

Twin Chimneys Stone Street Westenhanger CT21 4HS



Located on Stone Street between Westenhanger station and Newingreen, this fine old house has many historical features. The house is predominantly constructed of brick in English Bond which would have been typical of the time, but some of the later alterations to the south elevation show a Flemish Bond construction. The roof is Kent Pegged.

The presence of apotropaic marks on certain timbers interests me. I believe that these were in general a medieval phenomenon, and if so could pre-date the main building?



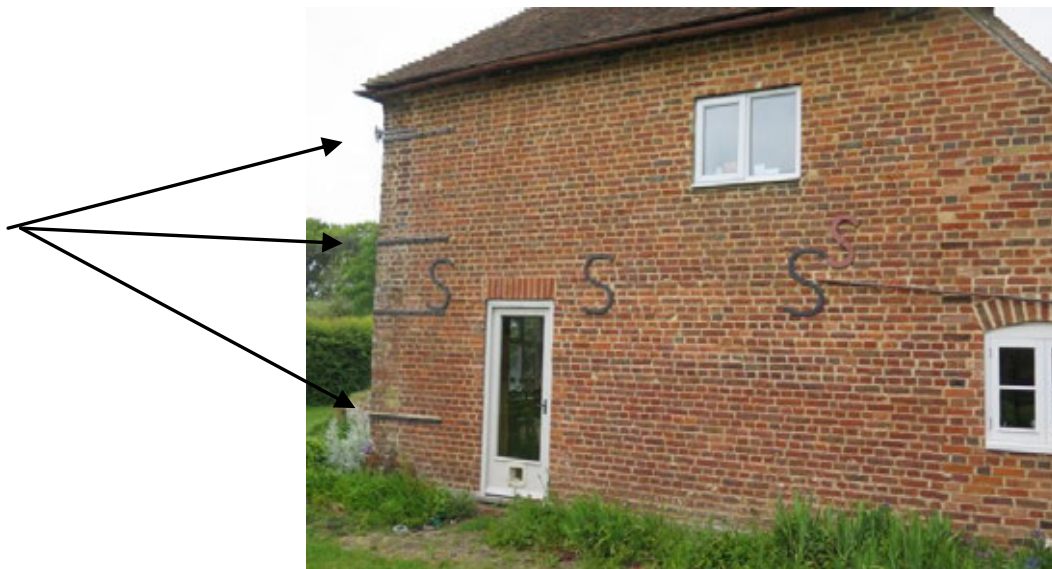


The elevation to the north would seem to be structured as an aisle (wherein is the kitchen) if one looks upward from the kitchen the main wall continues up to the rafters. I would assume that this is all built at the same time as the main house and not added later.



The aisle to the north elevation looking upwards from the kitchen floor

Another point on the construction, or should I say construction problems is the shift in the roof; particularly effecting the east elevation whereby the east wall has been braced to the south elevation and strengthened with tie rods.



The east wall. The arrows show bracing to the south wall. Note also the 'S' ended tie rods

Historically, so I have read, houses with tie beams lengthwise do have a tendency to shift. The general roof construction appears to be of an arch brace design. This post-dates many earlier Kent houses that would have had a crown post adjoining a main cross tie beam by way of tie beam braces. I think that looking at the structure from inside that some purlins may have been added at a later date, rendering some of the original purlins redundant. The new purlins have braces at intervals, joining them to the central tie beam.



Newer purlins with diagonal braces to tie beam

Arched Brace

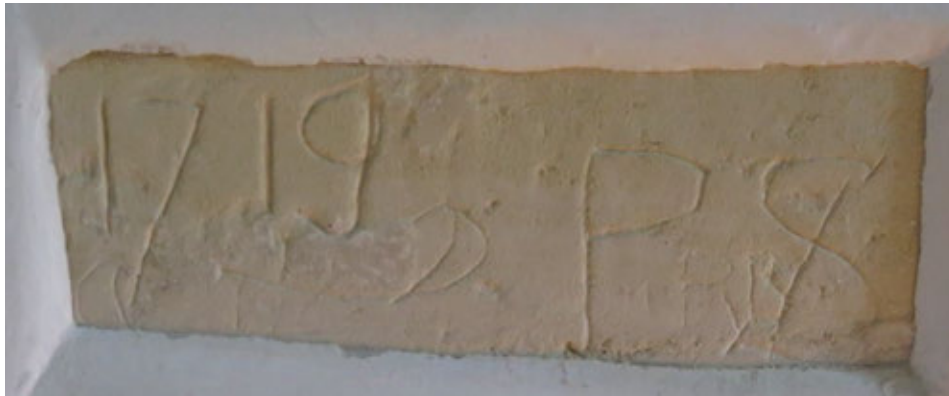
It would be interesting to try and establish the origins of roman style brickwork and, question as to whether this original outer wall? Could the elevation to the west be a later extension? I am led to believe that it was practice to poach material from old ruins before the country had the logistical means to transport materials from further afield, including Roman ruins. If the wall in the house is original and these bricks were Roman, then this could be a whole new concept in that it could place the building as that of special archaeological interest.

This country house was built in 1719 is built of brick and stone under a tiled roof. The entrance through a tiled porch leads into a small room, in which the inner wall is of roughly coursed ragstone, and old brick of roman design and colour with rough mortar. It is not clear whether this rustic style wall was built at the same time as the main house or was an earlier structure.

