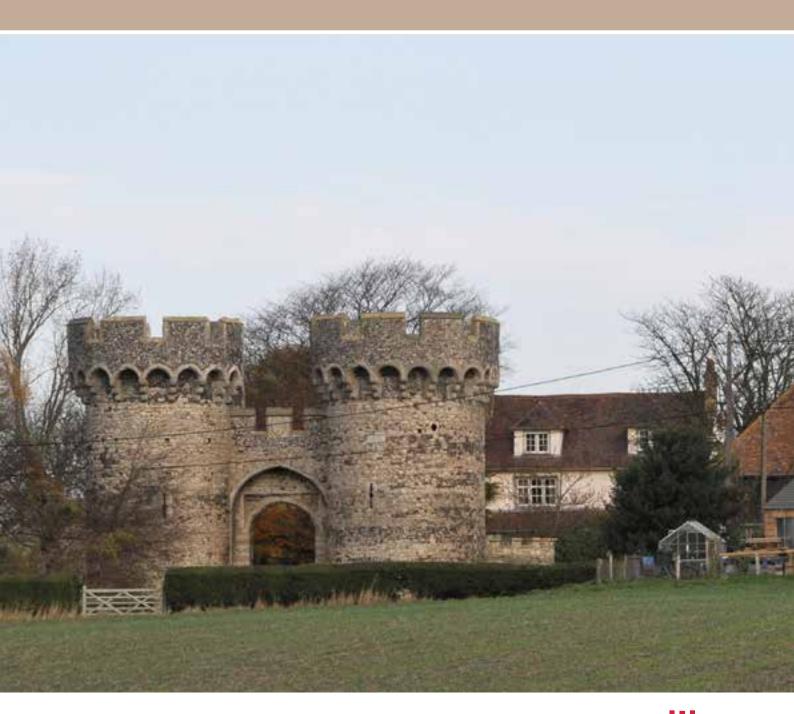
COOLING, HOO PENINSULA, KENT

HISTORIC AREA ASSESSMENT

Joanna Smith



This report has been prepared for use on the internet and the images within it have been down-sampled to optimise downloading and printing speeds.

Please note that as a result of this down-sampling the images are not of the highest quality and some of the fine detail may be lost. Any person wishing to obtain a high resolution copy of this report should refer to the ordering information on the following page.

COOLING, HOO PENINSULA, MEDWAY, KENT HISTORIC AREA ASSESSMENT

Joanna Smith and Jonathan Clarke

© English Heritage

ISSN 2046-9799 (Print) ISSN 2046-9802 (Online)

The Research Report Series incorporates reports by the expert teams within the Investigation & Analysis Division of the Heritage Protection Department of English Heritage, alongside contributions from other parts of the organisation. It replaces the former Centre for Archaeology Reports Series, the Archaeological Investigation Report Series, the Architectural Investigation Report Series, and the Research Department Report Series.

Many of the Research Reports are of an interim nature and serve to make available the results of specialist investigations in advance of full publication. They are not usually subject to external refereeing, and their conclusions may sometimes have to be modified in the light of information not available at the time of the investigation. Where no final project report is available, readers must consult the author before citing these reports in any publication. Opinions expressed in Research Reports are those of the author(s) and are not necessarily those of English Heritage.

Requests for further hard copies, after the initial print run, can be made by emailing: Res.reports@english-heritage.org.uk or by writing to: English Heritage, Fort Cumberland, Fort Cumberland Road, Eastney, Portsmouth PO4 9LD Please note that a charge will be made to cover printing and postage.

© ENGLISH HERITAGE 51 - 2014

SUMMARY

Cooling is situated on the north side of the Hoo Peninsula and is its smallest parish. Whilst not bordering the Thames, its northern part encompasses low-lying marshland pasture, which rises to the mid-peninsula ridge in the south, with high points at Lodge Hill and Mount Pleasant. The small population is distributed around two small settlements -the village of Cooling and a hamlet at Spendiff - and a number of dispersed farmsteads. Cooling village, in the centre of the parish, is a long-established settlement that contains the remains of a 14th-century castle. Unlike Hoo's other settlements, it saw only minimal growth in the 20th century and remains one of peninsula's 'unexpanded villages. Spendiff, to its south west, developed in the 19th century and has agricultural origins. Overall this parish appears to have been largely by-passed by the 19th and 20th industrial development of its neighbours, although a mineral railway and power transmission lines cross it, and a pioneering radio station was built on the marshes in the 1930s. Cooling is a place that is rich in historical associations and retains a prevailing rural character, and this Historic Area Assessment provides an overview of its historical development and architectural character.

CONTRIBUTORS

The report was written by Joanna Smith and researched and formatted by Jonathan Clarke. The character area maps were produced by Philip Sinton, and final DTPing was undertaken by Martin Jeffs. The photographs were taken by Jonathan Clarke.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The assistance of my former colleagues Joanna Smith and Martin Jeffs is gratefully acknowledged. Thanks also to staff of the Medway Archives and Local Studies Centre at Strood.

