Archaeological Investigation on Land at Westwood Lodge, Poorhole Lane, Broadstairs, Kent

Site Code: POOR -EV-20

NGR Site Centre 636483 168220

Planning Application Number: OL/TH/ 15/0788 & APP/Z2260/W/16/3151686

SWAT ARCHAEOLOGY

Swale and Thames Archaeological Survey Company

The Office, School Farm Oast, Graveney Road

Faversham, Kent ME13 8UP

Tel; 01795 532548 or 07885 700 112

info@swatarchaeology.co.uk www.swatarchaeology.co.uk

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Summary

Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT Archaeology) was commissioned to undertake an archaeological investigation on land at Westwood Lodge, Broadstairs in Kent.

The fieldwork was carried out in March 2020 in accordance with discussions carried out by the client and Simon Mason Principal Archaeologist KCC.

The Archaeological Evaluation consisted of three trenches, which encountered a relatively common stratigraphic sequence comprising topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of Chalk and pockets of Clay with Flint with no features of archaeological potential exposed and in addition no plague pits were uncovered in the specific locations identified by previous survey and the three areas marked by the previous survey.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

1.1.1 Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT Archaeology) was commissioned to undertake an archaeological investigation of land at Westwood Lodge, Poorhole Lane, Broadstairs in Kent (**Figure 1**).

1.1.2 The archaeological evaluation was carried out in March 2020.

1.1 4 Site Description and Topography

The application site is to the west of the main building of Westwood Lodge and in an area of a Tree Preservation Order which covers trees at the site boundaries and within the centre of the site.
The NGR to the centre of the site is NGR 636483 168220 (Figure 1).
The Geological Survey of Great Britain (1:50,000) shows that the PDA is set on Bedrock Geology of Margate Chalk Member of Sedimentry Bedrock formed 72-85 million years ago. Superficial deposits are not recorded. The geology revealed on site was topsoil overlaying fine Orange Brown Sandy Clay (Brickearth) which overlaid Chalk and/or pockets of Clay with Flint. The PDA is set at an average height of 42.55m AOD.

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

Details of previous discoveries and investigations within the immediate and wider area may be found in the Kent County Council Historic Environment Record and include 100m to the SSW a WWII pillbox (TR 36 NE 2172), and 500m to the SE the site of Westwood Brickworks (TR 36 NE 371) whilst 400m to the SSW is the site of the 'Star' Brickworks (TR 36 NE 370). All these sites are shown on the attached OS Historic Mapping (MAP 1-6). The investigation was carried out with the permission of the owners in response to a GPR Survey which had indicated anomalies at a depth of 1.25-1.50m BGL. These had been interpreted as 'Plague Pits'.
Investigation by Dr Paul Wilkinson MCIfA, FRSA of SWAT Archaeology in the agreed location of the 'Plague Pits' found no evidence of plague pits and the investigation found nothing of archaeological interest and no archaeological remains or plague pits were found.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

2.2 General Aims

2.2.1 The general aims of the archaeological fieldwork were to;

- establish the presence or absence of any elements of the archaeological resource, both artefacts and ecofacts of archaeological interest across the area of the development;
- ascertain the extent, depth below ground surface, depth of deposit if possible, character, date and quality of any such archaeological remains by limited sample excavation;
- determine the state of preservation and importance of the archaeological resource, if present, and to assess the past impacts on the site and pay particular attention to the character, height/depth below ground level, condition, date and significance of any archaeological deposits.
- The main aim of the archaeological investigation was to excavate areas of postulated plague pits and to identify whether plague or other burial pits were present.

3 METHODOLOGY

3.1 Introduction

3.1.1 All fieldwork was conducted in accordance with the methodology set out in specifications published by (SWAT 2020 and KCC Manual of Specifications 'B') and carried out in compliance with the standards outlined in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Standards Guidance for Archaeological Evaluations (CIfA 2017).

3.2 Fieldwork

3.2.1 A total of three evaluation trenches were excavated across the site in locations identified by previous surveys (Figures 1, 2).

3.2.2 The trenches was initially scanned for surface finds prior to excavation. Excavation was carried out using a 360º mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket, removing the overburden to the top of the first recognisable natural or archaeological horizon, under the constant supervision of an experienced archaeologist.

