

# **Archaeological Heritage Statement on the Proposed Development of Workshops near Farningham Church, Kent February 2010**

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# Archaeological Heritage Statement on the Proposed Development of Workshops near Farningham Church, Kent

NGR: TQ 5471 6687

Site Code FARN/11

Report for  
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## 1.0 Summary

1.1 Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT) have been commissioned to carry out an archaeological desk-based Heritage assessment of a proposed development of Workshops adjacent to Farningham Church, Farningham, Kent This consists of proposed residential housing to replace the Victorian buildings (Figure 1). This Desk-Based Heritage Assessment therefore forms the initial stage of the archaeological investigation and is intended to inform and assist decisions regarding archaeological mitigation for proposed development and associated planning applications.

1.2 The site is within an area of high archaeological potential associated with the Roman and Medieval periods, which is to be expected from an established village landscape and its known Roman sites. The archaeological evidence has been reviewed and it is recommended in this case that further archaeological assessment will be required and that an Archaeological Evaluation should be commissioned within the footprint of the Workshops. If features are identified a programme of Strip, Map and Sample to be implemented. This will provide an immediate assessment of the nature, depth and level of survival of any archaeological deposits present within the extents and immediate vicinity of the site to be developed and used to inform further mitigation if necessary.

1.3 In January 2011, the Swale and Thames Archaeological Survey Company (SWAT Archaeology) were invited to participate in an soil investigation exercise undertaken in and around the workshops situated near Farningham Church.

1.4 Five one metre investigation holes were cut by machine under archaeological and geological supervision, mainly to investigate the stability of the ground and soil contamination. Of the archaeology, none was found. The soil revealed was in general Flood Plain River Gravels overlaying Coombe Deposits, here with a yellowish, mortar-like consistency.

## 2.0 Introduction

### 2.1 Planning Background

A planning application for the construction of the demolition of the existing buildings and the construction of two storey dwellings (Fig. 2) will be submitted to the Local Authority. As part of that application this Heritage Statement as defined in PPS 5 has been prepared.

## 3.0 Methodology

### 3.1 Archaeological databases

The Archaeology Data Service Online Catalogue (ADS) and the local Site and Monuments Record (HER) held at Kent County Council, were both used. The search was carried out within a 500m radius of the proposed development site (5th January 2011). A full listing of the relevant HER data is included on page ..... The Portable Antiquities Scheme Database (PAS) was also used as an additional source as the information contained within is not always transferred to the local HER.

3.2 Historical documents, such as charters, registers, wills and deeds etc were not relevant to this specific study.

### 3.3 Cartographic and pictorial documents

A full map regression exercise was undertaken during this assessment. Research was carried out using resources offered by Kent County Council (15th February 2011) and the Internet.

### 3.4 Aerial photographs

Google Earth was used to define the wider landscape with interesting results. The historical aerial photographs were taken for Google Earth on May 2nd 2007. Compass bearings given are from the centre of the development site to the feature and are True North.

3.5 Two rectangular buried building were identified south-west of the development site and adjacent but on the west bank of the Darent stream. Distance is 415.74m bearing 230.87 degrees.

3.6 A complex series of ditches, one set double, in a rectangular pattern 923.83m east of the development site on a bearing of 166.81 degrees.

3.7 A very large curvilinear triple ditched enclosure on the summit of the low hill some 987.54m east of the development site at 158 degrees.

## 4.0 Schedule of Visits

An Archaeologist attended the development site and monitored the investigation works and conducted a Site Assessment on Wednesday 19th January 2011.

4.1 The reason for the monitoring and recording of the soil investigation was, as far as possible, to assess the potential for archaeology around and in the workshop buildings. However, no archaeology was revealed in these investigations (Fig. 4). The test pits recorded were:

**Test Pit 1.** Situated in the north-east range of buildings. Overburden was about 24cm with River Gravels at 24cm-32cm when excavation stopped

**Test Pit 2.** Situated in the north-east range of buildings. Overburden was about 28cm with River Gravels at 28cm.

**Test Pit 3.** Situated in front of the main suite of offices. Overburden which was concrete and 17cm thick overlaid 22cm of brick rubble sitting on River Gravels where excavation ceased.

**Test Pit 4.** Situated in the relict garden (Fig. 6) to the south-west of the buildings. Topsoil was 19cm thick overlaying River Gravels where excavation ceased.

**Test Pit 5.** Situated on the south-west corner of the buildings. Overburden was 92cm thick, made ground with Victorian pot, tile and brick. This overlaid a relict garden soil 14cm thick which overlaid River Gravels.

## 5.0 Archaeological and Geological Background

5.1 The underlying geology at the site according to the British Geological Survey map is Coombe Deposits overlain by River Gravels, and at an elevation of about 34m aOD.

5.2 Topographically the site is situated in a zone of village houses and gardens to the east and west,

and by river meadows to the south. According to the Kent Historic Environment Record (KCC 2010) the site lies within an Area of Archaeological Potential associated with archaeological remains presently recorded in the HER. It also lies within the Farningham Conservation Area.

