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the growth
of a
settlement

a geography project

by L. gamlyn 412-512

mcmLxxxvii

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INTRODUCTION

This is a project all about Etchinghill, a village of about three hundred people which is steeped in Jewish History.

AIM

The project gets its title from the main question which it is trying to answer, how has the village grown as a settlement since the arrival of its first inhabitants? Also, what have the geographical factors been that have influenced the growth of Etchinghill.

My aims were to answer the above questions as concisely and as simply as possible, which I have tried to do in the following pages. The methods used, along with the techniques, have been placed into three separate parts to give the project maximum depth:

OBJECTIVES

The first section, entitled 'How did Etchinghill get its name?' is the shortest, and sets out to show how the growth and other factors influenced the name and how it has changed in a space of over a thousand years. It succeeds in doing this and adds interest to the project, also stating a few folk tales of the area.

The second section explores much more deeply the growth, with a chronology of the history being stated from c1900 BC to the present day and is probably the best way in which the information could be given.

The last section, a pen portrait of the village, links in with the second and compares the change in lifestyle of now with the turn of the century. The help of locals in this particular section was worth more

than money can buy.

TA When I first started the project I thought that it would be near impossible to research anything about Etchingham. However I was proved wrong and the limited amounts of information I have had been used as much as possible. Thus there were many disadvantages with such things as population pyramids being impossible to draw.

ATTN Many methods were still used with all the work being my own (apart from the street plan and old photocopied photographs).

In all, twenty five photographs were used with the writing, to give the reader who doesn't know Etchingham some picture of it. My photographic skills are limited and thus many pictures were trimmed, with nothing that could be done about the photograph's focus.

The Lists and Indexes near the front help to hold the project together along with the acknowledgements and bibliography at the rear.

Many maps have been used, invaluable to show the growth, however old maps, such as on pages ten and fifteen lack the correct scale and this is thus disadvantageous.

The few other diagrams shown have been done to help make the reader understand and to give examples of other skills.

I feel that the growth map was very successful as an overlay and shows 140 years of growth on one page.

The 'new and then' photographs were again successful in showing the change that

the village went through. It was a pity that there weren't many photographs available.

The growth curve is probably the biggest failing with no scale on the axes due to lack of information, however it does give a rough guide to growth.

RESEARCH

Researching took place at the library mainly, along with asking locals for help. Lymington Historical Society also gave me some information.

As far as I know, I am the only person to undertake such a project and have very much enjoyed compiling it.

Lee 

LEE GAMLYN

HOW DID ETCHINGHILL GET ITS NAME ?

If you asked any local amateur historian the above question, you would get half a dozen conflicting stories - the truth is nobody knows for certain, with there being a handful of different spellings in print. However, there is one possibility which has the greatest credence:

Way back in the seventh century, St. Ethelburga used to commute between her nunnery in Lyminge and a church in Paddlesworth (now St. Oswalds). This journey took her through the slope to the east of Etchinghill now called Tedders Leas.

According to Judith Glovers 'The place names of Kent', the earliest recorded name of Etchinghill is TETTING HIELDE, which can be translated to read TETTA'S SLOPE (Arthur Davis writes that the common nickname for St. Ethelburga was TATA), so taking into account that in the seventh century English was spoken and hardly written could Etchinghill mean ST. ETHELBURGA'S SLOPE and Tedders Leas, TATA'S LEES ?

Another theory is that 'tetting' has various possible meanings but could be connected with the stream that runs through the village, meaning 'bubbling'.

It is also written that in 1485 Tedders Leas was called TEDWARD LEES, Leas meaning a natural or artificial clearing in woodland. It seems that this could have been called after a man - EDWARD - 'to or

at Edward's Lees', becoming 'T'EDWARDS LEES'.

However, confusing the situation more is a map of c1700, drawn by Edward Hasted (p.10) which gives Teddams Lees the name of 'TALLER LEES'.

When trying to trace back the name of EACHENDHILL it is interesting to see that in Brian Hart's 'The Elham Valley Line 1887-1947' the village was known by the title of Etchinghill, while the tunnel and bridges belong to Eachendhill.

DIFFERENT NAMES OVER THE YEARS

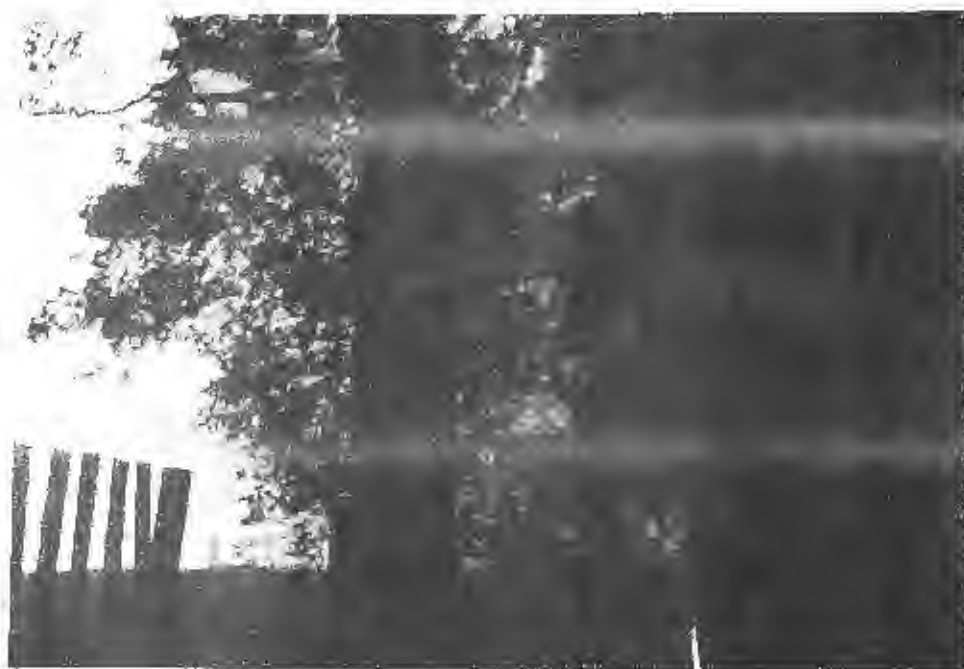
?	TETTING HIELDE
?	TETTINGEHelde
1240	TETTINGHELD
1285	TETINGHELDE
1327	TETYNGHELD
1483	ETYNNGHYLDE
?	ETCHINGHELD
1700	EACHAND
1700	ECHINGHILL
1829	ETCHINGHILL
1878	EACHEND HILL
?	EACH END HILL
1906	ETCHINGHILL
1939	EACHENDHILL
1961	ETCHINGHILL

The theory of William Maroden (former owner of the New Inn) that the name Eachendhill existed up to the war and that

ETCHINGHILL is a new name, a 'stanged down' version used by the army based in the area during the war must therefore be wrong. However, he did suggest that the name Eachendhill came about because which ever way you leave the village you must go up or down a hill.

Eachendhill Sign

2



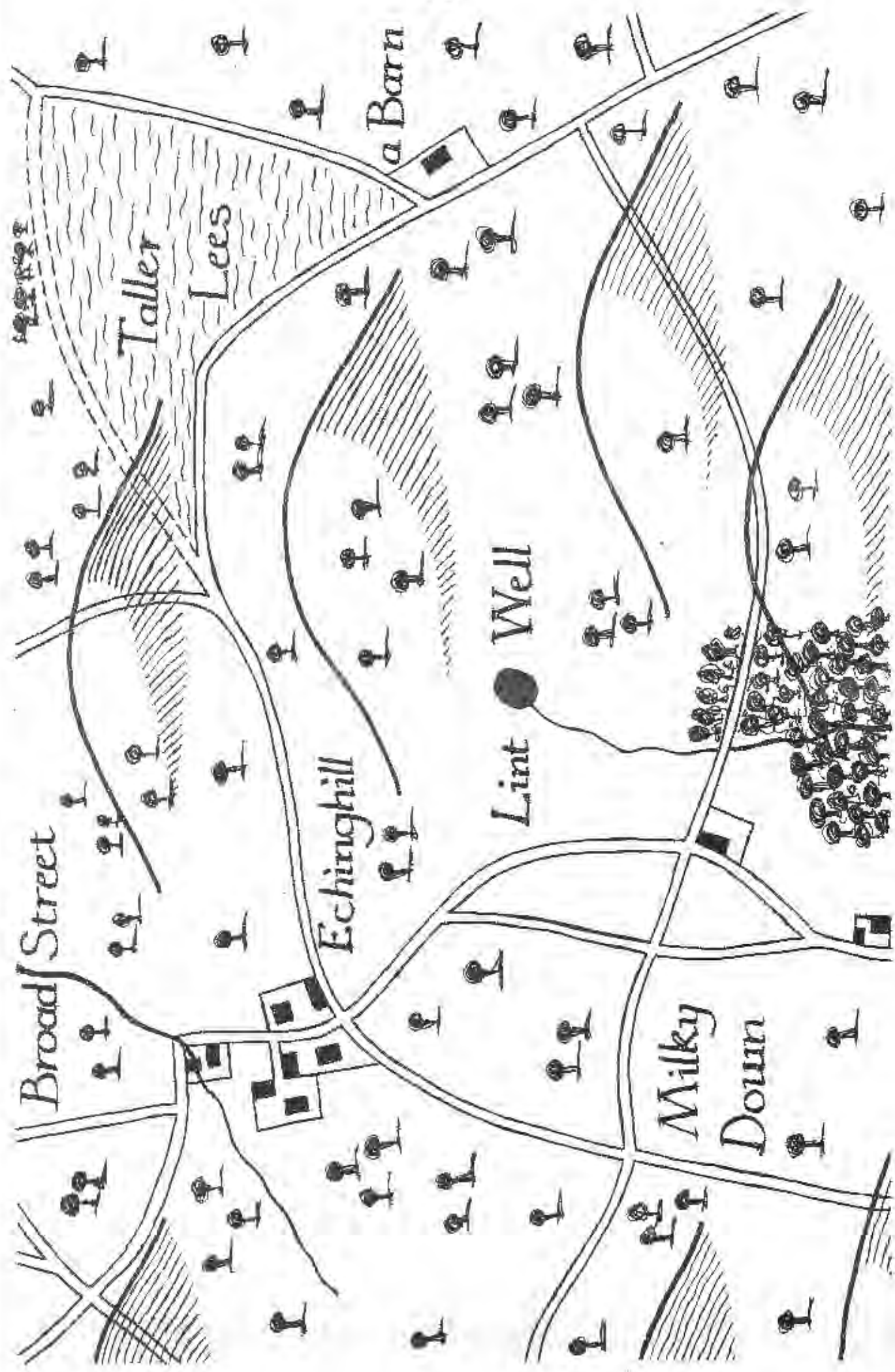
Above is a modern photograph of a public footpath sign found on Broad Street pointing in the direction of Etchinghill. It was erected there in 1945 just after the war, due to the fact that all signposts were taken down during the war so enemy spies would be confused on landing. Also with the threat of a German invasion it was felt that the absence of signposts would cause confusion.

Edward Hasted's 'Topographical survey of the county of Kent' quotes '.... near Folkestone, is the hamlet of Echinghill

9
or Eachand, corruptly so called for Ikenild
close under the hill of which name it lies,
the principal house in which formerly
belonged to the Spicers, of Stanford (see p. 46);
hence the road leads to Hythe.... This
passage, dated about 1700, has the only
known reference to Ikenild close. On p. 10 a
map from the same book shows the village,
which accompanies the writing.

This map was updated in 1756 where the
only visible change is that TALLER LEES
has become TETTERS LEESE. This helps to
back up a theory that Teetelars Heas is
so called because the once King of Kent,
Ethelbert gave his daughters (one of which
was St. Ethelburga) Teetelars Heas House
calling it 'our darlings', which is what,
supposedly, 'tettars' means.

MAP DATED 1700 FROM EDWARD HASTED'S 'TOPOGRAPHICAL SURVEY OF THE COUNTY OF KENT'



A CHRONOLOGY OF THE HISTORY OF ETCHINGHILL

The idea of the following chronology is to re-create the growth of Etchinghill as it happened, by building up the history. Most dates are precise, however, some are tentative, and guidelines are given to be as correct as possible.

PREHISTORIC

There is no evidence of a prehistoric settlement at Etchinghill, the first signs of one came about:

1900 BC - 500 BC

These are the dates of the Bronze Age, from which we get our first clues.

Roughly south-west of Etchinghill lie a clump of three tumuli (marked as four on the map, page 13). These burial mounds are round barrows which are known to be built in the Bronze age. They command a great position, from them on a good day France may be seen in one direction and in the other the fire hills of Hastings. A Bronze Age settlement would therefore be situated nearby at a water spring, therefore the chances favour Etchinghill as this settlement.

