

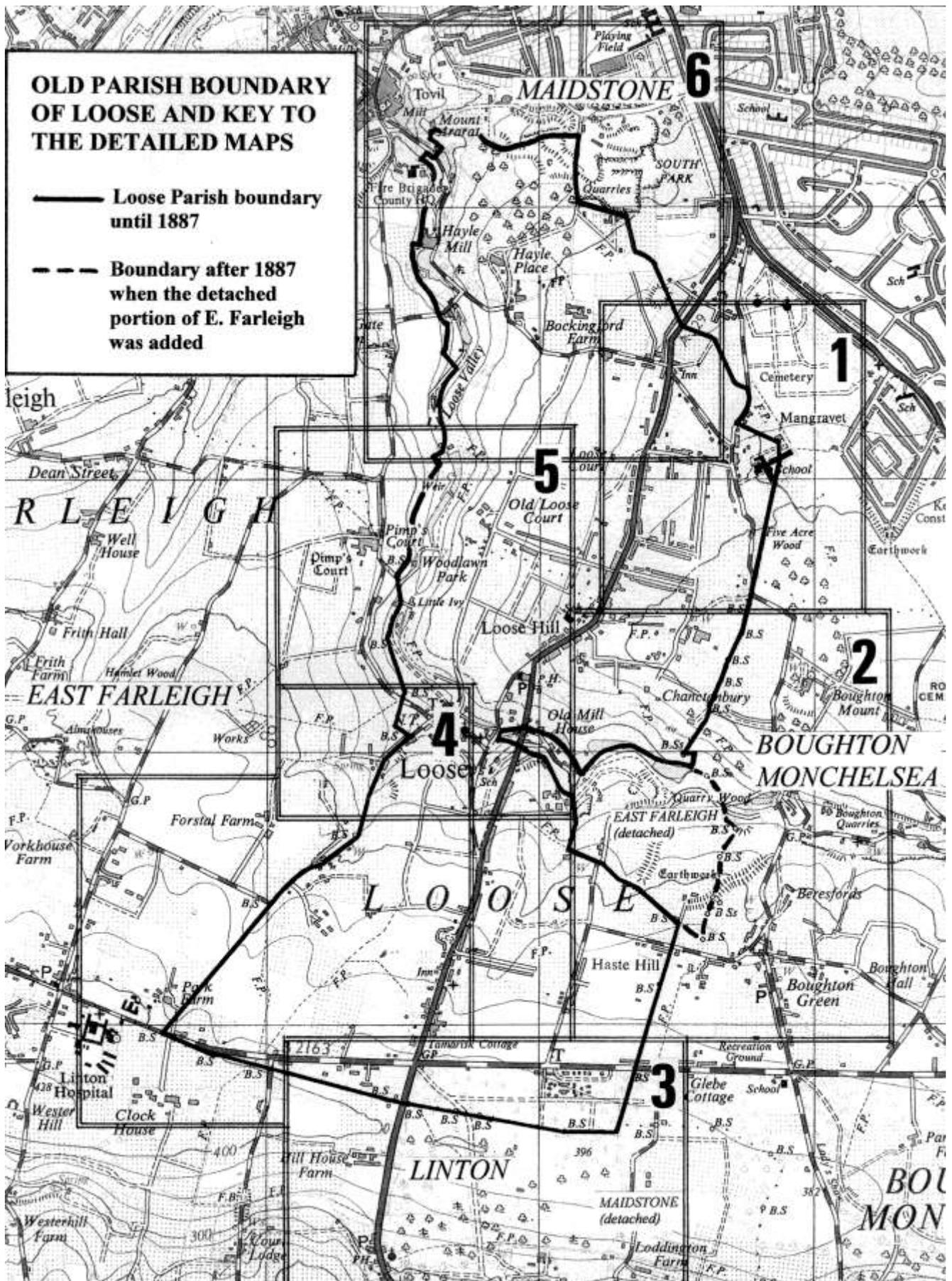
**THE BOUNDARY STONES OF THE PARISH OF LOOSE, KENT, 2004**  
*Roger Thornburgh*



**Members of the Loose Area History Society with Roger Thornburgh (second right) searching for boundary stones in Loose in June 2000**



**Loose Boundary Stone No.1, on the corner of Salts Lane and Old Loose Hill**



**OLD PARISH BOUNDARY  
OF LOOSE AND KEY TO  
THE DETAILED MAPS**

- Loose Parish boundary until 1887
- - - -** Boundary after 1887 when the detached portion of E. Farleigh was added

## THE BOUNDARY STONES OF THE PARISH OF LOOSE, KENT, 2004

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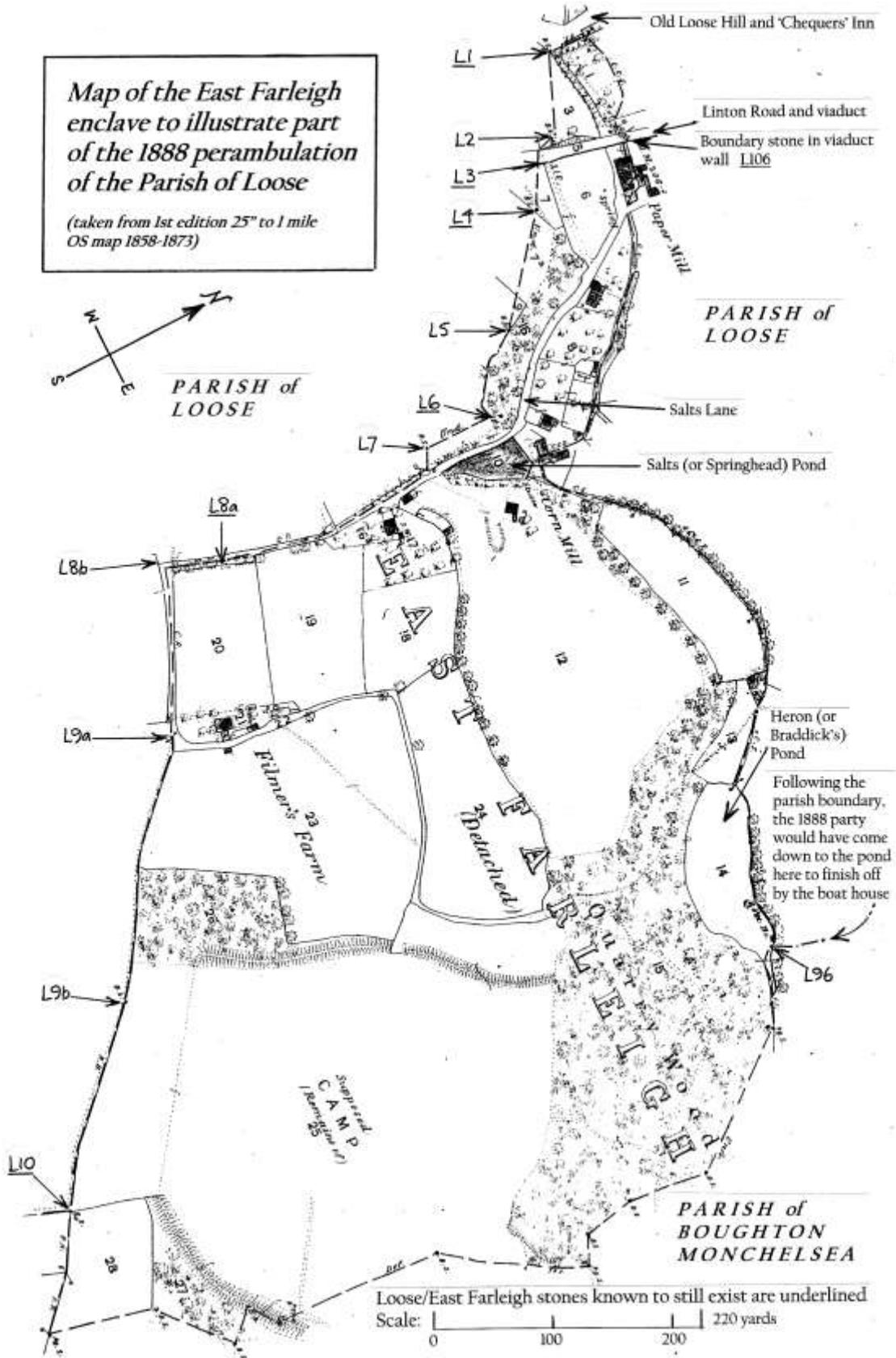
In an article in a copy of *Loose Threads*,<sup>1</sup> I described the course of the parish boundary of Loose as it was for most of the 18th and 19th centuries (and probably for several hundreds of years before), prior to a number of alterations that took place as a result of government action, notably the transfer of a detached portion of East Farleigh (in the Salts Lane/Filmer's Farm/Quarry Wood area) to Loose in 1887, and the transfer of a large area of Loose (basically the northern half) to Maidstone in 1934. In my concluding paragraph, I warned that there was more to come and that I hoped to go into further detail in the future. What follows is the detailed follow-up to that earlier article.

Nowadays, to find out the boundary of a parish, you consult an Ordnance Survey map or the Parish or District Council. To do the same two hundred years ago, when maps were not so readily available or as accurate, and Parish and District Councils did not exist, you would have asked local people – or looked to see where the parish boundary stones stood. The latter would probably have been the more accurate! They were almost always large stones, shaped in some way, inserted quite deeply into the ground and therefore not easily moved, and usually inscribed with the parish letter or name (and often the letter or name of the adjacent parish as well) and a number.<sup>2</sup> Many of these stones have now disappeared because of farming or building or carelessness or vandalism, but some survive and are valuable indications of the old boundary of a parish, as well as being interesting local historical features. The Loose boundary stones attracted the attention of a group of local people in both 1888 and 1912, and the article that follows is concerned with the reports of these two surveys, together with the results of my own recent investigations. I have also added information about the stones that were put in place to mark the new boundary between Loose and Maidstone following the 1934 boundary changes, and a few others that Loose acquired after some further boundary changes in 1964.

