

18 Area to the East of the Barns (site of former medieval church/ cemetery)

The land in Outer Court to the east of the barns features grass lawn, overgrown with weeds, and an L-shaped masonry boundary wall to the north and north-east. The area was formerly occupied by the medieval parish church and its associated cemetery, before it went out of use in 1542. There are no above grounds remains but high potential for buried remains.

The stone boundary wall comprises two separate arms (north and east) joined by a section of later timber fencing. The walls, which are galetted like the stonework to the adjacent north-south barn, formerly served as elevations to buildings that are no longer extant as indicated by the infilled openings and iron rings fixed to the stonework (likely for tethering horses).

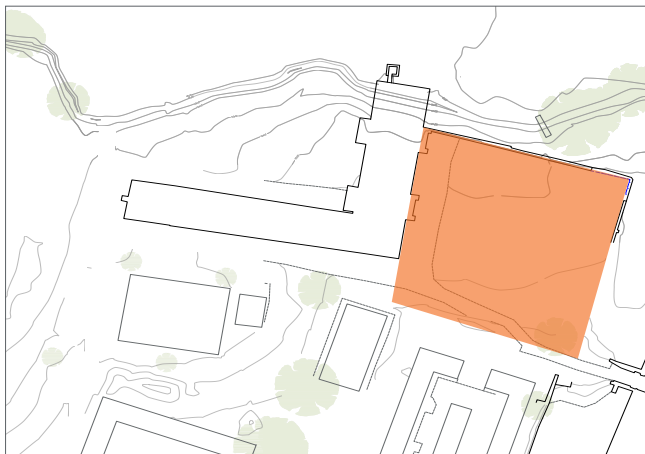


Figure 113: View looking north across the site of the former medieval church



Figure 114: View looking north-east across the site of the former medieval church



Figure 115: Detail of stone wall bounding the east side of the area to the east of the barns showing evidence of infilled openings



Figure 116: Detail of stone wall bounding the north side of the area to the east of the barns

19 Modern Stables (excluded from scheduling and listing)

A complex of 20th century stables and barns lie to the south of the barns within the historic Outer Court. These buildings, comprising pre-cast pebbledash panels with corrugated roofs, were associated with the former Folkestone Racecourse and now lie redundant and derelict. They are surrounded by high-security fencing and gates with barbed wire and their landscape setting is overgrown and unkempt. Piles of salvaged stone associated with the historic buildings on the site can be found amongst these modern buildings.



Figure 117: View of the modern stabling associated with the former racecourse to the south of the barns and the racecourse grandstands in the background



Figure 119: Modern stabling to the south of the barns



Figure 118: Modern stables and semi-permanent buildings to the south of east-west barn



Figure 120: Piles of salvaged stone behind the modern barn to the south of east-west barn

20 Pond

The modern stables are arranged around an overgrown historic pond, which may once have been connected to the moat and historically had a close relationship with the principal causeway approach.

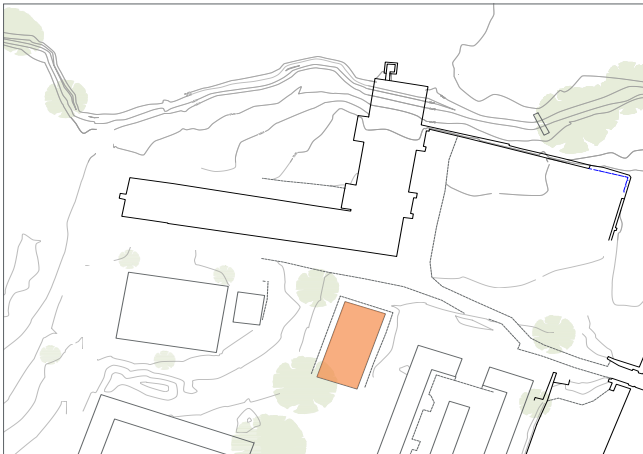





Figure 121: View of the pond, which sits at the centre of the modern stable arrangement, and is well-screened by trees and shrubbery

2.6.3 LANDSCAPE SETTING (WITHIN SCHEDULED AREA)

The landscape setting making up the Scheduled Monument site comprises the north landscape setting, the east landscape setting, the east landscape setting and the west landscape setting.

<ul style="list-style-type: none">  Scheduled Monument  Grade I Listed Building or Structures  Wider Landscape Setting (Beyond Scheduled Area) 	<p>LANDSCAPE SETTING (WITHIN SCHEDULED AREA)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 21 North landscape setting 22 East landscape setting 23 West landscape setting <p><i>This plan is not to scale</i></p>
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Click on each number to be taken to the relevant page

21 North Landscape Setting

To the north and north-east of the moat and curtain walls, there is an open, lower lying area which extends to the railway line. The River East Stour, formerly the source of the moat, runs across this area. Earthworks indicate the presence of archaeology associated with former structures, functions and landscaping including the inlet leat that fed the moat from the river and the former park pale, the boundary to the 16th century deer park. The best surviving remains of the park pale lie to the north-east of the moated site, as a substantial earthen bank along the north side of the moat's inlet leat. Bounding the scheduling to the north, running on a roughly north-west/ south-east orientation, is the railway line. The M20 lies to the north, roughly parallel to the railway line.



Figure 122: View of the earthen bank of the former park pale to the north-east of Inner Court



Figure 123: View across the area to the north-east of Inner Court showing the undulating terrain in the setting of the castle



Figure 124: View of the open area to the north-west of the castle from the public footpath running parallel with the railway line

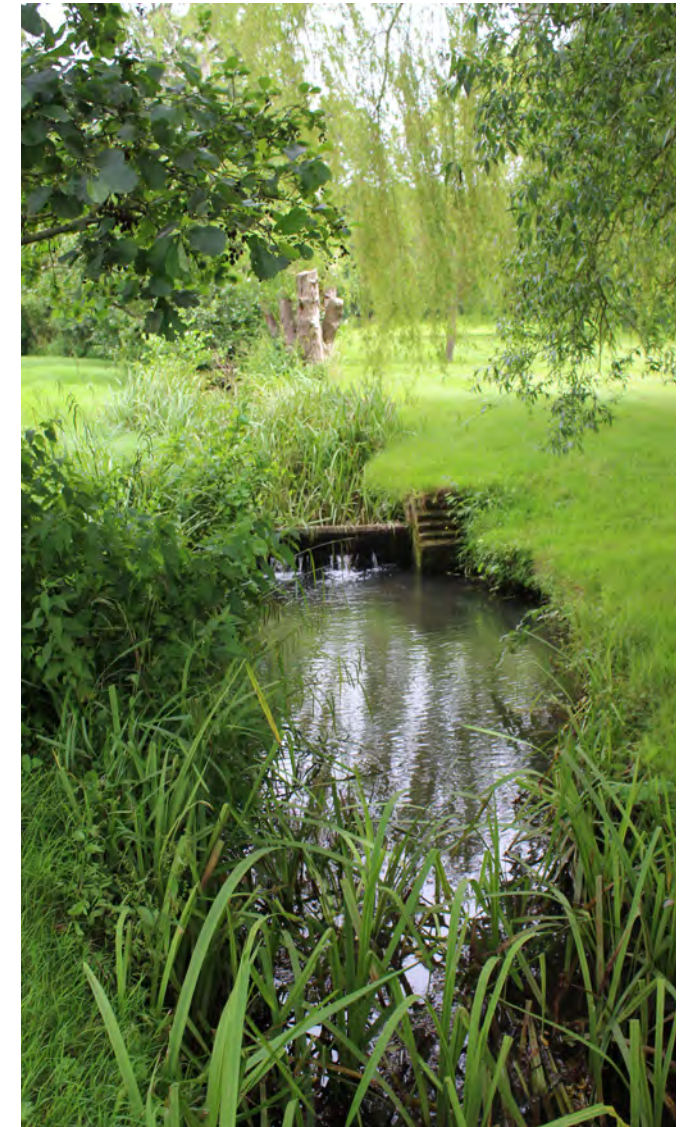


Figure 125: View along the River East Stour which crosses the low lying area to the north of the castle

22 East Landscape Setting

The east landscape setting, adjacent to the east arm of the moat, comprises a mown lawn featuring young and mature trees and a replica of the 'Discovery'. The 'Discovery' was one of the ships that founded Jamestown in Virginia (an expedition funded by a former Westenhanger owner, Sir Thomas Smythe). The replica of the ship is complete with rigging and masts. The paint of the boat is peeling, leaving sections of timber exposed, and the hull planking is beginning to deteriorate in places.



Figure 126: Landscape setting to the east of Inner Court showing the mown lawn, young and mature tree planting and the full-size replica of the 'Discovery'



Figure 127: The hull of the 'Discovery' showing peeling paintwork



Figure 128: Landscape setting to the east of Inner Court showing timber bollards and benches in the setting of the replica ship

23 West Landscape Setting

The west landscape setting comprises an open field with gentle undulations and is bounded by channels of the river to the north-east and north-west. Paths converge to the south of the area, with the eastern path accessing the barns and the western path accessing Farm Cottage, which lies just outside the scheduling.



Figure 129: Land to the west of the barns showing a grassed area and paths leading to Farm Cottage, to the west, and the barns, to the east



Figure 130: Land to the west of the barns looking east towards the barns

2.6.4 WIDER LANDSCAPE SETTING (BEYOND SCHEDULED AREA)

The setting of the site extends far beyond the scheduled area that forms the focus of this CMP.

Beyond the scheduling, lies the former Folkestone Racecourse, although views between the scheduled area and this open landscape are currently screened by dense tree planting.