On page 15 is a diagram of a cross-section of such tumuli with there being a 'Report on Tumuli at Brockman's Bushes, near Hythe' taken from 'Archaeologia Cantana 1951 VOL LXIV', below.

Number one; at the junction of the old Trackway from Lyminge to Hythe and the Trackway from Etchinghill. A Round Barrow of diameter forty feet and height six feet with a very slight

depression in its crown. There is slight evidence of a surrounding ditch.

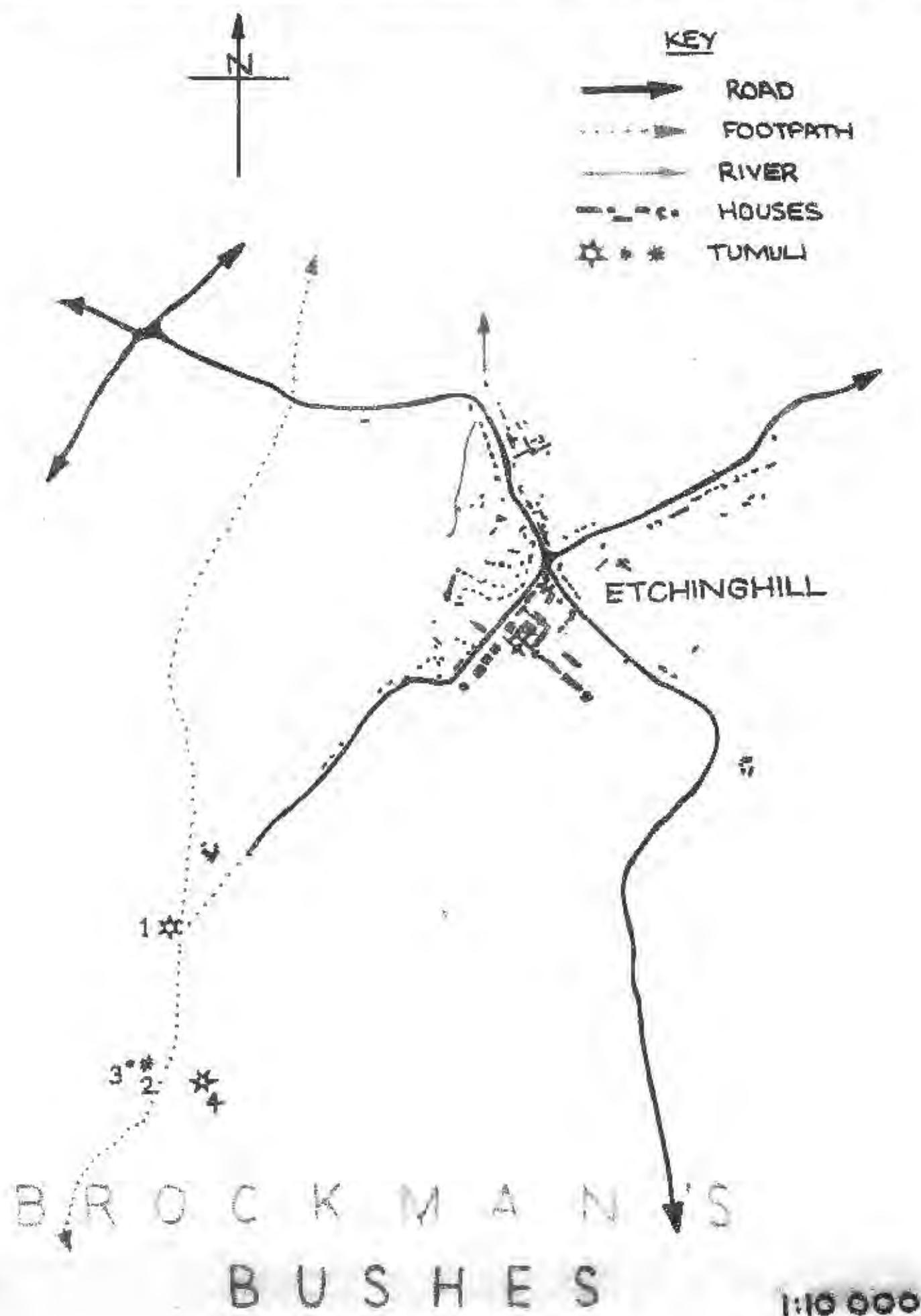
Tumulus No.1

3



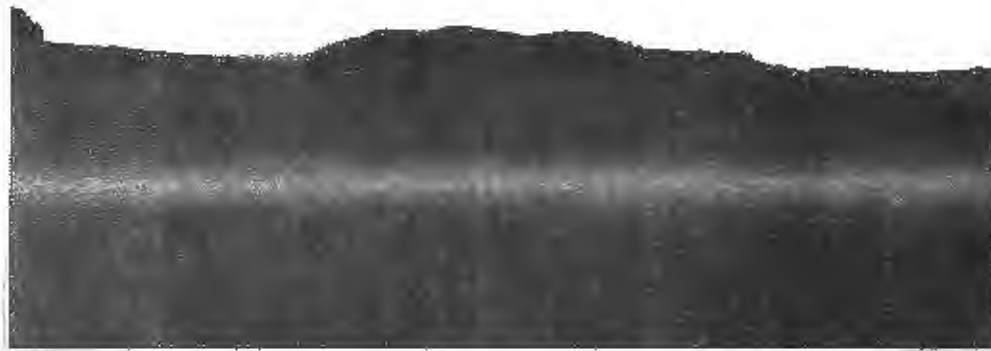
Number two ; south of number one, close to, and to the west of the track above mentioned. A round barrow of sixty feet diameter and about six feet high from the ditch on the north side ; on the south side the slope of the barrow is almost continuous with that of the hill side. There is slight evidence of a surrounding ditch. The ground around is heavily pitted with shell and bomb craters. (Picture, page 14 .)

Number three ; this is marked on the Ordnance Survey Map as being slightly west of number two, but owing to bombardment all trace has now disappeared.



Turnulus No. 2

4



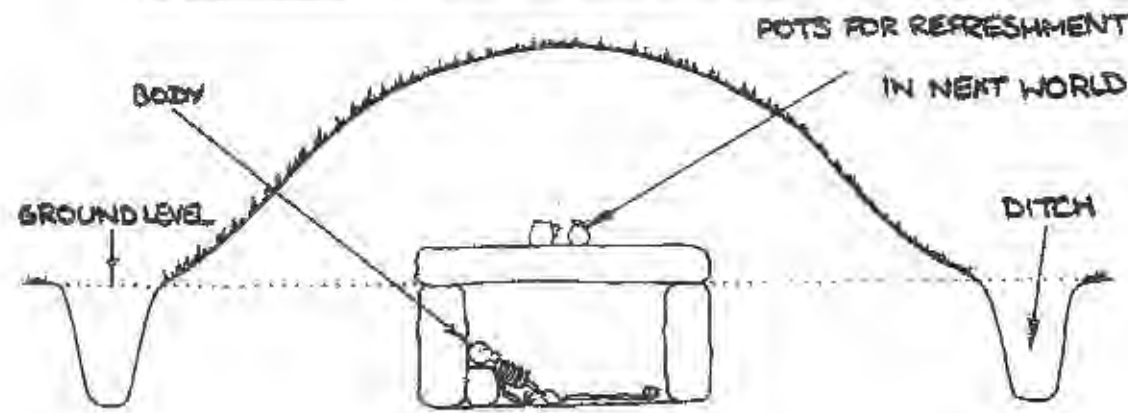
Number four ; this is east of the trackway, near the scarp of the hill. A round barrow of forty feet diameter and ten feet high with a much broken crown. It is pitted with rabbit holes where a gash has been made in the top by war activity.

Turnulus No. 4

5



CROSS-SECTION OF ROUND BARROW



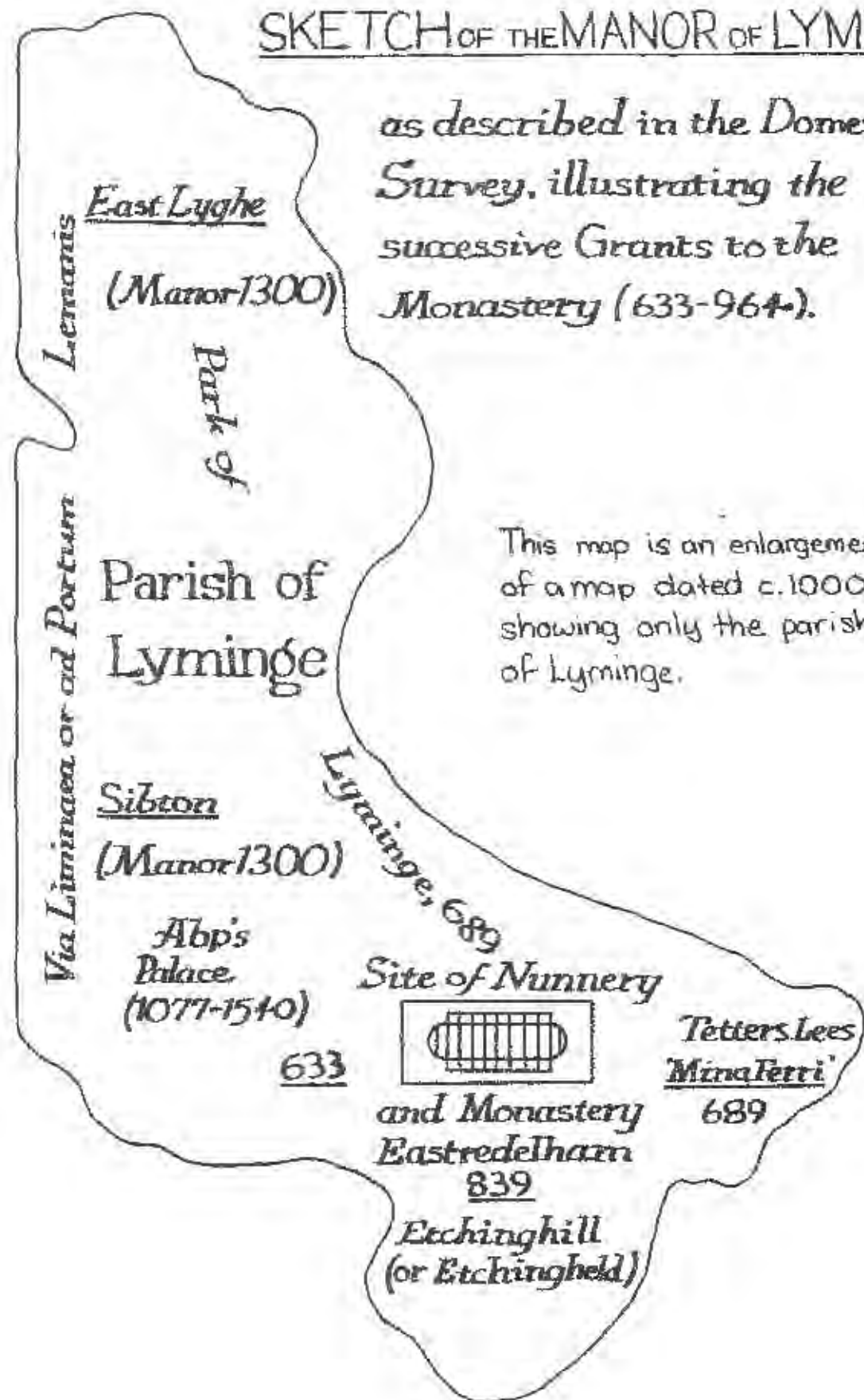
As we carry on our voyage through time there is a gap of over a thousand years within which nothing is known of the settlement of Etchingham. It may be possible to assume that the settlement continued through this time, or that there was no settlement to continue, or that a new settlement began there. We have to wait a long time for the next clue, which comes in:

689 AD

It is still impossible to locate a settlement of this time by purely finding the lodgings in this settlement alone. Such buildings would by now have totally disappeared due to the fact that they were made of decomposable materials. Therefore research must be done on landmarks and maps.

On page 16 is a map dated c1000AD showing the parish of Lyminge, but on further inspection we can tell that it has been updated (note spelling of Etchingham and such

SKETCH OF THE MANOR OF LYMINGE IV



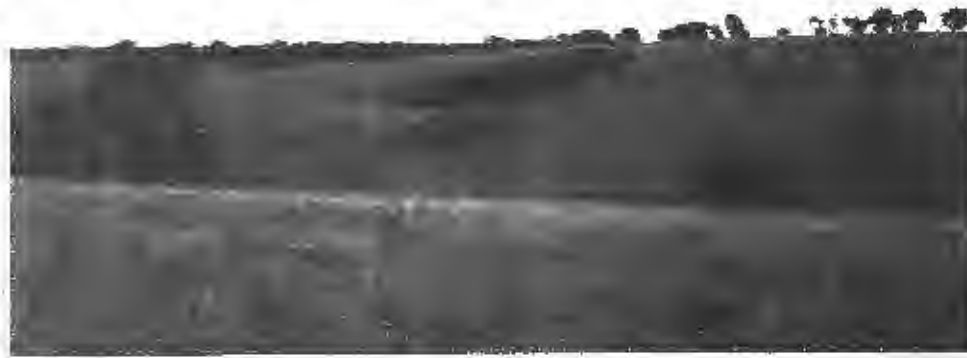
dates on 1540). However it does give us two important facts about the growth of Etchingill. We now know that there was an Etchingill in about 1000 AD (otherwise Etchingill would be in brackets) and that in 689 AD there was a 'MINA FERRI' in 'Teddens Leas'.