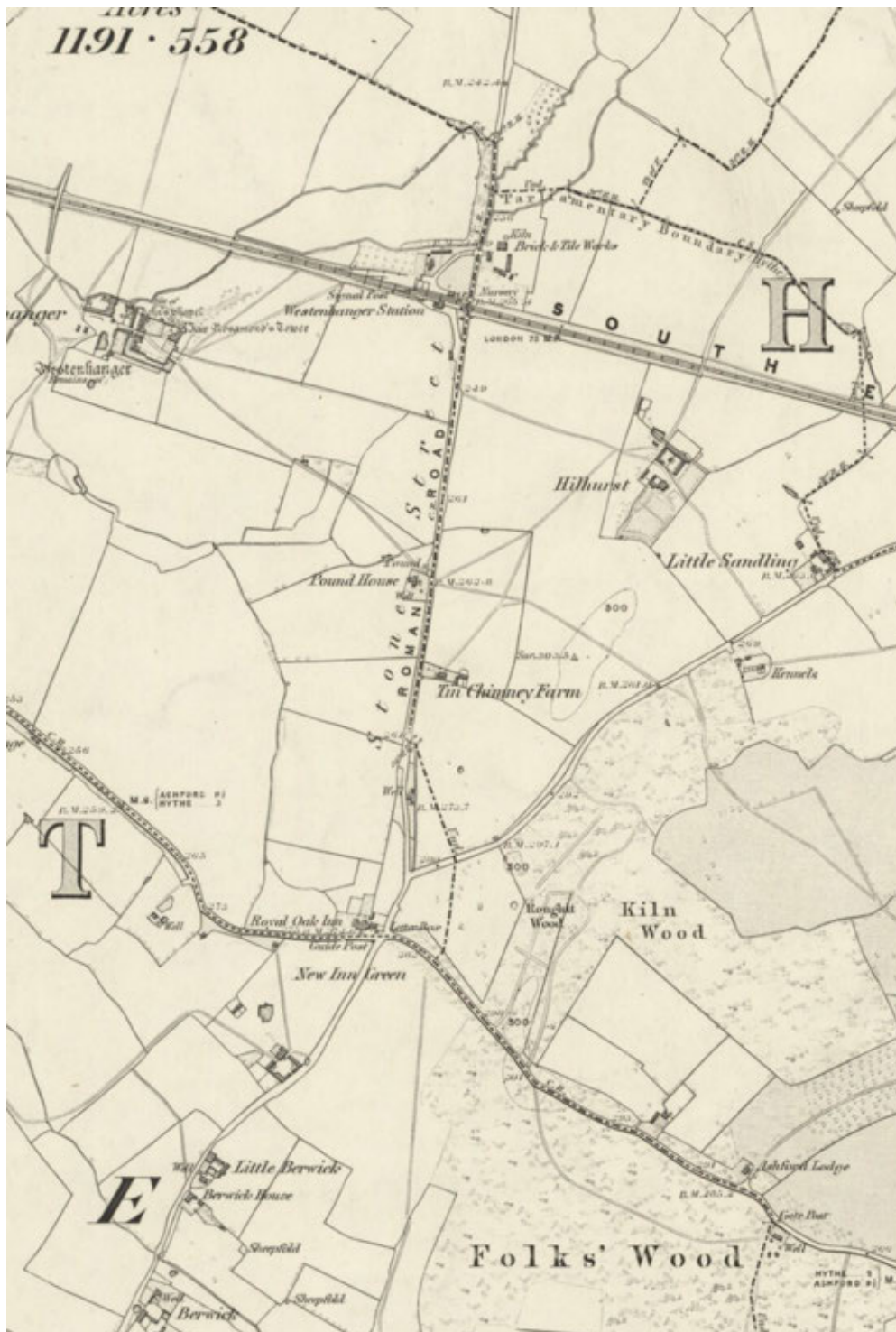


Part of inner wall showing Roman style bricks

Adjoining the entrance room is a small scullery wherein the aforementioned original wall continues. A small foundation plaque in the form of a brick bears the date the house was built.