### 1888

The 1888 survey took place the year after the boundary changes that gave Loose the detached part of East Farleigh, and was recorded by Frederick Stace, aged 43. Apart from running a grocer's shop on Loose Green, he was Loose Postmaster (for 38 years, until 1916), Assistant Overseer for Loose, Rate Collector to Maidstone Rural Council (for 34 years, until shortly before his death in 1918), and became Clerk to the Parish Council when it was created in 1894. According to a short piece that appeared in an old edition of the *Kent Messenger*,<sup>3</sup> he undertook the survey in May with several other local inhabitants - Tom and Will Froud (also Overseers), James Fullager, Edward Wilkins, Ambrose Startup and George Froud.<sup>4</sup> The article states that '*the record of the survey was meticulously set down by Mr. Stace, each boundary mark being numbered and lucidly pin-pointed. The day's march apparently started at "the corner of Mr. Covenay's wall opposite the Chequers" and finished at a "stone of the lower arch out of Mr. Covenay's garden"*' – brief references which make it clear that although the 1887 boundary changes had taken place, for some reason the group was actually following the pre-1887 boundary. The article goes on to say that '*between those two points the party scampered over fences and through hedges, across fields,*

*Map of the East Farleigh enclave to illustrate part of the 1888 perambulation of the Parish of Loose*  
 (taken from 1st edition 25" to 1 mile OS map 1858-1873)



*orchards and hop gardens*’ and that ‘*the journey took them “through the wash-house outside the bottom door of J.B. Green mill, ...through the house (sic) in the backyard of Mr. Allnutt’s house, ... and up the bank [of] Mount Arrarat”....*’ Against the last numbered entry (96) is “*Down by the pond boat house – Amen*”. The J.B. Green mill was *Hayle Mill* and Mr Allnutt’s house was at *Great Ivy Mill*. Unfortunately, Frederick Stace’s original record seems to have been lost,<sup>5</sup> which is a pity as the precise details it is supposed to have contained would have been useful.

Most of the boundary stones that the 1888 party would probably have located were the same as for the second survey of 1912 (see below), but the detached portion of East Farleigh meant that there would have been some additional ones. Their starting point was **the corner of Mr Covenay’s wall opposite the Chequers**. This was the wall of *Vale House* (then known as *Bridge House*), and the boundary stone can still be readily seen there, with its inscription ‘L1’. (The OS map opposite puts it on the wrong side of the road.) Proceeding in a clockwise direction – as the description shows they did – they should have found the next stone (L2) at the spot marked on old OS maps at the SW end of the viaduct; the stone might still be there, under the scrub or even covered with soil and other material that has been tipped here, but I have been unable to find it. Across the road, against the wall of *Porlock* (9 Linton Road), is a stone (L3) that is now so deeply buried in the pavement that only the round top shows, plus a vertically cut line which presumably represents the division between the parishes. The next stone stands beside a pond in the rear garden of the neighbouring house, *Kirkston* (11 Linton Road), and Mrs Taylor (a former owner of the property), who kindly allowed me to see it, said that her husband used it regularly to sit on while he fed the fish! On its round top, it bears the inscription ‘L4’.

The 1840 Tithe Maps for Loose and East Farleigh, as well as old OS maps, were particularly helpful in determining the position of the next few stones, even if I could not find all of them. The first (L5) seems to have been on the SE side of the *Loose Nursing Home*, at the top of the bank, and close to the garden fence that surrounds the property, but it is either hiding amongst the scrub or gone. The second (L6) I did manage to locate - after a deal of scrambling about on the steep and overgrown bank alongside Salts Lane. It stands half way up the slope immediately opposite the right-hand side of *Watermill House*, is relatively small and has sides that taper slightly towards a flat top; it seems less well cut than other stones and I could not discern an inscription, unless marks on the top were supposed to be an ‘F’. The third (L7) should have been at the north end of the garden of *Salts Place*, but when the owner, Mr Parker, and I searched around, we could find no trace of it.

The next stone, by the grass bank on the E side of Salts Lane and some 50 yards below the bend in the road at *Salts Farm Cottages*, has survived. But is it No.8 in the ‘original’ series? It appears on some old OS maps, but there is no number inscribed on it, and the Tithe Map does not show it at all. The Tithe Map *does*, however, mark a stone at the bend in front of *Salts Farm Cottages* and adds the note ‘8L’ to that one. I could not find any stone here, and wonder whether the one in the grass bank was perhaps a replacement, but in a slightly different position. (Let us call them L8a & L8b). Though mechanical grass-cutting has rather mutilated what seems to have been its original round-topped form, even so, and with some of the surrounding soil cleared away, one can work out what the inscriptions on the north and south sides said: the

former had 'Farleigh repairs to this stone', and the latter 'Loose repairs to this stone'. Initially, I thought that this had something to do with mending the stone, but it now seems obvious – since it has been pointed out to me – that the words 'repairs to' merely mean 'goes to' or 'reaches'. I had visions of the two parishes arguing over who was to repair the stone if it got damaged! There is a stone with identical inscriptions in Well Street, by *Valley Fields* (see below: L23). The lettering seems to indicate an 18th or early 19th century date.<sup>6</sup>

According to the old maps, there should have been a stone (L9a) at the junction of Hubbards Lane and the *Filmer's Farm* track, and another (L9b) half way along the path to *Campfield Farm Cottages*. I could find no evidence of either, however. But the next stone (L10) is a fine specimen. Tucked in under the hedge that faces you as you pass the front of *Campfield Farm Cottages*, it is round-topped and bears the inscription '10 Loose'. At this point the 1888 party would have turned south towards Haste Hill Road, leaving the boundary with the East Farleigh enclave, and (going clockwise) traced the line that divided Loose from first Boughton Monchelsea and Loddington (which was then a detached part of Maidstone), then Linton, East Farleigh (the proper parish!) and Maidstone, and finally Boughton Monchelsea again. Frederick Stace's record states that they eventually came **down by the pond to the boat house**, which I think must mean Heron Pond (formerly known as Braddick's Pond) in the Loose Valley. Old OS maps show that there was indeed a boat house at the eastern end, and the parish boundary did, and still does, descend the valley-side to meet the pond close to where the boat house stood. The boundary stone which stood here, however, has gone (L96). Strangely, the perambulation seems to have ended here, and not back where the walkers started - opposite *The Chequers*. Perhaps they were too tired to go any further, but it is more likely that since the remainder of the boundary between Loose and the East Farleigh enclave merely followed the Loose stream they decided it wasn't really worth following. It may have been difficult to get through some of the properties, too - *Wilson's Mill* and *Gurney's Mill*, for example. Anyway, there only seems to have been one boundary stone to find; this was – and still is – on the viaduct (L106). It is one of the rectangular stones of the parapet near the NE pier, on the road side and directly over the stream below, and it has an 'L' and an 'F' divided by a vertical line.

## 1912

The report of this later perambulation (which obviously followed the post-1887 course) is far more detailed and interesting - as much for what it tells us about the participants and what they got up to on the way round, as for the information on the boundary. The report appeared in the *Kent Messenger* of 1 June 1912 and the full text is reprinted opposite. I have provided some explanation and comments, a report on the state of the stones in 2004, and maps to show the boundary and location of the stones.<sup>7</sup>

**Beating the Bounds** was an ancient custom dating from at least Saxon times and held annually in Rogation Week (the week that includes Ascension Day, and usually in May) – so the 1912 occasion was strictly a couple of weeks late. The ceremony was carried out by local officials and parishioners and involved them all perambulating the parish boundary. It had been a very practical way of checking the boundary and making sure people remembered where it was. By the 20th century the custom was

## BEATING THE BOUNDS HOLIDAY EXERCISE AT LOOSE

The ancient custom of "beating the bounds" was observed at Loose on Whit-Monday. The last occasion on which this event took place was on May 14th, 1888 - 24 years ago - and it might be thought that considerable difficulty would be experienced in finding and identifying the 106 boundary stones with which the parish is credited, But thanks to the care with which these landmarks have been preserved by property owners, and also to the documents of minute detail carried by certain members of the party, the work went on very smoothly, and only one or two stones were missed. These will probably come to light in a day or two.

A start was made at 10 o'clock from the "Swan", the party including the Vicar (the Rev. W. Gardner-Waterman), Mr. Joseph Barker, J.P. (chairman of the Parish Council), Mr. Wm. Antrum (one of the overseers), Mr. Frederick Stace (assistant overseer), Mr. Thornton Skinner and Mr. Edmund Bowles (Boughton overseers), Mr. Jesse Springett (a Farleigh overseer), Mr. Thomas Green, Mr. Arthur Tucker, Mr. Robert Hodge, Mr. F.T. Stace, Mr. Edward Butcher, Scoutmaster J. Green and a number of his Boy Scouts, Mr. Harold Larkin, M. Herbert Larking and M. J. Dean (roadman to the County Council), in addition to a number of schoolboys.

The party found the first stone in Mr. Rouse's orchard, close to the starting point, and, passing over his land, came out into Cemetery Lane. A somewhat rough journey through Cemetery Wood was next encountered, but this having been safely completed, the party found themselves in the path leading to Boughton. They did not keep to this for more than a few minutes, but climbed the hedge into Mr. Foster Clark's grounds, where a multiplicity of stones of Boughton and Loose at first caused a little anxiety. Then away across Banky Meadows, where it is believed the stone for London Bridge was quarried, and round a wood (much easier than going through it!) to the next stone, which was located at the back of the site of some old hopper huts. This stone for a time refused to be found, but Mr. Barker eventually discovered it, covered with ivy. The hunters next had to climb a miniature kopje to Boughton Quarries, where two stones were found to have been uprooted - apparently in the course of quarrying. The party then scaled a fence, and alighted in an adjoining wheatfield, in the middle of which the next stone was found. The beaters were unable to find a stone in the copse bordering the field, but by the side was found one bearing the date 1741. During further perambulations three more stones so dated came to light, whilst in a copse beyond Boughton Quarries was a stone denoting where the four parishes of Maidstone, Boughton, Loose and Linton meet. The company next journeyed across Mr. Goodwin's clover field and out on to the Coxheath road. Passing a short way along this, they climbed the fence into Mr. Cornwallis' land, entering a fine firwood. The land was originally part of the old Cox Heath, formerly one of the finest camping grounds in the country. Journeying boldly through the grounds of the Squire of Linton, the party found several stones and incidentally gained a sight of a magnificent avenue of rhododendrons in flower. Hereabouts was discovered a Loose-Loddington stone bearing the date 1802. Travelling straight across, the party came out on to the main road to Coxheath, where Mr. Barker and Mr. Thomas Green departed, Mr. Thornton Skinner and Mr. Bowles having just

previously left the party in Linton Park. Crossing the road, the remaining beaters entered a currant plantation at the side of some cottages; then passed through Mr. Butcher's land and into Mr. Sedgwick's land, and finding the expected stones, made for the Bell Inn at Coxheath, close by.

