

The “Dering Arms”

On 28th November 1842 a Special train from London Bridge to Ashford ran to mark the completion of the new line. A number of journals reported on the historic journey. In his book “ASHFORD The Coming of The Railway”, Gordon Turner included the combined notes of these journals. Within these was the following.

‘... Pluckley has been selected for a station as it is near to a turnpike road and will act as a useful staging point for the locality. **It is here that Sir Edward (Dering) has built an airy inn, in the Elizabethan manner, for travellers.** ‘

The Illustrated Guide to the London and Dover Railway 1846 has a section on Pluckley Station which refers to an Inn - the “Dering Arms” - as a new House (See extract below).

PLUCKLEY STATION. .

Rather more than a mile from the Station is the village. The Church, with its lofty octagonal spire— a Kentish peculiarity —may be seen from a great distance. Close to it is an inn, the Black Horse; but at the Station, another will be found in the Dering Arms, a new house, with pleasure gardens and ample accommodations. Surrenden, the fine old seat of the Dering’s, adjoins the village; its red brick gables are visible about a mile beyond the Station. Sir Edward is the present baronet.



The above sources appear to prove that the “Dering Arms” was built as an Inn. No reference to a hunting lodge can be found. The myth probably arose from the fact that Dering Villas (House) built in 1890/1 were initially used by the Dering family as guest houses for guests invited to shooting parties. These parties possibly met up in the “Dering Arms”