A drive accessing the site from Stone Street lies to the east of the castle and the scheduled area. Stone Street has a north-south alignment and features detached and semi-detached dwellings lining its west side. Former racecourse buildings including grandstands lie between the site and Stone Street.



Figure 131: Former racecourse grandstands to the east of the scheduled area



Figure 132: Former racecourse buildings to the east of the scheduled area



Figure 133: View of the open land and former racecourse to the south of the scheduled area

2.7 VIEWS

The plans on this page show the Key Views from outside the Scheduled Monument from its wider landscape setting and the Key Views on the site. The views, which typically focus on the Listed Buildings or structures on the Scheduled Monument site, have been selected for a number of reasons. Some are designed views from a particular feature or approach, others are incidental but picturesque and capture the character of the site. Certain views are

longer-range, taken from the site's wider landscape setting looking back towards the Scheduled Monument. Views from the Castle looking out towards its wider setting are also considered. The views cover a range of seasons, owing to the iterative development of the CMP, showing varying tree canopies and demonstrating changing visibilities of principal buildings and structures over the course of the year. Each Key View is important in contributing to the understanding and experience of the Scheduled Monument. When

proposals for change are under consideration, additional study of the views important for any given area will be necessary.

Each of the following Key Views is accompanied by a description and an analysis of its importance with a comment on any detracting features, and a significance rating.



Figure 134: Views outside the Scheduled Monument

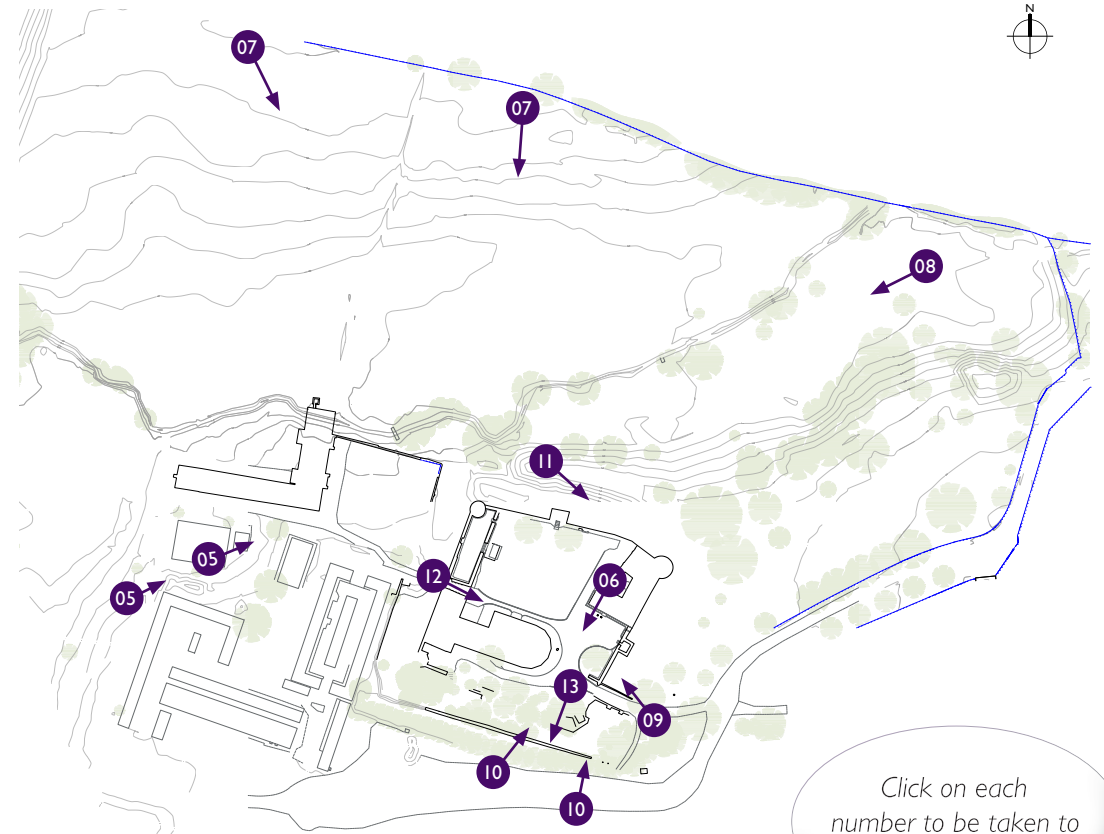


Figure 135: Views within the Scheduled Monument

Click on each number to be taken to the relevant page

Key Views 01

Description

Long-range kinetic views to the south of the Westenhanger Scheduled Monument looking north across the racecourse, along the extant southern section of the Scheduled causeway, accessed off the Ashford Road (A20), and towards Westenhanger.

Analysis

The view captures the landscape setting to the south of the Scheduled Monument at Westenhanger, which has historic significance as a former Tudor deer park with royal associations. The views are significant in that they include the visibly raised, southern section of the historic causeway approach to Westenhanger, which is scheduled separately and remained the principal approach to the site until the 18th century. The views include glimpse views of the Grade I listed, east-west barn and the conical dovecote roof to the north-east tower, also Grade I listed as part of the Manor House. However, the visibility towards the site, and therefore the significance of the view, has been negatively impacted by the racecourse, associated infrastructure, modern stabling and trees screening the manor house.

Significance Rating:

Medium (potential for enhancement to High)



Raised earthwork of former causeway



Raised earthwork of former causeway

Key View 02

Description

Short-range view from outside the Scheduled Monument to the south looking north towards the site along the route of the north section of the former causeway. The view captures unkempt vegetation and modern stabling in the foreground, and the gable of north-south barn and the tiled roof of east-west barn in the background.

Analysis

The view is significant in showing the area formerly occupied by a Tudor garden, to the south of the moat, and in capturing the final stretch of the historic principal south-western entrance to the Westenhanger site, via the causeway. It includes the historic, Grade I listed barns on the left and the castle's north-west tower, also Grade I listed, on the right. The historic route was much altered with the arrival of the racecourse in the late 19th century and the construction of modern stabling to the south of the barns, impacting the legibility of the former arrival and lowering the significance of the view.

Significance Rating:

Medium (potential for enhancement to High/ Very High)



Key Views 03

Description

Long-, mid- and short-range kinetic views across the racecourse to the south-east of the Scheduled Monument, along the route of the former Pound House Track, showing glimpse views of Westenhanger Castle in the background behind tree planting.

Analysis

These kinetic views are significant in showing the landscape setting to the south of the castle formerly occupied by the Tudor deer park and in following a historic approach to the castle, the Pound House Track, which was in place from the mid/ late 19th century from Stone Street. Unfortunately, the deer park has since been truncated by the development of the racecourse and associated grandstands and the historic route is no longer in place, however, the significance of the views would be considerably enhanced by the removal of modern elements and the reinstatement of these historic landscape features. The views offer glimpse views of the castle, particularly the north-east tower and the Georgian frontage of the main range, however, even in winter, the site is largely screened by dense tree planting.

Significance Rating:

Medium (potential for enhancement to High)



Key Views 04

Description

Kinetic views outside the Westenhanger Scheduled Monument looking south towards the Ashford Road (A20) showing the racecourse and the extant southern section of the former causeway.

Analysis

The view is significant in showing the landscape covered by the former Tudor deer park, a fundamental element of the former setting to the south of the castle, and the route of the historic principal approach to Westenhanger, the causeway. The scheduled southern section of this important route is visible in the background as a visible earthwork mound and the landscape carries high archaeological potential. However, the historic deer park setting has been considerably altered and the north section of the causeway no longer survives above ground, unfortunately truncated by the racecourse, reducing the significance of the view in its current condition. Although these interventions have eroded the significance of the view, it could be easily enhanced by removing modern accretions and reinstating the length of the causeway and deer park.

Significance rating:

Low (potential for enhancement to Medium)



Key Views 05

Description

Kinetic views within the Westenhanger Scheduled Monument looking north along the route of the north section of the former causeway showing modern stables, barns and heras fencing in front of the historic east-west barn.

Analysis

The views are historic views, following the line of the former causeway (no longer extant above ground to the north), the principal historic entrance to Westenhanger until around the 19th century, terminating at the historic, listed barns. The modern stables and barns in the foreground of the view are low-quality structures in poor condition and obstruct east-west barn, detracting from the significance of the view.

Significance Rating:

Medium (potential for enhancement to High/ Very High)



Key View 06

Description

View from the first floor of the Manor House looking south across the Scheduled Monument and towards the site's wider landscape setting towards the racecourse and Ashford Road (A20).

Analysis

The view shows the very high significance Inner Court of Westenhanger Castle from the Grade I listed Manor House, which currently features a modern temporary marquee detracting from the significance of the view. The wider landscape setting beyond the Scheduled Monument includes the former Tudor deer park and former causeway approach to the west of the site, however, these features have been lost or eroded and the landscape is currently largely obscured by tree planting around the site even in the winter, when the photograph was taken.

Significance rating:

Medium (potential for enhancement to High)



Key View 07

Description

These kinetic views moving east along the public footpath at the north of the scheduled area provide expansive views of the open pastureland setting to the listed barns and the listed Manor House, which are visible in the background, albeit largely screened by trees except fragments of the 'Tudor Kitchen' extension and the north central tower.

Analysis

The views, taken from a the footpath, show the only public-facing angle of the Scheduled Monument, and therefore carry communal value. The views are also significant in capturing the spacious, tranquil landscape setting making up the north of the scheduled area and capture the Listed Buildings on the site, namely the Manor House and the barns, without any intervening modern buildings or structures. The views would benefit from some tree thinning, particularly around the Manor House, which is densely screened meaning the historic curtain walls are not visible.

