



# Squerryes Lodge Westerham, Kent

Archaeological Watching Brief Report



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## **Summary**

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Mr & Mrs D Griffiths, to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the construction of a detached garage within an existing embankment and associated works. The monitored works covered an area of 150 m<sup>2</sup> centred on NGR 544600 153915, at Squerryes Lodge, Westerham, Kent.

The watching brief was carried out as a condition of planning permission, granted by Sevenoaks District Council (17/02088/LBCALT).

The archaeological watching brief monitored the ground reduction up to a depth of 1.50m BGL within a detached garage footprint and up to 0.30m BGL within an area designated for a spoil heap.

A layer of modern (19th-20th century) domestic waste was revealed within the northern portion of the Site. No archaeological finds or features were discovered during the watching brief.

## **Acknowledgements**

Wessex Archaeology would like to thank Mr & Mrs D Griffiths for commissioning the archaeological watching brief. Wessex Archaeology is also grateful for the advice of Wendy Rogers, Senior Archaeological Officer for Kent County Council, who monitored the project for Sevenoaks District Council, and to Richard Metcalfe Project Manager and Peter Tapsfield of C J Thorne & Co Ltd for their cooperation and help on site.

The fieldwork was directed by Emilia Seredynska. This report was written by Emilia Seredynska and edited by Marie Kelleher. The project was managed by Marie Kelleher on behalf of Wessex Archaeology.



# Squerryes Lodge Westerham Kent

## Archaeological Watching Brief

### 1 INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Project and planning background

1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Mr & Mrs D Griffiths, to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the construction of a detached garage within an existing embankment and associated works. The monitored works covered an area of 150 m<sup>2</sup> centred on NGR 544600 153915, at Squerryes Lodge, Westerham, Kent (**Fig. 1**).

1.1.2 The watching brief was carried out as a condition of planning permission, granted by Sevenoaks District Council (17/02088/LBCALT), subject to conditions:

*Condition 5: No development shall be carried out on the land until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, has secured the implementation of a watching brief. This shall be undertaken by an archaeologist approved in writing by the Council so that the excavation is observed and items of interest and finds are recorded. The watching brief shall be in accordance with a written specification and timetable which shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The development shall be carried out in accordance with the approved details.*

*Reason: To investigate and record archaeological features as supported by Policy EN4 of the Sevenoaks Allocations and Development Management Plan and the NPPF. The Local Planning Authority is satisfied that it is fundamental to the development permitted to address this issue before development commences and that without this safeguard planning permission should not have been granted.*

1.1.3 The watching brief was undertaken in accordance with a written scheme of investigation (WSI) which detailed the aims, methodologies and standards to be employed Wessex Archaeology (Wessex Archaeology 2018). Wendy Rogers, Senior Archaeological Officer at Kent County Council approved the WSI, on behalf of the Local Planning Authority (LPA), prior to fieldwork commencing.

1.1.4 The watching brief was undertaken from 15<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> May 2018.

#### 1.2 Scope of the report

1.2.1 The purpose of this report is to provide the results of the watching brief, to interpret the results within their local or regional context (or otherwise), and to assess their potential to address the aims outlined in the WSI, thereby making available information about the archaeological resource (a preservation by record).

#### 1.3 Location, topography and geology

1.3.1 The watching brief area was located near the northern boundary of the site. The site comprised an irregular parcel of land of approximately 2.50ha located on the southern side of the village of Westerham, located 4.80km to the west of Sundridge, 8km to the



west of Sevenoaks and 16km north west of Tonbridge. Westerham lies on a small hill within the Holmesdale Valley at the foot of the North Downs.

- 1.3.2 The site is a privately owned residence which comprised Squerryes Lodge, gardens, a pond, watercourse and some outbuildings. The site is delineated by a mixture of mature trees, hedgerow, wooden fencing and walls. The site is bound to the north by Lodge Lane and the properties that front it, by a public footpath to the east, by meadow to the south and by the garden of the adjacent property to the west.
- 1.3.3 The watercourse at the south of the site sits within a valley and as such the site was situated on a slope. The northern part of the site is at an elevation of 115m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) and the southern part was at 108m aOD. Outside the Site to the south the land raised again to approximately 120m aOD.
- 1.3.4 The underlying geology throughout the site was mapped as Hythe Formation, sandstone and limestone, with the southern half of the site overlain by Alluvium, clay, silt, sand and gravel (British Geological Survey online viewer).