3.2.3 Where appropriate, trenches, or specific areas of trenches, were subsequently hand-cleaned to reveal features in plan and carefully selected cross-sections through the features were excavated to enable sufficient information about form, development date and stratigraphic relationships to be recorded without prejudice to more extensive investigations, should these prove to be necessary. All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with KCC and CIfA standards and guidance. A complete photographic record was maintained on site that included working shots; during mechanical excavation, following archaeological investigations and during back filling.

3.3 Recording

3.3.1 A complete drawn record of the evaluation trenches comprising both plans and sections, drawn to appropriate scales (1:20 for plans, 1:10 for sections) was undertaken. The plans and sections were annotated with coordinates and aOD heights. These are retained in the site project archive.

3.3.2 Photographs were taken as appropriate providing a record of excavated features and deposits, along with images of the overall trench to illustrate their location and context. The record also includes images of the Site overall. The photographic record comprises digital photography. A photographic register of all photographs taken is contained within the site project archive.

3.3.3 A single context recording system was used to record the deposits. A full list is presented in Appendix 1. Layers and fills are identified in this report thus (100), whilst the cut of the feature is shown [100]. Context numbers were assigned to all deposits for recording purposes. Each number has been attributed to a specific trench with the primary number(s) relating to specific trenches (*i.e*. Trench 1, 101+, Trench 2, 201+, Trench 3, 301+ etc.).

4 RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 A total of three evaluation trenches was mechanically excavated under archaeological supervision.

4.2 Stratigraphic Deposit Sequence

4.2.1 A relatively consistent stratigraphic sequence was recorded comprising a mix of topsoil sealing an intact subsoil of orange sandy clayey silt (Brickearth) overlaying the natural marl-free smooth white chalk with little flint, weakly developed indurated iron-stained sponge beds. There are no formal subdivisions, but informally the member includes a number of laterally persistent flint and marl beds (Trial Pit 1) named in Robinson (1986), which can be traced outside Kent in the Southern and "Transitional" provinces where they are correlated with the named beds of Mortimore (1986) within the Newhaven Chalk Formation.

4.2.2 Appendix 1 provides the stratigraphic sequence for all trenches. Figures 1-2 provide a site plan and trench location plan while Plates 1-6 include selected site photographs.

4.3 Overview

4.3.1 The trenches were located in areas set out by the GPR specialists to ensure full coverage of potential archaeological remains (plague pits). In all three evaluation trenches the natural geology was reached at between 1.50-1.55m BGL. This geology is tens of thousands of years old and no archaeology including plague pits or other burials will be found under this natural geology.

5 FINDS

6.1 No finds of any archaeological merit were recovered from the archaeological evaluation.

6 Discussion

6.1 Archaeological Narrative

6.1.1 The archaeological investigation failed to expose any meaningful archaeology or plague pits as all three trenches bottomed out on very hard natural geology which experience suggests that non intrusive survey methods such as GPR (Ground Penetrating Radar) signals will have bounced back and given false readings.

6.2 Conclusions

6.2.1 The archaeological investigation has been successful in fulfilling the primary aims and objectives of the brief. No plague pits or burials or archaeological features were exposed in these three trenches located in areas of the proposed plague pits.

6.2.2 This investigation has, therefore, assessed the archaeological potential of land intended for development and found that the areas identified by non-intrusive ground penetrating radar did not in fact have any plague pits, burials or indeed any man made buried features and our archaeological investigation has shown that the non-intrusive survey is not reliable and proven to be so.

7 ARCHIVE

7.1 General

7.1.1 The Site archive, which will include; paper records, photographic records, graphics and digital data, will be prepared following nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1995; CIfA 2014; Brown 2011; ADS 2013).

7.1.2 All archive elements will be marked with the site/accession code, and a full index will be prepared. The physical archive comprises 1 file/document case of paper records & A4 graphics and will be retained by SWAT Archaeology until a Kent museum archive procedure is in place.

