

ENGLISH HERITAGE

*NATIONAL MONUMENTS RECORD*

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# ENGLISH HERITAGE

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## INVOICE

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17 May 2000

Mr Brian Philp  
Kent Archaeological Rescue Unit  
Roman Painted House  
New Street  
Dover  
Kent CT 17 9 AJ

Dear Mr Philp,

### **An intriguing feature in Bridge**

My very brief conversation with you last Saturday in Faversham encourages me to think that you may find the following of interest. I enclose:

1. A copy of a photograph in the NMR collection at Swindon, taken on 2/2/1982, showing a portion of a field near Bridge, adjacent to the old A2 which runs diagonally across the picture. There is a known Anglo-saxon burial complex in the top corner of the field, but nearby there is the mark of a largish hexagonal structure. A comment held at Swindon suggests that it is possibly a WW11 military installation. It is not now visible on the ground, which is currently sheep pasture. In 1982 it appears to have been ploughed. Extrapolation from the dimensions of the nearby houses (of which mine is one) suggests that it is approx 36-37 metres maximum diameter, or 32 metres across the parallel sides of the inner hexagon. It is situated at what is to all intents and purposes the highest point of the hill.
2. A drawing of what I (perhaps fancifully) perceive to be its principal features - more clearly visible on the original.
3. A copy of pp 190-193 of a privately printed volume (1886) by FT Vine, then vicar of Patribourne, *Caesar in Kent*, in the possession of Richard Neame, Esq, current owner of the field. From this we see that it predates WW11, and was clearly visible on the ground.
4. This is confirmed by the extract from MS comments on the book made by Matthew Bell, Esq, the landowner in 1886. The tenor of Bell's remarks is largely to rubbish and disparage

Mr Vine's deductions about Caesar (which are indeed thoroughly imaginative). He does agree however about the reality of the hexagon.

I find it hard to suppose that a fir plantation should have deserved so perfect and elaborately designed an enclosure. The rounded corners I detect appear to be centred on the angles of the inner hexagon. I do not know the whereabouts of the second hexagon that is mentioned. The 1838 tithe map identifies 'Star Hill', but no woodland is marked.

I would be delighted to kindle your interest in this, and to know what you make of it, as well as to learn what possibility there might be of further investigation, supposing it to be of significance. May I also add that I enjoyed your talk (and the whole day in Faversham) very much indeed. You managed to make the rigours of a winter excavation into an exciting and inspiring episode, and the results, in spite of numb fingers, are very impressive.

Yours sincerely,

Maurice M Raraty  
Hon Treasurer, Bridge & District History Society

S. 52, 57, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63

# ORDNANCE SURVEY



SHEET TR 15 SE

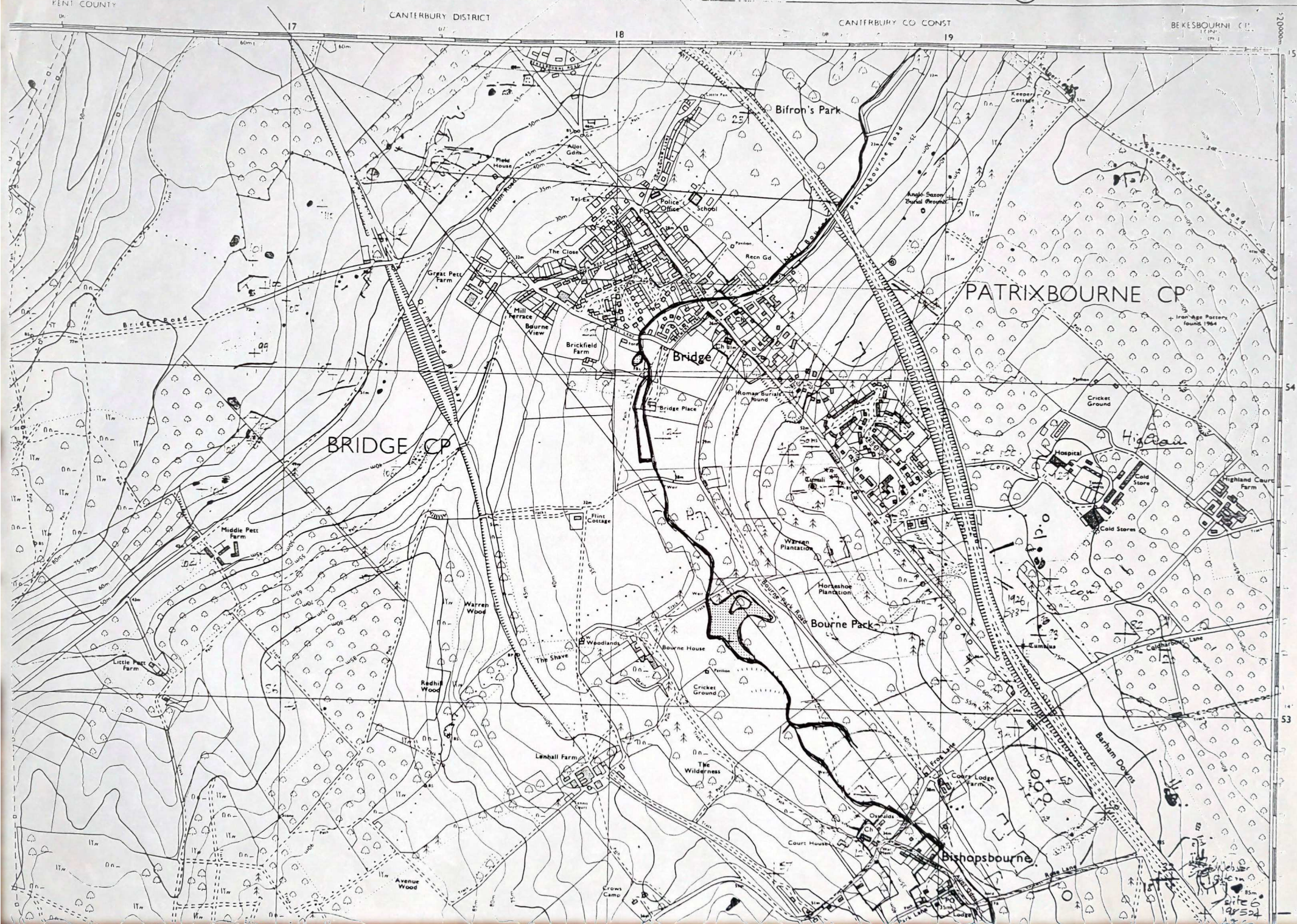
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