ARCHIVE LOCATION

English Heritage Archive, The Engine House, Fire Fly Avenue, Swindon SN2 2GZ. archive@english-heritage.org.uk

DATE OF SURVEY

2009-2013

CONTACT DETAILS

English Heritage, I Waterhouse Square, 138-142 Holborn, London, ECIN 2ST Joanna Smith 0207 973 3741; joanna.smith@english-heritage.org.uk

© ENGLISH HERITAGE 51 - 2014

CONTENTS

PREF/	ACE			
INTRODUCTION				
HIST	ORICAL DEVELOPMENT	5		
	Development before 1800	5		
	Development 1800-1945	7		
	Development after 1945	9		
CHA	RACTER AREAS	IC		
	Marsh nature reserve and upland farmland	П		
	Cooling village and Spendiff	П		
ARCI	HITECTURAL INTEREST AND SIGNIFICANCE	15		
NOT	NOTES AND BIBLIOGRAPHY			

© ENGLISH HERITAGE 51 - 2014



Frontispiece; 'eastward from Cliff lies cowling, anciently written Colinges and Culinges, so called from its cold and bleak situation'. (P5733046)

PREFACE

The Hoo Peninsula Historic Landscape Project was undertaken by English Heritage between 2009 and 2012. The project aims were to inform landscape change at a strategic level by providing an enhanced evidence base and a better-informed understanding of the area's rich historic character. To ensure a truly integrated project a number of different research and recording techniques at the disposal of English Heritage were deployed. These included aerial survey, analytical earthwork and buildings survey, historic landscape, seascape and routeway characterisation, farmstead characterisation and historic area assessment. An integrated narrative report drawing on this full range of work was produced in 2013 (Carpenter et al, 2013).

Historic area assessment was developed by English Heritage as one of a number of approaches to understanding the historic environment at area scale. Each assessment aims to explain how the past is encapsulated in today's landscape, to describe its character and to distinguish its more significant elements. Because resources, timescales and the nature of areas can vary three levels of assessment have been defined (English Heritage, 2010). For the Hoo Peninsula Historic Landscape Project it was decided to undertake historic area assessments of individual parishes at outline level - that is less-intensive survey and research to enable coverage of a wider area. The Hoo Peninsula, east of the ridge of high land at Higham, was assessed by parish. For each parish the key elements of its historic development were identified, its architectural interest and significance was evaluated and its landscape was subdivided into character areas.

The Hoo Peninsula outline historic area assessments were carried out within English Heritage by members of the Assessment Team South, Heritage Protection Department. Fieldwork was undertaken during a number of visits to the peninsula between 2010 and 2011. This consisted of external ground photography and site notes. A limited amount of research was undertaken in the local archives. Extensive use was made of historic maps, principally the tithe maps and various Ordnance Survey editions, along with online resources such as census data and historic newspapers, to produce the assessments. These were written in draft by the team members between 2011 and 2013.

INTRODUCTION

Cooling is situated on the north side of the Hoo Peninsula and is its smallest parish (Fig. 1)² Its scenery is varied, formed, in the northern part, of low-lying marshland, although the parish boundary stops short of the river Thames. The southern area is upland, rising from the marsh to the mid-peninsula ridge, with high points at Lodge Hill and Mount Pleasant. Its topography encompasses marshland pasture, much of it now maintained as a nature reserve, as well as fields, orchards and woodland. The small population is distributed around two small settlements, the village of Cooling and a hamlet at Spendiff, and a number of dispersed farmsteads. The mineral railway and power transmission lines cross the landscape, which has a soil of sandy loam over chalk.

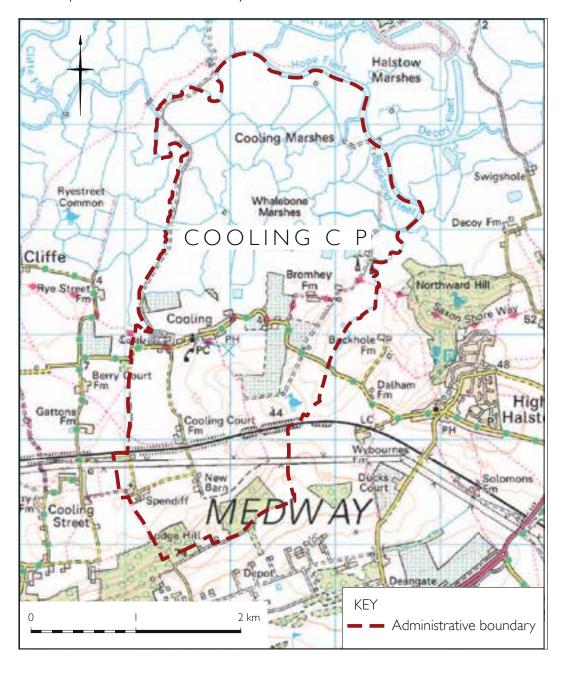


Figure 1 Location map showing Cooling Civil Parish. ©Crown copyright and database right 2103. All rights reserved. Ordnance Survey Licence number 1000124900.