5.3 The workshops are noted on the HER register:

SMR Number TQ 56 NW 103 - Site Workshops nr. farningham church

SMR Number TQ 56 NW 103 - MKE16098

Record Type Monument

Group of single storey workshops in a U-plan around end of lane on W. side of Farningham Churchyard. On E side of lane a 14 bay flint built shop with stock brick at margins, string course and between bays. Part pantiled at rear, plain tiled at front. Front elevation glazed and fitted with large wooden doors. Shed at end of lane similar with dwarf wall remaining at front, flat roofed building to W side of lane also has remains of older structure. Prob. mid C19 workshops converted to vehicle garage in C20. (1)

5.4 On inspection it was apparent that the range of workshop buildings are unsafe and so degraded that demolition is the only option. An additional report from our Historic Building Specialist can be provided.

5.5 Other sites of Archaeological Interest noted in the KCC HER in a 500m radius are shown on the map file (Fig. 2) with details below:

#### **TQ 56 NW 15 MKE 538**

[TQ 5449 6672] Corridor type Roman villa excavated 1948. Approximately 160 ft long and 45 ft wide, it had one truncated wing and a corridor leading to a separate bath-house on the west bank of the River Darent. Late c.1st, early c.2nd to early c.3rd phases of construction were noted and occupation continued into the c.4th. Excavation back filled and grassed over - nothing now to be seen.

#### **TQ 56 NW 86 MKE 609**

Pits? scattered along west bank of River Darent - uncertain of function.

#### **TQ 56 NW 42 MKE 565**

In 1740 William Hanger built a new house on the site of the old manor-house of Farningham but it was burnt down before it was finished and was never rebuilt. He moved to a house on the opposite side of the road - the present manor-house. The site of the medieval and 1740 manor-house is still to be seen at TQ 5473 6706 and comprises a large building platform together with a moat, now dry. The moat has suffered some mutilation on the NE side, otherwise it is in fair condition. Surveyed at 1:2500. (1) No evidence of any feature in this field. Archaeological excavations had taken place here about 2 years ago. (2) (TQ 5470 6704) Moat [NR] (3) Farningham Manor (TQ 547 670). In 1972 a sewer pipe was being laid out when the line cut through the N side of a mound and revealed not only the presumed medieval and post-medieval manor houses but also the curtain wall and moat relating to the hitherto unknown Farningham Castle. In 1973 a joint excavation programme was undertaken by the Kent Archaeological Rescue Unit and the Darent Valley Archaeological Training School. The excavation concentrated on the SW corner of the mound and the moat, filled with mud silt. The curtain wall, 5 feet thick and 7 feet high, rested on massive sandstone boulders.

#### **TQ 56 NE 32 MKE 469**

[TQ 550 672] This medieval building was revealed and recorded when the River Darent was diverted during construction of the M20 motorway in 1975. The main feature of this site, on the E bank of the River Darent and N of the village of Farningham, was a large pond or ox-bow lake, filled with layers of silt. In the silt were huge hewn timbers, probably relating to a medieval timber structure, perhaps a

bridge or mill house.

#### **TQ 56 NW 107 MKE 16115**

Group inc. houses, barn, cartshed (poss. cowhouse) and workshop building. 12 bay flint with red brick margins on barn, (brick poss. C18 or earlier), 2 threshing floors, inserted lower level windows and upper level vents. House at right-angles on W. side across lane. Court formed on E. side of barn by walls, parallel 2 bay cartshed (inc. modern brick pier inserts though timber posts retained) and workshop range against road with tall stack, poss. for a forge.

#### **TQ 56 NW 16 MKE 539**

(TQ 54776667) A ditched area was found in 1948 in Oliver Crescent. Two ditches, 30 feet apart, form the NE boundary of an enclosure, one ditch forms the SW boundary, the interior width of the enclosure being 120 feet. All ditches are parallel, V-shaped, 6 feet wide, 3 or 4 feet deep, filled with rubbish dating from the 1c. to E.4c., but no return or entrance has been found, though the enclosure is probably rectangular in plan. A gully of later date connects all three ditches. Possibly a Claudian camp. (1) Area now built over.

#### **TQ 56 NW 119 MKE 16943**

The Malt house on Eynsford Road was in use in 1860 and probably earlier. It would seem that it stopped being used as a maltings by 1890's. The Malt house was probably demolished by the mid 1900's.(1) It may have been run by either H. Bellingham or J.W. Fellows between 1859-1876.(

#### **TQ 56 NW 14 MKE 537**

[TQ 5470 6665] ROMAN VILLA [R] Found AD 1925 [NAT] (1) [Centred TQ 5469 6664] Roman building found during building operations; houses no 36, 37, 38 Oliver Crescent now occupy the site (a). Partial excavation by Dartford Antiquarian Society, 1925, revealed a bath (with one side slightly curved, measuring 4.5 feet x 3 feet 8.5 inches, with tiled floor, plaster walls and quarter-round moulding), two rooms, and part of a corridor. The bath was filled with concrete but part of the corridor walls were removed and re-erected in Central Park, Dartford [at TQ 543 736] (b). Among the finds were a piece of Samian and three coins, two of which are of the late C3rd (a) also a denarius of Julia Domna wife of Severus (193-211 AD) (d). This building must almost certainly be connected with the villa nearby excavated 1948 (c) [TQ 57 NW 15]. Site completely covered by houses

## **6.0 Archaeological potential**

6.1 It is apparent from the HER data there is a lot of Roman archaeology centered on the village of Farningham and probably Iron-Age precedents as shown by the Iron-Age farmstead excavated just over 500m away under the path of the M20 (TQ 58 NW 55) and the possible Iron-Age hillfort less than 1km to the east.

