

ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT OF LAND AT PARTRIDGE FARM, SANDY LANE, KENT ME19 6TG



OS 1907 mapping

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Front cover: 1907 OS map of the location of Partridge Farm (red line)

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In May 2024 Dr Paul Wilkinson MCIFA of SWAT Archaeology carried out a rapid archaeological desk-based assessment of available data on land at Partridge Farm, Sandy Lane in Kent.

1.2 Historic mapping, aerial photographs and the HER records were studied and archaeological activity has been recorded within 250m of the proposed development site.

1.3 The principal elements of the archaeological survey involved the creation of a record and description of any known archaeological and historical sites within the environs of the PDA (Proposed Development Area) together with an analysis and interpretation of the sites origins and historic development.

1.5 A review of Historic OS mapping has been made and the Pevsner Architectural Guide (*Kent, East and East Kent 2012*) was consulted as was the National Heritage Register for England.

1.6 This report consists of a descriptive report accompanied by aerial photographs and annotated plans of the proposed development (Figures 4-5).

2.0 HISTORICAL/ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Location

The Proposed Development Area (PDA) is located south-east of the village of New Town with Leybourne Wood to the east and Stubbersdown Wood to the west. There is only one recorded Historic Site in the area and this is Calais Court about 250m to the east. The NGR to the centre of the PDA (Proposed Development Area) is NGR 567082 158469 (Figures 1-3).

2.2 Historic Background

A rapid map assessment of OS historic mapping shows that in 1829 (Map 1) there are no buildings on the PDA (Proposed Development Area) and orchards to the south and east. By 1895 Calais Court just to the west can be identified but on the PDA is still open land with orchards to the south and further south the train line to London (MAP 4). The OS map of 1897 (MAP 5) shows a small rectangular building in two parts within the orchard and the location of the present site of Partridge Farm is identified by a blue marker and red arrow. The OS map of 1907 shows a row of terraced houses to the north of the PDA and the small rectangular building still within orchards (MAP 6). By 1929 (MAP 8) no development activity had started with the area still being orchard and this continues till 1936 (MAP 9).

2.3 Aerial photography

Aerial photography of the site shows that in 1940 the PDA was not developed but thick orchard with one small building that has been identified on the OS maps (AP 1) and by 1946 very little change with a small group of buildings and the location of the PDA marked by a blue square (AP 2) but by 1960 more changes with an access road leading to the two small buildings identified on the 1946 aerial photograph (AP 3). By 1960 very little change (AP 3) but by 1990 some thirty years later enormous changes with numerous buildings and yard activities (AP 4) and yet by 2003 the site had settled down with clear open spaces and sheds of different shape and size (AP 5). The aerial photograph of 2008 shows more hardstanding and a slurry area in the NW area (AP 6) and by 2020 the domestic buildings have been enlarged with additional buildings in the vicinity and a larger agricultural building has replaced the smaller buildings to the south (AP 7).

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES

3.1 The HER records show that important archaeology has been found in the vicinity of the PDA (Proposed Development Area) and include Calais Court situated to the east at about 250m and is a regular multiyard farmstead with main construction periods 1680 to 1899. (MKE 84388) and is described as:

RYARSH CP LONDON ROAD TQ 65 NE (south side) 7/209 Calais Court 1.8.52 II
House, now training centre. Circa 1700. Brick elevations. Rendered in C19.

Flat projecting eaves with moulded fillet to steep hipped tiled roof with tall and projecting stacks to left and right. 2 storeys; regular 5-bay front, glazing bar sash windows. Projecting C19 columned porch in centre.

Listing NGR: TQ6730958535

3.2 To the south-east at about 400m is the site of a former Brickfield and associated Kiln with the Brickfield being Post-Medieval- 1850AD? To 1900AD? And the Kiln Post-Medieval- 1850AD? To 1900AD?

3.3 Site of former Brickfield and associated kiln as shown on the 1st and 2nd Edition O/S map. The site has now been developed for housing.

3.4 About 100m to the north is a field named St Walstans (Figure 1) and about 300m on a farm called Church Farm and adjacent road called Church Road. Nothing is noted in the KCCHER but the story of St Walstan is intriguing and even more intriguing to have a field, a road and a church located in Kent named after him.

