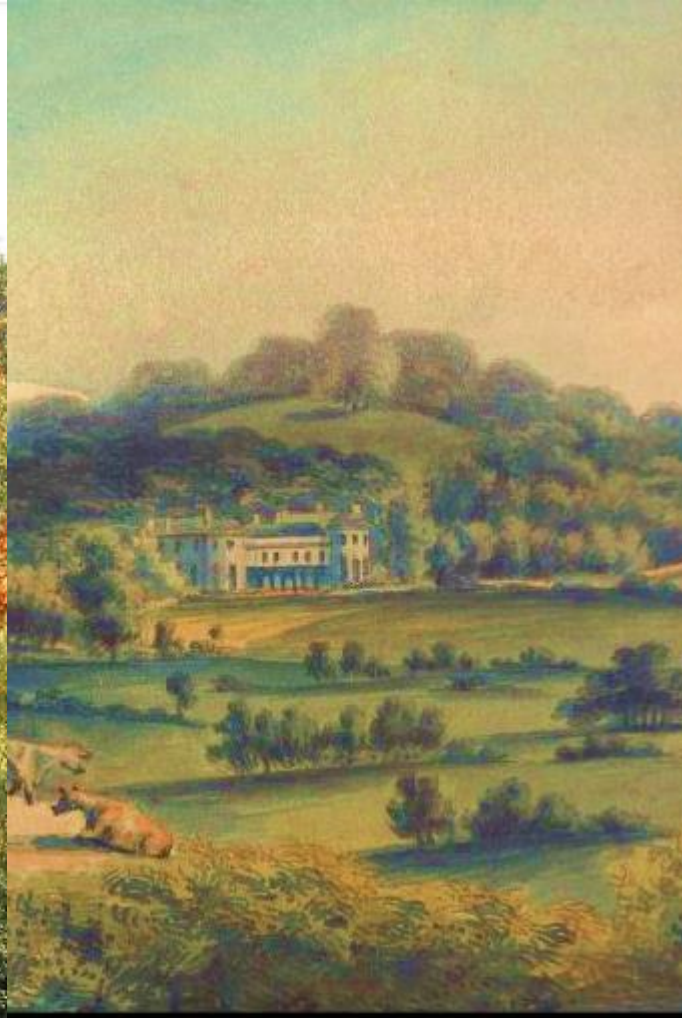


A short history of Shortlands



Kings Wood & Toots Wood

- Iron workers
 - 100 BCE/BC
- Romano-Britons
 - 200 CE/AD
- Anglo-Saxons
 - 500-700CE/AD



Kingswood Glen

Woods cleared c.500CE/AD



The land records and maps

- Claihurst 1140s
- Walcy 1372
- Wolcy 1437
- Woolsis 1666 & 1690
- Woolsey Farm 1723 & 1735
- Clay Hill House 1832 & 1841
- Shortlands House 1851



1735 – Woolsey Farm

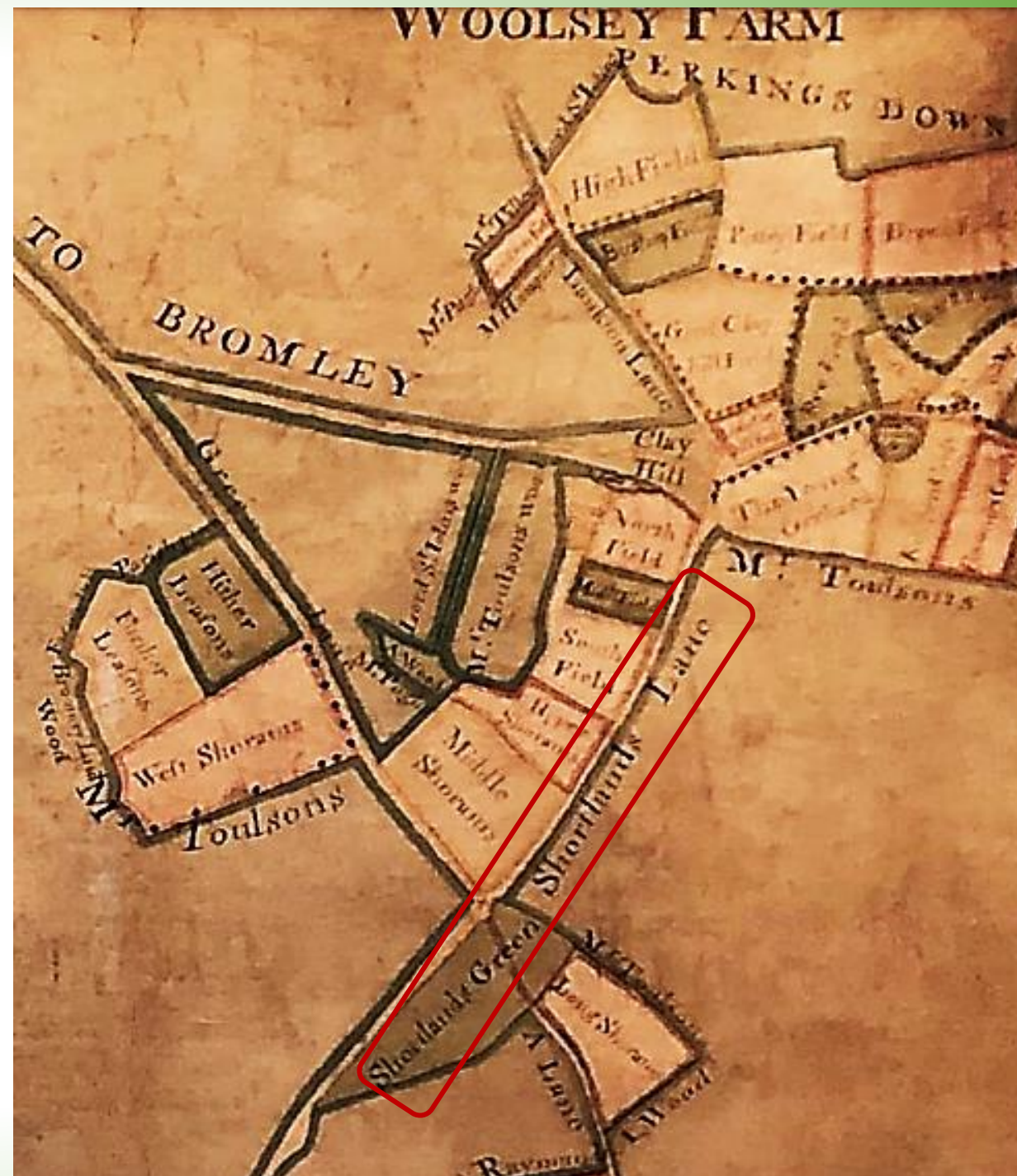
Peter Burrell's lands 1753 :

“A farmhouse, two barns, stable,
orchard and 60 acres let at £52 p.a.”

