

Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment
in advance of the Proposed Development at
Wren's Cross, Upper Stone Street, Maidstone,
Kent ME15 6EX

NGR: 576258 155329



Report for Cook Associates on behalf of Geko Developments

Date of Report: 04/05/2016

SWAT. ARCHAEOLOGY

Swale and Thames Archaeological Survey Company

School Farm Oast, Graveney Road

Faversham, Kent

ME13 8UP

Tel; 01795 532548 or 07885 700 112

www.swatarchaeology.co.uk

Contents

<i>Appendix 1 Archaeological Sites</i>	28
<i>List of Plates</i>	iii
<i>List of Figures</i>	iii
1. SUMMARY.....	5
2. INTRODUCTION.....	6
2.1 Geology and Topography.....	7
2.2 Planning Background.....	7
2.2.1 Conserving and Enhancing the Historic Environment.....	7
2.3 The Proposed Development.....	9
2.4 Project Constraints.....	9
3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES.....	9
3.1 Introduction.....	9
3.2 Desktop Study – Institute For Archaeologists (revised 2011).....	9
4. METHODOLOGY.....	10
4.1 Desk-Based Assessment.....	10
4.1.1 Archaeological databases.....	10
4.1.2 Historical documents.....	10
4.1.3 Cartographic and pictorial documents.....	11
4.1.4 Aerial photographs.....	12
4.1.5 Geotechnical information.....	12
4.1.6 Secondary and statutory resources.....	12
5. ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT.....	13
5.1 Introduction.....	13
5.2 History of the Site.....	14
5.3 Archaeological and Historical Development.....	17
5.4 Scheduled Monuments, Listed Buildings Historic Parks & Gardens and Conservation Areas.....	18

6. ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL.....	18
6.1 Palaeolithic, Mesolithic, Neolithic and Bronze Age.....	18
6.2 Roman-British.....	19
6.3 Iron Age.....	10
6.4 Anglo-Saxon.....	21
6.5 Medieval.....	21
6.6 Post-Medieval and Modern.....	22
6.7 Summary of Potential.....	22
7. IMPACT ASSESSMENT.....	22
7.1 Introduction.....	22
7.2 Existing Impacts.....	23
7.3 Proposed Impacts.....	24
7.3.1 The general development of the site.....	24
7.4 Proposed mitigation for the impact of the construction process.....	25
8. MITIGATION.....	25
9. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS.....	25
9.1 Archive.....	26
9.2 Reliability/limitations of sources.....	26
9.3 Copyright.....	27
10. REFERENCES & BIBLIOGRAPHY.....	27

List of Plates

Plate 1-13 Site photographs

List of Figures

- Fig.1 Historic mapping OS County Series 1:2500 1868
- Fig.2 Historic mapping OS County Series 1:1000 1870
- Fig.3 Historic mapping OS County Series 1:2500 1897
- Fig.4 Historic mapping OS County Series 1:2500 1908
- Fig.5 Historic mapping OS County Series 1:2500 1933
- Fig.6 Historic Mapping OS County Series 1:2500 1937
- Fig.7 Historic Mapping OS County Series 1:2000 1957
- Fig.8 Historic Mapping OS County Series 1:2500 1957
- Fig.9 Historic Mapping OS County Series 1:2000 1966-67
- Fig.10 Historic Mapping OS County Series 1:2000 1972-77
- Fig.11 Historic Mapping OS County Series 1:2000 1955-89
- Fig.12 Historic Mapping OS County Series 1:2000 1990-93
- Fig.13 Historic Mapping OS County Series 1:2000 1993
- Fig.14 Site plan and photographic locations

Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment in Advance of the Proposed Development at Wren's Cross, Upper Stone Street, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6EX

NGR: 576258 155329

1 SUMMARY

Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT Archaeology) has been commissioned to carry out an archaeological desk-based assessment in advance of the proposed development at Wren's Cross, Upper Stone Street, Maidstone as part of the planning application submitted by Cook Associates on behalf of Geko Associate (Fig. 14).

This Desk Based Assessment examines the wide variety of archaeological data held by Kent County Council and other sources.

Based on this data the potential for archaeological sites either on or in the near vicinity of the proposed development can be summarised as:

- *Prehistoric: Low*
- *Iron Age: Moderate*
- *Romano-British: Moderate*
- *Anglo-Saxon: Low*
- *Medieval: High*
- *Post-medieval: High*
- *Modern: High*

The Desk Based Assessment concludes that:

- *The site has **High** potential for archaeological discoveries.*

The PDA is located in the south east of England, in the centre of the county of Kent, in the town of Maidstone, in the centre of the county of Kent. The town is six miles downstream from where the River Medway is joined by the Rivers Teise, Beult and Yalding. The river cuts through the ridge formed by the greensand, so that the town

occupies a site on two opposite hills, the easterly one containing the town centre. The PDA (NGR: 576258 155329) is located in the centrally within the town centre at the point where Knightrider Street meets Upper Stone Street and is surrounded by a mix of high-density residential, industrial and commercial development. The site is currently a cluster of large industrial units. Maidstone has been subject to significant development and has expanded to incorporate a number of outlying villages and settlements in recent years.

2 INTRODUCTION

SWAT Archaeology has been commissioned by Cook Associates to carry out an Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment to supplement a planning application for the Proposed Development at Wren's Cross, Upper Stone Street, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6EX (Figure 14). The report has accessed various sources of information to identify any known heritage assets, which may be located within the vicinity of the Proposed Development Area (Appendix 1). The PDA is centered on National Grid Reference: 576258 155329.

Archaeological investigations, both recent and historic have been studied and the information from these investigations has been incorporated in the assessment.

A watching Brief carried out at numbers 5,7 and 7a Knightrider Street revealed a cellar and material dating to 18th/19th century. Further along at number 15 a desk based assessment carried out in 2002 described the building as a rear detached service building, possibly a kitchen, associated with a medieval building. In 2002 four trial trenches revealed features of various dates, a ditch and a cellar dating to the 17th- 19th century. An excavation followed in 2003 where forty-eight features were recorded from the prehistoric and Roman periods and 12th/13th century, 14th/15th century, 16th/17th century and 18th/19th century.

This report is a desk-based appraisal from known cartographic, photographic and archaeological sources and is a research led statement on the archaeological potential of the proposed development.

It may be that intrusive investigations, such as a Geophysical Survey and/or an Archaeological Evaluation, with machine cut trial trenching, may be requested by the Local Planning Authority (LPA) as a Planning Condition.

2.1 Geology and Topography

The Geological Survey of Great Britain (1:50,000) shows that Wren's Cross is situated on Bedrock Geology of Hythe Formation- Sandstone and Limestone, which was formed approximately 112 to 125 million years ago in the Cretaceous Period when shallow seas previously dominated the local environment. No Superficial Deposits are recorded.

The PDA sits at an average height of 70ft (21m) AOD.

2.2 Planning Background

The National Planning Policy Framework (March 2012)
Policy 12 is the relevant policy for the historic environment:

2.2.1 Conserving and Enhancing the Historic Environment

Local planning authorities should set out in their Local Plan a positive strategy for the conservation and enjoyment of the historic environment, including heritage assets most at risk through neglect, decay or other threats. In doing so, they should recognise that heritage assets are an irreplaceable resource and conserve them in a manner appropriate to their significance. In developing this strategy, local planning authorities should take into account:

- the desirability of sustaining and enhancing the significance of heritage assets and putting them to viable uses consistent with their conservation;
- the wider social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits that conservation of the historic environment can bring;
- the desirability of new development making a positive contribution to local character and distinctiveness; and
- opportunities to draw on the contribution made by the historic environment to the character of a place.

2.2.2 In determining applications, local planning authorities should require an applicant to describe the significance of any heritage assets affected, including any contribution made by their setting. The level of detail should be proportionate to the assets' importance and no more than is sufficient to understand the potential impact of the proposal on their significance. As a minimum the relevant historic environment record should have been consulted and the heritage assets assessed using appropriate expertise where necessary. Where a site on which development is proposed includes or has the potential to include heritage assets with archaeological interest, local planning authorities should require developers to submit an appropriate desk-based assessment and, where necessary, a field evaluation (NPPF 2012).

Regional Policies

The South-East Research Framework (SERF) is on-going with groups of researchers producing a Resource Assessment, which will identify research questions and topics in order to form a Research Agenda for the future.

This Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment has been prepared in accordance with the guidance in the National Planning Policy Framework and the Good Practise Advice notes 1, 2 and 3, which now supersede the PPS 5 Practise Guide, which has been withdrawn by the Government. The Good Practise Advice notes emphasises the need for assessments of the significance of any heritage assets, which are likely to be changed, so the assessment can inform the decision process. Significance is

defined in the NPPF Guidance in the Glossary as “the value of the heritage asset to this and future generations because of its heritage interest. That interest may be archaeological, architectural, artistic, or historical. Significance derives not only from a heritage asset’s physical presence, but also it’s setting”. The setting of the heritage asset is also clarified in the Glossary as “the surroundings in which a heritage asset is experienced. Its extent is not fixed and may change as the asset and its surroundings evolve”.

This Desk-Based Assessment therefore forms the initial stage of the archaeological investigation and is intended to inform and assist in decisions regarding archaeological mitigation for the proposed development and associated planning applications.

2.3 The Proposed Development

The proposed development will comprise of a planning application for sixty-six residential flats and sixty-six associated parking spaces (Figure 14).

2.4 Project Constraints

No project constraints were encountered during the data collection for this assessment.

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 The Desk-Based Assessment was commissioned by Cook Associates in order to supplement a planning application for the proposed development at Wren’s Cross, Upper Stone Street, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6EX (OS 576258 155329), to establish the potential for archaeological features and deposits.

3.2 Desktop Study – Institute for Archaeologists (revised 2011)

This desktop study has been produced in line with archaeological standards, as defined by the Institute for Archaeologists (2014). A desktop, or desk-based assessment, is defined as being:

“a programme of study of the historic environment within a specified area or site on land, the inter-tidal zone or underwater that addresses agreed research and/or conservation objectives. It consists of an analysis of existing written, graphic, photographic and electronic information in order to identify the likely heritage assets, their interests and significance and the character of the study area, including appropriate consideration of the settings of heritage assets and, in England, the nature, extent and quality of the known or potential archaeological, historic, architectural and artistic interest. Significance is to be judged in a local, regional, national or international context as appropriate”. (CiFA 2014)

4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 Desk-Based Assessment

4.1.1 Archaeological Databases

The local Historic Environment Record (HER) held at Kent County Council provides an accurate insight into catalogued sites and finds within both the proposed development area (PDA) and the surrounding environs of Maidstone.

The Archaeology Data Service Online Catalogue (ADS) was also used. The search was carried out within a 500m radius of the proposed development site.

Relevant HER data is included in the report (Appendix 1).

The Portable Antiquities Scheme Database (PAS) was also searched as an additional source as the information contained within is not always transferred to the local HER.

4.1.2 Historical Documents

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

4.1.3 *Cartographic and Pictorial Documents*

A cartographic and pictorial document search was undertaken during this assessment. Research was carried out using resources offered by Kent County Council, the Internet and Ordnance Survey Historical mapping (Figs. 1-13).

Map Regression 1789 - 1993

The Ordnance Surveyors' Drawings (OSDs), compiled between 1789 and c.1840, represent the first continuous topographic mapping of England and Wales and are the most detailed record of the landscape preceding full-scale industrialisation in the mid-19th century. These original manuscript maps, drawn primarily at scales of ca. 1:21,120 and 1:31,680, with the Kent series being the first maps produced. The Maidstone map is not included but the scale is too small to be useful for individual buildings.

In the OS Map of 1868 (Figure 1) the PDA is the site of the County Constabulary Station located at Wrens Cross, on the west side of the offset crossroads of Upper Stone Street, Knightrider Street and Mote Road. The area around the PDA is a typical town centre with much of the development centring around Upper Stone Street and the roads that offshoot from it. High density residential housing of back to back dwellings interspersed with churches and schools and opening out to the larger buildings of the priory, the college and the Palace towards the river due west. Alongside the river are the industrial buildings of the Tannery and the Corn Mill.

In the OS Map of 1870 the PDA and the area remain unchanged.

In the OS Map of 1897 two rectangular buildings and a pump have been added to the PDA and the town is developing further to the southwest.

In the OS Map of 1908 another building has been added, a fountain and a benchmark of 53.1 and the town has continued to develop to the southwest.

In the OS Map of 1933 the buildings on the southeast boundary of the site have been reorganised. The town has continued to develop to the southwest and in the northwest a new police station, omnibus depot and corporation depot have been built.

In the OS Map of 1957 the PDA has now become the site of the Kent County Council Offices and has again received the addition of one building and the reorganisation of the existing buildings. The benchmark is now 52.02. To the west boundary a Men's Hostel has appeared and in the land to the south a Welfare Clinic has been built.

In the OS map of 1972 a traffic island has been installed at Wrens Cross.

In the OS Map of 1985 one of the buildings marked as the Warehouse on the PDA has been demolished.

4.1.4 Aerial Photographs

The study of the collection of aerial photographs held by Google Earth was undertaken. In 1940 the area is largely made up of high-density residential, commercial and industrial buildings centred around Upper Stone Street and the PDA is the site of the County Police Station. By 1990 the PDA is the site of Kent County Council Offices and a Welfare Clinic has been built on vacant land to the south boundary. A road island has been installed at Wrens Cross. By 2003 the warehouse building has been demolished. (Plates 14-17).

4.1.5 Geotechnical Information

To date, no known geotechnical investigations have been carried out at the site.