3.3 St Walstan was according to most accounts an Anglo-Saxon prince, the son of Blida and Benedict. Most accounts place his birth at Bawburgh and his life appeared restricted to the west of Norwich. Despite being a royal he forsook the crown and all its privileges to become a simple farm labourer, giving whatever wealth he had to help the poor. After his death a localised cult developed, which grew and grew and in a way outlived the Reformation, as a saint for farmers and animals.

Before Walstan died he had given instructions to the farmer and his wife, to place his body in a cart, which would be drawn by his own white oxen. With a procession of mourners, a procession started towards Bawburgh, and after crossing the river Wensum at Costessey (where it is said that wheel marks are said to be seen on the riverbed), they stopped and rested his body, and here another healing spring arose, St Walstan's Well (TG 153 114) in Costessey Park. In *St Walstan Confessor de sancto Walstanus confessore* Fr Husenbeth in 1859 records:

"Another miracle also happened. When in the aforementioned wood, the bulls stood for a while with the body of St. Walstan on top of a steep hill, a spring of water as a sign of grace

for love of St. Walstan appeared against the nature of the place (for until that time no water had been found there) and through divine mercy is still there today.”

Interestingly, the History of St. Walston an ancient manuscript held at Lambeth Palace and translated by Fr Husenbeth in 1859, fails to mention this second spring. However, it was marked as Walsam’s Well on the 1832 OS map, it is recorded that the well had dried up by the end of the 18th century.

4.0 GEOLOGY

The geology on the PDA is recorded as comprising medium and coarse grained well sorted cross-bedded sands and weakly cemented sandstones- Folkestone Formation- Sandstone.

Hopson, PM. Wilkinson P, and Woods, M A. 2008. A stratigraphical framework for the Lower Cretaceous of England. British Geological Survey. British Geological Survey Research Report RR/08/03.

5.0 DISCUSSION

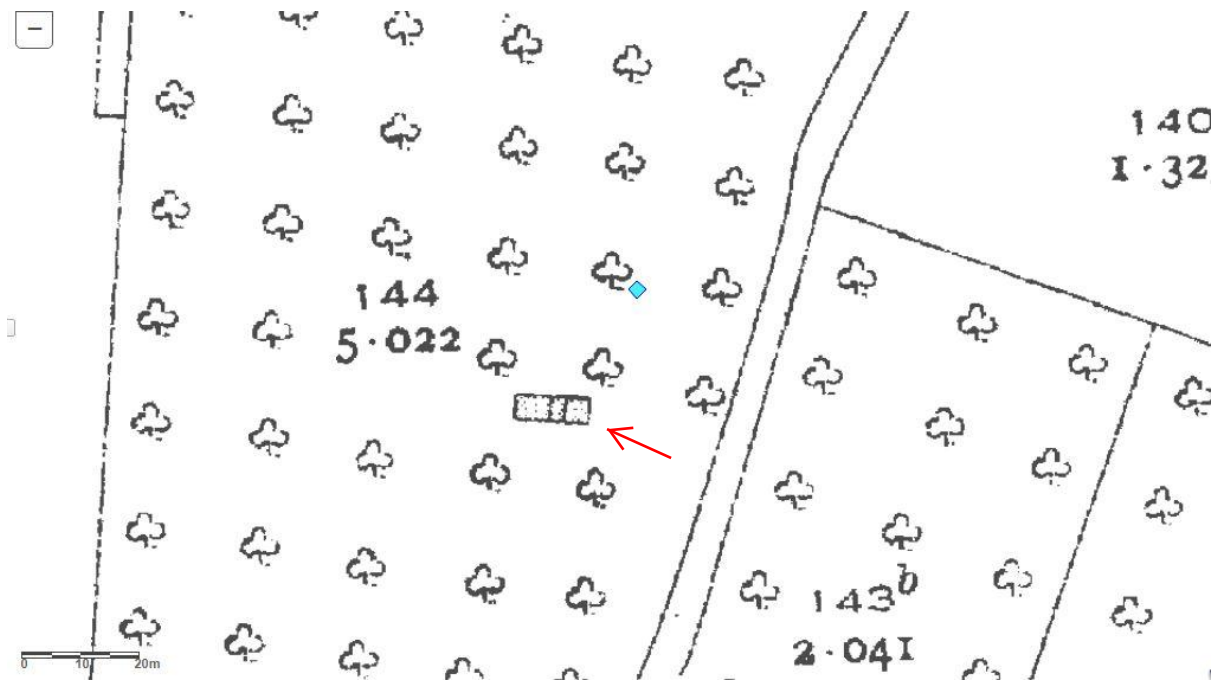
5.1 A review of the available data shows that some archaeological sites are known within the 250m radius of the PDA and that additional investigative work is required on site to an archaeological specification approved by Kent County Council.

