

Appledore & Kenardington Countryside Survey – 1969

Kenardington

Map Reference: Ordnance Survey Scale about 2½ Inches to 1 Mile
Sheets TQ 92/95

Population: 250

Situation: 2½ Miles from Appledore
9½ Miles from Ashford

Situated on the edge of the Wealden Hills where they form the cliffs of the ancient coastline, and also on Romney Marsh. The soil is Tunbridge Wells sand and Wealden clay on the North side and fertile marsh silt.

There are many springs of soft water, but no river since the Rother, (in ancient times the Limene), changed its course, but the Royal Military Canal runs along the base of the escarpment, and was at one time the course of the river. Into this all drainage goes by gravitation or pumping.

The main occupation of the householders is agricultural and forestry, though a number work in Ashford and some commute to London.

Historical

A flint-working site from the stone age has been found at Ellis Barn. Roman roads run through the Parish and the Saxon settlement held by Cyneward, hence the name.

It is believed that King Alfred had a camp on a promontory and stopped the advance of the Danish invasion at this point.

When the Normans held the Manor, the dues from it helped to support Dover castle, and a number of men were provided for the castle guard.

The church is part Saxon with a Norman tower and a 15th Century roof. It was struck by lightning in the 16th Century and decreased in size. The bell was cast in the adjoining field in 1721. The church is heated by Calor gas and lit by lamps and candles, as this is thought more in keeping with the out-of-the world setting and atmosphere.

The timbered Manor House is now tile hung and was probably built around 1500, said to replace one of the 9th Century. It was at one time much larger.

There is a guard house, No. 11, situated on a road crossing over the Royal Military Canal. This was constructed during the Napoleonic wars as a defence, between 1804 and 1806. It is now leased to the Kent River Authority and is designated as a main river for drainage purposes. There is a pumping station on the canal.

The earthworks and gun emplacements from the Napoleonic wars were traceable until the compulsory ploughing during 1939/45 war when some cannon balls were found.

There are still descendants of notorious smugglers living in the village, and a member of a family said to have documents declaring that they are entitled to an annuity for their part in taking Charles II across to France. The Lord of the Manor is an honorary Lord of the Level, an old drainage duty.

There is said to have been a public house at Sly Corner.

Outstanding Planning Applications = 1

1 dwelling next to Post Office

Oast Houses

Bruins Oast	Converted
High House	No Cowl
Manor Farm	4 Roundels with Cowls

Traffic

Traffic has increased tremendously during the last ten years. This is mainly through traffic. Kenardington is bisected by the main route from Appledore to Ashford which joins the B2067 Tenterden to Hythe Road.

There is also an increase in farm traffic using the lanes and at weekends with fishermen going to the Canal.

The roads are maintained by the Kent County Council, and the verges are cut mechanically about 5 feet back once or twice a year but not sprayed.

In the Spring of 1969 very deep ditches have been dug either side of many roads and lanes and are generally considered a danger should a car skid into one.

There are approximately 50 car owners in Kenardington.

Trees

Existing Woods	
Denne's Wood	These are of the traditional oak, chestnut and hornbeam. The chestnut is cut every so often for spile and hurdle making.
Taylor Wood	
Birch Wood	
Little Heron Wood	

Replanted Woods	
Silcock's Wood	Felled and replanted with conifers some oaks left on edge and contours
Great Heron Wood	
Rushfield Wood	
Pond Wood	
Penfold Wood	

While accepting that woods need renewing, we regret the general replanting with conifers. If this continues the whole landscape will alter and not for the better.

We feel that the farmers could do more planting of trees and copses to replace the hedges grubbed out for economic farming. Trees could be used to help screen the large and unattractive farm buildings.

List of Buildings of Architectural or Historic Interest

Grade	Property
B	Church of St Mary
II*	Manor Farmhouse
II	Smith's Farmhouse
	Place Farmhouse
	High House
III	Swift Cottages
	Sly Corner
	Higham Farmhouse
	Cherry Croft
	Benchill Farmhouse

The Parish Council are considering recommending other buildings for listing.

Recreational Facilities

Village Hall
Children's Playground
No Playing Field

Facilities for Picknickers

There are no facilities for picknickers.

Footpaths

There are several good footpaths which link up with those of adjoining Parishes, but it is not intended to keep open some of the smaller ones which are aggravating to the landowners. In general, the former are well walked.