At the Bell, Mrs. Wycherley had prepared, in a room with the orthodox sanded floor of county hostelries, a meal of bread and cheese and Kentish ale for those so minded, while the youngsters of the party made merry on bread and cheese and cake and ginger beer. The wants of the inner man having been attended to, and the body rested, the party resumed their perambulations. Crossing several meadows, they came out to Well Street. In a field adjoining, some difficulty was experienced in finding the stone supposed to be here according to the maps, and after two false alarms it was found cut off close to the ground by a mowing machine, one of the beaters facetiously suggested! Then the company passed down into the charming Loose Valley, past Little Ivy Mill (or Frogs Island to give it its popular name) to Woodlawn, occupied by Mr. Chaplin, Lord Castlereagh's brother-in-law. In the grounds here were found several stones. Dr. Jones's Mill was next visited, two or three stones being identified at the house here. The famous Bockingford Arms was in the vicinity and the adult members of the company found their way in here by devious routes - on the pretext of looking for stones! A teetotal member was lured in on these grounds. The stone-hunters then struck across the fields to Hayle Mill and Godlands, the residence of Mr. Herbert Green. Built into the floor of the stock room of the mill was found a tablet marking the site of one stone, whilst another was found in the office of Mr. Green's son. There were four stones altogether in the mill.

In the charming grounds of Godlands, where rare plants grow in profusion in rockeries and unconventional by-paths, the party were invited to wander and enjoy the sights of one of the prettiest gardens in the district. For this is Mr. Green's hobby. By the kindness and courtesy of his son, Scoutmaster Green (Mr. Herbert Green being away from home), the party were regaled with refreshments on the lawn.

Then they moved on to Crisbrooke, thence up Mount Ararat; from there down "Cut Throat Lane" to Postley Fields; thence to the last stone, which was found on the main road not far from the starting point.

The time then was just 6 o'clock, so that the perambulation had occupied eight hours, including the refreshment intervals. The entire distance was stated to be  $6\frac{3}{4}$  miles!

The boys did not carry tall willow wands as is customary in some places, nor were hot pennies scrambled for, but in one or two cases the time-honoured custom of "bumping" on the stone was carried out amid much fun.

It was a good thing that a ladder was taken along with the beaters, for some of the hedges and fences that had to be negotiated required nothing less.

*Kent Messenger*, 1 June 1912

## ORDNANCE SURVEY MAP SHOWING STONES L76 – L89

The parish boundary on these maps is marked thus: . . . . .

Boundary stones known to still exist (2004) are underlined.



**Map 1**

Scale: 1/4 mile

less often observed, and the Loose perambulation of 1912 was evidently more of an investigation by a few enthusiasts than a true 'beating the bounds'. I do not know how they found out there were supposed to be **106 boundary stones**, nor what the **documents of minute detail** might have been. Today, it is the Tithe Map (c1840) and subsequent OS maps that provide about the only information as to where the stones should be.

**Rev. W. Gardner-Waterman** was Vicar of Loose from 1899 to his death in 1931 and a keen local historian. **Joseph Barker** was a JP and at this time Chairman of the Parish Council; he lived at *Hill House*, Loose Road. **William Antrum**, the son of miller Edward Antrum, lived at *Forge Cottage*, (now *Vale Cottage*), Old Loose Hill. **Frederick Stace** was the same Frederick Stace who had walked and recorded the 1888 perambulation. The **F.T. Stace** in the list of participants was his son. **Scoutmaster J. Green** was John (Jack) Barcham Green who lived at *Swiss Villa* (673 Loose Road) and had founded Loose Swiss Scouts just four years before, in 1908.

**Mr. Rouse's orchard**, where the 1912 party located its first boundary stone, covered the land now occupied by the Fire and Ambulance Stations. Old maps show five stones here (L76-L80), but the only one that survives is the last of these; it is in the hedge on the southern side of the field and has the letter 'M' inscribed on the flat top, the boundary being between Loose and Maidstone. **Cemetery Lane** is now called Pheasant Lane (presumably after *Pheasant Cottages* which once stood behind *Mount Pleasant*, 343 Loose Road), but it was Blind Lane in the 18th century, and was known as Mangravel Lane prior to World War Two. Close to the SE corner of the Fire/Ambulance Station land and beside Pheasant Lane, are to be found two stones: one is round-topped and has the inscription 'L81', marking the civil boundary, and the other is dated 1861 and was inserted when St Philip's Church in Maidstone was built and a new ecclesiastical parish formed. Neither of these is mentioned in the 1912 description. On the opposite side of Pheasant Lane is another stone, almost buried in the grass verge; this may be a damaged boundary marker but it is doubtful, as the boundary seems to have followed the west side of the lane.

**Cemetery Wood** appears as Mangravel Wood (sic) on the 1870 OS map. The boundary turned into it from Pheasant Lane along a path now marked by the fence between two houses, *Marandellas* and *Newlands*, but the stone which stood at this turn seems to have gone - as have the five or so others which were along the line as it threaded its way across to Five Acre Wood (L82-L87); the building of Oldborough Manor School must have put paid to them. A stone does survive, however, at the southern end of what remains of Five Acre Wood where the boundary meets Boughton Lane; it is just in from the roadside, opposite and about 10 yards west of the entrance to *Pear Tree House*. It is a rectangular concrete block with bevelled edges and has a large 'M' on one of its faces (L88), though unfortunately has been broken, leaving the inscribed top half lying on the ground.

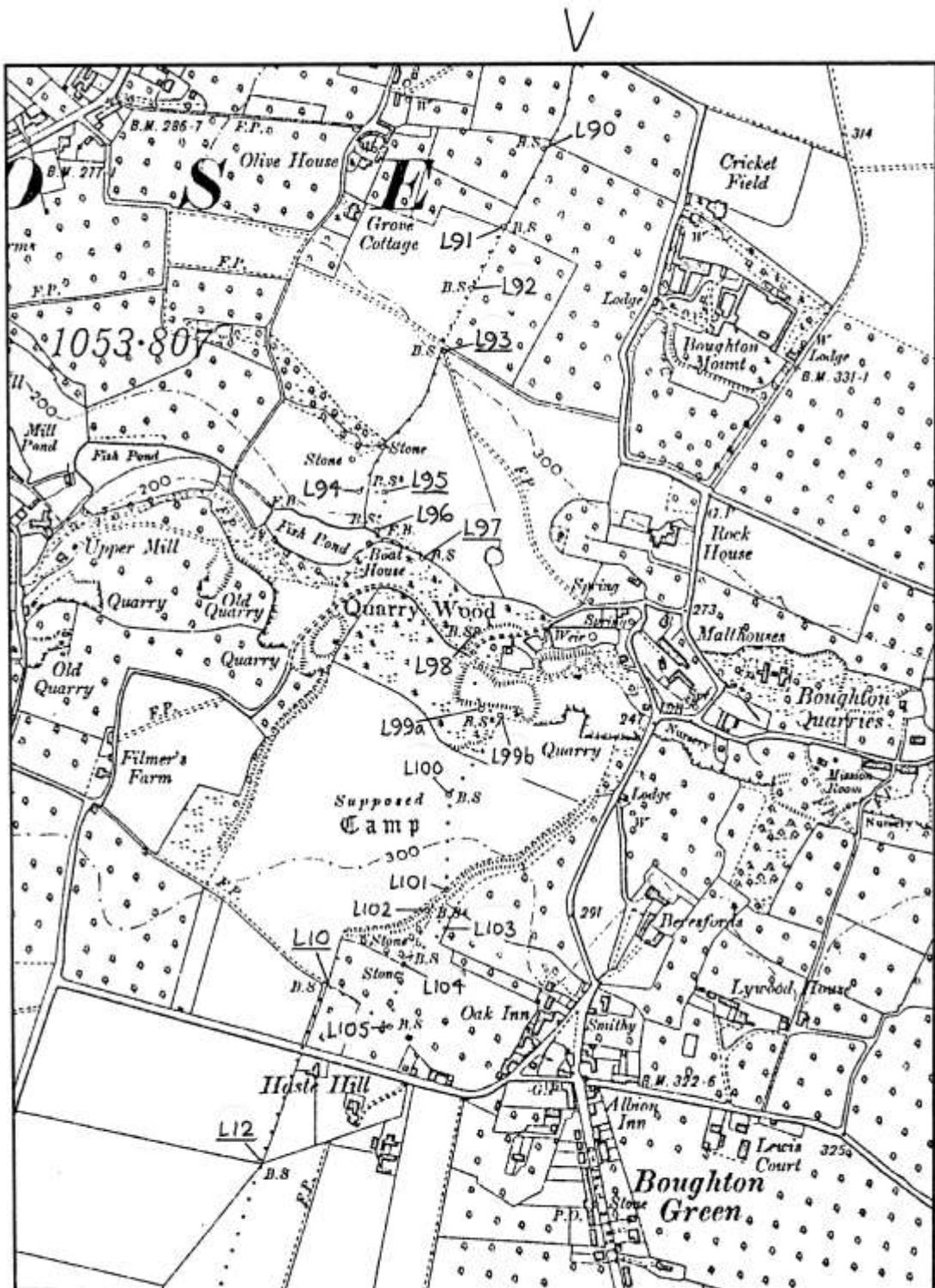
**Mr. Foster Clark's grounds** were on the south side of Boughton Lane, and the 1912 party must have climbed over the hedge by the footpath that today runs through from Boughton Lane to Eddington Close. There is still a stone there with 'B27' cut into its rounded top and 'L89' on one face (now below ground level), indicating that the

boundary here was between Loose and Boughton Monchelsea. Why the **multiplicity of stones of Boughton and Loose** should have caused anxiety in 1912 is a bit of a mystery; they would all have been fairly equally spaced and roughly in a straight line. The three along the fence line behind the Eddington Close houses and Leonard Gould's have disappeared (L90-L92), but the next one does still exist – just inside the gate of *Boughton Manor* (L93), the house that George Foster Clark built for himself and originally called *Merriehills*. The stone has 'L' on one face, 'B' on the other, and the figure '23' on its rounded top (a Boughton Monchelsea number). Old maps show two stones down the slope into the Swiss Valley of the Loose Scouts, but neither now exists and, not being properly on the line of the boundary, were probably not parish boundary stones. Further down, and on a sharp turn in the boundary, was another stone that has gone (L94), but a short distance due east still stands a round-topped stone that bears the inscription 'B19' on the top and 'L95' on one face.

