Note: Outline Planning Application (OPA) Site Boundary

The following report was produced prior to the finalisation of the application site boundary. The final application site boundary is shown on Figure 1.1 in ES Appendix 1.1. Therefore, references within the report to the site boundary do not reflect the site area and site boundary submitted with the OPA.

The reports were correct at the time of preparation, and all information within the Environmental Statement assessment reflects the latest relevant information.

WESTENHANGER CASTLE AND ITS LANDSCAPE

Paul Stamper Heritage
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PAUL STAMPER HERITAGE

25 Big Green, Warmington, Peterborough PE8 6TU
paul.stamper52@gmail.com   01832 280344   07507 720397

1.   INTRODUCTION

Location and situation

Westenhanger Castle, for a time in the 16th century a royal house, stands three miles north-west of Hythe and three-quarters of a mile south-south-west of Stanford church. It occupies the northern side of a low spur of land which extends south towards the shallow valley of the East Stour River, in reality little more than a stream. For Edward Hasted, Kent's historian, writing in the late 18th century, Westenhanger had 'a gloomy appearance, in a low unpleasant situation, having an extent of flat country and pasture grounds in front of it.'[1] Between the late Middle Ages and the mid-18th century much of that ground was occupied by a deer park – here called Westenhanger park - while Folkestone Racecourse set up here in 1898. Immediately south-east of the castle is the racecourse grandstand, now semi-derelict following the course's closure in 2012.

The planning background, and this report

Folkestone & Hythe District Council (F&HDC) intends to develop 586ha of land in the vicinity of Westenhanger Castle within the administrative area of F&HDC in Kent to develop a new garden settlement, 'Otterpool Park'. An outline planning application (OPA) is to be submitted for up to 8,500 dwellings and other uses including commercial, retail, education, health, community and leisure facilities, parking, landscaping, and public open space.

This report, commissioned by Arcadis LLP, is intended to help develop understanding of the proposed development area (PDA). It touches only lightly on the castle buildings, which stands on the north edge of that area. These have been much studied in the past, although as yet no definitive recording and analysis to modern standards has taken place. Rather the report focusses on its surrounds and possible gardens, and principally the area formerly occupied by its deer park. At its fullest extent this extended outside the PDA and the report focuses on the area that will be directly impacted by the development proposals.

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[1] Edward Hasted, 'Parishes: Stanford', in *The History and Topographical Survey of the County of Kent: Volume 8* (Canterbury, 1799), pp. 63-78. *British History Online* http://www.british-history.ac.uk/survey-kent/vol8/pp.63-78 [accessed 9 December 2020].
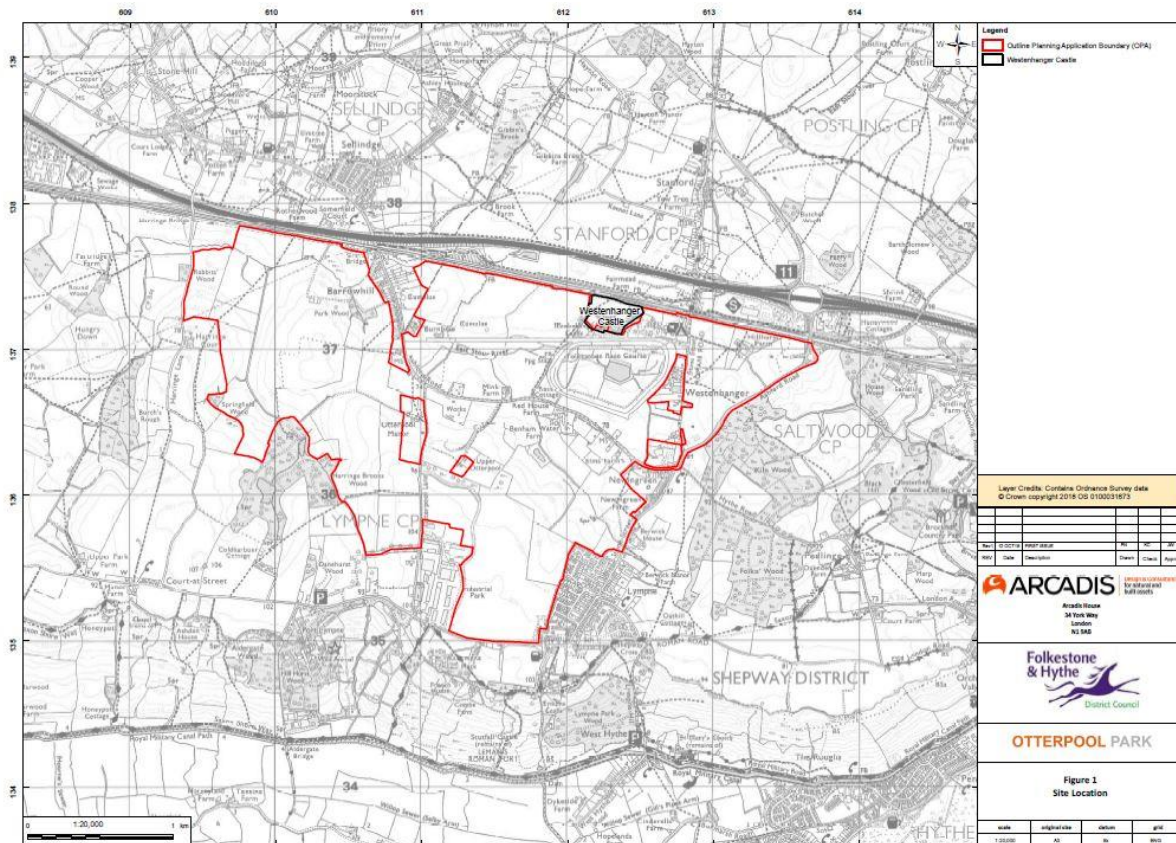
Figure 1. The 'red line' area. Westenhanger Castle stands on the north fringe.

2. WESTENHANGER CASTLE AND IS LANDSCAPE: A PLACE OF SIGNIFICANCE

The significance of Westenhanger Castle – more a fortified manor house, granted a licence to crenellate in 1343 – is formally identified by the designation of its built fabric, and land extending to the west and north, as a Scheduled Monument (List entry 1020761) and Grade I listed building (List entry 1344223). The barns west of the castle are also Grade I-listed (List entry 1045888). Historically, from at least the later Middle Ages until the mid-18th century, it stood within a deer park which at times extended to at least 400 acres and possibly much more, encompassing much of the surrounding landscape. Especially in the 16th century Westenhanger could indeed be characterised as an elite site, visited by royalty on at least two occasions.

This point was emphasised in the most important study of the Westenhanger castle complex, by David and Barbara Martin, who wrote: 'It is one of Kent's forgotten great houses. Most who have written regarding it have concentrated upon its role as castle, but this is only one of number of ways the site can be viewed - in its earliest surviving form it was a moated house, it developed into castle, became royal residence (albeit for short time) and was in its later years one of Kent's greatest mansions.'[2]

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[2] David and Barbara Martin, 'Westenhanger Castle - a Revised Interpretation', *Archaeologia Cantiana* 121 (2001), 203-36 at 203.

The site's later history, especially its use as Folkestone Racecourse, is well known and is only touched upon lightly here. Archaeological investigations by Wessex Archaeology in 2020 associated with the planning application have added to understanding of the wider area, and notably has found evidence of prehistoric activity hereabouts. Its findings are not assessed in detail here, although reference is made to observations associated with the deer park and racecourse.