Map by kind permission of the Burrell Family

“Shortlands Lane” and “Shortlands Green”
first appear in 1723.

Later named “Scotts Lane”

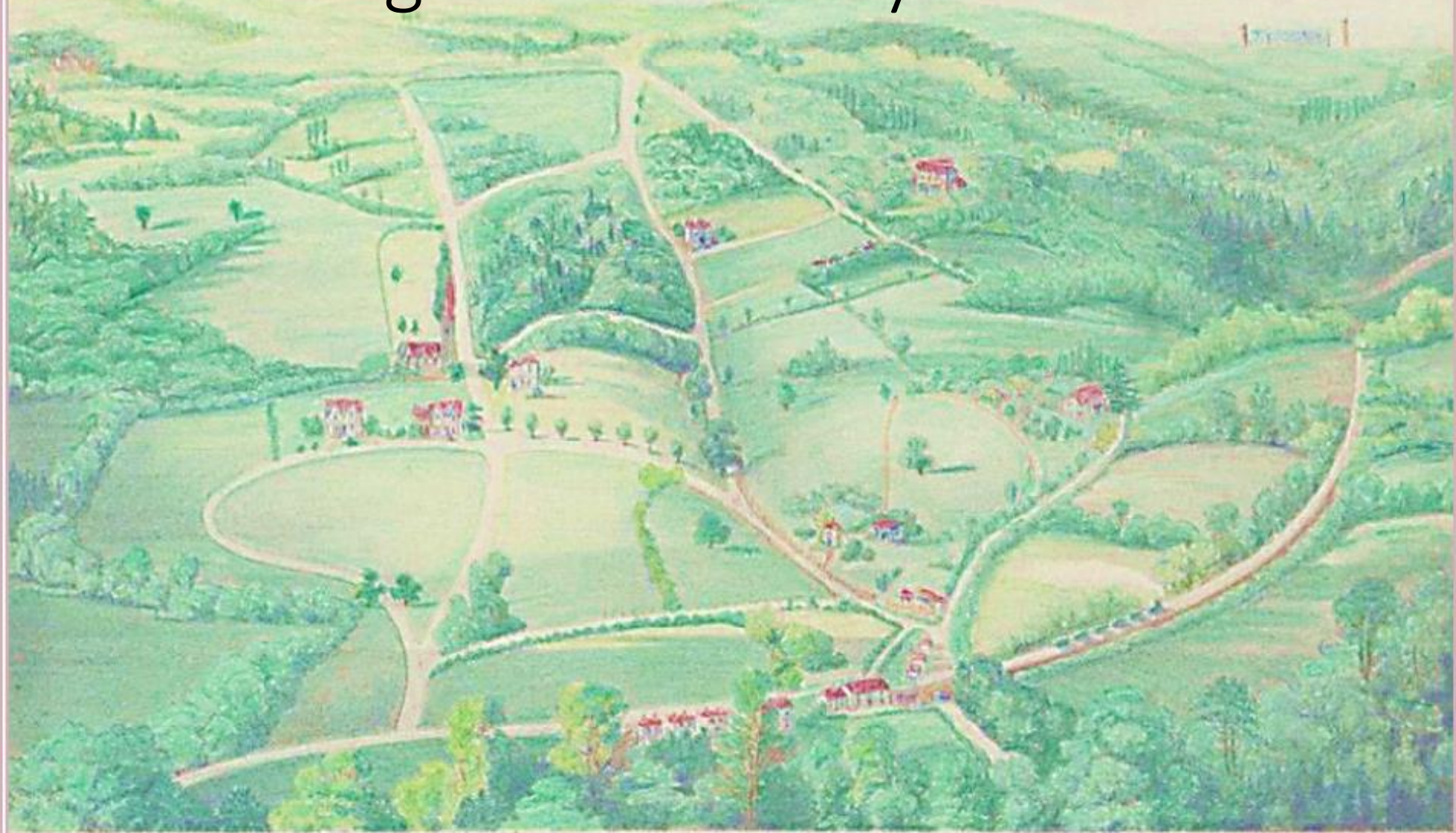


1723 – Woolsey Farm

1. Shortlands House & Lodge
Road later diverted to present alignment
2. Bromley Mead Farm
3. Shortlands Lane (Scotts Lane)
4. Bromley Road/Clay Hill
5. Green Lane
(Oakwood Ave/rear Shortlands Grove)
6. Shortlands Green (Oates Close)
7. Kingswood