4.1.6 Secondary and statutory resources

Secondary and statutory sources, such as regional and periodic archaeological studies, landscape studies; dissertations, research frameworks and websites are

considered appropriate to this type of study and have been included within this assessment where necessary.

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT

5.1 Introduction

Prehistoric	Palaeolithic	c. 500,000 BC – c.10,000 BC
	Mesolithic	c.10,000 BC – c. 4,300 BC
	Neolithic	c. 4,300 BC – c. 2,300 BC
	Bronze Age	c. 2,300 BC – c. 600 BC
	Iron Age	c. 600 BC – c. AD 43
Romano-British		AD 43 – c. AD 410
Anglo-Saxon		AD 410 – AD 1066
Medieval		AD 1066 – AD 1485
Post-medieval		AD 1485 – AD 1900
Modern		AD 1901 – present day

Table 1 Classification of Archaeological Periods

The Archaeological record within the assessment area is diverse and should comprise possible activity dating from one of the earliest human period in Britain (the Neolithic) through to the post-medieval period. The geographic and topographic location of the PDA is within a landscape that has been the focus of trade, travel and communication since the Neolithic.

This section of the assessment will focus on the archaeological and historical development of this area, placing it within a local context. Each period classification will provide a brief introduction to the wider landscape, followed by a full record of archaeological sites, monuments and records within the site's immediate vicinity. Time scales for archaeological periods represented in the report are listed on this page in **Table 1**.

5.2 History of the site

'Maidstone' derives from the Roman word 'Maduicœ' which translates to the Saxon word 'Med-wæge' meaning *meadow and water* probably referring to the settlement at the River Medway. Saxon charters record the name as de 'maeides stana' and 'maegdan stane' meaning *stone of the maidens or stone of the people* possibly referring to the prehistoric megaliths that survive within the local area. There is evidence of occupation at Maidstone from the earliest periods of human history. Maidstone museum houses numerous prehistoric finds and prehistoric features were found within the confines of the PDA (EKE9609).

The Roman road to nearby Rochester (TQ 74 SE 36) passed through the town of modern day Maidstone, transporting goods from the coastal ports and the local sandstone, known as Kentish Rag stone, to other parts of the country. The remains of two Roman villas survive within the town, one within c.500m southeast of the PDA and an abundance of Roman features and artifacts including pottery, querns, coins and ditches have been found in the vicinity of the PDA.

Maidstone was the meeting place of the hundred (parish) and by the time of the Domesday Book in 1086 it was a village of over 250 inhabitants and the manor of Maidstone was under the ownership of the Archbishop of Canterbury and known for its five watermills, which made it the principal grain market in the county. A Corn Mill is still working in the OS Map of 1868 with c.500m of the PDA. In 1170 the murder of Thomas Becket the Archbishop of Canterbury, caused the church to venerate him as a saint and so Canterbury became one of the most important sites for pilgrims. The pilgrims passed through Maidstone and in 1260 Archbishop Boniface established a hospital for the care of wayfarers, particularly those on pilgrimage, and a chapel, which later became St Peter's Church, c.500m southeast of the PDA.

By the 13th century, Maidstone had developed from a village into a town and in 1267, a charter granted the town the right to hold weekly markets and an annual fair. The River Medway, c.500m west of the PDA, had long been used as a transport

route and continued to convey locally grown fruit and vegetables to the markets of London and to bring hides for the local tanners on the return journey.

During the Medieval period the town continued to expand and in 1348 the Archbishop's Palace (TQ 75 NE 35), situated on the bank of the River Medway c.500m west of the PDA, was built on the site of a resting house used by the Archbishops when travelling from London to Canterbury.

In the same year the Black Death arrived and decimated the population by one third. The loss of population caused starvation and hardship among the remaining residents and the announcement of a poll tax increased the discontent. Penenden Heath, one mile to the northeast, was a shire moot, assembly area and place of execution and the site of a famous trial between Odo Bishop of Bayeaux, the Archbishop of Canterbury and the half-brother of William the Conqueror. In 1381 it became renowned for being the assembly point for the 'Peasants Revolt' led by Wat Tyler.

Despite spasmodic returns of disease the town began to recover and in 1395 the Norman parish church of St Mary was demolished and the new church of All Saints erected and the 'College of Secular Canons' founded by Archbishop Courtenay, c.400m west of the PDA. The Archbishops resided there until the reformation and the carved sedilia and the twenty-eight oak seats used by the collegiate priests are still in the church.

The town was also the home of the *Guild of Corpus Christi* a religious guild whose principal object was the to provide for and promote the decorous observance of the Feast of Corpus Christi. Members of the guild employed a chaplain who said prayers for their souls when they died and looked after its members in old age and in times of sickness. The Guild was dissolved but the assembly hall still survives.

In 1549 Maidstone was incorporated and the town was authorised to build a grammar school c.300m west of the PDA, which was endowed with the Guild's estates. The town rebelled against the crown in 1551, in support of their kinsman Thomas Wyatt the poet, who was charged for committing adultery with Anne Boleyn and as a consequence the charter of incorporation was revoked. Five years later a new charter was established and Maidstone was created a borough.

In 1567, the Walloons, a French speaking Belgic people, settled here and introduced

the manufacture of linen and woolen goods. Despite outbreaks of plague the woolen industry thrived and the population continued to grow. At the end of the 17th century the wool trade went into decline it was succeeded by papermaking. Kent Paper Works can be seen on the OS Map on the east side of Upper Stone Street within c.100m of the PDA. Anthony Woodville, Lord Rivers, whose sister Elizabeth Woodville married King Edward IV, was patron of William Caxton the printer and the Woodvilles made their home at Mote Park on the edge of the town.

During the English Civil War, Maidstone was firmly on the side of the Parliamentarians until parliament outlawed traditional ceremonies. On 1 June 1648, during the "Second English Civil War" the Battle of Maidstone took place between some 2,000 Royalist forces governed by Sir James Pearse, and General Fairfax and his army of dragoons. At first the Royalists managed to repulse the enemy but by midnight the remaining Royalists had been driven into the churchyard, and finally surrendered. 300 Royalists died in the battle, and 1,300 were captured and between 30 and 80 of Fairfax's men were killed.

In advance of the possible invasion of Napoleon, a local militia of Kent Volunteers was trained to defend the county. In response, two army barracks, which later became the home of the West Kent Regiment, were built and in 1799, King George III and Prime Minister William Pitt visited Mote Park to inspect 3,000 assembled troops.

Prior to 1830 the streets were patrolled by four Borsholders (local tradesmen) and a night watchman. The Municipal Corporations Act (1835) prompted the introduction of Maidstone's Borough Police Force of one superintendent, one inspector, 2 sergeants and 12 policemen, at King Street in 1837. Following the County and Borough Police Act (1856), the Kent County Constabulary was established under Chief Constable John Henry hay Ruxton. Captain Ruxton had served in the Kings Own Regiment and had twice been in charge of convict ships taking prisoners to the New World, Australia where he was charged with the set up of settlements, soldier barracks and prison blocks. In 1857, he rented the Georgian house, buildings and stables at Wrens Cross as the first police headquarters and installed a Chief Constable, 12 Superintendents, 18 Sergeants and 191 Constables. In 1860 the

premises was purchased for the force at a cost of £1200.00. In 1861 a specification was put together for the alterations and repairs to the house and buildings and the erection of a dwelling house, cellar and stabling costing £1396.00. The building to the west is thought to be an extension of the existing buildings and the original stabling was partly demolished to build the new house.

In 1862 more works proceeded for the erection of a Police Barrack for 40 constables and the Superintendents Residence at a cost of £1439-10s. Further works were carried out in 1866 for the provision of four cells with a corridor and alterations to the Lock up Keepers House cost £340.16. When the Kent Constabulary vacated the building in 1939 the building was described as follows:

'About an acre of ground accommodated the main offices for administration and criminal investigation, barracks and training school, tailor's shop and stores, stables and later garages. In addition there were three houses and offices for the superintendent of the Bearsted Division and his lock up keeper. There was also a parade ground and a paddock for horses'. (Thomas (1957) p.26)

In the 19th Century the channels of the River Medway were deepened to allow for more efficient transportation of goods and the town underwent considerable improvements with the installation of sewers, drainage, electricity and trams.

Detling, just to the North of the town, was a Naval Air station during the First World War, and served the Royal Air Force during the Second World War. Maidstone suffered bomb damage from Luftwaffe bombers, V-1 flying bombs and V-2 rockets and on 13 June 1944, the first night of the flying bomb attacks on London, eight shells hit Maidstone.

5.3 This section of the assessment will focus on the archaeological and historical development of this area, placing it within a local context. Each period classification will provide a brief introduction to the wider landscape (500m radius centered on each site of the PDA), followed by a full record of archaeological sites, monuments

and records within the site's immediate vicinity. Time scales for archaeological periods represented in the report are listed on page 25 in **Table 1**.

A preliminary review of the cultural heritage data shows that the site has **High** archaeological potential.

5.4 Scheduled Monuments; Listed Buildings; Historic Parks & Gardens and Conservation Areas

The site is located within the Medway Valley Paleolithic project MVPP-KT-48 and within the town of Maidstone where there are 46 events and 220 monument records with a 500m radius. One Listed Building, no events, monuments, farmsteads, historic parks & gardens or conservation areas are recorded within the confines of the proposed development area (PDA).

The PDA is the site of Listed Building Wren's Cross (TQ75NE619), built in the 18th century from stock brick and a hipped slate roof. In 1857 it became the first Kent County Constabulary Headquarters until they vacated it in 1939. Later it became the Kent County Council Offices.

The report has accessed various sources of information to identify any known heritage assets, which may be located within the vicinity of the Proposed Development Area. Archaeological investigations, both recent and historic have been studied and the information from these investigations has been incorporated in the assessment.

6. ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL

6.1 Palaeolithic, Mesolithic, Neolithic and Bronze Age

The Palaeolithic represents the earliest phases of human activity in the British Isles, up to the end of the last Ice Age. Palaeolithic dated material occurs in north and east Kent, especially along the Medway and Stour Valleys. An excavation at 15 Knighttrider Street, c.50m from the PDA, revealed a lower Palaeolithic pit (TQ75NE298).

The Mesolithic period reflects a society of hunter-gatherers active after the last Ice Age. The Kent HER has no record of archaeological evidence from this period within the assessment area.

The Neolithic period, the beginning of a sedentary lifestyle based on agriculture and animal husbandry is not represented within the assessment area.

The Bronze Age, a period of large migrations from the continent and more complex social developments on a domestic, industrial and ceremonial level is not represented in the assessment area.

Flints were discovered at Lockmeadow Market Site in 1995 (TQ75NE391/392) but they were undated. There is therefore only one record that reflects prehistoric activity within the search area. The potential for finding remains that date prior to the Iron Age within the confines of the proposed development is considered **low**.

6.2 Iron Age

The Iron Age is, by definition a period of established rural farming communities with extensive field systems and large 'urban' centres (the Iron Age 'Tribal capital' or *civitas* of the Cantiaci, the tribe occupying the area that is now Kent, was Canterbury).

The Kent HER records one excavation at 15 Knight rider Street that recorded a gully of possible Iron Age date (TQ75NE298) c.50m from the PDA.

An area 400m southwest has produced 7 gold coins (MKE71117/71128/71187/71189/71190/71220/71221), 1 silver (MKE71097) and 10 copper coins (MKE71099/71102/71103/71105/71106/71111/71112/71121/71186/71188) from this period. Late Iron Age and Roman ditches and pits (TQ75NE901) containing imported Roman pottery were found at Church Street, c.500m north. The potential for finding remains dating to the Iron Age period within the confines of the development site is also considered **moderate**.

6.3 Romano-British

The Romano-British period is the term given to the Romanised culture of Britain under the rule of the Roman Empire, following the Claudian invasion in AD 43, Britain then formed part of the Roman Empire for nearly 400 years.

The predominant feature of the Roman infrastructure within Kent is arguably the extensive network of Roman roads connecting administrative centres: the towns to military posts and rural settlements (villas, farmsteads and temples) increasing the flow of trade, goods, communications and troops. Canterbury or *Durovernum Cantiacorum* was a major town of the Roman province of Britannia and the regional capital.

Romano-British features were discovered at an excavation (TQ75NE298) at 15 Knightrider Street, within c.50m west of the PDA and a coin from the Constantine period (TQ75NE49) was found on "Sayers land" c.50m north.

The Roman Road (TQ74SE36) from Rochester to Hastings is located c200m west of the PDA and in the same area a coin, 1st brass of Commodus (TQ75NE76) was found in All Saints Churchyard and pottery was uncovered at the Archbishops Palace (TQ75NE35). 4th century bronze coins of Constantine I and Valentinian II (TQ75NE41) were found in 1953 in a garden at George Street c.200m south

Pottery (TQ75NE42) was uncovered at Mill Street in 1937, while digging foundations for a new building c.300m west and a 2nd brass of Claudius (TQ75NE75) was found in a sewage cutting at King Street in 1851, c.300m northeast.

A Denarius of Trajan, (TQ75NE70) was found in 1833, c.400m east, on the bed of the River Len, a quern was discovered in a garden at Church Street (TQ75NE72) c400m north and the remains of a possible Roman building (TQ75NE139) were uncovered at the corner of Week Street and High Street, c.400m northwest.

A Roman Bronze brooch (TQ75SE33) dating to 65-80AD was found in a garden c.500m southeast of the PDA and late Iron Age and Roman ditches and pits (TQ75NE901) containing imported Roman pottery were uncovered at Church Street, c500m north, during an excavation.

The assessment area includes several records from this period. The potential is therefore to be considered as **high**.