Latin scholars will know that 'mina ferri' may be translated to read Iron Mine.

On closer inspections of up-to-date maps we see that there were several disused pits in Teddens Leas which fit the description of Iron Mines (see page 18). Below is a photograph of one of these disused pits.

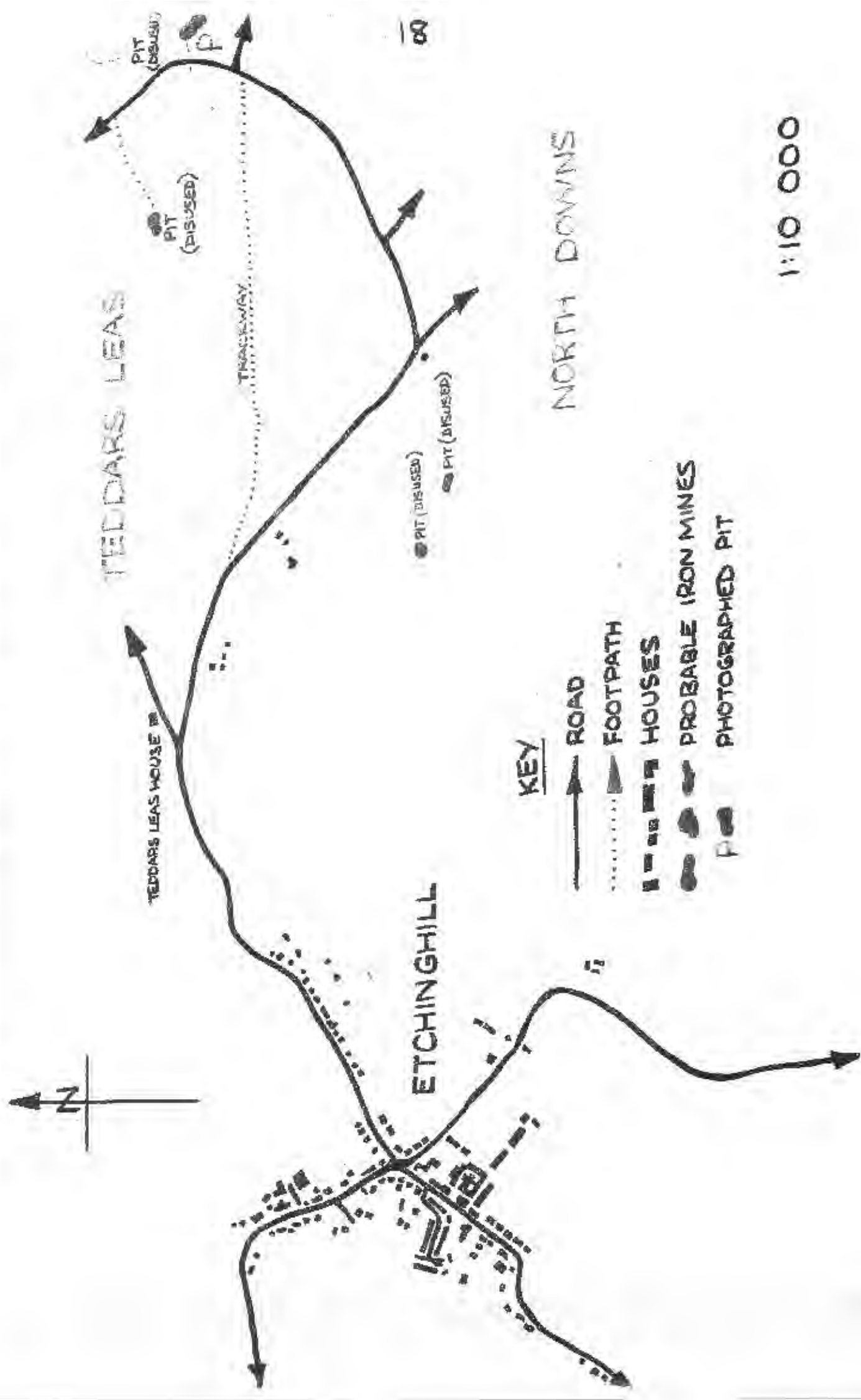
A Disused Pit at Teddens Leas

6



These mines would therefore probably have increased the population of Etchingill and also brought in vast amounts of work for locals and improved the Trackway to Paddlesworth and Hawkinge.

MAP TO SHOW POSITION OF IRON MINES ON TEDDARS LEAS V



1:10 000

It is not known when the mines eventually ran dry but it would probably have been before:
c1285

It was about then when Archbishop Pecham, then lord of the Manor of Lyminge, commissioned a memorial survey of the area. Then the tenant's lands were divided into 'yokes' with each yoke having a various service attached with it. It was that task which the tenant was obliged to perform for the lord of the Manor.

There was one group of yokes which seemed to set the pattern for all the others, and would therefore appear to be the oldest. These were called the '5½ yokes of Tettinghele'. They were COKYNESYOK, BERINGERESYOK, KETESYOK, TREWESYOK and HALF (which was reckoned to be 1½ yokes).

The survey also mentioned the cottages of Tettinghele, the owners of which had to mow three acres of the lord's meadow, spreading it, recollecting and heaping it.

The settlement of Etchingham kept a steady population through the dark ages with the next concrete facts coming, no matter how trivial in:

1483

It was then that Richard Spicer died and left a will which has since been researched. In it he gave his son, William, his house at Etynghyde, his widow, Agnes, a chamber in this house for life and a cow for its maintenance. Richard also left the grand sum of five shillings towards the bad roads of Etynghyde.

Then a year later in:

1484

John Gordin died, and also left a will. As Richard Spicer before him, he left money as well for the repair of the roads at Etymghyde, thus:-

Seven shillings to be spent on the road to Hythe between the land of (or the houses of) William Spisour and Thomas Spisour. (Westfield Lane)

Six shillings and eight pence on the lane to Newington between Henry Spicer and William Spisour. (Drive to Coombe Farm)

Six shillings and eight pence on the road leading to Dover. (Teddars Lees)

Six shillings and eight pence on the road leading to Lyminge Church between Thomas Spisour and Thomas William. (B2065 to Canterbury)

1485

This was the date when Teddars Lees was called Tedwards Lees (see page 6).

Etchinghill would probably hardly have grown in the next few centuries due to the fact that it would mainly have been owned by farmers. All the land which was not built on would have been ploughed and these houses in the village would have been farm houses. The number of Barns in the village would probably have outnumbered the houses.

1634

Spicer's Farm, now probably the oldest building in Etchinghill, was supposed to be built then, although it would be safer to say that it was built sometime in that decade with the

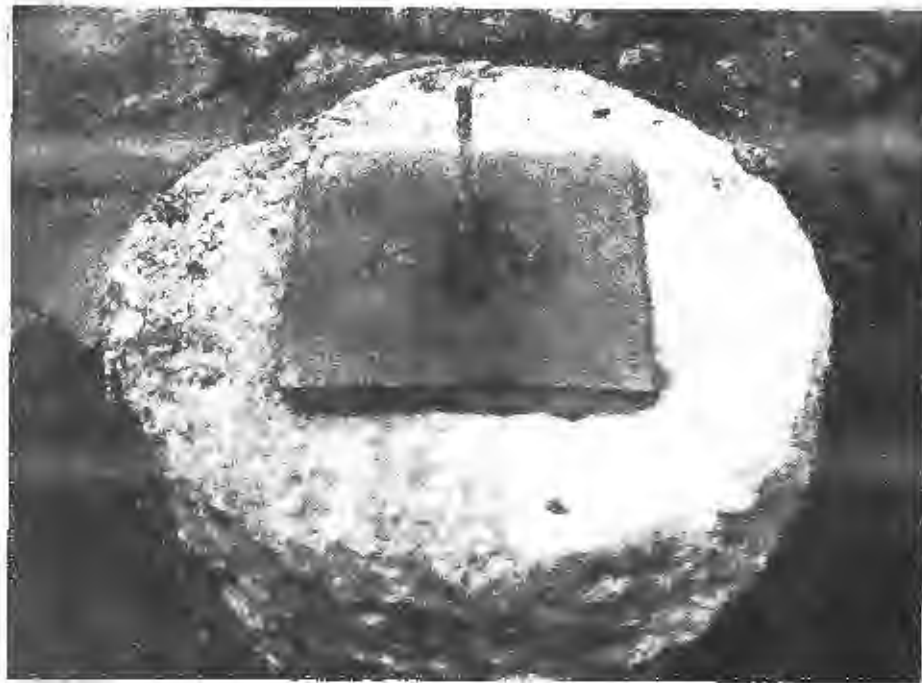
oldest part of the building being the kitchen at the rear.

1661

is the date found on a sundial at Spiker's Farm, however it might not have been there all its life.

Sundial at Spiker's Farm

7



1700

Edward Hasted gives us a good idea of what the village looks like, with his book 'The Topographical Survey of the County of Kent' which was published then. The map from his book is on page 10 with further information on pages 7, 8 and 9.

1774

This seems to be the date when Ridge House had the first stables built in what now is the Ridge Hill Equestrian Centre. The stables nearest the road which seems to be the oldest

22

have a stone (see page 48) which reads :
WR 1774. When you consider that in the
eighteenth century a house was for life and
your children often lived in the same village as
you, then a name would have been common to
that village. Such names for Etchinghill were
Spicer, Hogben and Rijden. This seems to suggest
that a man called William Rijden (?) owned
these Stables.

1835

The earliest parts of the Poor House were now
being built, creating a dramatic change on
the village (see page 31).

1840

Before the census was the Tithe map and the
one done in 1840 (-42) was of great help,
particularly in drawing the growth map (page 23).
The Tithe map gave the size of every piece of
land in the country, its owner, its occupiers
and what was on it. The map was therefore
used on the overlay to give some idea of the
growth over the 140 years that follow it.

1875

By now the Poor House was fully built and
had room for as many people as originally
planned.

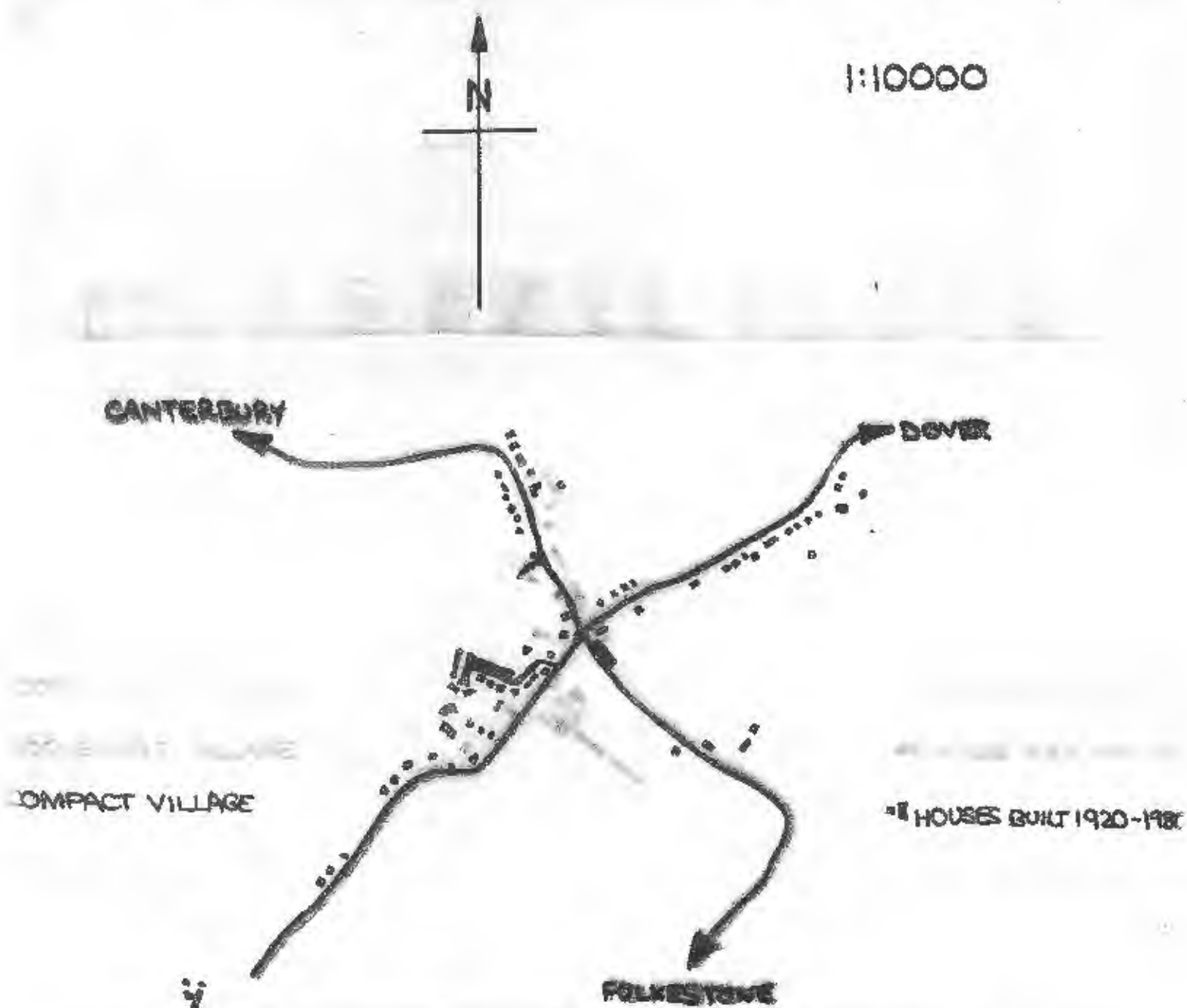
1881

Every ten years from this date the census
has been taken, which replaced the Tithe map.
This should have given us some clues as to
the growth in population of Etchinghill, but
the figures given are only those of Lyminge,
which includes Etchinghill. Although therefore