**Banky Meadows** must refer to the area around Heron Pond (formerly known as Braddick's Pond), where ragstone quarrying went on until the beginning of this century. At the pond, and by a stone which is missing (L96), the pre-1887 boundary turned west to follow the Loose stream down to *Vale House* (see the **1888** report above); but the 1912 party would have ignored this and instead turned east to trace the new post-1887 boundary. Almost immediately they would have come across the stone at the bottom of the bank with 'B17' inscribed on its round top, 'B' on one face and 'F' on the other – clearly a stone that had marked the old Boughton/East Farleigh boundary now being used for the Boughton/Loose boundary (L97). I think that this 'Banky Meadows' must be the field referred to in a document of 1869 which records that a Vestry Meeting was held 'for the purpose of considering a Proposition respecting the disputed boundary between the Parishes of Loose and Boughton Monchelsea situated in Five Well Meadow, the property of J.W. Braddick Esq. It was resolved that the best way to settle the matter would be to divide the disputed land according to the sketch by the Government Surveyor'.<sup>8</sup> No sketch survives to confirm that the official's decision was followed, but the settlement of the dispute might explain the slightly odd twists and turns in the boundary line around here.

It appears that **a wood** – part of *Quarry Wood* – deterred the 1912 party from sticking to the proper boundary line, but they presumably came round via the woodland track to seek out the next stone which stood near **some old hopper huts** (L98). The huts, which were on the opposite side of the track from *Wood Cottage*, have long gone, and there doesn't seem to be any sign of the stone now either, though perhaps it is just still hiding under ivy somewhere, as it was then. The **miniature kopje to Boughton Quarries** must have been the area of *Quarry Wood* to the south of *Wood Cottage*, now virtually impenetrable; the two uprooted stones may still be there, but I have not been able to venture in to locate them (L99a & 99b). The **adjoining wheatfield** is now part of the *Campfield Farm* orchard, but neither the stone that the 1912 team reported finding in the middle, nor any of the five following that are shown on the old OS maps on the north side of Haste Hill Road, seem to have survived (L100-105). So the next stone to be seen (L10) is the one already referred to in the 1888 description above – the one standing under the hedgerow and facing down the footpath that runs past the front of *Campfield Farm Cottages*, bearing the inscription '10 Loose' – and it is from this point that the pre- and post-1887 boundaries become the same again.

ORDNANCE SURVEY MAP SHOWING STONES L90 – L12



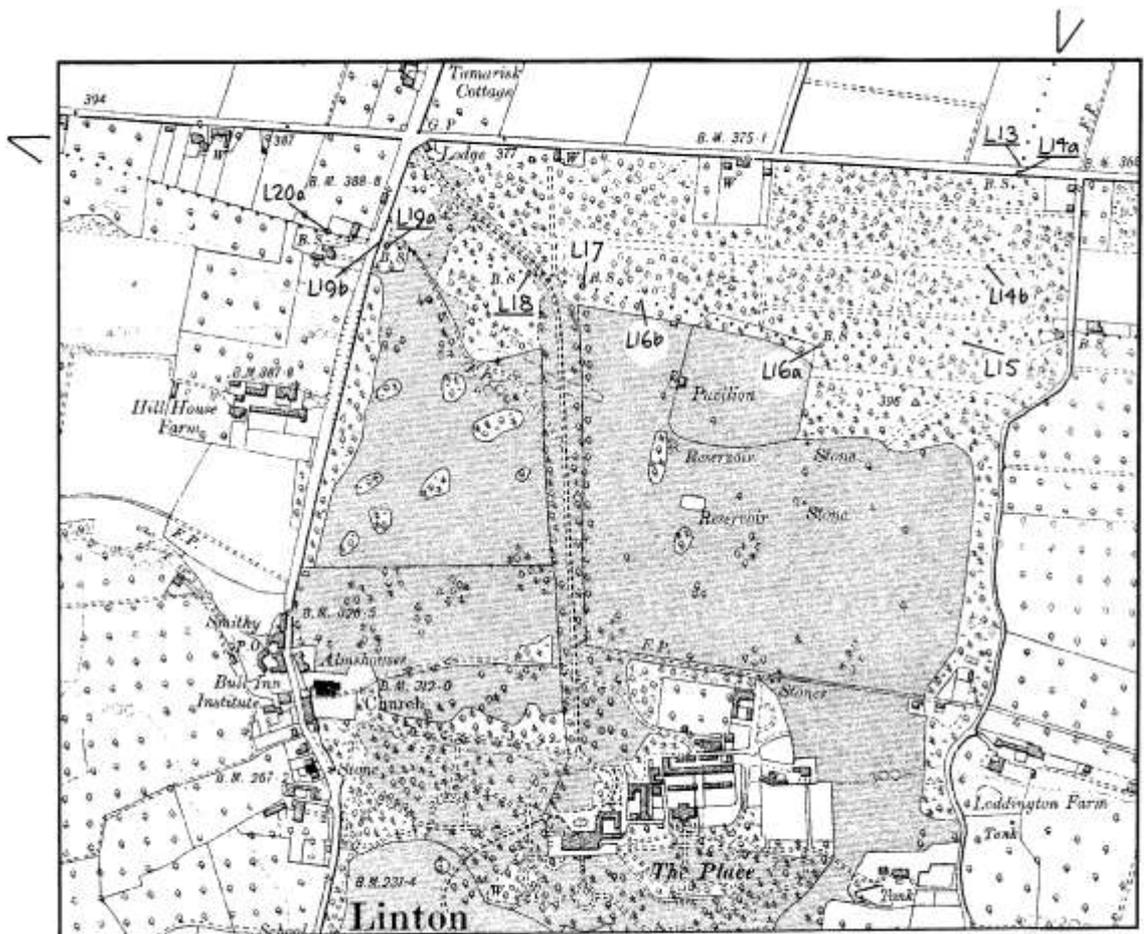
Map 2

The newspaper article mentions four stones **bearing the date 1741**, and one of these must have been the uprooted stone that is now to be found in the back garden of 10 Haste Hill Close. It has 'Loose 12' on one face (where was the 'Loose 11' stone then – at the crossing of Haste Hill Road?), 'B' on another, and '1741' on a third. A comparison of the stones around the parish seems to suggest that this and others of similar round-topped shape and with similarly-styled wording, if not a date, are the earliest of the Loose boundary stones that survive. If this is the case, one wonders what boundary markers existed before 1741. And are they the remaining few of a whole series of numbered stones that were put in position at that time? The Loose Overseers Accounts for 1742 refer to boundary stones being 'sett upon Cox Heath for to part ye two Parrishes' and a sum of 2s.9d is recorded, though it doesn't say what it was spent on!<sup>9</sup> The reference to the **stone denoting where the four parishes of Maidstone, Boughton, Loose and Linton meet** is strange as there does not seem to be any point where all these parishes could have met. **Mr. Goodwin's clover field** was the field between Haste Hill Road and Heath Road; the parish boundary crosses the field parallel to, and a little to the west of, a footpath, and comes to Heath Road at the house called *Boundary*. Under the front hedge is a stone with the inscription 'B5' (for Boughton Monchelsea) on the top. It may have more on its sides but nothing else is visible since it is fairly well buried (L13).

**Mr. Cornwallis' land** and the **fine firwood** were on the south side of Heath Road (Linton Park), and the 1912 party were evidently able to enter it far more easily than one can today. The stone that the Tithe Map shows standing beside the road and park fence immediately opposite *Boundary* is now lying flat on the ground; it has 'L14' and 'B4' on adjacent sides (L14a). Fencing and tangled undergrowth have made it difficult to locate the **several stones** in Linton Park that were found by the early searchers; the Tithe Map marks the position of five that were – and perhaps still are – in the woodland (L14b, L15, L16a, L16b and L17).<sup>10</sup> One of these must have been the **Loose-Loddington stone bearing the date 1802** (either L15 or L16a), Loddington to the south having been a detached part of Maidstone parish until it was transferred to Linton in 1883. A stone that certainly does still exist, even if it *is* lying flat on the ground, is a few yards to the west of the old main drive to *Linton House*. It has 'LOOSE' on one face, 'LINTON' on the opposite face, and '18' on the rounded top. It would be nice to see this reinserted. The next one stands in what one assumes is its original place, on the south side of the footpath near the junction with Linton Hill, where the Tithe Map has the note 'The Star door post' (L19a). *The Star* was an inn, all evidence of which has now gone. Although the boundary stone remains, and is of the old round-topped variety and nicely preserved, it has no inscription at all. The stone that the 1908 OS map shows as having stood just south of the junction of footpath and road is not to be found (L19b).

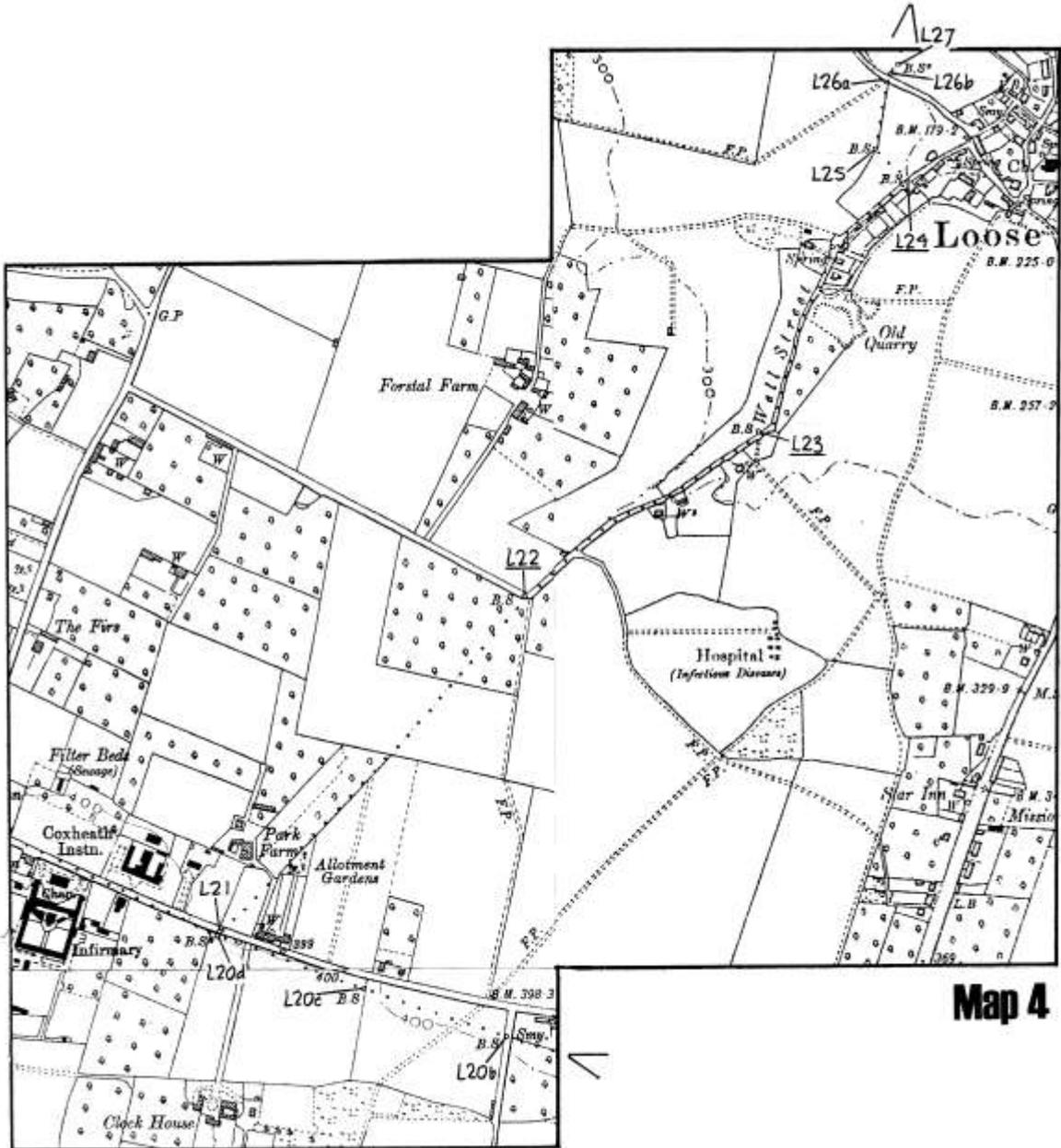
**The main road to Coxheath** of the 1912 report is Linton Hill, and behind the **cottages** on the west side of the road was – but apparently is no longer – a stone which the Tithe Map notes was 'LL16', indicating a Linton/Loose inscription; the number 16 probably belonged to a Linton sequence (L20a). **Mr. Butchers'... and ... Mr. Sedgwick's land** was the land behind the properties along Heath Road as far as, and probably beyond, Vanity Lane. The boundary stones along here – at least three of