The coming of the railway 1858



Shortlands' oldest houses

The Old Farmhouse 16th C



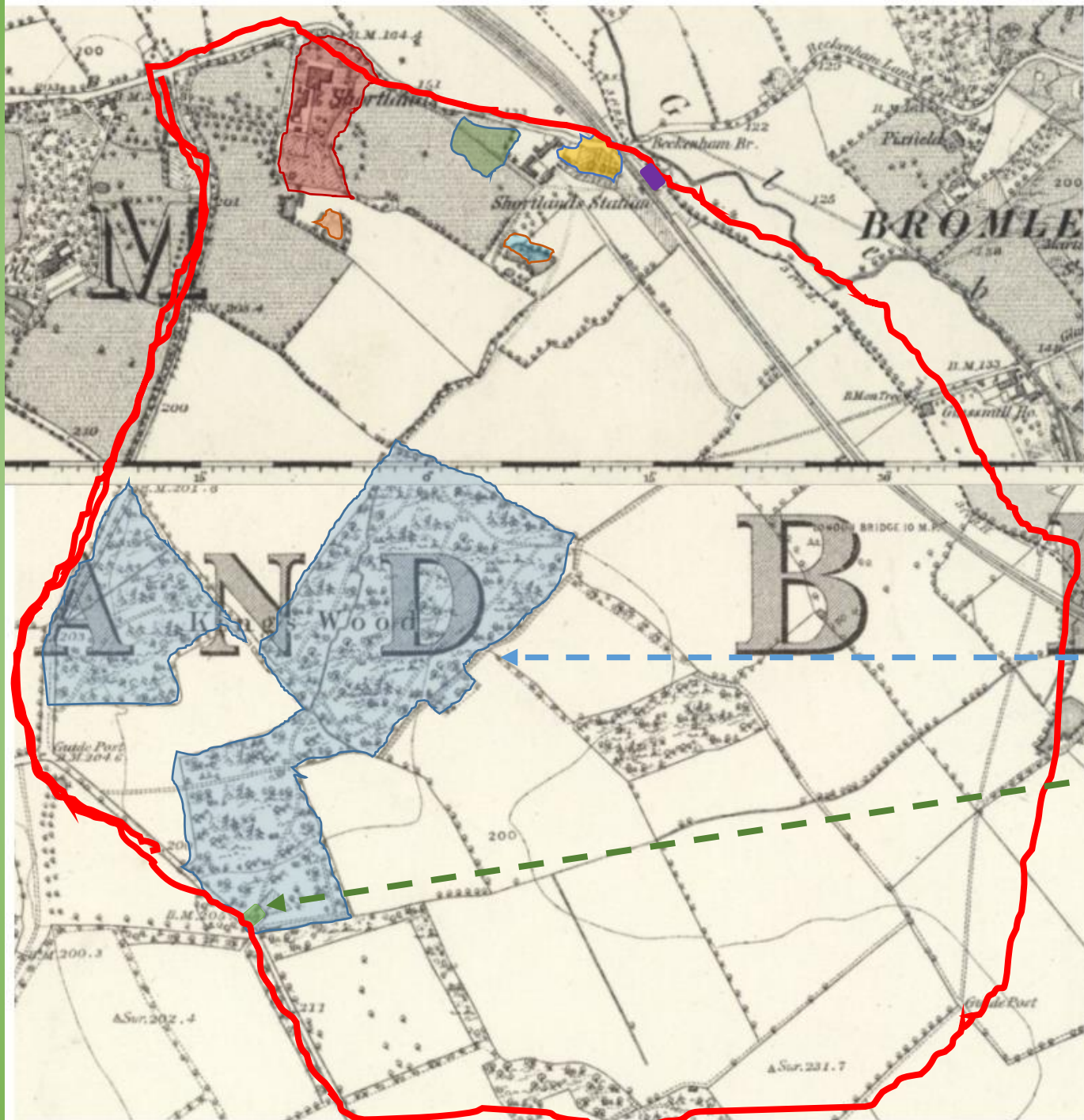
Shortlands House 17th C



Shortlands Tavern & Kingswood Cottages



c.1860



1863

Shortlands House

Bromley Mead Farm

Wilkinson's Cottages

Station (original site)

Kings Wood

Kingswood Cottages

OS Map:

Kent VII

Surveyed: 1863

<https://maps.nls.uk>

Water Pumping Works

- 1864 the North West Kent Water Company sank a shaft in a meadow near the original Shortlands Station
- The 50 & 70 hp pumps lifted the water moving it to the reservoir at Sundridge Park



St Mary's Shortlands

- Consecrated September 1870
- Enlarged in 1888 and 1893
- Accommodated 536 parishioners
- Destroyed by Enemy Action 1944
- New church Consecrated 1955



Census 1871
Beckenham, St Mary

“Gentlemen’s Residences”

19

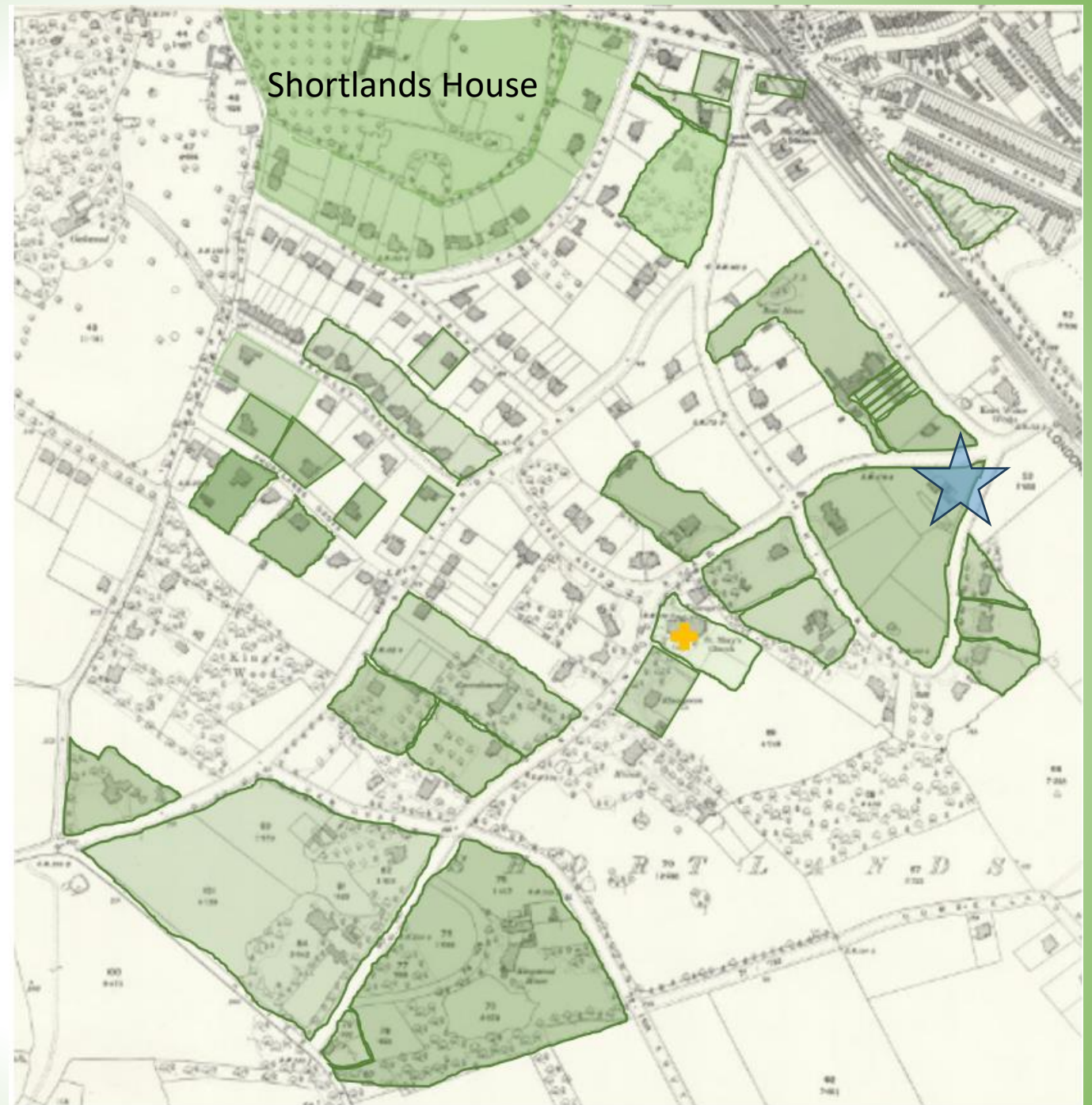
“Villas”

24

“Cottages/Farmhouse”