Cooling village, in the central area of the parish, is a long-established settlement that contains the remains of a 14th-century castle. It experienced only minimal growth in the 20th century and remains one of peninsula's 'unexpanded' villages. The other residential focus at Spendiff, to the south west of the village, developed in the 19th century and has agricultural origins. Another hamlet often associated with the parish, Cooling Street, lies within the adjoining administrative district of Cliffe and Cliffe Woods.

Evidence of pre-Saxon industrial activity has been recorded in the parish. But it appears to have been largely by-passed by industrial development in the 19th and 20th centuries, although a pioneering radio station was built on the marshes in the 1930s. Cooling is a place that is rich in historical associations and retains a prevailing rural character.

HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT

Development before 1800

Human occupation in Cooling dates back to at least the Romano-British period. A probable settlement to the south of Spendiff has been identified, situated on the northern slopes of the ridge of high ground.³ On the evocatively named Whalebone Marsh to north-east of the village, excavations were carried out in the 1930s, 1960s and 1970s, revealing several Roman pottery kilns and a salt-production site in use from the Ist to 3rd centuries.⁴ In the Saxon period an area on the edge of the upland was settled by the Culingas, or people of Cul(a), thereby provided the parish with its name and establishing its main settlement.⁵ In this early period the tidal waters came much closer to the upland and what is now marsh was once mudflats with navigable channels.

Several references to Culinges or Culinge occur in the 9th and 10th centuries, relating to the granting of land, and in 1066 the lordship was held by Earl Leafwyne, the brother of King Harold. Up to this point Cooling formed part of the Great Manor of Hoo (within the Lathe of Aylesford) but after the conquest it became a manor in its own right. Administratively it lay within the Hundred of Shamel, while its eastern neighbour, High Halstow, was part of the Hundred of Hoo. Ownership of the manor stayed mainly with the crown until obtained by the de Cobham family in 1241. It then descended through various branches of the de Cobham and Brooke family until 1643, when the manor at Cooling (sometimes spelt Cowling) was divided among the three daughters of William Brooke. This created three estates, which Edward Hasted identified as Cowling Castle, New Barn and Cowling Lodge.⁶

The construction of castle at Cooling had begun around 1381, after John de Cobham has obtained permission to fortify his manor house in the wake of French raids along the Thames.⁷ Cooling Castle became 'the capital of English Lollardy' in the 1410s, when occupied by Sir John Oldcastle, and was attacked by Sir Thomas Wyatt in 1554. [Matthews 99] Thereafter it became a ruin and between 1650 and 1670 a house was built on part of the site (Fig 2).⁸ This formed the principal residence of one part of the subdivided manor.⁹



Figure 2 Cooling Castle now survives is much reduced form, principally the impressive gateway with two semi-circular towers. The 17thcentury house is visible behind this, with the barn to the right. (P5733047)

The estate of New Barn probably refers to Cooling Court, where Eliza Clay built a farmhouse in 1700. This farmstead was situated midway between the castle and a medieval park at the southern edge of the parish. The latter constituted the third part of the divided manor, Cowling Lodge. Its land occupied the crest of the ridge, with 'a most extensive prospect on all sides' and views to both the Medway and the Thames. Construction of a substantial house, Lodge Hill, was begun here in c.1760 by Samuel Clay Harvey and a separate farmstead was located nearby.

Cooling village developed to the east of the castle along a meandering lane to High Halstow (Fig. 3). The parish church of St lames dates mainly from the late-13th century and early 14th century but may well occupy the site of a Saxon building. The village was edged by farmsteads, Cooling Castle to the west and Marshgate to the east. Both built new farmhouses in the 17th century; the former in the mid years and the latter at the end of the century. A poorhouse, a weather-boarded and thatched row of five cottages adjacent to the church, was standing by the 18th century (demolished).10 These buildings, and a few others including



Figure 3 Extract from A Map of the Hundreds of Hoo and Chatham and Gllingham, 1798. showing the emerging settlement of 'Cowling' (Cooling) to the east of the castle.

a parsonage and barn (both demolished) and a public house (usually known as the Horseshoe and Castle), comprised the village in the 18th century.¹¹

The other settlement that emerged, albeit outside of the parish, was at Cooling Street. This was to the south west of the village, near to common land in Cliffe. Its development appears to be associated with a long-established upland routeway and by the late-18th century, Cooling Street was apparently more populous than Cooling village. This arrangement appears to bear some similarities to the settlement pattern at Osterland/Lower Stoke and Stoke on the south side of the peninsula.