6.4 Anglo-Saxon

The Anglo-Saxon Church of St Mary (TQ75NE401) recorded in the Domesday Book is thought to lie beneath the medieval Church of St Mary, located c.200m east.

A Merovingian gold Tremissis (TQ75NE949), of unconfirmed authenticity, a gold shilling (TQ75NE918) and 23 Silver pennies (TQ75NE439/440/441/443/ 919/920/ 921/922/928/930/931/932/938/939/940/941/942/943/944/945/946/947/950) have been found in an area c.400m southwest and a gold sword mount (TQ75NE121) was recorded in an archaeological journal from 1974 although the precise location is unknown. Therefore, it is reasonable to conclude that the potential for finding remains dating to the Anglo-Saxon period in the PDA is considered as **moderate**.

6.5 Medieval

Maidstone was named as a partimote and portreeve and was incorporated into a Borough (TQ75NE173) in 1549. The medieval period is represented with an abundance of listed buildings and monuments, notably, the Archbishops Palace (TQ75NE35/46/48/81/767/803/869), the College (TQ75NE36/800/469/482/501), the Church of All Saints (TQ75NE40/799), St Mary's Church (TQ75NE401), the Franciscan Friary (TQ75NE100), Len Bridge (TQ75NE80), the Pottery Kiln (TQ75NE136) and several buildings that retain medieval features. All Saints Vicarage (TQ75NE181), the north and east walls to Digons (TQ75NE699/713) and 15 Knightrider Street (TQ75NE698) an open hall house, which revealed medieval features in an excavation (TQ75NE298) are with c50m of the PDA. A Hoard of 4 gold and 99 silver coins (TQ75NE122) were found on Lower Stone Street, during the widening of the road, c.100m north. Two silver pennies, one Plantagenet (TQ75NE928/929) were found c400m to the southwest.

The presence of medieval archaeology within the assessment area well represented and the potential for finding remains dating to the medieval period is therefore considered as **High**.

6.6 Post Medieval to Modern

The Post Medieval period is again well represented within the assessment area by several listed buildings and monuments. The PDA is the site of Wren's Cross (TQ75NE619) the home of the first Kent County Constabulary. Lower Brewery (TQ75NE280) founded 1650 is located c.100m north, a timber-framed building (TQ75NE620 and a circular feature (TQ75NE360) thought to be a well or drain are found c.200m southeast and an several finds from this period were uncovered in the Rose Garden (TQ75NE315) of the College, c.200m east. Padsole Mill (TQ75NE293) is at a distance of c.300m northeast.

Evidence for post-medieval occupation in the area is abundant and the potential for finding remains dating to the post-medieval period is therefore considered as **high**.

6.7 Summary of Potential

The desk-based assessment has considered the archaeological potential of the site but this potential can only be tested by fieldwork. Research has shown that the PDA may contain archaeological sites and these can be summarised as:

- Prehistoric: **Low**
- Iron Age: **Moderate**
- Roman: **High**
- Anglo-Saxon: **Moderate**
- Medieval: **High**
- Post-Medieval and Modern: **High**

7. IMPACT ASSESSMENT

7.1 Introduction

Cartographic Regression, Topographical Analysis, and Historic Research have provided evidence for the historic use of the site. By collating this information we have assessed the impact on previous archaeological remains through the following method of categorisation:

- **Total Impact** - Where the area has undergone a destructive process to a depth that would in all probability have destroyed any archaeological remains e.g. construction, mining, quarrying, archaeological evaluations etc.
- **High Impact** – Where the ground level has been reduced to below natural geographical levels that would leave archaeological remains partly in situ either in plan or section e.g. the construction of roads, railways, buildings, strip foundations etc.
- **Medium Impact** – Where there has been low level or random disturbance of the ground that would result in the survival of archaeological remains in areas undisturbed e.g. the installation of services, pad-stone or piled foundations, temporary structures etc.
- **Low Impact** – Where the ground has been penetrated to a very low level e.g. farming, landscaping, slab foundation etc.

7.2 Existing Impacts

7.2.1 Cartographic regression (4.1.3), Topographic analysis (4.1.4) and Historical research (5.2) indicate that the site has been the subject of development and occupation, therefore, previous impacts to archaeological remains from construction are considered to be **high**.

7.2.2 Agriculture became gradually more intense over time and by the modern era it was mechanised. Although the farming process rarely penetrates below the upper layers of the ground, plough truncation can have a significant impact on preserved shallow deposits. The site is within the centre of town and the effects of agricultural processes on buried archaeological features and deposits are considered to be **negative**.

7.3 Proposed Impacts

7.3.1 The general development of the site

At the time of preparing this archaeological assessment, the extent of the proposed development was for the construction of sixty-six residential flats and sixty-six associated parking spaces.

7.3.2 The very nature of construction can have a negative impact on below ground deposits through the movement of plant, general ground disturbance and contamination and excavation. Therefore, extensive impact can be expected within the development area once construction begins.

7.3.3 With due consideration to the impacts sited above the following is an assessment of the specific impacts and their relation to this development:

- Ground contamination from the storage and use of materials may have an adverse effect on soil sampling and recording of shallow deposits – **Medium impact**
- Ground vibration, weight displacement and surface disturbance from the movement and use of plant and machinery may cause disruption of shallow features and deposits – **Medium impact**
- Ground penetration from the erection of access equipment, barriers etc. could result in isolated damage to shallow features and deposits – **Medium impact**
- Landscaping may result in the displacement of shallow features and deposits – **Medium impact**
- Ground stripping and levelling could remove shallow deposits and features and leave the archaeological horizon open to damage or destruction from the foot, plant or vehicle traffic – **High impact**
- Trenching for the installation of services may involve the removal of shallow deposits or features and further damage the archaeological horizon sited immediately below or neighbouring archaeology – **High impact**

- The excavation of the foundations may result in the entire removal of the archaeological feature or deposit from a localised area, subsequently intruding on related neighbouring archaeology – **High impact**
- The long-term effect of the development will be in the new use of the site and changes resulting therein. In this case the possibility of higher foot and vehicular traffic to the site – **Low impact**

7.4 Proposed mitigation for the impact of the construction process

The adherence to the general requirements required by HSE to increase safety, reduce risk and lessen the impact of the construction process.

8. MITIGATION

The purpose of this archaeological desk-based 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.

The assessment has generally shown that the area to be developed is within an area of **High** archaeological potential.

8A. Walkover Survey

A walkover survey was undertaken by the author of this report on 29th April 2016. The reason for the survey was to identify any urban features not identified on the historic mapping programme of works. The rapid survey was within the objectives of the desk-based assessment and not intended as a detailed survey of the standing buildings. Photographs 1-13 indicate the general condition of the site and it may be a requirement by the LPA that a more comprehensive survey of the surviving buildings is undertaken.

9. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

Setting of Listed Buildings

One of the tasks of the site visit was aimed to identify any designated heritage assets within the wider context of the PDA in accordance with *The Setting of Heritage Assets – English Heritage Guidance* (English Heritage 2011). This guidance states that “*setting embraces all of the surroundings (land, sea, structures, features and skyline) from which the heritage asset can be experienced or that can be experienced from or with the asset*” (The Setting of Heritage Assets, English Heritage 2011).

The following Listed buildings share intervisibility with the PDA:

A Grade II Listed house with 16th Century and 17th Century wings and partial industrial use (TQ75NE698) is located c.50m to the west, a Grade II Listed three storey mid-terrace house (TQ75NE692) built 1833 located c.50m northwest, a Grade II Listed 15th Century timber framed building at Mile Farm House, 70 Lower Stone Street and 4a Knightrider Street (TQ75NE84) is located c.50m north and Grade II Listed Knightrider House (TQ75NE753) built in the mid 18th Century and home to William Shipley, Founder of the Royal Society of Arts, c.100m northwest.

The medieval north (TQ75NE699) and east (TQ75NE713) boundary walls to a demolished house known as Digons and the medieval All Saints Vicarage (TQ75NE181) can be found c.50m to the east and the Lower Brewery (TQ75NE280) founded 1650 can be found c.100m north, but have no shared intervisibility (Appendix 1 HER data).

9.1 Archive

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

9.2 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 at Kent County Council, and therefore considered as being reliable.

9.3 Copyright

Swale & Thames Survey Company and the author shall retain full copyright on the commissioned report under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988. All rights are reserved, excepting that it hereby provides exclusive licence to Hume Planning Consultancy (and representatives) for the use of this document in all matters directly relating to the project.

Paul Wilkinson PhD., MCifA., FRSA.

4th May 2016

10 REFERENCES & BIBLIOGRAPHY

IFA (2014) STANDARD AND GUIDANCE for historic environment desk-based assessment.

National Planning Policy Framework 2012.

Data provided by Kent HER

PLATES (see Figure 14)



Plate 1. Corner of Foster Street and Wrens Cross (looking north-west)



Plate 2. Wrens Cross (looking north-west)



Plate 3. Wrens Cross (looking west)



Plate 4. Wrens Cross (looking SSW)



Plate 5. Corner of Wrens Cross and Knightrider Street (looking west)



Plate 6. Corner of Wrens Cross and Knightrider Street (looking south west)



Plate 7. Corner of Wrens Cross and Knightrider Street (looking south west)



Plate 8. Corner of Wrens Cross and Knightrider Street (looking south west)



Plate 9. Corner of Knightrider Street (looking south west)



Plate 10. Corner of Wrens Cross and Knightrider Street (looking south)



Plate 11. Corner of Knightrider Street (looking south east)

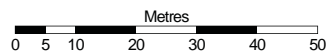


Plate 12. Knightrider Street (looking south)



Plate 13. Knight Rider Street (looking east)