**ORDNANCE SURVEY MAP SHOWING STONES L13 – L20a**



**Map 3**

**ORDNANCE SURVEY MAP SHOWING STONES L20b – L27**



them – all seem to have gone, including the one that marked the sharp turn north-east just after the *Clock House Farm* drive (L20b-L20d). The one that came immediately afterwards and which is also now not to be found, stood beside Heath Road and, according to the Tithe Map, was numbered 21. This boundary between Linton and Loose, along Cox Heath where the army regularly camped, seems to have been disputed towards the end of the 18th century, for on 17 June 1793 an agreement was drawn up, ‘at the request of the Parishowners of Linton & Loose’, to:

‘fix the bounderye betwixt the Parishes of Linton and Loose at the uper end of Coxheath from the Stone that the three Parishes of Linton Loose & East Farleigh Each Marks upon down the heath where the stones are Sett up to the Extremity of both Parish leading to Boughton by two Bounds Marked Linton & Loose Each side the Turnpike Road’.

One must suppose that the description was clearer then than it is now, but it confirms the existence of a number of stones in this area at this time. The sum of £1.1s. was paid to Mr Charlton ‘as one of the arbitrators in setting the bounds on Coxheath between the parish of Loose and Linton’.<sup>11</sup>

After their pause for refreshments at *The Bell* at Coxheath, the 1912 party, or what was left of it, crossed Heath Road and walked through several fields to **Well Street** – actually the junction of Well Street with Forstal Lane. Here there is a boundary stone under the hedge on the south side of the road and about 8 yards west of the stile. It is numbered 22 on the Tithe Map though it has ‘L24’ cut into its flaking E face (I have given it the reference number L22). The boundary – at this stage between Loose and East Farleigh – followed Well Street into the village, and half way down, at the bottom of the drive to *Valley Fields*, is a round-topped stone (L23) which bears inscriptions on both faces: the south face has ‘Farleigh repairs to this Stone’, and the north ‘Loose repairs to this Stone’ - exactly the same as the Salts Lane stone which was referred to in the 1888 description above. As before (with stone L8a), the words ‘repairs to’ mean ‘goes to’. The stone is in reasonable condition except for the edges which have been knocked about, resulting in some damage to the lettering.

Further down the road, and now standing close to the front garden wall of 18 Well Street – recently rebuilt when the drive was widened – is another numbered boundary stone. However, although the Tithe Map clearly notes it as number 24, it is just as clearly inscribed with the number ‘25’ – another case of the Tithe Map numbering differing from that of the stone itself.<sup>12</sup> The newspaper report mentions a stone in a **field adjoining** Well Street, which must be a reference to the one which stood back from the road (there were no houses on the west side in 1912) where the fence now is, at the top of the garden of 18 Well Street. The Tithe Map numbers *this* one 25, but a less than thorough search has revealed no sign of it, though a stone **cut off close to the ground** might still be in position; the 1912 party obviously had some difficulty finding it. The next stone – numbered 26 according to the Tithe Map – stood at the bottom of the footpath steps that descend to Busbridge Road just beyond the bungalow *Loose End*, though the 1908 OS map shows a stone on the other side of the road; if there ever were two, neither now seems to exist (L26a & L26b).

How, one wonders, did the 1912 party get down into **the charming Loose Valley**? Clambering down the bank from Busbridge Road would surely have been rather awkward, but if they were to seek out the boundary stones properly, they would have had to get down somehow, first to find the stone in the orchard at the bottom of the

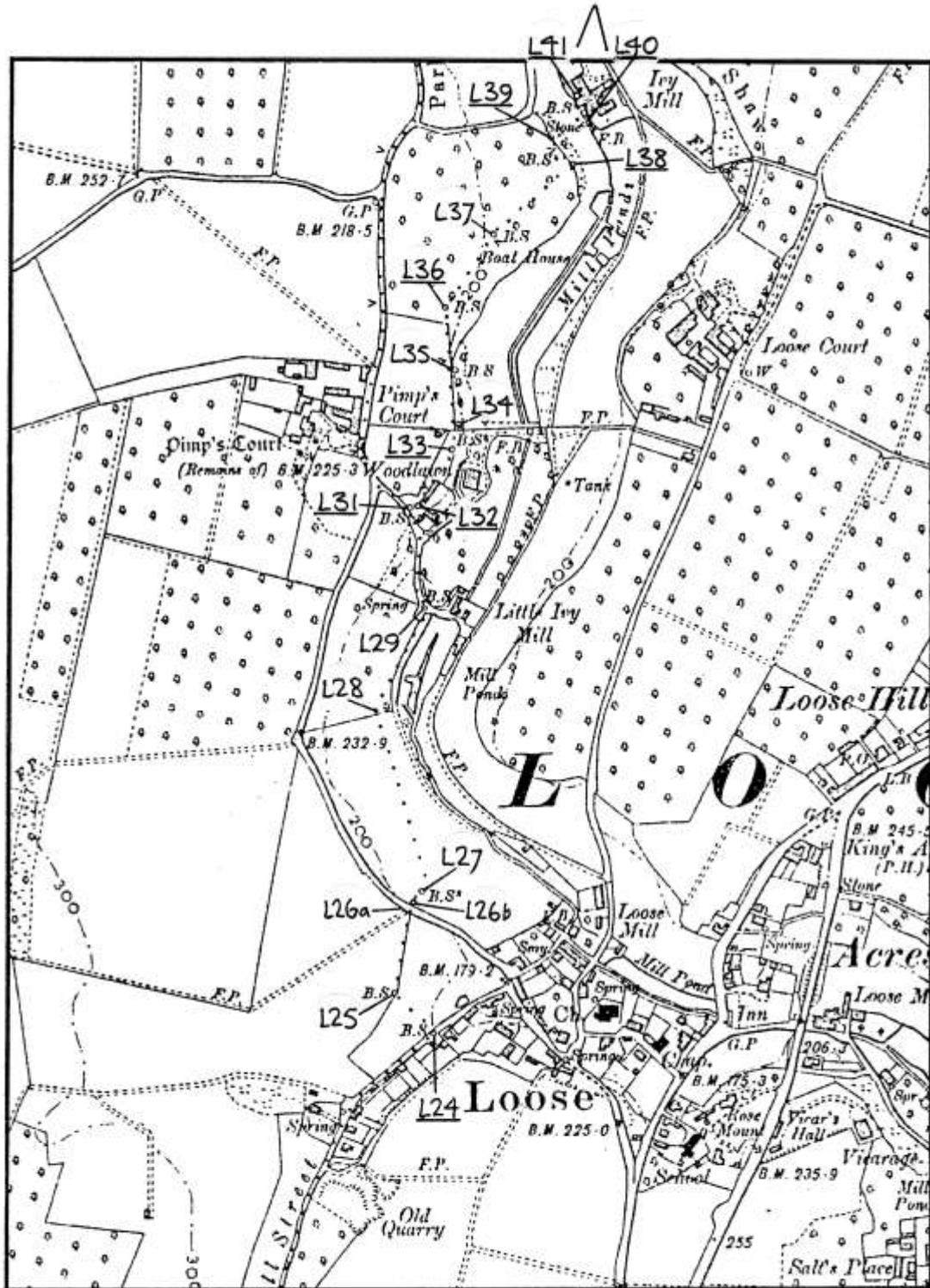
bank, numbered 27 on the Tithe Map, and then the two which stood at either end and a little to the west of the millpond at *Little Ivy* (L28 & L29). All three now seem to have gone.

When the party came past **Little Ivy Mill**, one of its members, William Antrum, might well have been having some rather sombre thoughts, for his father, Edward, who had owned the mills at both *Little Ivy* and in Loose village for many years, had recently been declared bankrupt and the mills were about to be auctioned.<sup>13</sup> Neither mill was to work again, and the mill house at *Little Ivy* would shortly be converted into a dwelling. Within a few months – towards the end of October – Edward Antrum was to die, aged 76. As for the name **Frogs Island**, it is one I have not come across before, but presumably refers to an island in the millpond which was home to a lot of frogs.

