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CLIFFE AND CLIFFE WOODS, HOO PENINSULA, KENT

HISTORIC AREA ASSESSMENT

Jonathan Clarke

ASSESSMENT

ENGLISH HERITAGE

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Research Report Series 54-2014

CLIFFE AND CLIFFE WOODS, HOO PENINSULA, MEDWAY, KENT HISTORIC AREA ASSESSMENT

Jonathan Clarke

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SUMMARY

Cliffe and Cliffe Woods is situated in the north-western part of the Hoo Peninsula. The largest of Hoo's civil parishes, and one of four bordering the Thames, it encompasses much variety in landscape, scenery and character, with a striking contrast between its the northern and southern parts. The southern, more elevated portion is characterised by orchards, farmland and isolated farmsteads which contrasts with the expanse of flat, treeless marsh pasture lands in the north. The largest settlement on the north side of the Peninsula, the historic village of Cliffe is sited on the northern edge of the upland, overlooking the marsh pasture lands. From the late 19th century intensive industrial and residential development began transforming the character and extent of this settlement, and in the 20th century population growth saw the emergence of an entirely new residential development which became known as Cliffe Woods. Outside of these two settlements the parish remains largely rural in character, made up of farmland and outlying farmsteads, reclaimed marshland and former industrial and military sites. This Historic Area Assessment provides an overview of the historical development and architectural character of the parish, which forms a component of the larger Hoo Peninsula Historic Landscape Project.

CONTRIBUTORS

The report was written by Jonathan Clarke. The character area maps were produced by Philip Sinton. The modern ground photographs were taken by Jonathan Clarke and the modern aerial photograph was by Damian Grady.

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Frontispiece; Manor Farm, West Street viewed from the Cliffe village (P5733085)
'The church is considered to be the finest in the county, being a large handsome cruciform structure, in the early style of english architecture, with an embattled central tower, and containing several curious monuments and remains of antiquity ... The parish is bounded on the north by the thames: the village, which is supposed to take its name from the cliff or rock on which it stands, at present consists of west-street and church-street, but was formerly of much greater extent, a great part of it having been destroyed by fire in 1520.'[1]

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 on-line 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.

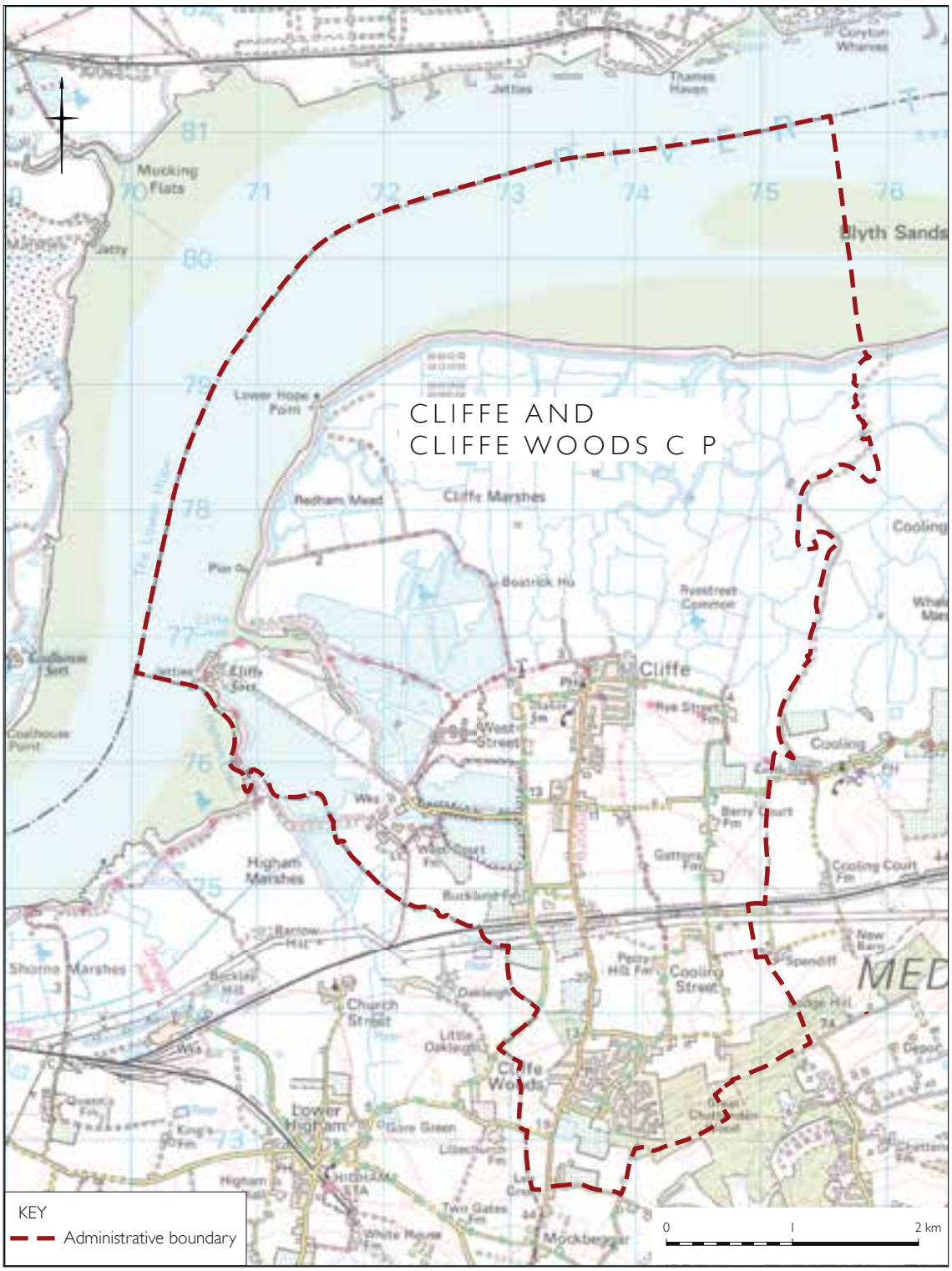

Figure 1 Location map showing Cliffe and Cliffe Woods. ©Crown copyright and database right 2103. All rights reserved. Ordnance Survey Licence number 1000124900.

INTRODUCTION

Occupying the north-western part of the peninsula, the parish of Cliffe and Cliffe Woods or, historically, Cliffe-at-Hoo (to distinguish it from a parish of the same name near Dover) is one of Hoo's four Thameside parishes (Fig 1). The great sweep of the river forms its northern and north-western boundaries; to the southwest is the parish of Higham, and to the east is that of Cooling. Cliffe and Cliffe Woods is the largest of Hoo's civil parishes, almost a third larger in size than the peninsula's second largest parish, Hoo St Werburgh.[2] Unsurprisingly, perhaps, such extent encompasses variety in landscape, scenery and character, with a striking contrast between the northern and southern parts of the parish. The southern, more elevated portion is characterised by orchards, productive farmland and isolated farmsteads – very different to 'the northern expanse of flat, treeless, yellow and green marsh pasture lands, broken only by the regular darker green lines of the dykes and fleets, with the grey of the sea and the Essex coast beyond'.[3] The soil of the upland is predominantly light loam and sand with a clay substrata; in the late 19th century the parish encompassed 5,621 acres of land and 2,131 of water with corn, potatoes and fruit being the principal crops. The mineral railway runs along the southern edge of the parish.

Until the late 19th-century, Cliffe-at-Hoo was entirely rural in character, and despite the dramatic transformations brought by industrial and residential development since then, this remains true for much of the parish outside of Cliffe village and Cliffe Woods. The largest settlement on the north side of the Peninsula, the historic village of Cliffe is sited on the northern edge of the upland, overlooking the marsh pasture lands. According to one 18th –century source, the name derived 'from the cliff or rock on which it stands'.[4] Developing either side of Church Street, the road to Rochester (B2000), and Rye Street, bordering the marshes, it purportedly contracted after a devastating fire in 1520, but expanded massively from the late 19th century, developing a more nucleated pattern as housing expanded eastwards and southwards.

HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT

Until the creation of the of Cliffe Woods in the 20th century, the settlement of Cliffe was always the largest and most important centre of population within the parish, providing ecclesial, commercial and social focus for the scattered farms and dispersed hamlets surrounding it. Cliffe developed on the low chalk escarpment overlooking what was the Thames's edge until reclamation began in the 12th century, and has since become reclaimed marshland (Fig 2). One of the oldest settlements on the peninsula, it has Saxon, if not Roman, origins. Archaeological evidence, including considerable quantities of pottery, and numerous separate occupation sites, including six farming settlements, attest to the importance of the area during the Romano-British period for farming, fishing and industry, yet none of this unequivocally attests to continuous occupation on the site of the present day – or medieval – settlement. The regular road pattern within and around Cliffe village has been interpreted as evidence for centuriation (allotments), maintained by soldiers or citizens of Rochester, but modern authorities regard this as far-fetched. Nevertheless, the strategic location of the present village, set a little inland from Cliffe Creek (where clay-lined salterns were worked in the Roman period),[5] evidence for a significant pottery industry in the Cliffe area, and other archaeological remains consistent with general settlement activity, lends credibility to the idea of Roman, or indeed earlier, origins.

Figure 2 Detail of Cliffe and its relationship to Cliffe Marshes from A Map of the Hundreds of Hoo and Chatham and Gllingham, 1798

The Anglo-Saxon period (c410-1066) is better documented. Cliffe appears to have emerged as a settlement of some importance, being an early Jutish estate centre (possibly associated with Northfleet) and a centre of ecclesiastical authority. Cloveshoh (a place generally interpreted as meaning Cliffe-at-Hoo), [6] Acleah and Caelhythe are recorded in the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle as being the location of a number of synodal councils held by the Bishops of the Anglo-Saxon church in the period 716-825, all of which are generally believed to lie within the parish. The present church of St. Helen, one of the largest parish churches in Kent and of largely medieval build, stands on the site of a timber predecessor probably founded by Offa and dating back to at least 774.[7] Evidence also suggests that there was a chapel at Bromhege on a site now thought to be occupied by The Rectory House (about a mile southwards of Cliffe, also known as Priors Hall and Bishops Grange), and a chapel at West Cliffe.[8]

From the end of the Saxon era until the dissolution, Cliffe was part of the Great Manor of Hoo (within the Lathe of Aylesford), but at the time of the conquest the Peninsula was subdivided, with Cliffe, Cooling, Grain and Stoke all becoming manors in their own right. Administratively, Cliffe, Cooling, and part of Stoke were in the Hundred of Shamel, whereas Hoo St Werburgh, Allhallows, High Halstow and St Mary Hoo were in the Hundred of Hoo.[9] According to the Domesday Survey, there were two manors within Cliffe parish, the larger belonging to the Archbishop Canterbury, and the other held by Ernulf de Hesdin, Bishop of Bayeux. The principal manorial centre of the parish seems to have been Courtsole, a site adjacent to St Helen's Church and still occupied by Court Sole Farm. This location was well sited to access marshland pasture to the north, as well as 36 acres of meadow and an amount of woodland, probably in the vicinity of Cliffe Woods to the south. It is estimated that the population of the Archbishop's manor at Domesday was c150-200. In the 12th century, the monks of Rochester Priory acquired a number of the Archbishop's tenants and their lands in Cliffe,[10] and accordingly 'the parish was anciently bound to contribute, among other places in this neighbourhood, to the repair of the ninth pier of Rochester bridge'.[11] It seems likely that West Court was the centre of the smaller manor, on a site now occupied by West Court Farm.[12] A third locus of medieval settlement was Allen's Hill, first recorded in 1327 in relation to John Aleyn. It is claimed that the Magna Carta was drafted in Cliffe in 1215 before the completed document was taken to Runnymede.[13]

From its nucleus around Courtsole and the church, Cliffe prospered and expanded during the Middle Ages, selling wool to Italian merchants through the port of Sandwich in the 13th and 14th centuries,[14] and holding fairs in this period on the Buttway – an archery practice ground, now a tarred playground and recreational open space.[15] Cliffe seemingly reaching the status of small port town: a harbourage is documented, sometimes supplying ships for campaigns against France,[16] and in 1367, Richard II ordered the construction of warning beacons on either side of the Thames; one of these was at Cliffe, opposite another at Tilbury.[17] The settlement's long-vanished maritime/mercantile role, attested by the now land-locked Wharf Lane (which formerly led to a landing place on Cliffe Creek, which came further inland at high tide; Fig 3), brought it some affluence, indicated by the frequency with which the church, one of the largest parish churches in the country,

Figure 3 Extract of OS map published in 1872, showing the former wharf at the end of Wharf Lane. © and database right Crown copyright and Landmark Information Group Ltd (All rights reserved 2014). Licence numbers 000394 and TP0024

was rebuilt. It has been estimated that the population reached 3000 in the 14th century, with Manor Farm to the west 'in its most productive period and with the marshes under tenants producing wool, cheese and corn'.[18] Such prosperity may have been brought to an abrupt end in 1520, when a fire destroyed much of the town. Among the first mentions of this event was that of Lambarde, who in 1576 described the 'towne [as] large' with 'a great parish Church: and (as I have been tolde) many of the houses were casually burned [in 1520] of which hurt it was never yet thorowly cured'.[19] No charred timbers, burnt soil layer or similar archaeological evidence has been discovered to support this, and however destructive the fire was to the town's timber-framed fabric, it is unlikely to have destroyed its economic base. Other causes, including the silting of the harbour/wharf, the increasing prevalence of 'ague' or 'marsh fever' (malaria) and the inundation of seawater due to poorly maintained seawalls were probably to blame. This last factor was itself symptomatic of the increasing tendency, from the late 14th century, for the lands at Cliffe – much of it marshland – to be leased rather than directly farmed and maintained by the monks of Christ Church Priory.[20] Outlying farmsteads, such as Rye Street Farm to the east, which preserves a 1570s barn, were probably established in this period through a process of amalgamation of smaller tenant farms. By 1520, the whole parish had been let to tenants.[21] The Dissolution of the Monasteries under Henry VIII saw the lands of Christ Church Priory at Cliffe come into Crown ownership before being sold onto the Cobham family, 'in whose family it remained in 1643'[22] before descending into the ownership of the Earl of Darnley in the 18th century. Many bequests were made by landowners who gave a portion of their tenant's rents; the largest of these was the will of a yeoman called John Brown who in 1679 gave a tenement in Church Street.[23] By the 18th century, when cattle grazing became increasingly important alongside sheep, much of the land had fallen into the hands of the Dean and Chapter of Rochester. Like other trusts and bodies that purchased land on the Peninsula, this one did not have to worry about the malarial scourge that had evicted many of the landowning families, since it was able to rent out the land in smaller lots. The absence of powerful landowning families helps explain the slow pace of enclosure, and the extent of unenclosed meadow land within the Peninsula in general, and Cliffe in particular. As late as 1778 Cliffe had the largest known open arable field in Kent, a 2,000-acre tract of land divided into numerous rectangular strips worked by tenant farmers. Many or most of these must have lived in Cliffe village, which at the start of the 18th century was described as 'a good TowN situated in an unhealthy tract of Land'.[25] Smuggling was however rife in the 17th and 18th centuries, and old houses in Wharf Lane were found to have cellars concealed underneath: tea and spirits were typical incoming commodities, and wool the outgoing one.[26] 'Free trade', as those involved termed it, was still endemic in the 19th century, and early on a watch vessel named Swallow, occupying a site near the mouth of Cliffe Creek, was used as a Coastguard station. It was replaced in the Edwardian era by terrace of Coastguard cottages which survived until c1996.[27]