3. TOWARDS UNDERSTANDING

This report draws extensively on previous work on Westenhanger, which is referenced and acknowledged where appropriate. As noted above, of particular relevance is David and Barbara Martin, 'Westenhanger Castle - a Revised Interpretation', *Archaeologia Cantiana* 121 (2001), 203-36. A substantial 'Statement of Significance' was prepared by Arcadis in 2018 which forms Appendix 9.6 of the Otterpool Park Environmental Statement. In the text which follows, 'Identification Numbers' which relate to that report are included in bold thus **(123)**. In addition, a valuable compilation of observations on Westenhanger was prepared by Peter Kendall, formerly Principal Adviser (London & South East Region) with Historic England. This is referenced as 'Peter Kendall's notes'.

4. OWNERSHIP

In the post-Conquest period Westenhanger and Ostenhanger (i.e the Easten Hanger) were a single estate.[3] This was partitioned into its east and west parts before 1199, but these were reunited by marriage c.1300 when in the ownership of the Criol family. Sir John de Criol obtained licence to crenellate Westenhanger in 1343. While such a licence does not require the creation a fortified house, Westenhanger was described as a castle in 1381, which probably indicates large-scale work had been done over the previous generation. Soon after 1509 this portion of the estate was sold to Sir Edward Poynings, whose family had long held a moiety (a part share) of it.

Poynings was a favourite at the courts of Henry VII and VIII, and under latter was on the Privy Council, Governor of Dover Castle, Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports and a Knight of the Garter. Edward Hasted, the late 18th-century historian of Kent, specifically states that Poynings began to build 'magnificently', but he died in 1522/3, and was succeeded by his son Sir Thomas, who was also in favour with the king. According to the Martins, gardens were constructed outside the moat along the west side of the castle in this period, although they do not give a source.[4]

In 1539 King Henry was undertaking his great programme of south coastal defences, and the *King's Works* speculates that this explains why he felt the need of a house in south-east Kent.[5] Thus in 1540, perhaps under pressure to do so, Sir Thomas surrendered Westenhanger

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[3] Next two paras based on David and Barbara Martin, 'Westenhanger Castle - a Revised Interpretation', *Archaeologia Cantiana* 121 (2001), 203-36.

[4] Op. cit 229.

[5] Para based on H.M. Colvin (gen. ed.), *The History of the King's Works IV* (1982), 283-5. However, as an aside, whatever the reason why Westenhanger passed into royal hands it may be noted that the acquisition of additional houses was commonplace throughout Henry's

– the mansion (then in 'great ruin'), the manor and its park to the king in an exchange of properties. According to Hasted, a great deal was spent on the unfinished house fitting it for royal use (the royal accounts note specific expenditure between 1542 and 1544), and also that the king 'laid into the park a large circuit of land, inclosing many mansions, houses and buildings of the inhabitants within the pale of it.' The basis for Hasted's assertion about the park and how it took in 'many mansions, houses and buildings' is unknown, and sounds rather hyperbolic. What the royal accounts do confirm is that large sums were spent on enlarging, enclosing and paling the parks at 'Ostinghanger' as well as those at Saltwood, and Aldington nearby.[6] Henry visited on at least one occasion, in 1542.[7] After 1547 the house passed in and out of royal hands before returning to the Crown in 1566. Queen Elizabeth stayed here on a progress in 1573, but in 1585 Westenhanger again left Crown hands. Whether either monarch hunted here is unknown, but given their love of the hunt (see below) it would seem a strong possibility.

The Martins speculate that during the period of royal ownership the house would have had a formal garden. This is highly likely, but cannot necessarily be inferred from the evidence they cite, a survey of 1559 which mentions Westenhanger Place's 'gardens, orchards, ponds and waters …': this sounds like a lawyer's or surveyor's standard catch-all wording.

An inventory of 1635 (when the figure of 400 acres was repeated for the park[8]) is among the sources which suggested to the Martins that by the mid-17th century Westenhanger may have rivalled any house in south-east England. However, in 1701 the greater part of the house was supposedly pulled down. The reason for this is unknown. The demolition was, however, far from wholesale, as both a plan of 1775[9] and the surviving fabric shows.

5.   THE LANDSCAPE AROUND THE CASTLE

A raised walk around the castle ?

As noted above, while it is highly likely that the high-status house always had pleasure gardens, specific documentary evidence is lacking. There are though hints in the earthworks.

A pronounced flat-topped bank, clearly mapped on the large-scale OS mapping of the 1880s, runs along the outer edge of the castle's moat (Figure 2). This may have had a dual function: as a dam for the moat, which the topography on the north side of the castle demanded, and as a raised or terrace walk. The OS mapping suggests the bank ran off the north-east, probably

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reign. When he became king he inherited about 20 houses; by the time of his death he had at least 50: *The Times, Saturday Review* (15 April 2017), 16. See too the section below 'Henry VIII and hunting parks*'.*

[6] *L&P Henry VIII* xvi, pp. 357-8, 369-70, at https://www.british-history.ac.uk/letters-papers-hen8/vol16/pp350-365, at f.53. Expenditure on the three parks is grouped together in the three entries, and no further details are given other than the sums spent.

[7] The Statement of Significance says twice, and 'Peter Kendall's notes' say Thomas Cromwell also stayed there.
[8] 'Peter Kendall's notes'
[9] Kent Archives ref_U998_Z21_21

to give access to and from Stone Street at a point close to the later Westenhanger station. That continuation of the bank can still be seen today, but is less apparent than the OS mapping suggests. No approach road here is shown on any of the 16th-century and later maps of Westenhanger (below), which suggests that if this was an approach route it had fallen out of use by the later 16th century. There is a marked break in the bank at the north-east corner; possibilities include that this is a breach made in the 18th or 19th centuries, or that any walk may have been carried at this point by a bridge.

The moat-edge walk continues along the east side of the castle, and is picked up by a pronounced and well-defined flat-topped terrace walk with a stone retaining wall along the outer edge of the line of the south moat (see Figures 3-5). The Martins note that the terrace walk would have been overlooked by the private apartments in the castle's south range. However, there is no evidence for their assertion that this was a component of a wider 'formal garden' here.[10]
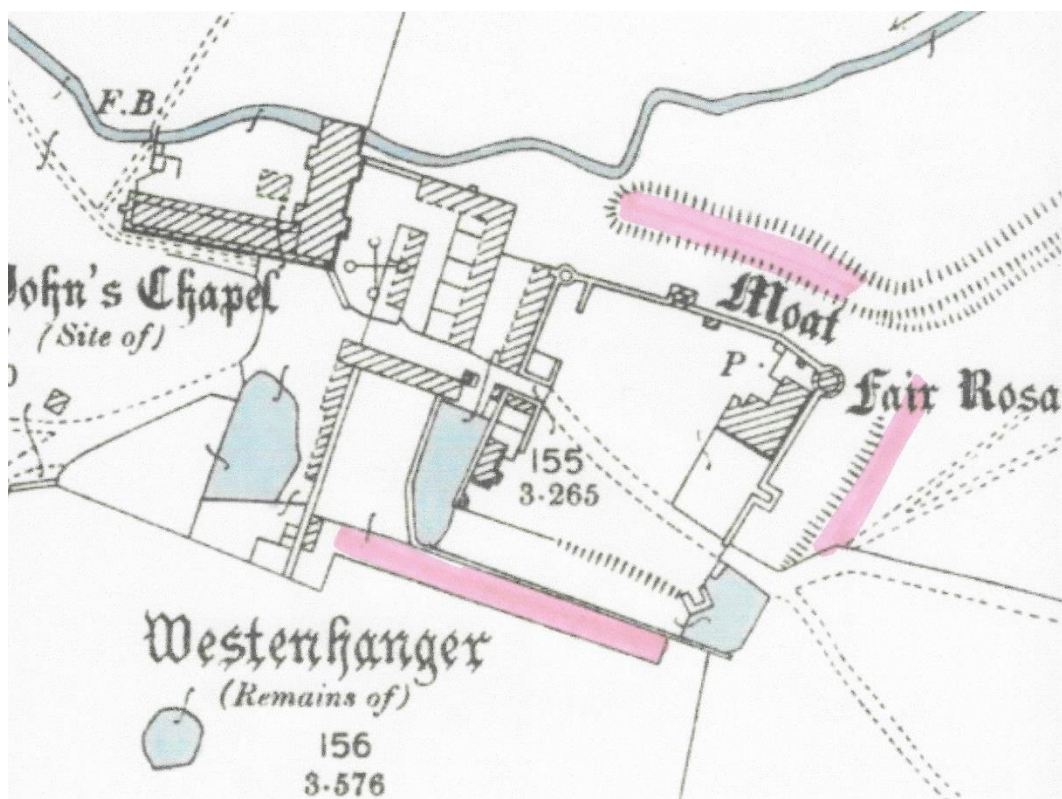