Figure 14
Site plan and walkover



Scale: 1:1250

Wren's Cross



Plate 14. 1940 aerial photograph



Plate 15. 1990 aerial photograph



Plate 16. 2003 aerial photograph



Plate 17. 2013 aerial photograph



Figure 1: OS map 1868, scale 1:2500



Figure 2: OS map 1870, scale 1:1000



Figure 3: OS map 1897, scale 1:2500

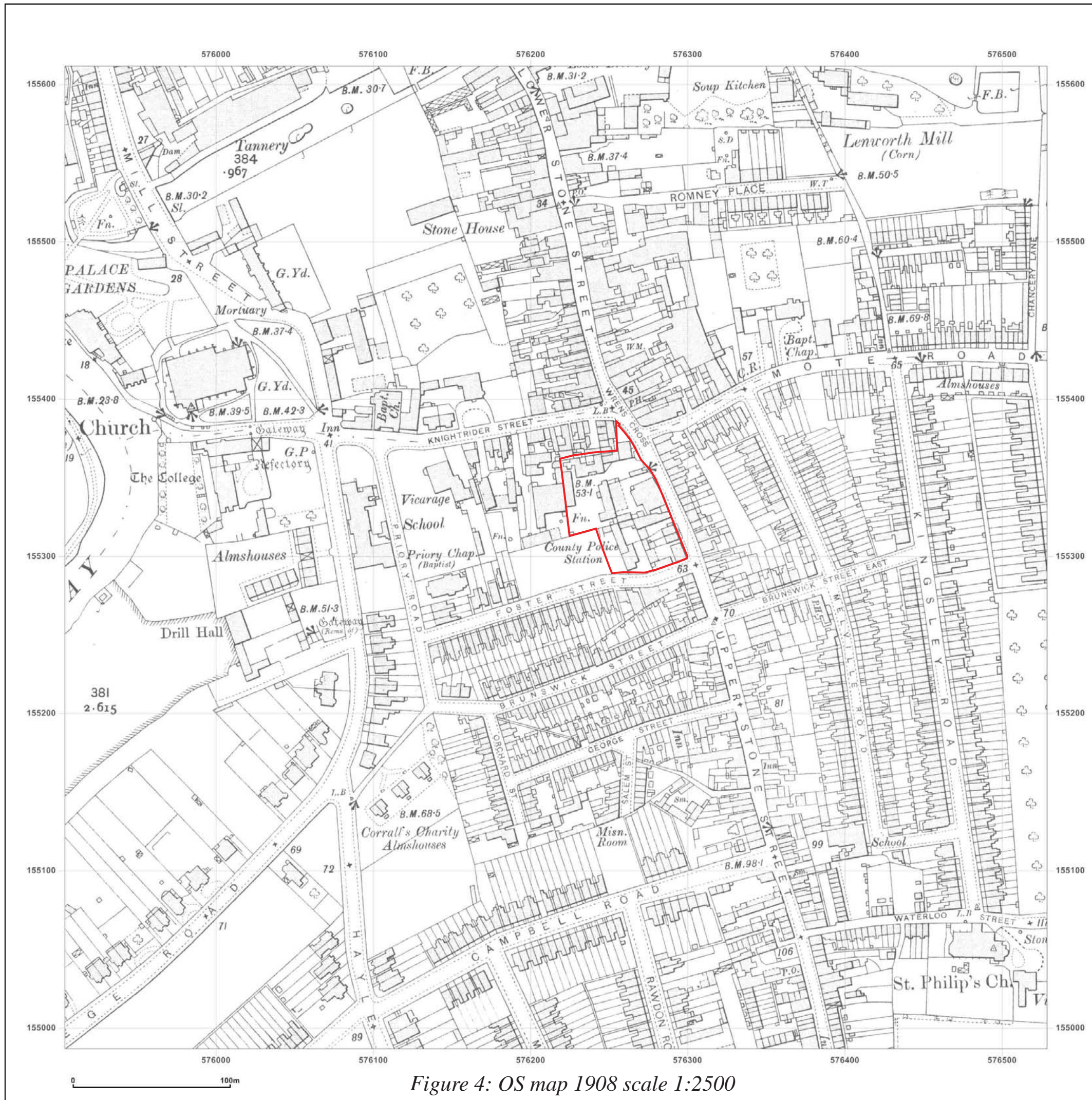