7

Parish Church



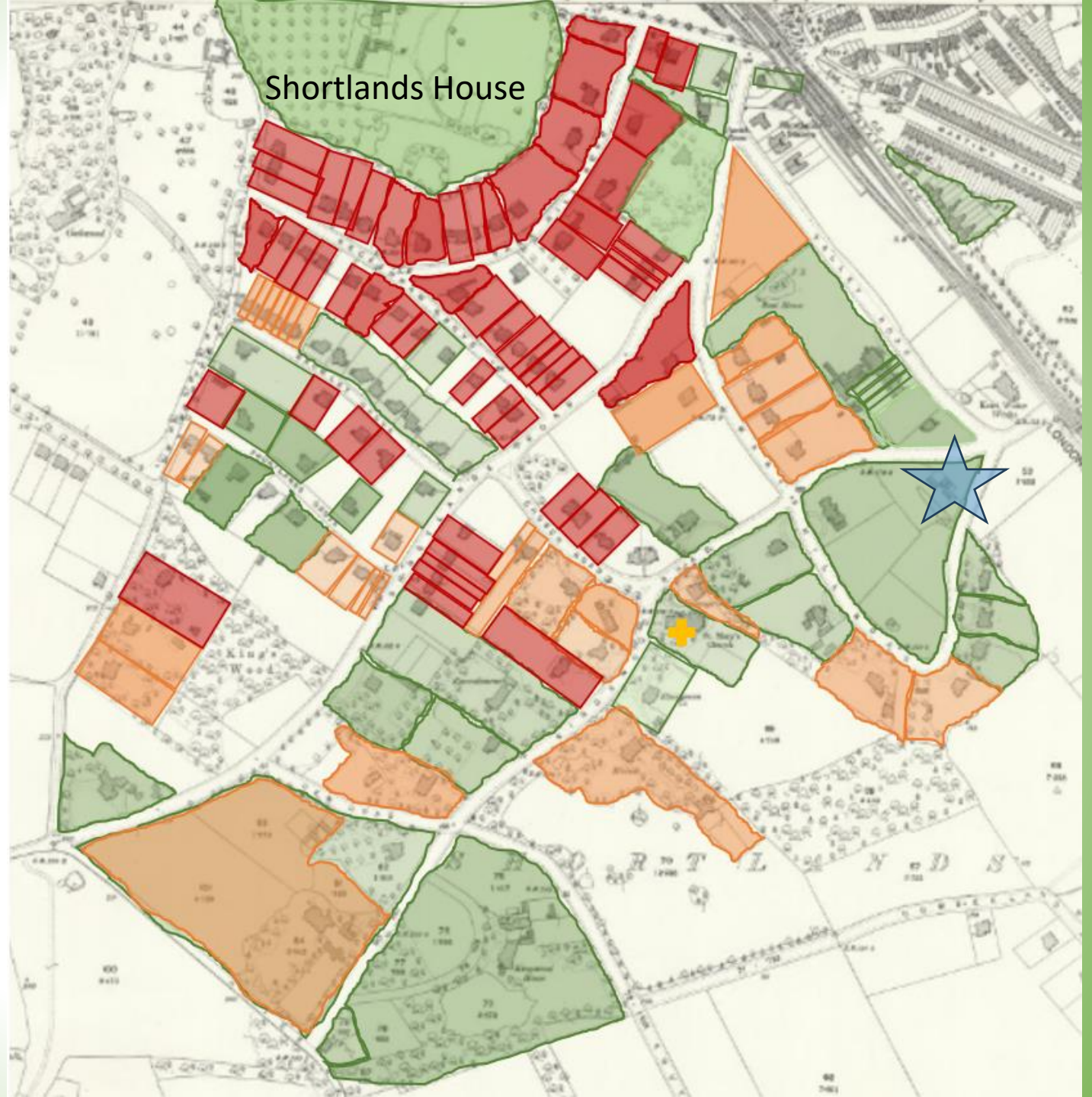
Census 1891
Beckenham, St Mary

“Gentlemen’s Residences”
80

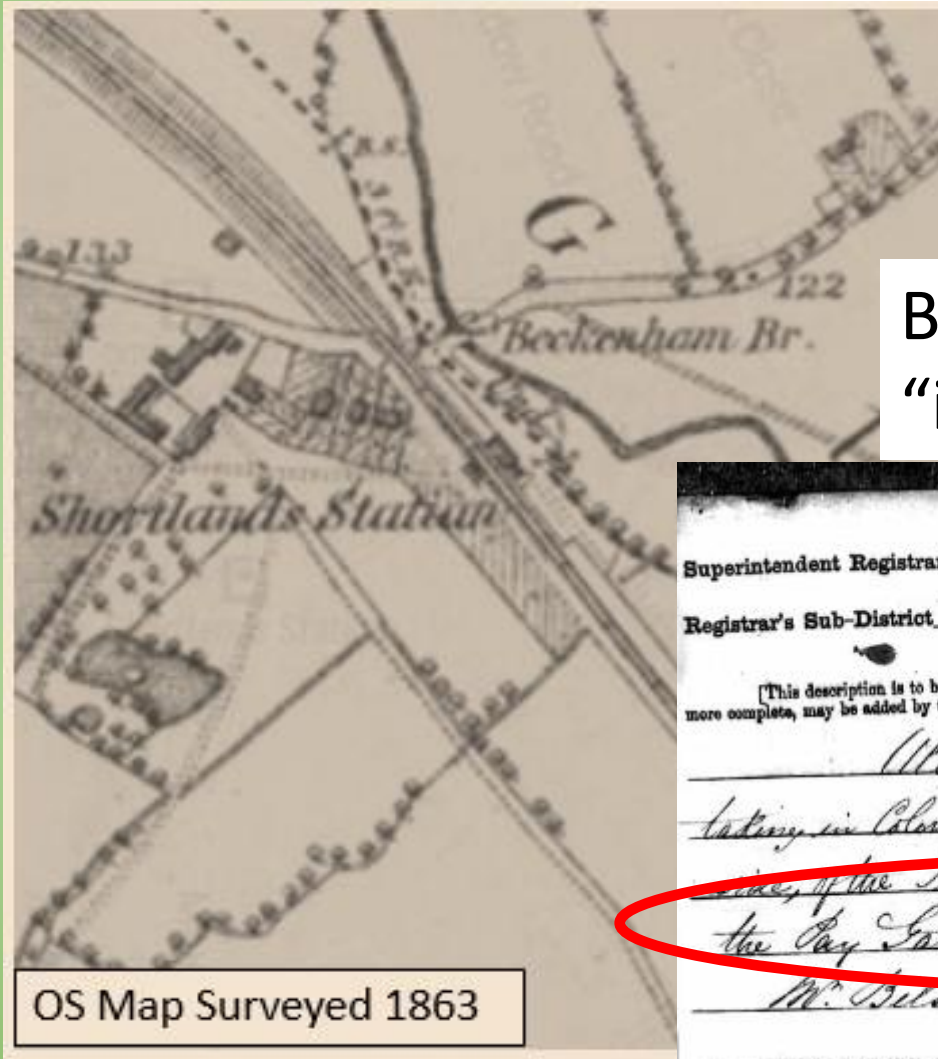
“Villas”
84

“Cottages/Farmhouse”
9

Parish Church



1861 - Where is Shortlands Village?