23

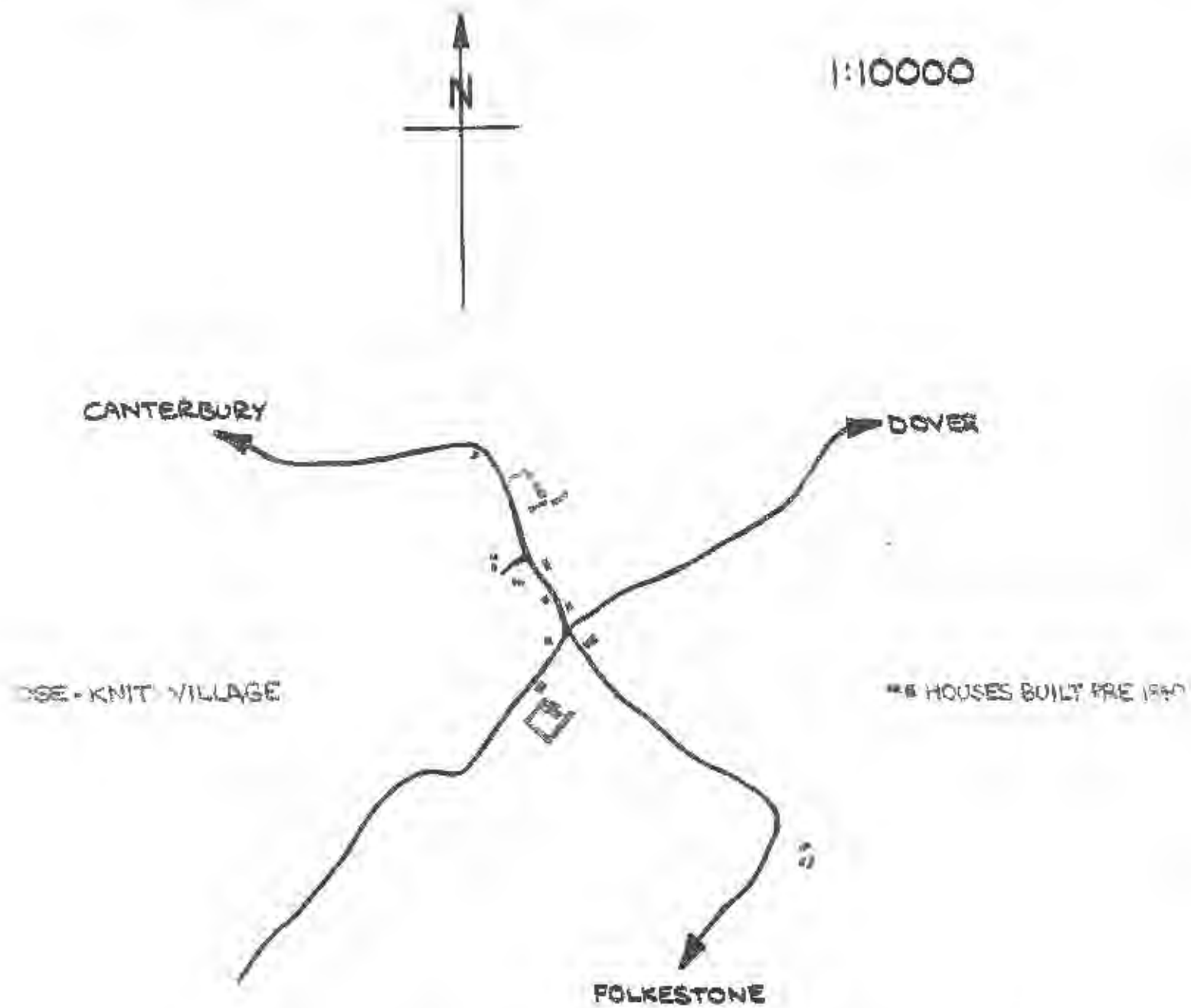
21

ETCHINGHILL GROWTH MAP 1840-1980 (OVERLAY)



The idea of this overlay map is to show how the village of Etchinghill has grown since 1840 in an easy-to-read way. The whole overlay will show all the houses in Etchinghill in 1980, but also, by giving dates shows how the loose-knit village has expanded and filled in all the gaps. Each separate overlay shows the work done in that particular period and thus the village has grown to its present state (excluding development since 1980.).

ETCHINGHILL GROWTH MAP 1840-1980 (OVERLAY)



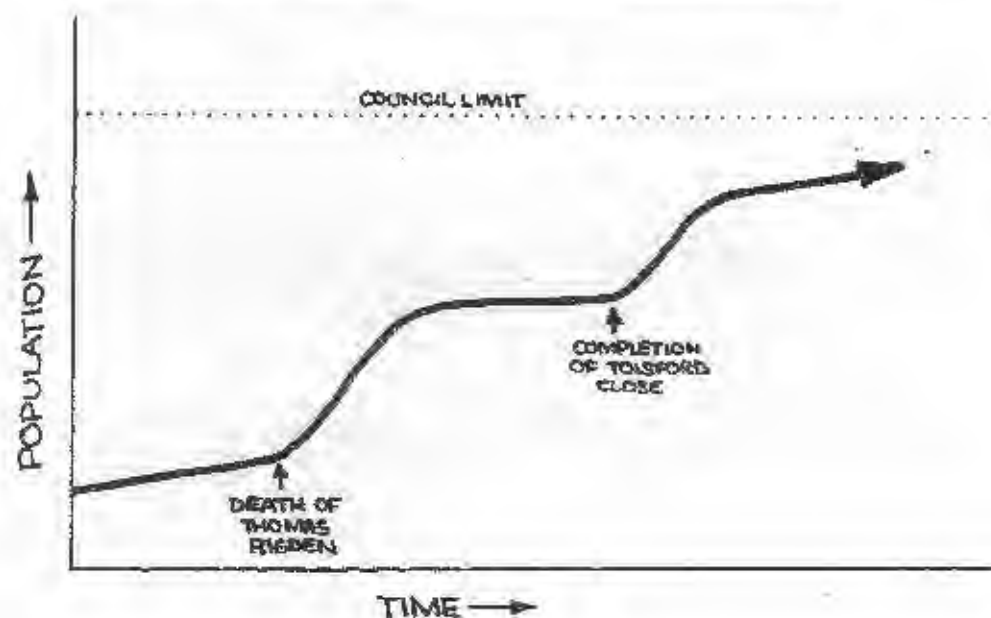
The idea of this overlay map is to show how the village of Etchingill has grown since 1840 in an easy-to-read way. The whole overlay will show all the houses in Etchingill in 1980, but also, by giving dates shows how the loose-knit village has expanded and filled in all the gaps. Each separate overlay shows the work done in that particular period and thus the village has grown to its present state (excluding development since 1980.).

We cannot predict the figures for growth, it is possible to predict the trend:

The growth would be like a double-S shaped curve as below with the influencing factors being the death of Thomas Riden and the building of Tolford Close.

GROWTH CURVE FOR ETCHINGHILL

VII



The Council Limit is due to the fact that the local council let growth take place in certain areas set by them. Planning permission is refused on any other land and the number of houses are directly proportional to the number of people.

1883

The ancestors of William Marsden (mentioned on page 7) bought the 'New Inn' and moved into it.

Railway through Etchinghill.

1886

Within two years of permission being granted the heavy earthworks at Etchinghill had been completed, and then in:

1887

The railway was opened to Folkestone.

1889

Two years after it was first opened the line was complete with trains now able to go from Folkestone to Canterbury through the Elham Valley (and Etchinghill ofcourse!).

1895

This is the date of completion of the house in the grounds of the hospital just by the main gate. The date may be found on the outside of the house.

The village made it into the twentieth century still with only a few houses and a Poor House, then in:

1913

The Ark Pub closed to become a shop (see page 50) and as if that wasn't bad enough:

1914

Was 'The Great War' as it was known then

where some Canadians were based.

1928

On January the eleventh of this year, the owner of Ridege House and of most of the land around Etchinghill, Mr. Thomas Henry Riden died (as shown on the Growth Curve, page 24). This was a very important date in the growth of Etchinghill because his land was purchased by Mr. Rumbold (Canterbury Rd. and Westfield Lane) and Mr. Wheeler (Teddens Lees) who then separately sold off the land for development (thus the population growth).

1929

The Poor House (see pages 31, 32 and 33) were then bought up by the Public Assistance Committee of the Kent County Council, which eventually led to the change over to the hospital.

Ten years later, in:

1939

War broke out for a second time. The population dropped as every man was asked to do his duty.

Spicer's Farm was taken over by the army who mounted two gun pits there. The guns were six inches in diameter and a photograph of the pits as they are now is shown on page 27.

Gun Pit at Spicers Farm



in the area, however there were no direct hits. There were also a few aeroplane crashes around Etchinghill with the Hawkinge aerodrome being only just over a mile away, sadly they were all British casualties.

There was a daily migration of pilots and navigators etc. as well, they came to Etchinghill from Hawkinge in their free time and were served food from the Tudor Cottage.

1947

Two years after the end of the war the railway had to close down due to competition from the motor car.

1962

The other reason for the growth of population in the growth curve is the building of Tolford Close. This started in 1962 and by the end of 1963, twenty six houses had been completed.

1964

The Ridge Hill school for equestrians was opened in about January of this year by Mr. Alan Fairbrass and is still going. It contains a block of stables, for more information turn to page 48.

c.1972

It was around this time that the Post Office Radio Station Mast was erected. The mast shown on page 39 is not the original, which was the same height but both are regarded as eyesores by villagers.

1983

Toloford Close received an off-shoot on its twenty-first birthday. Called Ivy Close, it contains twelve houses and twelve more families to add to the population.

There are many dates not given, the building of the New Inn for example, but that is because it isn't known. In the next section of this project the growth of the village is attacked from a different angle and should answer the questions which this section hasn't. However, some information will be repeated, unfortunately.

A GUIDED TOUR OF ETCHINGHILL

This map is best used in conjunction with the 'Portrait of a Village' and takes you on a guided tour. (It is easier if this page is removed from the file.)

ETCHINGHILL - THE PORTRAIT OF A VILLAGE

You are now to be taken on a guided tour of the village of Etchinghill. The street map on page 29 may help you if you use it in conjunction with this section.

We start the journey on the B2065 from Folkestone, emerging through the Beeches on what seems a pretty little village. The first house we see to our left is numbered 0. Built about the time of the Second World War, this house has remarkably thick walls. This is due to the fact that its original purpose was a coal store but it has since been turned into a habitual residence.

We move on further down the road and meet a large building off set with pretty gardens. St. Mary's geriatric hospital is numbered 1 and has an amazing history, playing its part in the growth of the village for over one hundred and fifty years:

St. Mary's Hospital

Up until 1835 the village of Etchinghill was tiny with only about a dozen houses, but then work started on a big Victorian building in Westfield, which is now the site of the hospital.

Originally the Elham Union Workhouse, its job was to provide the poor of the area with food and a roof over their heads, in return for daily work. The workhouse also contained a school for orphans.

Names first appeared on the parish burial records in 1836:

Susanna FRIGHT, Poor House, 1, 4 May 1836

William ALVEY, a traveller, Union's Poor House, 56, 11 Nov 1836

By 1875 the Workhouse was completed and Etchingham was completely transformed.