Figure 2. Rough plot of earthworks in pink suggestive of raised walk. Base map: OS 25 inch, Kent sheet XXIV.6 (1898)

The evidence is not entirely unambiguous, but a firm case can be advanced that what we have here is a terrace or raised walk around the perimeter of the moat, on three, and perhaps originally four, sides. The purpose of such would have been to afford a private place for the owners and their guests to exercise, and a vantage point from which to show off to such guests both the varied faces of the castle and, by turning outwards, its park and wider setting.

Raised or terrace walks around moats and especially gardens - are very well known features of higher status residences in the later medieval period, and the figures in Oliver Creighton's

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[10] Op. cit. 233

Designs Upon the Land: Elite Landscapes of the Middle Ages (2009) suggest many examples including Peterborough Abbey (Northamptonshire), Castell Blaenllynfi (Brecknockshire) and Ravensworth (N. Yorks).[11] The raised walk continued to be popular through the 16th and 17th centuries, especially around the edge of the main garden compartments, the era when formal designed landscapes were most fashionable. Again, many examples could be given, such as Quarrendon (later 16th century; Buckinghamshire), Wakerley (c.1620; Northamptonshire) and Wing, (probably c.1660; Buckinghamshire).[12]

Figure 3. The possible terrace walk north of the castle, looking west.

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[11] Op. cit., 51, 108, 137.

[12] C. Taylor, *Parks and Gardens of Britain: A Landscape History from the Air* (1998), 56-7, 62-3, 78-9.

Figure 4. View to the east range of the castle and the dovecote tower (the OS's annotation of this as 'Fair Rosamund's Tower' is misplaced) from the possible terrace walk. The continuation of the walk along the north side of the castle can be seen to the right.

Figure 5. The possible terrace walk along the south side of the castle, view west.

Given the long period when raised walks were deployed around high-status residences it is difficult to suggest when those at Westenhanger may have been constructed, although it is tempting to associate them with the period which was perhaps its heyday, the mid-16th century.

The walled garden to the south of the castle

Both the 1797 Ordnance Survey two inches to the mile survey of the area (Figure 17), and the c.1840 Stanford tithe map (Figures 6 and 18), shows a large enclosed – presumably walled – garden south of the castle described as an orchard **(166)**. It has been suggested that this may be an element of the 16th-century gardens around the castle. Geophysical survey by Headland Archaeology in 2017 found the south and east lines of the garden boundary coinciding with where it was shown on the tithe map. Trial trenching in 2018 by Oxford Archaeology[13] positioned four trenches over the site of the walled area. Three ditches and a robbed wall were found in the approximate position of this boundary associated with ceramic building material dated to the Tudor period was found. If the walled garden does survive it appears to be poorly preserved. Moreover, the evidence for a Tudor date remains slight, and the enclosure could equally well be much later, perhaps 18th-century.

Figure 6. The Stanford tithe map c.1840, showing the enclosed garden (A3) south of the castle.

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[13]as reported in the 'Statement of Significance' (pp.46-7)

6.   THE OUTER LANDSCAPE, INCLUDING THE PARK
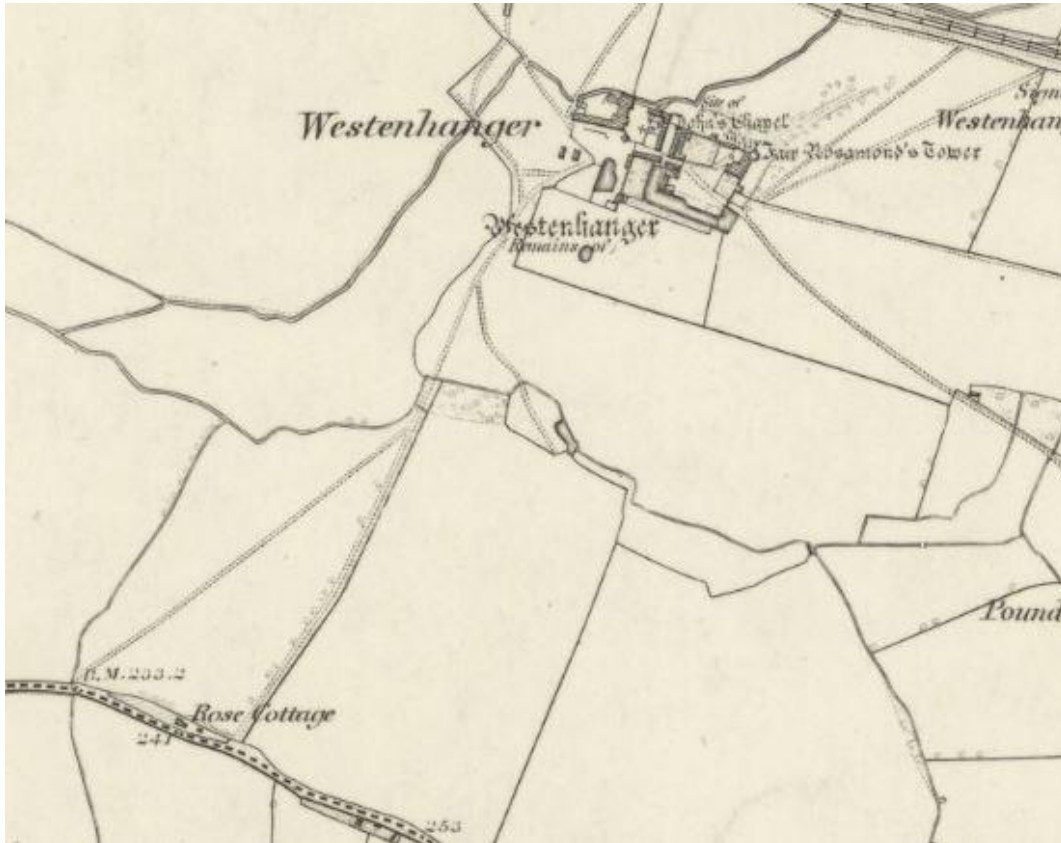
The approach causeway from the south

Figure 7. The approach causeway from the south, as mapped in 1877. Source: OS 6 inch Kent sheet LXX. See too Figure 12.