6.0 PARAMETERS

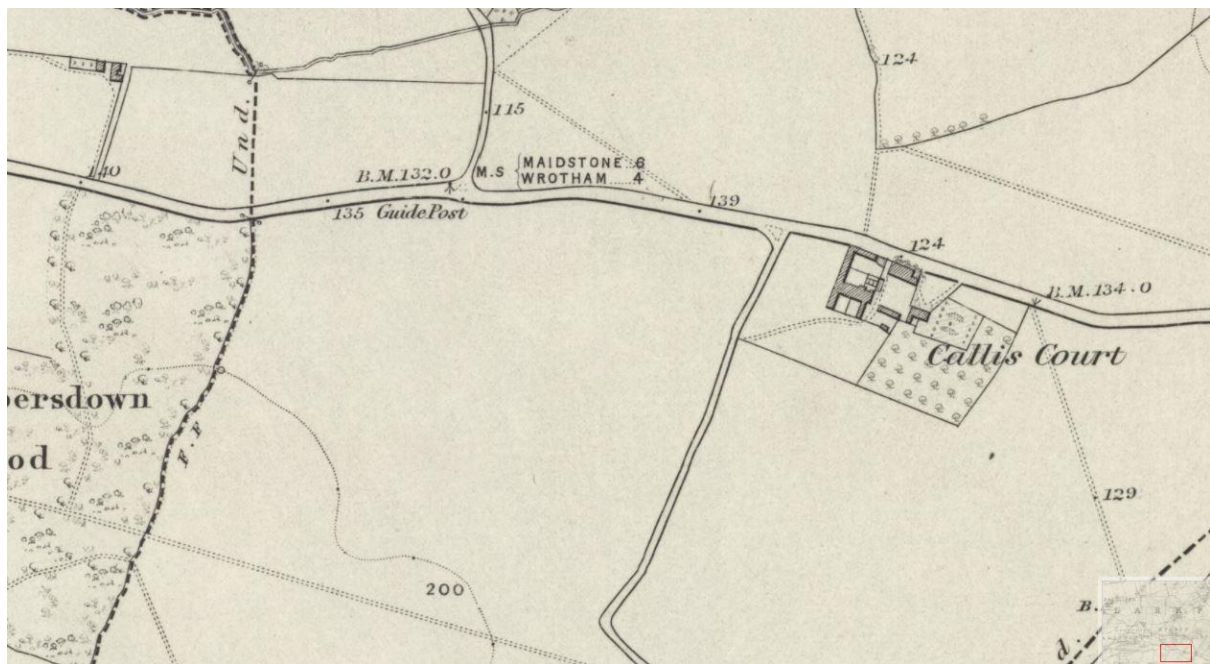
6.1 The archaeological rapid desk-based assessment was conducted using on-line data from Historic England and other agencies (KCC HER).

Dr Paul Wilkinson PhD., MCIfA., FRSA.