From a report of the 1845 committee we can tell that the 'poor wretches' were provided with a breakfast of bread skilly at 7 o'clock, they then had to work hard on the land until 11 o'clock, when they were turned out.

One member of the committee thought of this as 'inhuman' while another thought it better to 'starve the tramps out of the country.'

The report states that there were cases when, at night, the poor house was full up and tramps had to sleep in nearby stables!

Sadly many of the poor died of old age or other reasons at the Poorhouse, so a gravestone was erected in the nearby churchyard at Lyminge:

IN MEMORY OF PARISHONERS AND
STRANGLERS (?) WHO ARE BURIED
NEAR THIS PLACE AND TO THE
GLORY OF GOD WHO GATHERED
THE OUTCAST OF ISRAEL.

The workhouse contained a maternity ward, an aged women's ward, an old men's ward, a lunatic's ward, a casual ward, a canteen and its own chaplain amongst other things and was very capable for the task in hand.

Then, just under one hundred years old, in 1929, the workhouse came under control of the

Public Assistance Committee of the Kent County Council. Soon after that the change began to a geriatric hospital and new wards were being built, the tramps left the village and Etchingham's daily influx of people slowed down.

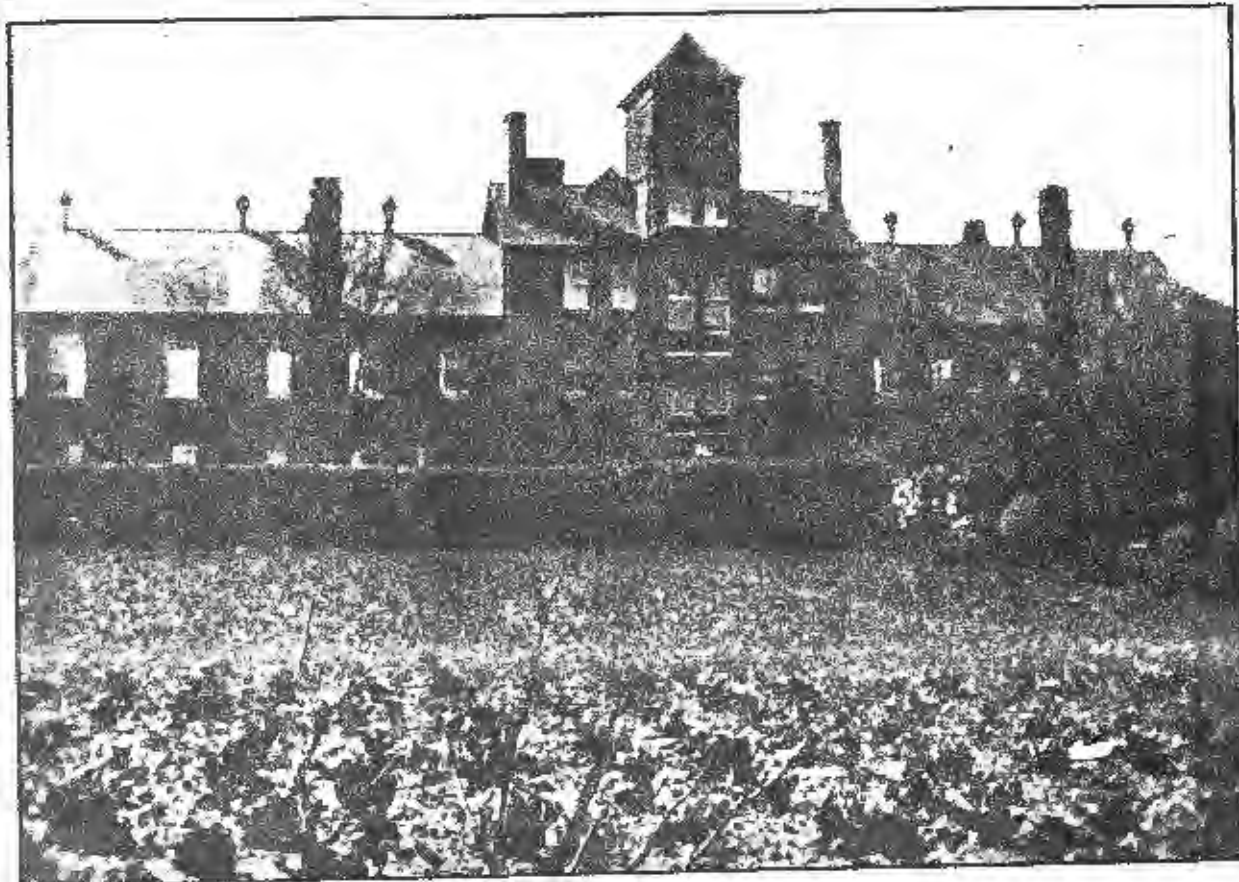
The Hospital contains the village Chapel (below) and its plans continue well into the next century despite having such an old, graceful building as its premises.

The Chapel at St. Mary's



On pages 34 to 37 are some photocopies of old photographs showing the old Workhouse and beside them some modern photographs of the hospital today.

We then move further along the main road and turn left at the crossroads up Westfield Lane. Again to our left is the hospital. This time visible are the green corrugated iron huts built by Canadians some time ago



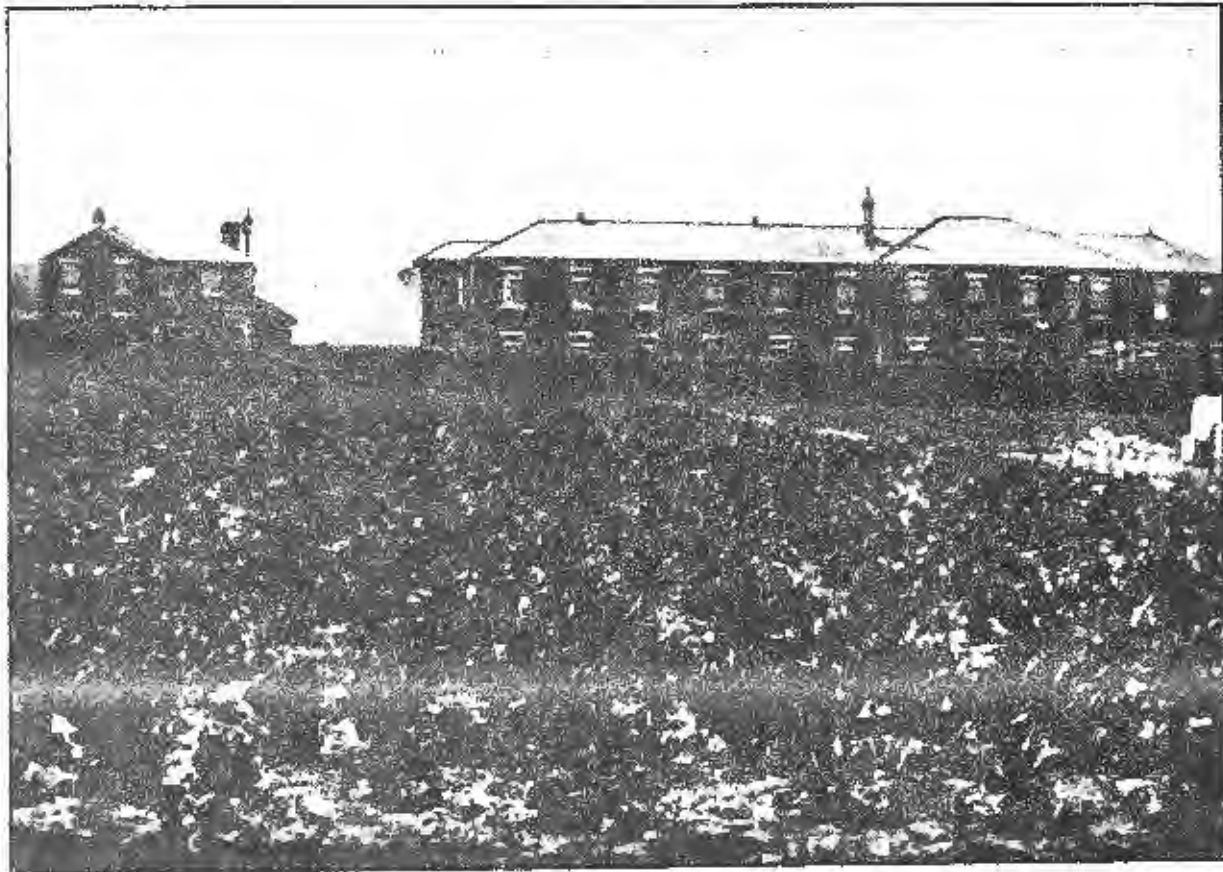
100

Above, a front view of the workhouse at the turn of the century with the cabbage fields in front and below, a similar view of the Hospital today, with a grass foreground. 100



34

11a

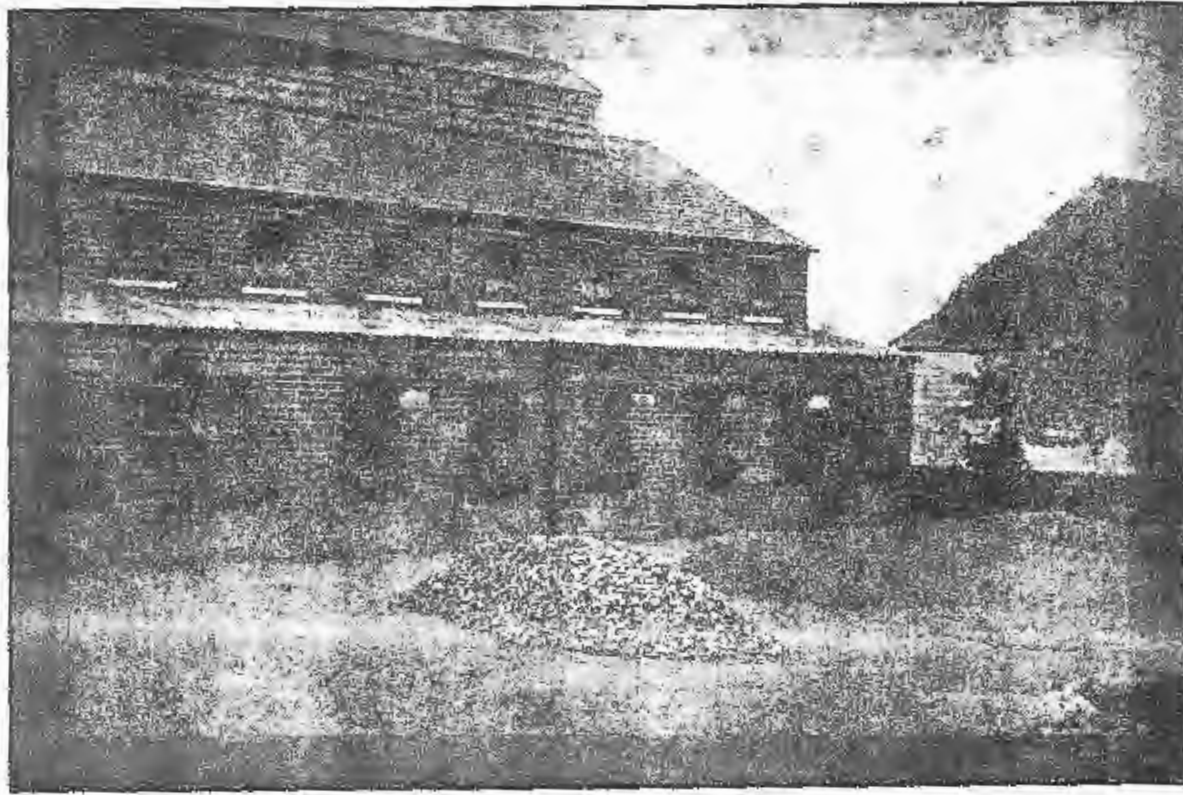


Another view of the workhouse and cabbage field above taken at the turn of the century with the same view below of the hospital in the present.