One possible approach from the north-east, via an embankment-like feature from the Stone Street to the north-east, has already been noted (above). That may have been something of a secondary route, and the main formal route was probably that along the slightly raised, 600m long, causeway from the south **(149)**. This led to the west side of the complex, and presumably thence to the castle's gatehouse. About 1700 John Harris noted that 'traces of a long walk, bordered by a double row of trees, may yet be distinguished leading up towards the principal entrance from the south'.[14] The gateway at the causeway's south end was clearly indicated on Morden's map of 1695 (Figure 14), and none of the post-medieval maps indicate any form of lodge or gatehouse here, although there would presumably have been a gate, to close the gap in the park pale.

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[14] Harris was quoted in John Britton's *The Beauties of England and Wales, or Delineations, topographical, historical, and descriptive of each county* (1801). Cited in 'Statement of Significance', p.47.
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Again, Oliver Creighton's *Designs Upon the Land: Elite Landscapes of the Middle Ages* (2009) is a quarry for many examples of broadly later medieval causeways leading axially across a watery landscape – whether low-lying ground, or between ponds or lakes – towards high-status residences, both lay and ecclesiastical. Examples include Woodstock Palace (Oxfordshire), Somersham Palace (Cambs) and Ravensworth (N. Yorks).[15]

The park

Westenhanger Castle stands within its deer park. This started to become more common from the mid-16th century, whereas before the park was generally at some remove from the chief house, typically on land unsuitable for arable cultivation. As noted above, there was already a park at Westenhanger in 1539. This may have been longstanding given the house's scale and status, and a licence granted to Hugh de Saye to impark 'his wood of Hanger' in 1262 may denote its origin.[16] Before 1539 it may not have extended east of Stone Street, but that is pure supposition. It was said to have been greatly enlarged for Henry VIII c.1540 as part of a wider, national, programme of park creation and enlargement.[17] In 1559 it was reckoned to encompass 400 acres, a typical size for the fifty parks in Kent at that period.[18] William Lambarde's *A Perambulation of Kent* published in 1576 includes Westenhanger among its list of parks, as does its second edition in 1596, where Symonson's map (Figure 13), shows the park at Westenhanger bisected by Stone Street. Westenhanger's park also appears on most of the early small-scale county maps, including Speed's of 1611, again with its two halves. More detail is shown on Morden's map pf c.1695 (Figure 14), which enables the park to be placed in the landscape with a reasonable degree of accuracy. It shows the pale (that is the park boundary) looping north of the castle, following the minor road (now Ashford Road) to the south (which accords with Hasted's statement that the park extended to New Inn Green, which stands on the Stone Street), and extending a roughly equal distance east of the Stone Street. A deed of 1731 mentions land at Stanford Green, described as part of Westenhanger Old Park. 'Stanford Green' has not been located but presumably lay in the area where Stone Street meets the northern boundary of the park.[19]

Deer were confined within parks by a 'pale', typically a broad, shallow inner ditch with stout and tall split-oak palings topping the outer bank. This was intended to prevent the deer 'leaping the pale'. Sometimes a 'deer leap' was contrived in the pale which allowed deer to jump into the park from the surrounding countryside, but not to return; none such is evidenced here, however. At Westenhanger the pale **(154)** is shown in a conventional cartographic fashion as a tall wooden fence, is consistently shown running down either side of Stone street.[20] While it was normally the case that public roads were diverted around the edge of parks, there are many examples where that did not happen, and a public road was left

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[15] Op. cit. 60, 78, 137.
[16] *VCH Kent* 1 (1908), 473
[17] E. Griffin, *Blood Sport: Hunting in Britain since 1066* (2007), 69; P.A.J. Pettit, *The Royal Forests of Northamptonshire: A Study in their Economy 1558-1714* (1968), 14
[18] S. Pittman, 'Elizabethan and Jacobean Deer Parks in Kent', *Archeologia Cantiana* 132 (2012), 53-81
[19] https://www.kentarchives.org.uk/collections/getrecord/GB51_EK_U404_2_1_1_14
[20] A 'hollow way or ditch' identified as the pale was identified adjacent to Stone Street at TR12761 26498 **(WS17)**.

bisecting the hunting ground.[21] There were many reasons for that; permission had to be sought for any road diversion, usually from quarter sessions, and this was not necessarily straightforward, especially where there was local opposition to this infringement of what was seen as a longstanding common right of access, especially if any new route necessitated a lengthy diversion.

The park appears on later editions of Morden's map, but whether it still remined in existence is uncertain, and the reference noted above in 1731 to 'Westenhanger Old Park' may indicate that disparkment had already taken place. By the time of Andrews's map of 1769 (Figure 16) that was certainly so. The park was shown five years before 1769 on a French map of the coast, 'Carte de la côte d'Angleterre depuis le Sud-Foreland jusqu'à Beachy-head' (Figure 15), but somewhat schematically and presumably based on earlier printed maps rather than first-hand survey. Thus it would appear the park was disparked – whether formally, or through more gradual abandonment between 1695 and 1769. The house was largely pulled down in 1701, and this change in the site's status would be a possible context for that, although the fields laid out across it would be more happily dated to at least the mid-18th century (below).

Morden's map, especially, allows the park's post-1540 boundaries to be mapped with some certainty using the field boundaries shown on large-scale OS mapping, and (where boundaries have been changed at enclosure) in lidar. The suggested boundaries are most secure to the south, where Morden shows the park bordering the current A20, and to the north, where lidar and geophysical survey (Figure 8) shows a ploughed-out curvilinear boundary north of the railway. To the east, the Stone Street bounded the west portion of the park. East of the Stone Street the park bounds are less certain; Figure 9 offers the 'best guess' based on late 19th-century field and administrative boundaries, although Morden's map appears to show the park extending further south and east to the kink in the road towards Pellinge. One further cautionary note must be offered. As noted above, in 1559 the enlarged park was reckoned to encompass some 400 acres. The bounds suggested in Figure 9 include about double that area. At the moment the two cannot be reconciled, unless the 1559 estimate is set aside.

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[21] Woodstock Park in Oxfordshire was crossed by the Akeman Street, for instance: S. Mileson, *Parks in Medieval England* (2009), 55