Bromley Town Census 1861:
“including Frogs Island, [and] Martin’s Hill”

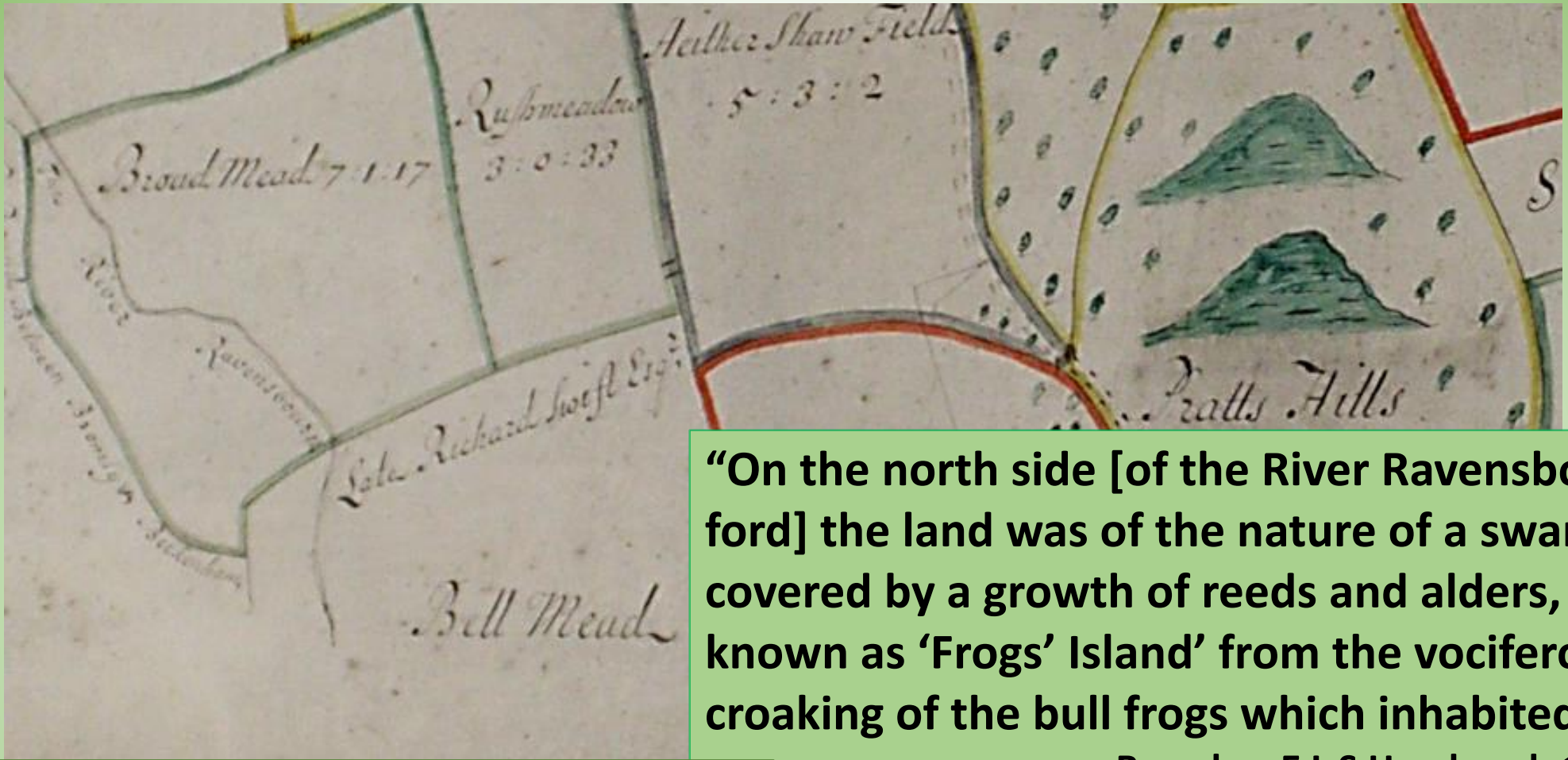
20

Superintendent Registrar's District London Enumeration District, No. 10
Registrar's Sub-District Bromley Name of Enumerator, Mr. John Simon

DESCRIPTION OF ENUMERATION DISTRICT.

(This description is to be written in by the Enumerator from the Copy supplied to him by the Registrar. Any explanatory notes or observations calculated to make the description clearer or more complete, may be added by the Enumerator.)

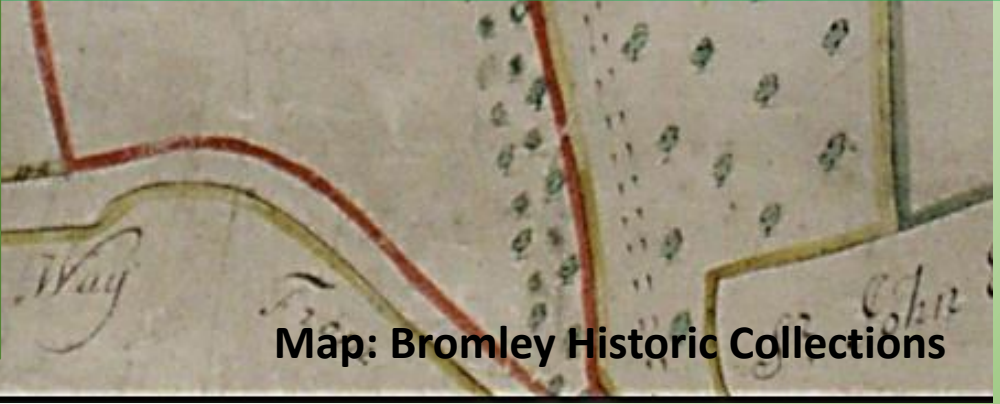
All that part of the Parish of Bromley commencing at the Mile Stone Bromley Hill taking in Colonel Long's & Mr. Royal's Lodges, and all the Houses on the Right hand side of the Turnpike Road, through the Lane to Martin's Hill, and on to the Bay Gate, including Frogs Island, Martin's Hill, & M. B. & C. & D.