## 2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

### 2.1 Introduction

- 2.1.1 The archaeological and historical background was compiled as part of a desk-based assessment (Wessex Archaeology 2016), which considered the recorded historic environment resource within a 1km study area of the development. A summary of the results is presented below.

### 2.2 Archaeological and Historical Context

#### *Prehistoric (970,000 BC – AD 43)*

- 2.2.1 The earliest recorded evidence recovered from within the study area dates to the Iron Age period. Eight gold coins and one copper alloy coin are recorded 500m to the north west of the site (MKE72734-MKE72743). As these finds have been recovered through metal detecting it is likely that the location given relates to the closest grid reference point to where the finds were made rather than an exact location. Another Iron Age coin is recorded 325m to the east of the Site (TQ45 SE14) and another was found 900m to the south of the site (MKE72311). An Iron Age Hillfort is designated as a Scheduled Monument (List Entry 1005180), 1.20km to the south of the site. The hillfort is oval in shape with bank and ditch earthworks enclosing an area of approximately 11 acres. Two entrances can be identified one of the west side and one on the south-east side. During excavations in the 1960s and 1970s sandstone blocks thought to be part of a revetment and platform were identified. It has been suggested that this may have been inhabited by the *Cantra* or *Cantiaci* tribe around 100BC. The position of Westerham upon a hill with access to natural springs would have made this an attractive place for settlement.

#### *Romano-British (AD 43 – 410)*

- 2.2.2 All of the Romano-British evidence within the study area was found through metal detecting and therefore lacks a distinct context. A copper alloy brooch in the form of a duck, with inlaid enamel in red and blue (MKE72312) was found 900m to the south of the site, as well as a silver coin of Romano-British date also recorded at this location (MKE72310). A second copper alloy coin is recorded 590m to the north west of the site (MKE73018).



### *Saxon (AD 410 – 1066)*

- 2.2.3 A gold byzantine solidus of 8th century date was recovered during excavations for a gas main (TQ45 SW32). A possible plated imitation of a silver Anglo-Saxon coin (sceat) was found 460m to the north west of the site (TQ45 SW32).
- 2.2.4 It is likely that the settlement at Westerham had Anglo-Saxon origins. It is thought that the settlement was located at the top of the hill in the Holmesdale Vale, south of the Pilgrims way, as other similar early settlements are known at the foot of the downs near springs. By the 6th-7th century Westerham was the centre of a royal Saxon estate, near the source of the Darent River and the westernmost estate in the county. The foundation of a church at Westerham in the late Saxon period was probably the start of the permanent settlement here, perhaps including a market.

### *Medieval (AD 1066 – 1500)*

- 2.2.5 Westerham was a market town by the medieval period. It is recorded in the Domesday Book of 1086 as *Oistreham* containing 4 sulungs (2,000ha) with meadowland and woodland for 100 swine. 42 villagers, seven small holders 10 slaves and a mill are also recorded as well as two ploughlands for the Lord of the Manor, held by Count Eustace of Bologne. Prior to this, in the reign of Edward the Confessor the manor was held by Earl Godwin.
- 2.2.6 The medieval market place is thought to have been within the triangular area of land adjacent to market square. The market was granted to Westerham within a charter dated to 1227. The Manor of Westerham was held at Court Lodge, 700m to the north of the site. The medieval manor house is thought to have stood where the later 15th century building now stands (LB05). The church at Westerham is known to have existed by 1115 and is thought to have been on the site of a Saxon watch tower at the highest point of the green.
- 2.2.7 Squerryes Court was a sub-manor of the Westerham manor, thought to date to the reign of Henry III (1216-1272). The medieval manor house at Squerryes Court was demolished in 1681. Squerryes Lodge is located to the north of the Squerryes estate and is thought to have had a monastic origin. It is believed that the watercourses to the west, south and east of the site may have begun to be managed in the medieval period.