By the late 18th-century Cliffe consisted of a two long rows of houses and cottages along both sides of Church Street, with housing continuing along the north side of Rye Street (later Reed Street), and outlying grouping along West Street. Red House in Reed Street, and Wharf Farm farmhouse at the end of Wharf Lane (Fig 4) survive from this century, a period during which it could be described as 'a pretty large town',[28] albeit rundown and in decline: From the ruins of some buildings situated not far from the street the town is imagined to be larger than it is at present, the number of inhabitants are decreasing yearly and for want of them many houses are decaying fast.[29] By this period,

the outlying settlement of West Street had appeared, as had a Parsonage ('a mansion fit for the incumbents of so rich a benefice, though seldom occupied by them'). Hasted referred to the former as 'another village, not far distant, called from its situation', but by 1811 it was perceived as a part of Cliffe village, which was described as comprising 'of West-street and Church-street'.[30] The social standing, but probably not the physical size, of Cliffe had diminished still further by 1830, in which year another commentator could remark. "There is scarcely a gentleman's house, or even a clergyman living there, in consequence of the unwholesome air issuing from the neighbouring marshes.[31]" Indeed the population of Cliffe parish saw sustained growth during the first half of the 19th century, rising by 84 per cent from 525 in 1801 to 877 in 1851. Plausibly this increase began earlier, although the absence of Census data for the 18th century makes this uncertain. One factor in this rise in populace was the construction of the Thames and Medway canal between Gravesend and Strood in 1800-1824 (Ralph Dodd and Ralph Walker, engineers), 'providing work for able-bodied villagers and other labourers who came to the area'.[32] Another was the laying of the South Eastern Railway which opened in 1845. But even at this date, with the Industrial Revolution in its closing stages elsewhere, Cliffe parish's economy was overwhelmingly agricultural: the 1840 survey of tithes show many owners and tenants holding land in small acreages, with arable, marsh, meadow, pasture and woodland predominating. Within the parish there were windmills, Oast Houses and Malt Houses.

Figure 4 Wharf Farm, Wharf Lane, survives as an 18th-century timber-framed farmhouse, formerly, formerly separated from Cliffe village, but now linked by recent housing. (P5733086)

House and cottage-building probably increased slightly to accommodate the large number of owners and tenants; Primrose Cottages, a pair of semi-detached cottages built in 1833 at No. 168 Church Street (Fig 5) are illustrative of this modest increase in the agricultural workforce during the first half of the century; the initials 'J O' in the dated plaque possibly refer to John Osmotherly Sen. or Jun., who figure prominently as both owners and occupiers in the survey.

Figure 5 Primrose Cottages, a pair of semi-detached cottages from 1833 (with later extension) probably housed agricultural labourers originally. (P5733087)

Victorian and Edwardian Industrial Expansion

The most dramatic population increase occurred in the second half of the 19th century. Between 1851 and 1891, the population of Cliffe Parish almost trebled, rising from 877 to 2595. This phenomenal growth saw it become disproportionately the largest parish on the peninsular, overtaking Hoo St Werburgh in the 1860s – a position it maintained until the mid 20th century. Most of this increase took place in the 1870s and early 1880s, the population almost doubling in the decade between 1871 (1290) and 1881 (2245). Notwithstanding the arrival of soldiers to man Cliffe Fort, constructed at Cliffe Creek in the late1860s as part of new triangle of first-line Thames defences, such unprecedented growth stemmed in large part from the establishment of a cement works at West Cliffe, itself emblematic of a wide-scale development in Portland cement production in the lower Thames region in the 19th and early 20th centuries. Chalk had been quarried at this location since Saxon times, and by the early 1840s production had intensified: a Whiting works, where chalk was pulverized for use in whitewash and putty was established in the early 19th century on the banks of Cliffe Creek, which was linked to quarries near Manor Farm by means of a canal. A short-lived, small-scale venture in Portland cement by I C Johnson followed in 1853, but the works started by Francis and Company in the late 1860s on the same site were larger and longer-lasting, bringing a new prosperity to the parish.[33] An offshoot of firm's business at Nine Elms, Vauxhall, London, the Cliffe Creek works grew rapidly under the supervision of the young engineer Vitale de Michelle (1848-1906), manufacturing Portland cement with the brand name 'Nine Elms', as well as Roman, Medina, and Parian cement, Portland stucco, Plaster of Paris, shipping chalk, flints and fire bricks. The works were a conspicuous feature from both landward and seaward vantages, with rows of smoking bottle kilns, a 156-foot-high stayed chimney, and an elaborate system of tramways that complemented the canal. In 1886 Francis & Company amalgamated with other local firms, including Empson, Holcombe and Company, but a further amalgamation in 1900 with 23 other firms to form Associated Portland Cement Manufacturers marked the onset of decline at the Francis works, which finally wound up in 1920. However, in 1910, Thames Portland opened its works on an adjacent site, bringing continuous local employment until the late 20th century.[34] The Edwardian era saw the arrival of another industry. In 1900 Curtis's and Harvey, Limited established a factory for High Explosives (Cordite) on Cliffe Marshes, east of Lower Hope Point. Erected on ground that had originally been acquired by Hay, Merricks and Company, and with a nitro-glycerine factory directly modelled on the plant at Waltham Abbey,[35] it developed rapidly, soon becoming 'one of the largest and most completely equipped in the Kingdom'[36] and by 1909 'possessing nearly a mile of frontage on the river, with two jetties and a loading wharf'.[37] Such industrial-based economic growth fostered growth in within the local service economy: by 1887 Kelly's directory could list 11 general shops, three bakers, and a saddler, carpenter, shoe maker, watch maker and blacksmith within the village.[38]

The late 19th-century population growth of Cliffe created a demand for housing on an unprecedented scale. Most of this demand came from workers at Francis & Company's cement factory and early on the company provided housing for some of its employees, erecting in the 1870s houses and cottages along Salt Lane, opposite the works (Fig 6). Census returns suggest that this housing did not cater exclusively for any particular type

of worker, although a basic hierarchy is clear, with terraced cottages housing labourers and their families, and semi-detached villas accommodating foremen and clerical staff. Perhaps for reasons of technical virtuosity and advertisement, Portland cement concrete was used for one terrace (Nos 1-5 Cement Cottages), but otherwise brick was the material of choice. Francis & Company provided housing for only a small fraction of the workforce, and speculative builders made up much of the shortfall in accommodation. The last decades of the 19th century saw a rash of housebuilding by developers capitalising on the industrialisation of the parish and the higher wages that industrial workers received. Advertisements in The Times announced building plots and freehold property 'within a short distance from this increasing village … in the immediate vicinity of important and thriving manufactories'.[39] This industrialisation, and inward migration, was fostered by the opening of Hundred of Hoo Railway Line in September 1882, connecting Cliffe, Sharnal Street and Port Victoria on the Isle of Grain (with Halt stops in between) with the South Eastern Railway Company's main London-Gravesend- Dover Line. As elsewhere on the Peninsula, the type of speculative most favoured was the simple terraced cottage, which was relatively cheap to build and used building materials mostly available locally. Within this form of predominantly working-class dwelling, there was considerable variation, ranging from the most basic 'two-up, two-down' cottage at one end of the spectrum to substantial terraced houses of two storeys and basements that catered to a more socially and occupationally diverse mix. Possibly the earliest surviving example is Thames Terrace, built in the 1860s or 1870s and occupying a sloping site immediately north of St Helen's Church on the west side of Pond Hill (formerly Church Street) (Fig 7).

Figure 6 Francis and Company provided some accommodation for its workforce, including Nos I and 1 Cliffe Villa Cottage (in foreground) and Nos 1-5 Concrete Cottages, Salt Lane. The grandest house built by the company, Cliffe Villa, which housed a Foreman at the works, no longer survives. (P5733088)

Figure 7 Thames Terrace, built in the 1860s or 1870s near St Helen's Church on the west side of Pond Hill (formerly Church Street) is amongst the earliest surviving speculative terraced housing in Hoo. (P5733089)

The relative density of the historic core precluded further village-centre speculative terrace development, and from the 1870s two growth points emerged, one to the east around Reed Street/Marsh Lane/Wharf Lane, and the other to the south around the intersection of Church Street and Higham Road/Cooling Road. Intensifying in the last quarter of the 19th century, and continuing until 1910s, this phase of residential development, marked by rows of terraces of up to ten houses, many on open fields, saw Cliffe take on a more urbanised character, similar in some respects to that of some of the industrialised Medway towns such as Strood. Villas, catering for the emergent middle classes, were also built and were similarly concentrated around the new eastern and southern growth point. Less numerous than the terraced housing, they added architectural diversity to Cliffe's residential expansion, reflected in their scale, plan-form and detailing.