Figure 4: OS map 1908 scale 1:2500

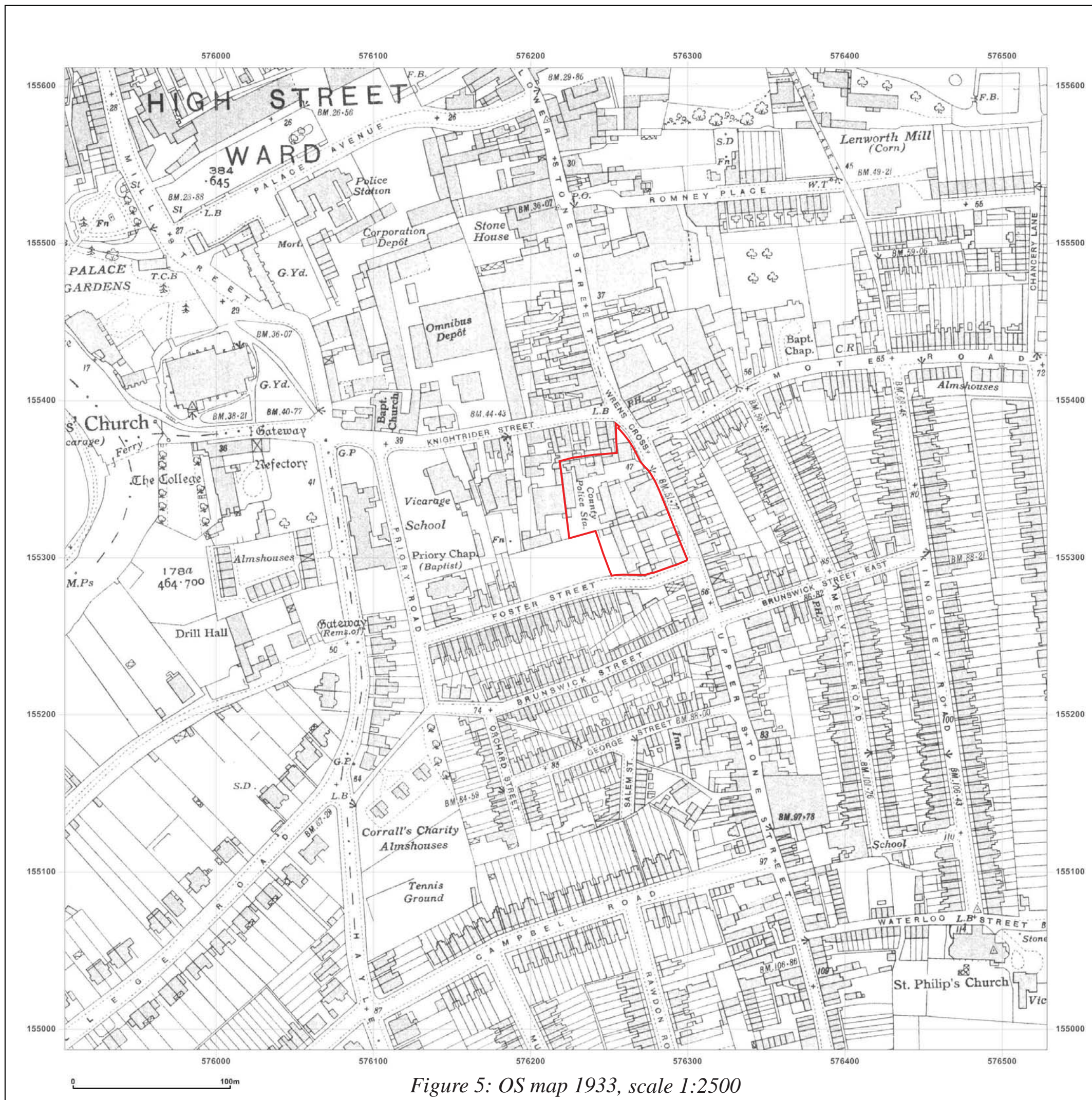


Figure 5: OS map 1933, scale 1:2500

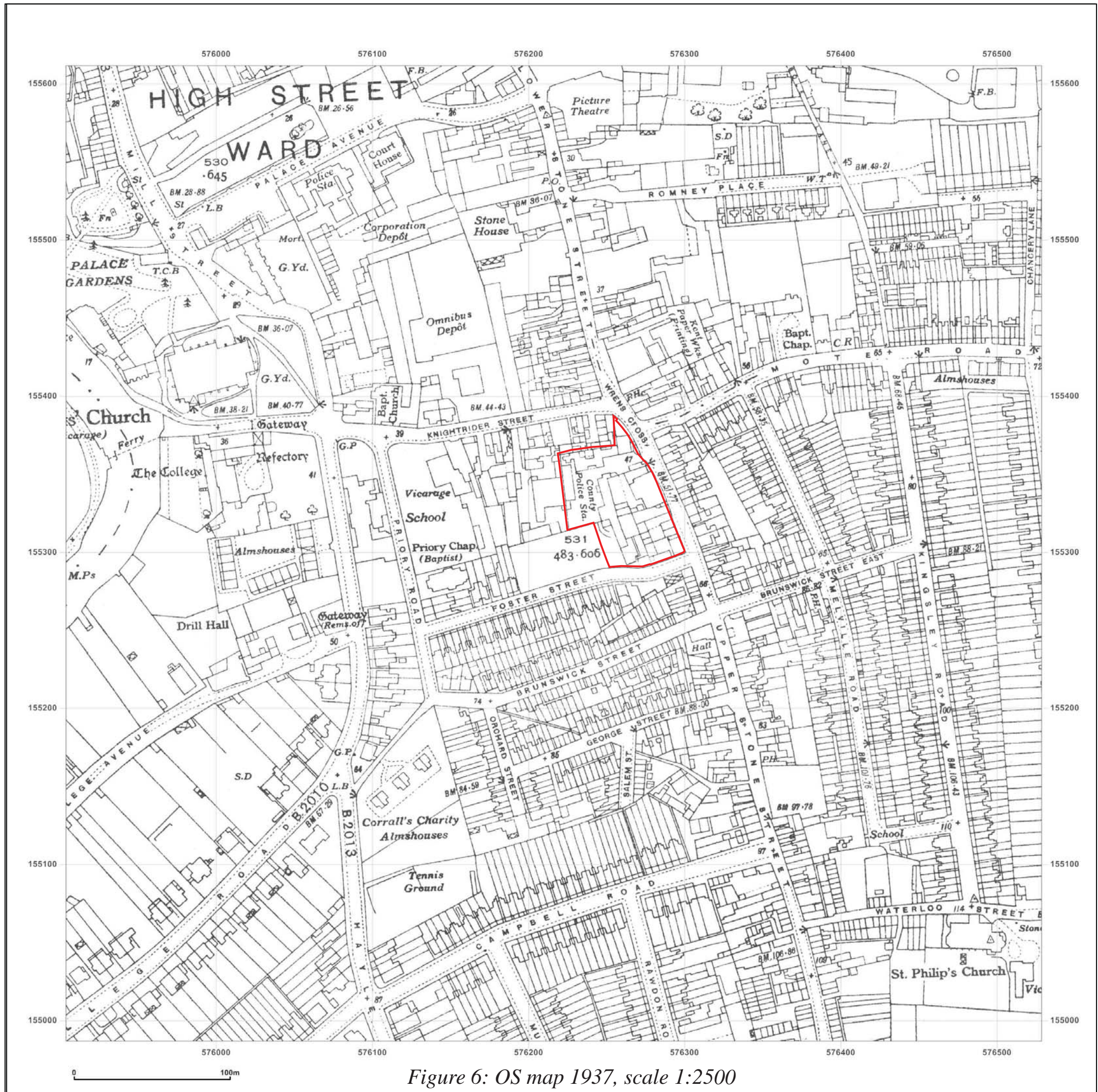


Figure 6: OS map 1937, scale 1:2500

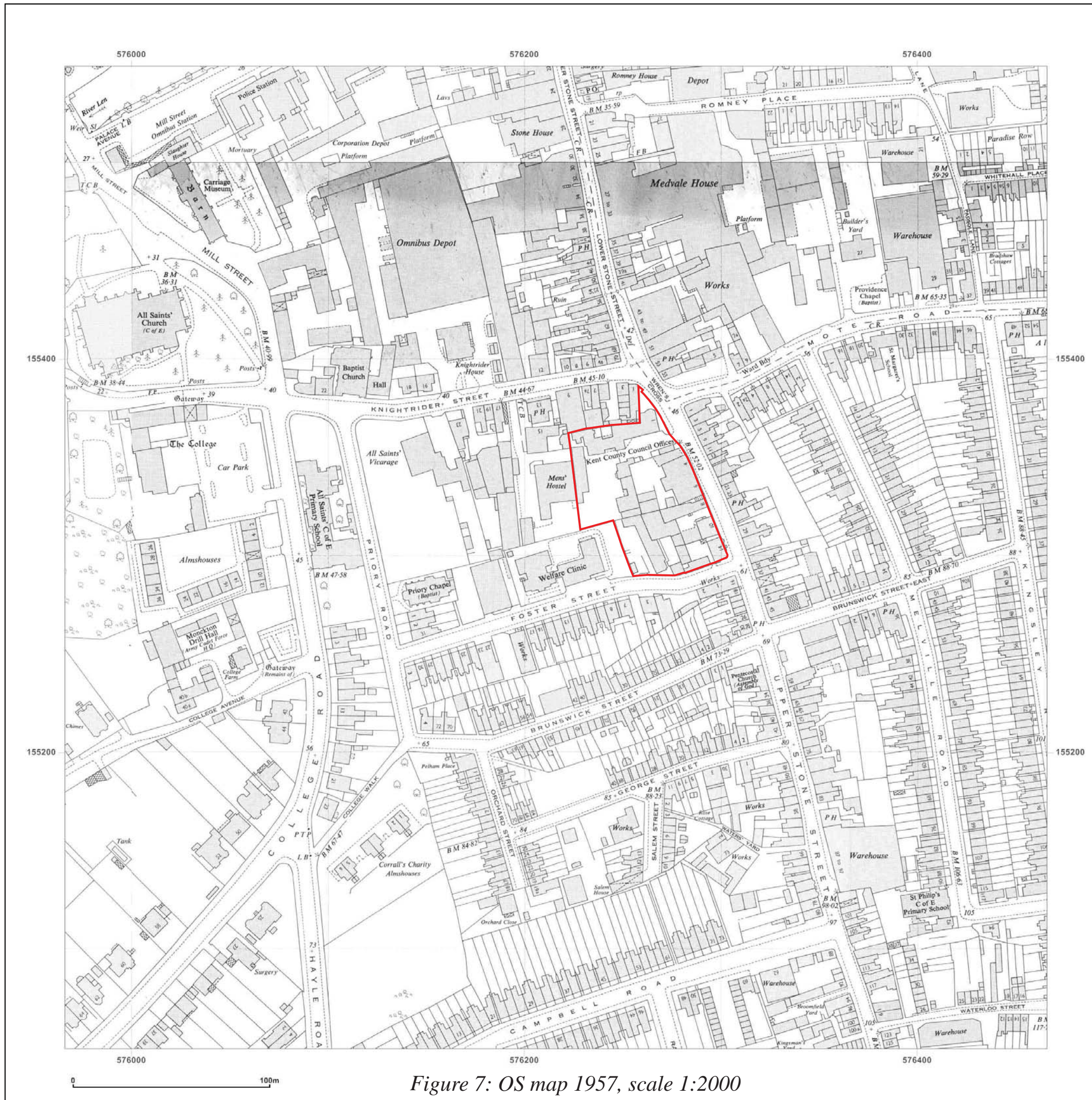


Figure 7: OS map 1957, scale 1:2000

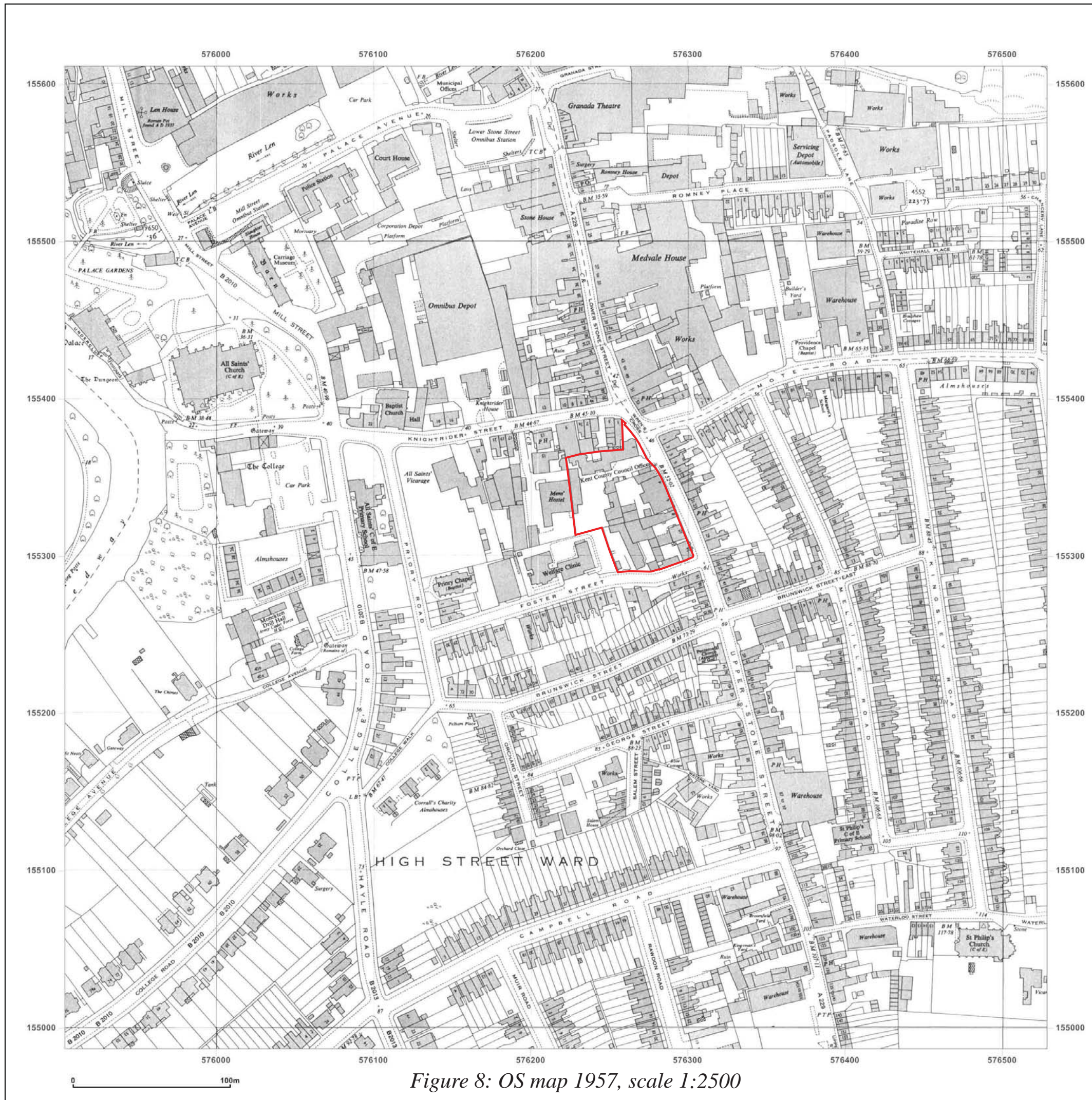


Figure 8: OS map 1957, scale 1:2500

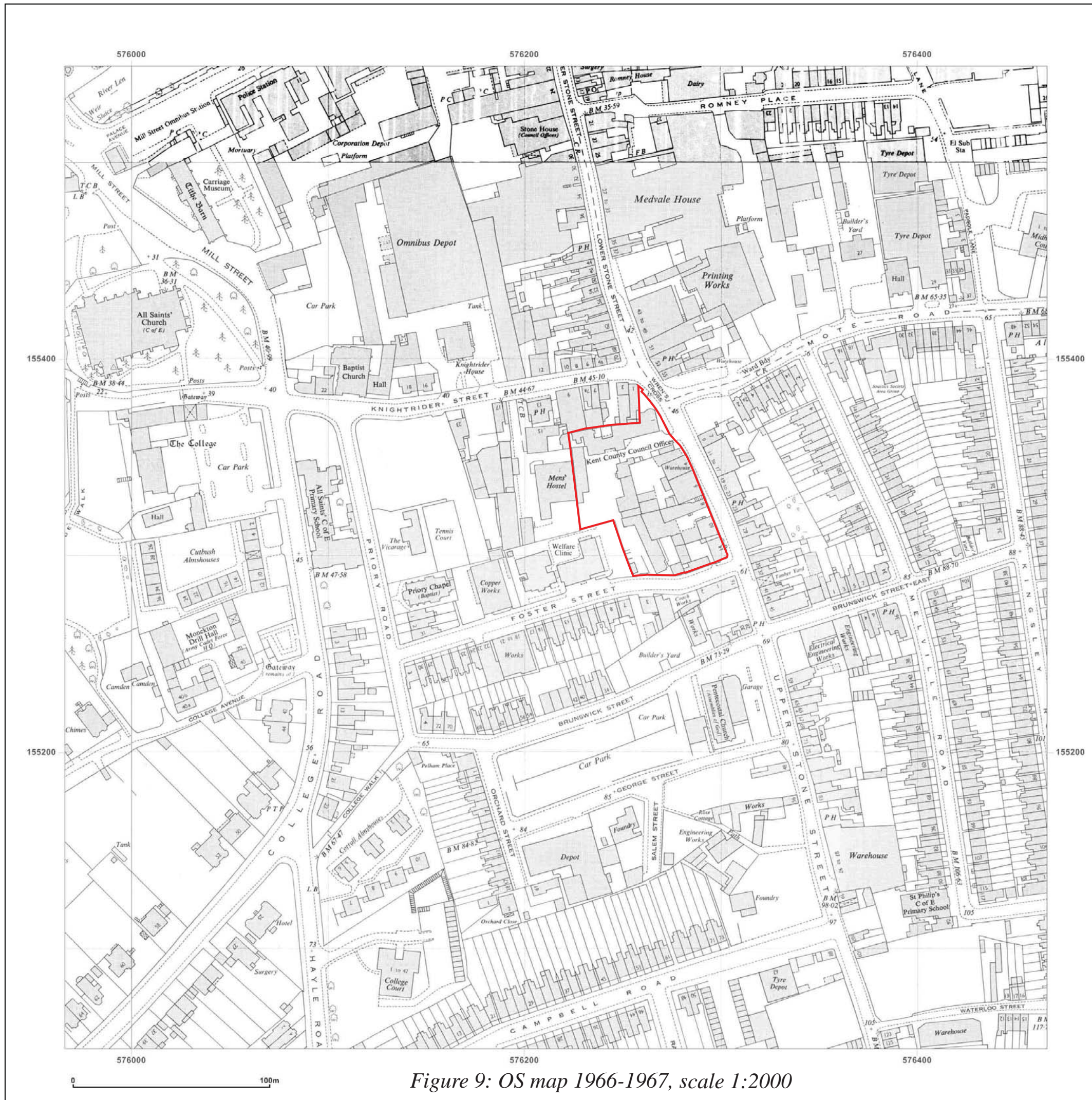