Significance Rating

Very High



Key View 08**Description**

View within the scheduled area looking across the landscape to the north-east of the moat showing the treed bank of the former park pale on the left and the central north tower, north curtain wall and sections of the north-east tower in the background.

Analysis

The view is significant in capturing the picturesque outline of standing remains comprising the north and east curtain walls and two of the north towers. It also shows the earthen bank of the former park pale, a significant landscape feature associated with the royal Tudor deer park. The outline of the temporary marquee structure in Inner Core forms the backdrop of the north curtain wall, which dilutes the historic character of the curtain wall to a certain extent.

Significance Rating:

High

**Key View 09****Description**

View within the scheduled area from the bridge at the east entrance to the castle complex showing the red brick Georgian frontage of the main range alongside the earlier ragstone curtain wall and tower to the east.

Analysis

This highly significant view captures the unique character and historic phasing of the Grade I listed Manor House at Westenhanger, which is shown to be both defensive and domestic. The 14th century ragstone walls, characterised by a piecemeal arrangement of windows and circular corner tower, form a pleasing juxtaposition to the ordered red brick 18th century frontage featuring a more aligned fenestration pattern. The empty moat further reflects the former function of the castle to act as a symbol of power and defense, as well as emphasising the height of the curtain walls.

Significance Rating

Very High



Key View 10

Description

Glimpse kinetic views from the walkway lining the southern edge of the moat at the south-eastern edge of the Scheduled Monument looking towards the Manor House showing fragmentary views of the main south façade and the east curtain wall, a section of hipped roof and the north-east tower.

Analysis

The views are significant as potential historic, designed views from a late 16th century phase of landscaping – the south terrace, which lining the south side of the moat provided a garden setting for the private apartments in the south range. The views, particularly to the west side of the terrace, are heavily compromised by trees and shrubbery growing in the moat, blocking the historic buildings almost entirely in places. In winter, thinner tree canopies allow better views of the Georgian frontage to the Manor House.

Significance Rating

Medium (potential for enhancement to High/ Very High)



Key View 11**Description**

View within the scheduled area looking south-east along the moat and north curtain wall showing the central north tower in the foreground and the north-east tower in the background, with the attached 'Tudor Kitchen' extension.

Analysis

The view is significant in showing a good survival of the 14th century fortification of Westenhanger comprising two contrasting towers, one square and one circular, and the connecting stretch of ruined curtain wall. The moat, tall towers and curtain walls reflect the necessity for the castle to act as a symbol of power and defense in the 14th century. The view is in good condition, although, ivy obscures upper sections of curtain wall in places.

Significance Rating

Very High

**Key View 12****Description**

View looking east across Inner Court from the west entrance to the castle complex towards the Manor House, showing its Georgian frontage, rear range and the 'Tudor Kitchen' extension. Sections of curtain wall are visible abutting either side of the Manor House and the temporary marquee structure is visible in the right foreground.

Analysis

The view is particularly important in representing the entry to the castle site, via the former principal entrance, the causeway to the south-west. The view is highly significant in capturing the plan form and open courtyard of Inner Court, as well as the Manor House, the focal building within the scheduled area. The view indicates the piecemeal phases of historic phasing present, including the 14th century curtain walls framing the house, the 18th century main range and the more recent 'Tudor Kitchen' extension. The temporary marquee structure is an intrusive element in the view, obstructing part of Inner Court and diluting its historic character.

Significance Rating

Very High

**Key Views 13****Description**

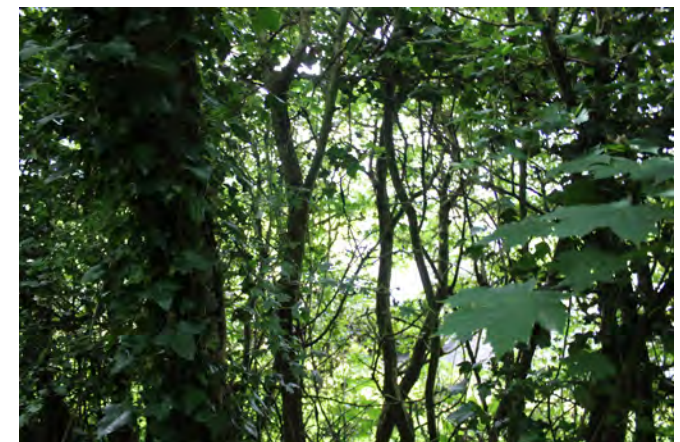
View from the walkway lining the southern edge of the moat, at the south-eastern edge of the Scheduled Monument, looking through dense tree planting towards the landscape setting to the south of the site.

Analysis

The view has historic significance as an important part of the former setting to the south of the castle with the deer park, Tudor garden and causeway historically located here, however, at present the view is heavily compromised by dense undergrowth. The vegetation is thinner in winter allowing better visibility of the landscape to the south, however, the views out are still restricted. The view would be significantly enhanced by thinning and pruning, to open up glimpse views to the open landscape beyond, as well as removing redundant racecourse infrastructure, and reinstating historic landscape features such as the historic deer park.

Significance Rating

Low (potential for enhancement to Medium)



3.1 SITE WIDE HISTORIC DEVELOPMENT

Early History

Prehistoric activity or occupation in the wider setting of Westenhanger is evidenced by Prehistoric archaeological finds located within the landscape, particularly to the south and west of the Scheduled Monument. Features and artefacts found in investigations include Neolithic, and possibly earlier, tools, and Bronze age barrows, pits, postholes, ditches and pottery.

Westenhanger Castle is located just to the west of a Roman road running from Lympe to Canterbury. The route is first mentioned in the 4th century *Itinerarium Antonini Augusti* (the Itinerary of the Emperor Antoninus), where it is described covering a distance of 14 miles along the line of present day Stone Street.⁰¹ There is also evidence of Roman settlements, likely associated with this road, in the setting of Westenhanger.

The first written reference to Westenhanger, albeit by an earlier name ('Berwic'), dates to 1035. The Charter of King Canute of this date recorded that the king bestowed 'Berwic', later called Westenhanger, to Bishop Easdin, Secretary of State to Canute and Bishop of St Martin's by Canterbury.⁰² Although the Charter makes no reference to buildings, it is likely that earlier buildings were located on the site⁰³ and it has been speculated that an Anglo-Saxon palace, built by one of the Kings of Kent, was located here or nearby.⁰⁴

Medieval Period

At the end of the 12th century, the parish of Le Hangre was divided into two associated manors, Westenhanger and Ostenhanger (or Eastenhanger).

Fortunately, Nicholas de Criol, eldest son of the owner of Ostenhanger, married Joan, heir of William D'Auberville of Westenhanger, in the early 14th century, joining and reuniting the two manors, with the exception of a small part passed to Nicholas' brother, John, which by 1337 descended to the de Poynings family. It is thought that the existing Manor House stands on the site of the eastern manor, Ostenhanger, although over the years the two names have been used interchangeably.

Westenhanger's medieval parish church of St Mary the Virgin was located outside the western entrance to the castle, between the bridge and the barns. The church is recorded in 1291 and remained in use until it was decommissioned in 1542 and demolished.

Prior to 1343, the early moated site comprised a hall and a gatehouse. Although the early gatehouse was rebuilt in the 14th century, the stonework at its base includes finely dressed ragstone ashlar blocks with tight joints pre-dating the curtain wall.⁰⁵ Much of this earlier wall is buried below ground.

In 1343, John de Criol was granted license to crenellate, however, the construction of the curtain walls is not thought to have taken place immediately. The delay may have been caused by The Black Death and it has been suggested that the architectural style of the curtain walls better accord with a later 14th century date.⁰⁶ The gatehouse on the west side of the enclosure was rebuilt, only the entrance passage (once vaulted) and front wall of which survive

(west entrance to the castle complex). As part of the fortification, seven further mural towers were added, four corner towers and an interval tower in the walls not occupied by the gatehouse.

The fortification, which elevated the site to a castle or fortified Manor House, served primarily as a symbol of wealth and power, against a backdrop of unrest with France. The castle would have afforded only limited protection owing to the thinness of the curtain walls and the nature of the moat, which could be easily emptied.⁰⁷ Aside from the curtain walls, which are best preserved to the north as high standing remains and the remaining towers, vestiges of these fortifications remain at the gatehouse, which includes a groove for the portcullis and a pivot hole for the drawbridge.



Figure 136: Early dressed ragstone ashlar blocks, found at the lower courses of the curtain wall near the base of the gatehouse, which pre-date the 14th century

⁰¹ Victoria County History, History of Kent Vol. 3, 1932 p. 135.

⁰² Gordon Ward, 'The Westenhangar Charter of 1035', p. 144, in *Archaeologia Cantiana, 1935*; Catharine Goodwin (Stanford and Westenhangar History Society), *Stanford Parish through the Centuries including Stanford and Westenhangar Villages*, p. 10.

⁰³ Goodwin, p. 10.

⁰⁴ Charles Igglesden, 'A Saunter through Kent with a Pen and Pencil' in *Westenhanger Castle and Barns: Historical Notes*, p. 9.

⁰⁵ Martin, p. 206.

⁰⁶ George Clinch, 'Notes on the Remains of Westenhangar House, Kent', p. 77, in *Archaeologia Cantiana, 1915*.

⁰⁷ Martin, p. 218.

The plan opposite shows an indicative reconstruction of the site during the late 14th century following fortification. It is thought that the medieval buildings in Inner Court, including accommodation, a great hall and a kitchen/ services range, abutted the eastern curtain wall, on the site of the present Manor House with an open courtyard in front of it. This layout is indicated by the medieval windows on the interior of the eastern wall and scars of former partition walls showing the location of former buildings accessible from the eastern and north-eastern towers.