Residential development of Cliffe village slowed down during the Edwardian period, reflecting the parish's more established population figures, which hovered around 2,500. Much of what was built was villa-type housing in addition to workers' terraces, reflecting a growing middle class: Kangaroo Villas, a block of four terraced houses along Buttway Lane, off Church Street, were sited on the south side of the road to take advantage of what would have been an extensive prospect across the Cliffe marshes and river towards Essex (Fig 8). This somewhat bleak, expansive landscape may have inspired the individual properties' names: Australia, Victoria, Swan Hill and Murray Downs. The main thrust of residential development however took place in the southern growth point, where naming conventions of a less exotic, more traditional kind seem to have been favoured. Higham Road and Station Road was the favoured location for much of this, seeing the construction of both short and long terraces, pairs of bay-fronted semi-detached houses, and a handful of detached villas, including 'The Chimes', an urbane, four-bayed house occupying a prominent corner site with Symonds Road.

Figure 8 Kangaroo Villas, Buttway Lane (off Church Street) were built to house Cliffe's growing Edwardian middle class. (P5733090)

To meet the social, educational and religious needs of the expanding population, the second half of the 19th century saw the building of public houses and inns, a Church of England-funded National School (1854, enlarged in the 1870s, 80s and 90s), a private schoolhouse, a Weslyan Methodist Chapel, and a Mission Room on Turner Street. These were mostly built along or close to the historic axis of Church Street, which also saw the

construction of a handful of detached and semi-detached villas on 'infill' plots. In 1904, a Fire Station was erected for Cliffe Parish Council on Buttway Lane (demolished).[40] Further municipal provision saw the construction of a Public Elementary (Council) School along Cooling Street in 1906-7 and an Infants School in 1911.

Interwar Housing

The Peninsula was strategically very important during the First World War, which brought a measure of prosperity to much of it. Over 2,000 people are thought to have been employed at the Curtis & Harvey works, many coming from the Medway towns, and at Cliffe, Grain and Hoo employment was also generated servicing the forts and batteries, with many householders finding additional income billeting troops stationed in the locality.[41] The rate of population growth in the parish began slowing however in the second decade of the 20th century, and the populace began decreasing in the 1920s, caused, in part, by wartime deaths, and the closure of old-established cement works and the Curtis and Harvey factory in the early 1920s. Demand for housing thus slowed. A significant proportion of what was built continued to be met by private developers, piecemeal fashion, on both pre-existing and newly-created streets to the west and south of the village core. Most houses built in the parish in the 1920s and 1930s were semi-detached pairs, or groups of four to six houses in a terrace but treated as a group, with hipped roofs and other features intended to suggest the form of pairs of houses. Most semi-detached houses were modest in size, without garages and/or drives (check); an exception was a group of three pairs and a detached house set well back in a crescent alignment from the southern end of Station Road (B2000). Apart from the historic farmhouses and rectory, these remain the largest houses in Cliffe. Terraced groups provided an economical but better standard of medium-density housing and were a conscious departure from the Victorian terrace, embodying Garden City ideals. Most of the Cliffe examples, including Nos 2-8 Cooling Road, and Nos 107-113 Church Street, were built in rows of four, with Arts & Craft detailing, and a central passageway serving the inner pairs. However Nos 1-4, 5-7 & 8-12 Thatchers Lane was built as a row of three 4-dwelling houses, also bearing distinct Arts & Craft influence (Fig 9). Terraced groups were a form favoured by local authorities following the Housing and Town Planning Act of 1919 (known as the Addison Act, after Dr Christopher Addison, Minister of Health), and it seems likely that these were provided by Hoo Rural District Council.

Figure 9 A Garden City-influenced terrace in Thatchers Lane, probably built by Hoo Rural District Council following the 1919 'Addison Act'. (P5733091)

The interwar period also saw the beginnings of an entirely new residential development, Cliffe Woods Estate, in the southernmost part of the parish. Situated roughly equidistant between Cliffe village to the north and Frindsbury Extra to the south, its origins lie in an early 'plotland' development grandiloquently named the Rochester Park Estate and Garden Suburb. This makeshift estate emerged piecemeal on two tracts of partially cleared undulating woodland called Mortimers Wood and Lady's Close, which a private speculator parcelled up, and sold, from July 1914. Touted by its developer, W H Talbot of Gravesend, as 'a new residential park for Rochester and District', its evolution echoed that of many other plotland enclaves, with numerous small building and smallholding sites colonised by self-built bungalows and chalets, all served by a network of unmade tracks, a haphazard water and electricity supply, and non-mains sewerage. Development seems to have been forestalled by the 1914-18 War, resuming in the spring of 1918,[42] and reaching the final limit of its street layout by the 1930s (Fig 10). The pattern was one of mostly long, parallel streets running uphill and at right angles to the B2000, with detached or semi-detached houses set well back from the road in long, narrow plots. The overall pattern of development seems to have proceeded in an easterly direction, beginning either side of the B2000, Mortimers Avenue and Ladyclose Avenue, continuing alongside Milton Avenue, Tennyson Avenue, and View Road, and terminating on the east side of the former Hillcrest Avenue, a north-south aligned road on the western edge of Ratly Hills Wood that marked the eastern limit of the estate's development. Besides a surviving shop-cum-garage alongside the B2000 (labelled Cliffe Wood Stores on the 1963 OS map), reputedly built in 1924,[43] this plotland development was entirely residential, characterised by individualised bungalows set in generously long, wooded gardens (Fig 11).

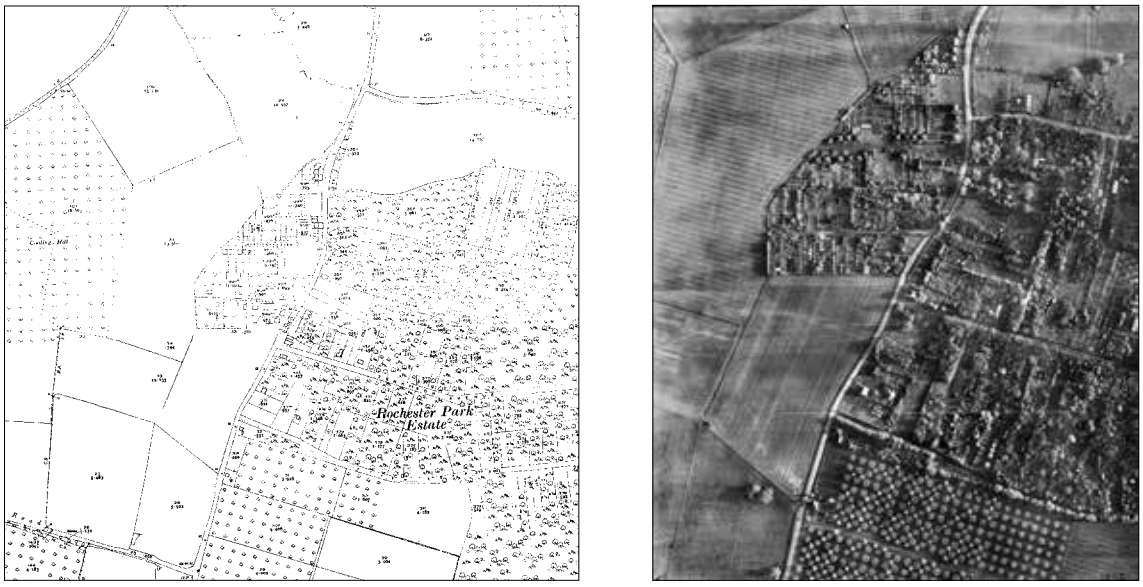

Figure 10 (left) The Rochester Park Estate and Garden Suburb as depicted in the OS map published in 1933. © and database right Crown copyright and Landmark Information Group Ltd (All rights reserved 2014). Licence numbers 000394 and TP0024, and Figure 11 (right) The Rochester Park Estate and Garden Suburb either side of Town Road in 1952 before it was redeveloped in the 1960s (RAF 58/856 4134 24-APR-1952) English Heritage RAF Photography.