Figure 9: OS map 1966-1967, scale 1:2000

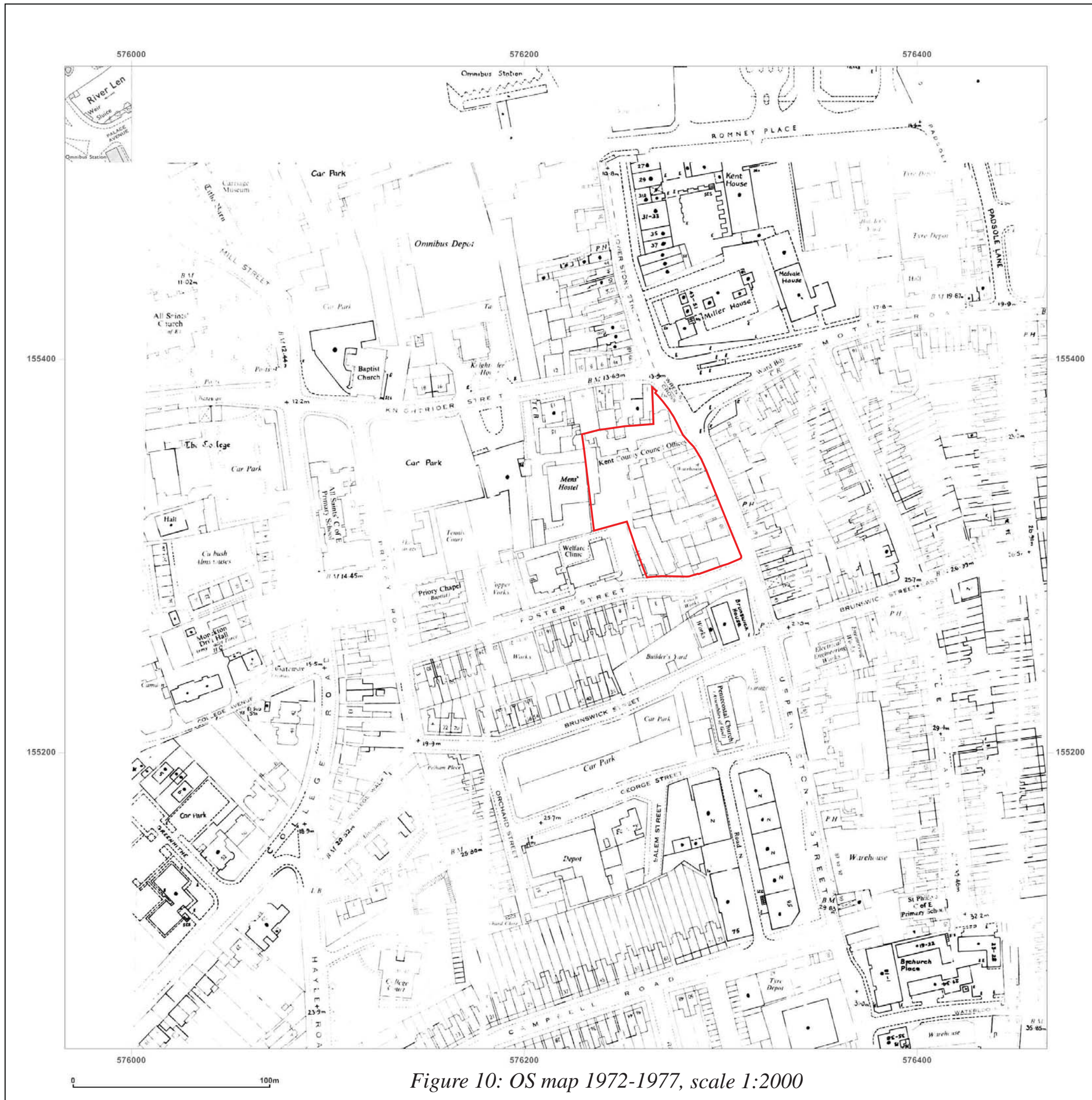


Figure 10: OS map 1972-1977, scale 1:2000

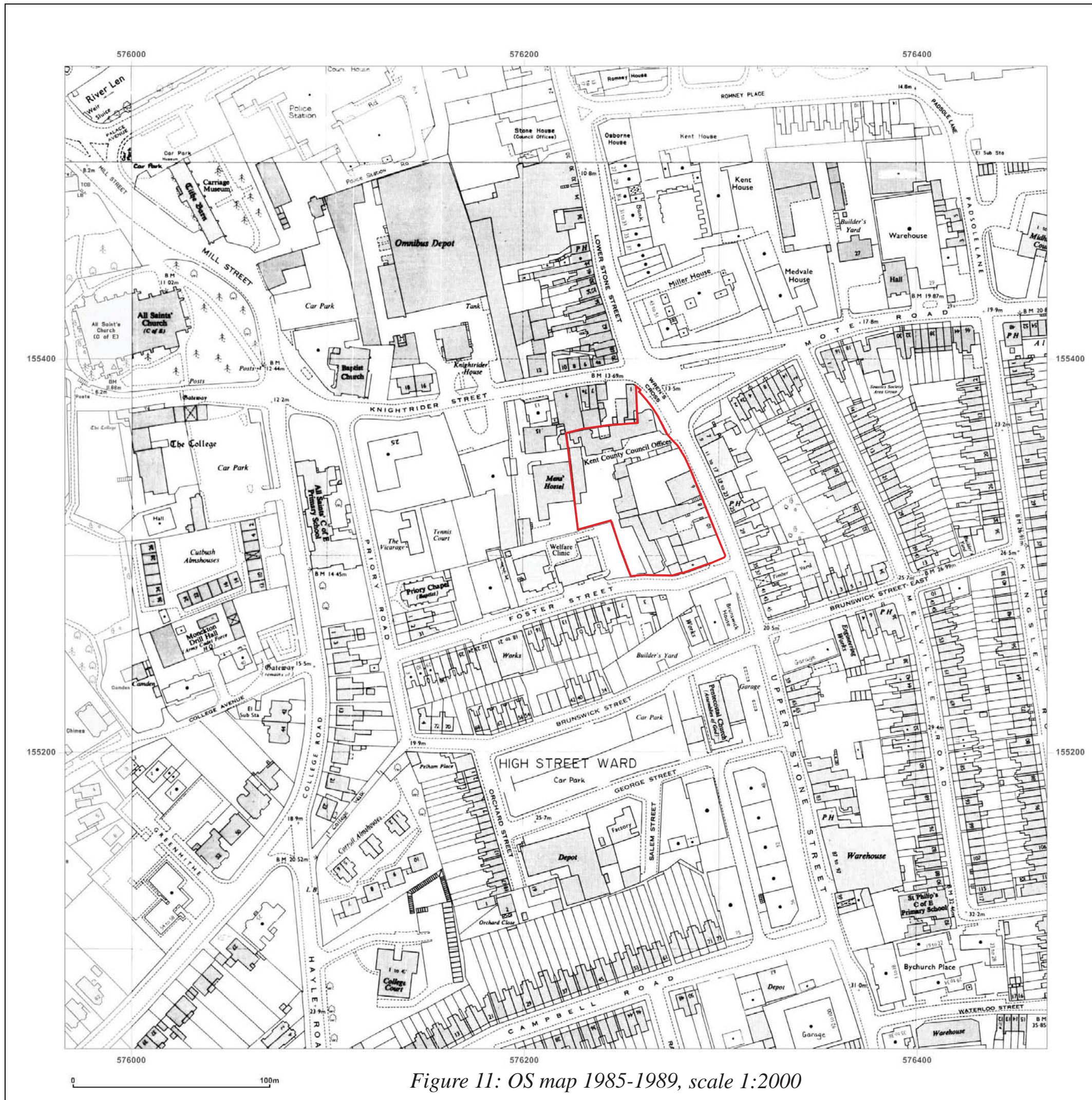


Figure 11: OS map 1985-1989, scale 1:2000

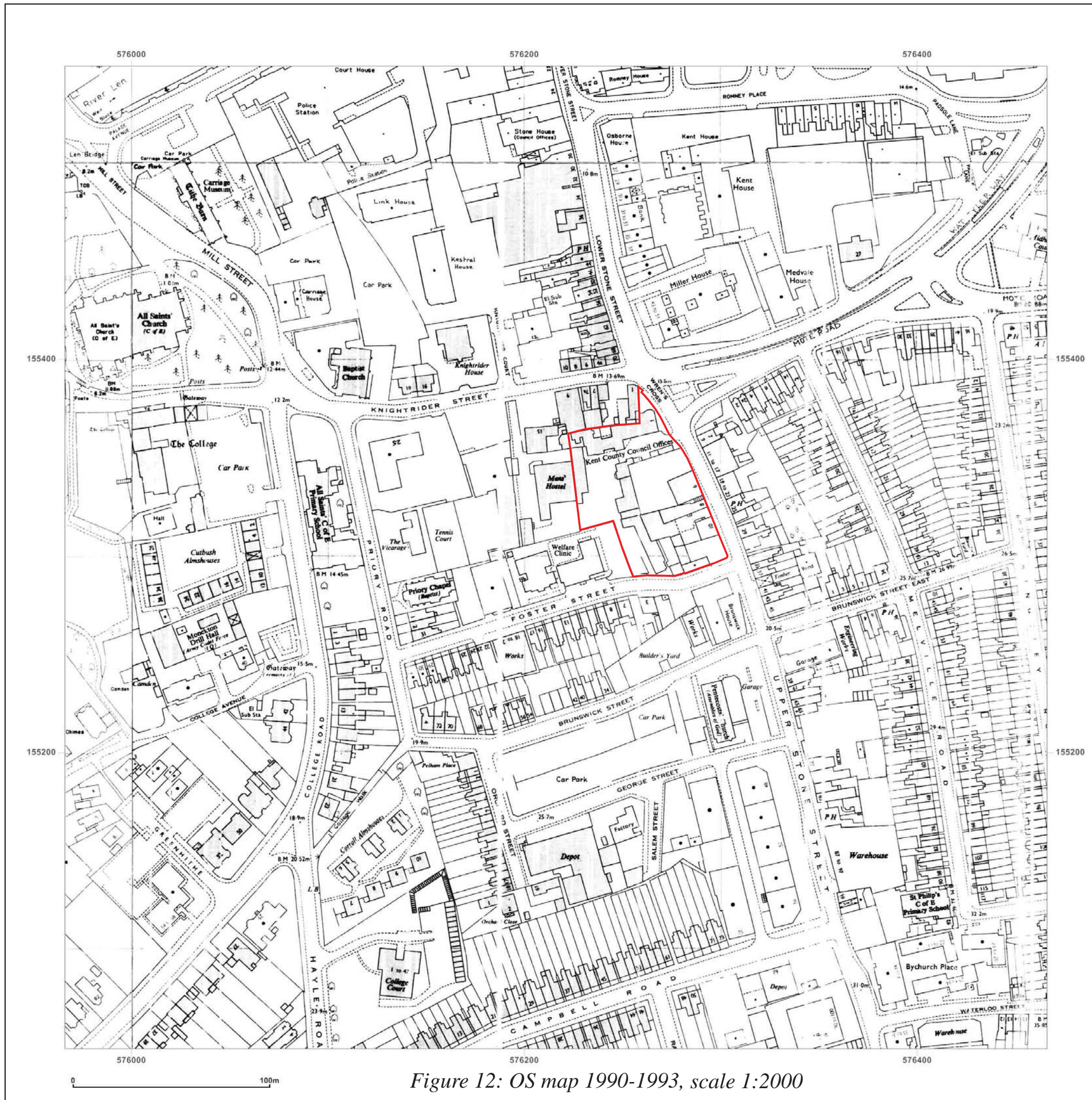


Figure 12: OS map 1990-1993, scale 1:2000

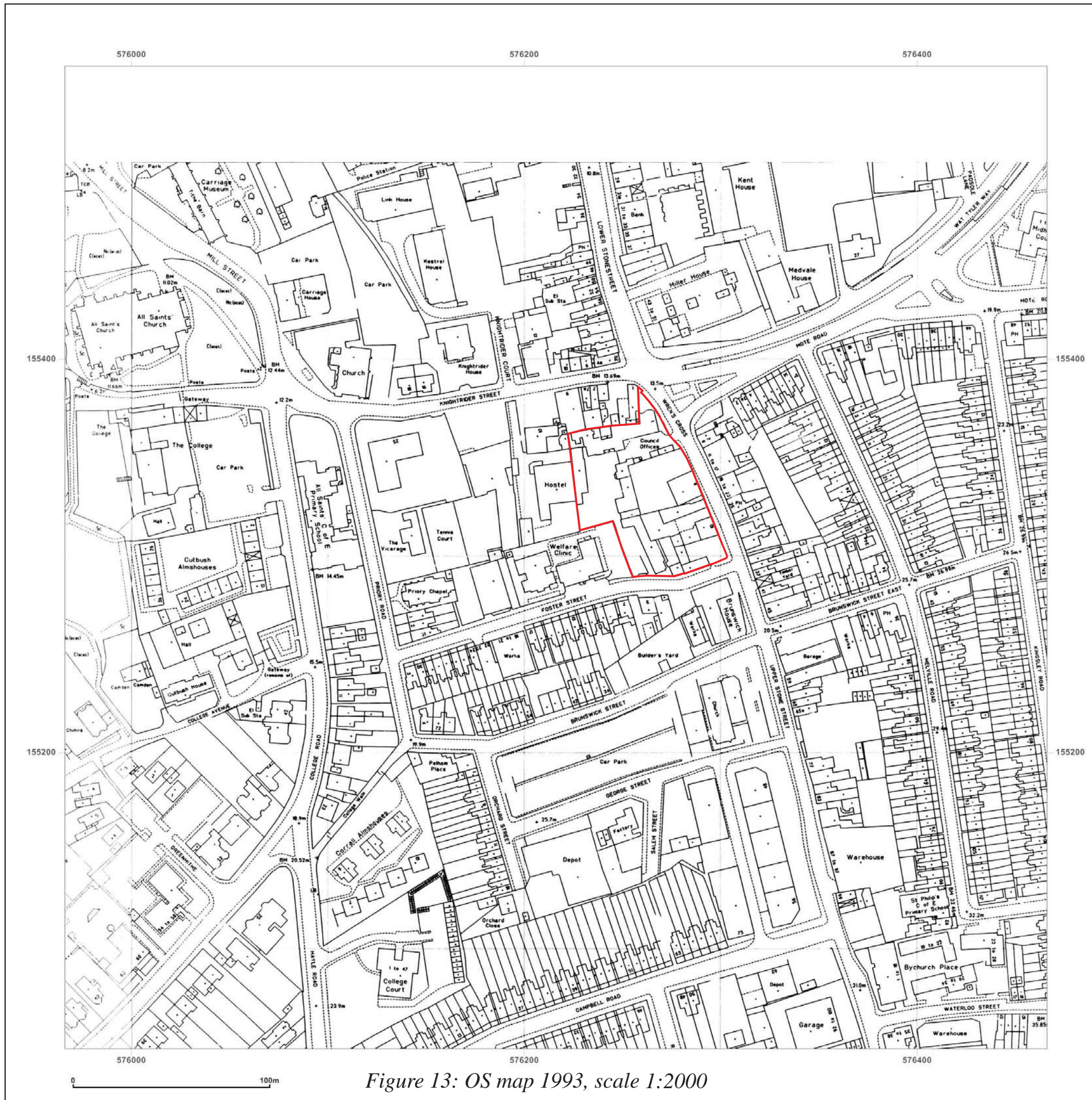
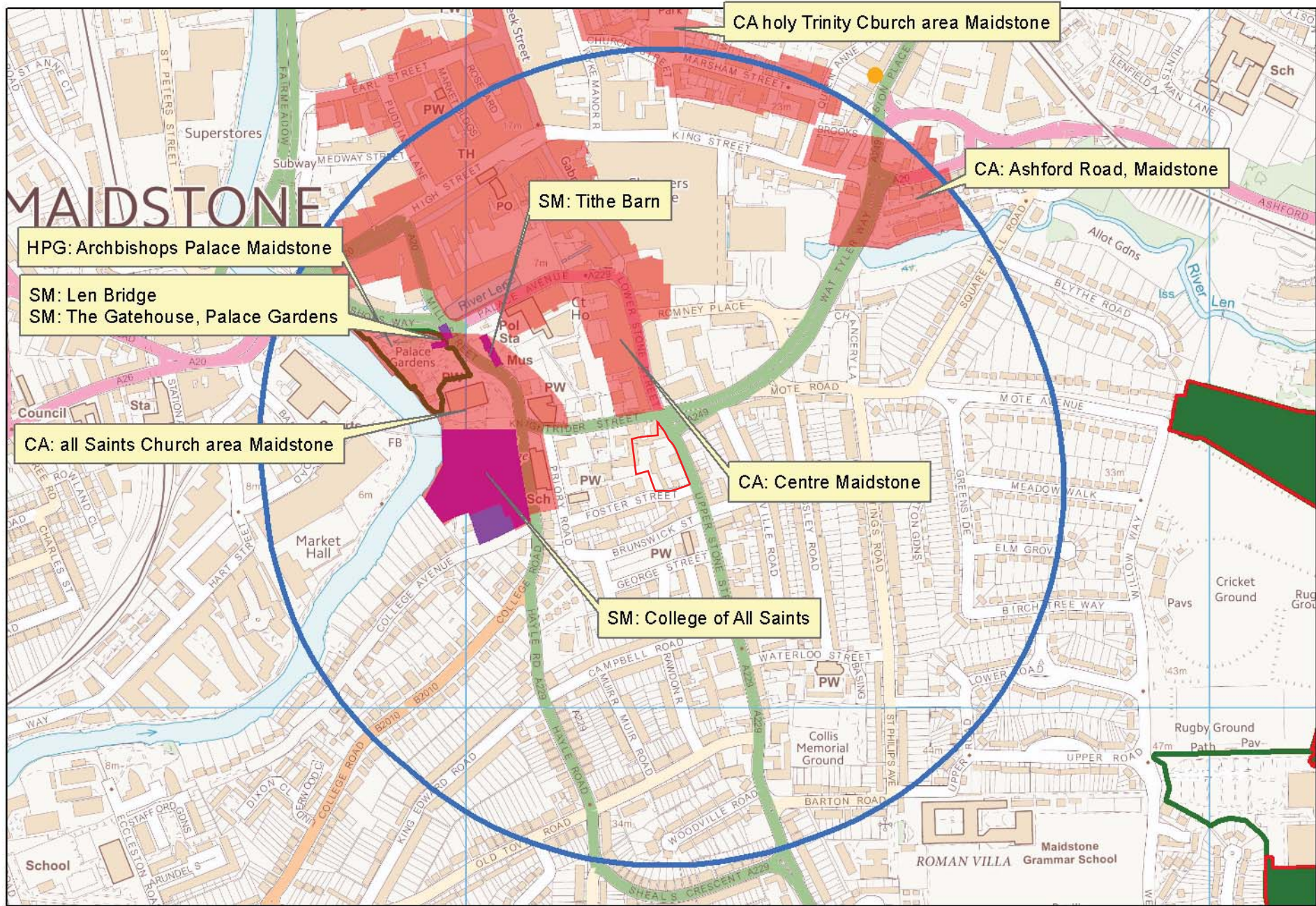