The boundary stones in the grounds of **Woodlawn**, and down the rest of the valley, seem to have survived rather better than in most places. There is one behind the iron railings just above the entrance to *Woodlawn* – rectangular with a pyramidal top – inscribed ‘L31’ on one face and ‘Maidstone Parish’ on another. (So where was L30?) Then, against the south-west corner of a derelict greenhouse wall, deeper in the grounds of *Woodlawn*, is a round-topped stone with ‘L32’ carved into one face. A similarly shaped stone, inscribed ‘L33’ stands beyond the house itself, near the hedges in the north-west corner of the grounds. The next two (L34 and L35) should be a short distance to the north, in the field opposite and belonging to *Pympes Court*, but they seem to have been removed. In the next field, however, and quite unmissable, is a stone which is a bit unusual (L36). It has sides which taper slightly towards its flat top, and an ‘M’ on one side and ‘L36 1867’ on the opposite one, though the style of lettering on the two sides is quite different. The Tithe Map shows that there should be two more stones (L37 and L38) as one proceeds northwards along the top of the slope, but the first has disappeared and the second is on the ‘wrong’ side of the fence at the top of the steep bank above *Great Ivy*, making inspection very difficult; it is inscribed with an ‘M’ on top, but there may be more. The next is to be found further along the same fence (L39). It, too, is clearly inscribed ‘M’ on its top, but the ‘L35’ on its face puts it out of numerical sequence. Was this one, too, moved for some reason?

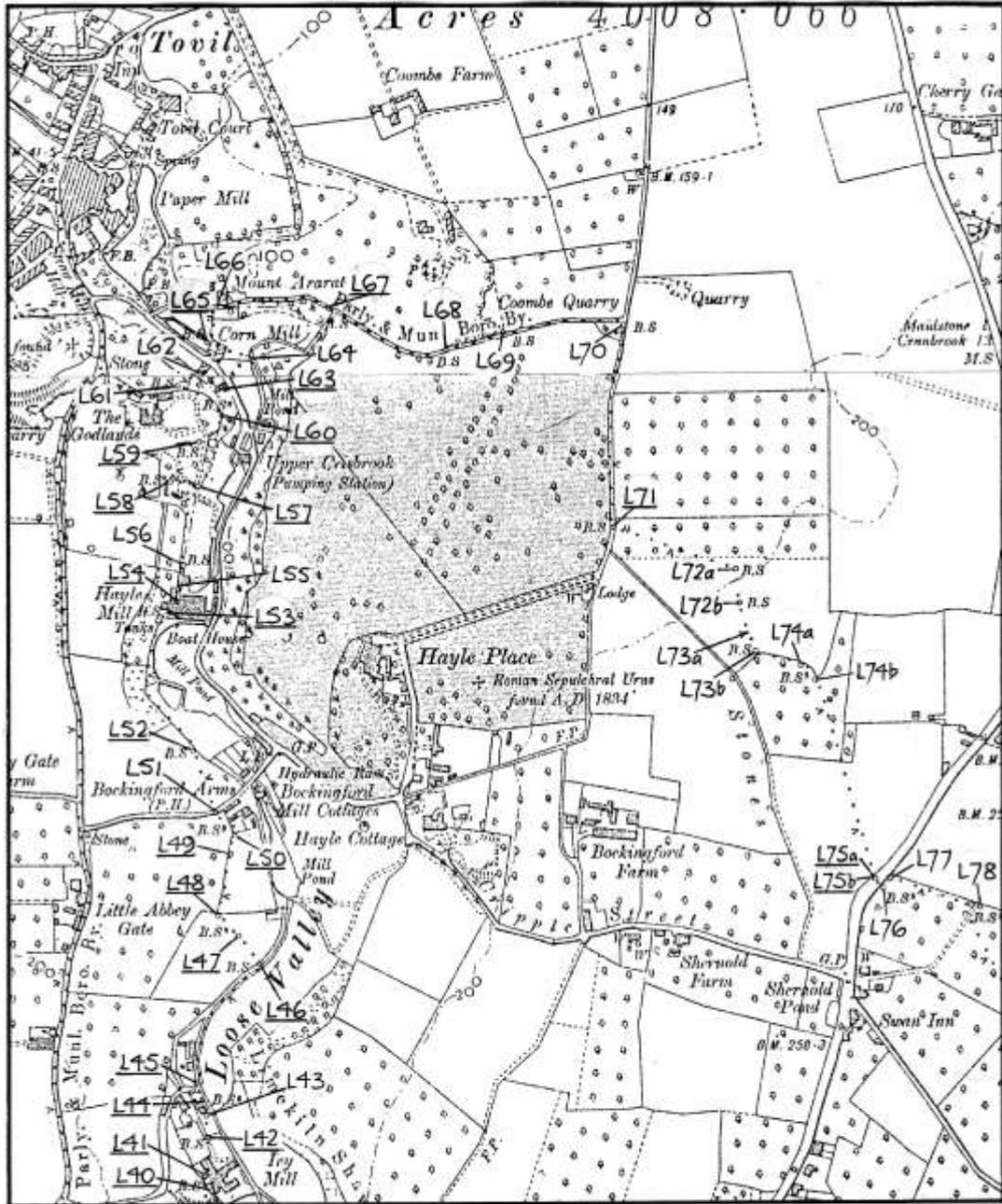
**Dr. Jones’s Mill**, to which the 1912 party descended, was *Great Ivy Mill*. Dr. Jones actually lived in *Derwent House* on the Loose Road, and was doctor to many residents of the parish and to the inmates of the workhouse at Coxheath, but he had bought the mill and put his son in to manage it.<sup>14</sup> The 1912 party is reported to have identified **two or three stones** at *Great Ivy Mill*, but the Tithe and OS maps seem to show that there were actually only two parish boundary stones; another stone nearby is not on the boundary. When the owner, Mr Richard Corben, kindly agreed to show me round, he pointed out both of the ones I was after. One was by the millpond, half in the water and inscribed with an ‘M’ on its south side (L40) – Mr Corben thought that it had probably been moved from its original position nearer the house. The other was on the north side of the house, standing hard against the wall on the left of the door; this had an ‘M’ on the top, and on its NW face an ‘L’ with possibly a number below ground level (L41).

ORDNANCE SURVEY MAP SHOWING STONES L24 – L41



Map 5

ORDNANCE SURVEY MAP SHOWING STONES L40 – L78



Map 6

The 1912 report mentions nothing about the stones between *Great Ivy* and *Hayle Mill*, but fortunately it is relatively straightforward to find most of them. The first is along the drive from *Great Ivy Mill* and by the curved corner of the garden wall of *Ivy Mill House*, where the round top of a stone can be seen just protruding from the ground and clearly inscribed 'L42'. The next stone (L43), which should be against the south wall of the house, has gone, but over on the north side, to the left of the front door, stands its successor, bearing an 'M' on the round top and 'L44' on the face. A few yards away, on the bank of the Loose stream, is another nearly-buried stone (L45); this has a round top with a letter 'M', and the letter 'L' on its north face with probably a number below ground level. Stone L46 is to be found a hundred yards or so beyond the end of the cottages and beside the private road that winds along by the stream towards Bockingford. It is in the grass verge on the right – though rampant vegetation often keeps it hidden – and has an 'M' on its rounded top and '46' on its N face; there was probably also the letter 'L' above the number once, but it is indiscernible now. At this point the boundary left the road and headed diagonally north-west across the adjacent field to the next stone (L47), which, though lying prostrate in the grass, is usually clearly visible. It has an 'M' on its flat end but nothing on the upturned face, and it was far too heavy for me to turn over to see if there was anything on the underside. Stone L48 stands further up the slope, on the west side of a gap through to the next field; it bears an 'M' on its round top and 'L48' on its south face. The following one (L49), which is almost due north along the top of the field and close to the fence, is a rectangular block but it needs clearance of the brambles and scrub to read any inscription it might have. Standing in the NW corner of the field under a damaged ash tree – and therefore difficult to inspect properly – is the next stone; but it is possible to discern the 'M' on its round top and the 'L50' on a face. There is no sign of the stone (L51) that stood beside Bockingford Lane.

The attraction of **the famous Bockingford Arms**, just down the lane, was obviously too great for the 1912 party to ignore; sadly, at least for modern walkers in the area, the pub has become a dwelling – *Bockingford Steps*. When the **stone hunters .. struck across the fields to Hayle Mill**, they would almost certainly have seen the stone that now hides away in the woodland beyond Bockingford Lane. Standing just past a rickety old garage and a few yards to the west of the track, it is in fair condition though covered with moss, and has an 'M' on its rounded top and 'L52' on one face – both inscriptions rather indistinct.

At **Hayle Mill** the 1912 party came across a stone in a rather odd position – **built into the floor of the stock room**. When I visited, I was kindly taken round by Mr Gordon Hill, the site manager for Mr Simon Green who owned the mill, and shown the same stone – in what he called the 'Upper Salle'. There in the floor at the west end of the room, under a wooden lid which bore the words 'Parish Boundary', still stood the round-topped stone, with 'M' on its west face and 'L' and an indiscernible number (which should be 53) on its east face. He then showed me a stone built into the outside brick wall of the old canteen; it was inscribed 'M' and 'L54'. The next two stones were probably still in position, but I was unable to see them – number 55 in the lift shaft, and number 56 inside a workshop which, when I visited, was occupied by 'Space Interior Systems Ltd.' who had materials piled up against the relevant wall of the store at the back. This latter must be the one referred to in the 1912 report as being **in the office of Mr. Green's son**. The stone at the northern end of the *Hayle*

*Mill* land – near a small quarry – is still in place; it has an ‘M’ on its flat top and ‘L57’ on its east face. At the top of the quarry one enters what the report describes as **the charming grounds of Godlands** – now the grounds of the Kent Fire Brigade Headquarters. I imagine the many **rare plants** in the rockeries have long since gone, but the **unconventional byways** are still there, and it is alongside one of these, at the foot of some steps, that the next stone is to be found. It is flat-topped and damaged on a corner, but the ‘M’ is clear on the top and ‘L58’ faintly visible on its rather eroded east-facing surface. To the south-east of the Headquarters building, beside a garden footpath of paving stones and at the top of a steep bank, stands another flat-topped stone also having damaged corners, but with an ‘M’ to be seen on top and ‘L59’ on the SW face. The next stone only came to my notice in the spring of 1995 when the bank on the west side of Cave Hill was cleared of trees. It lay at the top, uprooted but not moved far from its original position, and had an ‘M’ inscribed on its visible face; the ‘L60’ which it should also have, is presumably hidden underneath. The stone which the old OS maps show a little to the north of the Fire Brigade Headquarters I have been unable to locate, though it may be lurking amongst the trees and undergrowth somewhere (L61).

