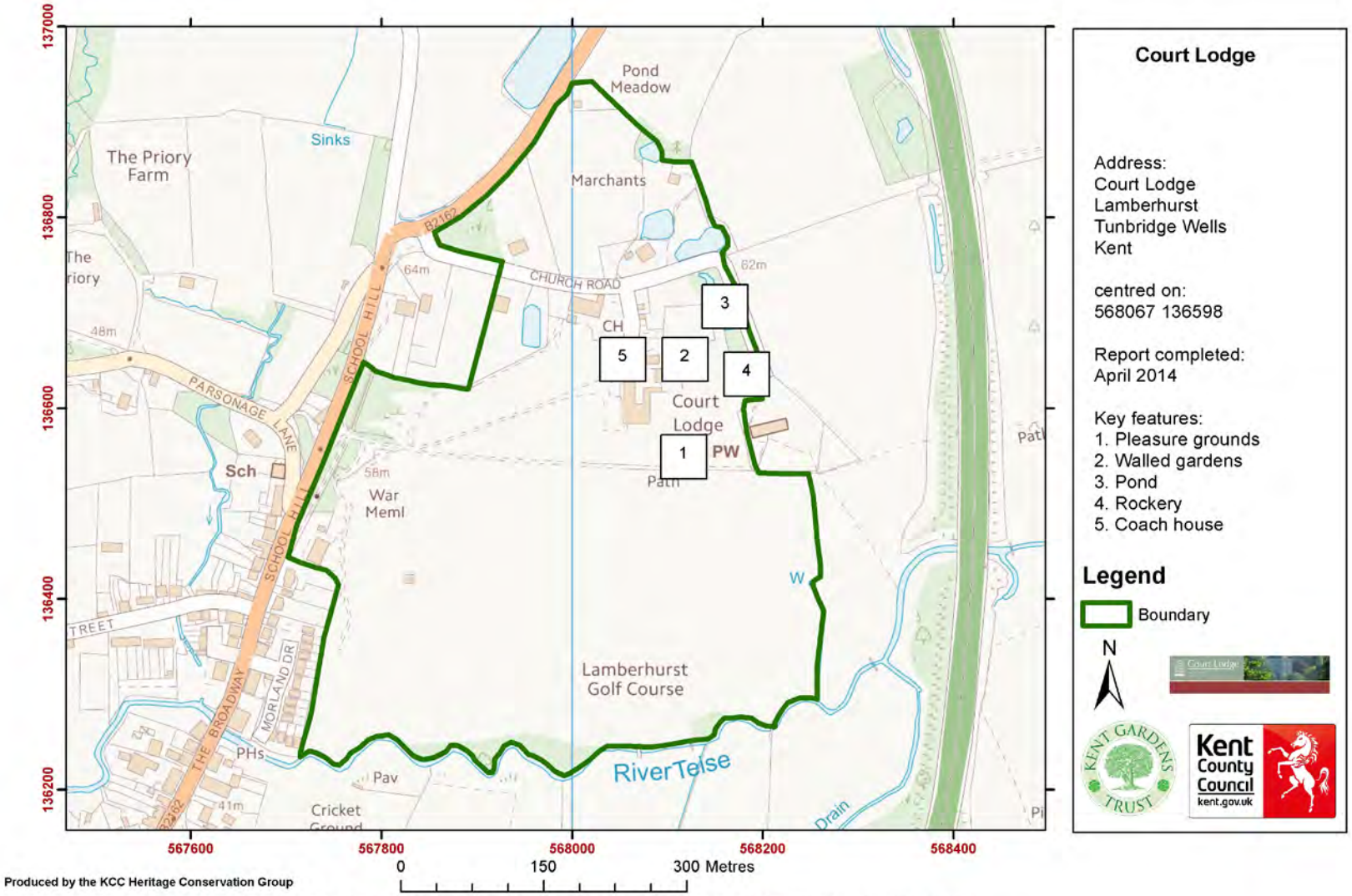
**Fig. 2 Key views map**




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**Fig. 3 Key features map**



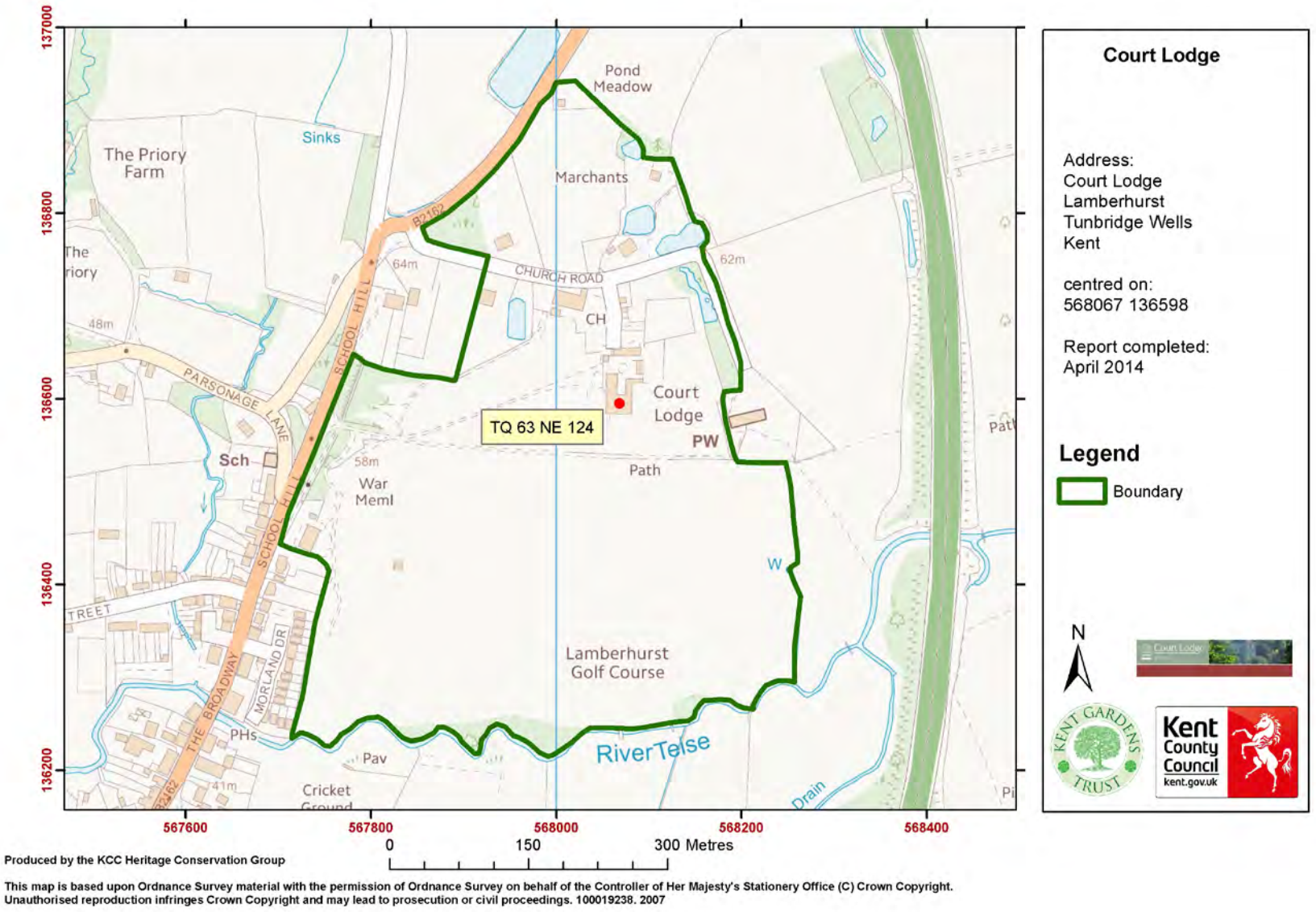
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**Fig. 4 Aerial photograph (2012)**



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**Fig. 5 Map of listed buildings**