Figure 13: OS map 1993, scale 1:2000

Kent Historic Environment Record - Wren's Cross - Designations

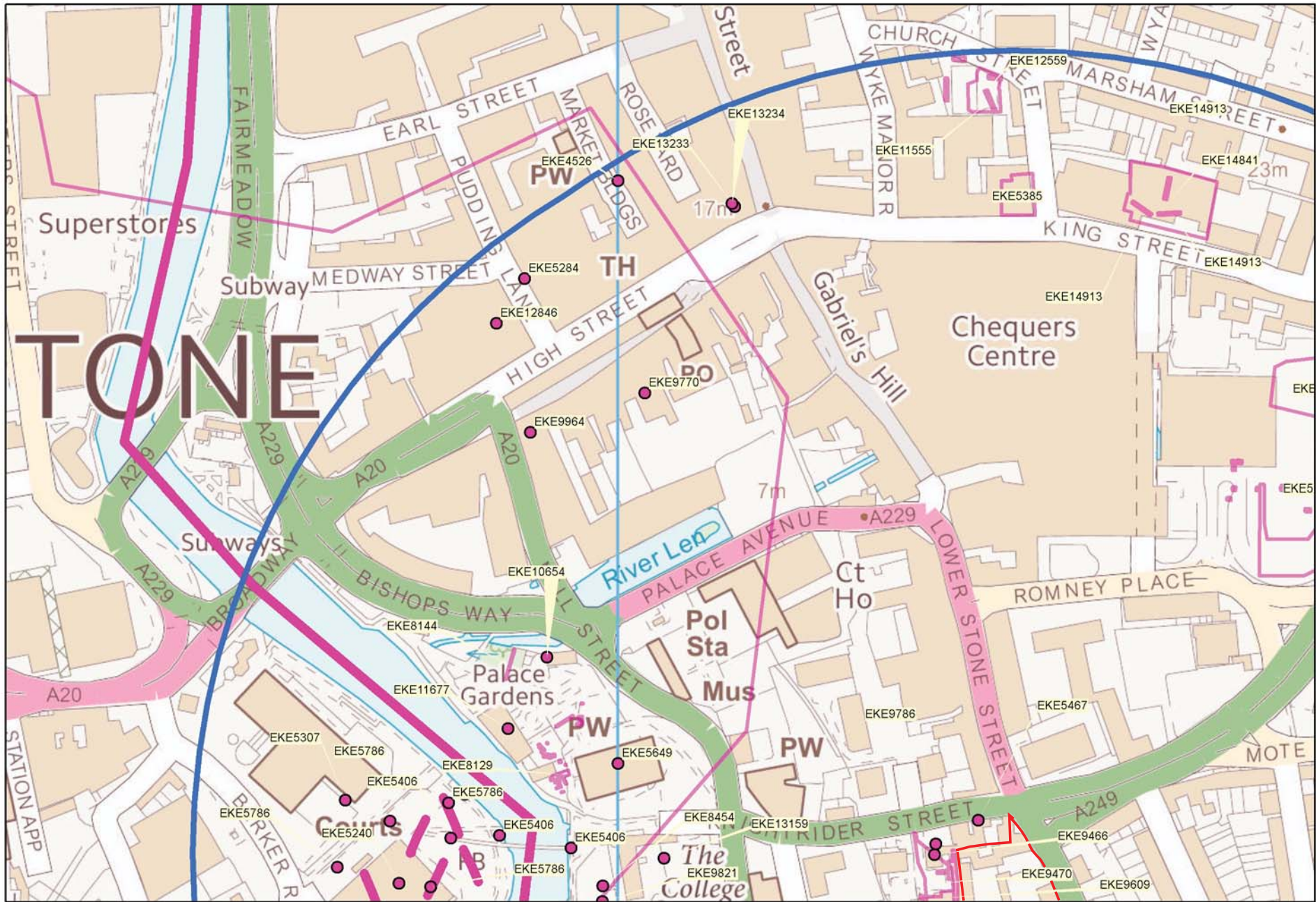


Legend

- Conservation Areas
- Scheduled monuments
- DesignRPG (poly)
- DesignHPG (poly)
- Prot Mil Remains



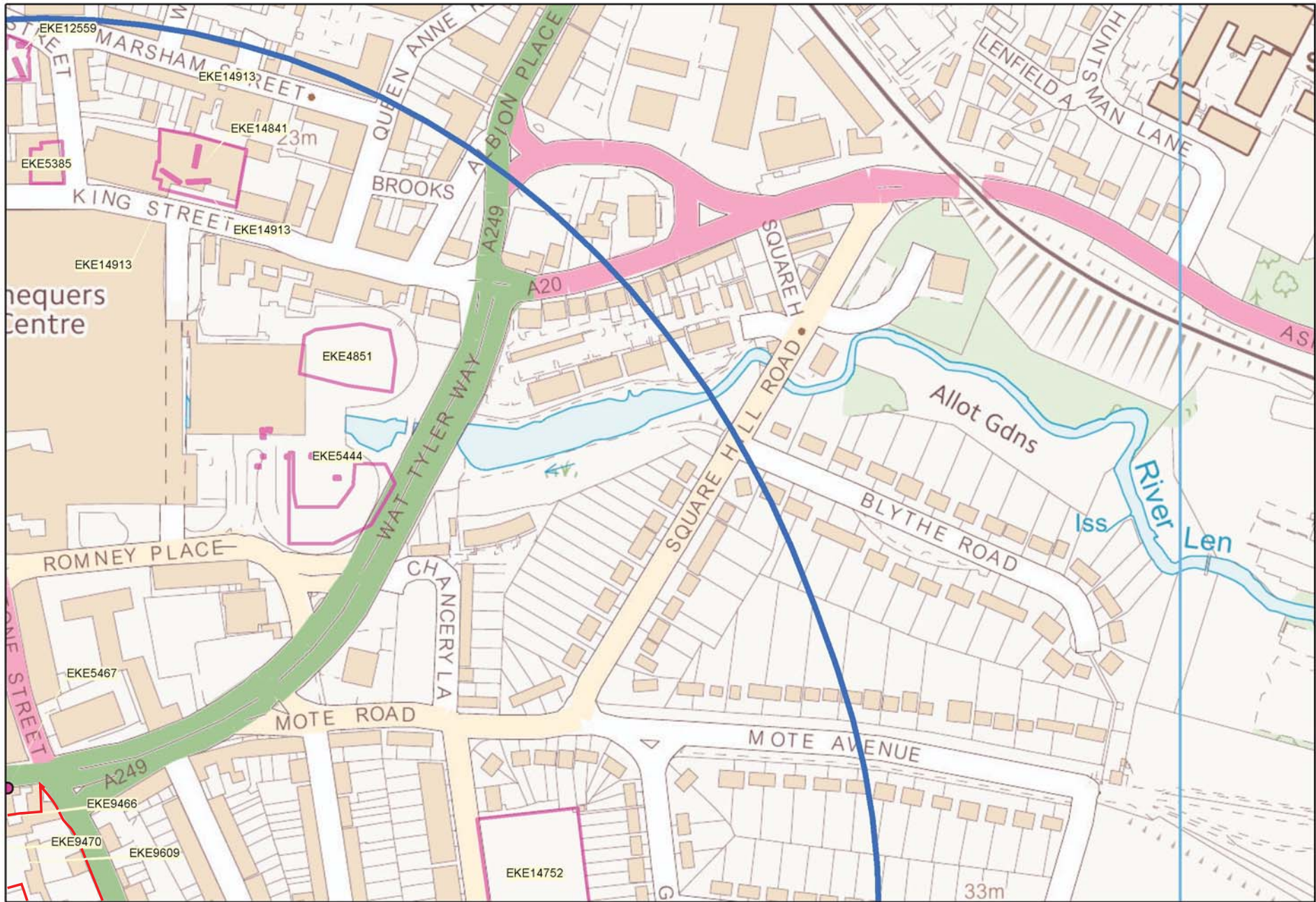
Kent Historic Environment Record - Wren's Cross - Events 1



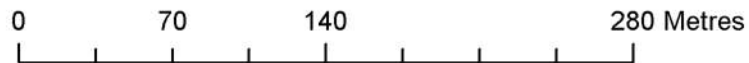
Legend



Kent Historic Environment Record - Wren's Cross - Events 2



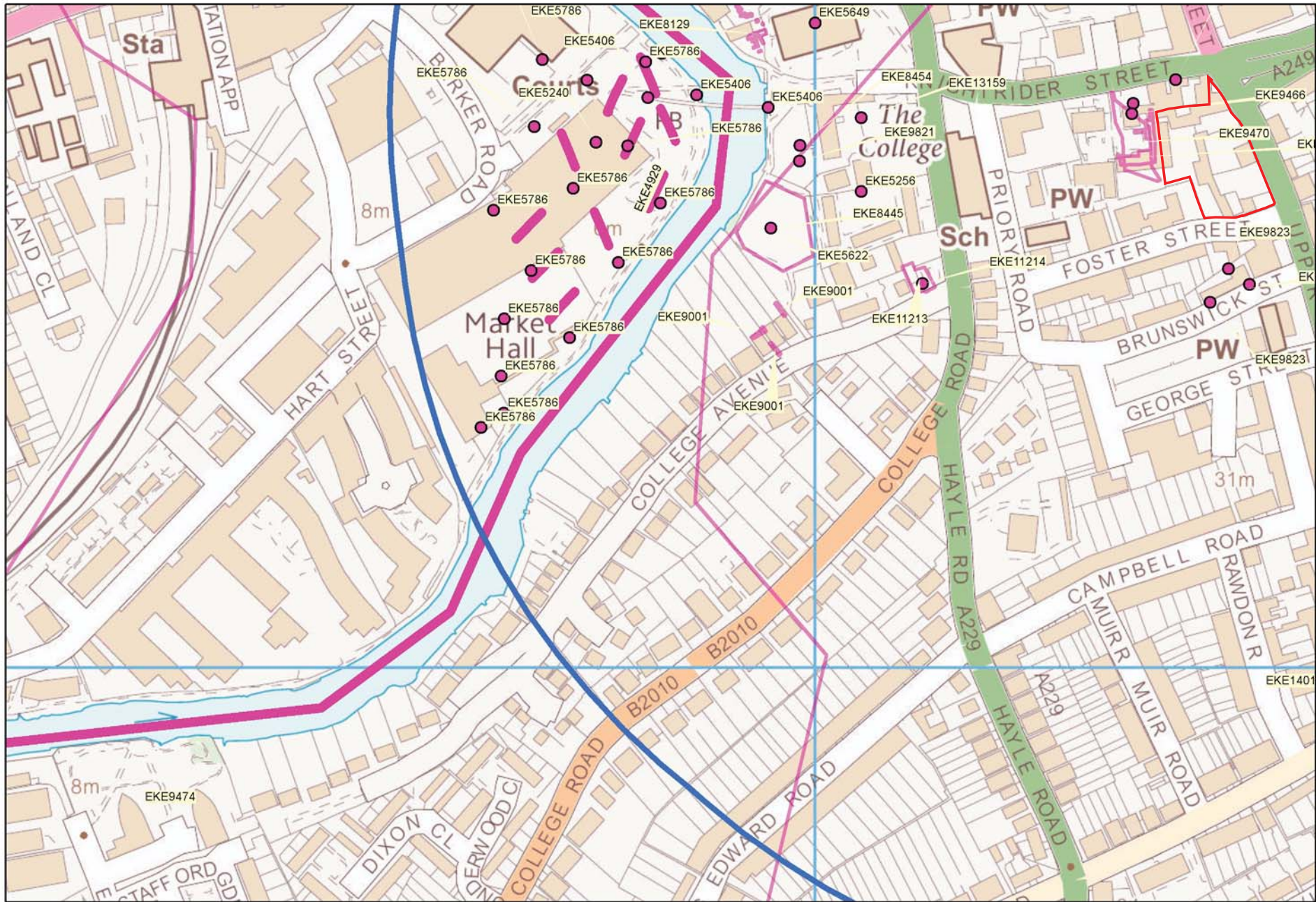
Legend



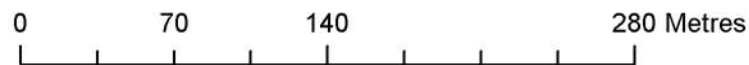
Kent Historic Environment Record - Wren's Cross - Events 3



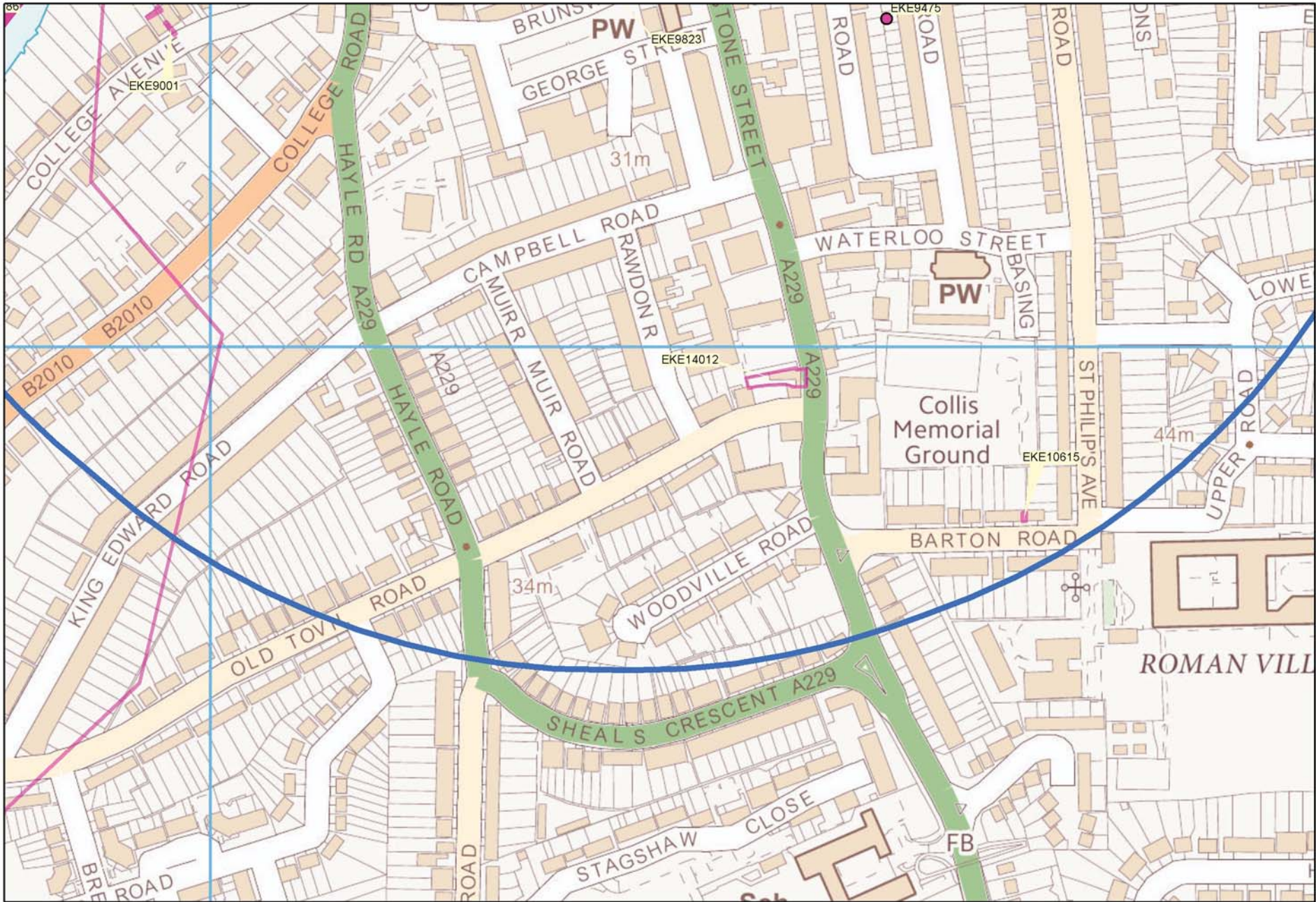
Kent Historic Environment Record - Wren's Cross - Events 4