### *Post-medieval (AD 1500 – 1800)*

- 2.2.8 The post-medieval period saw the continuation of Westerham as a market town. The market was in decline by the late 16th century however in 1621 it received a royal grant to re-establish the market next to the George and Dragon Inn. The new market had 13 stalls and a new market house.
- 2.2.9 Westerham Manor was held by the Gresham family in the post-medieval period until 1740 when Charles Gresham sold the manor to John Warde of Squerryes Manor. This meant that the manor house at Court Lodge was superseded by Squerryes Court. The medieval manor at Squerryes Court had been pulled down by 1681 and rebuilt in its current form with some later alterations in the 19th century. A plan from 1709 shows the house and its formal gardens surrounding it, the large pond to the west of the house can be seen on historic mapping dating to 1769. The Squerryes Court Estate is now a Grade II Registered Park and Garden and contains the Grade I listed Squerryes Court, Grade II listed Dovecote, a Grade II listed Gazebo and a Grade II listed memorial stone.
- 2.2.10 A number of post-medieval farmsteads have been recorded through the Kent Farmsteads and Landscapes project. A farmstead is recorded at Squerryes Court, at the western



extent of the park/garden associated with the mansion (MKE83459). The farmstead recorded at Squerryes Lodge relates to the buildings shown on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map comprising two larger rectangular buildings and two small rectangular buildings, in a dispersed plan layout. These buildings aren't shown on the earlier 1840 map so it could be that these date to the second half of the 19th century rather than the post-medieval period as the KHER records (MKE83482).

- 2.2.11 Andrews, Drury and Herbert's Topographical Map of the County of Kent shows two mills at Westerham, likely to be watermills as they are close to the watercourses to the south of the town. One is indicated to the south west of the site at Mill Lane, and the other is to the north west at Mill Street. The one to the north west is marked on later mapping from the early 20th century as being a corn mill. 'Squerries' is labelled on this map at Squerryes Court; the water course which extends from the south of Squerryes is marked as well as 'The Tower' which is labelled to the west of Squerryes Court. As the map does not show much detail Squerryes Lodge is difficult to pinpoint. An extension can be seen to the south of the main road which is likely to be Lodge Lane and it is likely that one of the buildings surrounding this represents Squerryes Lodge.
- 2.2.12 Hasted's map of 1797 shows Lodge Lane with four buildings and an eastern boundary. This is likely to represent the farmstead and Squerryes Lodge. The Mudge Map from 1801 also shows the same arrangement of buildings. A parsonage is marked to the east of the site on both the 1769 and 1797 maps.

*19th Century (AD 1800 – 1900)*

- 2.2.13 The Ordnance Survey field drawings dating to 1800-1805, shows 'Squerryes Lodge' as labelled. A single rectangular building represents the lodge itself with two smaller outbuildings to the west perhaps representing the farmstead. However, the more detailed tithe map of 1840 does not show any buildings within this area, only Squerryes Lodge itself. Squerryes Lodge is shown as a sub-rectangular building with a large pond and watercourse to the south. The plots of land within the site were owned by Thomas Parker at this time and occupied by John Hartnell (apart from those to the south of the watercourse). Plots 84, 85, 86 and 87 were recorded as arable land with 87 recorded as meadow. Plot 703 to the south of the watercourse was a meadow owned by the church.
- 2.2.14 The first edition Ordnance Survey map of 1873, shows the development of the farmstead within the site to the west of Squerryes Lodge, this shows two larger rectangular buildings and a small rectangular building made of brick or stone, and a smaller outbuilding made of wood or iron and a glass building, probably a greenhouse, shown in blue. Squerryes Lodge is shown to have been extended since the 1840s. It is shown to have been extended on its north western and southern sides, a glass roofed structure has also been added to its south eastern corner. Management of the watercourse to the south of the Lodge can also be seen in the form of a footbridge and a sluice (labelled on later maps). Changes to the shape of the pond also appear to have been undertaken, however this could be down to the accuracy of the map. This map also shows that much of the land surrounding the lodge had been planted, pathways and tracks can be seen between the trees. Two areas to the north of Squerryes Lodge are shown to be left unplanted.
- 2.2.15 A group of 19th century factory buildings are recorded at 140m to the north west of the site thought to have been used for light industrial activities (TQ45 SW221). The Black Eagle Brewery was established in the 1830s by Robert Day, 210m to the west of the site (TQ45 SW86). It remained open until 1960. A group of laundry buildings are also recorded on the KHER, 40m to the north of the site (TQ 45 NE 25).