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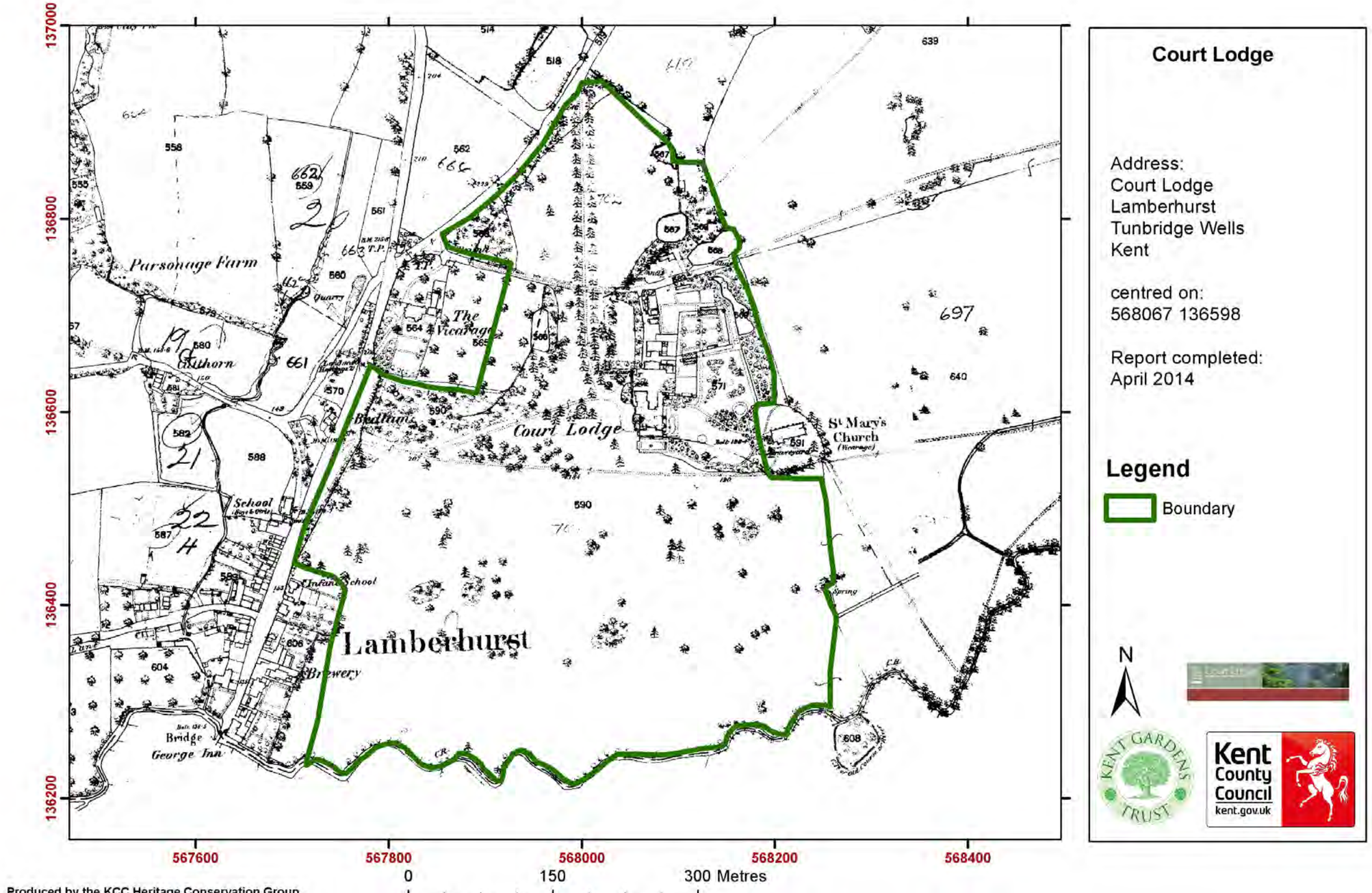
**Fig. 6 Listed buildings at Court Lodge (from the Kent Historic Environment Record)**