Post-war developments

Figure 12 Post-war housing estates on the eastern side of Cliffe, such as the Swingate Estate, catered for employees of the new industries occupying the site of the former Portland Cement Works. 26474/012 8-SEP-2009 © English Heritage.

In the period immediately after the war, and through the 1950s, Cliffe village and the Cliffe Woods Estate saw further enlargement and improvement, with Strood Rural District Council being the principal driver. Houses and flats were erected on infill sites along Reed Street in the late 1940s, but the most significant provision was the creation of the Swingate Estate on a large 'Greenfield' site to the west of Church Street (Fig 12). Laid out in a parallel east-west alignment with Swingate Avenue in the middle, and Reed Street and Thatchers Lane its northerly and easterly limits, it was probably the largest phase of expansion in the settlement's history. The houses that fronted these new concrete streets were drawn from a palette of standardised house types used across the district utilising both traditional and non-traditional construction techniques.[44] Infrastructural and community facilities accompanied this increase in housing, including a Telephone Exchange, Surgery, Cliffe Memorial Hall along Church Street, and in the early-mid 1960s further minor development of the estate took place with the construction of Chancery Road – marking its southern limit - and further infilling of vacant plots, including old persons' flats. This estate may partly have catered for workers at the Jet Petroleum Company's storage facilities/tanks at Cliffe, established in the early 1960s, and, from the 1970s, employees at the Cliffe washing and grading plant of Marinex, a firm that dredged gravel from the Thames estuary. The St Helens Church of England Primary School was built in 1972.

In the south of the parish, the unregulated, semi-planned development of the Rochester Park Estate was brought to an abrupt end in the late 1960s. Chronic problems with subsidence, and infrastructural services combined with mounting pressure to provide new housing on the Peninsula, saw Strood Rural District Council institute a radical plan to create a higher density housing estate, complete with community facilities. Following negotiations with Dartford-based developers Talbot Estates (Hartley) Limited and Howard, Outred and Co., Strood Rural District Council compulsorily purchased most of the land east of Town Road, to permit the replanning and redevelopment of Milton Avenue, Tennyson Avenue, View Road and Hillcrest Avenue. The resultant Cliffe Woods Redevelopment Scheme saw the clearance of most of the heavily wooded Rochester Park Estate and the creation of a New Town neighbourhood-style estate, with curvaceous roads and cul-de-sacs planned around an axial, wooded 'parkway' that climbed uphill and afforded extensive, Thameside views.

CHARACTER AREAS

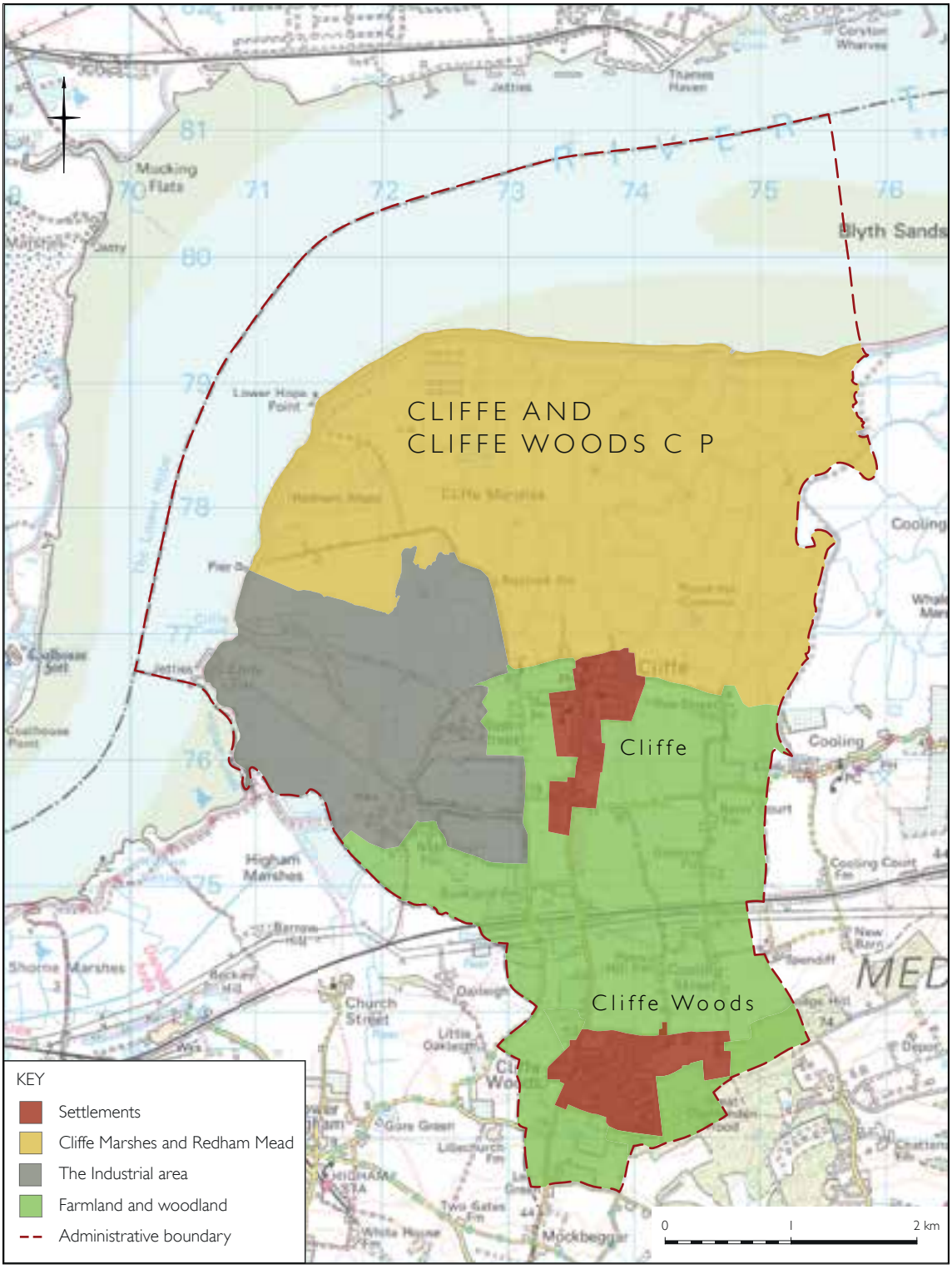

Figure 13 Character areas of Cliffe and Cliffe Woods. Background mapping ©Crown copyright and database right 2103. All rights reserved. Ordnance Survey Licence number 1000124900

Figure 14 The low-lying expanse of reclaimed marshland to the north of Cliffe village is clearly visible in this Aerofilms photograph from April 1947. (EAW004783)

The northern part of the parish borders the Thames and largely comprises a low-lying expanse of reclaimed marshland pasture (Fig 14). Most of this wet grassland is managed as semi-natural grazing marsh for cattle, sheep and horses (on selected areas, grazed under rotation) by tenant farmers who lease it from the Port of London Authority. In many senses this represents historical continuity with past land-use, since the marshes were progressively reclaimed from the Anglo-Saxon period, and used as pasture, mainly for sheep, by tenant farmers. Evidence of this reclamation and the historical importance of sheep grazing survive in the pattern of ditches and earthwork boundaries between the plots and fields, the former sea wall called Mead Wall, now marked by a heavily rutted dirt track, and remains of sheepfolds, sheepwashes, mounds and other features that remain scattered across the marshes. Few built structures relating to this marshland economy survive, although Boatrick House, a rectangular brick building with a segmental-arched roof, may be a former barn. The remains of a number of industrial and military structures punctuate this bleak, marshland expanse, testifying to the remoteness, and strategic importance of the riverside margins of the Peninsula. Near Lower Hope Point are the gridded arrangement of now roofless explosive storage buildings and other structures of the Curtis and Harvey works. Some vestige of the 1890s Lower Hope Point Battery remains either side of the concrete-capped earthen seawall; and a number of structures survive from the Second World War, principally an anti-aircraft battery in field in Redham Mead - part of a network of defences either side of the Thames to defend the river approaches to London. Two former surface air raid shelters, one of Anderson type, the other a small brick one that served the occupants of the former coastguard cottages at western end of Redham Mead have disappeared however, possibly when the cottages themselves were demolished in the late 20th century. However, the remains of a Decoy airfield control building, a rectangular yellow-brick structure with a concrete floor and roof, survive near Boatrick House.