6.2 The main villa excavated by Meates in 1948 is shown for the first time in its estimated position (Fig. 1) based on the co-ordinates given by Meates in a paper published in *Archaeologia Cantiana*, 1973: 1-21. This villa- Farningham Roman Villa II- is less than 170m from the development site, and is probably connected to further Roman buildings found when houses (no's 36, 37, 38 Oliver Crescent) were constructed 180m away

6.3 Meate's Roman Villa II faced south-east and the area excavated by Meates is probably the south-west corner. If the Roman buildings found in Oliver Crescent are part of the same complex then it is a very large and important villa indeed. For size it compares with the villa at Darenth and the poorly published villa at Eccles. For configuration it can be compared to Great Witcombe in Gloucestershire or

Halstock in Dorset. For spread of building Keston springs to mind in Kent. The villa boundary ditch at Keston is similar in configuration to the ditch located at Farningham.

6.4 A survey of aerial photographs provided by Google Earth indicate relict field systems and potential buried buildings in the vicinity of the Roman Villa II.

6.5 The development site is located less than 170m from the known buried archaeology of the Roman Villa II and it is likely that unknown Roman outbuildings and aisled barns would be at risk from the proposed development.

6.6 The development site is adjacent to the Farningham Parish Church of St Peter and St Paul, according to the HER dates from the 12th century. Everitt points out that this particular church dedication can date from the 7th century and in Kent it is the second most popular early name with 39 churches thus dedicated. (Everitt 1986: 229).

6.7 The graveyard to the church runs adjacent and parallel to the development site on its east side and consequently itself extremely close to the Roman Villa II complex. It may be they are connected. Certainly, Roman villas in this part of Kent seem to have an early Christian connection such as at Otford and Lullingstone or a Christian name such as at Eccles which is derived from Latin and means church. Most of these Roman villas seem also to have an early Saxon settlement.

## 7.0 Cartographic Sources and Map Regression

7.1 A map regression exercise (Figures 3-7) carried out on the proposed development area has shown that the site has continued to be in a village setting with some changes over the last 250 years.

7.2 The first map consulted was the Andrews, Drury and Herbert map of Kent dating from 1769 (Fig. 3). It shows no buildings on the proposed development site but with a lane or track curving round the boundary of the site and delimitating the boundary of the church on the west side. The map does not show a cemetery to the south-west of the church as there is now which may indicate this part of the cemetery could post-date the 18th century or could be a re-use of an earlier cemetery.

7.3 By 1864 buildings are shown on the site (OS 25" Kent Sheet XVII6) and the cemetery to the church has again been extended south-west to meet the south-west boundary of the site (Fig. 8). There is no Roman remains indicated on the map or indeed on the revised edition of 1907.

7.4 The next map consulted dates from 1939 (OS 25" Kent Sheet XVII6) and the cemetery has again been extended to the south-west doubling its capacity. Roman remains are noted at Oliver Crescent and says: ROMAN VILLA *found A. D. 1925*. There is no note of the discovery of the Roman Villa II excavated by Meates in 1946.

7.5 The final map dating from 1961 (OS 6" to 1 mile Sheet TQ 56NW) shows both Roman sites, the Meates discovery called ROMAN VILLA and the 1925 discovery called ROMAN BUILDING.

7.6 All maps from 1864 to 1961 show minor changes to the building on the development site but essentially the site configuration remains the same.

## 8.0 Archaeological Impacts

### 8.1 Palaeolithic, Mesolithic, Neolithic and Bronze Age

The potential for finding remains that date prior to the Iron Age within the confines of the proposed



development site is considered low as the archaeological record of the surrounding landscape offers little potential for surviving archaeological deposits dating to this period.

#### 8.2 Iron Age

The potential for finding remains dating to the Iron Age is considered low for the above reasons.

#### 8.3 Romano-British

The archaeological evidence for this period within the development area is considered high as the archaeological record of the surrounding landscape offers the potential for surviving archaeological deposits dating to this period.

#### 8.4 Anglo-Saxon

The potential for finding remains dating to the Anglo-Saxon is considered moderate.

#### 8.5 Medieval

The archaeology from this period, represented by excavated features (or parts of) and a distribution of artefact discoveries within the assessment area suggests that there may be a degree of medieval archaeology within the development area. The archaeological potential for finding remains dating to the Medieval period, within the development area is therefore considered as moderate.

#### 8.6 Post-Medieval

The evidence for Post-Medieval occupation and other activities in the area is abundant. This era is also the period we associate as immediately preceding our present time frame, and is by its nature one that usually survives in the archaeological record within urban (and rural) contexts even though it can suffer severe truncation by modern construction methods. Therefore, the potential for finding remains dating to the post-medieval period is considered as moderate-high.

## 9.0 Impact Assessment

### 9.1 Existing Impacts

The archaeological and historical records suggest that Farningham and the assessment area have been, for the most part, a hive of human activity until the present, although little is actually known this is probably a reflection of limited historic archaeological excavations rather than a true picture of the archaeological nature of the area.