**Kent Historic Environment Record Reference: TQ 63 NE 124**

The following text is from the original listed building designation:
LAMBERHURST CHURCH ROAD TQ 63 NE
(south side) 3/134
Court Lodge, stable yard and walled gardens 20.10.54
GV II
House, now flats, with courtyard and walled gardens. C17 core, enlarged c.1710, mid C18 and mid C19. Red brick, extended and cased with sandstone with plain tiled and slate roofs. The main elevation is that to south to the park, of three storeys with parapet and projecting two bay wings at left and at right with separately hipped roofs and with stacks to centre, to centre left and centre right. Regular fenestration of seven glazing bar sashes on each floor, some with glazing bars missing, all with keyed surrounds, those to centre on first and second floors round headed. Projecting from and returned to this front a low stone wall with regular buttress piers enclosing the garden terrace. Entrance front to left with three storeys of 5 bays, the ground floor built out and with canted porch with panelled doors. Right return (leading to the church) with irregular 5 bay frontage and with 2 storey canted bay, round headed stair window and half glazed door in pilastered surround with flat hood on brackets and semi-circular fanlight. Rear elevation of four separate blocks, only the right hand, towards the entrance front, of stone, the centre two with steeper pitched slate covered roofs. Adjoining this elevation is the stable yard with C18 coachhouse and outbuildings. Two walled gardens adjoin to the north east, with red brick walls about 6 feet in height, buttressed and ramped at various points and with boarded gates and attached sheds and outbuildings, enclosing areas of about 20 by 35 metres in the more southerly, and 40 by 40 metres in the northern enclosure. The house became the seat of the Morland family, Lords of the Manor of Lamberhurst, mid C18, and one of the principal seats in the parish (with Scotney and Bayham Abbey), Thomas Morland (d.1784) largely creating its present character. See Hasted, vol.V and Igglesden, vol.XVII.
Listing NGR: TQ6781936707

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**Fig. 7 Ordnance Survey 1st edition 25" map (1862-1875)**