Cliffe Marshes and Redham Mead

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The industrialised area

The area of the parish to the west of Mead Wall/West Street comprises artificially flooded saline lagoons and brackish pools, saltmarsh, grassland, mud-flat and scrub. This worked, but ecologically regenerating landscape, is largely the legacy of 19th and 20th century clay extraction for the cement industry, the legacy of which also survives in the form of raised tracks, tramways, concrete wharfs, Wash Mills, foundations and other structures and features. In 2001 237 hectares in northern portion of this area were designated Cliffe Pools RSPB Reserve, a part of the North Kent Marshes waterfowl habitat and the South Thames Estuary and Marshes SSSI. Licensed infilling of pools by Westminster Dredging PLC has continued since the 1960s, creating grassland habitats. The Marinex Gravel Company's (Brett Group) extensive works to the west of West Court farm, linked by conveyor to the jetty near Cliff Fort (on the line of the former Tramway) provides a palpable reminder of the ongoing extractive nature of industry, as does a former quarry to the west of West Court farm now reused as an industrial estate (Fig 15). Evidence of other 19th and 20th century industry also survives within the area, including the bases of three early-to-mid-20th-century oil storage tanks, and

Figure 15 Now reused as an industrial estate, a former quarry to the west of West Court farm typifies the worked, but ecologically regenerating landscape of this part of the parish. (P5733092)

a lime kiln, probably dating to the late 19th century.[46] Besides industrial exploitation, the area also bears witness to considerable military activity. Being the first place upstream where the river begins to narrow, Lower Hope Reach was a key place to repel enemy warships, a strategic importance embodied in the 'grey and brooding mass of the D-shaped'[47] Cliffe Fort, prominent in the estuarine landscape. The launch rails for the Brennan Torpedo station which was installed in 1890 can be seen at low water. Other features from the Second World War also survive within the area, including pillboxes and an air raid shelter on north side of Salt Lane, the latter a concrete structure under a mound of chalk which served workers in cement factory.

As well as being a worked landscape, this portion of the parish was also settled, albeit sparsely. A handful of semi-detached houses along Salt Lane, including Cliffe Villa Cottage and Cement Cottages, survive from the late 19th century as industrial dwellings built for Francis & Company's Nine Elms works.

Farmland and outlying farmsteads

The central part of the parish, either side of, and between the main settlements of Cliffe and Cliffe Woods, remains in agricultural use. Scattered farmsteads, many with historic farmhouses and buildings document the longstanding historical importance and prosperity of farming within the parish's upland zone. Rye Street Farm, to the east of Cliffe village preserves what may be a medieval barn (Fig 16); Alleyn's Hill Farm has a farmhouse of 17th century or earlier build, incorporating a 15th-century hall and service end,[48] and Manor Farm cottages, near to Manor Farm (frontispiece) is also from the 17th century or earlier. Manor farm itself preserves a 'loose courtyard' arrangement, with contiguous 18th or 19th century granary, cart shed and stables looking inwards into the yard. Most of these farmsteads have witnessed significant modification in the 20th century, some by the addition of corrugated iron sheds and barns in the early part of it, others by the conversion or demolition of earlier buildings, reflecting the late 20th century trend towards amalgamation.

Figure 16 Rye Street Farm, to the east of Cliffe village, is one of a number of scattered farmsteads in the parish that preserves earlier structures or fabric. (P5733093)

Within this area is Cliffe Rectory, largely a product of the late 19th century but with origins as a medieval hall-house. According to one source, it was built as a manor house during the early 13th century, at the request of Stephen Langton, Archbishop of Canterbury, becoming the rectory shortly after his death in 1228.[49] However other

evidence makes a date in the first half of the 14th century more likely, during which period a chapel was originally built, or added.[50] In 1679 parts of the building were demolished and altered, and in 1870 it was substantially rebuilt by Lloyd, who left a detailed account of his restoration.[51]

Cliffe Village

The principal settlement in the parish, Cliffe, has the appearance of a village that has extended eastwards and southwards from a nucleus around Church Street, with semi-detached and isolated clusters of housing to the south, along Station Road and Cooling Road. The great majority of the buildings are from the 19th and 20th centuries, although earlier fabric might survive behind some facades. Small, private-sector housing developments have arisen in the last decade.

Figure 17 The foremost survivor from Cliffe's medieval past, St Helen's is thought to stand on the site of a much earlier Saxon timber-framed church. (P5733094)

The historic core of Cliffe, along Pond Way/Church Street contains a number of buildings from the early modern era: St Helen's Church, Red House, Courtsole Farm's house and barn, and Wharf Farm house. The most significant of these is the Church of St Helen, one of the largest parish churches in Kent and listed grade I in 1966 (Fig 17). Thought to stand on the site of a much earlier Saxon timber-framed church, it is built in alternating bands of flint and Kentish ragstone on a cruciform plan, with a west tower, aisled nave, porch, transeptal chapels and chancel. It dates from the 13th to the 15th century, and was enlarged and restored in the second half of the 19th century by J P St Aubyn and Romaine-Walker and Tanner. Other survivors from the village's earlier past include Longford House (Fig 18), a timber-framed and weatherboarded two-storey house of c1600 (grade II) and Nos 170-174 Church Street, a timber-framed hall-house of early

Figure 18 Longford House, No. 178 Church survives as a timber-framed and weather-boarded two-storey house of c1600. (P5733095)

16th century date, altered and extended in the later 16th, 17th and 19th centuries. On the other (west) side of the street, Chantry Cottage, No. 187 Church Street, incorporates the end wall of a 16th century or earlier timber-framed building. North of the church, Courtsole Farm has a brick-clad timber-framed farmhouse from the 16th-century, formerly jettied, with a parallel 18th-century block to the rear giving double depth plan. East of this, Walnut Tree Cottage, Wharf Lane, survives as rendered, timber-framed cottage of later 16th or 17th-century date. The 18th century, a period of seemingly renewed affluence for much of the Peninsula, is also comparatively well represented by a number of red-brick, two-storeyed buildings: No. 185 Church Street, with 19th century shopfront; Quickrills, also on Church Street, with gable parapets and end stack; The Red House, on Reed Street, with timber modillioned eaves cornice (Fig 19); and the (unlisted) farmhouse of Wharf Farm[52] at the end of Wharf Lane, formerly separated from the village, but now linked by recent housing (Fig 4).

