INDEX DATA	RPS INFORMATION
Scheme Title A259(T) ST. Mary's Bay & Dumchurch By-pass	Details Archaeological held Evaluation
Road Number 19259	Date Moul 1993
Contractor JMP	
County Kent	
OS Reference TRO2	
Single sided	
Double sided	
A3 50	
Colour O	

## A259(T) ST. MARY'S BAY & DYMCHURCH BYPASS ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD EVALUATION

A Report on behalf of

JMP Consultants Ltd.

By

Chris Place BA

South Eastern Archaeological Services
White Lodge
Ditchling, North End
Hassocks
Sussex

May 1993

Project Number 1992/58

## FAU/SEAS St. Mary's Bay Dymchurch Bypass

## **CONTENTS**

Summary	it
1.0 Introduction	Page 1
2.0 Evaluation Aims	Page 1
3.0 The Area of Interest	Page 2
4.0 Previous Archaeological Work	Page 3
5.0 The Field Evaluation	Page 4
5.0 The Results	Page 5
7.0 Areas of Archaeological Interest	Page 7
8.0 Conclusions	Page 9
9.0 Recommendations	Page 10
10.0 Bibliography	Page 10

#### Summary

South Eastern Archaeological Services were requested by JMP Consultants Ltd. to undertake the archaeological field evaluation of the line of the A259 St. Mary's Bay/Dymchurch Bypass. An initial desk top assessment had already been undertaken by Mrs. J Eddison, Romney Marsh Research Trust. It had been intended that the evaluation report would be submitted as part of the scheme's Environmental Statement. However, due to adverse weather conditions and a late harvest, only 40% of the scheme was evaluated and thus only an 'interim' report could be submitted. A second period of field work was initiated to complete the evaluation programme and this document represents the final report.

Archaeological field evaluation was conducted along the line of the bypass between August and September 1992, and subsequently in March 1993. Fieldwork comprised Surface Artifact Collection and systematic hand dug testpits.

Several concentrations of earlier and later medieval pottery were recorded. In addition earlier and later post-medieval pottery was recovered. Some of the concentrations suggest activity in restricted locii from the earlier medieval through to the earlier post medieval.

Several recommendations are made regarding the desirability of undertaking further phases of evaluation.

#### 1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Department of Transport (DoT) intend to upgrade the A259(T) between Dymchurch and New Romney. This report is concerned with the St. Mary's Bay and Dymchurch (the scheme) section of the project; approximately 11.6km including side roads.
- 1.2 EC Directive 85/337/EEC (The Directive) requires full environmental assessment (EA) of development projects which are likely to have significant direct and indirect effects on the environment as a result of their nature, size or location. The directive makes provision for the EA of road schemes.
- 1.3 EA of road schemes is enabled in England and Wales by modifications to the Highways Act 1980 (SI 1988 No.1241; The Highways (Assessment of Environmental Effects) Regulations 1988). The range of road schemes liable to EA is detailed in DoT Departmental Standard HD 18/88. It has been deemed that the scheme under consideration falls within a category requiring EA.
- 1.4 The Directive and DoT HD 18/88 require that the Environmental Statement contains, *inter alia*, sufficient data to assess the main effects that the scheme is likely to have on the environment and a description of the measures proposed to mitigate adverse environmental effects.
- 1.5 The EA includes provision for the archaeological evaluation of the land affected by the scheme.

#### 2.0 EVALUATION AIMS

- 2.1 The aims of the evaluation were threefold.
  - to identify areas of archaeological interest
  - to determine their importance
  - to assess the likely environmental impact of the scheme on the archaeological heritage.