Given known occupation of this part of Kent, prehistoric, Romano-British and Anglo-Saxon finds should be anticipated in any excavation in the area. Consequently the impact to any existing uppermost archaeological horizons could be moderate-high.

Extensive impact is to be expected within the development area once construction begins. The excavation of footings (of various depths) and the installation of services will be the main cause of this impact and it is therefore considered as moderate-high.

### 9.2 Proposed Impacts

At the time of preparing this archaeological historical assessment, the extent of the proposed development was for the construction of new housing, together with associated access, parking and utilities.

## 10.0 Mitigation

10.1 The purpose of this archaeological desk-based historical assessment was to provide an

assessment of the contextual archaeological record, in order to determine the potential survival of archaeological deposits that may be impacted upon during any proposed construction works.

10.2 The assessment has generally shown that the area to be developed is within an area of moderate to high archaeological potential. However, investigation on site of the soil test pits failed to reveal any archaeology.

10.3 It is therefore recommended in this case that further archaeological assessment will be required and that an Archaeological Evaluation inside the footprint of the Workshop Buildings followed by, if deemed necessary, a focussed archaeological excavation on areas of interest should be carried out. This will provide an additional assessment of the nature, depth and level of survival of any archaeological deposits present within the extents of the site and used further, inform further mitigation if necessary.

## 11.0 Other Considerations

### 11.1 Archive

Subject to any contractual requirements on confidentiality, two copies of this desk-based assessment will be submitted to Kent County Council within 6 months of completion.

### 11.2 Reliability/limitations of sources

The sources that were used in this assessment were, in general, of high quality. The majority of the information provided herewith has been gained from either published texts or archaeological 'grey' literature held by Kent County Council, and therefore considered as being reliable.

### 11.3 Copyright

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## 12.0 Acknowledgments

The authors would like to thank Andrew Fryatt for commissioning this report. We would also like to thank Ben Croxford of Kent County Council for supplying much of the information and the HER data needed to compile this report.

Dr Paul Wilkinson (BA Hons), MSIA., FRSA., MIFA.

## 13.0 References

IFA (1999 & 2008) Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Desk-Top Assessments

Meates G. W. Farningham Roman Villa II in *Archaeologia Cantiana* Vol. LXXXVIII 1973: 1-21.

Everitt A. Continuity and Colonization the evolution of Kentish settlement: 1986.