Figure 8. The probable line of the pale (the curving brown line), as picked up in geophysical survey by GSB in advance of the Stanford West lorry park.
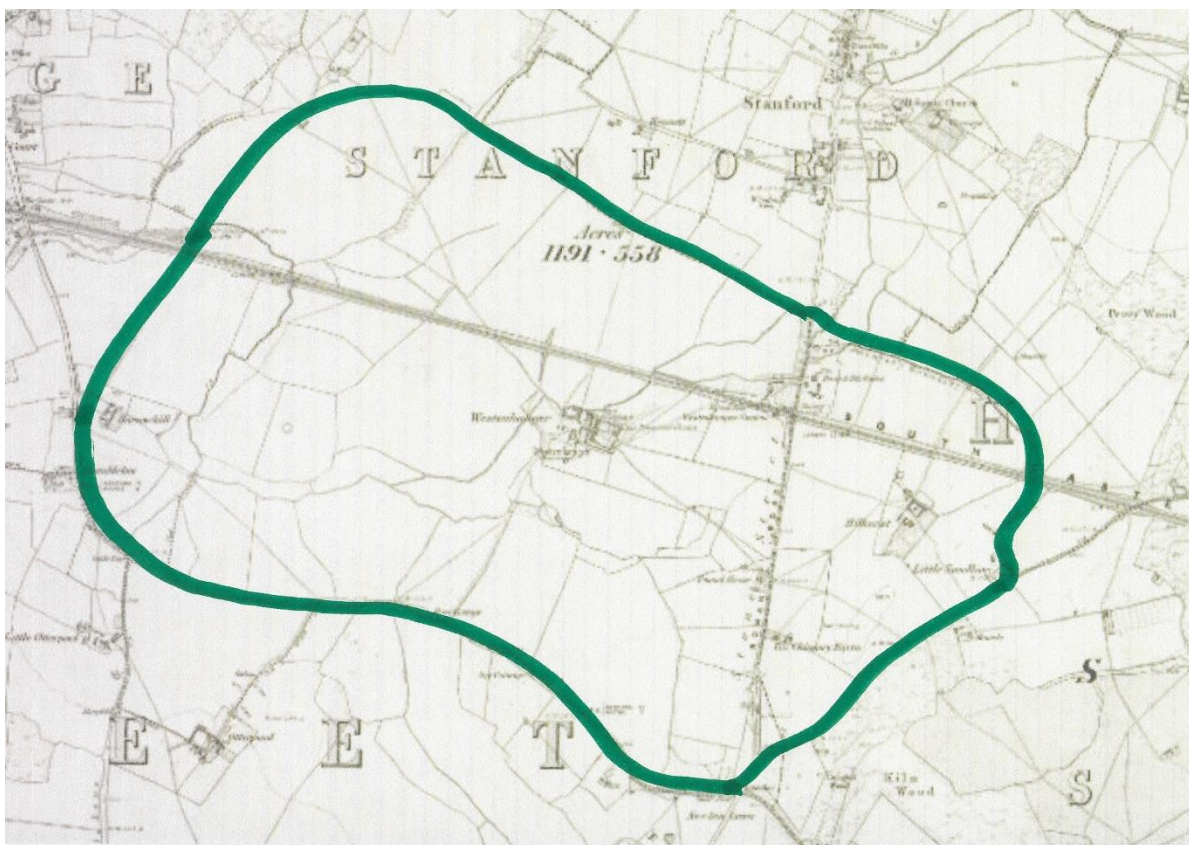

Figure 9. The possible bounds of the mid-16th-century and later park. New Inn Green, mentioned in the text) is at the southernmost tip of the suggested bounds.

A lodge ?

Later medieval and early modern parks invariably had a lodge. Typically this was located on high ground towards the centre of the park, affording the best possible view across it. This often doubled up both as the residence of the parker, the official charged with responsibility for the maintenance of the park and its deer, as well as the venue where the huntsmen – and women, for hunting was not solely a male preserve - could take rest and refreshment. Normally those were enjoyed in an upper room, from where the hunting grounds could be viewed, and the sport to come planned. In their architecture, decorations and furnishings – not least in that upper chamber - lodges were more than functional: as well as being places of recreation, they were venues where hospitality and patronage were dispensed and displayed to guests both of lesser, and greater, social status.

At Westenhanger, no suggestion has been found of a lodge, either in the documentary sources or during archaeological survey. There is a slight possibility that the former Pound House fulfilled this function, but it is here concluded (below) that on balance that that is unlikely.

It should be noted that it was only in the earlier 18th century that gate lodges, typically small but architecturally elaborate, began to appear at the *entrance* to parks. These served as accommodation for gate keepers, as well as architectural proclamations of the owner's taste and status. Both in form and function these lodges are entirely separate from the park lodges of previous centuries.[22]

Pound Cottage (formerly Pound House)

One possible candidate for the lodge is a building demolished c.1910, which stood on the west side of Stone Street, south-east of Westenhanger Castle[23]; late 19th-century mapping shows a footpath linking the two **(158)**. Latterly this, occupied as labourers' cottages, was known as Pound Cottage or Pound House **(157)**, as it stood by the manorial pound. However, observations made as it was demolished indicate that this was a 'roomy and substantial' timber-framed building of c.1540, with an upper room with an elaborate paster ceiling decorated with the royal arms and those of the Poynings family. A.D. Cheney, who reported on this, thought that this may have been the house of the 'bailiff' of the estate – steward might be a better term. This may indeed have been the case, but there are other possibilities. The upper room with an elaborate ceiling is exactly what one would expect to find in a lodge, and the buildings location well within the enlarged Henrician park is appropriate. However, the location on a public highway would be very curious for a lodge. Another possibility, perhaps more likely, is that this provided overflow accommodation for staff – as an inn of

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[22] See. T. Mowl and B. Earnshaw, *Trumpet at a Distant Gate: The Lodge as Prelude to the Country House* (1985), chapters 1 and 2.
[23] A.D. Cheney, 'An Ancient House at Westenhanger', *Home Counties Magazine* 12 (1910), 169-73

sorts – when a large party was staying at the castle. Such arrangements are well known from elsewhere, as at Fotheringhay Castle (Northants.)

Other features ?

As noted below in the sections on Henry VIII and Elizabeth I, from at least the later 1530s, after Henry had a debilitating fall from horseback, the drive hunt past a stand (see Figure 10) was increasingly in favour. One or two stands survive, incorporated into later houses, and the sites of others are known, or suspected, from field names such as 'King's Standing'. None such is known at Westenhanger, although provision of such would seem highly likely.

Henry VIII and hunting parks

As many commentators have noted, in Henry VIII's time, just as much in the 12th and 13th centuries, it was the special role of deer and hunting in aristocratic society that made parks impressive, and almost essential, elements of high-status landscapes. Discrete landscapes they may have been, and aesthetically pleasing, but it would be a mistake to think that this, rather than their function as hunting grounds, that was paramount. A telling example of this is provided by Henry's great project at Hampton Court, where it was said c.1540 its object was to build a 'goodlie sumptuous beautifull and princelie Mannor, decent and convenient for a Kinge', 'ornated with Parkes Gardens Orchardes and other things of great comoditie and pleasure … requisite for the prosperous continuance of his most Royall parson.' Here the hunting ground was Hampton Court Chase: here Henry could indulge in the pleasures of the hunt, which were his 'disporte pastime comfort and consolacion.'[24]

In the 16th century, as throughout the Middle Ages (and indeed arguably to the present day) field sports were viewed as a fundamental part of royal and aristocratic life.[25] Baldassare Castiglione noted that hunting was 'the true pastime of great lords … a suitable pursuit for a courtier.' One gentleman claimed, in a perhaps apocryphal story told by the humanist Richard Pace in 1517, that he would rather see his son dead than allow him to pursue a more intellectual career for, he said, it was the gentleman's calling to 'hunt, to hawk and to blow the horn'. The value of hunting to the early Tudor elite lay, for some commentators, in its practical applications, as training in horsemanship and weaponry: the humanist and courtier, Sir Thomas Elyot, repeated the traditional view that 'in hunting may be an imitation of battle'. Horses were used in some types of hunting, and a wide array of weapons was used to bring down prey: swords (notably in stag hunts), boar swords and spears, crossbows and even longbows.