#### 3.0 THE AREA OF INTEREST

- 3.1 The area of interest is defined by the scheme layout illustrated in JMP Consultants Ltd. drawings 6300/1/24 28. The scheme is about 8 km long (excluding side roads) and "flanks" the coast from just southwest of St. Mary's Bay to southwest of Hythe. Its northeast end is at Botolphs Bridge road and is defined by a roundabout at the begining of the proposed Dymchurch to M20 Link. The southwest end starts at the end of the proposed New Romney Bypass.
- 3.2 The prehistory and history of the Romney Marsh area is inextricably linked to the geomorphological processes which have produced and continue to shape the massive shingle barrier beach, periodic inundation of the area by the sea and the formation and reclaimation of the extensive area of marsh behind the beach.
- 3.3 The area behind the barrier beach has, for much of its history, been essentially a depositional environment. It has been divided by the Soil Survey into 'Old' and 'New' Marshland on the basis of calcium content; Old sediments are de-calcified whilst the New sediments are more calcareous. The latter are often of considerable thickness and are interpreted by some as having been deposited in estuaries associated with breaks in the shingle barrier.
- 3.4 The exact history and lithostratigraphic development of the 'marsh' is far from clear. However, the changing interface between land and water and the deposition of extensive areas of sediment has created an environment in which archaeologically important horizons can be come buried by marine/marsh sediments.
- 3.5 Paradoxically, this state of flux is in some respects part of what has made the area attractive for habitation and exploitation in the past. Breaks within the shingle barrier have provided important harbours, albeit transitory, at New Romney and (probably) Old Winchelsea for example. The sea itself was an important resource to be exploited by fishing and the salt industry, and the reclaimed marsh was utilized for grazing.
- 3.6 Therefore, the importance of the area in the past and the difficulty that may be encountered when trying to detect the archaeological remains of past exploitation are two central issues to the evaluation.

#### 4.0 PREVIOUS ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORK

- 4.1 Little archaeological work had been undertaken on Romney Marsh prior to 1985. Since that date major excavations have taken place at Broomhill Farm (Camber) and on the site of Brett's new quarry to the southwest of Lydd. Surface artifact collection (SAC) has been undertaken around Old Romney and on the line of the proposed Breznett (A2070) road. Extensive SAC has also now been undertaken in the northeast of the Marsh. Much of this recent work has served to indicate the inadequacy of the County Sites and Monuments Record (SMR).(NB This is not a reflection on the compilers and curators of this record but an indication of the paucity of fieldwork in the area.)
- 4.2 A desk top assessment of the scheme and it's surrounding area has already been undertaken by Jill Eddison (Eddison 1992b). This has included an examination of aerial photographs, a study of the documentary sources and a consideration of unpublished discoveries. Only the main conclusions are presented here and the reader is directed to the report for detailed discussion.
- 4.2.1 Eddison notes the importance of considering the area in it's geological context. Romney Marsh is an area of reclaimed marshland which has been categorized as either Old or New Marshland. Both areas are characterized by thick marsh and marine deposits which represent the fine balance between the fortunes of land and sea. In such a context it is important to recognize the potential for the burial of important archaeological and palaeo-environmental deposits. The example of a late Iron Age and Romano-British land surface at Jessons Farm (TR 08152762) is mentioned. The discovery of early Bronze Age axes at an unrecorded depth in a quarry near Lydd (Needham 1988) should also be noted.
- 4.2.1.1 The Jesson's Farm site is recorded in the Kent County Sites and Monument's Record (TR02NE9) as being discovered in 1910 during borehole drilling at a depth of between 3' and 4'6". Artifacts dateable to the late Iron Age or early RB period were recovered along with charcoal and the skeleton of an ox or a horse.
- 4.2.2 The Kent SMR contains no records for the line of the preffered route though Eddison's work highlights several areas of archaeological interest along the route.
- **4.2.3** Four classes of feature are considered by Eddison of which three are present along the prefered route.

- 4.2.4 The prefered route is crossed by 6 sewers or main marsh drains. Two of these are 19th century; The Canal Cutting (1876) and The New Sewer (post 1843). The remaining 4 are potentially of some antiquity and are known as The Willop, Hornes, Marshland and Clobsden Sewers. The Clobsden Sewer forms one of the boundaries of the Sellinge estate which is recorded in a charter of c AD 700 and may, therefore, itself date from that period. The others may also be of that date.
- 4.2.5 Numerous infilled and plough levelled ditches have been noted from air photographs and are sketched on Figure 2 of the desktop assessment. The overall impression is of a great many small fields having been aggregated into the larger present day enclosed areas. The ditches creating the smaller enclosures appear to respect the lines of the main sewers and ditch systems, suggesting that they are contemporary or later. Eddison favours the latter proposal. It is possible that excavation might provide data to confirm this supposition.
- 4.2.6 The line of the prefered route crosses 5 local roads which may preserve the line of earlier trackways. These may have originated when the marsh was occupied in the Saxon period. It is possible that excavation might provide data to confirm this supposition.