“On the north side [of the River Ravensbourne ford] the land was of the nature of a swamp, covered by a growth of reeds and alders, known as ‘Frogs’ Island’ from the vociferous croaking of the bull frogs which inhabited it.”
 Bromley, E L S Horsburgh 1929 ed

Freeman William, Long's lodge

Histead Joseph	1	} Frog's Island
Taphouse George	2	
North William	3	



Map: Bromley Historic Collections

The 1870s cottages



OS Map Surveyed 1894



Shortlands Village Bridges 1874



Picture: Bromley Historic Collections

Shortlands Valley Board School

1889-1891 Recreation Road
Temporary “Iron School”

1891 Beckenham Lane
Permanent school
650 pupils aged 5-13 years

3 departments:

- Boys
- Girls
- Infants



Kelly's Bromley Street Directory - 1901

Beckenham la. 92 High st.

SOUTH SIDE.

1 Tapp Charles J.
*here is Martin's slip, leading
 to Recreation Ground*
 3 Palmer Miss
 WALL LETTER BOX
 5 Van de Linde Gérard
 7 Latter Edward
 7 Latter Bertram Henry
 7 Latter Hugh Robinson
 Board School
 39 St. Mary's Convalescent
 Home (Miss Miers, hon. sec)
 43 Henham Thos. ho. decoratr
 49 Flux Wm. G. & Co. drapers
 51 Jezard Mrs. Thomas, art
 needlework
 53 Routley Edwin W. & Co.
 pharmaceutical chemists
 55 Williams Alfred, baker
here is Recreation rd. Shortlands
 LAMP LETTER BOX

63 Reeves Mrs. Mary, dressma
 65 Ashby John, greengrocer
 67 Ford & Hall, painters
 69 Clayden Wm. nurseryman
 75 Joy Thomas, butcher
 77 Smallbone Chas. Albt. grocer
 81 Jenner Thos. oil & color man
 83 Jenner Thos. stationer
 85 Banks Albt. Wm. pork btchr
 87 Kinsman, Thos. coffee tavrn
 IRON MISSION ROOM
 91 Haylett Benj. jun. bt. mkr
 97 Fowler Wm. house decoratr

NORTH SIDE.

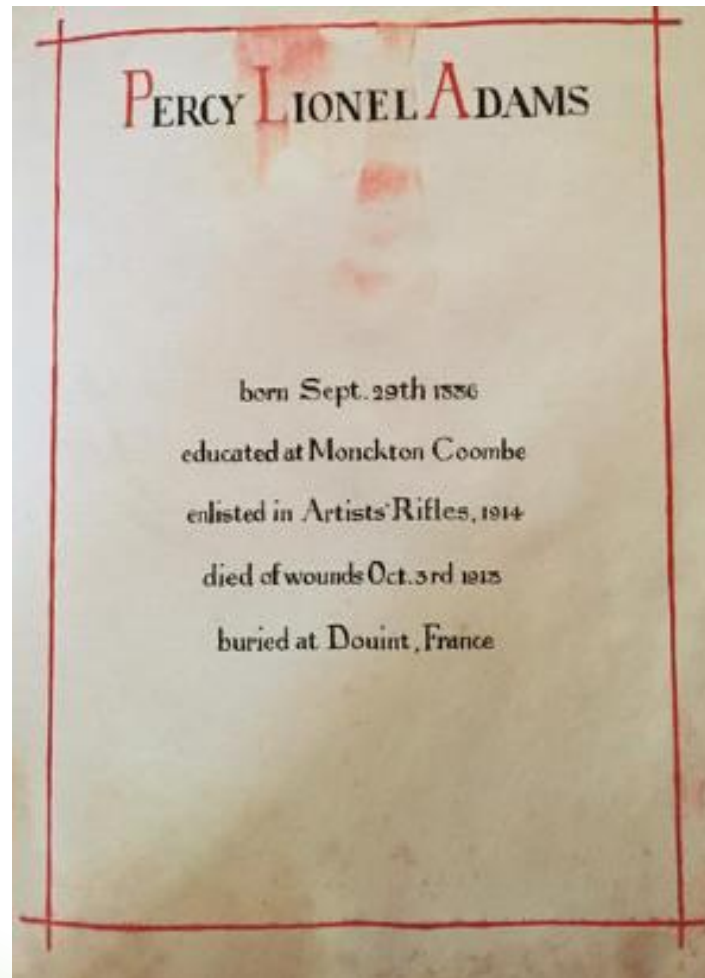
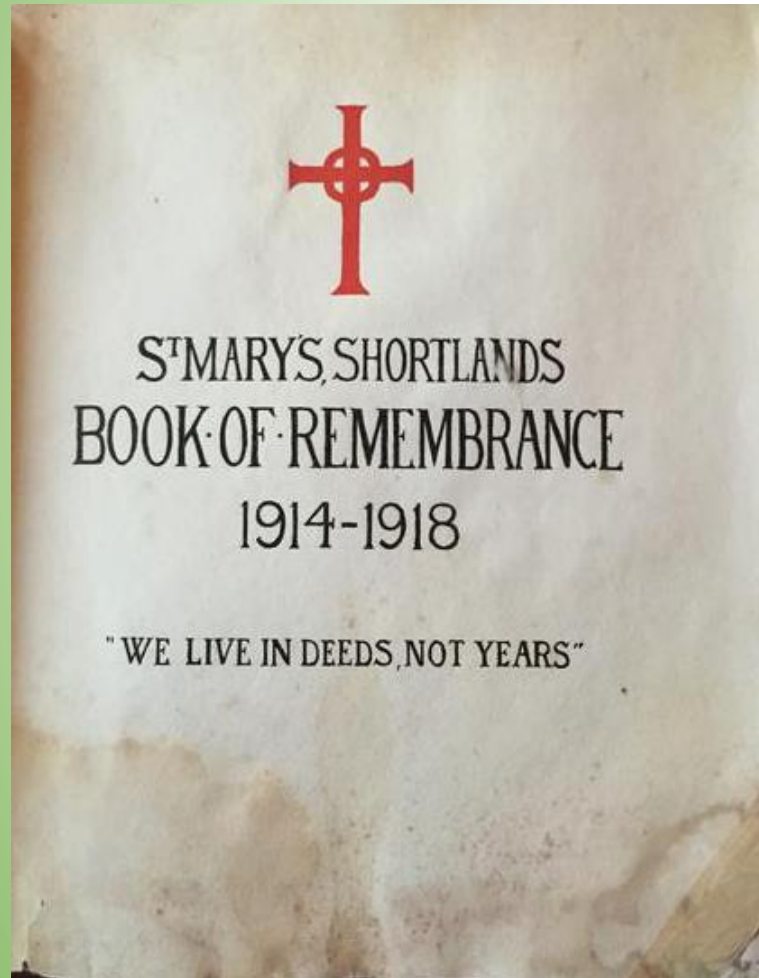
Mullen Robert Gordon
 (Park house)
 Perkins Richard Woodhouse
 (Hollydene)
 Goodwin James (Arlescote)
*here is Blyth rd. & Highland rd.
 here is Farnaby rd.*
 34 Philpot Mrs. Mary, draper
 36 Howe Richard, tobacconist
 40 Tufnell Phillip A. bootmaker
 42 Wickens William, dairymn
 42A, Philpot Thos. W. Austin,
 builder
 48 Britton Mrs. Kate, shirt ma
 58 Rogers John, dairy
 60 Soppit Japh. beer retailer
 94 Inge Thomas, builder
..... here is Meadow rd.
 100 Tolfrey Henry, cycle dealr
... here is Ravensbourne rd.