Henry's own love of the chase is well-documented. In 1539 the long-serving French ambassador to Henry's court, Charles de Marillac, clearly believed the royal progress, the

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[24] S. Mileson, *Parks in Medieval England* (2009), 98
[25] For what follows see James Williams, 'Hunting and the Royal Image of Henry VIII', *Sport in History* 25 (2005), 41-59

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court's extended summer itinerary around the country, was nothing more than an extended hunting trip. Contemporary ambassadors to Henry's court would invariably report back to their masters on the marvellous hunting exploits of their host that they had seen. When Henry went north on progress in the summer of 1541, Marillac, dutifully described the hunting expeditions that had occurred along the way. He was rather shocked by the slaughter that had occurred at the royal chase of Hatfield, near Doncaster, where Henry and his followers spent two days killing upwards of 400 deer and countless numbers of water foul and fish.[26]

Large hunting and hawking establishments, which could be taken with a court whenever it travelled, were universally viewed as a valuable asset to the princely image. Throughout his reign, Henry VIII carefully maintained and expanded the substantial royal hunting and hawking establishments which consisted of several departments with around seventy officers. The king's hounds were divided among the official packs; the buckhounds were used primarily in the pursuit of deer, the harriers for hares and the otter hounds for otter. In addition, there were several auxiliary departments. The Leash was responsible for the care and exercise of the King's greyhounds while the department known as the 'Toyles' was concerned with the upkeep and use of the royal hunting nets. Toyles, or long contraptions made of wood with strips of canvas attached, could be used either to take live deer for transport, or in hunting expeditions.

The parks in which such events took place were another part of what contemporaries believed made rulers impressive, or 'magnificent'. During the latter part of his reign Henry VIII initiated the biggest imparkation policy of any English king for several hundred years in part, at least, reversing a long trend of decline, which had seen the neglect and decay of many royal parks. Almost all the palaces built by Henry had at least one park attached to them. Many new parks were created, and existing ones renovated. One constant expense was the maintenance of the all-important pales (stout fences) which bounded parks and retained the deer. There would also have been expenditure on the management of parks' landscape, to keep the woods and glades (for deer management required both) in good heart and well-set for the chase. Lodges, normally sited within the park, were not only places of rest and refreshment for the hunters but also provided a further opportunity to display craftsmanship and magnificence in the most up-to-date taste.

The enlargement of Westenhanger's park, along with two others nearby, c.1540 has been noted above, and how this was part of a wider, national, programme of park creation and expansion.[27] The dissolution of the monasteries in the late 1530s and the confiscation of their

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[26] Simon Thurley, *The Royal Palaces of Tudor England* (1993), 192, states that after a serious fall in 1536 Henry gave up hunting on horseback and instead took to shooting (probably with a crossbow) from an elevated 'standing' (the origin of the modern term 'grandstand'). However, this seems at variance with other evidence which suggests that he continued to participate in the chase some fashion in the later 1530s.
[27] For this para see principally E. Griffin, *Blood Sport: Hunting in Britain since 1066* (2007), 69-70; P.A.J. Pettit, *The Royal Forests of Northamptonshire: A Study in their Economy 1558-1714* (1968), 14, 44.

lands allowed Henry to take over and extend the hunting grounds of abbeys and priories, where he had formerly hunted as a guest. Overall, thirty new palaces and hunting grounds were created after 1535, and by the time of Henry's death in 1547 he owned fifty residences and some 200 parks. The massive expansion in the number and extent of royal parks from c.1540 was notwithstanding that in January 1536 the 44-year-old king had had a serious fall from his horse while jousting, apparently leaving long-term injuries and putting an end both to jousting and to stag hunting on horseback. Instead he turned to hawking, and to participating in drive hunts, whereby herds of deer were driven past a grandstand to be shot at by the king and his guests, often with crossbows. At Hatfield (Hertfordshire) in 1541, Henry presided over a drive which saw over 200 animals killed in a single day.

Queen Elizabeth

As noted above, the 40-year-old Queen Elizabeth stayed at Westenhanger on a progress in 1573. Whether she hunted here is not recorded, but it would not be surprising as from teenage years she was an enthusiastic and skilled horsewoman and hunter.[28] Throughout her reign the deliberately flattering association was made between the queen and the mythical Diana, goddess of the hunt, while in 1575 she featured prominently in woodcuts illustrating activities associated with the hunt in George Gascoigne's *The Noble Art of Venerie* [i.e. hunting] (e.g. Figure 10). Hunting was one of the main ways in which the queen both bestowed patronage, and received hospitality of the most lavish kind in the hope of preferment. When she stayed for 19 days with the Earl of Leicester at Kenilworth in July 1575 hunting in its deer park was apparently the centrepiece of the revelries. While early in her reign she hunted deer 'by force', that is the cross-country stag hunt, and into old age rode to the hunt – aged 77 she was said to be out every second or third day, and for many hours – the drive hunt was perhaps more favoured, especially as she became older. Allegedly a single drive hunt in her own park at Clarendon in 1574 saw no fewer than 340 bucks killed.

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[28] For this para. see E. Griffin, *Blood Sport: Hunting in Britain since 1066* (2007),77-9. M. de Belin, *From the Der to the Fox: The Hunting Transition and the Landscape 1600-1850* (2013), 8.

Figure 10. One of the woodcuts in George Gascoigne's The Noble Art of Venerie *(1575). The queen and her courtiers are on a wooden stand, past which deer would be driven to be shot at. The huntsman is offering her 'fewments' – deer droppings – from the specific animal chosen for the hunt for her to approve the choice of prey.*

The present fieldscape

The present agricultural landscape of the potential development area is characterised by largely straight-edged fields, especially within what is suggested to be the bounds of the mid-16th-century park. Here, the edges are largely ruler-straight. This is a landscape of enclosure, which on stylistic ground would be 18th-century or later. It can be assumed with confidence that it dates from some time after the park was given up, which map evidence (above) dates to between 1695 and 1769. The house was largely pulled down in 1701, and this change in the site's status would be a possible context for the disparkment. However, there were episodes of rebuilding at Westenhanger, and the park, as least as a landscape unit whether or not it still had deer within its bounds, may have survived beyond 1701.

As noted, the fields within the former park largely have ruler-straight edges, and normally these would be dated to the mid-18th century or later. Andrews's map (Figure 16) is not at a