Foundation Brick



A



B

GROUND FLOOR

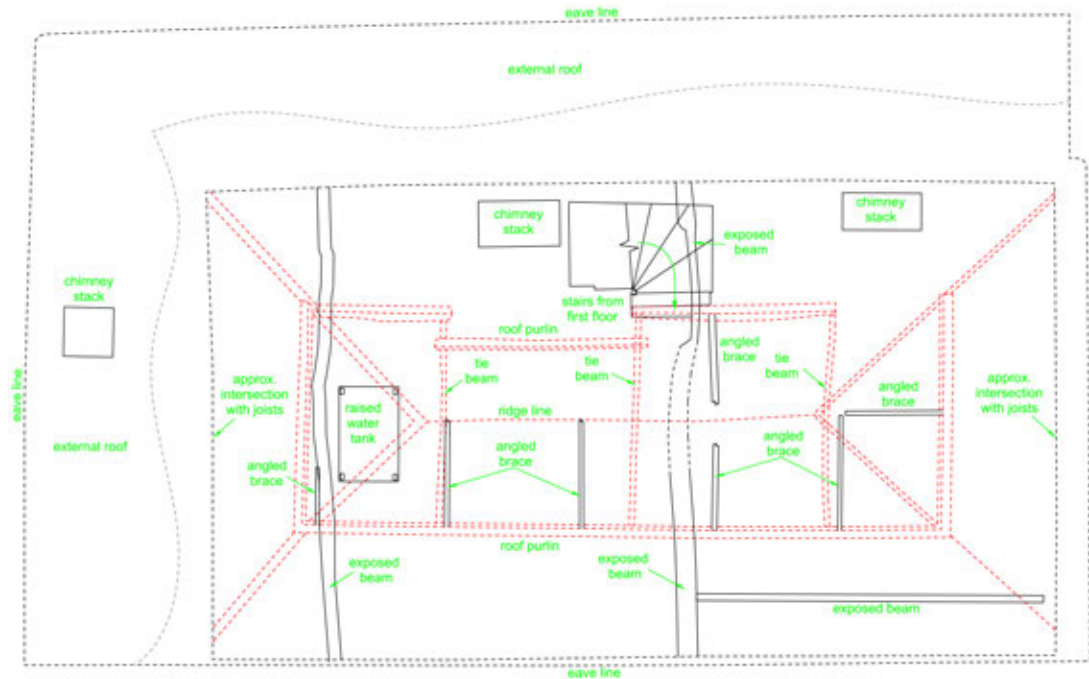
A



FIRST FLOOR

B

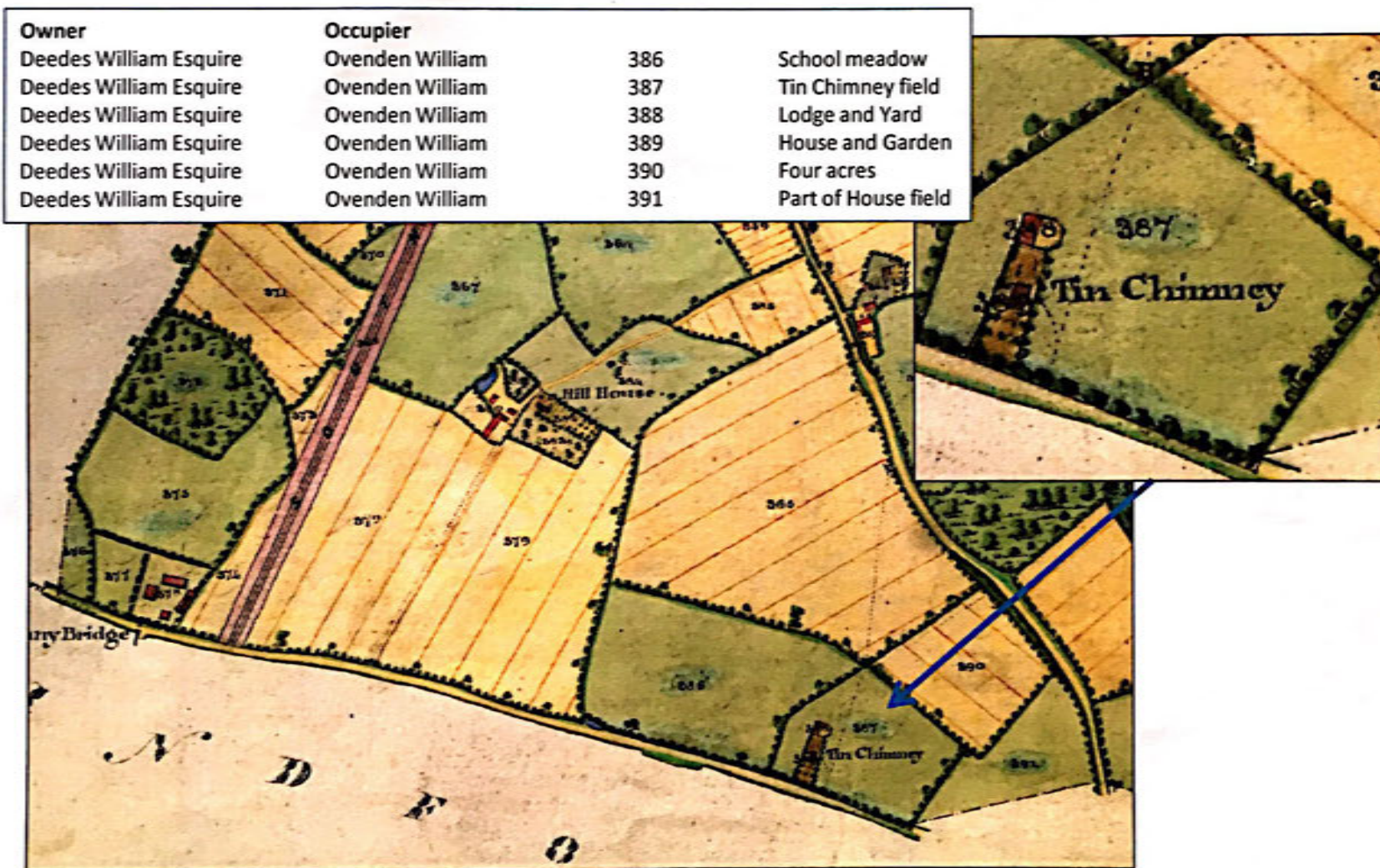