1914-1918

NAME AND SURNAME	RELATIONSHIP to Head of Family.	AGE (last Birthday) and SEX.		PARTICULARS as to MARRIAGE.	
		For Infants under one year state the age in months as "under one month," "one month," etc.	Ages of Males.	Ages of Females.	State, for entered.
1	2	3	4	5	6
<p>of every Person, whether Member of Family, Visitor, Boarder, or Servant, who</p> <p>(1) passed the night of Sunday, April 2nd, 1911, in this dwelling and was alive at midnight, or</p> <p>(2) arrived in this dwelling on the morning of Monday, April 3rd, not having been enumerated elsewhere.</p> <p>No one else must be included.</p> <p>(For order of entering names see Examples on back of Schedule.)</p>	<p>State whether "Head," or "Wife," "Son," "Daughter," or other Relative, "Visitor," "Boarder," or "Servant."</p>			<p>Write "Single," "Married," "Widower," or "Widow," opposite the names of all persons aged 15 years and upwards.</p>	
1 Arthur John Bide	Head	59		married	27
2 Mary Anne Bide	wife		60	married	37
3 Harold Sydney Bide	son	21		single	



Shortlands War Memorial -1921



Kelly's Bromley Street Directory - 1930

Beckenham Lane.—HIGH STREET.
From 93 High street.
South-East Side.
 1 Glanvill Benjamin Andrew, The Hill. Phone, Ravensbourne 0836
 Arkell Wm., The Hill lodge
 *here is Martin's slip*
 *here is Footpath to Bromley Recreation ground.*
 3 Mackenzie Alexander
 5 Collett Chas. Hy.
 7 Latter Edward
 11 Latter Hugh Robinson
 Valley Council Schools (girls & infants)
 Special School
 Barrett Geo. caretaker, The Lodge
 39 Henham T. & Son, bldrs.
 41 Suter Miss Gladys A., teacher of pianoforte
 41 Suter Walter Thomas
 43 Dinmore Miss
 45 Moon Hedley Walter
 47 Rowe James

49 Appleton Herbert, draper
 51 & 53 Williams George H., butcher
 55 Williams Bros., bakers
 *here is Recreation road.*
 57 Adams Mrs. T., greengro.
 59 Aylward Percy
 61 Constable Geo.
 63 Waters Sidney Geo.
 65 Barclays Bank Ltd.—Percy John Luck, manager
 65 Sibley Mrs. A.
 67 Hall Harry, bldr.
 67 Lampier Miss
 69 Clayden Wm.
 71 Craker Mrs.
 71 Willis George
 73 Leaver Mrs.
 73 Ramsden William Walter
 73A Dolores, nurserymen & florists. Telephone, Ravensbourne 3610
 75 Greig David, butcher
 77 & 79 Smallbone Chas. Albert, grocer.
 81 & 83 Jenner Harry, grocer
 85 Wood Mrs. M., stationer
 85A Colley C. A. & Son, bldrs.
 87 Bromley Valley Dining Rooms — Chas. Griffin, propr.

87 Griffin Chas., hairdressing saloon All Saints' Mission Hall
 87A Tufnell Philip Arthur, boot maker.
 89 Patterson Wm. A., tobacast.
 91 Anderson Mrs.
 93 Bartlett Alfd. Chas.
 95 Abbott William
 97 Harris Charles
 97 Bartlett Alfred J., horticultural builder. See advertisement
 *here is Station road*
here is Shortlands Railway station
Cross and Return.
North-West Side.
 *here is Ravensbourne avenue.*
 110 Janette, ladies' hairdresser.
 108 Barker Thomas, fruiterer
 106 Carter, Law & Leech, auctioneers, house & estate agents & surveyors; & at Bromley & Chislehurst. See adverts.
 104 Cuthbert Harry H., M.P.S. chemist
 102 Stevens Arthur Samuel, bootmaker.
 100 Hollamby William R., M.I.E.C., electrical, mechanical & motor engineer
 98 Stevens Arth. S., domestic stores

96 Razor Mrs. A., fancy draper
 *here is Meadow road*
 94 *Shortlands Post Office*—James Barnett, stationer sub-postmaster
 92 Woodward Frederick George
 90 Alston Walter Thomas
 88 Le Sage Wm.
 86 Knight Thomas, boot repairer
 84 Moore William Leonard
 82 Osborne Frank, electrical engnr.
 80 Catlett Samuel, corn merchant
 78 Bones Mrs.
 76 Rushton David Joseph
 74 Charlton Louis
 72 Fisher Robert James
 70 Hider Mrs.
 68 Waters Sidney George, plumber
 66 Brodrick John
 64 Batchelor Albert Victor
 62 & 60 Biggs Fredk., beer retlr.
 *here is Shortlands gardens*

58 United Dairies (London) Ltd.
 58A Henham T. & Son, bldrs. (yard)
 56 Scott Frank
 54 Meyer Henry
 52 Pratt William Ernest
 50 Messenger William George
 48 Britton Mrs. Kate
 46 Stringer Bertie Thomas
 42A Buller Jsph., motor coach propr.
 42 Kingston Arth., butcher
 42 Yaxley Chas., decrtr.
 40 Thorpe Mrs. C. J., ladies' outfitter
 36 Whyman Henry, confectioner
 34 Pratt Edmund. Jn., greengro.
 *here is Farnaby road*
 12 Goodwin Mrs.
 *here is Highland road*
 *here is Blyth road*

1939-45

E.D. Letter Code **CJAE** Borough, U.D. or R.D. *Beckenham*

ADDRESS.	SCHEDULE.		SURNAME AND OTHER NAMES.	O, V, S, P. or L.	M. or F.
	No.	Sub No.			
1	2	3	4	5	6
<i>65 Shortlands Rd</i>	<i>58</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>Sykes Alfred H.</i>	<i>.</i>	<i>M</i>
		<i>2</i>	<i>Sykes Annie L.</i>	<i>.</i>	<i>F</i>
		<i>3</i>	<i>Ravenhear Peter A.</i>	<i>.</i>	<i>M</i>
<i>5 Dan Road</i>	<i>62</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>Scully George H.</i>	<i>.</i>	<i>M</i>
		<i>2</i>	<i>Scully Percy L.</i>	<i>.</i>	<i>M</i>
		<i>3</i>	<i>Wells Daisy J.</i>	<i>.</i>	<i>F</i>
<i>7 Dan Road</i>	<i>63</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>Bowler Edwin C.</i>	<i>.</i>	<i>M</i>
		<i>2</i>	<i>Bowler Ada A.</i>	<i>.</i>	<i>F</i>
		<i>3</i>	<i>Bowler Eric G.</i>	<i>.</i>	<i>M</i>



Picture: Bromley Historic Collections

Shortlands Ward Residents' Association

SHORTLANDS WARD.

RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION FORMED.

At a well-attended meeting held in Shortlands on Monday the formation of a Shortlands Ward Residents' Association was unanimously decided upon.

Importance was attached to the fact whilst the association will interest itself in the forthcoming Beckenham Council election the scope of its objects will by no means be limited to matters which solely concern the ratepayers of the ward. Any matters which concern the residents as a whole—or a substantial body of them and in which joint action is considered desirable, may be brought up for consideration.

The following officers were elected:—
Chairman, Mr. H. A. Ross; hon. secretary, Mr. H. T. Pike; committee, Miss D. M. Bell, Mr. C. Guy Brook (ex-officio), Mr. F. W. Cripps, Mr. H. Docherty, Mr. W. Hodgson, Mr. W. F. Hobbs, Mr. Gordon F. Mason, Mr. W. J. Sampson (ex-officio), and Mr. R. G. Westcott.

Bromley & West Kent Mercury
16th March 1934

Shortlands Residents Association Campaigns

- Representation for Shortlands residents at Beckenham Council
- Elementary Primary School 1934 – 1958
- Shortlands Branch Library 1938 - 1954
- Flood alleviation and prevention – river and sewers
- The Bromley Bypass Scheme 1936/7
- Urban development on Metropolitan Open Land 1970 – 1971
- Traffic flow, signals and parking
- Road Safety for vehicles and pedestrians
- Provision of infrastructure: Health, Education, Transport

1959 - Highfield Elementary School



1970/71

'SAVE OUR HOMES' RESIDENTS PLEA

"DON'T leave our homes open to the threat of floods," say the 1,600 members of the Shortlands Ward Residents' Association.

A plan to build 300 homes on the 35 acre golf course at Shortlands has left the residents in fear of their homes, since the course has acted as a 'soak-away' for a vast amount of surplus water.

Mr. Mezzetti, who is the association's secretary, explained the situation to our reporter:

"About 4 million cubic feet of flood water is drained away through the golf course," he said. "If they decide to accept the proposal to use it as redevelopment area, all that water will be left to flood the surrounding homes."

"Under the recent Greater London Redevelopment Plan, the course was set aside as

The inquiry is due to start on January 19, and the residents have said that they want to do all

throughout the area, and a 'fighting fund' has been started.

"We would like people

by Staff Reporter

ensure that in this test case, the environment and the future of Shortlands is preserved."

"It really is a very serious matter. Not only will we lose what should have been 35 acres of open space, but we will

what is probably one of the best local amenities at the same time?"

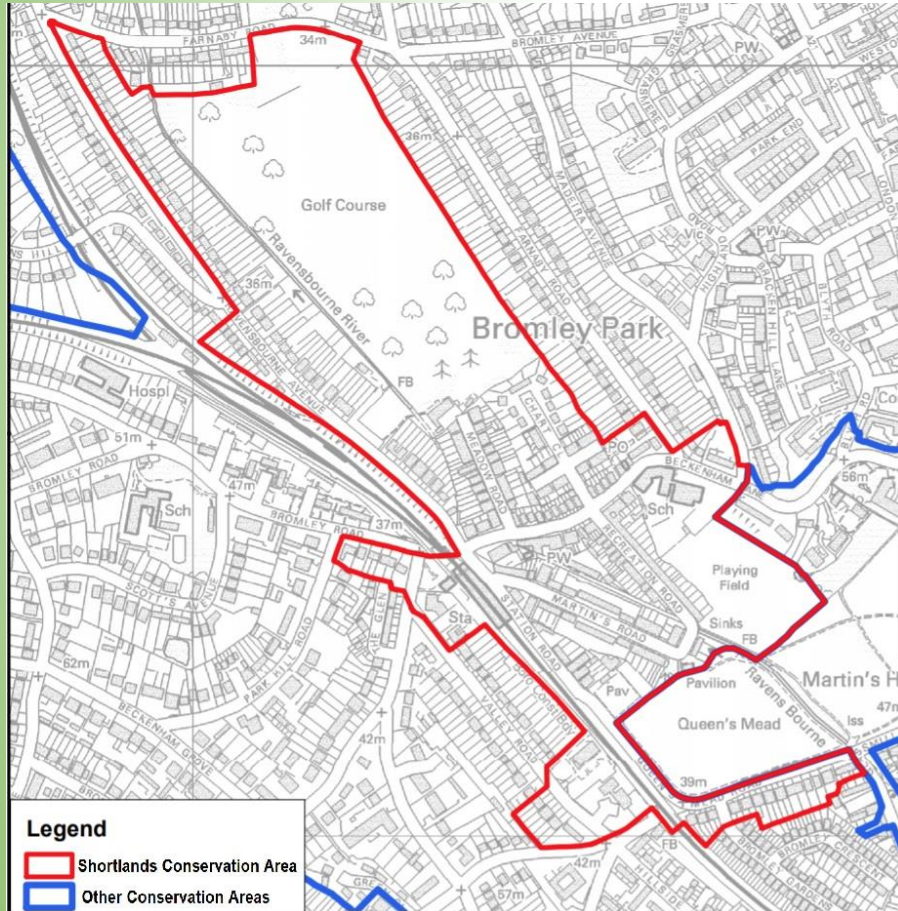
"Our association has been in existence for over 40 years," he said.

"I can assure you that we are extremely well organised and that we

"The Record"

11th January 1971

Shortlands Conservation and Amenity



BROMLEY
CIVIC SOCIETY

1934 - 2024



Resources

- Bromley Historic Collections
 - Local newspapers, directories, pictures, estate maps, etc. – online catalogue
- “Shortlands” -Len Hevey
- “Shortlands in Old Postcards” –Muriel Searle
- “The History of St Marys Shortlands”
- “Manors & Estates of Old Beckenham” – Rob Copeland
- “A Beckenham Trilogy” – Pat Manning
- “Bromley” E L S Horsburgh

- Bromley Borough Local History Society - bblhs.org.uk
- FindMyPast- Historic Newspapers online (subscription)
- Ancestry/FindMyPast – Census collections (subscription)