8 ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

8.1.1 SWAT would like to thank the developer for commissioning the project.

8.1.2 Dr Paul Wilkinson MCIfA supervised the archaeological evaluation and Paul Wilkinson MCIfA produced the text for this report.

9 REFERENCES

ADS 2013. Caring for Digital Data in Archaeology: a guide to good practice, Archaeology Data Service & Digital Antiquity Guides to Good Practice

Brown, D.H., 2011. Archaeological archives; a guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation, Archaeological Archives Forum (revised edition)

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2014, Standard and Guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives, Institute for Archaeologists

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SMA 1993. Selection, Retention and Dispersal of Archaeological Collections, Society of Museum Archaeologists

SMA 1995. Towards an Accessible Archaeological Archive, Society of Museum Archaeologists

Compiled by: SWAT Archaeology (PW). The Office, School Farm Oast, Faversham, Kent

Dated 11th March 2020.

Appendix 1: Trench Tables

Trench 1	Dimensions: 5m x 5m x 1.0m (dogleg) Depth: 1.55m Trench alignment: NNE-SSW NNE-end Ground Level: 42.60m aOD		
Context	Description	Interpretation	Depth (m)
100	Topsoil	Topsoil layer	0.00-0.35
101	Mid orange brown, clayey sandy silt with occasional flint nodules (Brickearth)	Subsoil	0.35-1.55
103	Clay with Flint	Natural	1.55-

Trench 2	Dimensions: 5m x 1.0m Depth: 1.50m Trench alignment: NNW-SSE NNW-end Ground Level: 42.60m aOD		
Context	Description	Interpretation	Depth (m)
200	Topsoil	Topsoil layer	0.00-0.35
201	Mid orange brown, clayey sandy silt with occasional flint nodules (Brickearth)	Subsoil	0.35-1.50
203	Chalk	Natural	1.50-
Trench 3	Dimensions: 5m x 1.0m Depth: 1.50m Trench alignment: W-E E-end Ground Level: 42.65m aOD		
Context	Description	Interpretation	Depth (m)
300	Topsoil	Topsoil layer	0.00-0.35
301	Mid orange brown, clayey sandy silt with occasional flint nodules (Brickearth)	Subsoil	0.35-1.55
303	Chalk	Natural	1.55-

Plate 1. Trial Pit 1. Hard surface of Clay with Flint

Plate 2.

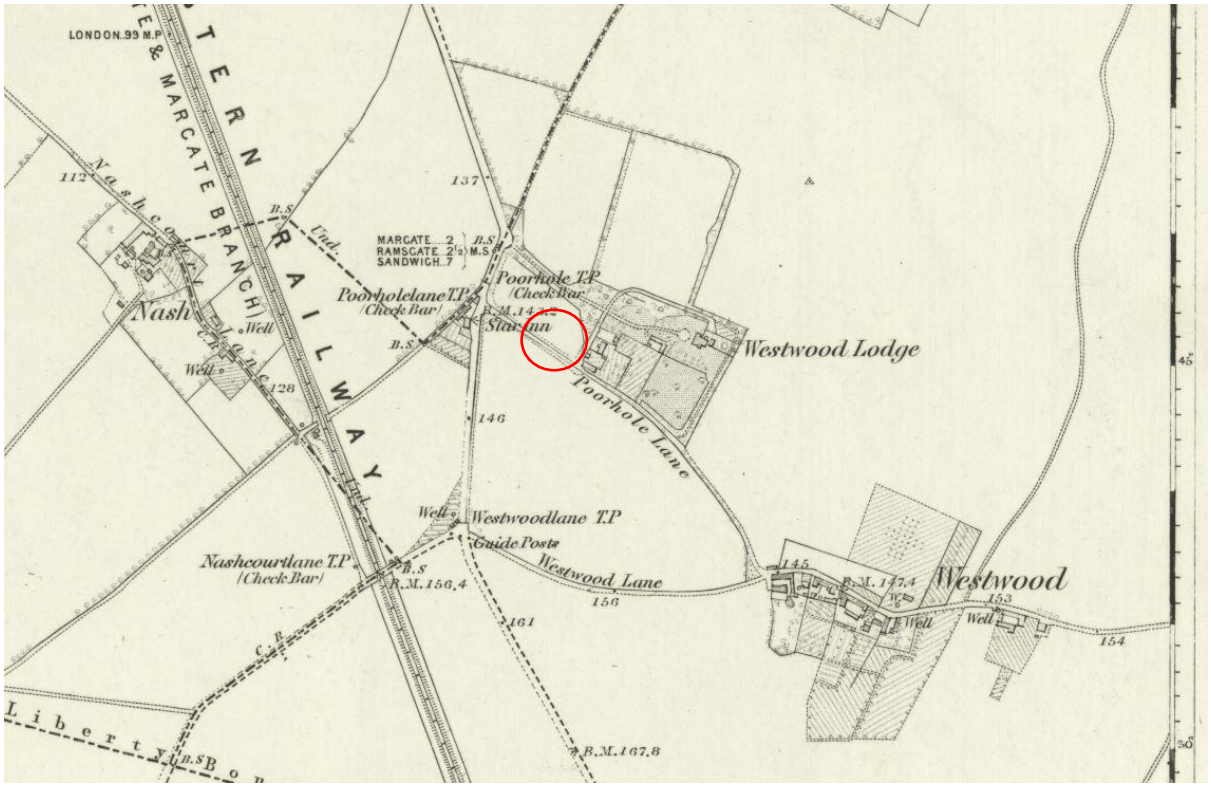
Plate 2. Trial Pit 2. Natural Chalk exposed