Dated 21st May 2024



Map 1. 1829 OS mapping, note building -red arrow (blue square location of Partridge Farm)



Map 2.1867 OS mapping



MAP 3. 1867 OS mapping detail (blue square location of Partridge Farm)



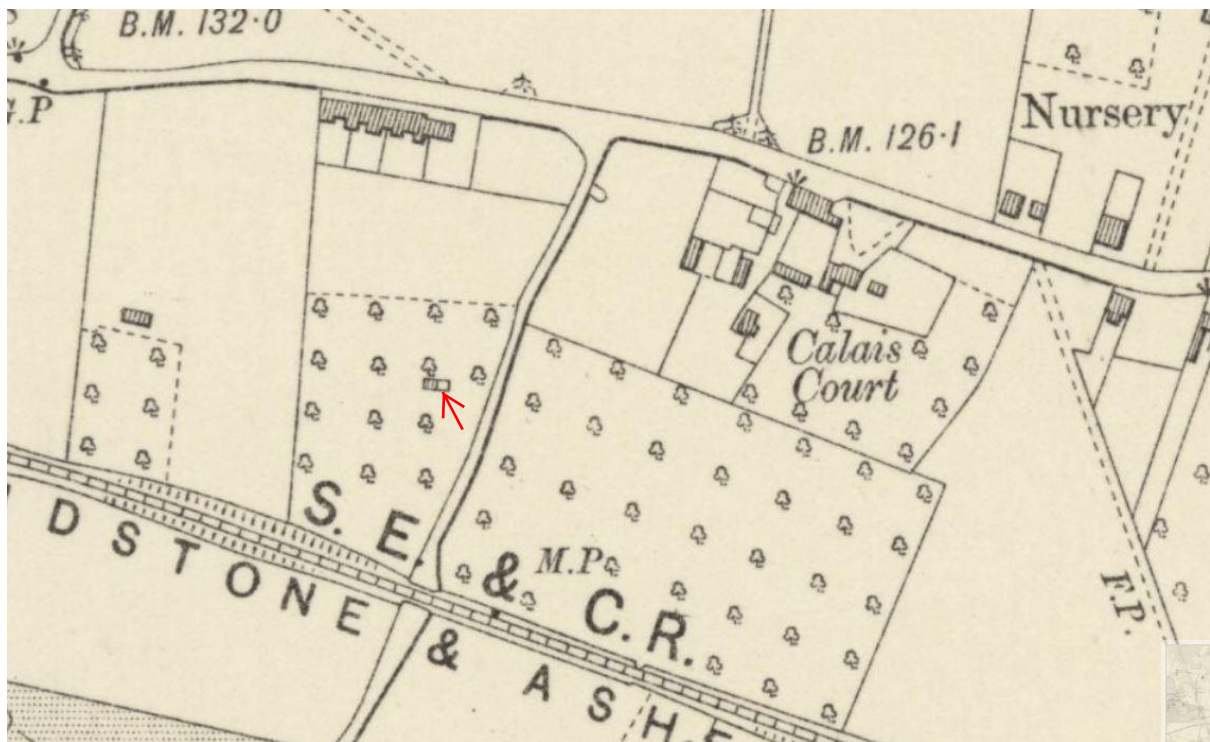
MAP 4. 1895 OS. Note area of orchard (red dot)



MAP 5. 1897 OS. Note location of Partridge Farm (blue square) and building just below-red arrow)



MAP 6. 1907 OS. Existing building (red arrow)