# 14.0 Figures and Plates

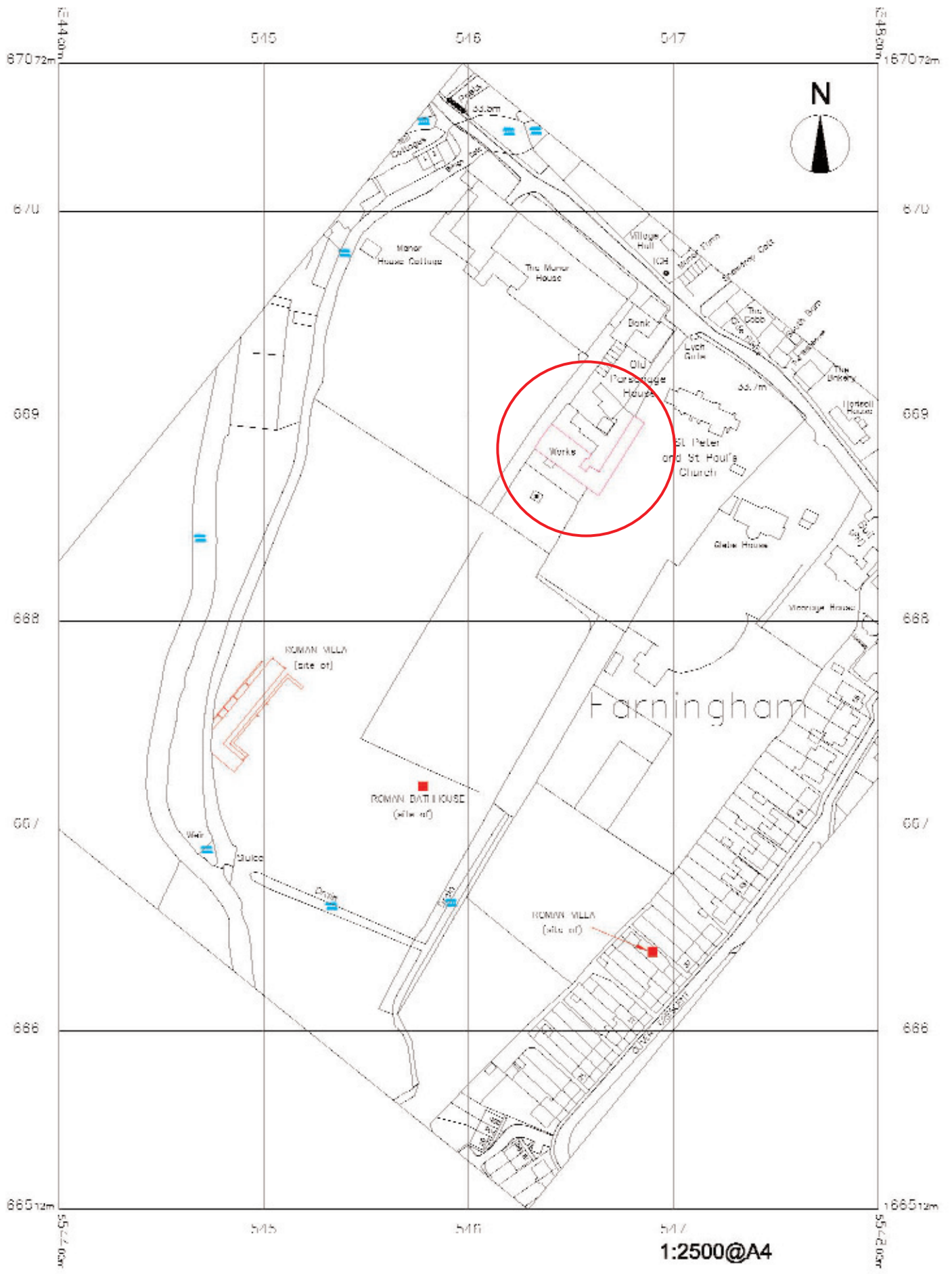
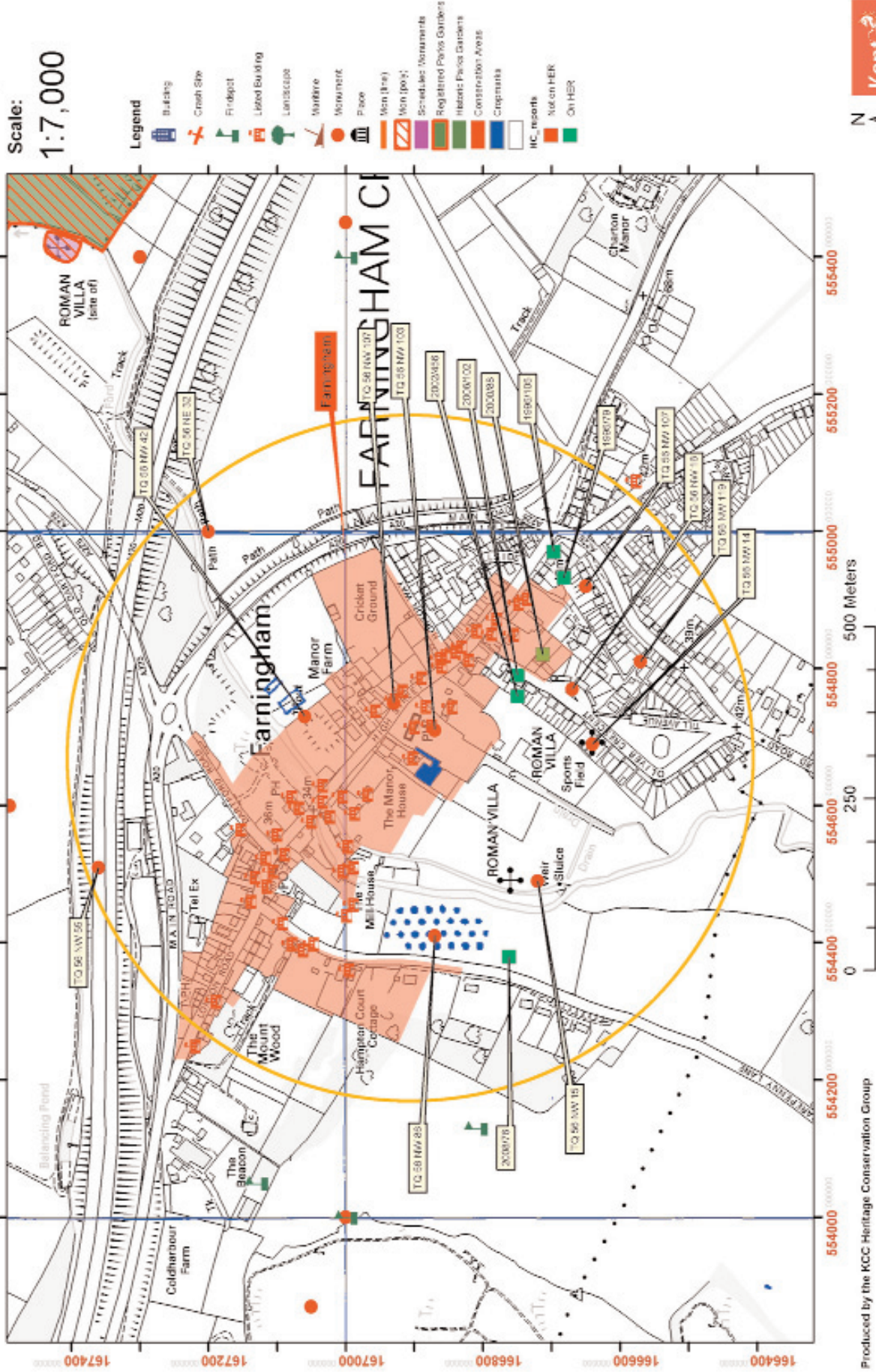


Figure 1: Site Plan

# Kent Historic Environment Record

# Old Parsonage House, Farningham



Produced by the KCC Heritage Conservation Group  
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Figure 2. HER record of sites.