scale to show individual fields, and the OS mapping of 1797 (Figure 17) at which time there was a large orchard **(161)** south of the castle and east of the approach causeway, extending to the present A20) is somewhat schematic. The orchard may have been longstanding, but evidence is lacking. So, unless other evidence is forthcoming, the likelihood is that the present agricultural landscape is of the mid- to late 18th century. This is very much in accord with the conclusions of the Historic Landscape Characterisation mapping (Figure 11).
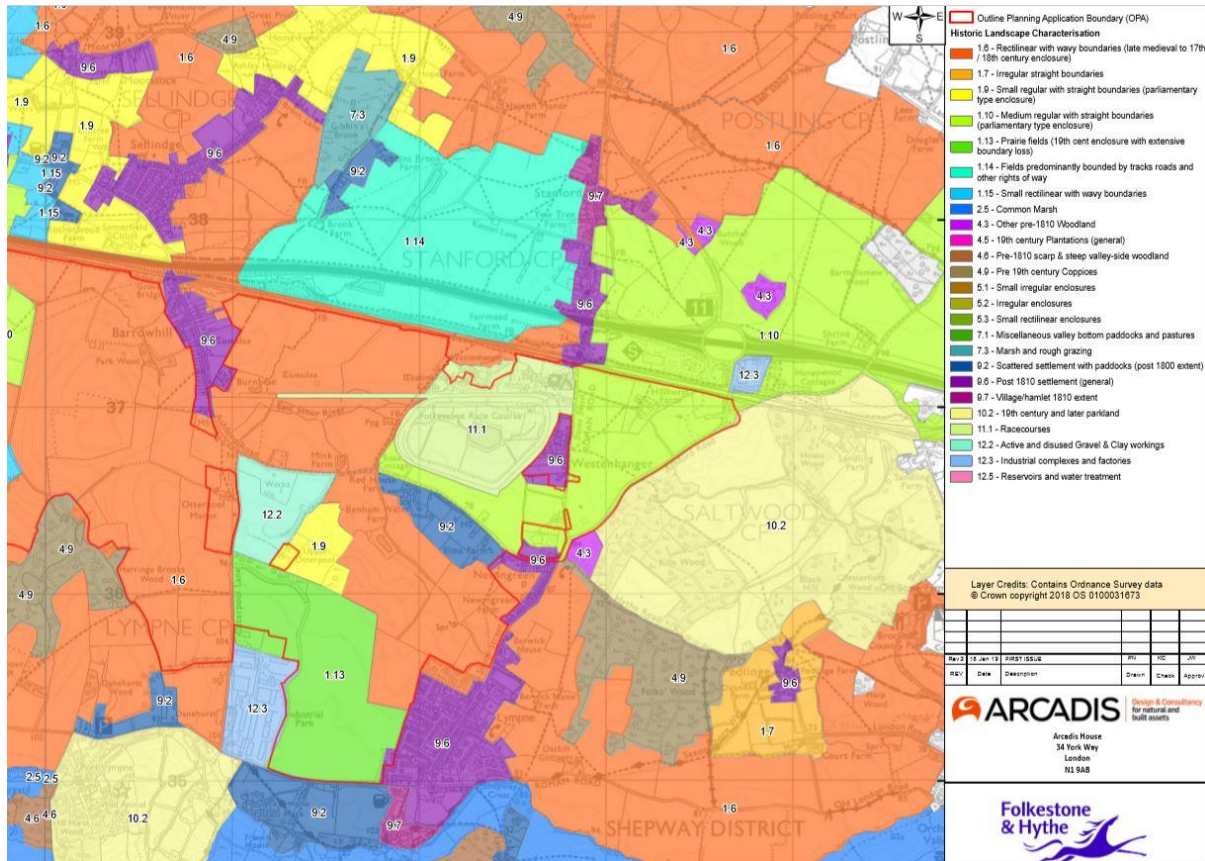

Figure 11. Historic Landscape Characterisation of the racecourse area, with the racecourse at the centre. The lime green (1.10) to its east is defined as 'Parliamentary-type enclosure'; the large extent of pinky-orange (1.6) to its west as 'late medieval to 17th-/18th-century enclosure; and the dark blue and purple as post-medieval settlements. Source: Kent County Council.

The Statement of Significance (p.45) notes a group of water features (**128/137, 138, 139, 147 and 148**) identified from a combination of LiDAR, walkover surveys and historic mapping close to or within the current racecourse (**153**). Four are former field boundaries (**128/137, 138, 139**), shown on the 1797 OS drawing and later maps, which survive as field drains. It is highly unlikely that these are of medieval date or have any relationship with the deer park. The drains appear to be related to two other water features (**147, 148**) which match with features seen on late 18th-century and later mapping as well as the LiDAR. The 'Statement of Significance' suggests that they may be a fishponds or other water features associated with Westenhanger Castle, but agrees that further investigation would be needed to confirm this. One (**148**), a rectangular tree-covered feature shown on the tithe map south of the walled garden roughly on the stream line (Figure 18), certainly could originally have been a

fishpond. Fishponds are typical features of parks – private and securely managed landscapes – and their presence here would not be surprising, although the castle moat could also have fulfilled this function.
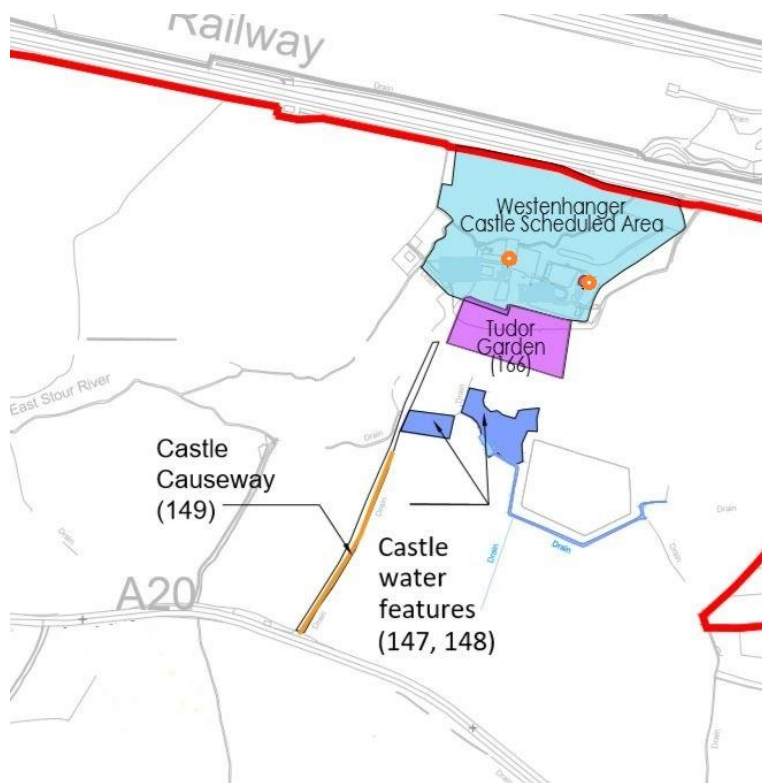
Figure 12. To show location of water features 147 and 148. Source: Arcadis.

7.   THE 20TH CENTURY

The opening of the racecourse **(153)** in 1898 is noted above. From around the time it opened there was a grandstand on its north side, which Ordnance Survey mapping shows had been joined by other structures by the 1930s. The centre of the course is farmed, and has a reservoir fed by a pumping station on the west side of the oval. A large trapezoidal 'lake' created towards the centre of the course using bunds (it is believed in the 1970s or 1980s), probably had a dual function, acting as a sump for drains off the course and the ground to the south, and conversely providing a water supply for when the course needed watering.

In both the First and Second World Wars the racecourse was requisitioned and racing suspended. In the First World War the castle was part of the huge military complex which housed the Canadian Expeditionary Force. The house and racecourse buildings appear to have been used as a training school for the Canadian Royal Army Medical Corps. Tents appear to have been the accommodation, rather than huts, but there are references to a YMCA hut.[29] At the same time RAF Lympne (**27**) was an air force reception site which disassembled aircraft. The aircraft were delivered by rail to Westenhanger Station and transported on a narrow gauge rail track (**127**) across the racecourse to RAF Lympne. The line of this former rail track is shown on an OS 1inch map of 1920.[30]

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[29] 'Statement of Significance', page 48
[30] Ibid.

Between 1940 and 1941 the racecourse was used as a decoy airfield with dummy aircraft placed to look like an active airfield.[31] On 23 April 1944 660 Squadron, an army co-operation squadron of the RAF, arrived at what was then known as RAF Westenhanger. The squadron, based in a tented camp, was equipped with single-engined Auster liaison aircraft and used the racecourse to practise operations with local army units. The unit left in July 1944 and the airfield was subsequently restored back to use as a racecourse. Rubble from wartime buildings reportedly can be seen on the north side of the straight course where it meets the oval.