The north and west curtain walls lack scars or windows, suggesting these were free of buildings except the gatehouse positioned centrally in the west wall. The western corner towers encroach into the castle enclosure, further suggesting that these towers were not designed to have buildings abutting them.⁰⁸ The presence or absence of buildings against the south wall is unknown owing to the loss of the wall here.

The walled enclosure was surrounded by a moat, likely pre-dating the 14th century fortification. The moat, which was fed from a leat tapped off the River East Stour, is still partly water-filled on the south and south-west sides. On the northern, downhill, side the moat is retained externally by a substantial earthen bank, at the eastern end of which are the remains of an inlet leat which entered the moat from the north-east. At the western end of the bank is the site of a watermill for grinding grain, referred to in documentary sources of the 16th century but possibly earlier in origin. No remains of the watermill are now evident above ground although the sluice that powered the mill is visible on the ground as a gap in the bank of the moat and the earthwork remains of a dam in the north-west corner partially survive.⁰⁹

A causeway formed the principal approach to the south-west of the castle. Although of unknown date, it is thought the route was in place from the medieval period and was used through much of the post-medieval period. This has since been fragmented by Folkestone Racecourse, however, a section of the causeway remains to the south.

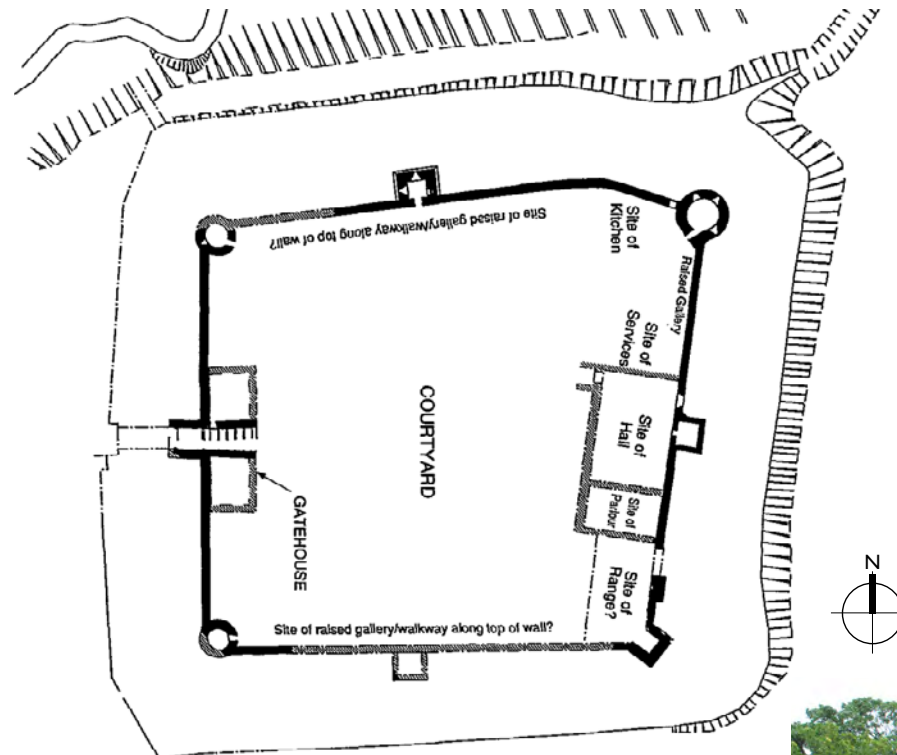


Figure 137: Reconstruction plan of the site as during the late 14th century (Archaeologia Cantiana, 2002)



Figure 138: The shadowed dip in the bank of the moat is the remains of an inlet leat, which fed the moat from the River East Stour

⁰⁸ Martin, p. 217.

⁰⁹ Martin, p. 206.

Rosamund's Tower

The name of this tower stems from the legend that Henry II installed his mistress Rosamund de Clifford at Westenhanger in this tower. Although there may be some associative connection between Rosamund, cousin of Simon de Criol, and Westenhanger prior to its fortification, this connection likely predates the tower and battlements by 200 years, which were constructed after Henry II's death.

**16th century**

In around 1509, Sir Edward Poynings who owned the smaller part of the partitioned manor of Westenhanger/ Ostenhanger, acquired the larger part of the manor, reuniting the two. Sir Edward was a favourite of Henry VII and Henry VIII and he and his son Thomas, who was to succeed him upon his death in 1523, carried out a lavish programme of works. Their alterations led to a shift in character from fortified castle to comfortable country mansion. The plan adjacent shows the 16th century developments on the site.

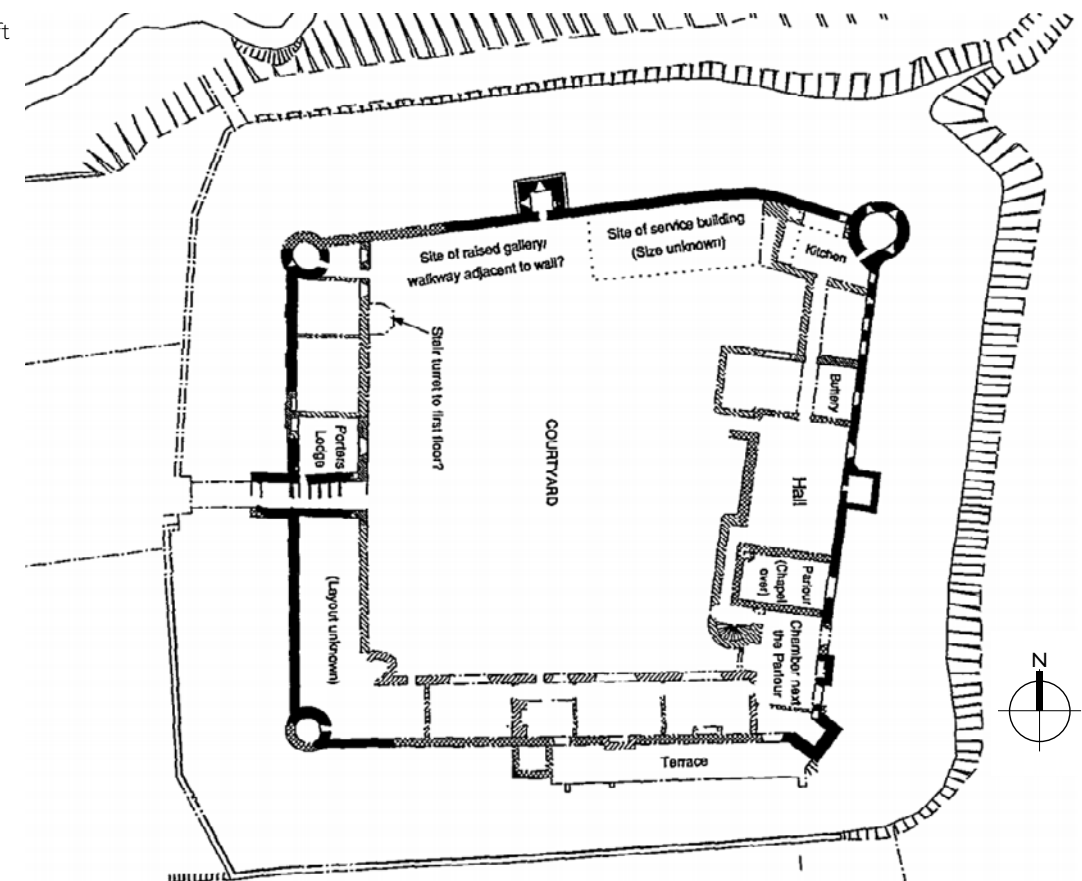


Figure 139: Reconstruction plan of the site as during the late 16th century (Archaeologia Cantiana, 2002)

The Poynings built the west range of buildings against the interior of the western curtain wall, destroying the earlier gatehouse except the pre-1343 ashlar blocks and vaulted entrance passage, which remain visible today. The northern half of this range survives, without a roof, the southern part of which was most likely a porters' lodge, mentioned in the inventory of 1635, or a guardroom. Tudor remnants in this ruined western range include a red brick herringbone design fireplace, visible above the current ground level, a Tudor doorway and a deeply-splayed window adjacent.

The Poynings are thought to have reconstructed the rooms at the north end of the medieval hall, in the eastern range, by adding a three-storey cross-wing, visible on the 16th century plan as the projecting east-west element. This cross-wing survives in part, albeit reduced in height, incorporated into the present scaled-down house. The present house features remains of the 16th century wing including beams and an early fireplace at first floor level, which dating to the early 15th century may in fact pre-date the cross-wing, perhaps re-used from an earlier room.

The Poynings also added a cross-wing at the south end of the medieval hall, which housed private apartments and a chapel at first floor. Edward Hasted records this chapel as in use as a stable in his late 18th century description. The south cross-wing was demolished in the 19th century. The kitchens, located just to west of north-east tower, were also rebuilt in this period.

Other alterations include re-facing and partial reconstruction of some of the northern curtain wall's east end and alterations to the north-east tower, with the conversion of the upper storeys into a dovecote and the lower storey into a bakehouse. The roof, which is largely a modern construction, incorporates elements of an earlier 16th century timber roof.

Poynings also added Outer Court. The east-west barn was built in the early 16th if not earlier, most likely by him. The presence of other buildings in Outer Court is indicated by the 17th century inventory, which lists a brewhouse, faulkners' hall, lime house, workshops, coal house and milk house. The remains of these features are believed to lie beneath modern stable buildings.