The parish contained several dispersed upland farmsteads. Cooling Court and Lodge Hill Farm were in the southern part. Eastborough and Broomhey farms sat on the edge of the upland and close to the marshes to the west of village. However, they were outside the parish boundary, in a detached portion of Frindsbury, until 1889.¹³ From the medieval period the marsh underwent a gradual process of reclamation to creature grazing land for sheep. From 1531 this was aided by the operations of the North and East Kent Sewer Commissions; Cooling also benefited from having no front sea wall to maintain, just internal drainage, thereby reducing the cost, or scot, levied on local landowners.¹⁴

Development 1800-1945

The population of the parish, as charted in the decennial census from 1801, has generally fluctuated between 100 and 200 in 19th and 20th centuries. A peak of 232 was recorded in 1881; the year that Hundred of Hoo railway line was under construction.¹⁵

During the 19th century Cooling village experienced a modest degree of change that particularly affected church-owned land and premises. In 1835 the poorhouse was functionally superseded by the Hoo Poor Law Union workhouse in Hoo St Werburgh, although the row continued in residential use throughout the century, known as Strand Cottages. The vestry gave land to the east of the cottages for a school (demolished) that was built in late 19th century. Between 1861 and 1871 a substantial new rectory was constructed on land to the east of the school (Fig 4). The parsonage, which had been divided into two cottages by the early 19th century, appears to have been cleared around this time and the parsonage barn apparently converted into residential use. These stood at the corner of the main village street and a track that led south to a small hill, Mount Pleasant, and two dwellings known as Sandhole Cottages (demolished). A modest residential expansion occurred around Cooling Castle, with two detached cottages built opposite the farmstead in the early 19th century (Cooling Castle Cottage and Cades) and a cottage and outbuilding to the east (Dove Cottage) in the later part of the century.

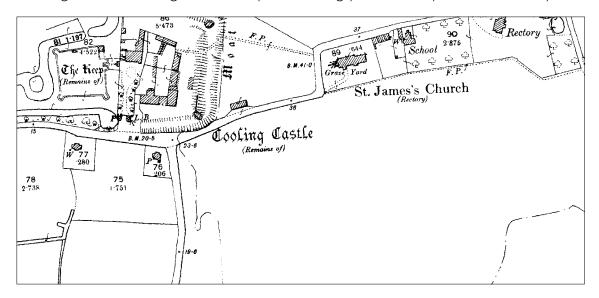


Figure 4 Extract from OS 1:2,500 map surveyed in 1908-09, showing the 1860s rectory that had been built east of the school © and database right Crown copyright and Landmark Information Group Ltd (All rights reserved 2013) Licence numbers 000394 and TP0024

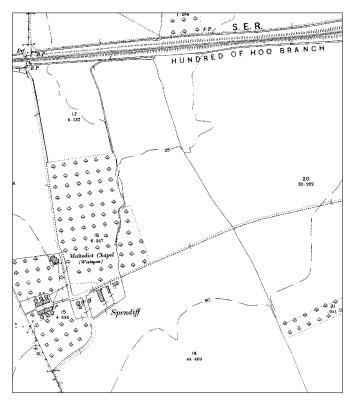
One consequence of the village's minimal growth was that in 1902 the school was closed due to insufficient numbers. During the inter-war years two groups of semi-detached houses were built on the north side of the village street near to Marshgate Farm. Their names, Marshgate Villas and Marshgate Cottages, suggest these were speculative developments intended for incomers rather than villagers. Some rebuilding occurred in the early 20th century; Strand Cottages were replaced by a row of four dwellings (now Nos I-4 Dickens Walk) and the Horseshoe and Castle public house was rebuilt after a fire in 1914 or 1915 (Fig. 5).²⁰



Figure 5 The Horseshoe and Castle public house. (P5733048)

The hamlet of Spendiff developed around a farmstead of the same name that was in existence by at least the early 19th century, when it formed part of the Lodge Hill estate.²¹ In the mid-19th century two parallel blocks of hop kilns were built near to the farmstead. By the time a Wesleyan chapel and school were constructed here in 1889 on part of an orchard, this informal gathering of buildings was beginning to emerge as a separate settlement rather than an outlier of nearby Cooling Street (Fig 6).²²

The dispersed farmsteads of Cooling parish, as elsewhere in the peninsula, were a mixture of marshland grazing and upland arable. The new kilns at Spendiff suggest an



increase in hop growing during the 19th century and the OS maps indicate an expansion of land given over to orchards from the 1870s. The chief crops in the early 20th century were wheat and fruit, with some cultivation of willows or osiers in the marshes, and by the 1930s at least one farm, Cooling Court, was growing potatoes.²³

Figure 6 Extract from OS 1:2,500 map surveyed in 1909-9 showing the emergence of Spendiff as a separate settlement rather than an outlier of nearby Cooling Street © and database right Crown copyright and Landmark Information Group Ltd (All rights reserved 2013) Licence numbers 000394 and TP0024

