

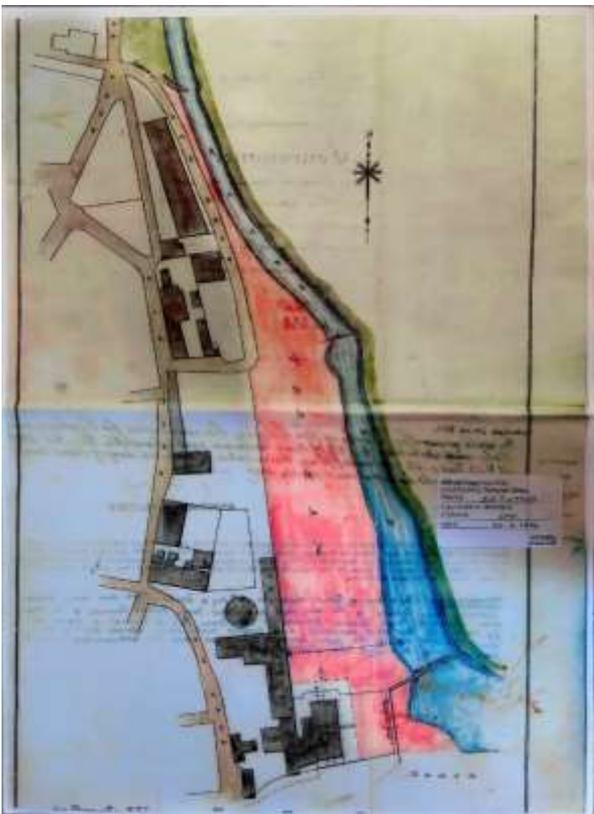
RETAIN REFURBISH REUSE

INFORMATION SHEET 4

What is the Ham and its conveyance?

Most of us think of the Ham as the green space east of the Drill Hall, but the actual extent of this land is much greater than that. Legally it includes the land running alongside the Sid right to the beach, including the concrete area around the old pumping station, the play area and the land under the toilet block.

Details of the history of this land can be found on this website: www.drillhall.historic-sidmouth.uk in the tab headed 'Eastern Town, preamble'.



A copy of the conveyance from JGG Radford to Sidmouth Urban District Council in 1896 is held by the Land Registry. The plan to the right shows the extent of the Ham, in pink.

This land is held in trust for the people of Sidmouth by the Town Council. As Trustees, the Council controls what happens on the land and has legal duties under the conveyance.

The conveyance is very important because it lays down how the land should be used and protected. It was lodged with the Charity Commissioners who retained a copy so that the provisions of the gift could not be overlooked.

Simply put, Radford's intentions seem to have been that the land should remain open for free public use forever and there is also a restriction against building anything more than 7 feet high in the area east of the Drill Hall. The existing toilet block appears to have breached this requirement but any proposal to build higher in that area should be rejected. Radford's aim was probably to preserve the views from the Drill Hall balcony to the east and from further back on the Ham out to sea.

This area has remained rather industrial and untidy, despite attempts to improve it since the 1880s. **We want to support all the landowners to finally implement refurbishment and to reuse facilities in a way that is true to Radford's intentions – for the benefit of the people of Sidmouth and its visitors.**