No.	Description
169	Commences Parish boundary at Hatch Farm and leads Southeast to road
170	Road opposite High Hockley Farm, South to Road
171	Parish boundary South of elder beds leads South to road
172	Kenardington/Woodchurch road point Southeast of Ellis Barn and leads West, Northwest
173	Woodchurch boundary via Legge Farm to Barn Farm
174	Great Heron Wood to road North, Westwest. Walked but a bit brambly
175	Northeast corner Park Wood to Sly Corner. Walked but a bit brambly
176	Sly Corner East Southeast
176A	Smith's Farm to Sly Corner
177	South, Southwest, Southeast of Coney Wood
177A	176A to road, South, Southwest of Firs
178	Smith's Farm to Junction 177
179	Horsemarsh Sewer via Church to Manor Farm
180	Bech Hill West, Northwest to join Footpath 116 at Cradlebridge
181	Station House via Church to Manor Farm
182	Right angle bend on road East to Footpath 190
183	East of Barn's farm Nort to road
184	Road opposite Footpath 182/190, East, Northeast to parish boundary
185	Leads East to parish boundary
186	Right angle on road, North via Holly Bush
187	T-Junction at High House, East, Southeast to parish boundary
188	From Footpath 190 North of Manor Farm East
189	Junction of road and Footpath 182, point North of Manor Farm Northeast
190	Junction Footpath 188 point ?
191	Parish boundary on East bank of Canal, Southwest to road

Wildlife

The area is mostly open country and there are a lot of wildlife, though every year a bit less. Bluebell copses are grubbed out, and butterfly hedges demolished, and the primroses are decreasing. Partridges are very scarce, and Nightingales are much less frequent. There are still Larks and Plovers, though not in large numbers.

There is still Kestrel, and Barn Owl and Green Woodpecker; birds which are becoming rare. There are Little Owls but Brown Owls which were heard in 1968 have not so far been heard. Some birds killed in the 1962/3 Winter are slowly returning, such as Long Tailed Tits and Kingfishers. A Black Tailed Godwit was here in the Winter, twelve Wild Geese, some Golden Plover, Curlew and some Waders.

There are regularly Swans, Herons, Mallard, Teal, sometimes a Garganey, Sedge Warblers, Reed Buntings, Yellow Hammers, Wagtails, though fewer than there were four or five years ago; though it is possible that this Spring is showing some improvement. There is a rookery, and Jackdaws live in the eaves of the Church, which are wired off for them from the interior of the tower.

The Marsh Frog, imported from Hungary and released nearby in 1955 is very common, its name is *Rana Ridibonda*. There are a few Rabbits and Foxes. Otters are very doubtful residents, no one being certain of having seen their tracks. Hedgehogs are scarce and Harvest Mice have not been seen recently. The one happy tale is of a thriving Badger community with 3 sets, and these useful residents give interest to many people.

There are Mushrooms in one or two fields, there were many more; on the Canal bank there is a paler variety not good to eat. Wild Water Lillies have been largely cleared out with the deepening of the dykes, but the smaller yellow ones are still plentiful in the Canal. Although most wildflowers and bird song can be seen and heard, they must be sought for the Hawthorn being the only flower making an abundant show, with a few drifts of Bluebells.

Population

Total Population	Approx. 250
Numbers on Electoral Role:	176
Children at Primary School	31
Children at Secondary School	7
Children at Grammar School	8
Children at Other Schools	4
Children at University	3
Children Under School Age	14

Old Age Pensioners	Approx. 20
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The Primary School the Children attend is at Warehorne.
The Secondary School the Children attend is Homewood, Tenterden.
The Grammar School is the Ashford Grammar.
Transport is arranged for all these Children.

Organisations etc

Parish Council
Fairchild Church Council
British Legion (HQ Hamstreet)
Young Wives Guild
Youth Club
Sunday School

Farming

There are two large farms:

- 1) Arable with a pig enterprise, each sow and litter having a separate pen, about 12 feet square and they are reared to bacon.
- 2) Dairy with a large herd.

Both the above have four tied cottages.

There is a poultry farm from where are on deep litter. The eggs produced are for hatching.

This farm has two tied cottages.

There is a fruit farm growing mainly Cox apples and a cherry orchard.

There are several smaller farms and smallholdings, comprising sheep, free range poultry, hops and seed crops.

Two families have horses.

Services

Electricity	Seeboard
Gas	Nil
Water	Mid Kent Water Co.
Post Office	Post Office & General Store
Shop & General Store	Mr Worsley
Post Box	Post Office Appledore Station
Telephone Kiosks	Post Office Appledore Station
Railway Station	Appledore (Actually in Parish of Kenardington)
Bus Service	East Kent Road Car Co. Service 112, Ashford to Rye via Appledore
Milk	Mr Bingham, Daily Delivered
Bread	Bettabake Van Delivery x3 a Week
Papers	Post Office Delivers Dailies, Sunday Privately
Doctors	Surgery Hamstreet, Dr Edward & Dr Thompson
District Nurse	From Woodchurch
Chimney Sweep	Mr Lepard
Dressmaker	Mrs Sinden
Hurdles & Fencing	L. Lomdon, Sly Corner
Builders Yard	Homewood
Public House	Railway Hotel, Appledore
Public Library	KCC, Village Hall
Welfare Clinic	KCC, Appledore Village Hall