From the 19th century the landscape was put to a number of new uses. In the 1881-2 the Hundred of Hoo railway line was constructed across the southern part of the parish, although no station or halt was built here, requiring residents to travel to Cliffe or the more distant station at Higham on the South Eastern and Chatham railway. In the late 19th century part of the Lodge Hill estate was acquired, along with land at Chattenden, for a large naval ammunition store. A pioneering radio station was constructed on Cooling marshes in 1938 with an antenna array that extended for two miles.²⁴ And as part of the Second World War defences an anti-aircraft battery was established to the north west of Marshgate Farm.²⁵

Development after 1945

The population of Cooling parish remains relatively low, given as 209 in the census in 2001.²⁶ The village has experiences some residential growth since 1945. The largest development was by Strood Rural District Council (SRDC), who constructed Nos 1-16 Pip's Views between the late 1940s and early 1950s. The name celebrates an association between the village and the fictional character of Pip (Phillip Pirrip) from Charles Dicken's novel *Great Expectations* (published 1860-1). This connection was much debated in the post-war era and has continued to influence house names in the village. Private development has taken place on several sites, including that of the old parsonage and some outbuildings to the Horseshoe and Castle public house.

Other changes affecting the village include the replacement of the village school with a parish hall, the sale of the rectory in 1950 and the Church of St James being declared redundant in 1976.²⁷ Cooling Castle estate was acquired by the Rochester Bridge Wardens in 1942 and in the 1960s or 1970s a new farmhouse was built to west of the farmstead. By the end of the 20th century the estate had been broken up, with the castle remains, the old farmhouse and the outbuildings all in separate ownership.

In the latter part of the 20th century Spendiff hamlet was transformed from a farming settlement to a residential community, both through conversion of existing buildings and new development. This is a consequence of wider changes to the farming industry, such as the marked reduction in the agricultural workforce. Other shifts in agricultural practice have also affected the parish. In the immediate post-war decades the expanse of apple and pear orchards continued to increase, particularly around Child's Farm, but thereafter has declined. In the 1960s Bromhey Farm expanded its arable area onto the marshes; the anticipated impact of further drainage and deep ploughing prompted an emergency archaeological excavation to record Romano-British industrial activity.²⁸ One trend that has had a clear impact is for the amalgamation of farms; resulting in the clearance, conversion or redevelopment of redundant farm buildings. Local factors have also had an influence; for example, Bromhey and Eastborough farms have been affected by their inclusion, along with part of Cooling marshes, within High Halstow National Nature Reserve (created in 1957).

CHARACTER AREAS

The parish of Cooling has a predominantly rural character, its open landscape formed of a marshland nature reserve and upland fields, orchards and woodland. Within this are two small areas of low-density settlement, Cooling village and Spendiff hamlet (Fig 7).

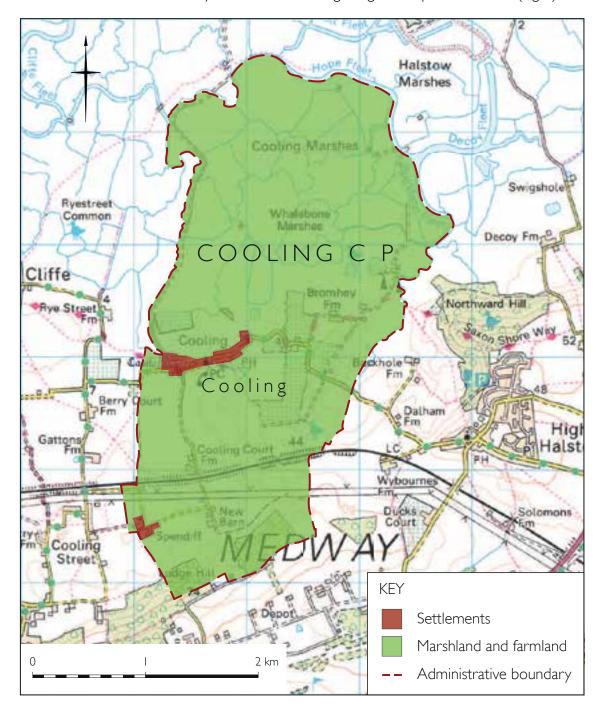


Figure 7 Character areas of Cooling parish. Background mapping ©Crown copyright and database right 2103. All rights reserved. Ordnance Survey Licence number 1000124900

Marsh nature reserve and upland farmland

The expanse of low-lying marshland, criss-crossed by fleets and ditches, occupies the northern third of the parish. The parish boundary follows the Hope Fleet and Buckland Fleet and therefore does not extend as far north as the Thames riverside. Evidence of Romano-British occupation and industrial activity has been recorded at Bromhey Farm. A post-Roman rise in sea levels resulted in the area becoming mudflats and tidal waters. The medieval and post-medieval programme of marshland reclamation is evident in its drainage system and the remnants of historic sea walls. The marshland farming economy that flourished during this period has endured in local names such as Cooling Marshes, Whalebone Marshes and Buckland Marshes, although no associated buildings have survived. The area is now maintained as a semi-natural grazing marsh and wildlife habitat as part of High Halstow Nature Reserve, managed by the Royal Society for the Preservation of Birds (RSPB).