#### 5.0 THE FIELD EVALUATION

- 5.1 The brief for the field evaluation was based upon recommendations resulting from the desktop assessment and was generally accepted by the Kent County Archaeologist.
- 5.1.2 The county archaeologists' comments regarding machine trenching were noted. However, such work was not acceptable to the DoT and has not, therefore, been undertaken.
- 5.1.3 The state of drainage ditches in the area of study made it impracticable to systematically investigate them as suggested in Eddison's recommendations. Therefore, this work was not undertaken.
- 5.1.4 The majority of the land to be affected by the scheme was known to be arable with areas of established pasture also recorded. Archaeological data collection was, therefore, based on SAC in ploughed areas and systematic testpitting in pasture. In addition the area of land take was surveyed for any unrecorded earthworks.
- 5.1.5 Field work was initially undertaken in late August and September 1992 and subsequently in March 1993. In August and September poor weather had restricted the land available for evaluation to approximately 40% of the Area of Interest. This was considered unacceptably low and the further period was initiated to 'complete' the planned programme of work.

#### 5.2 Surface Artifact Collection (SAC)

- 5.2.1 Artifacts present in the ploughzone are indicative of past human activity. Their systematic collection and record can reveal patterns of discard which may help to define and locate such areas of activity.
- 5.2.2 This systematic study requires a ploughed surface that has undergone a degree of weathering for optimum artifact retrieval. Therefore, it cannot be undertaken in areas of crop, stubble or pasture.
- 5.2.3 The Area of Interest, including the side roads, was sequentially divided into 25m collection units. Within each collection unit 3 transects, 12.5m apart and parallel to the cente line of the "corridor", were walked and any surface artifacts collected. Within each collection unit the artifacts from the transects were amalgamated to provide the total for each artifact class.

#### 5.3 Testpitting

5.3.1 In areas unavailable for SAC it was initially proposed to hand dig 1m x 1m testpits every 25m (1 per collection unit) to sample the topsoil for artifacts, though this was later adjusted to one every 12.5m to increase the number of samples. Unfortunately the clay content of the soil made sieving impossible, thus all artifact retrieval was by hand.

#### 5.4 Geoarchaeological Assessment

5.4.1 The Geoarchaeological Service Facility (GSF)(Institute of Archaeology, London) is undertaking work into the sedimentary context of the area. Unfortunately this work was not available prior to the completion of this report.

#### 6.0 THE RESULTS

- 6.1 In total there were 402 collection units along the line of the scheme (including side roads). Of these, 230 (71%) units were at some stage in arable land and 172 (29%) were at some stage under pasture.
- 6.1.1 Of the 230 arable collection units, 183 (79%) were sampled by SAC, the remainder were under crop or stubble.
- 6.1.2 Of the 172 collection units under pasture 103 (60%) were sampled by testpitting.
- 6.1.3 Evaluation by the above two techniques was, therefore, undertaken on 71% of the route. The remainder is effectively unevaluated. Figures 1 & 2 illustrate where each technique was utilized.

- 6.1.4 Post medieval artefacts (excluding pottery) were recorded and discarded. They are not considered further. No pre-post medieval class of artefact other than pottery was recovered. Pottery, therefore, is the only class of artefact considered further. Due to the differing sampling intensities and biases of SAC and testpitting, the artifacts collected from each have been considered as seperate sample populations for the purposes of statistical analysis. However, for the sake of comparison and the number of figures in the report, the results are plotted on the same maps.
- 6.1.5 The results are plotted as standard deviations above the mean on Maps 1 to 44. The location of these maps is illustrated in Figures 3 & 4.
- 6.2 The Pottery (Maps 1 to 44)
- 6.2.1 Thirty-three fabrics have been recognized and described from pottery collected along the scheme. This includes two sherds of Roman colour coated pottery. The remainder can be divided into four broad chronologicaly based groups, two medieval and two post-medieval. The four groups are:-
  - Earlier Medieval: AD 1100-1350
  - Later Medieval: AD 1200-1500
  - Earlier Post-Medieval: AD 1400-c1650
  - Later Post-Medieval: AD 1650 onwards.