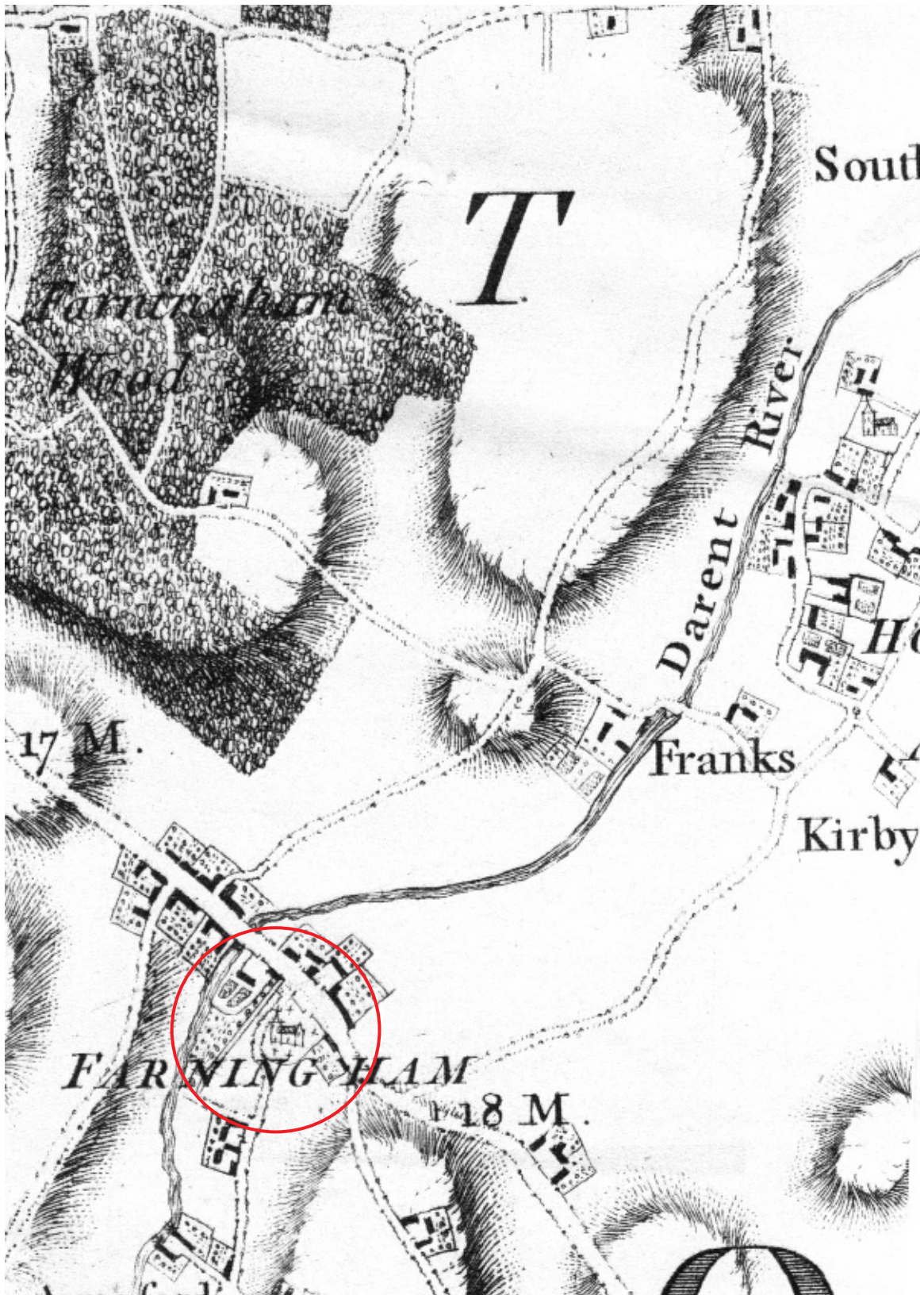


Figure 3. Andrews Drury & Herbert 1769, not to scale..