Figure 19 The Red House on Reed Street is one of a number of larger houses testifying to Cliffe's renewed affluence in the 18th century. (P5733096)

Buildings from the early-mid-19th century, when Cliffe still housed a predominantly agricultural population, also give character to this core. Survivors include the early 19th-century Chantry Cottage; Nos 64-66 Reed Street, a pair of mid-19th century cottages with a round-headed doorway; and the former Compasses public house on Marsh Lane, dated 'SR 1849' but with possible earlier, residential origins (Fig 20). The great majority of buildings however date from the late 19th century onwards, reflecting the rapid industrial-led growth of the village in the Victorian and Edwardian period. North Church Street/Pond Street, which, partly because of the Conservation Area designated in 2006, has

Figure 20 The former Compasses public house on Marsh Lane, dated 'SR 1849': an uncommon survivor from the Cliffe's pre-industrialised era. (P5733097)

the best-preserved elements of the pre-World War I village, has purpose-built school buildings, pubs and chapels and housing from this era. The housing includes early speculative terraces, such as Thames Terrace, semi-detached villas such as Lime Tree Villas, Nos 189-9, and even a modest town-house, in the form of the narrow Chicago House, Pond Hill, dated 1893, and possibly named in reference to the World's Fair of that year and city.

This phase of residential development, characterised by speculative terraces and semi-detached villas, expanded Cliffe axially, almost to its modern limits. Although intermixed with later housing, it is palpable throughout the expanded village, as far south as the semi-detached satellites where Cooling Road crosses Church Street, and Thatcher's Lane (Morning Cross Cottages). Reed Street is particularly rich in terraces, in runs of two (e.g. Thompson Cottages, Nos 64-66), three (e.g. Bright's Cottages, now numbered No.1 Green Lane & Nos 68-71 Reed Street), four (e.g. Cambrian Cottages, now Nos 4-6), five (e.g. Holmesdale Cottages, Nos 80-88; dated 1884), six (e.g. Cliffe Market, Nos. 23-33), seven (e.g. Amy Terrace, Nos 7-19; dated 1890) and even ten (e.g. Carters Place, Nos 28-46). The neighbouring streets North Road, Marsh Lane, Green Lane, Wharf Lane, Rookery Crescent, Thatchers Lane, the southern section of Church Street, and Millcroft Road also document this phase of residential expansion, with semi-detached and terraced houses surviving in varying states of alteration. More unusual in character are the houses along Buttway Lane, including the relatively substantial Kangaroo Villas (Fig. 8), and the long run of Edwardian villas along Station Road. (Fig 21)

Figure 21 Edwardian villas along Station Road. (P5733098)

Most of the streets created or developed in the period of Victorian and Edwardian expansion have been augmented by housing from the inter-war and post-war periods, creating a more mixed and heterogeneous character. Where building sites were more limited, closer to the historic core, this housing had tended to be in smaller units, but further out, or where streets were newly created, development is more chronologically cohesive. Symonds Road, for example, which was laid out parallel to Station Road in c1901-1908 as an unadopted street, saw only limited villa-building in the first two decades of the 20th century, and its character is largely shaped by the inter-war and post-war private semi-detached and detached houses which predominate (Fig 22). The characters of other roads, such as Buttway Lane, similarly draw much of their character from this phase of their development. The most extensive and coherent area of single-phase housing is the Swingate Estate, which still preserves much of the character of a post-war

local authority planned estate, despite re-cladding of many of the non-traditional (Airey-type) houses and later 20th century residential development at its margins (Fig 23). More recent private-sector housing, catering for commuters, including the curving, inward-looking St Helens Road/Elford Road/Chesterton Road and Church Close developments, east of Church Lane, form similar enclaves of a more generalised character. One of the most recent developments is in the north east of Cliffe, on the site of Wharf Farm yard.

Figure 22 The character of Symonds Road, an unadopted street created in the Edwardian era, is largely shaped by inter- and post-war private semi-detached and detached houses. (P5733099)

Figure 23 The Swingate Estate still preserves much of the character of a post-war local authority planned estate, despite the early-21st-century brick re-cladding of many of the non-traditional (Airey-type) houses. (P5733100)

Cliffe Woods

The principal settlement in the south of the parish, Cliffe Woods, is entirely a 20th century creation. Although less varied in character than Cliffe, its undulating topography, affording panoramic views, and leafy situation, on the edge of Great Chattenden Wood, are qualities that give it a distinct sense of place (Fig 24). Its early development, as a makeshift plotland, is unexampled within the peninsula, although it has parallels elsewhere in northern Kent, notably Meopham. Although the great majority of this phase has been lost to late-20th century planned redevelopment, the original Rochester Park Estate is still legible in the north-west portion, in the form of interwar and post-war bungalows, street names and layout.

Figure 24 The leafy, spacious and heterogeneous character of Cliffe Woods is especially apparent on View Road, near to Great Chattenden Wood. (P5733101)

The rest of Cliffe Woods is entirely a product of the late 20th and early 21st century, with the redevelopment by SRDC very much the dominant constituent. This is emblematical of new town planning, based around rising car ownership, such as Peterborough, Milton Keynes and Warrington. The heart of the new estate, named, briefly, Cliffe Park, was, and still is, the 'village' green between Town Road and Parkside. It was provided with a Village Hall, terraced shops (Fig 25), Post Office, car park and later a Surgery and Community Centre. The growth of the estate in the 1970s, saw the provision in c1972-4 of a recreation ground, pavilion and car park at the corner of Town Road and Merryboys Road, and a Primary School on View Road in c1976. Much of the estate's infrastructure seems to have been designed by SRDCs Engineer and Surveyor, F. L. Boulter, although some of the housing may have been designed within the private sector: Selleck Nicholls Williams Ltd, for example, were originators of the Cornish Unit type prefabricated house used elsewhere on the Peninsula. Some of it may have also be the product of local self-build groups, which seem to have been active in the early stages of the estate's development in the late 1960s.

Figure 25 Late 1960s shopping parade in the heart of Cliffe Woods. (P5733102)

As elsewhere on the peninsula, private housing developments constitute the bulk of the stock built from the 1980s onwards. Mostly grouped on the uppermost, most leafy margins of the estate, such as Newbury Close and Graveney Close, they are based on curvilinear non-through roads interwoven into the existing street pattern, featuring a

variety of detached and semi-detached housing plans (Fig 26). These houses, many with expansive views, are clustered around short branching cul-de-sacs, which are designed to minimise through traffic past the frontages whilst ensuring that each property has some form of vehicular access.

Figure 26 Graveney Close is characteristic of the Cliffe Woods late 20th century expansion. (P5733103)

ARCHITECTURAL INTEREST AND SIGNIFICANCE

The historical development of Cliffe and Cliffe Woods parish is reflected to varying degrees its built fabric, much of which has considerable architectural interest and significance. Of the different character areas, Cliffe village contains the greatest concentration of buildings from the parish's earlier past, followed by the scattered farmsteads in the centre and south of the parish. Early photographic views of Cliffe Village before World War II show how much of the timber-clad vernacular has been lost,[53] but the historic core still retains considerable time-depth and character. The significance of Cliffe's historic core of has been recognised by the designation of a Conservation Area in April 1973, and the statutory listing of a number of buildings in the late 20th century. The 2.03ha Conservation Area, incorporates a number of Victorian and Edwardian pubs and houses (including The Victoria Inn; the Six Bells; Miskin Cottages and Chicago House) and most the village's listed buildings, all of which are substantially pre-1840 in date. These include the medieval Church of St Helen and various associated structures and funerary monuments; Nos 187 (Chantry Cottage) and 185 Church Street (west side, both listed 1990); No 178 (Longford House, listed 1966); No 176 (listed 1986) and Nos 170-174 Church Street (listed 1986). Court Sole Farmhouse, Pond Street (listed 1966) is within the Conservation Area, although Red House, No 2 Reed Street, lies outside of it.

Now absorbed within the eastern residential expansion of Cliffe, and dating from the later 16th century or earlier 17th century, the timber-framed Walnut Tree Cottage has also been given statutory protection (grade II, 1986). The architectural and historic significance of many of the outlying farmhouses and buildings either side of, and to the south of Cliffe village have also been statutorily recognised, namely a concealed late medieval Hall-house at Allen's Hill, Buckland Road; the remains of an early 14th-century Hall-house, which survives in rebuilt and much-altered form as the late 19th-century Rectory House;[54] the later 16th century Manor Farmhouse, Buckland Road (much rebuilt after fire c1910); a later 16th-century barn at Rye Farm, Common Lane; a 17th-century barn and granary at Buckland Farm, Buckland Road; Gattons Farmhouse, with an early 19th-century front block to a possibly earlier rear; and Mortimer's Farm House, Town Road, comprising a 17th century timber-framed house at the rear with a mid-19th-century front block.