A



ROOF VOID

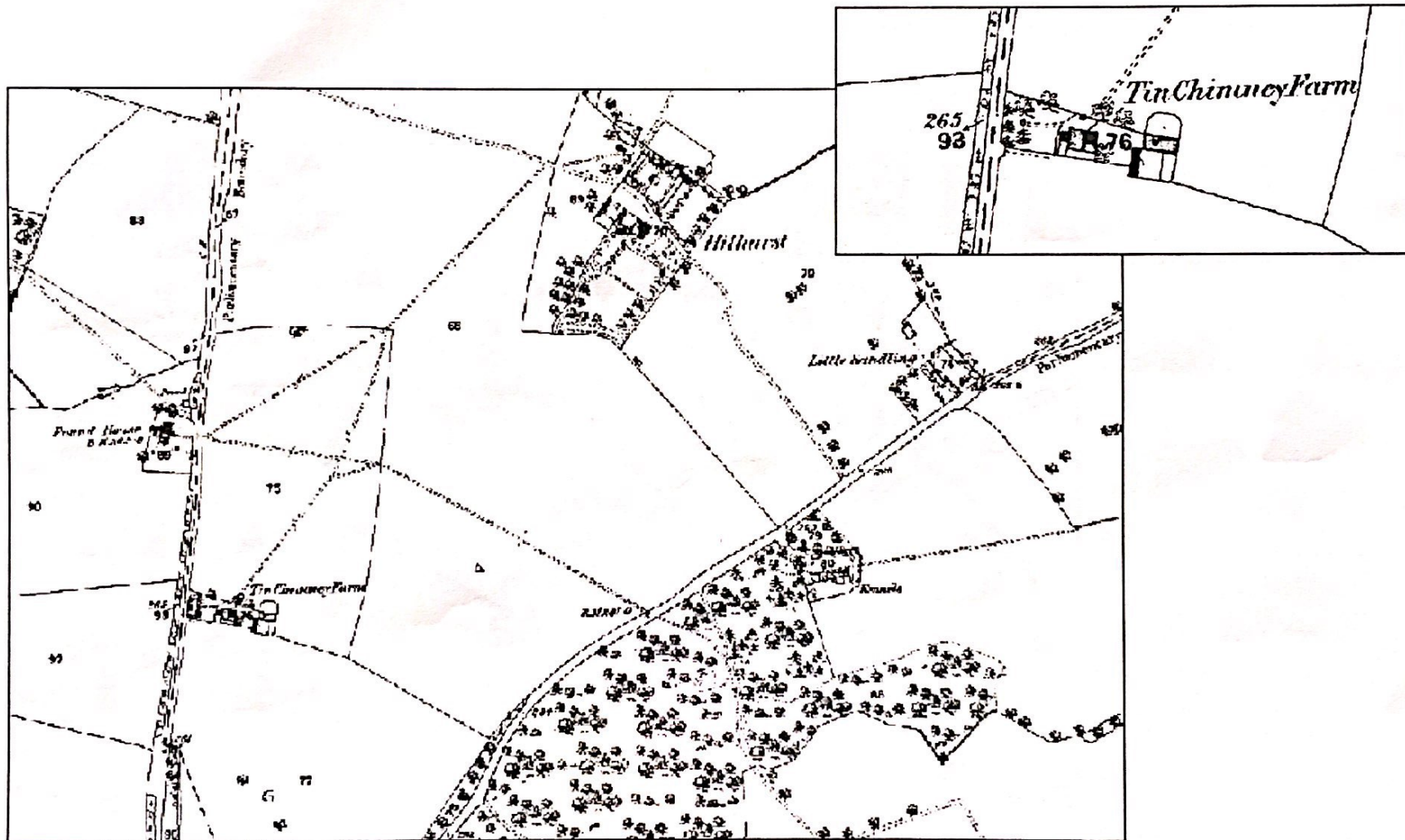
B

Saltwood Tithe Apportionment 1842

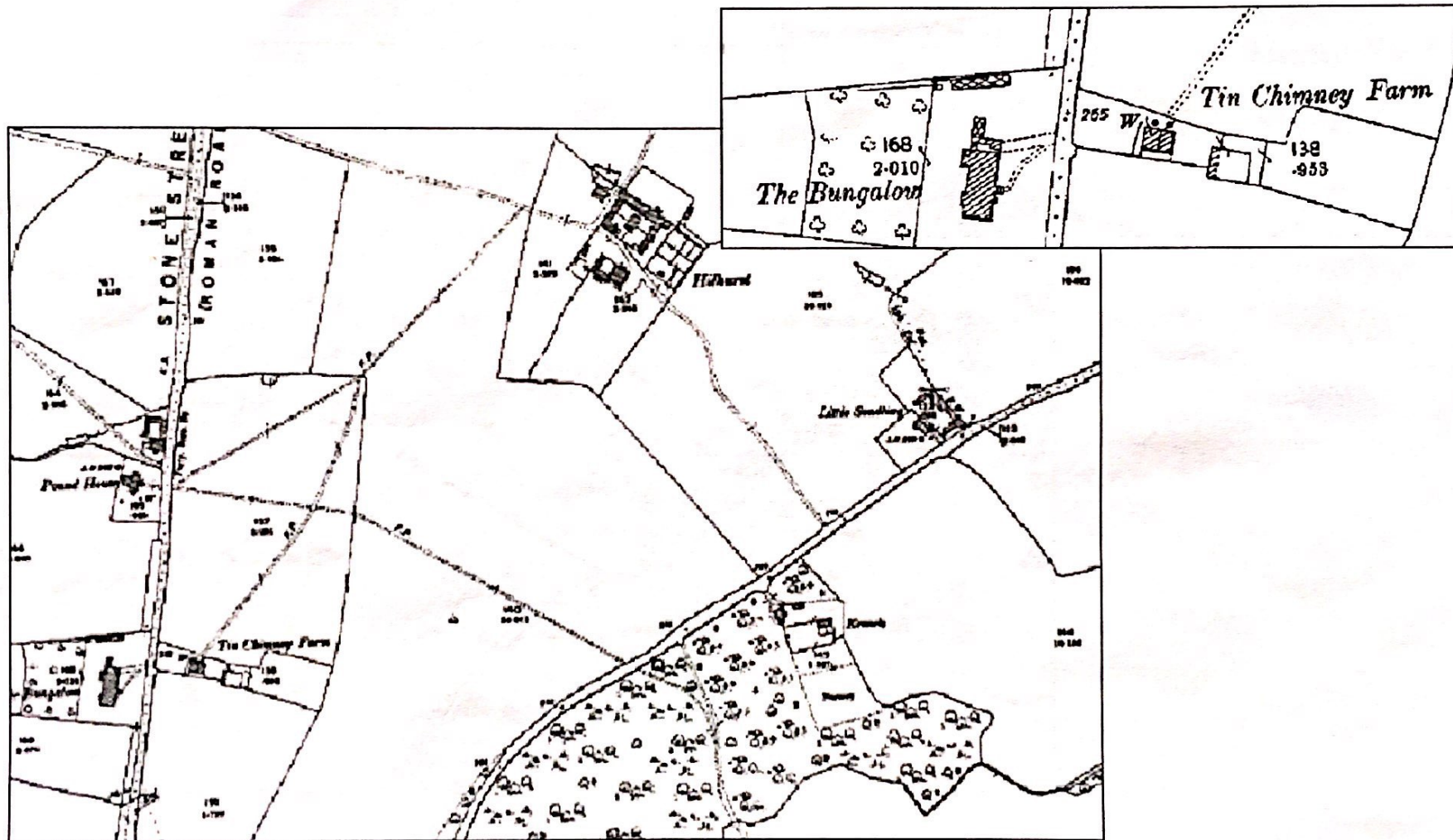


Interestingly the pink diagonal on the 1842 tithe map could be the S.E. Railway under construction, which, according to Wikipedia reached Folkestone by 1843.