2.2.16 An assessment of the farmstead at Goodley Stock led to the identification of 19th century agricultural buildings at the site. Wagon lodge (TQ 45 SW225), animal house (TQ 45 SW 224), cattleshed (TQ 45 SW 226) and coach house (TQ 45 SW 227) were all identified.

*Modern (AD 1900 – present day)*

2.2.17 Historic mapping dating to 1909 shows little change within the site, an extra glasshouse had been added to the farmstead and a smaller outbuilding to the east of Squerryes Lodge had also been added. The revised edition shows some change to Squerryes Lodge with part of the southern part of the building having been removed. A lodge at the gate to the property is also indicated as well as the removal of some of the smaller outbuildings associated with the farmstead.

2.2.18 Modern remains recorded on the KHER include a category B nodal point. Nodal points were considered to be weak spots within the WWII defences and were categorised A-C depending upon their vulnerability. Fortifications such as road blocks, land mines and barbed wire were used to defend these areas (TQ45 SW215). Protected Military Remains are recorded 900m to the south of the site at a crash site of a Messerschmitt bf110 which crashed in September 1940 (TQ45 SE163).

### **3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

#### **3.1 Aims**

3.1.1 The general aims of the watching brief as set out in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2018), in compliance with the ClfA' *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (ClfA 2014a) and KCC's *Heritage Specification for an Archaeological Watching Brief Forming a Phased of Programme of Archaeological Works* (KCC 2017) were:

- To allow, within the resources available, the preservation by record of archaeological deposits, the presence and nature of which could not be established (or established with sufficient accuracy) in advance of the development or other works;
- To provide an opportunity, if needed, for the watching archaeologist to signal to all interested parties, before the destruction of the material in question, that an archaeological find has been made for which the resources allocated to the watching brief itself are not sufficient to support treatment to a satisfactory and proper standard; and
- To guide, not replace, any requirement for contingent excavation or preservation of possible deposits.

#### **3.2 Objectives**

3.2.1 In order to achieve the above aims, the objectives of the watching brief, also defined in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2018), were:

- To determine the presence or absence of archaeological features, deposits, structures, artefacts or ecofacts within the specified works area;
- To record and establish, within the constraints of the works, the extent, character, date, condition and quality of any surviving archaeological remains (a preservation by record);



- To place any identified archaeological remains within a wider historical and archaeological context in order to assess their significance; and
- To make available information about the archaeological resource on the site by preparing a report on the results of the watching brief.

## 4 METHODS

### 4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 All works were undertaken in accordance with the detailed methodology set out within the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2018) and in general compliance with the standards outlined in ClfA guidance (ClfA 2014a). The methods employed are summarised below.

### 4.2 Fieldwork methods

#### *General*

4.2.1 The watching brief comprised of ground reduction of a detached garage footing measuring 8.80m x 7.50m situated within an existing embankment (**Plate 1**). Maximum depth of the mechanical excavation was up to 4.50m BGL in the northern portion of the area and 1.20m BGL to the south. The archaeological monitoring was carried out up to 1.50m BGL once natural bedrock has been reached.

4.2.2 In addition, the watching brief of topsoil reduction, in order to make a space for a spoil heap, was undertaken at the top of the embankment. The monitored area measured approximately 43m x 8m and was reduced up to a depth of 0.30m BGL (**Plate 2**).

4.2.3 The watching archaeologist monitored all mechanical excavations within the specified area. Where necessary, the surface of the natural horizon was cleaned by hand.

4.2.4 Spoil derived from machine stripping was visually scanned for the purposes of finds retrieval. All discovered artefacts were of modern origin (19<sup>th</sup> century or later) and were recorded on site and not retained.

#### *Recording*

4.2.5 All exposed archaeological and geological deposits were recorded using Wessex Archaeology's pro forma recording system.

