

Appendix A

Heritage Conservation commentary regarding local area interest:

The Neighbourhood Plan (NP) area is one of considerable antiquity. It straddles the border between inland Kent and Romney Marsh and played a significant role in connecting the Marsh with the rest of the county. Important routes run through the area north-west to Ashford and west-east along the hills flanking the north of Romney Marsh. Commensurate with this position, the NP area has a long history. A collection of Mesolithic flints (c. 10,000 – 4,000 BC) including scrapers, blades and points is known from Knoll Farm. Prehistoric pits and a hearth were also found at HMP Aldington in 2000. Several examples of Bronze Age and Iron Age metalwork have been found and it is almost certain that other prehistoric sites live undiscovered in the area, perhaps including an early phase of Aldington Knoll barrow (see below).

There are far more numerous Roman discoveries in the NP area. Aldington lies close Portus Lemanis, the Roman fort and port at Lymnpe and was on the main route connecting the area with the iron producing areas of the Weald but also the Roman road connecting Portus Lemanis with north Kent. This explains the richness of Roman archaeological discoveries in the area. The Roman road itself may have been detected in excavation in 2005 during cabling works close to Cobb's Hall. The most important Roman site is perhaps the probable Roman burial barrow at Aldington Knoll. The site, which is a Scheduled Monument, consisted of an earthen barrow that contained at least one burial. A probable mixed inhumation/cremation Roman cemetery was found at Postling Green in 1914 and Roman flue tiles and bricks were found in April 1935 and 1936 during construction of a tennis court at New Haytors. A second Scheduled Monument, this time for a Roman villa, has also been designated south of Burch's Rough, Aldington. Fragments of brick, Romano-British in date, were found at Marwood Farm in the 1960s. In 2013 a resistivity survey was carried out which identified a large rectangular structure, and a subsequent excavation identified it as being a 2nd/3rd century villa. Finally, cropmarks of possible Roman walled cemetery have been seen from Forge Hill, Aldington. Taken together, these sites show the importance of the area in the Roman period and the considerable potential for further discoveries.

There are no distinct Anglo-Saxon sites in the NP area though Anglo-Saxon settlements are very difficult to find. Dozens of artefacts recovered by metal detectorists and others suggests there is potential for future discoveries. For more recent periods, there is of course much more information. The NP area contains almost 30 historic buildings dating to the medieval period including Grade I listed buildings at St Martin's and St Rumwold's churches. Other buildings include farms and barns, high status buildings and cottages. Archaeological sites include the former site of St Leonard's church, ruined since 1530. The most imposing monument from the post medieval period is the Royal Military Canal, constructed between 1804 and 1809, a scheduled monument and still a highly visible marker in the landscape. There are in addition very numerous surviving remains that attest to the development of Aldington and Bonnington in recent centuries. These sites and buildings evidence the agricultural, industrial, domestic and military history of the area and as part of people's local heritage play a key role in maintaining the historic character of NP area today.