Plate 3. Natural Chalk exposed in Trial Pit 3

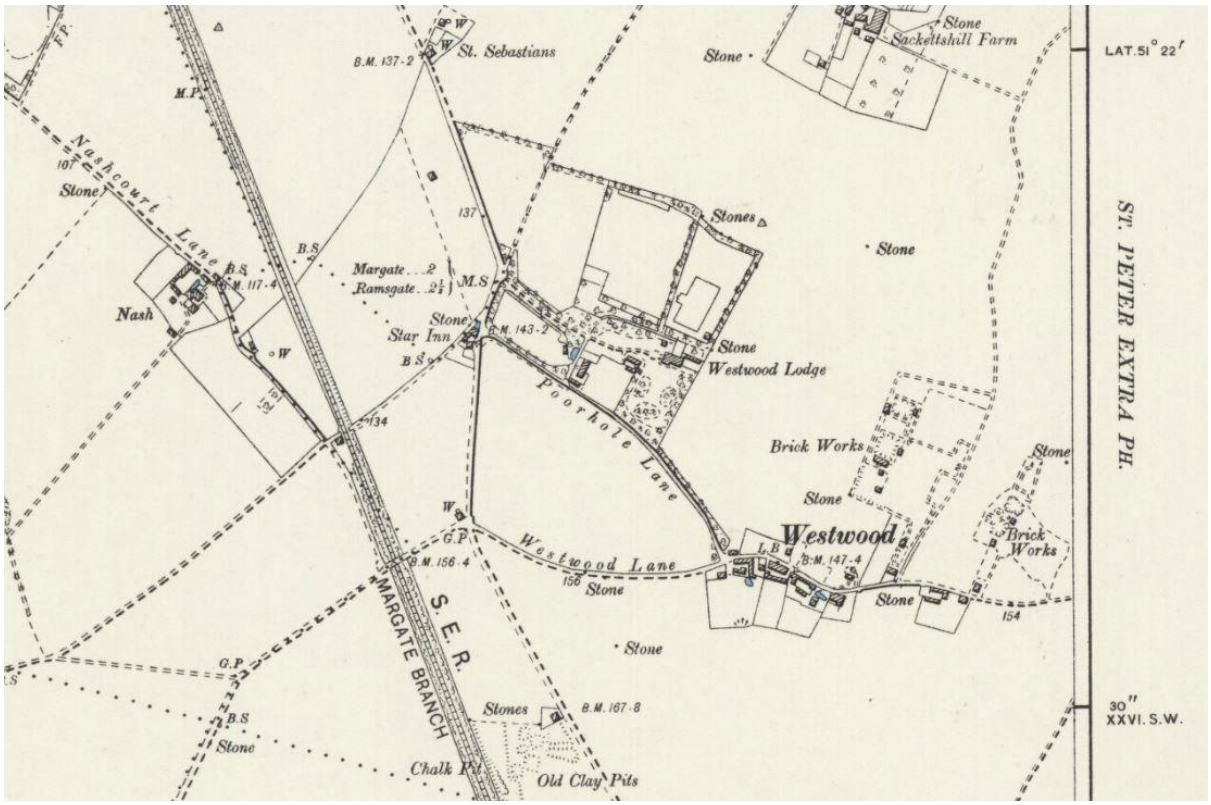
Plate 4. Trial Pit 1 being excavated

Figure 1

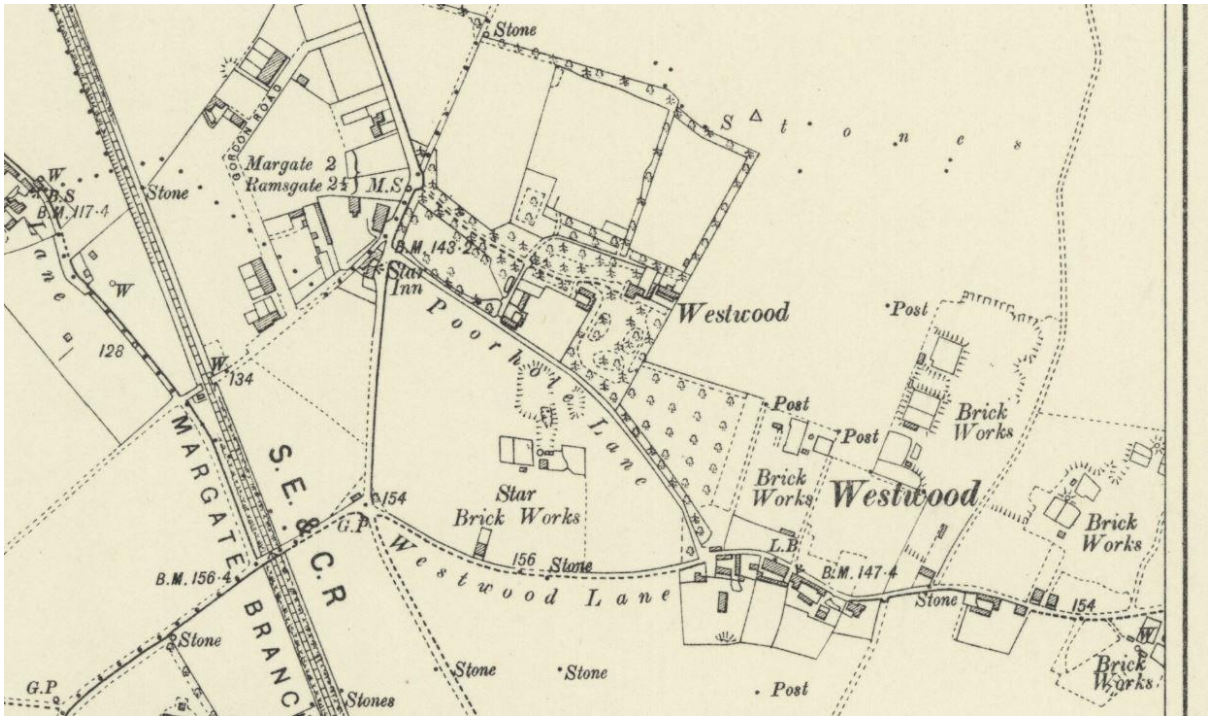