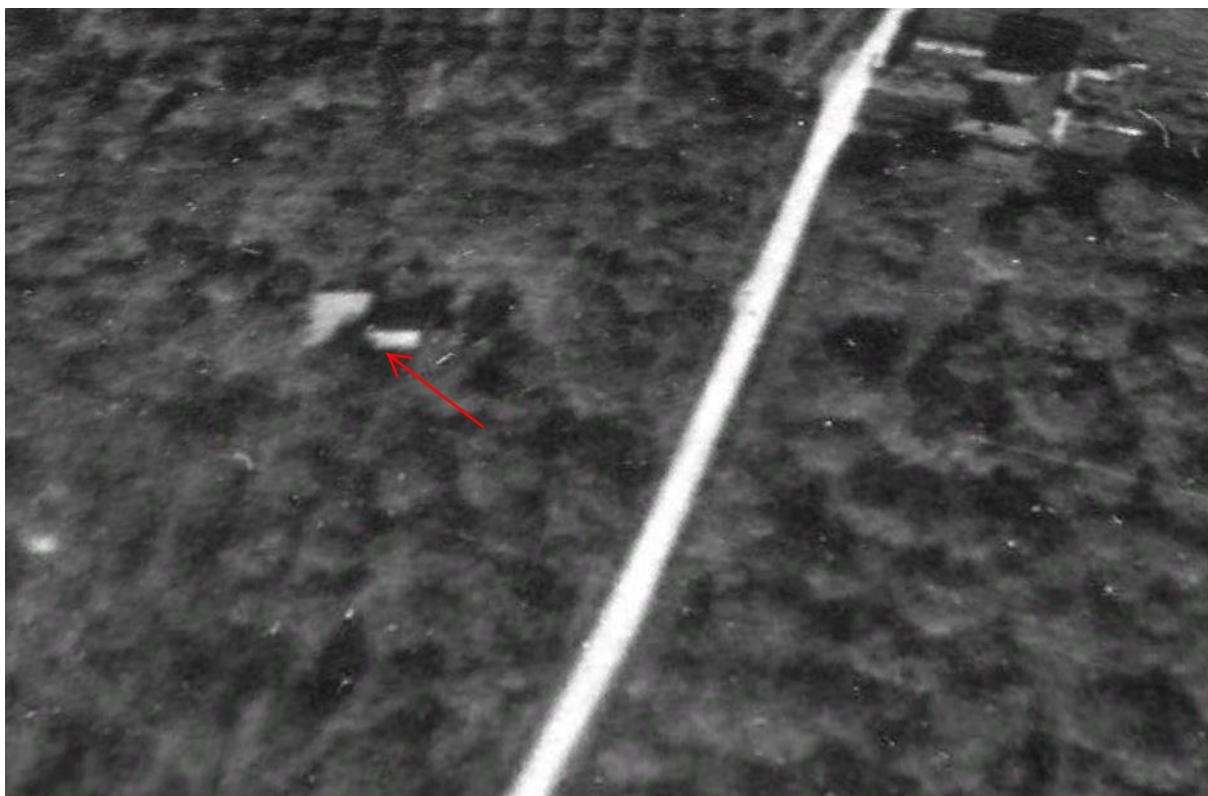
MAP 7. 1909 OS.



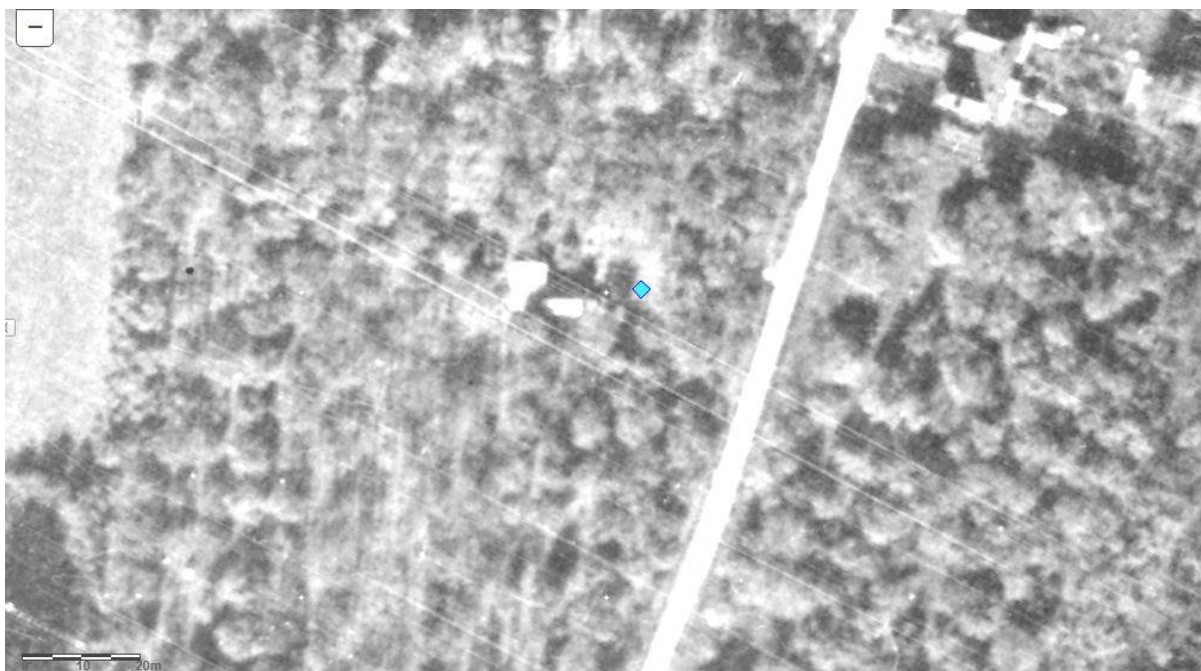
MAP 8. 1929 OS. Small building and now all field orchard (red arrow)



