

Ticehurst Neighbourhood Plan

Historic Environment Record report

This Historic Environment Record report provides summary information about designated and non-designated heritage assets* within the parish (plan area) recorded on the East Sussex Historic Environment Record (ESHER). This will help inform the Neighbourhood Plan and should be used as the starting point and evidence base for considering issues such as protection and conservation of known heritage assets and the support for future research into developing a wider understanding, which can underpin local policy. Local knowledge of the historic environment of the parish can also be fed back to the HER to improve and expand the record and any mistakes or errors should be noted and fed back to county.HER@eastsussex.gov.uk.

**Heritage asset: A building, monument, site, place, area or landscape identified as having a degree of significance meriting consideration in planning decisions, because of its heritage interest. Heritage asset includes designated heritage assets and assets identified by the local planning authority (including local listing). Definition from the National Planning Policy Framework – see https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/6077/2116950.pdf*

This summary report has been prepared by the East Sussex County Council Archaeology Section using data from the East Sussex Historic Environment Record (ESHER) and professional judgement. It is accompanied by a series of record sheets and maps (appendices).

Summary

The modern parish of Ticehurst has a wealth of evidence for past human activity for all periods from Mesolithic to the present day. This is reflected in the fact that there is 1 scheduled monument, 159 listed buildings, 1 conservation area and 1 registered park/garden. There are no registered battlefields or wreck sites. The extensive archaeological interest of the parish is represented by 28 archaeological notification areas, 263 recorded non-designated heritage assets (including 82 buildings and 76 historic farmsteads as well as other structures and artefacts), 105 metal detecting find spots and 78 recorded archaeological surveys, watching briefs or archaeological excavations. Collectively this data, provides an insight into the occupation of the area by people over the last c.10,000 years. There is evidence for the presence of Mesolithic hunter-gatherers along the margins of the River Rother flood plain which forms the southern boundary to the parish. At present there is little evidence for the early farmers and monument builders of the Neolithic and Bronze Age but it is very likely that archaeological evidence for occupation and settlement during the Neolithic and Bronze Age will be located in the future. The relative lack of academic research or larger scale modern archaeological work means that the evidence has not yet been recorded, but it is likely to exist. By the Iron Age and Roman periods there is evidence for settlement and in particular for important iron working sites such as at Bardown. Iron working continues as a focus for the settlement and economic activity within the parish in the subsequent medieval and post-medieval periods. The parish

has a hugely important historic building resource, including the dispersed pattern of historic farms as well as within the nucleated settlements such as Ticehurst village. The parish has exceptionally important surviving historic landscape components, including fields, routeways, woodland and designed landscapes, potentially dating in some cases from later prehistory through to the 20th century.

Recorded Heritage Assets (see associated maps and reports)

1) Scheduled Monuments (Historic England data)

The HER records **1** scheduled monument, the Old Boarzell medieval moated site north of Swiftsden Farm. [HE 1015240]. The HER description and associated monument data is provided within appendix 1 – Scheduled Monuments and their positions shown on the associated Designations Map.

2) Listed Buildings (Historic England data)

The HER records **159** listed buildings within the plan area. A full list of these is provided in the attached summary gazetteer (see appendix 2 – Listed Buildings) and their locations are shown on the associated Designations Map. The distribution of listed buildings in large part reflects the historic dispersed settlement of the parish as well as the main settlement areas such as Ticehurst and Stonegate.

3) Conservation Areas

There is **1** conservation area covering the historic core of Ticehurst with its concentration of listed buildings. The HER description and associated monument data is provided within appendix 3 and the position recorded on the associated Designations Map.

4) Registered Park and/or Garden (Historic England data)

There is **1** registered park/garden within the plan area, the Grade II* Ticehurst House Hospital covering the grounds of the psychiatric hospital first opened by Charles Newington in the late 18th century. The HER description and associated monument data is provided within appendix 3 and the position recorded on the associated Designations Map.

5) Historic Battlefield (Historic England data)

There are no historic battlefields within the plan area

6) Protected Wrecks (Historic England data)

There are no protected wreck sites within the plan area.

7) Archaeological Notification Area

The HER records **28** Archaeological Notification Areas (ANA) within the plan area covering a wide range of areas of archaeological interest where past discoveries have been made. The ANAs are 'alert' polygons, created within the HER and primarily used as a trigger for land-management and development consultations. The ANAs provide a mechanism for ensuring that those proposing development can be made aware of potential archaeological interest in order that design can be informed and where necessary steps taken to mitigate impacts which would lead to the destruction of archaeological remains. Information about the 28 ANAs and the finds that have been made within in them, leading to their definition, are set out in the accompanying report (see appendix 7 – ANAs) and accompanying Designations Map.

8) Locally Listed Heritage Assets

There are presently no formally Locally Listed Heritage Assets in the plan area. Local Listing is encouraged by Historic England which has developed guidance: <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/what-is-designation/local/local-designations/>

9) Other Non-Designated Heritage Assets (NDHA)

The HER records **263** non-designated heritage assets, the majority of which are historic buildings and farms as well as smaller features and structures identified from HER data and/or associated sources such as historic mapping or documentary records. The range of identified heritage assets is immense and reflects the presence of people in the area from prehistory (as represented by the possible prehistoric enclosure visible as a cropmark at Cottenden) to the modern day (as represented by a pill box covering Witherenden Bridge for example). Information about these (and in some case records for designated sites) is included in the separate HER Monument Report list (see appendix – 9 NDHA) and they are shown as MES (Monument East Sussex) on the attached NDHA map.

10) Finds

The HER records **105** find spots within the plan area. Most information about metal detecting finds from within the parish is recorded by the Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS). This data provides further clues to past activity within the parish but is not provided here due to potential risks about site security. Further information can be found at <https://finds.org.uk/>.

11) Archaeological Events/Surveys

The HER records **78** events or surveys within the plan area. These include Desk-based Assessment (DBAs), geophysical surveys, evaluations (comprising evaluation trenches and/or test pits), watching briefs, archaeological excavations and historic building recording surveys – most

notably those undertaken by David and Barbara Martin. The Event Record Report (see appendix – 11 Events) sets out the descriptions and sources for archaeological surveys or projects recorded on the ESHER from Ticehurst Parish.

Future academic research and development-led archaeological projects within the plan area will lead to further archaeological discoveries. The new knowledge resulting from these projects will add to existing historical and archaeological data for Ticehurst and will be of considerable public benefit in helping to define the unique character of the area. The Neighbourhood Plan should seek to ensure that there is adequate provision for the display and storage of archaeological archives from the parish and that new information is made available to the local schools and community.

Archaeology Section East Sussex Historic Environment Record (ESHER)
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