However, elements of these, and other historic farmsteads, remain statutorily unprotected. Manor Farm, which evolved on a 'loose courtyard' arrangement, has a 19th century barn, and a 18th or 19th century granary, cart shed and stables next to each other, and nearby are Manor Farm cottages, with a three-bay lobby entrance suggestive of a 17th century or earlier date. West Court Farm, which has a dispersed arrangement, has 19th-century farmhouse and 18th-century open-sided cattle sheds. The 18th-century farmhouse at the end of Wharf Lane survives in modified guise as the only remnant of Wharf Farm. Whilst these, and other buildings may have been too altered to merit potential listing, they could be included on a local list.

The military significance of Cliffe Fort has been recognised by its designation as a Scheduled Monument, although other defensive and industrial remains in the northern part of the parish survive in too fragmentary or intangible a state to merit statutory

protection. The most tangible, and well-preserved reminder of the Portland cement works are the workers housing along Salt Lane, which also merit inclusion on a local list. Most of the terraced and semi-detached housing, so redolent of Cliffe's industrial-led expansion, have witnessed considerable alteration with often detrimental effect to their character and appearance. Nevertheless, the lesser-altered examples along, for example, Buttway Lane, Reed Street (Fig 27) and Station Road could be included on a local list, as indeed could other buildings illustrative of Cliffe's 19th and 20th-century expansion.

In the south of the parish, the portion of Cliffe Woods to the north of Town Road survives as the Peninsula's only Plotland development. Whilst too incomplete and compromised/modified to merit Conservation Area designation as other early plotland developments have (e.g. the Humberston Fitties, Humberston), some of the earlier, interwar, bungalows might be included on a local list (Fig 28).

Figure 27 Some of Cliffe's characteristic late-19th century terrace housing merits local listing. This terrace of five houses at Nos 80-88 Reed Street was named Holmesdale Cottages and bears the date 1884. (P5733104)

Figure 28 Some of the surviving examples of the Rochester Park Estate - the precursor to Cliffe Woods - such as this interwar bungalow on Tennyson Avenue, might be considered for local listing. (P5733105)

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[1] Lewis, S 1811 A Topographical Dictionary of England, Vol. 1, 570

[2] Throughout the 19th century and 20th centuries, for which Census data is available, its area stood at almost 5,700 acres (over 2000 of which were water), a figure over 2,000 acres greater than that of Hoo St Werburgh

[3] Matthews, 87

[4] Hasted 1797, 498

[5] Excavations at Cliffe Creek have uncovered two salt-working hearths, which contained evidence of a complex history of rebuilding and reuse in the 1st and 2nd centuries AD. By AD 80-86, fine ware beakers and bowls made at kiln sites near to the salterns at Cliffe and at Upchurch, were reaching Camelon (Falkirk) in Scotland, Agricola's probable supply base. These, and other north Kent salterns and potteries, all of which lay close to tidal creeks, would have had easy access to Richborough, Kent, a major entrepôt and transit point for military personnel and supplies destined for the north. The north Kent kiln sites, and salt production, declined from the early 3rd century, if not earlier. Peter Topping P and Swan V G 1995, 'Early Salt-working sites in the Thames Estuary', in RCHME 1995, 30, 32

[6] Contested, less convincingly, by other candidates, including Mildenhall, Suffolk; Abingdon, Berkshire; Culcheth, Lincolnshire and Chelsea, London

[7] Matthews. 87

[8] Nichols, 9

[9] MacDougall, 22

[10] Yates N and Welsby P A eds, 37

[11] Hasted 1797, 499

[12] This manor included pasture for 100 sheep, presumably on the marshlands which had to be progressively enclosed from the 12th century to counter rising sea levels. James, 17

[13] Pateman 107

[14] Nichols, 21

[15] The right to hold a fair on 8 October was obtained from the King in 1109 or 1327, and a fair is documented in 1257. See Matthews, 92

[16] See MacDougall, 55-6

[17] Ireland,190

[18] Nichols, 33

[19] Lambarde, 441, citing John Stowe as the source for the year 1520.

[20] MacDougall, 57, 59.

[21] Nichols, 33

[22] Whatley, [unpaginated]

[23] Nichols, 33

[24] Ireland, 188; Chalkin, 15; MacDougall, 92

[25] Morden, 40

[26] Nichols, 42

[27] James, 20-21

[28] Whatley [unpaginated]; Anon 1775 [unpaginated]

[29] Kentish Travellers Companion (1799) as quoted in MacDougall, 92

[30] Carlisle Vol. 3, 570.

[31] Ireland, History of Kent, as quoted in MacDougall, 92

[32] Pateman,108.

[33] Barnes and Innes

[34] Taken over by the Alpha Cement Company in 1934, and later absorbed within the Associated Portland Cement Company, cement manufacture continued at the site until 1969 when the chalk quarries were finally exhausted. Macdougal, 133

[35] Wayne Cocroft, 'The Munitions Industry', in RCHME 1995, 91

[36] Brayley Hodgetts E A and Tullock T G 1909 The rise and progress of the British explosives industry (7th International Congress of Pure and Applied Chemistry, London, 1909), 354

[37] ibid 364.

[38] Macdougal, 133

[39] The Times, 24 May 1890, 16. An earlier advertisement (11 June 1877, 19) announced '10 Cottages, called Norwood-cottages, on the road to Cooling and Rochester, with Building Land adjoining; also a Plot of Building Land, having a frontage of 338ft., Nine Cottages in Church-Street, Four Cottages in Reed-street, and Seven Cottages in Wharf-lane'.

[40] The Building News, 29 January 1904, 184 [List of Tenders Open]

[41] Macdougal, 138

[42] Conveyances relating to land at Tennyson Avenue and Hillcrest Avenue (Rochester Park Estate) are dated January and May 1918; see www.nwkfhs.org.uk/land_deeds.pdf

[43] http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cliffe_Woods

[44] These included type "A" Traditional houses; Type "B" and "C" three bedroom and Type "K" two bedroom houses; "Airey" Rural Houses, and Type "G" flats.http://cityark.medway.gov.uk : Rochester_upon_Medway_City_Council_1973_1998/ Chief_Executive_Department/ Legal_Section

[45] http://www.pla.co.uk/display_fixedpage.cfm/id/779/site/environment

[46] James, 25-26

[47] Ibid, 27

[48] The medieval hall and service end may date from the third quarter of the 15th century. See RCHME report 'Allen's Hill Farmhouse, Cliffe-at-Hoo', NMR Buildings File No. 40457

[49] MacDougall, 29.

[50] Namely the doorways within the stone walls of the hall and rooms to the east (which survive to a height of some 9ft, and 15ft, respectively), together with fragments of tracery and moulding illustrated by the Rev. H.R. Lloyd in 1870. See Gravett, K 1981 'The Rectory House at Cliffe-at-Hoo' in Collectanea Historica: Essays in Memory of Stuart Rigold. Maidstone, 187-91; also supplementary notes to this, NMR Buildings File No. 40434.

[51] See Gravett, K 1981, 187-91

[52] In 1806, when the freehold estate was advertised for sale, Wharf Farm comprised '134 acres of remarkably rich meadow, grazing, and arable land, in a high state of cultivation, with a convenient farm-house, barns, stabling, granary, suckling-house, and various out-buildings, in the occupation of Mr John Cook, on lease ..' The Morning Chronicle, 19 September 1806.

[53] See, for example, Cherry A 1991 Cliffe in Old Photographs. Rainham: Meresborough Books and Cherry A 1998 A Pictorial History of Cooling and Cliffe: Looking Back from the Millennium. Cliffe: Martins News

[54] See Gravett, K 1981, 187-91

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