The survey of 1559 mentions formal gardens, describing gardens, orchards and ponds. The pond that remains to the south of the stables may have been linked by a culvert and sluice to the south-west corner of the moat.¹⁰



Figure 140: Red brick Tudor fireplace in the west range

¹⁰ Martin, p. 226.

East–West Barn

The east-west barn was built in the early 16th century if not earlier, most likely by Sir Edward Poynings, or his son Sir Thomas, as part of Outer Court. It was built against the north wall of a now demolished pre-existing building extending north-south; this earlier adjoining building, which likely provided domestic service accommodation, is shown on the 1648 plan (on [page 81](#)) and in the image of the entrance gateway on [page 85](#). Architectural details on the south wall of the barn, including the termination of the stone plinth towards the west end, may indicate the position of this former building.

The inventory of 1635 refers to a 'great stable' in Outer Court, which may well describe the east-west barn range. The floor and walls of the building provide clear indications of having housed livestock in the form of a drainage channel and marks indicating partitioning for stalls, however, these were likely added later. Although the building's original function is unknown, the window openings and first storey indicate a lodging function, although, the lack of heating suggests relatively basic accommodation, possibly for members of the household or servants.

The three original doorways indicate that the building was divided into three internal rooms of roughly equal size; these were likely separated by timber partitions. Most of the building's original openings are in the south wall, indicating it was intended to be viewed and entered from this side, as well as its historic importance as a high-status structure situated on the approach to Inner Court. Alterations including intruded windows and openings indicate the building has changed in use over the centuries.

Although not proven, the doorways with arched heads may have been salvaged from the medieval St Mary's Church, located to the east of the barn, which went out of use at the same time as the barn was constructed, or shortly after. The arched head of the central doorway is of a particularly grand character.

The present internal configuration dates from the 18th century when a small central room was created around the principal doorway with two thin brick walls either side and subsequent partitions were added in the 19th century. The fenestration in the south elevation has been much altered, with windows and doors opened and blocked, and stone jambs re-used, from the late 16th century onwards. The ventilation slits in the north elevation are non-original additions.

Internally, much of the roof-structure has been altered or substantially rebuilt, following damage during the storm of 1987 meaning only fragments of the 16th century roof structure survive at the eastern end. The east-west range was not included in the recent renovation of its counterpart range and is therefore in poorer condition.



In 1541, Thomas Poynings exchanged the manor with the king for estates in Dorset and Wiltshire as Henry VIII wanted a royal residence in Kent to oversee the developments at local coastal fortifications.¹¹ It is assumed that Thomas Poynings had completed his father's extensive building works, although there were further enhancements associated with royal use made between 1552 and 1553. Although Henry VIII is only known to have visited twice, Princess Mary, later Queen Mary I, is thought to have spent time at Westenhanger. The deer park was laid out or enlarged by Henry VIII in 1542 and by 1559 reached c.400 acres, as recorded in the survey of the Manor of Westenhanger.¹²

The new or enlarged park extended to include the old parish church of Westenhanger, which in 1542 was decommissioned by Henry VIII and its parish merged with the neighbouring parish of Stanford. The church and cemetery went out of use. It is unknown exactly how long the church remained standing; Hasted speculates that the church was pulled down and the materials re-used to construct the large north-south barn, although this has been challenged by the argument that the stones do not feature ecclesiastical carvings.¹³ All that survives today of the medieval church are buried remains and, possibly, moulded doorways and windows, in the south elevation of the east-west barn, which may have been salvaged from the church fabric.

Late Sixteenth Century

The Manor House passed to Elizabeth I, who is recorded staying here in 1573 whilst the castle was under the custodianship of Thomas, Lord Buckhurst. In 1585, Queen Elizabeth granted the manor to Thomas (Customer) Smythe, meaning the estate reverted to private ownership. Smythe was an important figure who collected customs for the Port of London and whose family had contributed financially to coastal naval defences during the threat of the Spanish Armada. It is thought that the manor was a gift in recognition of this contribution.¹⁴ Queen Elizabeth may have used the castle for troops during the expected invasion by the Spanish Armada.

Smythe made additions to the castle, which probably include the no longer extant southern range of buildings within the Inner Court shown on the 1648 plan.¹⁵ The adjacent raised terrace within the moat, now truncated to the east and west, and the linear terrace opposite raised above the south side of the moat and separated by a retaining wall, likely date to this period. These features form remnants of a formal garden overlooked by the private apartments of the house. During this period, the external curtain walls were rendered, this render is barely perceptible today, although traces are evident, alongside false quoining, on the external elevation of Rosamund's tower. Smythe is credited to have built the north-south barn in the late 16th century, abutting the east-west barn to form an L-shape.

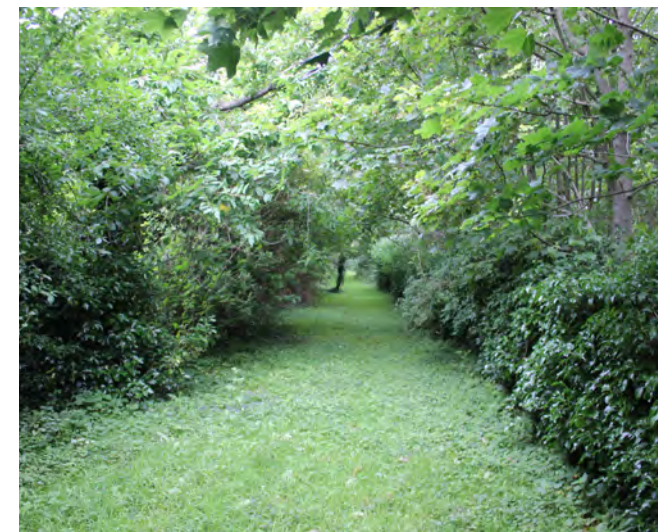


Figure 141: Raised terrace to the south of the moat, which forms a remnant of a formal garden that likely dates to the late 16th century

¹¹ Martin, p. 217.

¹² Goodwin, p. 19.

¹³ Goodwin, p. 19.

¹⁴ Goodwin, p. 159.

¹⁵ Martin, p. 224.

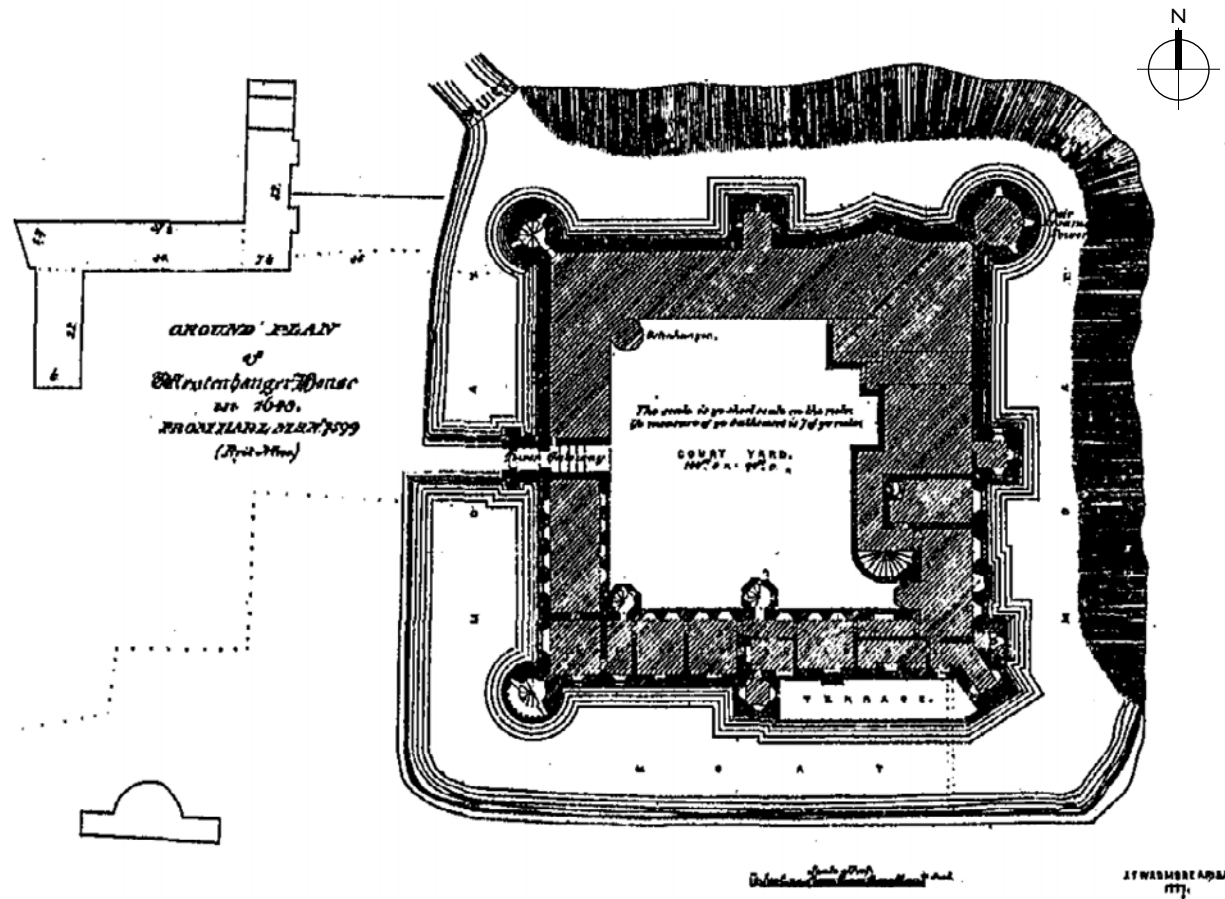
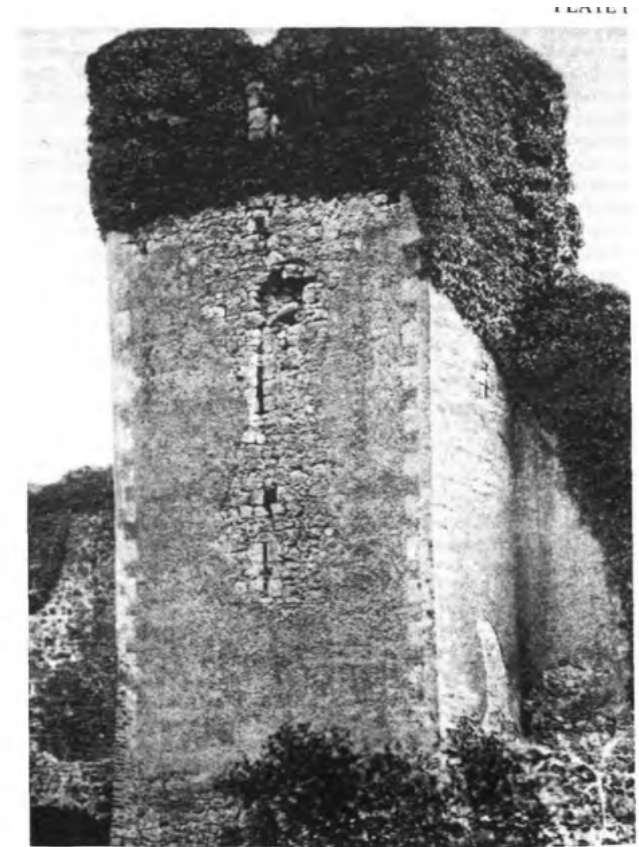