#### 6.3 Surface Artifact Collection Results

- 6.3.1 Ninety five sherds of earlier medieval (EM) pottery were collected. Three distinct concentrations are apparent; Chainages 6200.000 to 6275.000 (+1sd to +4sd), and Chainages 175.000 to 200.000 and 425.000 to 500.00 St. Mary's Road (+2sd to +5sd).
- 6.3.2 One hundred and eighty two sherds of later medieval pottery were collected. Concentrations were recorded at Chainages 6225.000 to 6250.000 (+1 sd to + 4sd), and Chainages 125.000 to 200.000 (+1sd to +5sd) and 350.000 to 475.000 (+3sd to +5sd) St. Mary's Road.
- 6.3.3 Only twenty-three sherds of earlier post medieval pottery were recovered from the scheme and thus the standard deviations are hard to interpret. Although this does not appear to be an important component in the collection concentrations were recorded at Chainage 3650.000 to 3700.000 and 4325.000 to 4350.000, and 375.000 to 475.000 St. Mary's Road.

- 6.3.4 One hundred and sixty two sherds of later post medieval pottery were collected. Two concentrations were apparent, the first at Chainages 400.00 to 450.00 and the second at Chainages 3925.000 to 4075.000. The latter is adjacent to Sutton Farm which would indicate its source. This "modern" component of the artifact record does not obviously coincide with any concentrations of earlier pottery suggesting that the latter are not biased by modern disturbance or current landscape processes.
- 6.3.5 The Romano-British colour coated pottery was recovered from Chainages 425.000 and 4050.000.

#### 6.4 Testpitting Results

- 6.4.1 Compared with SAC, testpitting represents a very small sample size. There is, therefore, difficulty involved in interpreting the results and discerning any patterns.
- 6.4.2 No earlier medieval sherds were recovered during testpitting.
- 6.4.3 A total of 6 sherds of later medieval pottery were recovered during testpitting.
- 6.4.4 Only one sherd of earlier post-medieval pottery was recovered from testpitting, and it is, therefore impossible to draw any conclusions except that the low frequency recorded by SAC appears to be confirmed.
- 6.4.5 Fourteen sherds of later post medieval pottery were recovered during testpitting. This includes a concentration (+5sd) at the extreme northeast end of the Area of Interest at Chainage 625.000 on the Botolphs Bridge Road.

#### 6.5 Earthwork Survey

6.5.1 There were no earthworks along the line of the prefered route.

### 7.0 AREAS OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL INTEREST

7.1 On the basis of the results from the desk top assessment and the field evaluation the following areas of archaeological interest can be proposed.

#### 7.1.1 Area 1

Chainage 100.000 to 125.000. A concentration (+5sd) of later medieval pottery collected during testpitting.

#### 7.1.2 Area 2

Chainage 175,000 to 200,000 St. Mary's Road. A concentration (+5sd) of earlier and later medieval pottery.

#### 7.1.3 Area 3

Chainage 375.000 to 500.000 St. Mary's Road. A concentration (+2sd to +5sd) of earlier and later medieval pottery and early post medieval pottery. The highest density of pottery is between chainage 425.000 and 500.000. Quantatively this is one of the most important areas of earlier medieval pottery.

#### 7.1.4 Area 4

Chainage 2450.000 to 2475.000. Clobsden Sewer. A modern feature which possibly respects the line of an earlier (Saxon) boundary. Remains of earlier boundaries might be present, though this is perhaps unlikely.

#### 7.1.5 Area 5

Chainage 3675.000 to 3700.00. Early post medieval pottery concentration (+1 sd to + 4sd).

#### 7.1.6 Area 6

Chainage 3900.000 to 3925.000. Marshland Sewer. A modern feature of possible earlier origin. Remains of earlier features might be present, though this is perhaps unlikely.

#### 7.1.7 Area 7

Chainage 650.000 to 675.000 Eastbridge Road. Earlier post medieval pottery concentration (+ 4sd).