The most significant non-agricultural feature is the remains of Cooling Radio Station, in operation between 1938 and 1965.³⁰ This consists primarily of a brick structure, its floor raised to avoid flooding; that housed the complex and highly-developed Multiple Unit Steerable Antenna (MUSA) system. The associated antenna array has been demolished.

The upland is crossed by the mineral railway, utilizing the track of the Hundred of Hoo railway line (in operation between 1882 and 1961), and power transmission lines from Kingsnorth and Grain Power Stations. There is also a scattering of dispersed farmsteads. The best preserved is Cooling Court, which has a handsome brick farmhouse (grade II) built, according to plaque, in 1700 by Eliza Clay. The main frontage has red and blue brick laid in a chequerboard pattern and is on the west side of the building leaving the rear elevation facing the road. An early 18th century brick barn (listed grade II), also survives but a granary, reputedly of a similar date, was demolished in the mid-20th century leaving only its staddle stones.³¹ New Barn Farm appears to have been created in the early 19th century, when it was known as Grabhams Farm and may retain some 19th century outbuildings.³² Child's Farm, to the west of the village, has a pair of dwellings, Child's Farm Cottages, that date from the mid-19th century. Its outbuildings underwent residential conversion in the late-20th century. Bromhey farmhouse, rebuilt in 1849, survives in a much altered form.³³ It, like nearby Eastborough Farm, lies within the nature reserve. The latter is no longer a working farm and its outbuildings are used by the RSPB for storage or left semi-derelict as wildlife habitat. Lodge Hill Farm, which now lies within the parish of Hoo St Werburgh after a boundary change, and the c1760s house at Lodge Hill were acquired by the military in the late-19th century. The house, once perhaps the grandest in the parish, was uninhabited in 1969 and 'the setting for bomb disposal practice'.³⁴ Its environs contain the remains of First World War anti-aircraft batteries.³⁵ The military complex at Lodge Hill and Chattenden was undergoing major redevelopment at the time of the assessment.

Cooling village and Spendiff

Situated in the central part of the parish along the edge of the upland, Cooling village remains, as it has historically been, a low-density linear settlement. The village street, Main Road, kinks around the churchyard and in places development remains limited to

one side of the road. Two important complexes bookend the village - Cooling Castle and Marshgate Farm – while the parish church of St James is situated towards its western end. But the majority of village buildings date from the 20th century; some replace older buildings while others are the consequence of infill residential development.

The remains of Cooling Castle (a scheduled ancient monument with listed elements) are substantial. It was built in 1381-1385 for Sir John de Cobham in the form of two wards, protected by stone curtain walls with circular corner towers and a moat, with an outer gateway on the south side. Henry Yevele appears to have had some role in its design and the gateway was built by a Maidstone mason Thomas Crump.³⁶ A considerable amount of the walls and towers survive, as do the remains of several structures within the smaller inner ward (grade I), which is maintained as a ruin. The outer ward is still graced by the impressive gateway (grade I), formed of two semi-circular towers with emphatic battlements and machicolations, arrowslits and key-hole gun ports. Cooling Castle was the first Thames-side fortification designed for the use of gunpowder artillery.³⁷

The outer ward contains the former farmhouse of Cooling Castle and its outbuildings. The house was built between 1650 and 1670 for Sir Thomas Whitmore but has had incremental alterations and additions, resulting in a rambling complex.³⁸ Its rendered front elevation has a late-19th-century character, reworked and enhanced in the late-20th-century. The L-shaped range of outbuildings, now in separate ownership, include a large timber-framed barn (grade II), dating from the 17th century and the 19th century. The buildings are now used as a party and wedding venue, to which an accommodation range was added in the early 21st century, built in a contextual vernacular style. Two detached dwellings, Cooling Castle Cottage and Cades, stand opposite the castle. These were built in the early 19th century as part of the castle estate but have subsequently altered and enlarged and now have a late-20th century appearance.

The farmstead at Marshgate retains a farmhouse and several outbuildings, very loosely grouped around an extensive yard, and a substantial pond on the east side. The oldest structures adjoin the road; most notably the late-I7th century red-brick farmhouse (Marshgate House) and cart shed to the east (jointly listed grade II). A tall two-storey brick stable with a loft on the upper floor stands on the east side of the yard. This incorporates reused stone in its walls, including dressed blocks and at least one carved fragment. A group of outbuildings on the north side of the yard were partially replaced by large sheds in the late-20th century.