Figure 142: Plan dating to 1648 (Archaeologia Cantiana, 1887)



Central north tower viewed from the north, c. 1900, showing extant render and false quoining, now mostly fallen (detail from postcard)

Figure 143: Historic photograph showing the central north tower (Rosamund's tower) viewed from the north in c.1900 showing extant render and false quoining (barely visible today) (Archaeologia Cantiana, 2001)

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North–South Barn

The north–south barn, which dates to the later 16th century, was most likely built by Thomas Smythe or possibly his son, Sir John Smith who owned Westenhanger from his father's death in 1591.

The range was added to the north-east side of the existing east-west barn and features a hammerbeam roof, a feature usually associated with higher status buildings like Westminster Hall and very unusual for a farm building. Tree analysis carried out by English Heritage in 2002 confirmed that the timber used was felled between 1579 and 1596. The roof is held together by wooden pegs with no nails or bolts.

The barn's capacious size and ornamental roof are indicative of the size and status of the estate in the 16th century. Its location by the castle entrance alongside the pre-existing east–west range indicates that the barn was designed to impress visitors. The building may have functioned as a threshing barn, as indicated by the two pairs of threshing doors within wagon porches, as well as the grooves or 'leaps' in the lower section of the doorways, which may have functioned to hold boards to prevent grain spilling out of the barn during winnowing.¹⁶ However, such a large building may well have served more than just an agricultural use. Speculated former functions include use as a granary¹⁷ and use as a dining hall for retainers/ servants.¹⁸

The barn's northern end straddles the stream by means of an arched stone culvert. This curious feature remains unexplained as the stream would have been easy to divert. There may have been buildings in place to the north meaning the stream could not be diverted or perhaps the stream supported or powered an interior function of the barn.

The south gable end features a later inserted doorway. The north-south range of the barn was restored by the Forge family in the early 21st century (2006) and is in good condition.



¹⁶ Kent Farmsteads Guidance, Part 3, Kent Farmsteads Character Statements, p. 17.

¹⁷ Igglesden, p. 12.

¹⁸ Arthur Bird, 'Notes on Westenhanger' in Westenhanger Castle and Barns: Historical Notes, p. 31.

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A rectangular walled garden or orchard to the south of the moat was established in the 16th century above a retaining wall. The enclosure is no longer visible above ground. Along the south side of this garden, also surviving as a buried feature, a leat connected the moat to a pond adjacent to the west, which still survives.

To the west and north of Outer Court are the remains of the castle's water-control system, possibly the 'waters' referred to in the 1559 survey. Here the natural floodplain of the River East Stour was employed in the 16th century to create an expanse of shallow water around the site, forming an impressive symbolic defence around the castle's principal western approach, which was in keeping with its role as a high-status residence.

Thomas Smythe and the Discovery

Thomas Smythe, second surviving son of Thomas 'Customer' Smythe, was an important figure in establishing the East India Company and the Virginia Company, the latter being the founder of Jamestown on the east coast of America. Smythe financed the construction of ships and expeditions with the ends to discover the North-West Passage, amongst these was a pinnacle called 'Discovery', which successfully arrived in Virginia on 13 May 1607. The successful passage and landing resulted in the establishment of the first permanent English-speaking settlement in the New World, Jamestown in Virginia.

The boat was left in Virginia but a replica was built in America in 1984 and transported to London to celebrate the quadricentennial of Jamestown in 2007. The replica now resides at Westenhanger, the birthplace of Thomas Smythe.

17th Century

In 1635, upon the death of Sir Thomas Smythe, Knight 1st Viscount Strangford (grandson of Thomas 'Customer' Smythe), an inventory was made, which provides a useful record of room functions indicating the scale of the mansion and the number of ancillary buildings. The rooms listed included a hall, kitchen, porters lodge, spicery, cheese house, wash house, stable, brewhouse, armoury

and a number of chambers.¹⁹ Many of these latter, ancillary rooms would have been located in Outer Court. Robert Morden's Map of 1695 shows the Manor House, here referred to as 'Ostenhanger', encircled by the moat sitting within the deer park bounded by a fence boundary or park pale. The map was the first to reference the presence of the causeway approach, depicting a gap in the southern boundary of the deer park corresponding with the causeway's southern end.



Figure 144: Robert Morden, Map of Kent, 1695, showing 'Ostenhanger' surrounded by a moat, set within the deer park.

¹⁹ Harrington, A Seventeenth-Century Inventory for Westenhanger Castle, pp. 223-248.

Over the course of the 17th century, the fortunes of the castle declined. During the Civil War, the Parliamentary forces used Westenhanger as a prison for Royalist supporters. Damage caused during the Civil War, combined with the residing 2nd Viscount Strangford's extravagances and expenditure, meant that the estate fell into disrepair. In the late 17th century, the property was sold to Joseph Finch who, in 1701, demolished most of the buildings, which were reported to be in poor condition. Hasted's account of the house at the turn of the century describes 'the ruins of this mansion, though very small, shew it to have been formerly a very large and magnificent pile of building'.²⁰

18th Century

The estate was sold to Justinian Champneys in 1710. At some stage during the 18th century, one of the Champneys built the existing house out of the remains of the 16th century north cross-wing of the main hall. Some accounts attribute the construction of the house to Justinian Champneys in the early 18th century, whilst others to William Bush Champneys in the 1780s.²¹ Historic prints suggest the works took place in the latter part of the century. The western end of the range was destroyed during the 18th century construction, giving the existing house an unbalanced frontage, and an additional storey was lost. The ground floor fireplace is an 18th century insertion, suggesting that prior to this the ground floor was unheated.²²

Hasted's drawing of 'Ostenhanger' dating to c.1760/ 1770 but copied from an earlier sketch by John Warburton (c.1725), shows that prior to the 18th century alterations the house, namely the north cross-wing, was of a much larger scale. The west crow-stepped gable features three single light windows and below this two large rectangular windows or recessed panels below, which resemble the remaining panel to the rear (north) of the existing main range. Remains of the curtain wall abutting the south end of the Manor House give an insight into the appearance of the remains associated with the former medieval hall, which were likely demolished shortly after in line with the Georgian frontage and driveway.



Figure 145: Sketch of Ostenhanger by Hasted, c.1760-1770, after drawing by John Warburton dating to c.1725 (British Library)

²⁰ Hasted, 'The History and Topographical Survey of the County of Kent', reproduced in Westenhanger Castle and Barns Historical Notes, p. 1.

²¹ Goodwin, p. 171; Igglesden p. 9.

²² Martin, p. 224.

An engraving dating to c.1773 is useful in determining subsequent phases of change to the Manor House. It shows the steeply pitched Tudor crow-stepped gable at the east end of the north 16th century cross-wing with a tall chimney, indicating that the Georgian alterations had not yet taken place. The gable matches the opposite (east) gable shown on Hasted's sketch with two tiers of single light openings. The gable and the two tiers of single light openings have since been lost, as well as the upper six light mullioned window, however, the lower mullioned window remains. The moat along this range is filled meaning the visible elevation is more limited than the elevation we see today. The fenestration in the east range has been altered. To the right of the round north-east tower, the kitchen gable and chimney are visible, these have since been lost.



Figure 146: Ostenhanger or Westenhanger House seen from the north-east, Godfrey/ S. Hooper, c.1773



Figure 147: View looking west of the remains of the vaulted arch entrance to the gatehouse showing the barns in the background, from a sketch c.1750 or 1780 (British Library, reproduced in *Archaeologia Cantiana* Vol 31, 1915)

Sale details relating to the property in the Kentish Gazette of 1799 list the property as ‘Westenhanger Farm’, referring to 300 acres of arable, pasture, meadow and hop-land. The use of farm as opposed to house, Manor House or castle reflects its significantly reduced status and more utilitarian function.²³

19th Century

The site is marked on early 19th century maps, which indicate that the names Westenhanger and Ostenhanger were still used interchangeably.