Ministry of Housing & Local Government

Supplementary List of Buildings of Architectural or Historic Interest

Sheet & No. on Map	Description of Building
10/2	Swift Cottages
10/3	Sly Corner
10/5	Higham Farmhouse
10/6	Cherry Croft
10/9	Benchill Farmhouse

List No. 2

List of Buildings of Special Architectural or Historic Interest

Sheet & No. on Map	Description of Building	Owner(s)	Occupier(s)
10/1	Church of St Mary	The Vicar, Appledore Vicarage, Ashford, Kent	The Vicar
10/4	Smith's Farmhouse	W . F . & E . M . Goodwin	Owners
10/7	Place Farmhouse, (Called Kenardington Place on Map)	K.A. Ashby Dean Court, Brookland, Kent	J.D. Crowther
10/8	High House	F.D. Stapley	Owner

Provisional List of Buildings of Architectural or Historic Interest

Kenardington is a fairly small Parish in the Southeast corner of Tenterden Rural District and bounded by East Ashford Rural District on the Northeast and by Romney Marsh Rural District on the Southeast. It's Southern half, which is bisected by the Royal Military Canal, is wholly marshland.

There is little or no village, other than recent post-war Council house development. Manor farm is a fine timber-framed house, (Grade II*).

Sheet & No. on Map	Grade	Description	
19/1	B	Church of St Mary	<p>Parish Church. Chancel, Nave South Porch and West Tower, with a circular vice turret to the North of it.</p> <p>This is all that remains of a larger Church with North and South Aisles and Chapels which was struck by lightning in 1559.</p> <p>The Chancel is about two-thirds the width of the Nave and not central.</p> <p>The Tower is 13th Century and stands at the North-West corner of the Nave with no communication between the two but a blocked Arch on the East side of the Tower which led into the demolished South Aisle.</p> <p>The Chancel and Nave are 15th Century and have blocked Arches on the South side which led into the demolished South Aisle and South Chapel.</p>
19/2	II	M a n o r Farmhouse	<p>On the Salvage List and the Kent County Planning Officer's List called Manor House.</p> <p>Large L-shaped timber-framed building with plastered front, the first floor of the Northeast and Northwest Fronts oversailing on brackets.</p> <p>Steeply pitched hipped roof.</p> <p>Casement windows with small, square leaded panes.</p> <p>Two storey, 6 windows facing Northeast, 3 windows facing Northwest.</p> <p>Brick chimney breast on the Southwest wall of the Southeast wing.</p>
19/3	III	Swift Cottages	<p>18th Century exterior to a probably older building.</p> <p>Two storey, 4 windows.</p> <p>Ground floor red brick on a base of stone rubble, above weather boarded.</p> <p>Tiled roof. Casement windows two-storey, 4 windows.</p> <p>Brick chimney breast on the North-East wall.</p>

Sheet & No. on Map	Grade	Description	
19/4	III	Sly Corner	One of two cottages. The former East cottage is the original portion and has an 18 th Century exterior to an older building. Two storey, 2 windows. Painted brick. Hipped tiled roof. Sash windows with glazed bars intact. Chimney breast on the East wall. The former West cottage is a later addition of 2 windows, its first-floor tile hung, with casement windows.
19/5	II	S m i t h ' s Farmhouse	Probably timber-framed building refaced with painted brick. Stringcourse. Hipped tiled roof, casement windows – two storey 4 windows.
19/6	III	Higham House	18th Century exterior to a probably older building. Two storey, two windows. Ground floor red brick, above weather boarded. Steeply pitched hipped tiled roof. Two casement windows, 2 sash windows with glazed bars intact.
13/7	III	Cherry Croft	Timber-framed building refaced on ground floor with painted brick, above tile hung. Hipped tiled roof. Casement windows with small square leaded panes. Two storey with 3 windows.
13/8	II	Place Farmhouse (C a l l e d Kenardington Place on map)	18 th Century front to a probably older building. Two storey, 4 windows. Red brick. Steeply pitched hipped tiled roof. Casement windows with small square leaded panes. Trellised wooden porch
13/9	II	High House	Late 18 th Century Two storey, 3 windows. Fronted with red brick, the sides red brick and grey headers. Long and short wooden quoins and modillion eaves, cornice painted white. Tiled roof. Glazed bars intact. Two bays on both floors – doorway between with Doric pilasters, ped? segmental fanlight of elaborate pattern, keystone and door of 6 panels
13/10	III	B e n c h i l l Farmhouse	Not now a farm. Probably 17 th Century. Refaced with red brick. Hipped tiled roof, casement windows two storey, 3 windows