4.2.6 A full photographic record was made using digital cameras equipped with an image sensor of not less than 10 megapixels. Digital images have been subject to managed quality control and curation processes, which has embedded appropriate metadata within the image and will ensure long term accessibility of the image set.

### 4.3 Artefactual and environmental strategies

4.3.1 Appropriate strategies for the recovery, processing and assessment of artefacts and environmental samples were in line with those detailed in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2018). The treatment of artefacts and environmental remains was in general accordance with: *Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (ClfA 2014b) and *Environmental Archaeology: A Guide to the Theory and Practice of Methods, from Sampling and Recovery to Post-excavation* (English Heritage 2011).



#### **4.4 Monitoring**

- 4.4.1 Wendy Rogers, Senior Archaeological Officer for KCC, on behalf of the LPA, monitored the watching brief. No variations to the agreed WSI were required during the watching brief.

### **5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS**

#### **5.1 Introduction**

- 5.1.1 The following section provides a summary description of the results of the archaeological mitigation which covered the monitoring the ground level reduction up to a depth of 1.50m BGL within a detached garage footprint (**Plate 3**) and up to 0.30m BGL within an area designated for a spoil heap.
- 5.1.2 The monitored areas are presented in **Fig. 1**. Selected photographs are provided in **Plates 1-6**.

#### **5.2 Soil sequence and natural deposits**

- 5.2.1 A common stratigraphic sequence was recorded within the Site and consisted of very dark brownish grey silty sand topsoil approximately 0.50m in thickness overlying a subsoil comprising dark orangey brown silty sand. The overburden was severely disturbed by tree stumps and roots and contained modern CBM, glass and china. The overburden sealed a light yellowish orange sand approximately 0.30m in thickness overlying sandstone bedrock. Natural geology was recorded at average depth of 1.50m BGL (**Plate 4**).
- 5.2.2 A layer of domestic waste containing a number of glass bottles, window glass, china, charcoal and ashes was revealed within the northern part of the area (**Plate 5**). The deposit covered an area measured 12m x 5.50m and the thickness of this deposit was varied from 0.10m up to 0.40m.

### **6 ARTEFACTUAL EVIDENCE**

- 6.1.1 The examples of artefacts from the domestic waste deposit were recorded (photographed) on site however, no finds were retained.

### **7 ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE**

- 7.1.1 No deposits suitable for environmental analysis were identified during the course of the watching brief.

### **8 CONCLUSIONS**

- 8.1.1 The archaeological watching brief was successful in achieving the aims and objectives as set out in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2018).
- 8.1.2 No archaeological remains were uncovered during the archaeological monitoring.
- 8.1.3 The 0.40m thick layer of modern (19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> century) waste was identified within the northern portion of the Site.



## **9 ARCHIVE STORAGE AND CURATION**

### **9.1 Museum**

9.1.1 The archive resulting from the watching brief is currently held at the offices of Wessex Archaeology in Maidstone. No suitable museum as yet has been identified to accept the archive on completion of the project. Deposition of any finds with the museum will only be carried out with the full written agreement of the landowner to transfer title of all finds to the museum.

### **9.2 Preparation of the archive**

9.2.1 The archive, which includes paper records, graphics, artefacts, ecofacts and digital data, will be prepared following the standard conditions for the acceptance of excavated archaeological material by the accepting museum, and in general following nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1995; ClfA 2014c; Brown 2011; ADS 2013).

9.2.2 All archive elements are marked with the **T23978**, and a full index will be prepared. The physical archive currently comprises the following:

- 1 file/document case of paper records and A3/A4 graphics;

### **9.3 Selection policy**

9.3.1 Wessex Archaeology follows national guidelines on selection and retention (SMA 1993; Brown 2011, section 4). In accordance with these, and any specific guidance prepared by the museum, a process of selection and retention will be followed so that only those artefacts or ecofacts that are considered to have potential for future study will be retained. The selection policy will be agreed with the museum, and is fully documented in the project archive.

### **9.4 Security copy**

9.4.1 In line with current best practice (eg, Brown 2011), on completion of the project a security copy of the written records will be prepared, in the form of a digital PDF/A file. PDF/A is an ISO-standardised version of the Portable Document Format (PDF) designed for the digital preservation of electronic documents through omission of features ill-suited to long-term archiving.