Figure 148: C. Smith, A New Map of the County of Kent, 1804. The location of ‘Ostenhanger’ is shown by the red circle.



Figure 149: C.J. Greenwood, Map of the County of Kent, 1820. The location of ‘Westenhanger’ is shown by the red circle.

23 Gazette, 11 October 1799, in *Stanford Parish through the Centuries*, p. 179.

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The two undated prints of Rosamund's tower likely date to the early/ mid-19th century and show particularly picturesque representations of the tower, engulfed in ivy and foliage with artfully placed trees framing views of the structure. Whilst their romantic renderings cannot be relied upon for their accuracy, the prints indicate the neglect of the site and the ruinous nature of the buildings during this period.



Figure 150: Print of Rosamund's tower at Westenhanger House (Folkestone Library, undated [c.early/ mid-19th century])



Figure 151: Print of Fair Rosamund's tower, Westenhanger (Folkestone Library, undated [c.early/ mid 19th century])

The first edition 25 inch to the mile scale map of 1872 shows 'Westenhanger Remains Of' lying in a ruinous state immediately south of the railway, which had been constructed in the mid-19th century. Since the mid-17th century representation, the entire south range and part of the west range has been lost. The moat remained along the south side and to the south-east and south-west corners but was otherwise dry although its footprint was legible through retaining earth banks. The medieval hall and 16th century cross-wing to the south were no longer in place, the latter had been taken down during the early 19th century. The former footprint of these east range buildings was now occupied by a walled garden or orchard enclosure. Another walled garden/ orchard enclosure occupied the north-east section of Inner Court. The annotation 'Fair Rosamond's Tower' erroneously labels the north-east tower,

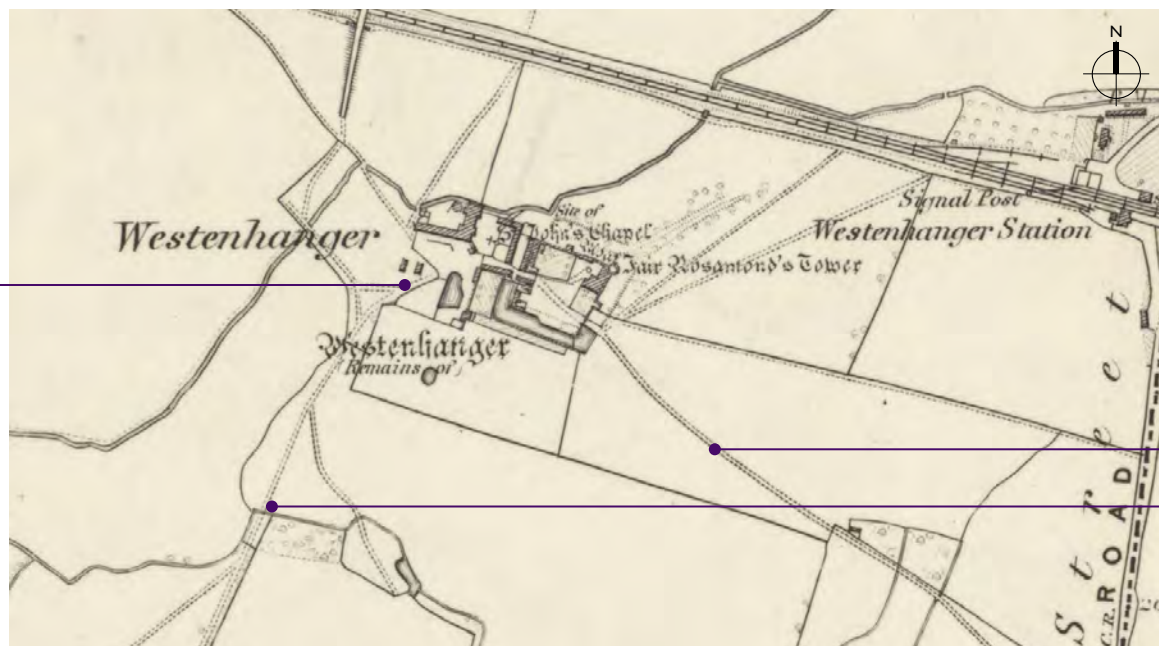
rather than the central north tower. The location of the 16th century raised terrace on the south side of the moat is indicated by a projection into the moat.

The depiction of Outer Court shows the adjoining east-west and north-south barns, and various linear ranges of farm buildings. The open area of land to the east of the barns featured a cross symbol indicating the location of the former medieval parish church of St Mary the Virgin. This land was partly enclosed by an L-shaped range of farm buildings connected to the north end of north-south barn by a section of wall. The range is no longer extant, however, an L-shaped wall remains today, likely indicating the line of these former buildings. Outer Court also contained a walled garden or orchard enclosure, to the east of the pond, with a few linear buildings,

possibly greenhouses or farm buildings around its perimeter. One building was shown attached to the external face of Inner Court's west range (north end).

The site was served by several approaches. The former principal causeway approach was shown to the south-west, emerging to the south of the adjoining barns in Outer Court. The causeway was disused from around the 19th century, possibly linked with new south elevation of the Manor House and the arrival of the Pound House Track to the south-east, shown on the map. The mid/ late 19th century track led from what was formerly the residence of the estate Bailiff on Stone Street to the castle, entering Inner Court via a new bridge. Other tracks were shown to the north/ north-east of the barns and curtain walls.

The causeway's arrival into Outer Court, to the south of the barns



The Pound House Track

The causeway

Figure 152: OS map, 1872 (National Library of Scotland)

Mid-to late 19th century prints show the Manor House in a pastoral landscape surrounded by farmland and grazing livestock. Comparison of these images with those dating to the 1760s/1770s, illustrates the change that took place in the latter part of the 18th and the 19th century, although their picturesque quality and minor discrepancies may indicate some artistic license. The crow-stepped gable had been replaced, although the replacement roof typology varies from pitched roof to gable end. Although the fenestration represented does not seem entirely consistent, what is clear is that the upper mullioned window to the east gable of the main range had been lost. In each print the Manor House and curtain walls are shrouded in ivy. The last image depicting the Georgian south range shows two first floor windows infilled and the south-east approach to Inner Court.



Figure 153: View of moated medieval Manor House by John Rogers after George Shepherd, c.1830 (British Library)



Figure 155: Historic print showing a north-east view of Westenhanger, 1886 (Archaeologia Cantiana, 1887)

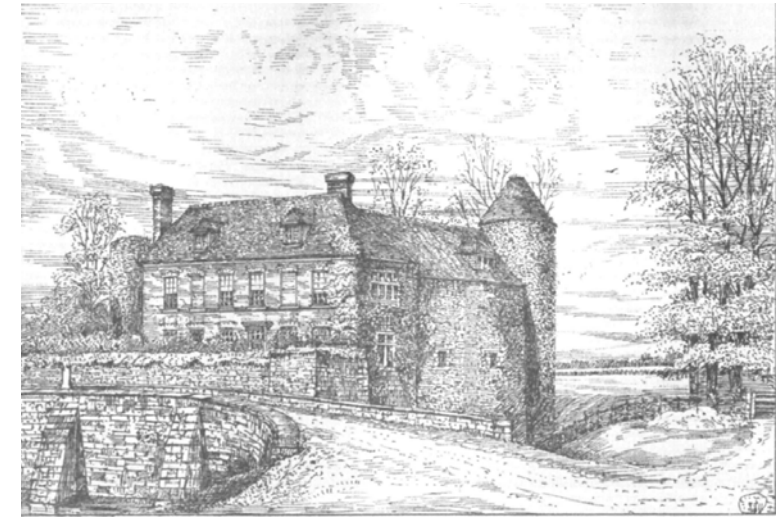


Figure 154: Historic print showing a south-east view of Westenhanger, 1886 (Archaeologia Cantiana, 1887)

The property along with the barns and surrounding land were sold at auction in 1887. A plan of 1887 shows much the same as the 1872 OS map, although here depicting the 'Remains of Westenhanger' in the Inner Court only. Aside from the 14th century curtain walls, 16th century terrace, 19th century gardens and 'modern bridge' (today's west entrance to the castle complex), the plan differentiates between the 16th century block (originally kitchens) abutting the north-east tower and the 18th century Manor House attached to the south. The new bridge and access to the south-east of the site is also shown in the 1886 engraving on [page 89](#).

A late 19th or early 20th century photograph of east-west barn shows the building in disrepair. The different types of openings and doors visible reflects the extent of change to windows and doors.

