

## **Brief History of Dungeness**

Originally owned by the Tufton family, the land which the Dungeness Estate now occupies was sold to the Southern Eastern Railway, later part of British Railways, who operated a branch line to Dungeness. This line closed to passengers in 1937 and to all traffic in 1967, a part of it remaining to serve the Power Stations. British Rail later sold it to a Mr G T Paine. The estate is now in the Paine family trust.

Apart from lighthouse dwellings, old coastguard cottages and lifeboat stations, development of a settlement of any significance only began after the First World War when workers employed by Southern Railway purchased old carriages and set them up as beach houses or, where necessity dictated, began to adapt and extend them as homes, at the southern end of the area.

Prior to this some houses had been erected, mainly at the northern end, from the late C19 to house the family who provided fresh water to passing ships, and from the beginning of the C20 for the Tart and Oiler fishing families, allegedly the first beach house residents. It is likely that the single paved road off which most houses lie, began as a track.

Main services, telephone, electricity and water, only arrived gradually, the water main only in 1946. There is still no mains drainage. All services are supplied by overhead lines.

Up to the death of Mr Paine in 1985, beach house dwellers only had 3 month leases. The subsequent offer of 99 year leases (finally granted in 1999) prompted Shepway Council to anticipate pressure for new development, further, uncontrolled extensions of existing dwellings and enclosure of plots. Consequently, a report recommending the designation of a CA and an interim Article 4 Direction (under the then Statutory Instrument) was adopted in June 1985. The Secretary of State approved the Council's application for a permanent Article 4 Direction in March 1986.