After enjoying refreshments on the lawn, courtesy of Scoutmaster Green, the 1912 party **moved on to Crisbrooke** – which seems to be spelt without the final ‘e’ nowadays. This meant descending to the bottom of Cave Hill and the Crisbrook millpond, where there are some intriguing changes of direction in the boundary. The first of these comes at *Crisbrook House*, and although older maps give no clue to the existence of a stone here, the 1958 OS map does (L62). I therefore called on Mrs Collins who lives at *Crisbrook House*, and she informed me that her late husband had indeed dug one up but it was now lying under a great pile of weeds and other vegetation at the end of the garden. She showed me where it had originally stood and where it is now, but I didn’t attempt to find it! The 1995 clearance work on the bank beside Cave Hill revealed another stone, this time bearing an ‘M’ on one side and ‘L63’ on its south face, and standing near the north-west corner of the old cowshed-cum-barn. However, following the sale of the building for conversion, some of the surrounding ground was excavated and the stone pulled out. I was assured by the new owner, though, that it was still on the site and would be re-erected when a retaining wall was built. The boundary makes another turn at this point, to cross Cave Hill and the Crisbrook millpond, but there is no evidence of the next stone (L64) that old OS maps indicate was on the N side of the pond near the footpath, though it may be hidden under vegetation. The one near the site of the demolished *Lower Crisbrook Mill* (L65) is still in situ, however. It stands close to where the Loose stream issues from a brick tunnel in a fenced-off area to the north-east of the mill site, and has an ‘M’ on the top and ‘L65’ on its S face.

When the 1912 party climbed **up Mount Ararat**, I wonder whether they spotted the stone (L66) that the OS map of 1870 shows stood next to the footpath and house there; I could find no sign of it. Further up the path, however, there is a stone (L67) – or I think there is, for I saw it once, but when I came to look again to determine what inscription there may be, I couldn’t locate it. It should be where the *Mount Ararat* and *Upper Crisbrook* paths meet. Fairly recent housing development seems to have put paid to two other stones along this path (L68 & L69); and also the first of the two (L70) along Postley Road - evidently known as **Cut Throat Lane** in 1912, though

‘Dump Road’ is favoured by Tovil children today. The second (L71) does still exist, however. It stands on the west side of the concrete road, a few yards north of the entrance to the Stud Farm, projecting just a short way above the ground, and with a letter ‘M’ on its top face – though there may be other letters/numbers on the faces which are now below ground level. The remaining stones lay on the land between Postley Road and Loose Road; the Maidstone Tithe Map of c1840 pinpoints a total of six along this stretch (L72a & L72b, L73a & L73b, L74a & L74b), but housing development has removed all trace of these.

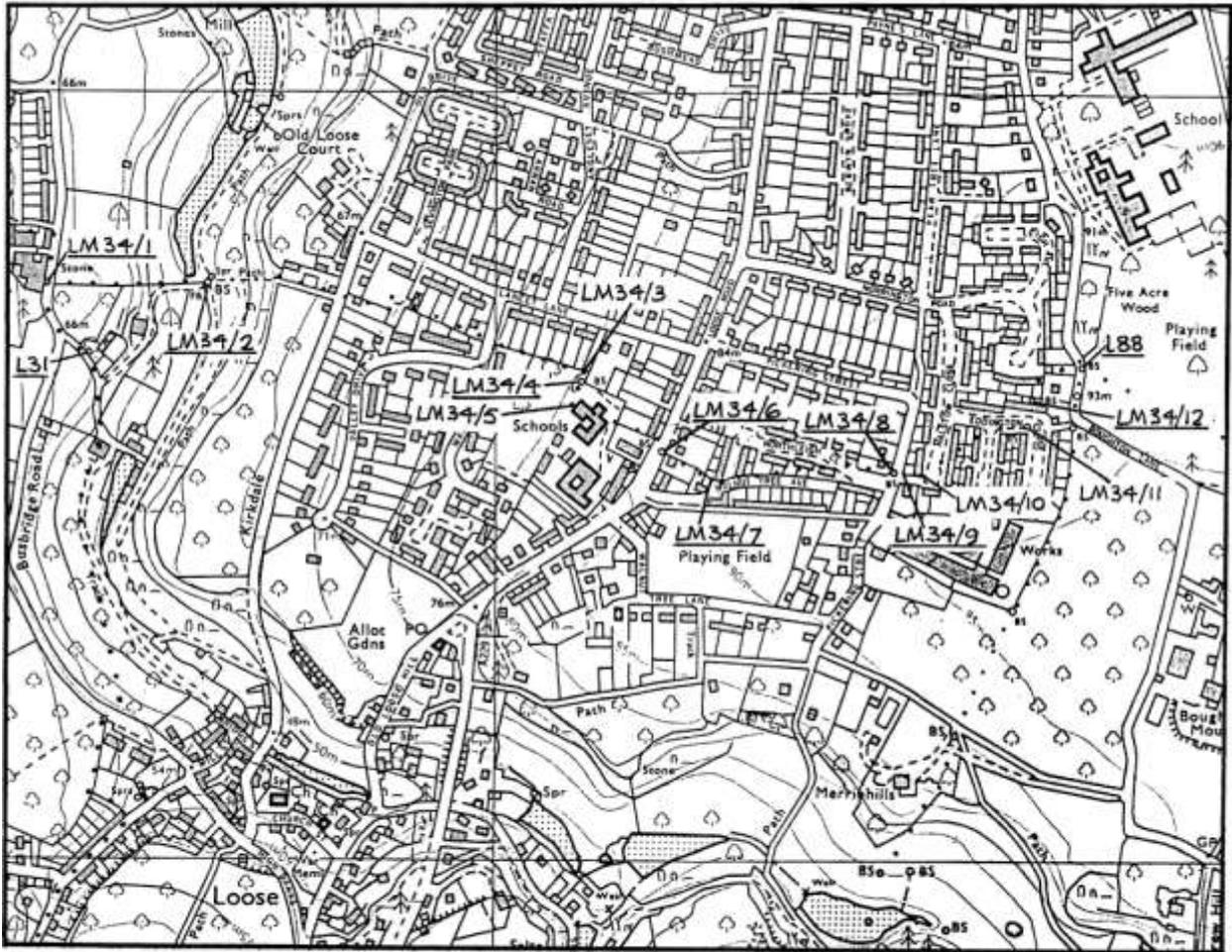
The 1912 party found the last stone **on the main road not far from the starting point**. This was against the wall of 400 Loose Road, opposite the Fire and Ambulance Stations, though in fact there are two stones (L75a & L75b). One is of the old round-topped variety and too deeply buried in the pavement to show anything but the top of a vertically chiselled line (like L3), and the second is of the later type, flat-topped though now with its corners damaged, and displaying a letter ‘M’ on one face and ‘L75’ on another.

### 1934

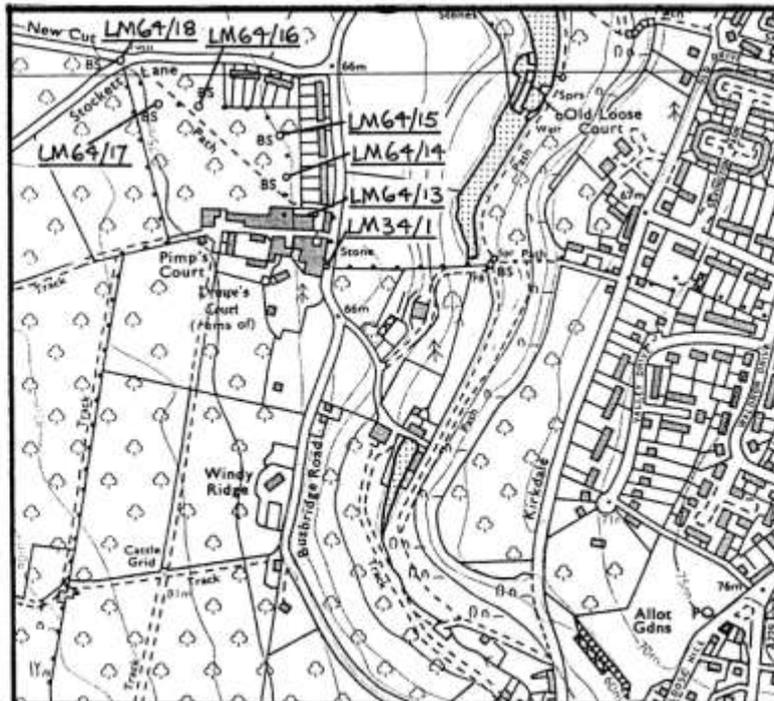
The Borough of Maidstone expanded in 1934, and the Kent Review Order of that year formally shifted the town’s boundaries so that Loose lost a large portion of land on its northern side. Most of the concrete stones that were put in along the new boundary are still to be seen. Apart from one which is a recent replacement, they are all of the same pattern – an equal-sided upright rectangular block (10" square in section) with chamfered edges – and all have the letter ‘M’ (for Maidstone) inscribed into one face. The present-day boundary between Loose and Maidstone is based on this 1934 line, but a number of adjustments have been made in recent years to accommodate new housing developments.

Starting at stone ‘L31’ behind the iron railings of *Woodlawn*, where the new 1934 boundary was made to leave the old one, the line goes up the *Little Ivy* lane and along Busbridge Road to the old barn of *Pympes Court Farm* – the location of the first of the new stones (LM34/1).<sup>15</sup> This stands against the old barn wall, a yard or two to the right of the big southernmost doors, and at present rather hidden behind the vigorous growth of Japanese Knotweed and other vegetation. Then the boundary makes a sharp turn east and heads directly across the field and down the slope into the Loose Valley, along the northern edge of the grounds of *Woodlawn*, arriving at a tall stone (LM34/2) beside the footpath and stile in the valley bottom. After this, it is straight on up the other side, following a footpath that runs beside *Loose Court Farm Cottage*, crosses Kirkdale and continues along the back of the gardens of the houses in Lancel Lane. At the SE corner of 9 Lancel Lane, and beside the little fenced path that now leads into Loose Infant School, is to be found the next stone (LM34/3) – protruding a mere 6" or so above the ground and marking a turn of the boundary to the south. A short distance away, at the SW corner of 7 Lancel Lane, should be another stone (LM34/4), but if it does still exist it is well concealed. Another turn – to the east – was once marked by a stone (LM34/5) that stood behind Loose Infant School (which hadn’t been built, of course, in 1934); presumably it got in the way of the school planners or children’s activities and was removed.

1934



1964



The boundary runs along the fence that now separates the Loose Telephone Exchange and 574 Loose Road, crosses the main road and comes to an easily found stone (LM34/6) standing on the pavement right beside the Loose Village sign – over two feet high and sporting the usual letter ‘M’ on its N face. Continuing in roughly the same easterly direction, the boundary runs along the side of 649 Loose Road and the back of *Lyncroft* in Walnut Tree Avenue to the stone (LM34/7) that sits inside the back fence of *Wynsdale*.