MAP 9. 1936 OS. Small building (red arrow)



AP 1. 1940 and shows small building (red arrow)



AP 2. 1946 and shows small building and blue square shows location of later development



AP 3. 1960 and shows a new access road and small development (red arrow)



AP 4. 1990 and shows development and additional buildings



AP 5. 2003 and shows orchards cleared and site developed



AP 6. 2008 and additional development



AP 7. 2020 and site developed with additional buildings



Figure 1. Site location KCCHER (red arrow)



Figure 2. Site location KCCHER (red arrow)

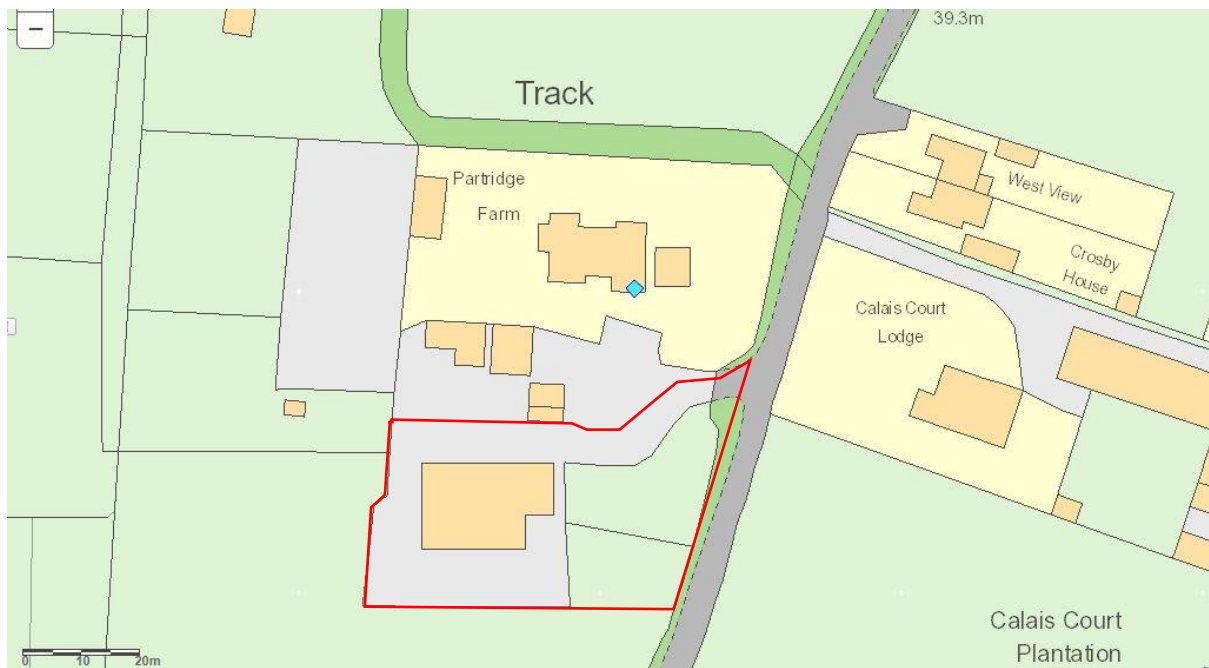


Figure 3. Site location KCCHER (red line)



Figure 4. Proposed development



Figure 5. Proposed development (detail)