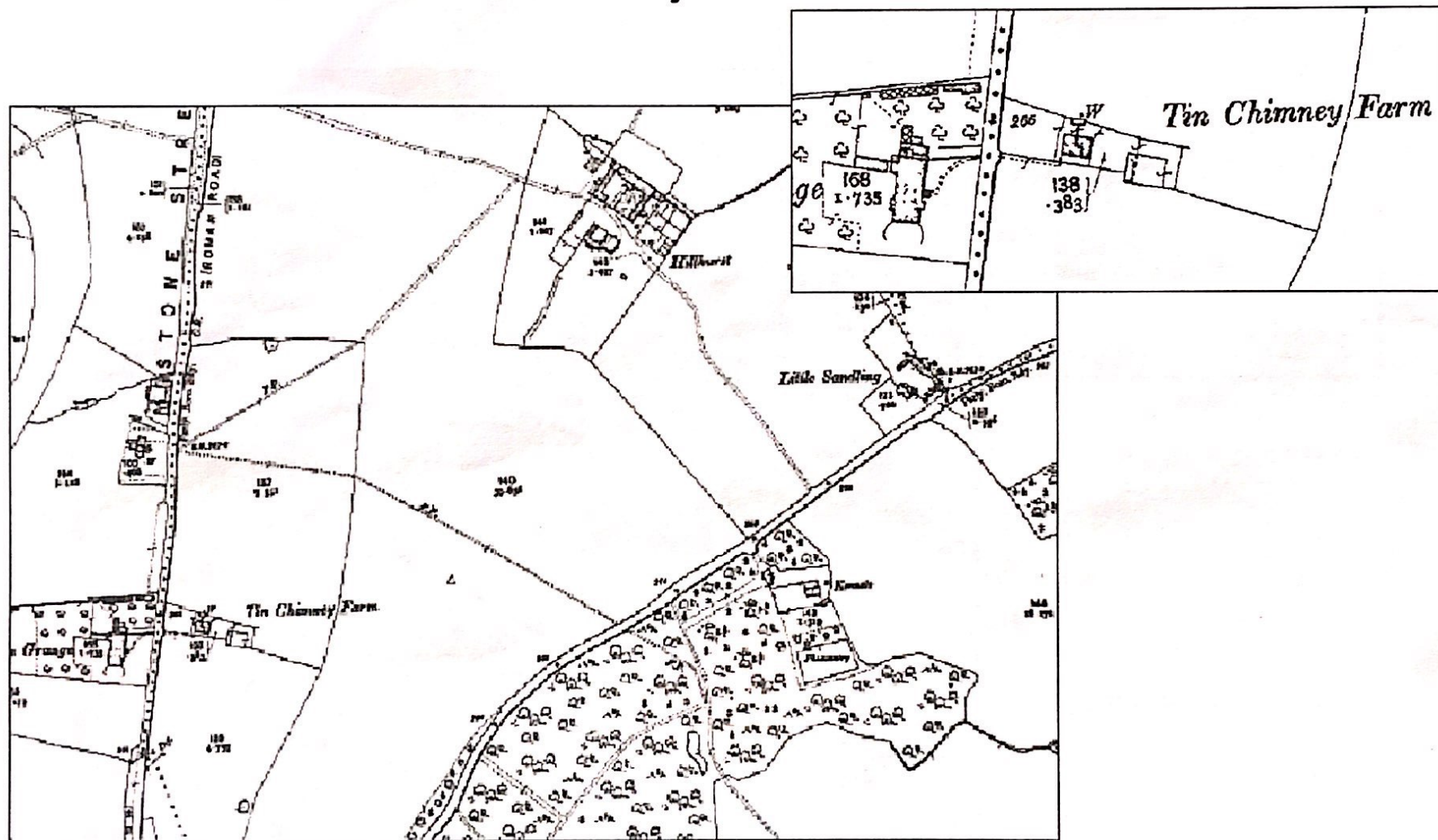
Ordnance Survey 1871



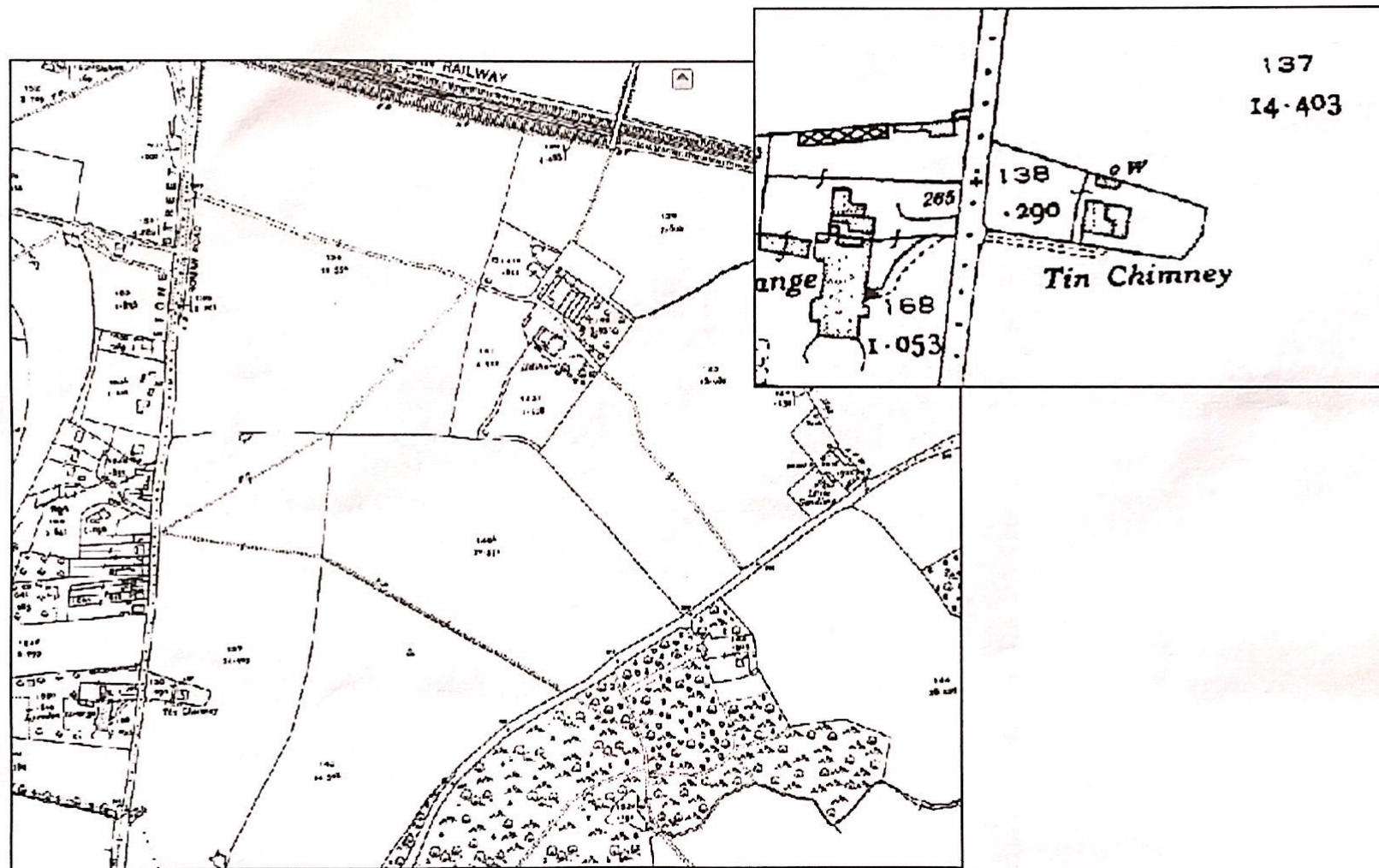
Ordnance Survey 1897



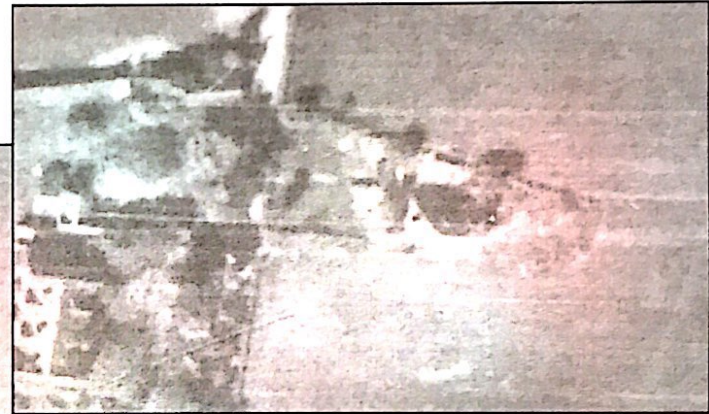
Ordnance Survey 1906



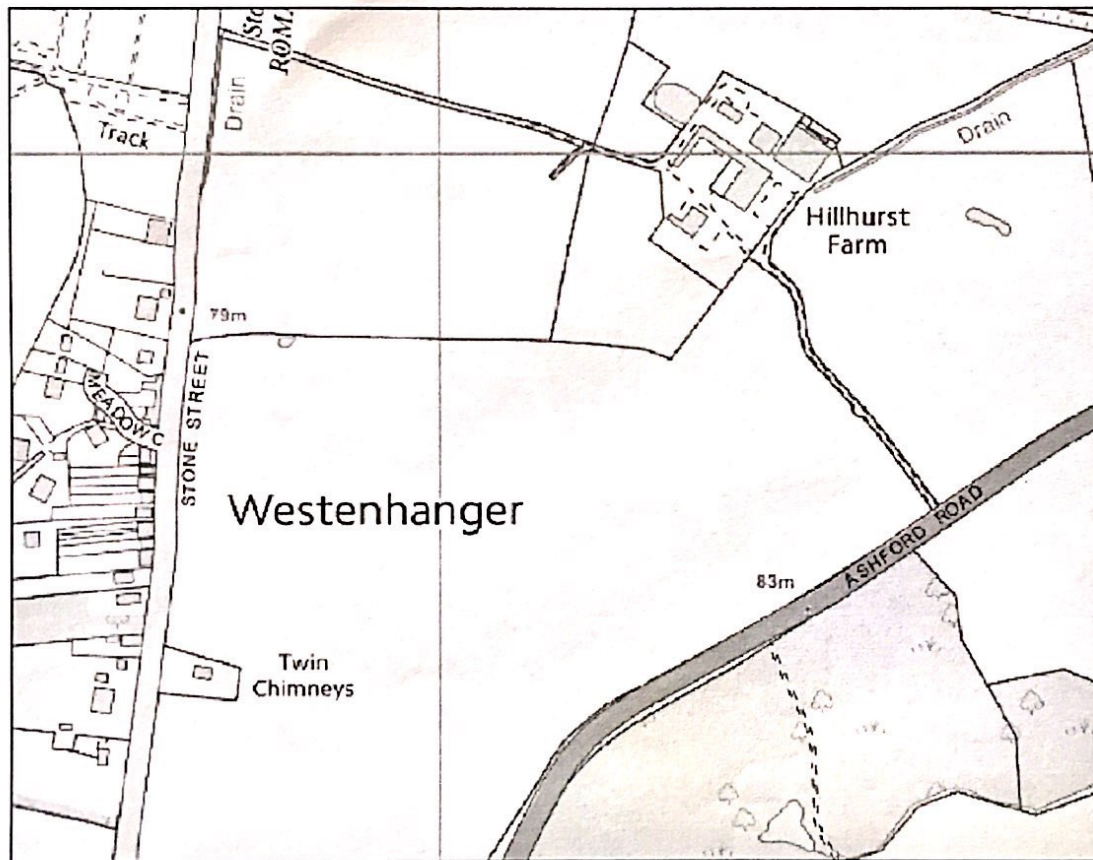
Ordnance Survey 1931



Aerial 1946



Current



Current Lidar



1841 Census: William Ovenden, farmer, and family

Ten Shillings	1	William Ovenden	45	Farmer		M
		Richard Ovenden	50	29	Lark	M
		Sarah Do	70	/		F
		Mary Do	35			F
		Sarah Ovenden	20	2	1/2 L	F

1851 Census: Samuel Foreman and family at Tin Chimney

57	Tin Chimney	Samuel Foreman	Head	37	Ag. Lab.	West. Lymington
		Jane W.	Wife	30		do. Bournemouth
		William W.	Son	11	Iron Boy	do. Lymington
Total						
		Stephen Foreman	Son	4	Iron Boy	West. Lymington
		Martha W.	Daughter	4		do. Lymington
		James Lower	Son	21	Ag. Lab.	do. Bournemouth

1861 Census: Samuel Foreman and family

126	Standford Road	Samuel Foreman	Head	45	Ag. Lab.	do. Lymington