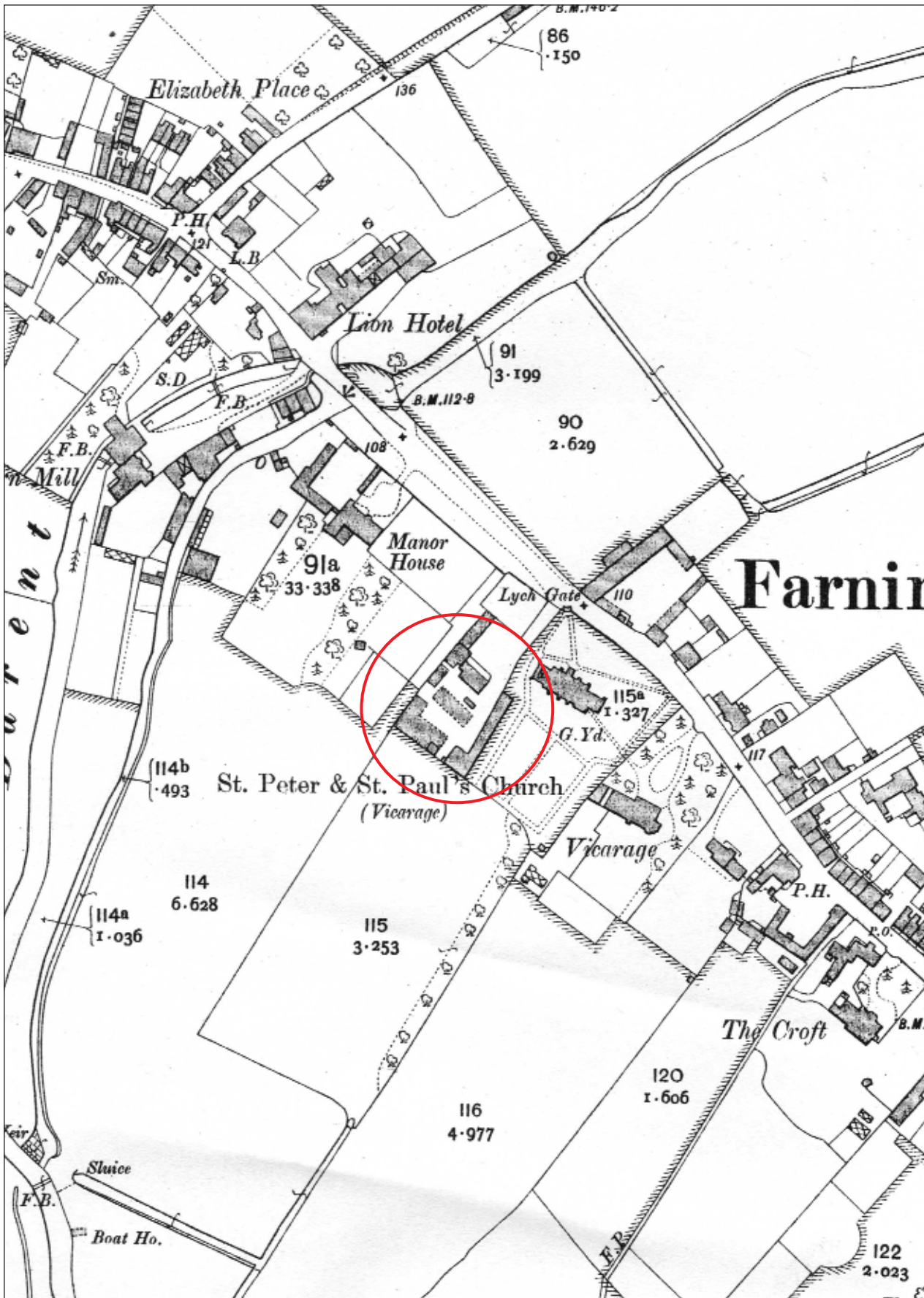


Figure 4. OS 25" 1909 Edition, not to scale.