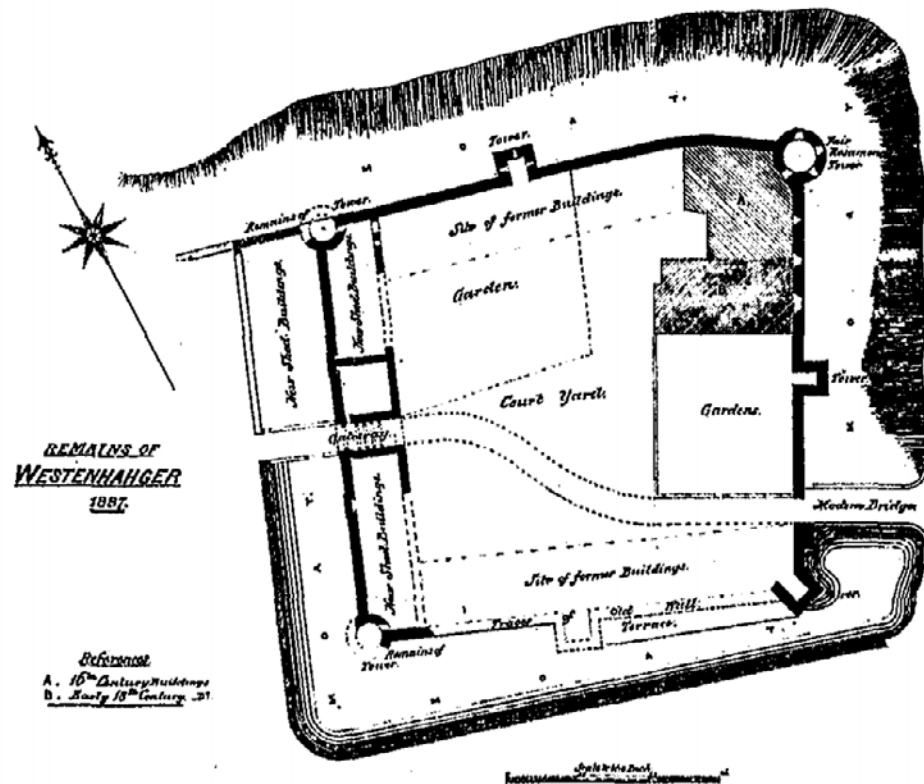


Figure 156: Plan dating to 1887 (Archaeologia Cantiana, 1887)



Figure 157: Historic photograph showing the south elevation of the east-west barn (Archaeologia Cantiana, 1915)

20th Century to Present

The 1906 OS map shows the site had become increasingly hemmed in, with the arrival of Folkestone Racecourse, established in 1898, and the construction of associated infrastructure including the racecourse itself to the south of the site, the grandstand to the east and stabling built on the land to the east of the north-south barn on the site of the former medieval church. The racecourse visibly cuts across the former approaches to the south, namely the historic causeway to the south-west and the Pound House Track to the south-east. An additional building or extension had been added into Inner Court abutting the north curtain wall, to the west of the north-east tower. The only remaining filled sections of the moat were the south-east and south-west corners.

The 1939 OS map shows the racecourse infrastructure had expanded further with new buildings erected to the east of the site. Another building had been added to the west range to the south of the gatehouse.



Figure 158: OS map, 1906 (National Library of Scotland)



Figure 159: OS map, 1939 (National Library of Scotland)

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In the 1980s, stable blocks were built to the south of the barns and north of the racecourse track by the Folkestone Racecourse Company, which still remained arranged around the earlier pond.

The high-speed rail line was added in 1995 and owing to its proximity to Westenhanger Castle, British Railways who owned the site, hired an architect, Anthony Swaine to complete a visual survey of the Scheduled Monument and the Grade I Listed Buildings.

The Forge family bought the castle in 1996 from British Rail, who with the help of Historic England (then English Heritage) embarked upon repairs and restorations. The section of curtain wall between the north and north-east towers, which had collapsed in 1968, was carefully recorded and rebuilt in 2000;²⁴ it was found that this section had previously proved problematic leading to it being rebuilt in the early 16th century.²⁵ In 2001 the dovecote walls and roof were restored, with large sections needing to be rebuilt.

In 2002, the Forge family acquired the barns from the owners of the racecourse and began significant repairs, with advice and grants from English Heritage.



Figure 160: Interior of the north-south barn looking north showing the barn prior to restoration (Archaeologia Cantiana, 2001)

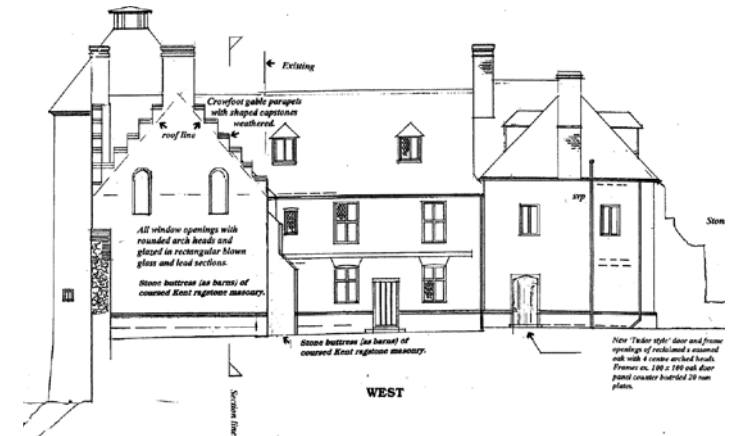


Figure 161: Drawing showing the proposed 'Tudor Kitchen' extension, early 21st century

Between 2002 and 2004, the family extended the Manor House to the north-west in consultation with Historic England. The 'Tudor Kitchen' enlarged the capacity of the house in order to serve as a hospitality venue. The extension was built on the original foundations of the 16th century kitchen. The crow-stepped gable looked to the former gable in this position, represented in 18th century prints. An associated toilet block extending to the west of the 'Tudor Kitchen' was never built, limiting the functionality of the larger extension.

The services building attached to the gatehouse was built during this period and the Wedding Pavilion added as another feature for weddings and events.

In 2008, the replica of 'The Discovery', from the 1607 expedition to Virginia, was brought to the site. The original was commissioned by Sir Thomas Smythe, son of the earlier Thomas Smythe, for the East India Company. He led an expedition to Virginia and the boat was one of three that sailed into Chesapeake Bay in 1607 resulting in the foundation of a permanent English-speaking settlement in the Americas.

Folkestone Racecourse closed in 2012 and the racecourse infrastructure fell into disrepair. The Forge family sold the Manor House to Folkestone and Hythe District Council in September 2019.

²⁴ Martin, p. 203.

²⁵ Martin, p. 211.

3.2 HERITAGE CONTEXT AND COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS

Westenhanger is recognised as a site of national importance, both by its scheduled status and by its two Grade I designations. Kent is well-supplied with castles, with around 30 surviving, giving Westenhanger a particularly rich regional heritage context. Westenhanger bears resemblances to a number of these castle sites, in date, type, evolution and archaeological potential, whilst also remaining a distinctive and unique case study.

The most appropriate local comparators are the fortified castles or manor houses at Bodiam Castle (just over the border in East Sussex) and Old Scotney Castle. Both of these were built in the late 1380s, the approximate date of the fortification, and main built phase, of Westenhanger and are similarly designated as Grade I listed buildings and Scheduled Monuments with considerable archaeological remains. Unlike at Westenhanger, the 14th century standing remains at Old Scotney are almost entirely lost, aided as much by Edward Hussey's 19th century dismantling in the quest for a picturesque landscape as by the organic deterioration of fabric. However, similarly to Westenhanger, Old Scotney exemplifies the adaptation of a medieval fortification on a restrained site to a comfortable manorial residence in the Tudor period. Bodiam on the other hand bears more physical resemblance to the 14th century standing remains of Westenhanger, although the fabric at Bodiam is more intact, less ruinous and retaining its crenellated parapet. Both Bodiam and Westenhanger adopt a courtyard arrangement encircled by a curtain wall featuring circular towers at the four corners and square towers occupying central positions. Despite their shared military character expressed through mural towers, portcullises, drawbridges, and moats, neither Bodiam nor Westenhanger were built primarily as defensive strongholds but to express the wealth and status of their inhabitants, whilst also serving to project the impression of strength during a time of civil unrest. Like Westenhanger, Bodiam retains earthwork remains of 16th century domestic garden features illustrating the emerging recreational and ornamental function of these gardens in the Tudor

period. What makes Westenhanger unique amongst these three sites, and rare amongst castle sites nationwide, is the survival of a complete 16th century barn and stable forming a historic outer court, alongside buried remains of other outer court features including a church, cemetery and hall.

Ightham Mote (Scheduled Monument and Grade I listed) provides useful additional heritage context to the site at Westenhanger. Like Westenhanger, Ightham Mote is a model in demonstrating the evolution from 14th century castle to grand mansion, albeit in the 17th century, a century later than the expansion at Westenhanger. Of added interest, the site features a later mid-16th century outer courtyard added to the west of the house, providing stables and staff quarters, similar to the contemporaneous outer court at Westenhanger. There is however much better survival at Westenhanger, with the remains of the outer courtyard at Ightham limited only to the western side and likely below ground remains. Other national examples of surviving outer court buildings underline the unusual nature of the survival at Westenhanger. At Compton Castle in Devon a threshing barn remains immediately to the north of the castle, but as the only remnant of a formerly more extensive outer courtyard, and at Caister Castle in Norfolk, incomplete fragmentary ruins form the only remains of a much larger service court.

More intact fortified houses in Kent include Hever Castle, another moated 14th century house, and Leeds Castle, dating from the 12th century but rebuilt over the following centuries. Neither are deemed to have such high archaeological potential as Westenhanger, both being Grade I listed but not Scheduled. Leeds Castle, like Westenhanger, was a royal castle for a period and was similarly improved by Henry VIII in the 16th century. Leeds therefore reflects the 16th century evolution of castle life from defensive to domestic, with the need for lodgings and entertainments as part of the required ranges inside the curtain walls, a pattern that is indicated at Westenhanger.

Westenhanger is comparable to Knole in west Kent, the former archbishop's palace, which, although not a fortified house, is one of the largest country houses in England. It is recorded that in 1664, the Second Viscount Smythe of Westenhanger had 60 hearths, a number that exceeded that of any other building in Kent except the Earl of Dorset's home at Knole.²⁶ This comparison reflects Westenhanger's grand scale and its status as one of Kent's major country houses in the 17th century.



Figure 162: Bodiam Castle, East Sussex (Wikimedia Commons)



Figure 163: The ruins of Old Scotney Castle, Kent (Wikimedia Commons)