The other significant historic survival is the parish church of St James (grade I) (Fig 8). Described as a 'small by complete CI4 ragstone church', it appears to have been built gradually between cI280 and I320.³⁹ Its western tower was heightened and completed at the end of the I4th century. The building underwent restoration between I882 and I888, a probable date for the addition a tiny vestry to the south of the chancel.⁴⁰ Perhaps uniquely for an English church, this is lined from floor to ceiling with thousands of cockle shells. Within the churchyard is a group of I3 body stones around a headstone, the grave of the Comport family; this is widely considered to be the grave described in the opening scene of Charles Dickens *Great Expectations*. After the church was declared redundant it, and the churchyard, were vested in the care of what is now The Churches Conservation Trust in 1978.



Figure 8 The parish church of St James. (P5733049)

At the centre of the village is the former rectory. Standing within walled grounds, this tall building of red-brick with stone dressings and a gothic-style porch was built in the 1860s (Fig 9). It was subdivided into two dwellings (Cooling House and Cooling Lodge) in the mid-to-late 20th century. Nos 1-4 Dickens Walk, formerly Strand Cottages, replaced the village poor house. This row of Arts-and-Crafts-style dwellings, with white-painted brickwork and gabled end cottages, dates from the 1910s or 1920s (Fig 10). The Horseshoe and Castle public house stands on the site of an earlier building, destroyed by fire in 1914 or 1915. The two pairs of semi-detached houses (Marshgate Cottages and Marsh Gate Villas) on the north side of Main Road, were separately developed in the early 20th century. The land adjoining them to the west was used for the largest residential development in the village, Nos 1-16 Pips View. Built by SRDC between 1948



and 1953, this comprised a mixture of semi-detached houses, a row of four with a central rear-access passageway and a block of four cottage flats (Fig II). These were of traditional brick construction to inter-war designs. Other houses in the village are almost all one-off detached properties dating from the late-20th century.

Figure 9 The former rectory, erected in the 1860s. (P5733050)

The other area of settlement within the parish at Spendiff is an informal grouping of houses around a crossroads to the south of the mineral railway. Some evidence of the agricultural origins of the hamlet survives. This includes a semi-detached pair of mid-19th brick-built dwellings (Spendiff Cottages) which stand on the site of Spendiff farmhouse.⁴¹ Two mid-19th-century ranges of hop kilns remain to either side of the main street. Both underwent residential conversion in the late-20th century; the southern range (Orlick Oast, Drummle Oast and Gargery Oast) all retain their rear circular oast houses but on the north side only one has survived (Kiln House). The Wesleyan (later Methodist) Chapel and School, built around 1889, lies at the northern edge of the hamlet. The single-storey red-brick building, with arched window heads of stone and attractive leaded glass windows, was converted into a house in the late-20th century. Other residential properties include some late-20th-century infill developments and a cul-de-sac of neovernacular houses, Oastfield Close, built in 1984 on a former orchard.



Figure 10 Nos 1-4 Dickens Walk, formerly Strand Cottages, erected in the early 20th century in Artsand-Crafts-style. (P5733051)



Figure 11 A block of four cottage flats forming part of the SRDC's Pips View development of 1948-53. (P5733052)

ARCHITECTURAL INTEREST AND SIGNIFICANCE

This small parish retains a considerable amount of architectural and historical interest, principally focused on the complex at Cooling Castle and the redundant parish church. Their importance has been recognized by the level of their designation. The village has escaped significant expansion and many of its houses enjoy uninterrupted views across the Thames to Essex but none of its older vernacular buildings have survived. In both Cooling and Spendiff the bulk of the housing stock has a late-20th century suburban character. But a number of properties, such as Cooling Castle house, Cooling House/Cooling Lodge and the chapel at Spendiff, have sufficient architectural interest to potentially merit inclusion on a local list.

The agricultural economy that has shaped the marshland and upland landscape of the parish is represented by a range of structures. Marshgate and Cooling Court farms retain fine farmhouses, examples of a wider phase of rebuilding across the peninsula during the late-I7th century and the I8th century (Fig I2). These farmsteads also retain some historic outbuildings. Other pre-20th century agricultural structures include the cottages at Spendiff's and Child's farms and the ranges of hop kilns at Spendiff. But much has been lost as a consequence of farm amalgamation and modernization.

Non-agricultural structures of interest within the parish include the remains of Cooling Radio Station on the marshes. The military site at Lodge Hill is presently undergoing redevelopment and it remains to be seen what historical features will be retained.