#### 7.1.8 Area 8

Chainage 4325.000 to 4350.000. Earlier post medieval pottery concentration (+5sd).

#### 7.1.9 Area 9

Chainage 4850.000 to 4875.000. Hornes Sewer. A modern feature of possibly earlier origin. Remains of earlier features might be present, though this is perhaps unlikely.

#### 7.1.10 Area 10

Chainage 6200.000 to 6275 000. Earlier and later medieval pottery concentration (+1sd to + 4sd).

#### 7.1.11 Area 11

Chainage 7300.000 to 7325.000. Willop Sewer. A modern feature of possible earlier origin. Remains of earlier features might be present, though this is perhaps unlikely.

#### 8.0 CONCLUSIONS

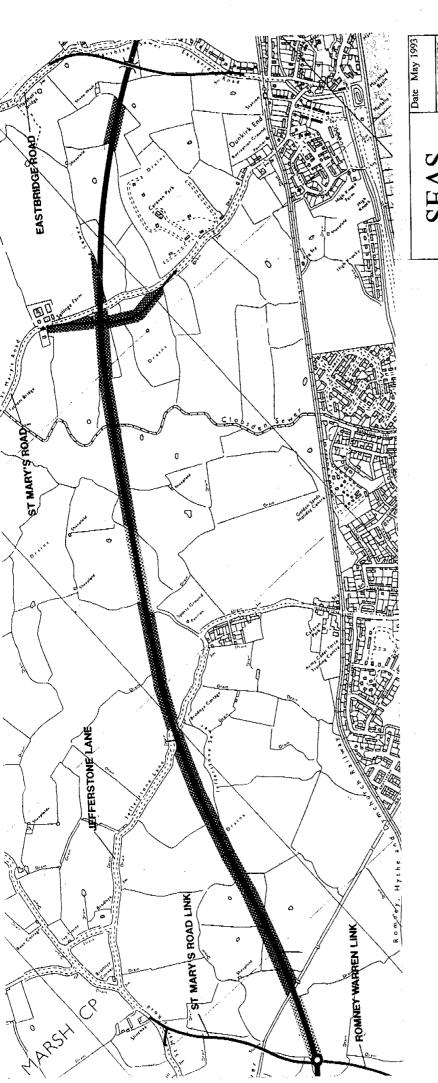
- 8.1 The work undertaken has proved beneficial in defining areas of artifact concentrations, and other areas of archaeological interest. These areas of interest may represent evidence for, *inter alia*, medieval settlement and are worthy of further evaluation. Such work is required to further characterize the archaeological resource and provide sufficient data on it's nature and quality and, therefore, the impact of the scheme. With this information decisions can then be made as to the form that any mitigation measures should take.
- 8.2 It is inappropriate to interpret the evidence at this stage with so limited a database. However, if some of the artifact concentrations are indications of settlement, there would appear to be several areas which may have been inhabited from the earlier medieval to the earlier post medieval 'periods'
- 8.3 The inability to undertake evaluation along all of the route is a material consideration when commenting on the potential impact of the scheme on the archaeological remains in the Area of Interest. It seem likely that as of yet undiscovered artifact concentrations are present in unevaluated areas.
- 8.4 The field techniques utilized have only evaluated the surface of the land. Evidence has been presented that indicates that important archaeological and palaeo-environmental remains are likely to be present at some depth below the surface. The evaluation cannot provide information on the presence/absence, nature, extent or quality of any such remains.

#### 9.0 **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 9.1 Mindful of the comments in the preceding section, the following recommendations are made.
- 9.1.1 Detailed evaluation of all Areas of Archaeological Interest. An initial phase might involve geophysical survey (Magnetic Susceptibility and detailed Magnetometer survey) to further define areas of past activity followed by purposive machine trenching and hand dug test pits to locate and sample any archaeological deposits. It is invisaged that this would include approximately 430 linear metres of the scheme.
- 9.1.3 Fieldwork to determine the location, extent, character and quality of any deeply buried archaeological remains in area where disturbance at depth is likely. Such work would need to be planned on the basis of results from the still awaited assessment by GSF of the existing geotechnical data.