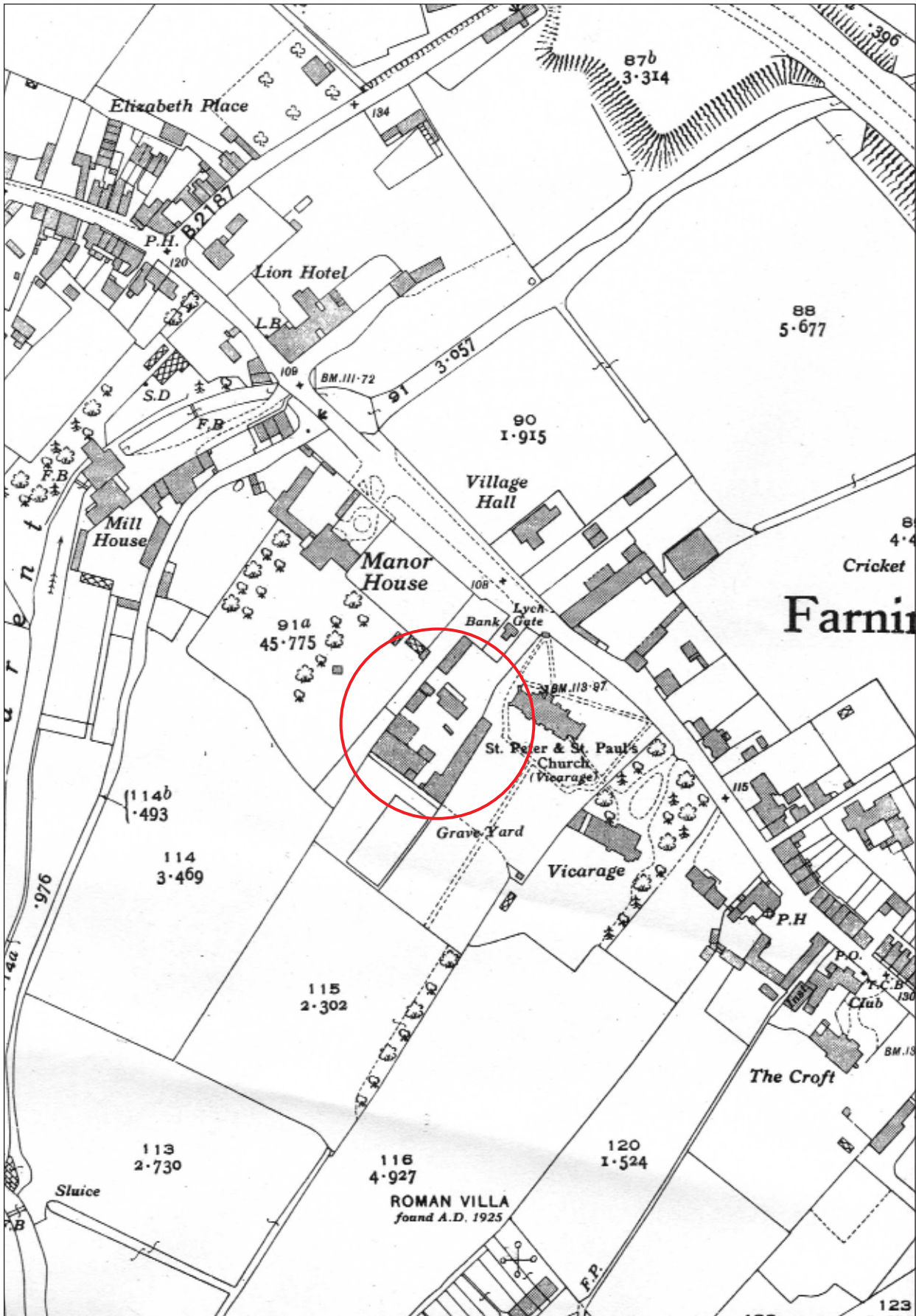


Figure 5. OS 25" 1939 Edition, not to scale.

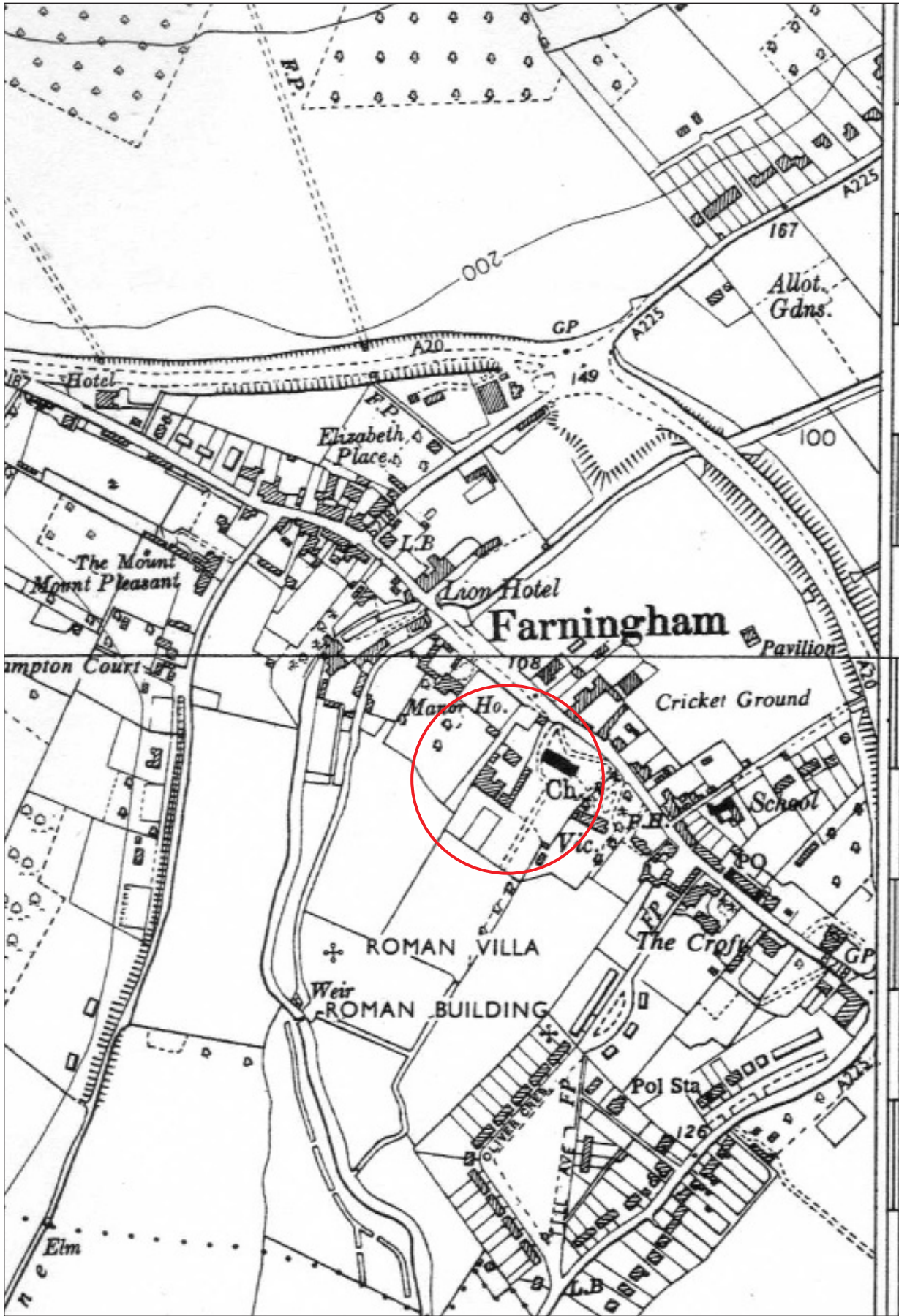


Figure 6.. OS 6" 1961 Edition, not to scale.





Plate 1, 2. Test Pits in north-east range (top right), and garden (left).



Plate 3. View of Development Site from garden looking north-east towards church.



Plate 4. View of Development Site from main entrance looking south-west.