Figure 12 Cooling Court farm house. (P5733053)

NOTES AND BIBLIOGRAPHY

- ¹ Hasted, Edward 1797 The History and Topographical Survey of the County of Kent vol 3, 516
- ² 2,058 acres of land according to Kelly's Directory of Kent, 1903, 189
- ³ AMIE NMR TQ77 SE360
- ⁴ Miles, Alec 2004 'Excavations on the Roman-British Industrial site at Bromhey Farm, Cooling' in *Archaeologia Cantiana* 124. 309-342
- ⁵ Key to English Place Names. http://kepn.nottingham.ac.uk/ accessed 21/05/2012.
- ⁶ Hasted
- ⁷ In 1380 Gravesend had been sacked. Saunders, Andrew 1995 'Thames Fortifications during the 16th to 19th centuries' in *Thames Gateway* RCHME. 124-5
- ⁸ Tricker, unpaginated
- ⁹ Newman, 231
- ¹⁰ Cherry, 5
- 11 St James Chronicle 5th December 1793
- ¹² Hasted, map
- ¹³ Kelly's Directory of Kent 1903, 189
- ¹⁴ Bowler, 31
- 15 MacDougall, appendix 1
- ¹⁶ Medway Archives, PO98_COOLING_1707_1977/POP8_05_01; *Kelly's Directory of Kent* 1903, 189
- ¹⁷ 1861, 1871 census
- ¹⁸ Tithe apportionment 1841, OS map 1872
- ¹⁹ Kelly's Directory of Kent 1903, 189
- ²⁰ Cherry, 7
- ²¹ Tithe apportionment 1841

- ²² Kelly's Directory of Kent 1903, 189
- ²³ Kelly's Directory of Kent 1903, 189; 1913, 203; Evans, Kathy & Marsh, Douglas, 2008 Hoo's Who: A Century of Memories Running Dog Press, 13
- ²⁴ AMIE monument NMR Number TQ 77 NE2I5
- ²⁵ NMR, Aerial photograph US7GRLOC 348 2068
- ²⁶ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cooling,_Kent accessed on the 27/04/2012
- ²⁷ Tricker
- ²⁸ Miles, 311
- ²⁹ Ibid
- ³⁰ Cherry, 10; AMIE monument NMR Number TQ 77 NE2I5
- 31 Cherry, 6
- ³² Tithe map 1839; census 1841
- 33 Cherry, 8
- ³⁴ Newman, 232
- ³⁵ AMIE Monument NMR number TQ 77 SEI63
- ³⁶ Newman 231
- ³⁷ Saunders, Andrew, 1995 Thames Gateway 124-5
- 38 Tricker
- ³⁹ Newman 231; Tricker
- ⁴⁰ Medway archives, PO98_COOLING_I707_I977/POP8_05_01
- ⁴¹ Tithe map 1839

Bowler, E 1983 'For the Better Defence of Low and Marshy Grounds': A Survey of the Work of the Sewer Commissions for North and East Kent, 1531-1930' in *Studies in Modern Kentish History* Maidstone: Kent Archaeological Society 29-47

Cherry, Allan 1998 A Pictorial History of Cooling and Cliffe Medway: Martin News

Hasted, Edward 1797 The History and Topographical Survey of the County of Kent vol 3

Miles, Alec 2004 'Excavations on the Roman-British Industrial site at Bromhey Farm, Cooling' in *Archaeologia Cantiana* 124. 309-342

Nichols W N 1973 A History of the North Kent Marshes in the area of Cliffe from Roman times including the Roman invasion A.D. 43 and possible site of the ancient church councils called Cloveshoh with a diversion of the river Thames Tonbridge: John Hilton

Tricker, Roy 2005 St James' Church Cooling, Kent London: The Churches Conservation Trust













ENGLISH HERITAGE RESEARCH AND THE HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT

English Heritage undertakes and commissions research into the historic environment, and the issues that affect its condition and survival, in order to provide the understanding necessary for informed policy and decision making, for the protection and sustainable management of the resource, and to promote the widest access, appreciation and enjoyment of our heritage. Much of this work is conceived and implemented in the context of the National Heritage Protection Plan. For more information on the NHPP please go to http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/professional/protection/national-heritage-protection-plan/.

The Heritage Protection Department provides English Heritage with this capacity in the fields of building history, archaeology, archaeological science, imaging and visualisation, landscape history, and remote sensing. It brings together four teams with complementary investigative, analytical and technical skills to provide integrated applied research expertise across the range of the historic environment. These are:

- * Intervention and Analysis (including Archaeology Projects, Archives, Environmental Studies, Archaeological Conservation and Technology, and Scientific Dating)
- * Assessment (including Archaeological and Architectural Investigation, the Blue Plaques Team and the Survey of London)
- * Imaging and Visualisation (including Technical Survey, Graphics and Photography)
- * Remote Sensing (including Mapping, Photogrammetry and Geophysics)

The Heritage Protection Department undertakes a wide range of investigative and analytical projects, and provides quality assurance and management support for externally-commissioned research. We aim for innovative work of the highest quality which will set agendas and standards for the historic environment sector. In support of this, and to build capacity and promote best practice in the sector, we also publish guidance and provide advice and training. We support community engagement and build this in to our projects and programmes wherever possible.

We make the results of our work available through the Research Report Series, and through journal publications and monographs. Our newsletter Research News, which appears twice a year, aims to keep our partners within and outside English Heritage up-to-date with our projects and activities.

A full list of Research Reports, with abstracts and information on how to obtain copies, may be found on www.english-heritage.org.uk/researchreports

For further information visit www.english-heritage.org.uk