#### 10.0 BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Eddison, J.(1992b) A Report on the Archaeological Implications of the Proposed Bypasses for St. Mary's Bay and Dymchurch, Kent.
- Needham, S.(1988) A Group of Early Bronze Age Axes from Lydd. in Eddison J., and Green C.(eds) Romney Marsh Evolution, Occupation, Reclamation. pp77-82.



SEAS

South Extern Archaeological Services

Which clock , Suezer RNS SITT

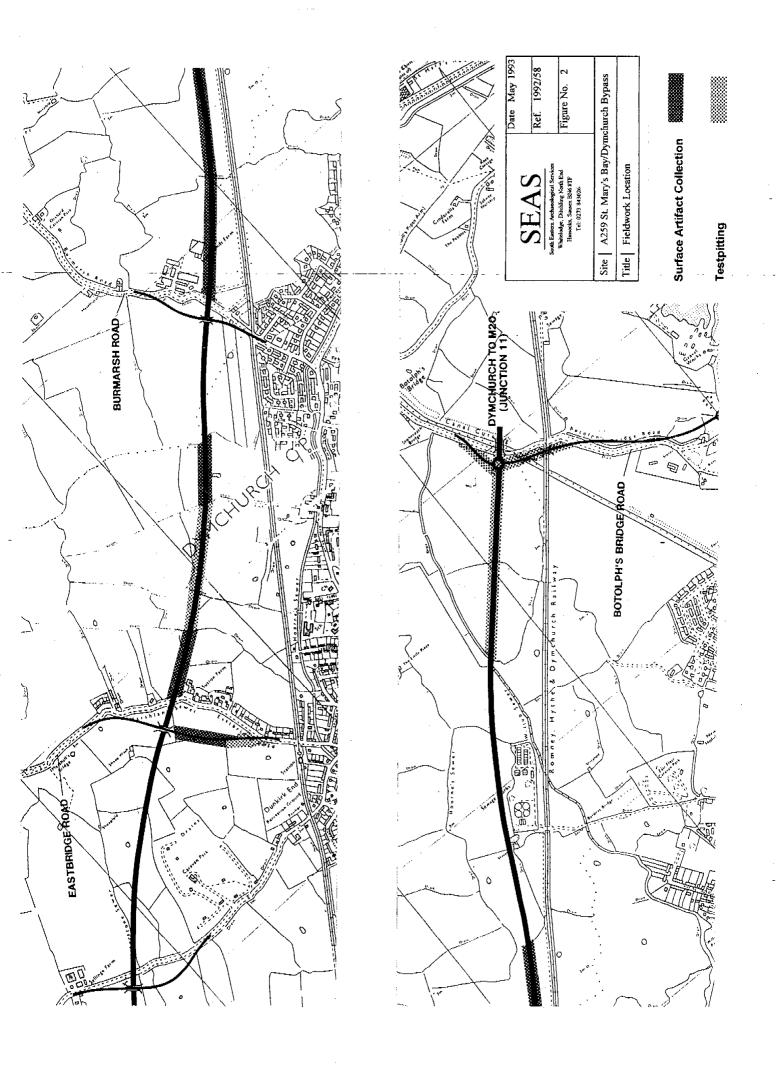
Telepocht, Suezer RNS SITT

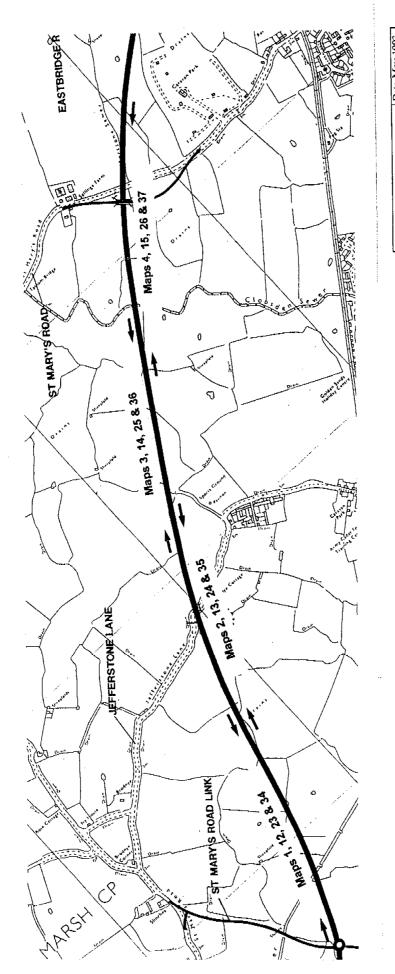
Telepocht,

Surface Artifact Collection

Testpitting







SEAS

Stand Excellent Services

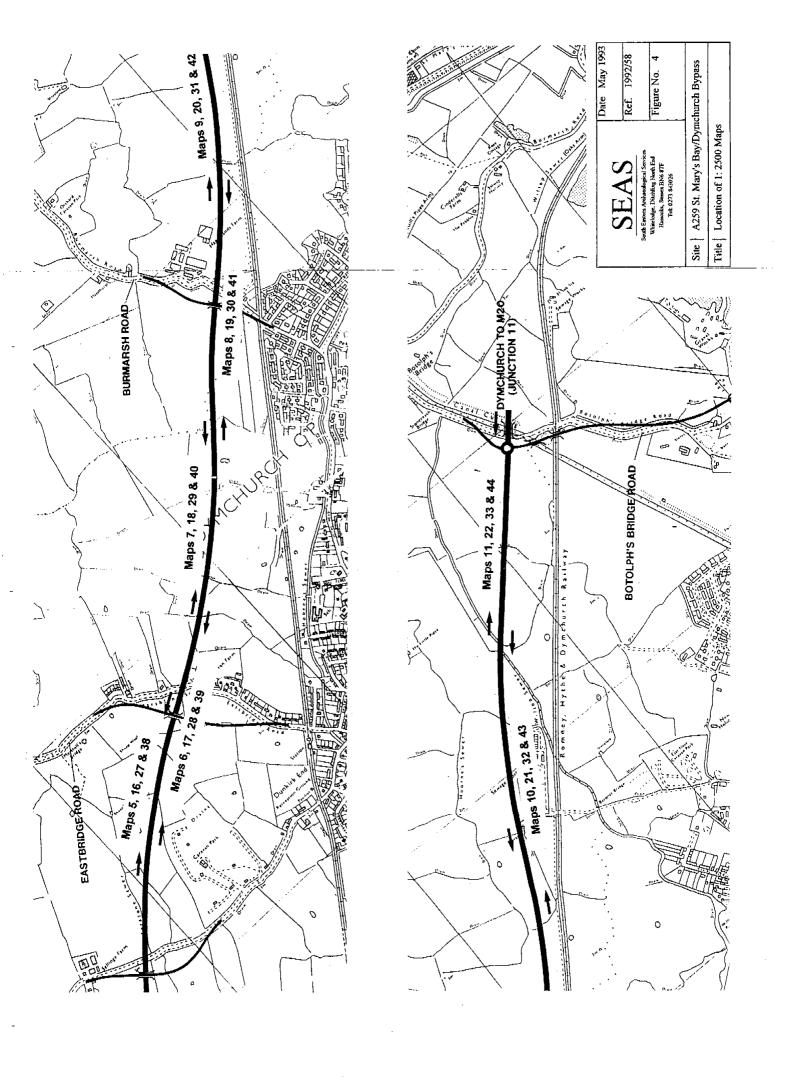
Whitelodgs, Desiding North End

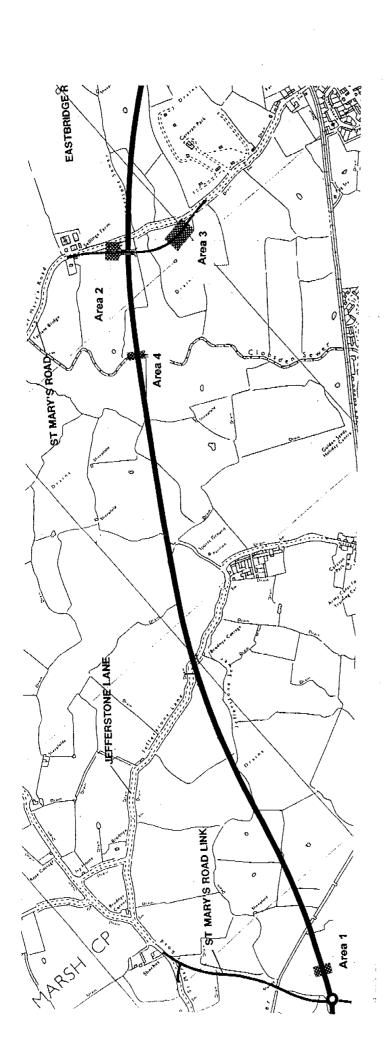
Howert, Stance Bibbs FFF

Tel. 2073 \$49936

Site | A259 St. Mary's Bay/Dymchuch Bypass