11b



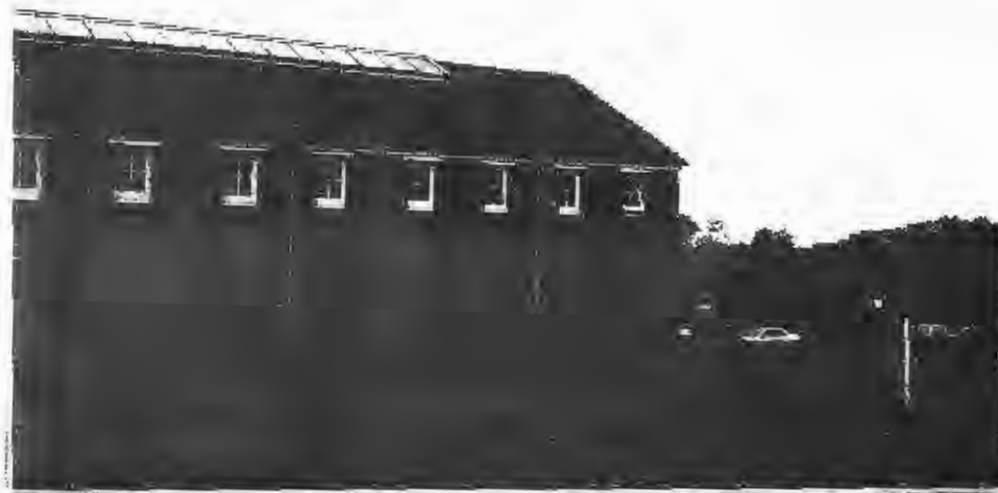
35



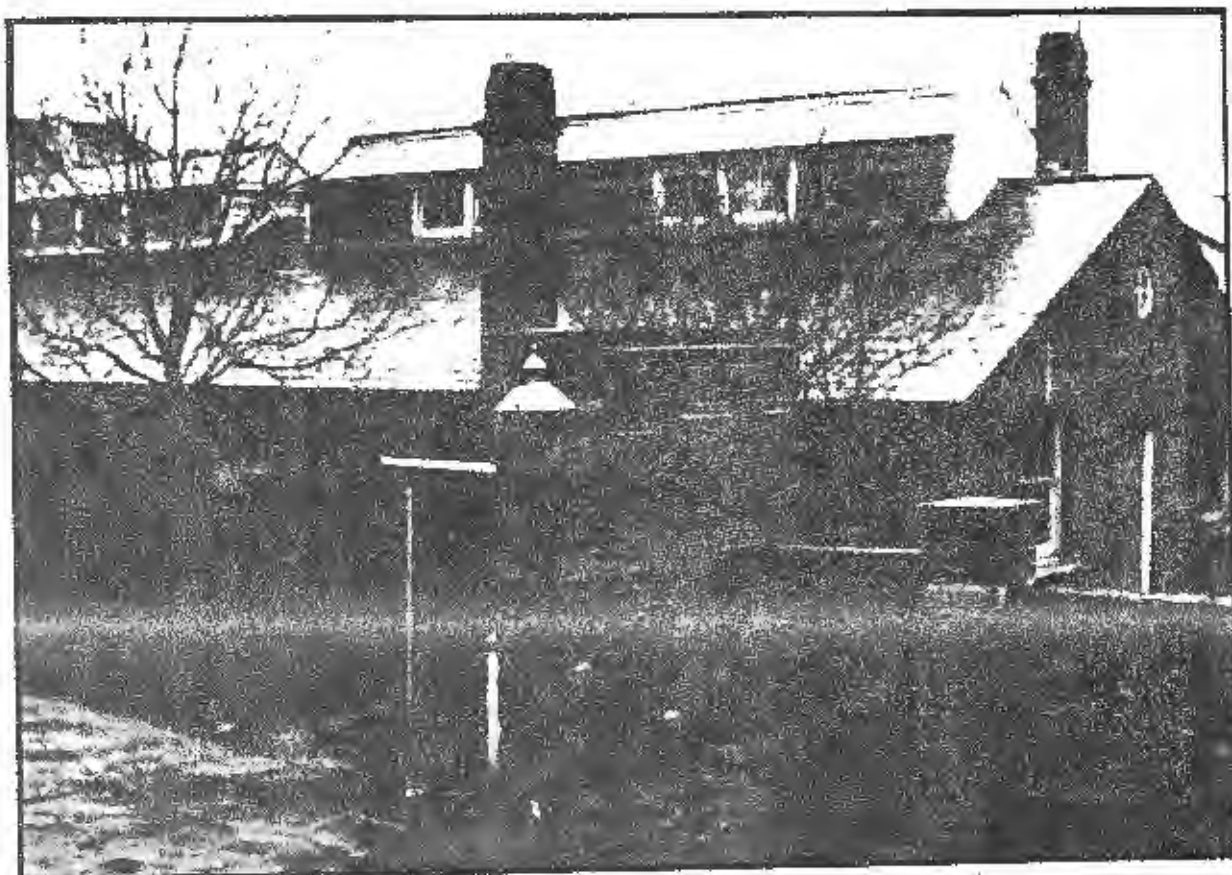
12a

An older picture this time, above, taken in the last century of the workhouse, note the renovations over the years and the barn on the far right. Again the same view below except taken in the present.

12b



12b



13a

Above is a picture of a tramp (below centre) leaving the workhouse after a hard days work. Below, a modern picture of exactly the same view.

13b



and a high brick wall which completely surrounds the hospital grounds.

Further up on the left are the houses numbered 2-10 which are built on the site of the once workhouse hop field. The land on which they are was bought was sold to Mr. Rumbold after Mr. Riggden's death and then building began on the houses.

The journey then goes up what locals call the 'New Road'. A private road not shown on the map which the MoD uses for transportation up to the 'roughs' and the Post Office Mast:

The 'Roughs' and Post Office Mast

The 'Roughs' is simply a rough area of ground positioned at the top of Westfield Lane. Owned by the Ministry of Defence since about 1911, the area is used for military manoeuvres and night exercises etc. It is the area shown on page 13 which contains the tumuli and Brockman's Bushes. Practises for trench building in the front line was done there during the first war. For a long time these trenches existed up there but now there is no trace of any such thing.

The post-office radio station and mast was erected on this land in about 1972. The area there is high above sea-level and the advantages of the sight are clear. The original mast was of the same height as the modern one but thinner, this was disassembled a few years ago.

Not long after the first mast was erected

there was an IRA scare and thus a high barbed wire fence was put up around the mast for protection. It has been there ever since.

The modern mast at Etchinghill

14



We then leave this area and descend down the other road (the one shown on the map). To the left of this road we pass houses numbered 11-17 and 19, all of which were built during the 1930s. They again were built on land owned by Mr. Riggall, but the house numbered 18, Sheridan Field is older.

Mountside cottages, numbered 20 and 21 have a long history as the local fever hospital.

The Fever Hospital

Built back in the eighteenth century, this building was required to house the sufferers of contagious diseases such as chicken pox and German measles. Around its border was a high

metal fence used to keep those outside out and those inside in. It also had its own well so as not to pollute the village water supply with diseases.

Now the house (below) has been divided into two separate cottages and still exists.

The Old Fever Hospital

15



The houses numbered 22 to 28 have no particular history and are reasonably new compared to others. However Hill View Terrace (numbers 29 to 34) is over seventy years old. It was built to house employees of the Workhouse / hospital. In the 1920s it housed two cooks, a baker and an engineer.

Further down on the left is the cul-de-sac of Tobfard Close, numbers 35-60. This is about twenty five years old, yet the field on which it was built was once a pig-farm which contained the Workhouse farmhouse.

Ivy Bank, number 61, is older than the close, though not by much. However Ivy Cottage is alot older.

Ivy Cottage

16



Older than 1840 (when shown on the Tithe map), and numbered 62, this house had a role in the village life. For it was here that the village doctor took up residence. Now there is no village doctor but the house is still inhabited and hasn't been altered.

Houses numbered 63 and 64 have a limited history and were built in the recent growth of Etchinghill.

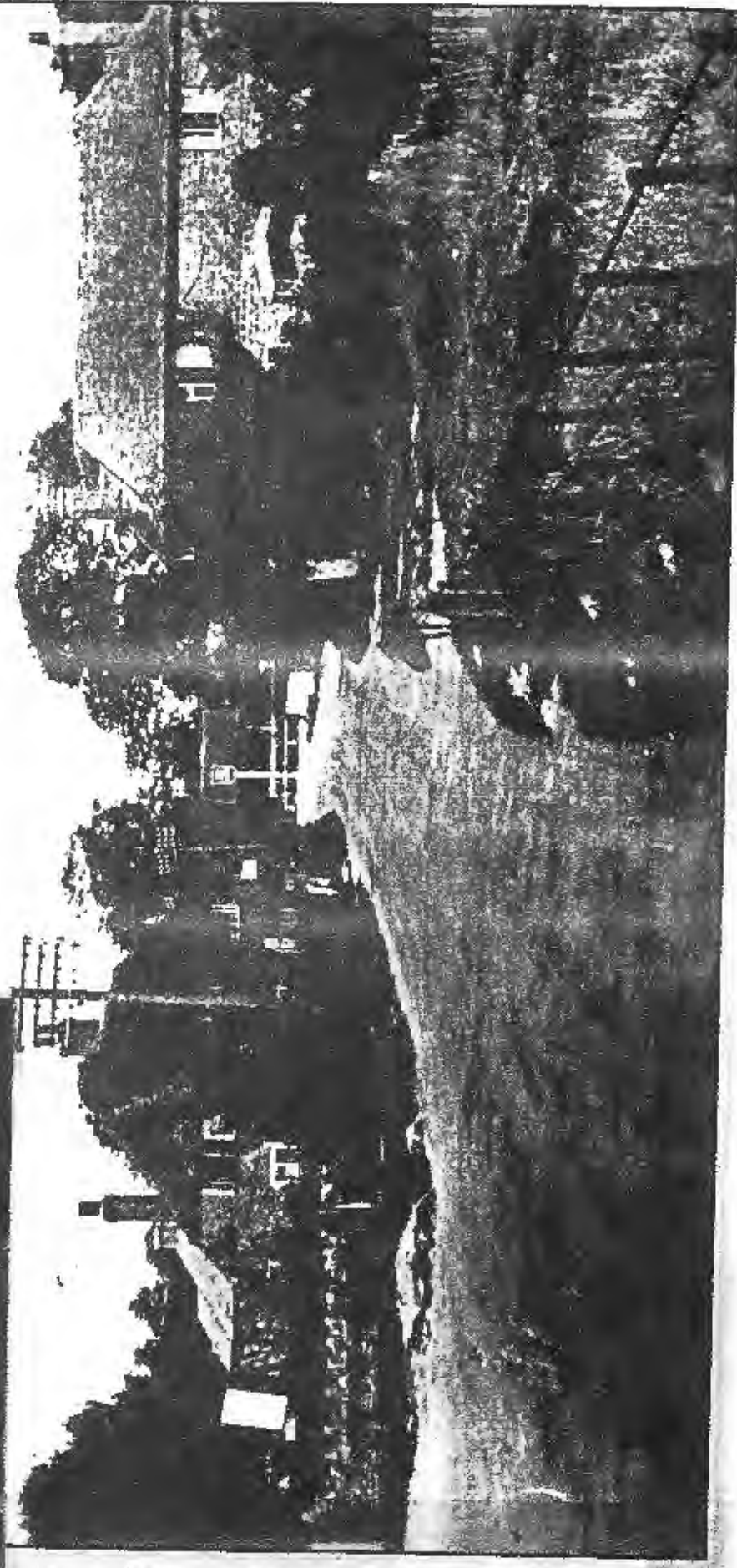
As we now turn northwards towards Lyminge on the B2065 we see several views of the main road which are shown past and present on pages 42 to 44. It is quite remarkable to see that history has stood still and the houses

ETCHINGHILL PAST AND PRESENT

These two pictures are taken of Rock cottages, Tudor cottage (both foreground) and the New Inn (background). Below is a shot from the 1900s.



Above is the modern replica. Note the once green and iron railings on the photography.