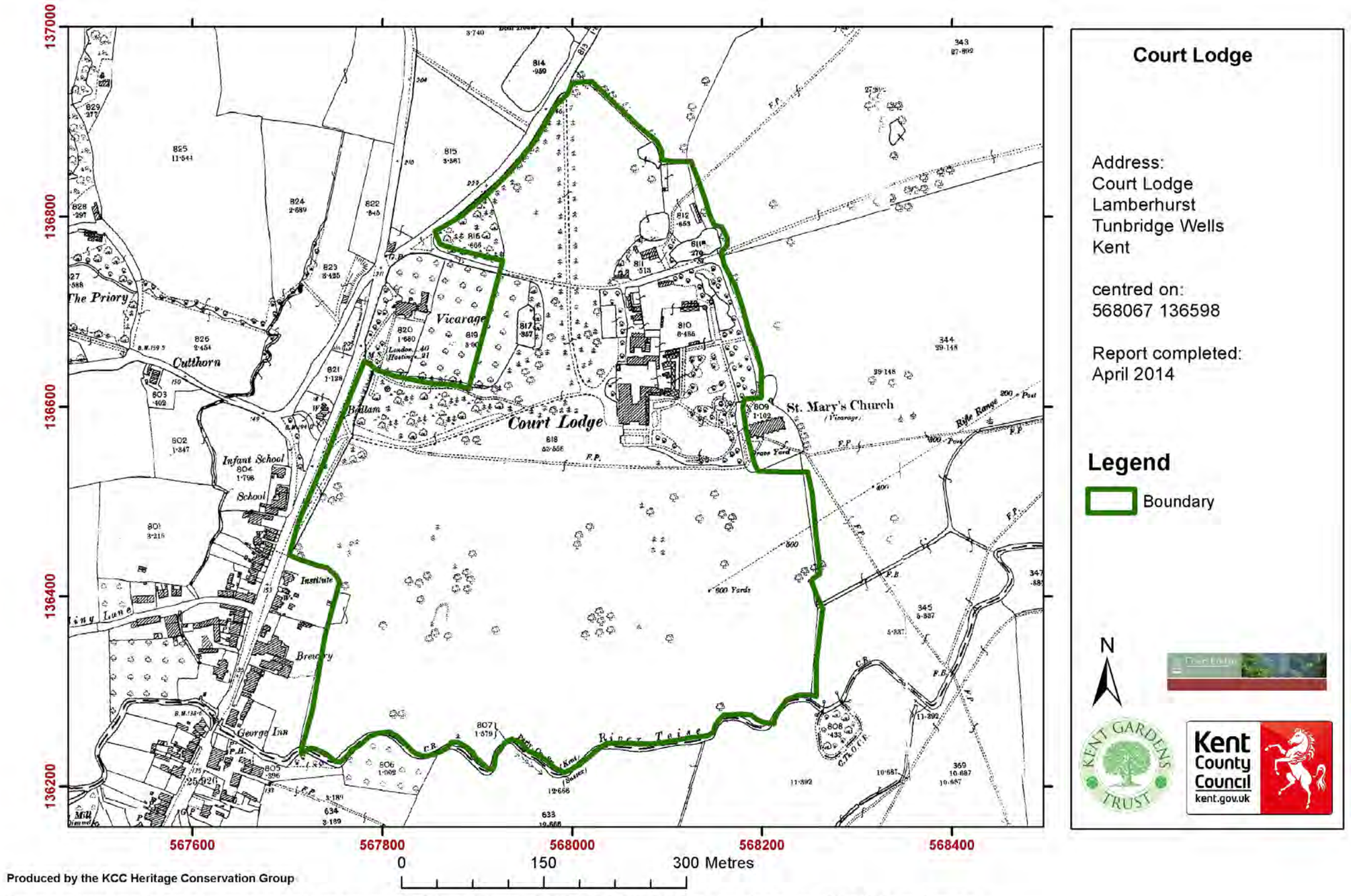



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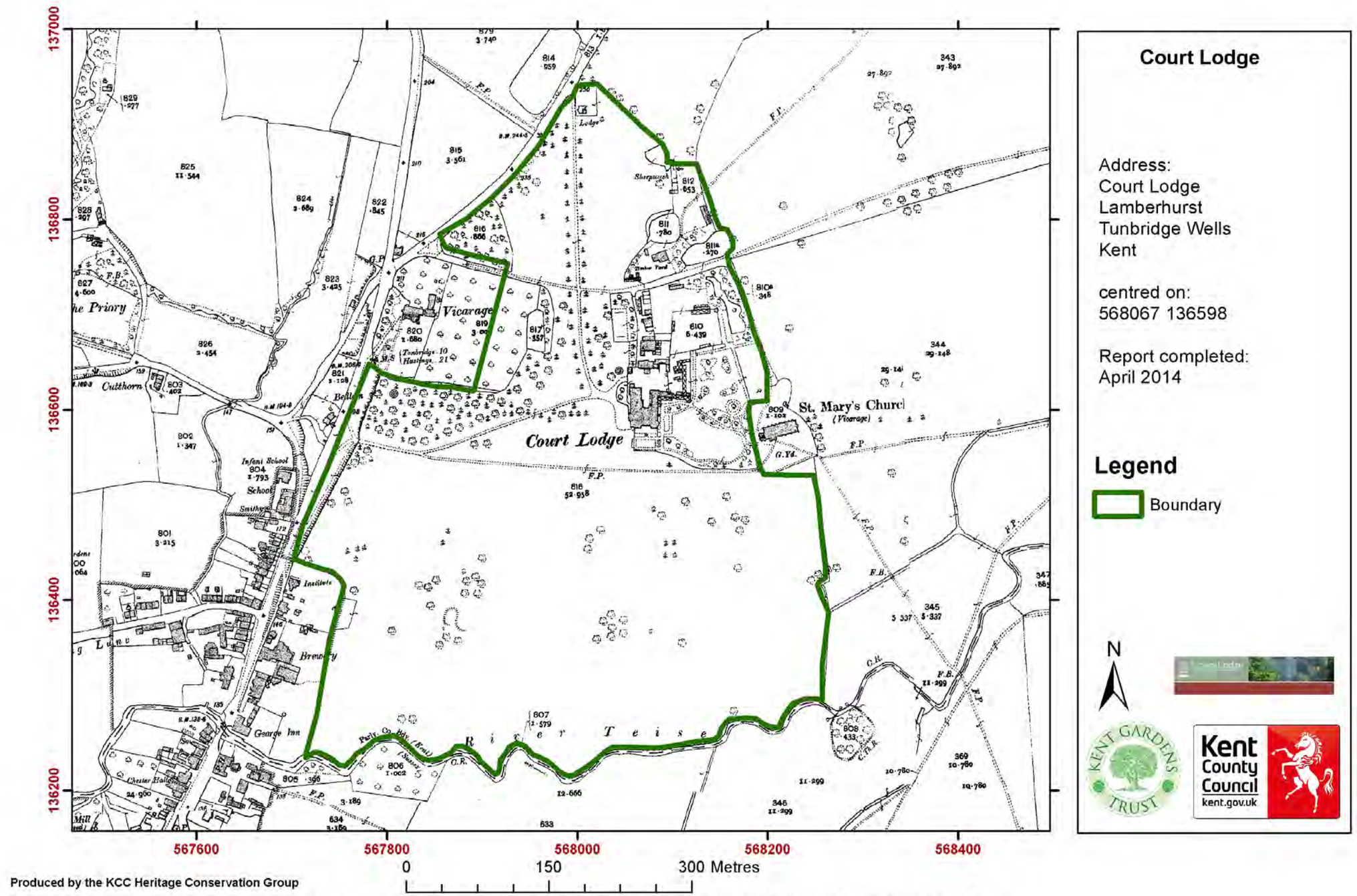
**Fig. 8 Ordnance Survey 2nd edition 25” map (1897-1900)**