		Jane do	Wife	44		do. Bournemouth
		Martha Jane do	Daughter	14		do. Lymington
		Samuel do	Son	9	Schooler	do. Bournemouth
		James do	Son	6		do. Bournemouth

1871 Census: Samuel Foreman and family – no address given, just Saltwood

1		Samuel Foreman	Head	53	Ag. Lab.	do. Lymington
		Jane R. Foreman	Wife	49	Labourer's wife	do. Bournemouth
		Martha J. Walker	Grandchild	6	Schooler	do. Lymington
						do. Bournemouth

1881 Census: Samuel Foreman now described as gardener. William Dixon, agricultural labourer, and family also at Tin Chimney.

65	Tin Chimney	1	William Dixon	Head	Mar	54	Do Do	Next Town
			Jane	Wife	Do	53		Do Birmingham
			Elizabeth	Do	Labourer	26	Ironmaker	Do Lympstone
			Edward W	Do	Lab	29	Railway Lab.	Do Do
			Charles	Do	Do	18	Do Do	Do Do
			Thomas H	Do	Do	13	Do Do	Do Do
66	Do	1	Samuel Foreman	Head	Mar	62	all Gardener	Do Birmm
			Jane	Wife	Do	59		Do Birmingham
67	Do	1	James Holtum	Head	Mar	34	Brick & Tile Maker	Do Kennington