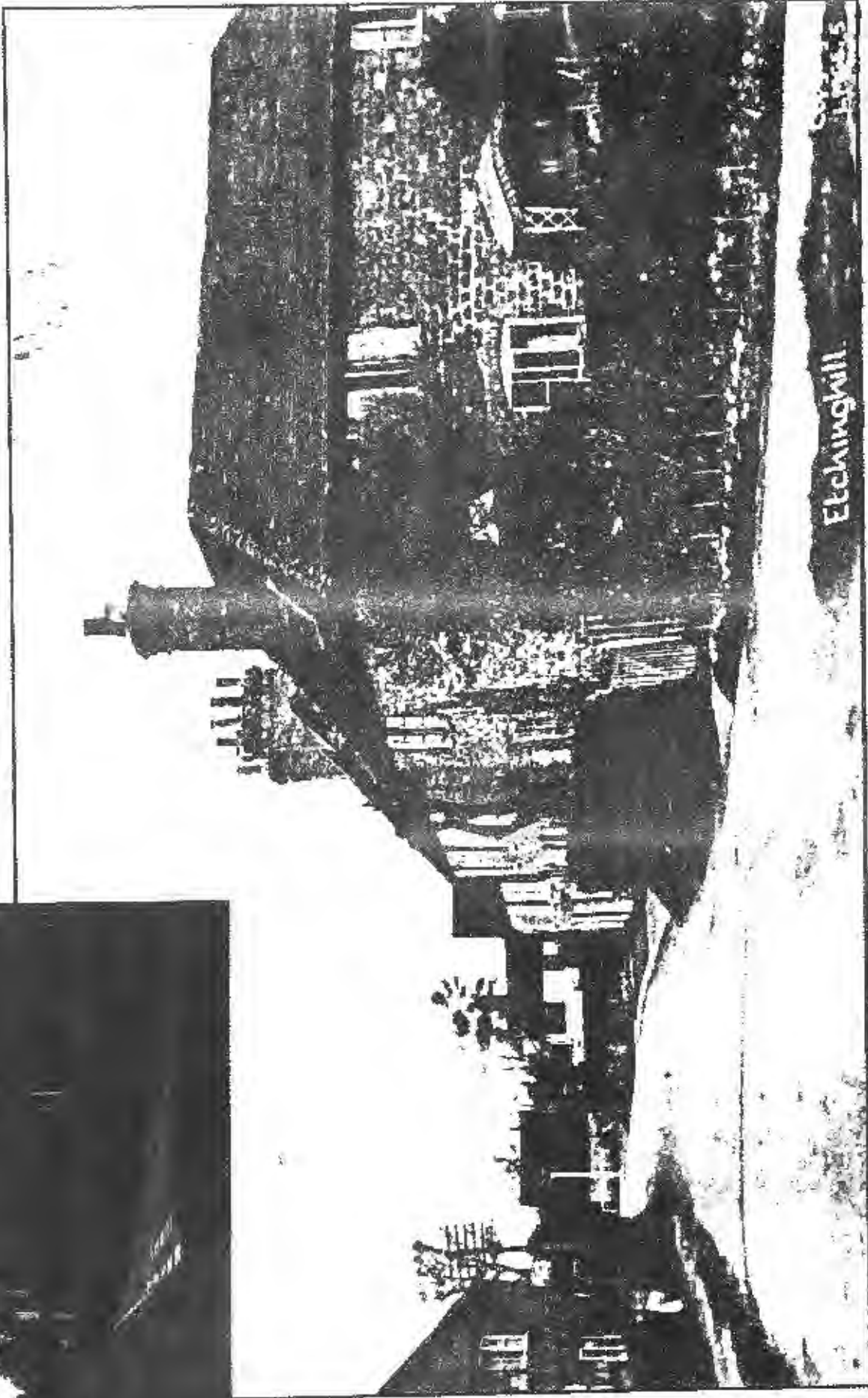


ETCHINGHILL PAST AND PRESENT

These two pictures are taken northwards along the main road. The one below was taken at the beginning of the century.

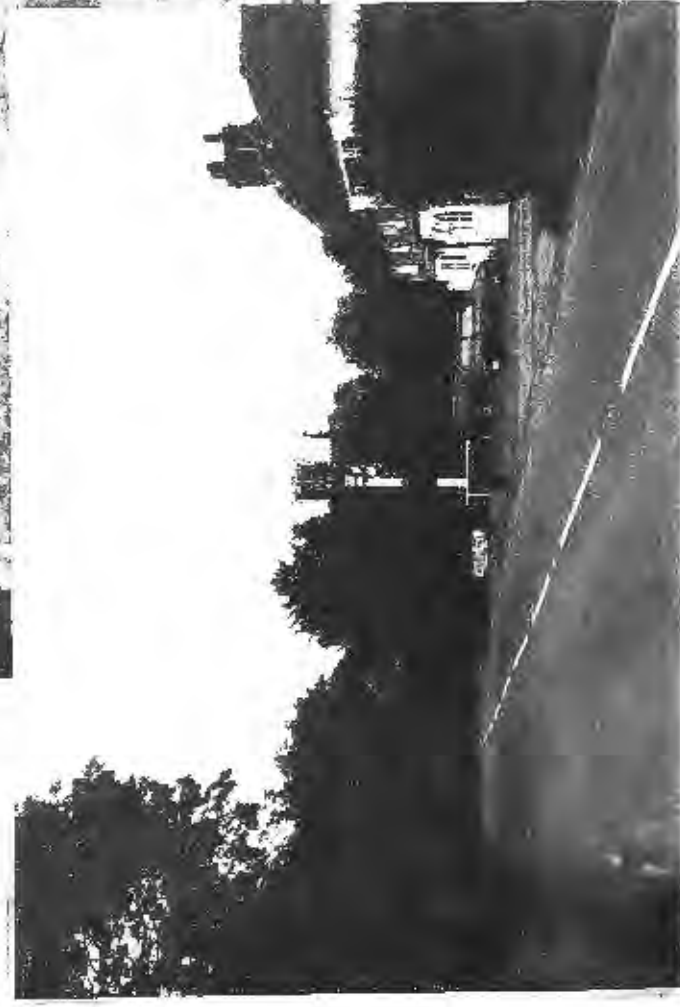
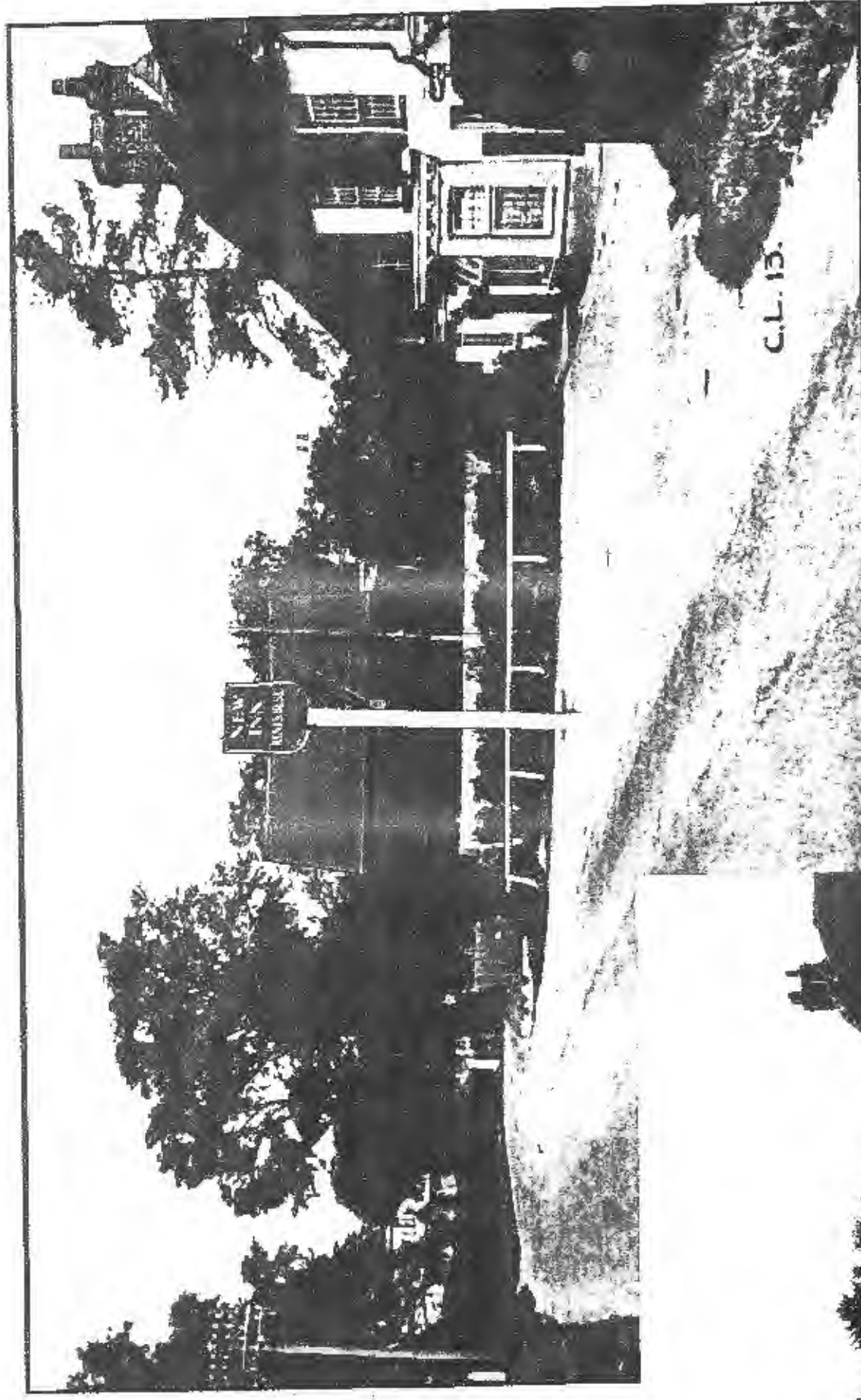


The picture above was taken in the present. Note the difference in the roadside and also in the telegraph wires.



Etchinghill.

The picture
on the right is
about eighty
years old. Again
note the
telegraph poles
and road
narrow.



ETCHINGHILL PAST AND PRESENT

These two pictures are of the New Inn
and the main road outside it. The picture
on the left is a modern one.

haven't changed.

The house numbered 65 is Tudor Cottage, if it really is a Tudor cottage then it would date back to the sixteenth century or older.

Since the beginning of this century, it has mainly been used as a shop and was for some time split into two separate houses.

Ridge lodge, number 66 is unimportant towards the growth of the settlement.

Tudor Cottage

20



The village hall, 67, is a corrugated iron building built on land belonging to Spicer's Farm around the time of the first World War. Originally built to house a men's working club it is now still in use and houses events such as WI meetings or village barbecues etc.

Next we come to three houses set back

10

to our left which are even shown on Edward Hootead's 1700 map (page 10), numbered 68, 69 and 70. Number 68 is Spicer's Farm:

Spicer's Farm

Originally built in the 1630s as a farm workers building, this house is now probably the most picturesque house in the village. Below we can see it in its full splendour with the jetty which completely surrounds the original building and the Dragon Beam, which helps to hold the house together.

Spicer's Farm

21



The house was only recently renovated to show all the glorious oak beams and brickwork. Pictures shown on pages 21 and 27 come from Spicer's Farm.

Before the war, the house was split into two separate houses owned by Mr. Golding (shepherd)

- 71 -

and Mr. Hallen (estate carpenter). It was then reformed to one residence and was owned by Mr. Chappel (a member of the staff at Beachborough School) before being transferred to the army during the war.

Six inch guns were mounted there then and even today you can see the pits where they were mounted. The residence then passed to Mr. Totchney, General Hornby and finally Mr. White, the present owner.

Ridge Cottage and Brook house, numbered 69 and 70 respectively have a history almost as long. Ridge Cottage was owned in the 1920s by two people (again it was split) and Brook House, Mrs. Palmer.

Houses numbered 71 to 76 were built after Mr. Rigelens death on the site of an orchard. Sun Lodge, number 71 was the policeman's residence for many years (that was when the village had its own policeman).

We carry on along the road until we get to the corner near the cricket ground. House number 77 is Watercross Farm. Although not the original, there has been a house there for centuries. It is no coincidence that the East Brook is near by for in times gone past, watercross was really farmed there. Back in the 1920's the owner of the farm was Mr. Hogben who was, of course, a farmer.

We then turn round at the cricket ground to see the other side of the road.

Houses 78, 79 and 80 are reasonably modern and were built this century.

The Housing complex of four houses numbered 81 to 84 was originally one house - Ridge house. It was the owner of this house that owned all the land around Etchinghill such as Thomas Rigden before his death. It was then that the house was split into four.

There are two barns to the rear of these houses, the barns are originals with oak beams over two hundred years old.

Below is a picture of the block of stables, number 85, where the equestrian school is. The oldest stables here date back to 1774.

Etchinghill Stables

22



Ridge Hill Cottages, numbers 86 and 87, are older than numbers 88 and 89, dating back past 1920.

The Nook, number 90, is an old house probably more famous for the owners in the 20s.

These were Winnie Norton Shillingford and sister Lucy Shillingford. Both were nieces of the Rydens.

Winnie was an artist and exhibited at the Royal Academy, she started the Etchingill WI, produced plays, taught country dancing and ran a children's club (which involved dancing, drama and crafts).

Lucy was the local JP, never missed a church service and was a Sunday school teacher.

Below is a picture of the New Inn, number 91.

The New Inn

23



This is a very old inn which used to be a stoppingpoint for travellers to rest their horses and to refresh themselves. It has existed as an inn for well over a century, probably a lot longer.

Ark cottages, 92 to 98, received their name from the Ark Pub which used to be located at number one. This was due to the fact that the pub's first landlord was one Noah Dent. Humorously the pub was then known as the 'ark' thus the name.

The pub closed in 1913 and the building became a shop. In the 1920s, the inhabitants were a shepherd, a road sweep, a building labourer, a plasterer, a general labourer and a shop keeper. Since then the houses haven't changed but numbers one and two have been renovated.

Ark Cottages

24



We then move further up the road to Rock Cottages (99 and 100). These are very old and may be seen on pages . They were actually built perhaps over three hundred

years ago. Probably built on one house, it had its own barn - as did many places - seventy years ago.