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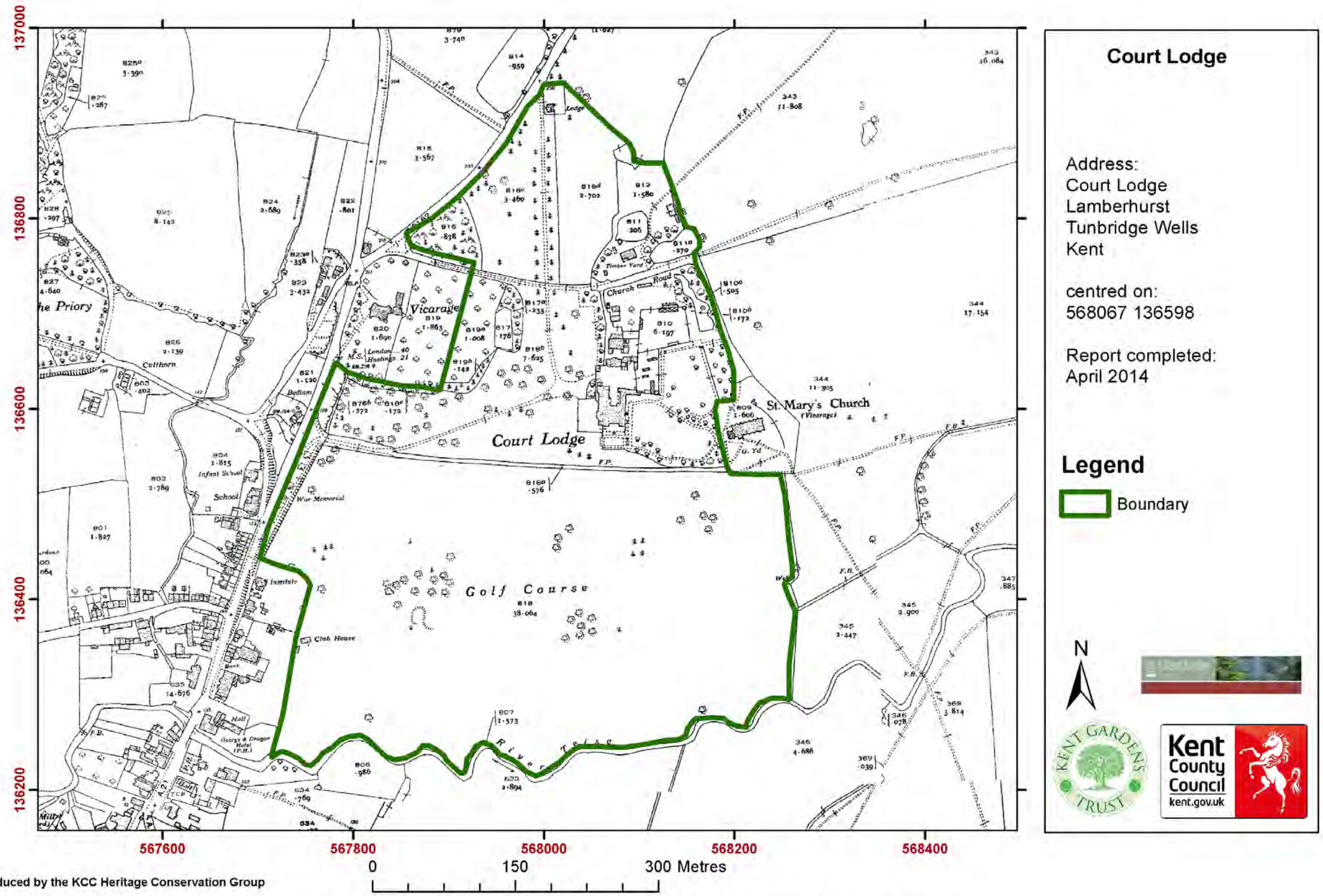
**Fig. 9 Ordnance Survey 3rd edition 25" map (1907-1923)**