Location of site at NGR 631483 168220



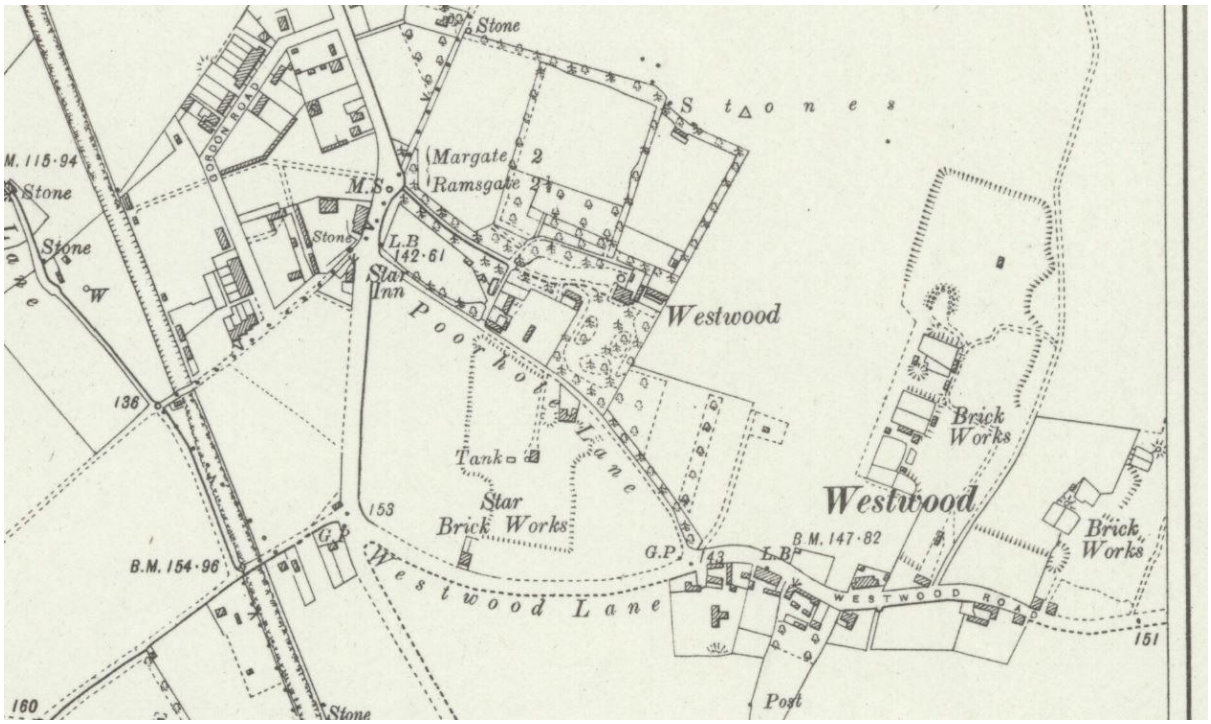
MAP 1- OS 1872



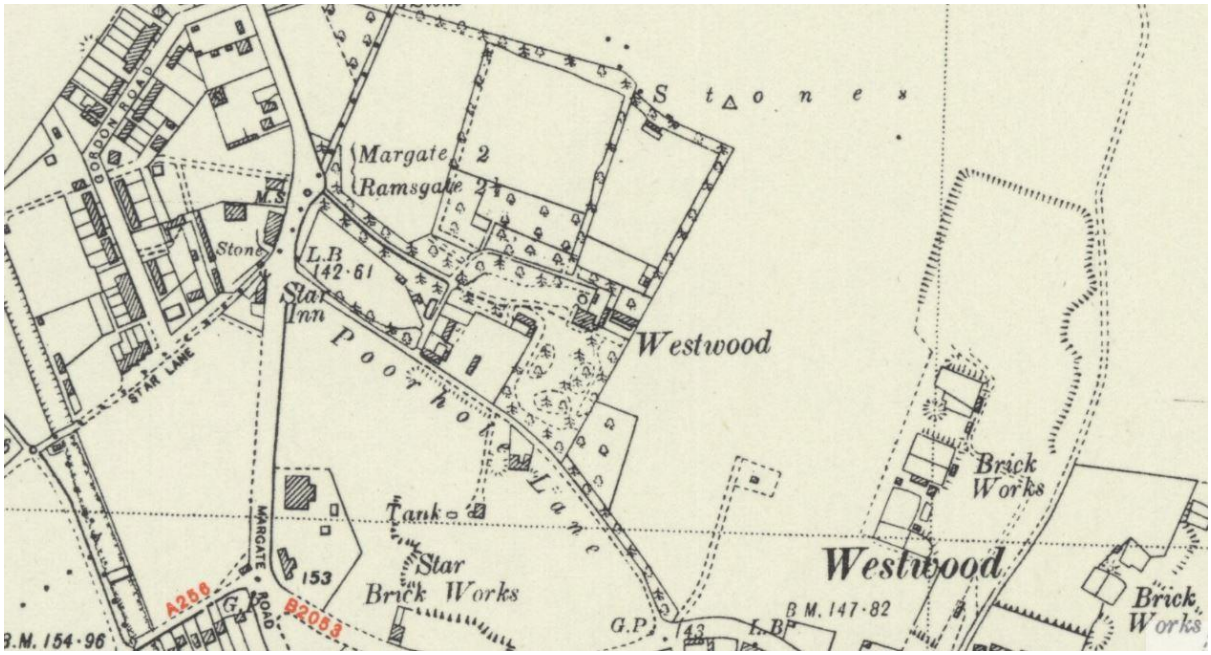
MAP 3- OS 1896



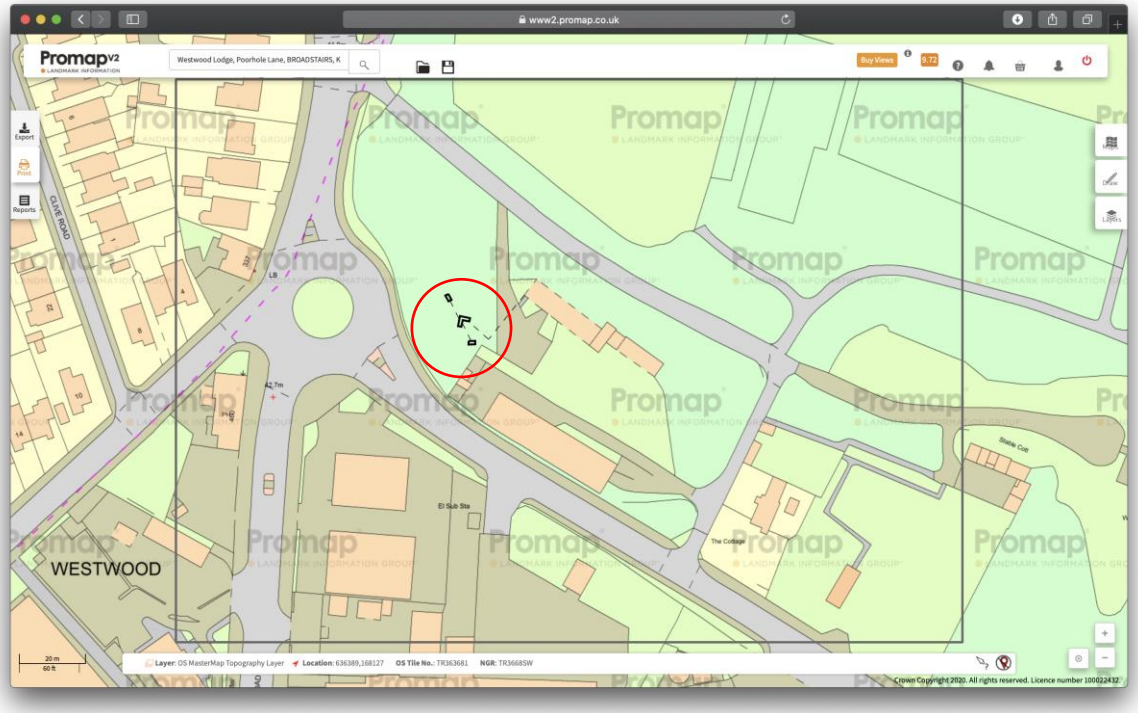