We then turn up Tadders heas and pass houses numbered 101 to 104. These are reasonably young for Etchinghill but still over twenty years old. Next we cross over Etchinghill Tunnel, where the railway used to run:

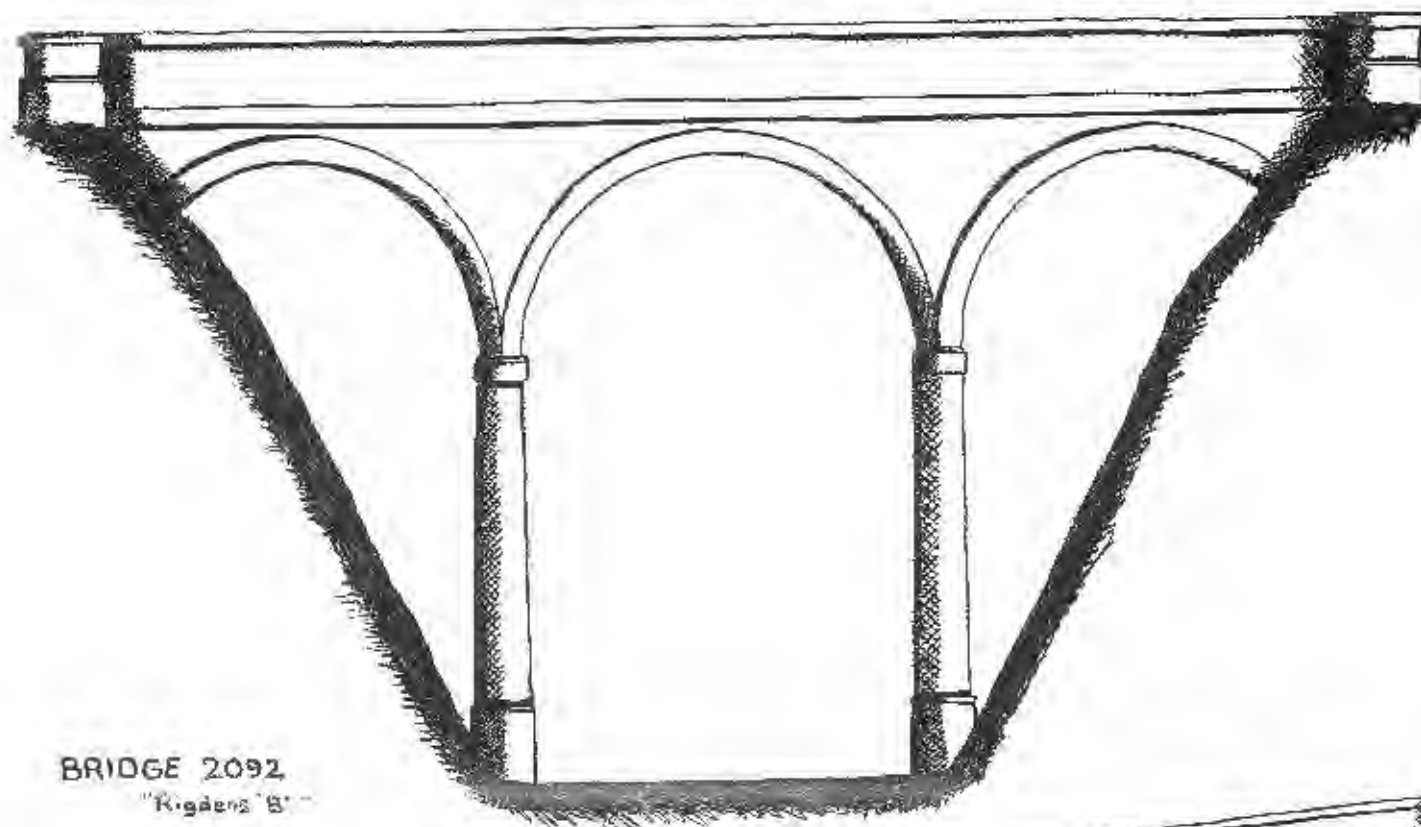
The Elham Valley Line

Way back in 1884 South Eastern Railway were given permission to build a railway line from Canterbury to Folkestone. The line was to have stations in Canterbury, Bridge, Bishopscourt, Barham, Elham, Lyminge, Cheriton and Folkestone and was to run through the hamlet of Etchinghill amongst others.

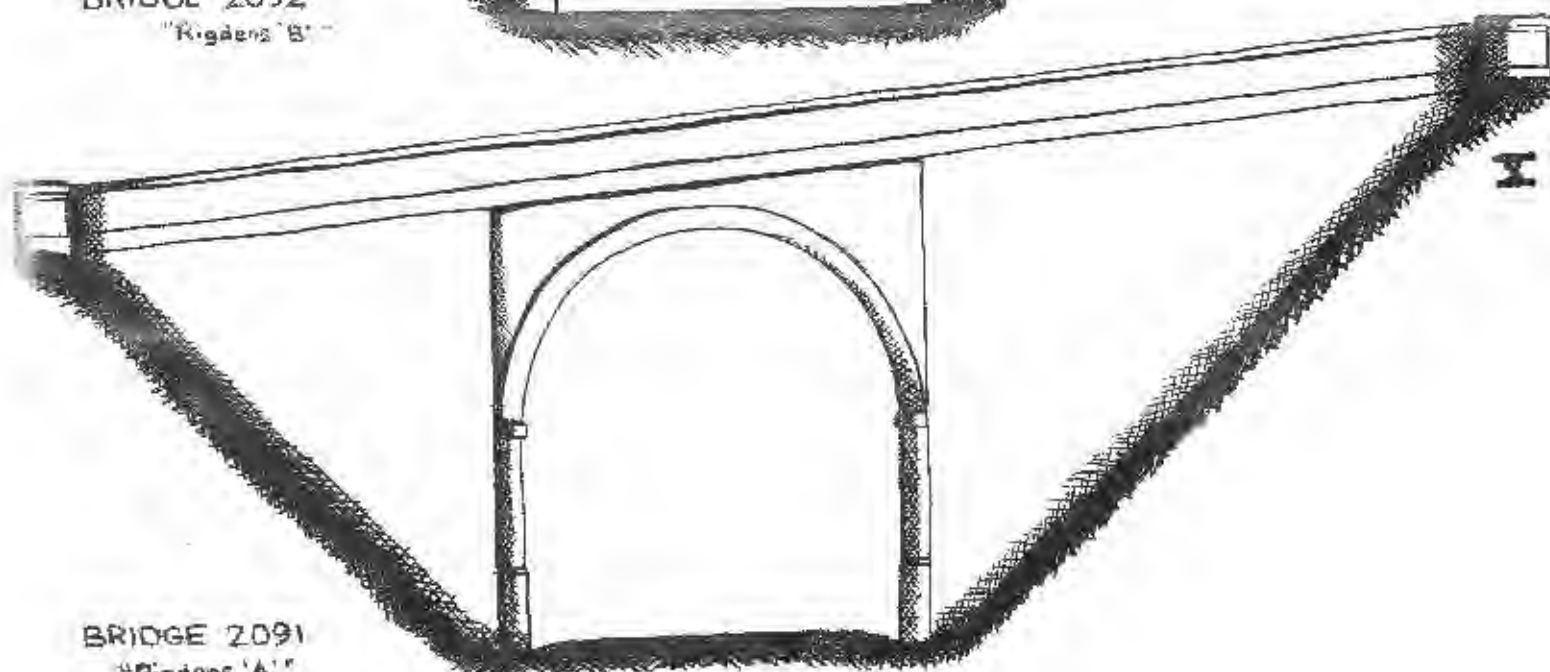
By 1886 the earthworks were completed at Etchinghill which included the cutting, tunnel and two bridges (these are shown on pages 52 to 53).

The whole line was completed in 1889 and proved a great link for people who lived in Etchinghill, the nearest station being not far away in Lyminge. Therefore the daily migration to and from Etchinghill increased, in particular for the poor of the Elham valley. The building of the railway also brought jobs to the population of the local area.

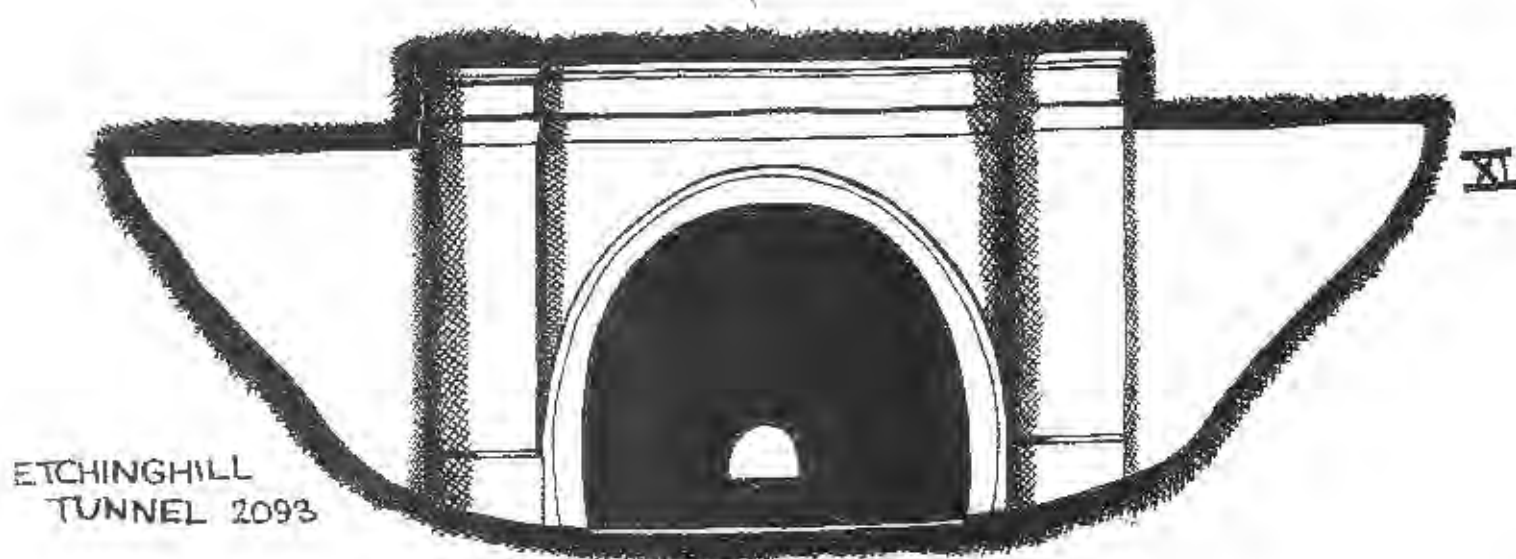
During World War Two the railway had a visit from Churchill who came to see HMG (His Majesty's Gun) Boche-Buster which ran on the valley track. This was a massive gun



BRIDGE 2092
"Rigdens 'B'"



BRIDGE 2091
"Rigdens 'A'"



ETCHINGHILL
TUNNEL 2093

MAP TO SHOW POSITION OF RAILWAY IN ETCHINGHILL III



1:10 000

which fired across the channel at the enemy.

Soon after the war, in 1947 the railway was, sadly, closed due to competition from the motor car. The track was taken apart.

The cutting still survives in Etchinghill as do the bridges and tunnel, however they are completely overgrown.

We continue up Teddars Leas with there being nothing but fields to our left. At the top we come to house number 105, Teddars Leas House which was mentioned on page 9. Again we turn around, to come down the hill towards the centre of Etchinghill. Numbers 106 to 127 are all houses built after the death of Mr. Rigden. Back over the tunnel and then we see to our left Etchinghill Nurseries, 128, which bring in a massive daily migration from all over east Kent. They sell vegetables and fruits with a great reputation.

We pass house number 129 and move on to Upstreet, where we turn left and come to numbers 130 to 136. That field used to contain the oldest cottages in Etchinghill, along with the village green, village pond, village well and a barn. The Cottages, which were used to house monks on their pilgrimage to Canterbury, are shown with the modern house on page . They were demolished in the early sixties to make way for Upstreet as land bought by the hospital to build houses for the hospital staff.

Further along the road, to the left are



ETCHINGHILL PAST AND PRESENT



25a The cottages above
 25b were pulled down
 amidst great village
 protests to make way
 for some flats, left.
 Thought to date
 back to the thirteenth
 century note the
 jetty and mellow
 oak door. The
 cottages also contain
 ed king beams and
 overhanging eaves.

two fields, one with the garage now in it, which at sometime were used for Etchingham Cricket Club matches. The garage, 137, came later, along with house number 138.

We now leave Etchingham by the same road from whence we came.

I hope you have enjoyed your tour of the village as well as the chronology and explanation of its name and also hope that I have answered the question set out in the introduction so that it may be understood.

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Mrs. Garbutt

Mr. White

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Folkestone and Hythe Gazette

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Brian Hart's 'The Elham Valley Line 1887-1947'