Northleigh Close didn’t exist in 1934, so the boundary ran straight across the orchard that was there then to the junction of the Close and Pickering Street. Here there are two stones, one on either side of the road. The first (LM34/8) is to be found against the wall on the west side and looks a bit knocked about. The other (LM34/9) is on the east side, near the footpath entrance, and is actually a replacement for one which was badly damaged a few years ago by some passing vehicle, so looks rather different from its compatriots. It is made of stone rather than concrete, is about 13" x 8" in section with a flat top, and has an ‘L’ inscribed on one of its narrow sides. Unfortunately this, too, has been hit and now lies prostrate on the verge.

Nowadays, to the east, is a sizeable housing estate. In 1934 it was another orchard and the boundary ran across it, initially following a footpath that led to Boughton Lane, and its route being marked by three stones. The first of these (LM34/10) should be at the SE corner of 40 Halstow Close – probably where the wall of the house is – but there is no sign of it. The second (LM34/11) also seems to have disappeared; it should be immediately to the north of the garden wall of 2 Eddington Close, and marked a turn of the boundary towards the north. The third (LM34/12) does survive, and stands in the back left-hand corner of the garden of 17 Eddington Close. The boundary line now bends round the back of *Pear Tree Farm House* (66 Boughton Lane) crosses Boughton Lane and meets the older Loose-Maidstone boundary at the stone numbered ‘L88’ just inside the Oldborough Manor School field.

## **1964**

In 1964 there were some further boundary changes that affected Loose, and those that related to the boundary with East Farleigh on the west side of the parish resulted in Loose gaining a few of the stones that had, since 1934, marked the Maidstone-East Farleigh boundary.

Starting from the stone beside the old barn of *Pympes Court Farm* (LM34/1), the new boundary line was made to turn north along Busbridge Road to pass six of the cottages, and then west again to a stone (LM64/13) that is to be found at the back of what seems to be a cottage garden and under the east wall of a large and more modern barn; it can be best seen by standing on the stile on the nearby footpath and peering over the fence.

Now there is another turn to the north and the boundary which curves across the orchard is marked by a series of four stones, all present and reasonably correct. The first (LM64/14) is behind 5 Busbridge Road, of the usual type but tilted as though some tractor or other machine has knocked it. The second (LM64/15) is behind 13 Busbridge Road, the third (LM64/16) is about 40 yards due west of the corner of the back garden fence of 12 Stockett Lane, and the fourth (LM64/17) is about 60 yards

further west, towards the field fence. A bend to the north-west at this point takes the boundary to the final stone (LM64/18) at the junction of Stockett Lane and New Cut. It has been slightly damaged by vehicles turning the corner and as it is half-buried in the bank, the letter 'M' which it probably has on its N face is not visible.

From here the new Loose-East Farleigh boundary ran in an almost due southerly direction through *Pympes Court Farm* land, past the Coxheath sewage works and *Forstal Farm*, to meet with Forstal Lane, but no stones were ever put up to mark it.

## NOTES AND REFERENCES

- <sup>1</sup> 'The Parish Boundary', *Loose Threads* vol.4, 1995.
- <sup>2</sup> Most of the stones, and certainly the earlier ones, are cut from Kentish Rag, but some of the later ones seem to be of a sandstone. It seems highly likely that Loose Parish once had a full set of numbered stones around its boundary. However, over the years and as a result of stones being removed, replaced and added, it became a very broken sequence. So, in giving an identification number to every stone (whether the stone still exists or not), I have used much of the old system, but adapted it as necessary. Some stones were put in place by adjacent parishes, and not by Loose, as the inscriptions on them sometimes testify, but for the purposes of this exercise I have given a Loose identification number to every stone on the Loose boundary. In the text, inverted commas around a number indicate what is inscribed on a stone, eg. 'L4'; bracketed numbers are just for identification of stones, whether surviving or missing.
- <sup>3</sup> Mr John Short (Borough Councillor and local historian) was given the newspaper cutting in early 1963 by Miss Edna Cole, who was Fred Stace's niece, but the piece was undated.
- <sup>4</sup> Thomas and William Froud were both butchers: Tom, aged 35, lived at *The Bockingford Arms*; William, aged 45, lived at Loose Green (in the shop that remained a butcher's for many years but more recently was *Loose Antiques*). Overseers were assessors and collectors of the Poor Rate. James Fullager and Edward Wilkins were next door neighbours: James, aged 53, lived in 2 *Congress Villas* on the Loose Road and was a stoker in a paper mill; Edward, aged 54, lived in *Avenue Villa* (now demolished) and was a builder. Ambrose Startup, aged 45, lived at *Salts Farm* (present-day *Salts Place*). George Froud, aged 35, lived in 2 *Hodsoll's Cottages* on the Linton Road, and was a bricklayer.
- <sup>5</sup> Efforts by Mr John Short to locate the original report made by Fred Stace were apparently to no avail. It seems that the *Kent Messenger* had it last!
- <sup>6</sup> Dating the boundary stones – except for the two I have found that are actually inscribed with a date – is difficult. The earliest written reference seems to be in the Churchwardens accounts for 1618 where there is a payment of three shillings for three stones 'for the bounde of ye parish' (C.K.S., P233/5/1), but the lack of detail makes it impossible to say whether they still exist or not – or what shape they were. The one dated 1741 (L12) has a round top, suggesting that many of the other similarly shaped stones are also of the 18th century, though some may be later. The 1867 stone (L36), though unusually shaped, has a flat top and it seems likely that other flat-topped stones, many of which bear the Maidstone 'M', are of the later 19th or early 20th century; those on the pre-1934 boundary must of course be before then. The style of inscriptions on stones could probably be of some help in dating, but expert knowledge would be required.
- <sup>7</sup> The maps which have been used to illustrate the 1912 perambulation are enlargements from the OS 6" to the mile 1909 edition, with the exception of small sections of the map showing the Coxheath end of Heath Road which are from the 1933 edition.
- <sup>8</sup> C.K.S., P233/8/8.
- <sup>9</sup> C.K.S., P233/12/5/2.
- <sup>10</sup> The site of the stone that I have numbered L14b may originally have had two stones, as the Loose Tithe Map has the words 'Bound Stones BL' at this point, suggesting that Boughton

and Loose each had a stone. The stone that I have numbered L16b is apparently numbered L14 on the Tithe Map. This does not seem to fit in with the Loose numbering, however, and may be part of the Linton sequence – though few of the stones around Linton Parish seem to have been numbered..

<sup>11</sup> C.K.S., P229/11/2 and P233/12/7.

<sup>12</sup> To retain the numerical order, even if it does risk some confusion, I have allocated L24 to the stone numbered '25', and L25 to the next (missing) stone.

<sup>13</sup> Information comes from Antrum family documents, copies of which I obtained from Mrs Joan Gooch (daughter of William Antrum).

<sup>14</sup> R.J. Spain, 'The Loose Watermills', *Archaeologia Cantiana*, lxxxiv (1972), p.73.

<sup>15</sup> The numbers used in this section are merely reference numbers of my own – LM for Loose-Maidstone, 34 for the year 1934. None of the stones is inscribed with a number.

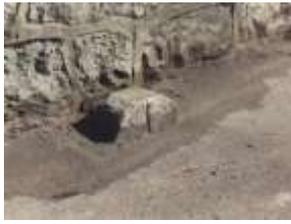
#### ADDENDUM (2010)

Since making the survey of the boundary stones around Loose Parish, I learned that other local parishes had undertaken similar surveys, notably Marden, Staplehurst and Linton. The last of these was the work of a team led by Jerry Whitmarsh and was of particular interest to me as part of the northern boundary of Linton Parish coincided with the southern boundary of Loose. Jerry Whitmarsh's volunteers discovered four stones which I had not been able to find, and re-erected one of them. So, the most recent information about this section of the boundary is as follows:

- a) Jerry Whitmarsh found the stone marking the south-eastern corner of Loose Parish (L15) in a back garden, underneath a garden seat in April 2008. It is marked '15 Loose' on one side and 'B' on the other. (Linton numbers it BSF29).
- b) Information was received that the stone inscribed 'L16' on one side, 'Maidstone Parish 1802' on the opposite side and '13' on the top, currently to be found at *Home Farm* and visible from the Greensand Way, was at some time moved from the Loose/Linton boundary. This must be the 'Loose-Loddington stone bearing the date 1802' referred to in the 1912 KM report and would have originally stood where L16a is marked on the map – where the Loose Tithe Map marks 'Bound Stone L16' – as this is the only place, apart from L15, where the Loose and Loddington boundaries meet, Loddington being a Maidstone enclave until 1883. (Linton number is BSF32).
- c) The stone in the position marked L20c on the map was located lying uprooted in a hedge on *Clock House Farm*. It is inscribed 'Loose 22' on one side and 'Linton' on the reverse; the Linton volunteers re-erected it in the middle of the hedge to try to ensure its survival. I have allocated the reference number L20c to this stone for convenience, despite its inscription. (Linton's number: BSF38).

In the last half century or so, building works have had an adverse and noticeable effect on the Loose boundary stones, and there is no question that they continue to do so. The *Hayle Mill* development, for example, has probably resulted in the disappearance of stones L53-L56 and possibly L57, though I have not checked these. And the proposed development behind the Fire and Ambulance Stations may see the end of stone L80 – unless someone takes action!

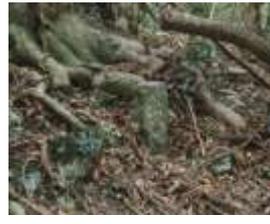
**LOOSE BOUNDARY STONES**  
**1888-1912**



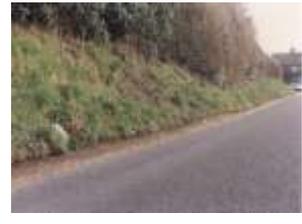
L3



L4



L6



L8a



L8a (2)



L10



L12



L13



L18



L19a



L22



L23



L36



L36 (2)



L39



L42



L44



L45



L46



L47



L48



L50



L52



L54



L57



L58



L59



L60



L63



L63 (2)



L65



L75a & L75b



L75b



L80



L81



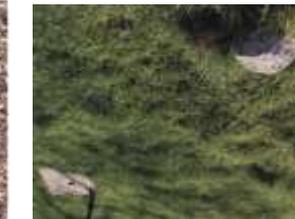
L88



L89



L93



L95



L97



L106

**LOOSE BOUNDARY STONES  
1934 AND 1964**



LM34-1



LM34-2



LM34-6



LM34-7



LM34-8



LM34-9



LM64-14



LM64-15



LM64-16



LM64-17



LM64-18