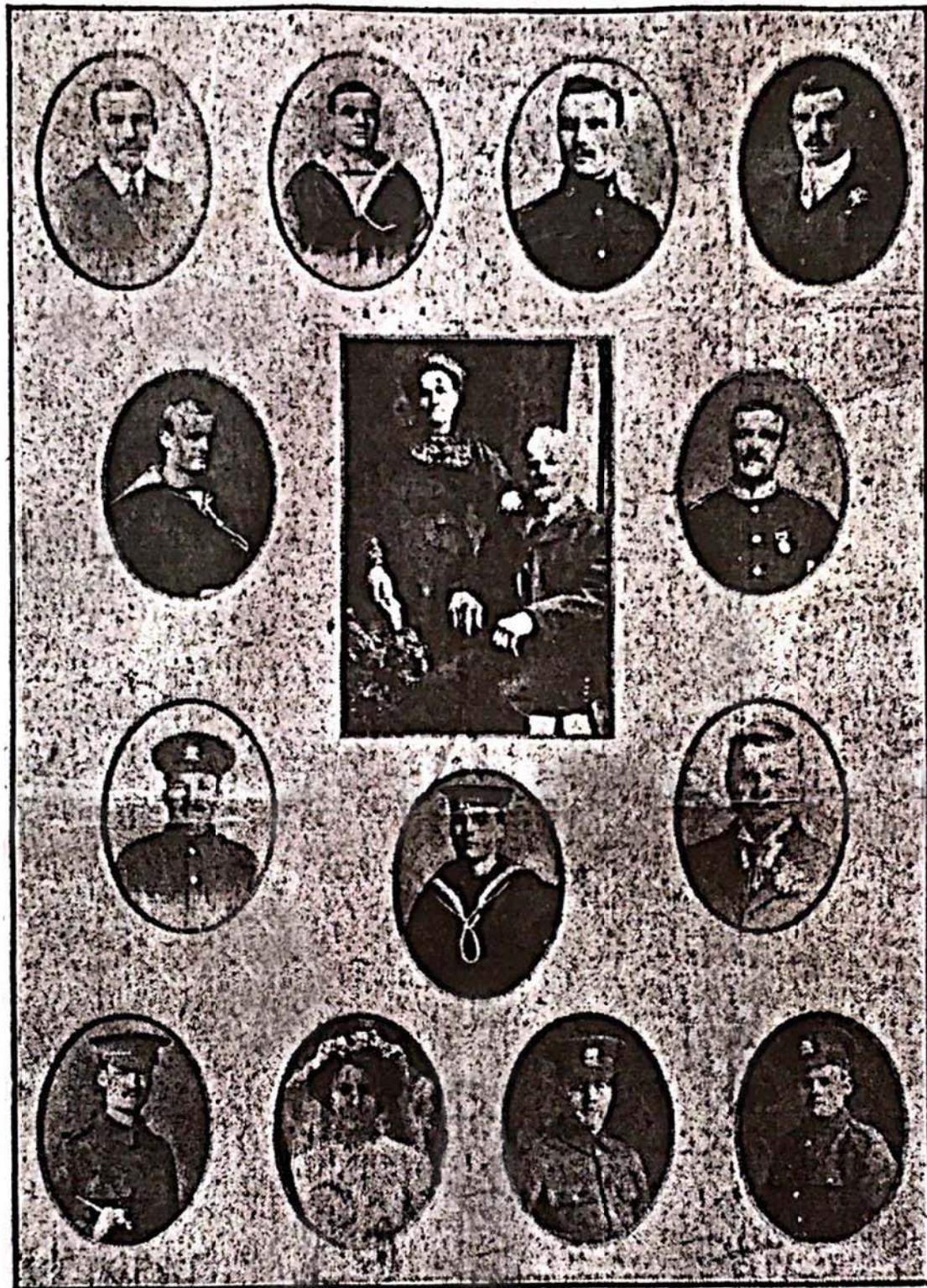
1891 Census: The Foremans and the Dixons still living at Tin Chimney .

17	Tin Chimney	1	Samuel Foreman	Head	M	78	Gardener	X	Do Lympstone
			Oliver Foreman	Wife	M	66			Do Wharfedale
18		1	William Dixon	Head	M	65	Agricultural Labourer	X	Do Potters
			Jane Dixon	Wife	M	63			Do Birmingham
			Ann Dixon	Daughter		36	Ironmaker	X	Do Lympstone
			Thomas H. Dixon	Son	S	22	Railway Porter	X	Do Do
			Lizzie Holtum	Visitor			Scholar		Do Kennington
			Frederick G. Holtum	Visitor			Scholar		Do Salisbury

1901 Census: Two different families, the Palmers and the Hyders at Tin Chimney Cottage. Fourteen people in total.

107	Tin Chimney Cottage			Marshall Palmer	Head	M	50	Wagoner on Farm	mother	Kent Sillinge
				Fanny do	Wife	F	46			do Marsham
				Albert do	Son	S	22	Reidy Navy	do	do Lynsted
				Walter B do	Son	S	13	Father Bayly	do	do Stamford
				Marshall do	Son	S	11			do do
				Frances E do	Daughter	F	10			do Pitting
				Alfred V do	Son	S	7			do Sutter
				Francis do	Son	S	6			do do
				Benjamin do	Son	S	4			do do
				Thomas A Diprose	Boarder	M	58	Ag Horse Man on Farm	do	do Maidstone
108	do do do	1		John Hyder	Head	M	39	Farm Labourer General	Wife	Went Aldington
				Annie do	Wife	F	26			Worcester
				John do	Son	S	3			Went Stamford
				Ann E do	Daughter	F	1			do Saltwood

ELEVEN FIGHTING SONS.



The above picture is probably unique. It contains the photos of a married couple and their family of thirteen. Of the twelve sons eleven have served or are now serving in the Army or Navy. Eight are serving at the present time; and of the others three have completed their time, and two of the three have attested again.

The parents are Mr. and Mrs. Palmer, of the Chimneys, Westenhanger, where they have lived for twenty-five years. During all that time the husband has worked as wagoner and cartier on the Hillhurst Farm, first under Mr. G. F. Deedes, and now under Mr. Walker. The daughter is married to Mr. Law, a signalman, and they live at Belvedere.

The names of those in the picture, glancing across from left to right, are as follows:— Herbert Palmer (served formerly); Charles Palmer (served formerly); Walter Palmer, Sergeant, 7th Dragoon Guards (now serving); Marshall Palmer, A.S.G. (now serving in France).

William Palmer, Stoker, H.M.S. Loverock; Mr. and Mrs. Palmer (parents); Frederick Palmer (served formerly).

John Palmer, "Buffs" (killed in action, January 19th, 1916); Frank Palmer, Stoker, H.M.S. Magnolia; Albert Palmer.

Victor Palmer, Civil Service Rifles (now serving); Elizabeth Palmer (now Mrs. Law); Lancelot Palmer, 4th "Buffs" (now serving); Benjamin Palmer, 4th "Buffs" (now serving).