MAP 3- OS 1905



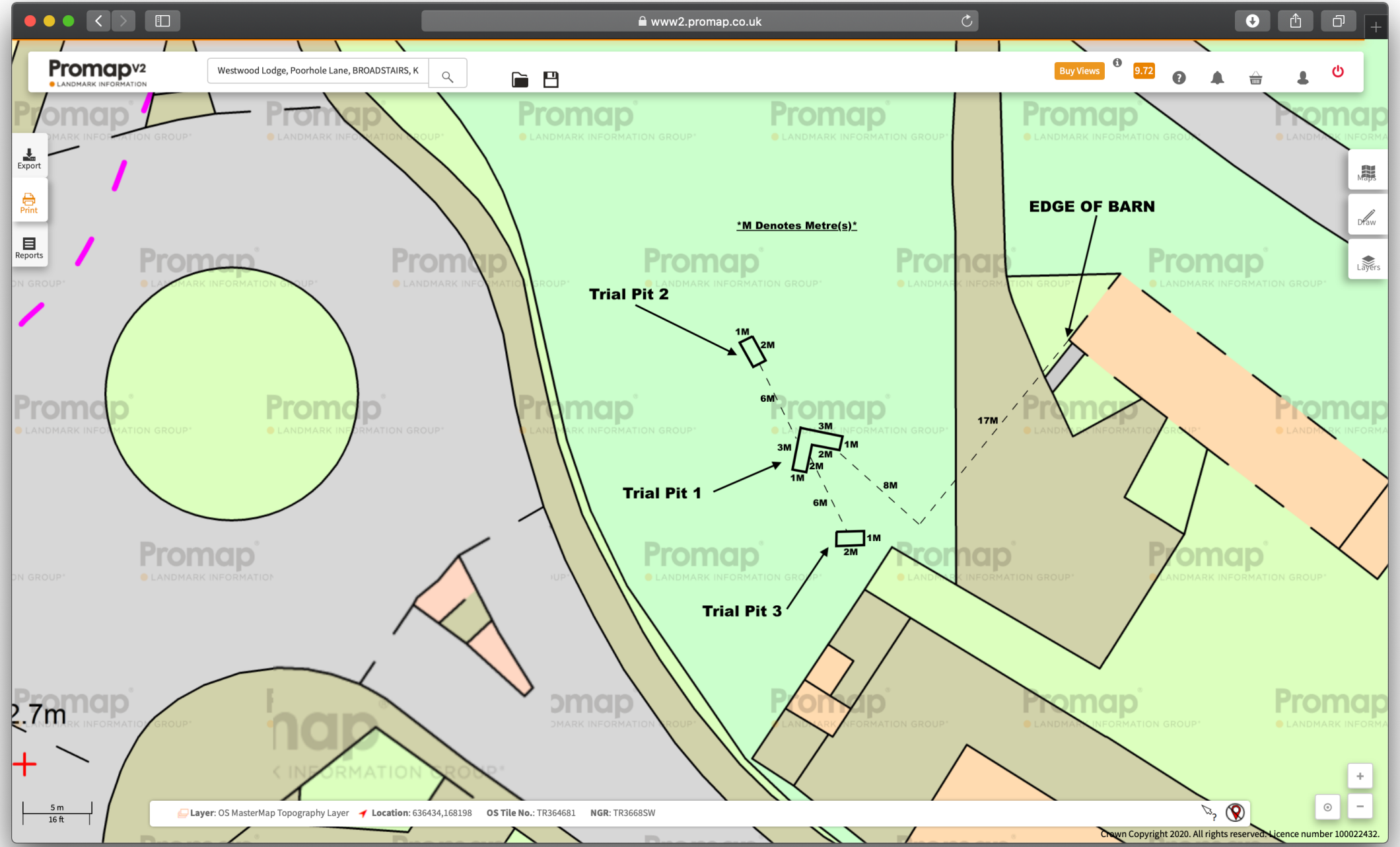
MAP 4- OS 1931



MAP 5- OS 1948



MAP 6- Modern map of site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LANDMARK INFORMATION
Westwood Lodge, Poorhole Lane, BROADSTAIRS, K
Buy Views
9.72
Export
Print
Reports
Maps
Draw
Layers
M Denotes Metre(s)
EDGE OF BARN
Trial Pit 2
1M
2M
6M
3M
3M
1M
2M
2M
1M
17M
8M
Trial Pit 1
6M
1M
2M
Trial Pit 3
2.7m
5 m
16 ft
Layer: OS MasterMap Topography Layer
Location: 636434,168198
OS Tile No.: TR364681
NGR: TR3668SW
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