### **9.5 OASIS**

9.5.1 An OASIS online record (<http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main>) has been initiated, with key fields and a .pdf version of the final report submitted. Subject to any contractual requirements on confidentiality, copies of the OASIS record will be integrated into the relevant local and national records and published through the Archaeology Data Service ArchSearch catalogue.

## **10 COPYRIGHT**

### **10.1 Archive and report copyright**

10.1.1 The full copyright of the written/illustrative/digital archive relating to the project will be retained by Wessex Archaeology under the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988* with all rights reserved. The client will be licenced to use each report for the purposes that it was produced in relation to the project as described in the specification. The museum, however, will be granted an exclusive licence for the use of the archive for educational



purposes, including academic research, providing that such use conforms to the *Copyright and Related Rights Regulations 2003*. In some instances, certain regional museums may require absolute transfer of copyright, rather than a licence; this should be dealt with on a case-by-case basis.

- 10.1.2 Information relating to the project will be deposited with the Historic Environment Record (HER) where it can be freely copied without reference to Wessex Archaeology for the purposes of archaeological research or development control within the planning process.

## **10.2 Third party data copyright**

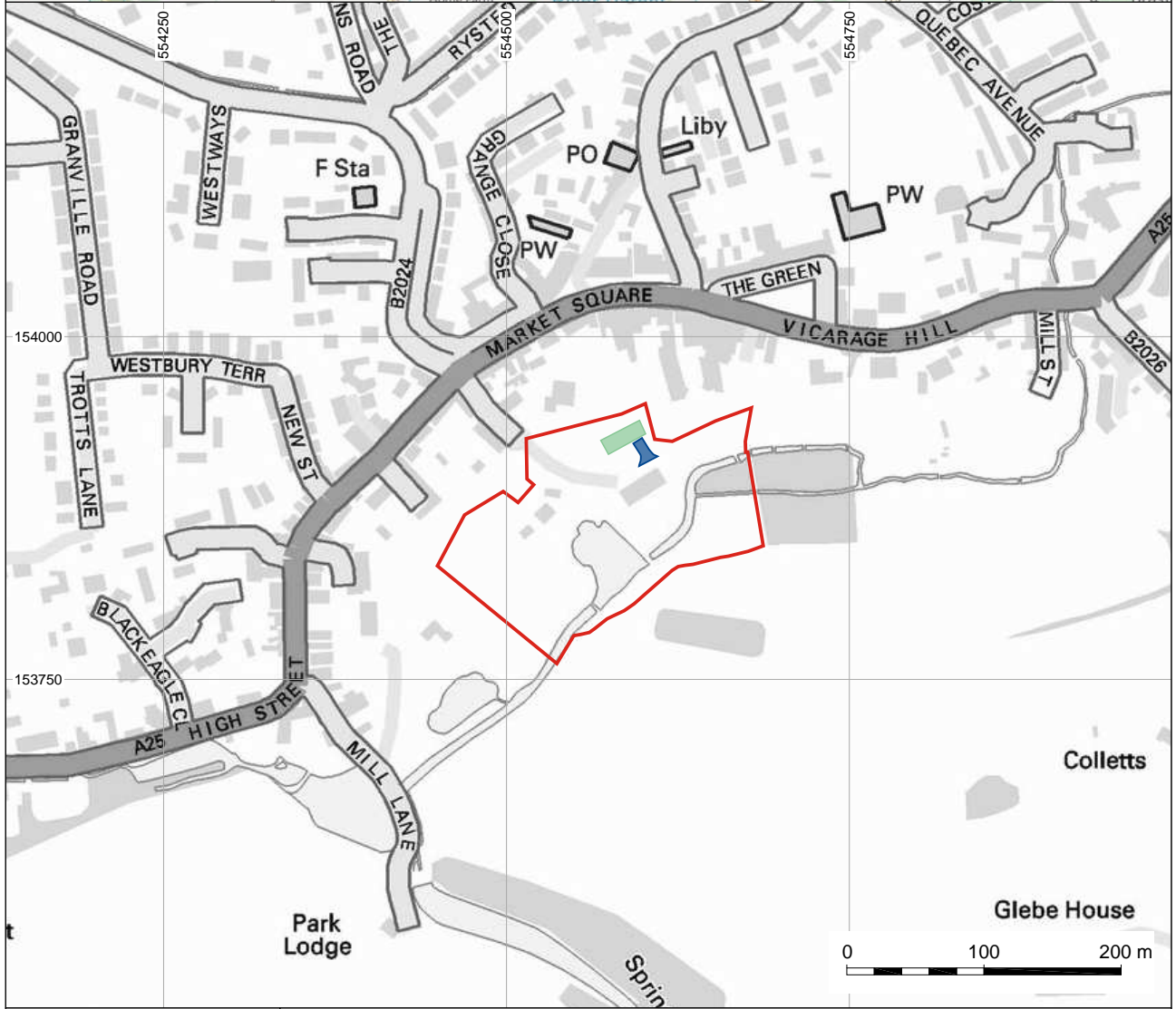
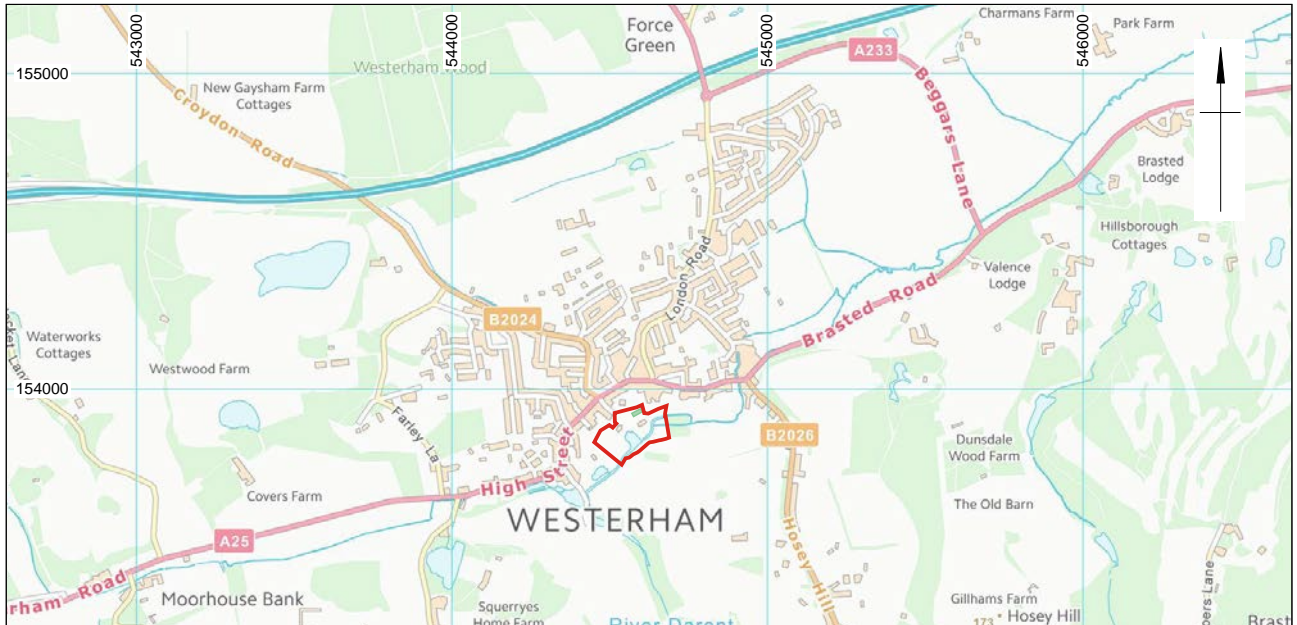
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- Site Boundary
  - Garage Area
  - Approx. Topsoil Strip
- 
- 
- Coordinate system:  
OSGB36  
(OSTN15/OSGM15)

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Site location and monitored areas

Figure 1



Plate 1: Pre-ex shot of a development area, viewed from the north



Plate 2: Topsoil reduction for a spoil heap, viewed from the west


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Plate 3: Ground reduction within a garage footprint, viewed from the south west



Plate 4: Ground reduction within a garage footprint in progress, viewed from the north east



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Plate 5: Domestic waste deposit, viewed from the south east

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