

Our reference: AA 50951/1
Your reference:

MINISTRY OF PUBLIC BUILDING AND WORKS

Sanctuary Buildings, Great Smith Street, London S.W.I

Telephone: ABBey 7790, ext.

9. December, 1968.

Dear Sir,

In order to assist owners or occupiers of scheduled ancient monuments or of property which includes scheduled monuments it is the Ministry's practice to send periodical reminders that such ancient monuments had been listed under the Ancient Monuments Acts.

The object of listing a monument in this way is to try to ensure that it is not altered or destroyed. The Ancient Monuments Acts provide that a monument which has been listed must not be demolished or removed, or altered or added to, except in case of urgent necessity, without giving the Minister of Public Building and Works three months' notice. It has happened that listed monuments have been damaged or destroyed because, as a result of changes of ownership or occupation, or for other reasons, these obligations have been overlooked.

I am, therefore, sending you this letter to remind you that the following monuments have been included under the Ancient Monuments Acts in the published list of ancient monuments whose preservation is of national importance. The listing is registered in the Register of Land Charges of the Local Authority.

No. 137 - St. Thomas 'a' Becket's Well, Otford, No. 9 - Otford Palace, Kent,

as shown outlined in red on the enclosed maps, the former in your ownership and occupation, the latter part only. I should be grateful for your confirmation and enclose a pre-paid label for your reply.

The Minister asks me to say how much he appreciates the care which owners and occupiers generally take to ensure that Ancient Monuments are protected, often at considerable inconvenience to themselves.

Yours faithfull

N. RUMLEY (Miss)

E. D. McDowall, Esq., The Castle House, OTFORD, Kent.