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**Fig. 10 Ordnance Survey 4th edition 25" map (1929-1952)**




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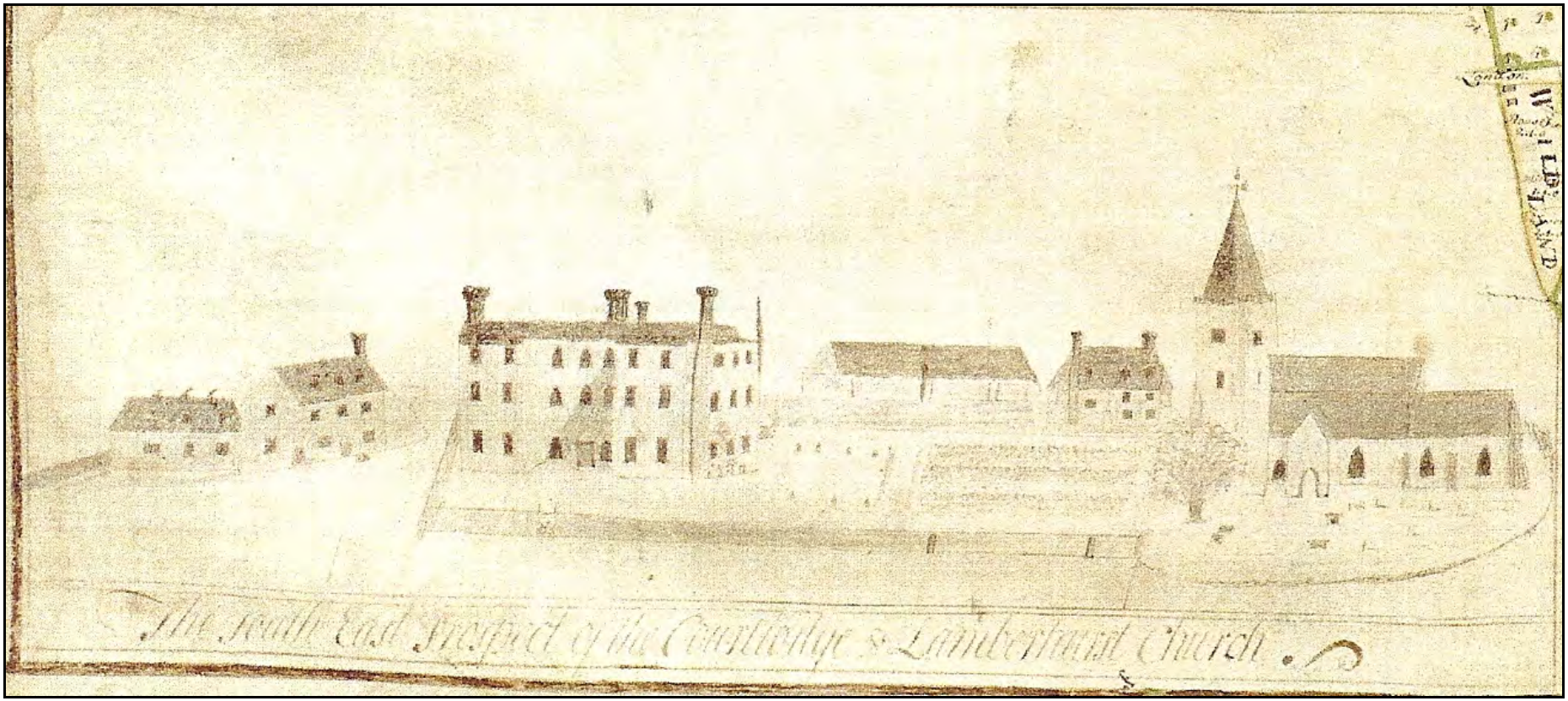
**Fig. 11 William Clout Survey of the Manor of Lamberhurst 1750**




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**Fig. 12 Extracts from William Clout Survey**




The South East Prospect of the Court Lodge and Lamberhurst Church (reproduced with the permission of the Kent History and Library Centre)




Court Lodge, Garden and Park (reproduced with the permission of the Kent History and Library Centre)

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**Fig. 13 Selection of scenes of the garden depicted on plates (19th century)**



The Parterre



The Pond and Summer House



The Rockery



The walk alongside the walled garden

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**Fig. 14 Court Lodge Garden 2013**



The Gardens



The Parterre