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[31] This and following based on https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Folkestone_Racecourse

Figure 13. Philip Symonson's 'Map of Kent' (1596)

Figure 14. Robert Morden, 'Map of Kent' (1695)

Fig 15. 'Carte de la côte d'Angleterre depuis le Sud-Foreland jusqu'à Beachy-head' (1764).
Source: https://gallica.bnf.fr/ark:/12148/btv1b53010402x.r=angleterre?rk=42918;4

Figure 16. J. Andrews's 'Map of Kent' (1769)

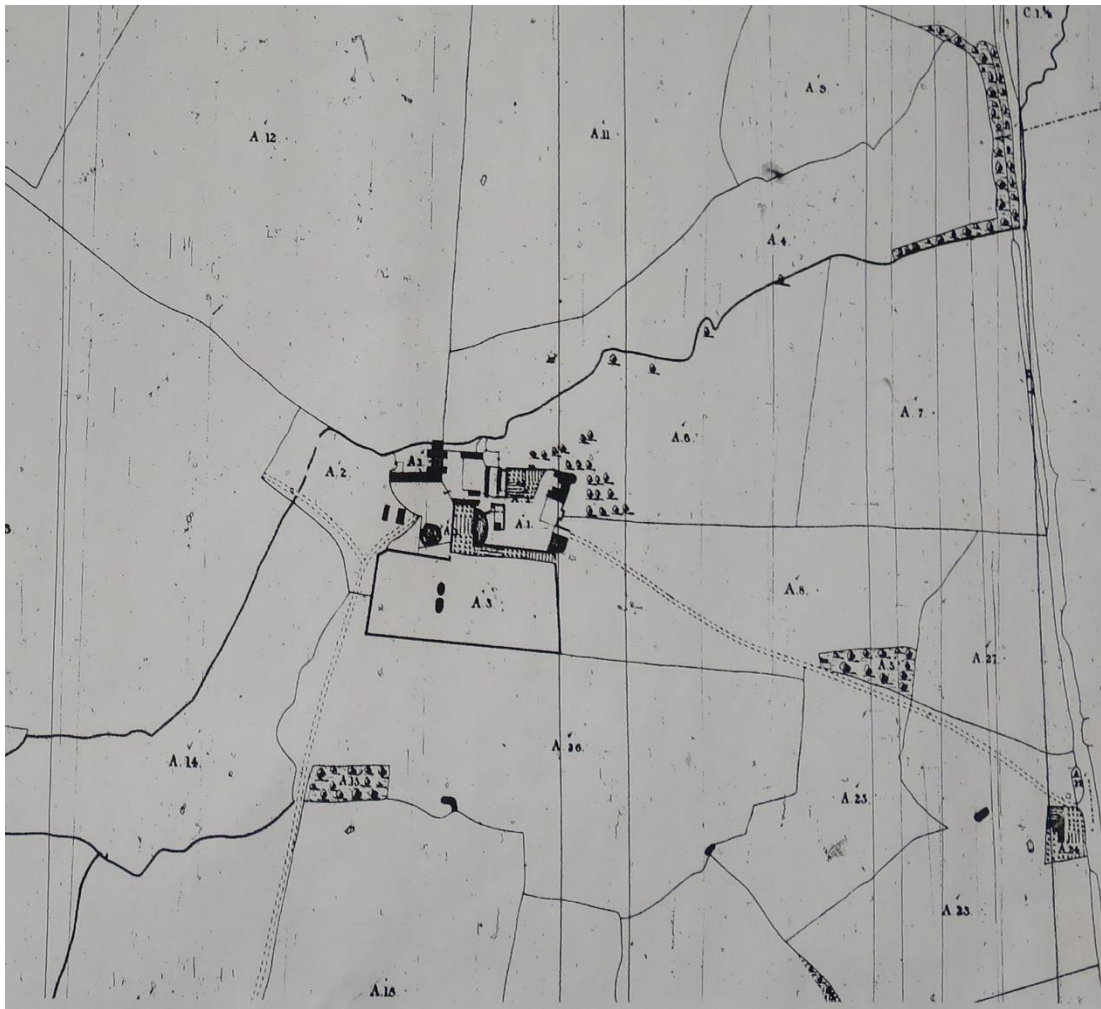*Figure 17. Ordnance Survey Drawing (1797): Source: BL, OSD 105*
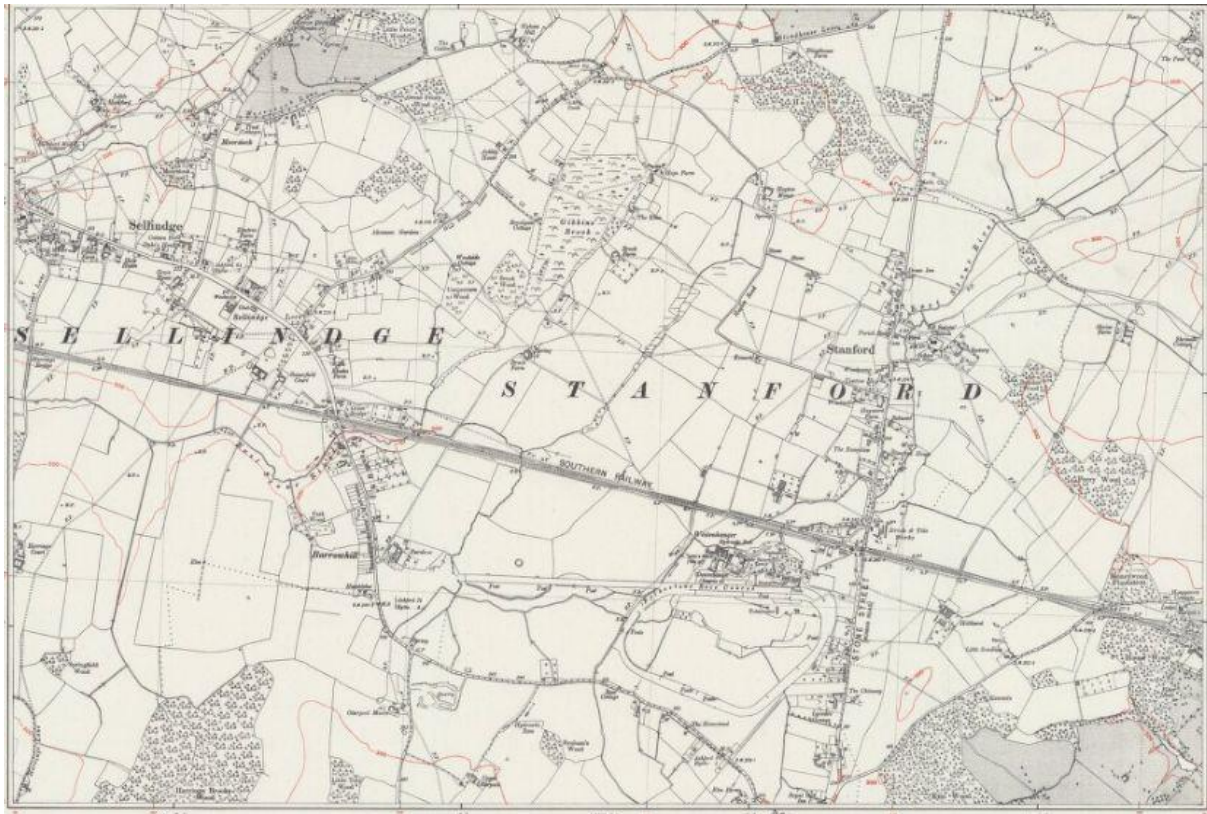

Figure 18. Stanford tithe map, c.1840.

Figure 19. OS 6 inch Kent sheet LXX (1943-6)