Title | Location of 1:2500 Maps





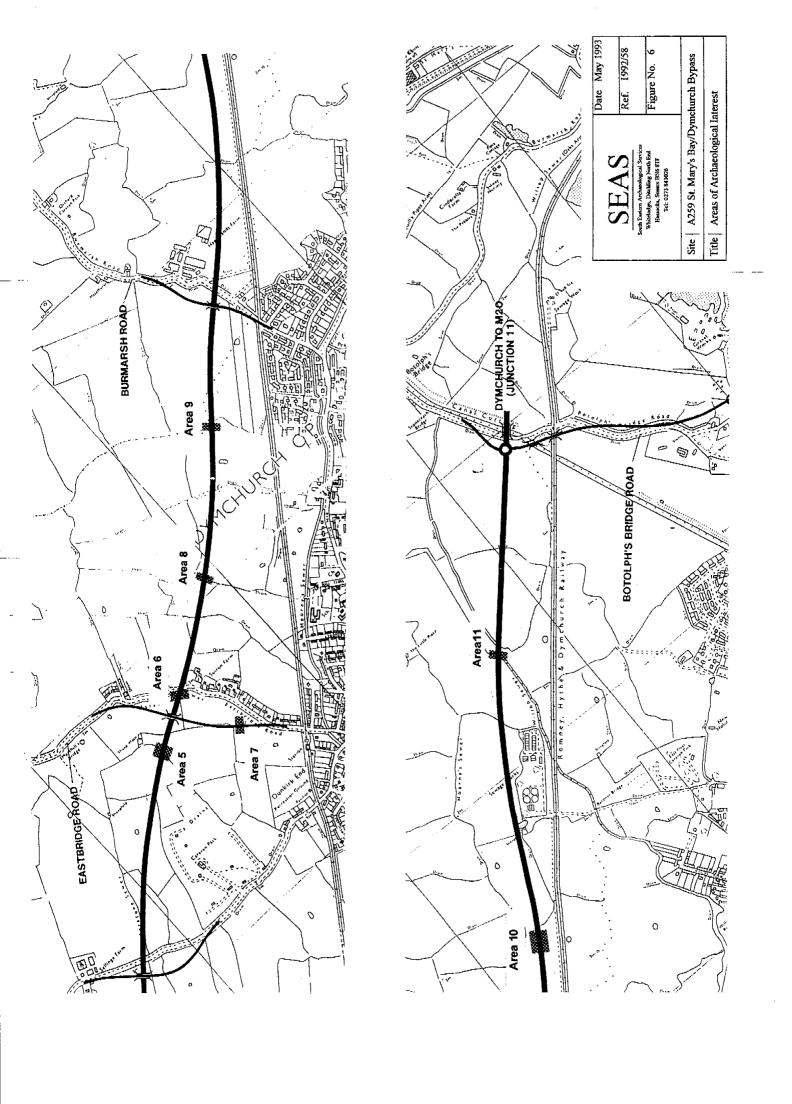
SEAS

Sont Estan Archaeological Interest

Sont Estan Archaeological Interest

Site | Az59 St. Mary's Bay/Dymchurch Bypass

Title | Areas of Archaeological Interest



#### A259 ST. MARY'S BAY & DYMCHURCH BYPASS

# SURFACE ARTIFACT COLLECTION & TEST PIT POTTERY CONCENTRATIONS

MAPS 1 - 44

+1sd

+2sd

+3sd

4sd

⊦5sd