Legend



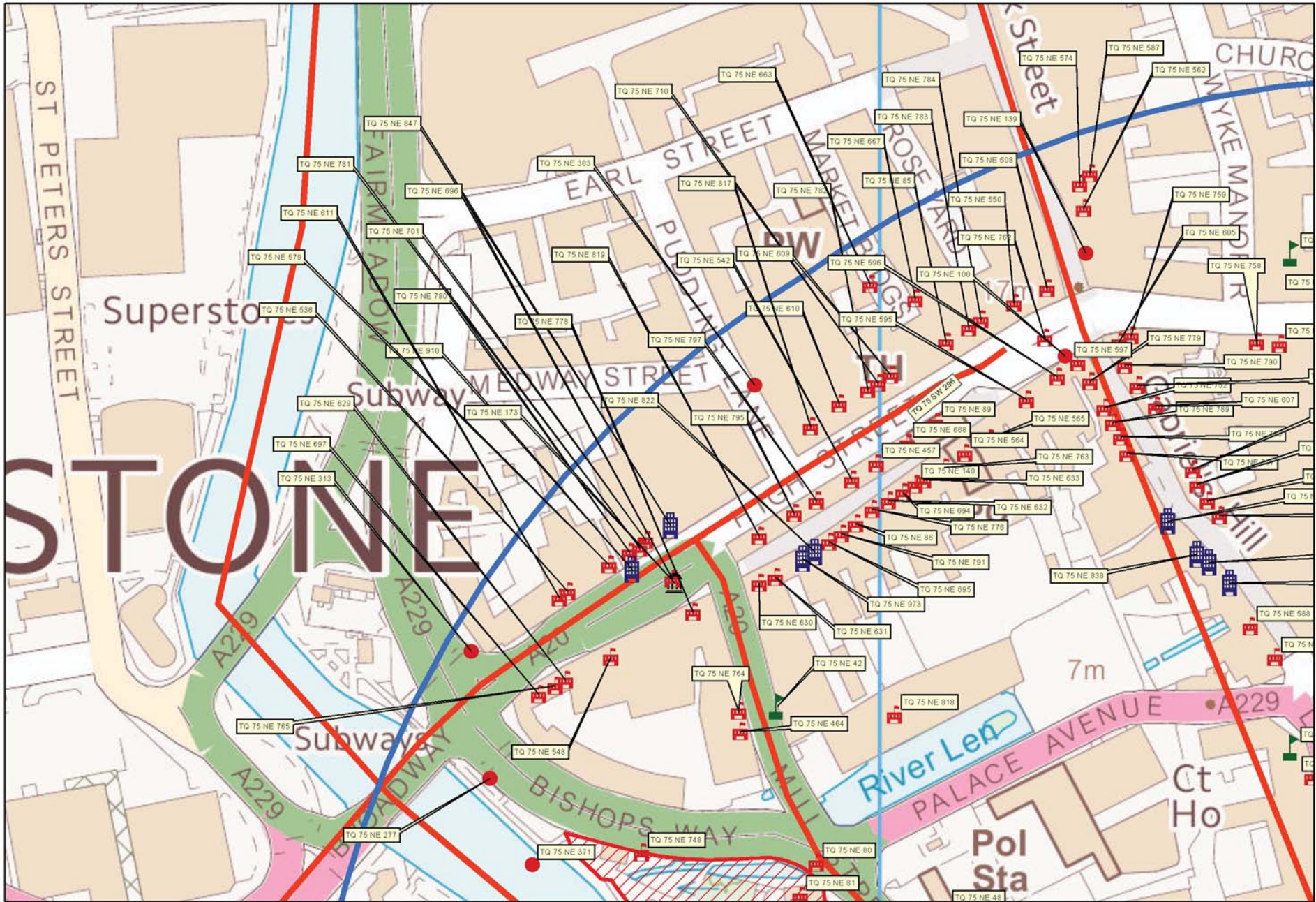
Kent Historic Environment Record - Wren's Cross - Events 5



Legend



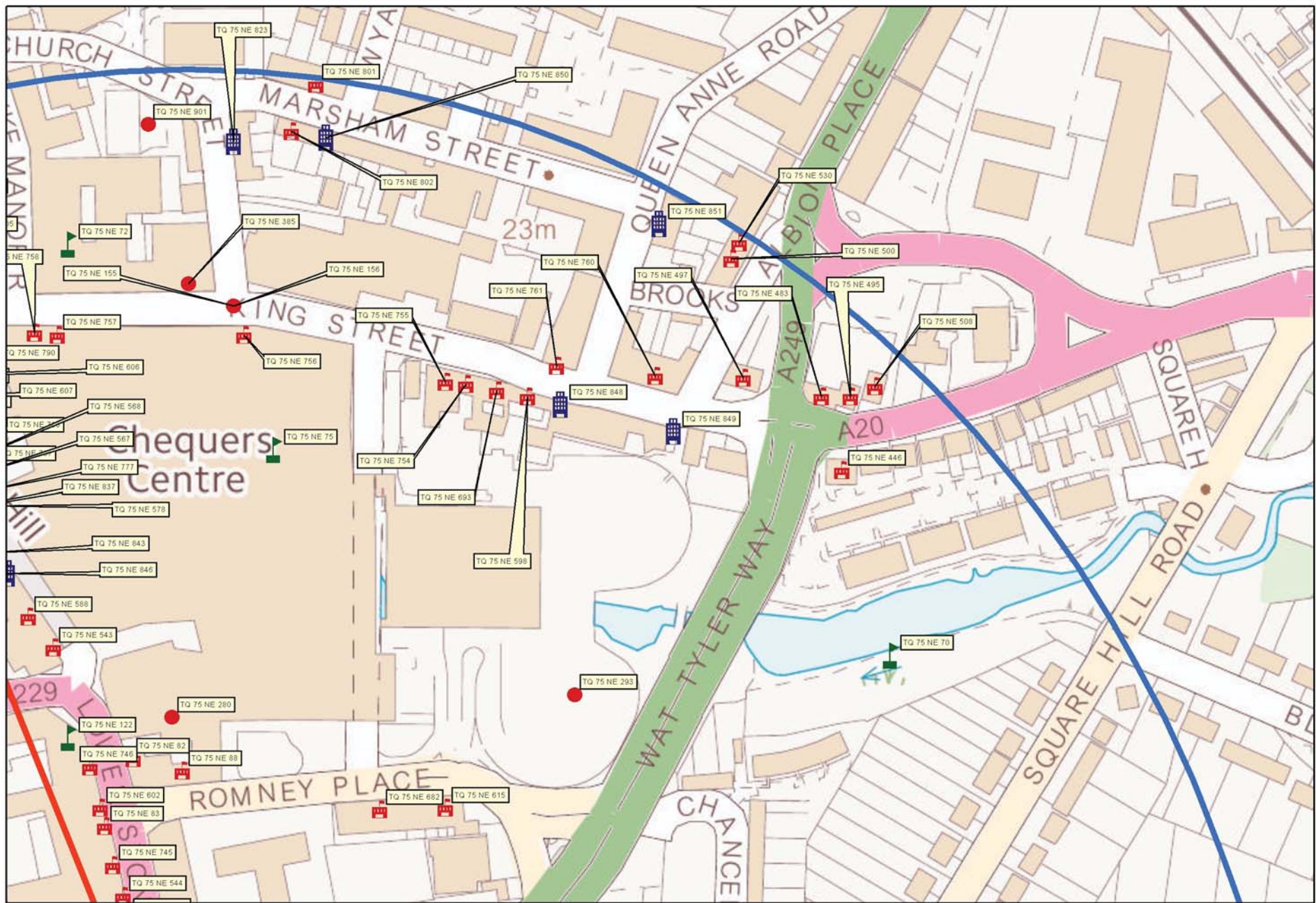
Kent Historic Environment Record - Wren's Cross - Monuments 1



- Legend**
-  Building
 -  Crash Site
 -  Farmstead
 -  Findspot
 -  Listed Building
 -  Landscape
 -  Maritime
 -  Monument
 -  Place
 -  HEDGE
 -  MON
 -  Mon (poly)



Kent Historic Environment Record - Wren's Cross - Monuments 2



Legend








- Building
- Crash Site
- Farmstead
- Findspot
- Listed Building
- Landscape
- Maritime
- Monument
- Place
- HEDGE
- MON
- Mon (poly)

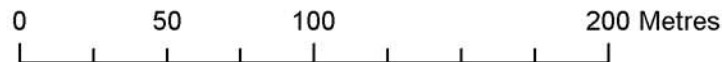


Kent Historic Environment Record - Wren's Cross - Monuments 3

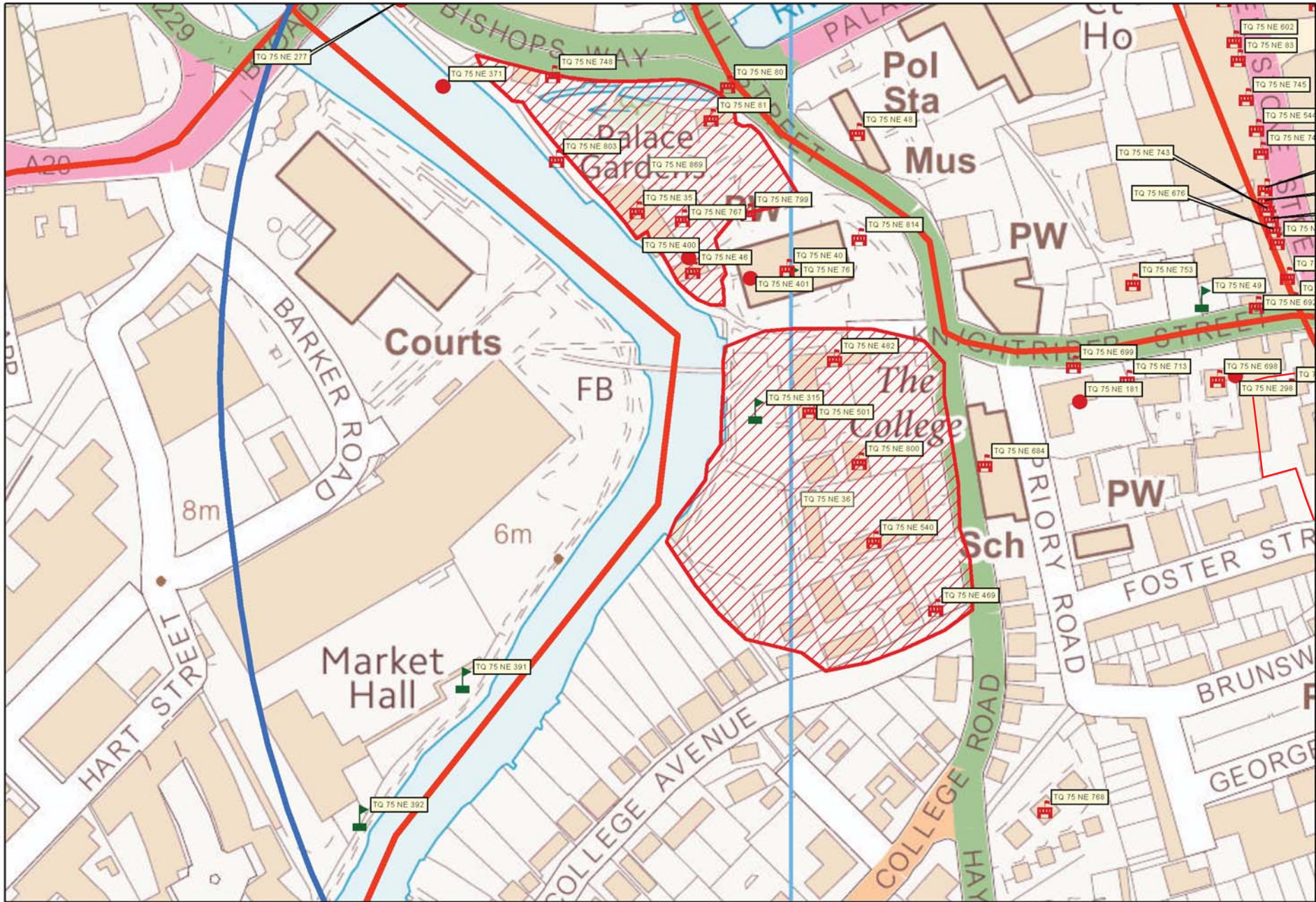


Legend

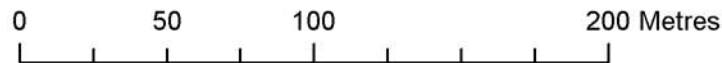
-  Building
-  Crash Site
-  Farmstead
-  Findspot
-  Listed Building
-  Landscape
-  Maritime
-  Monument
-  Place
-  HEDGE
-  MON
-  Mon (poly)



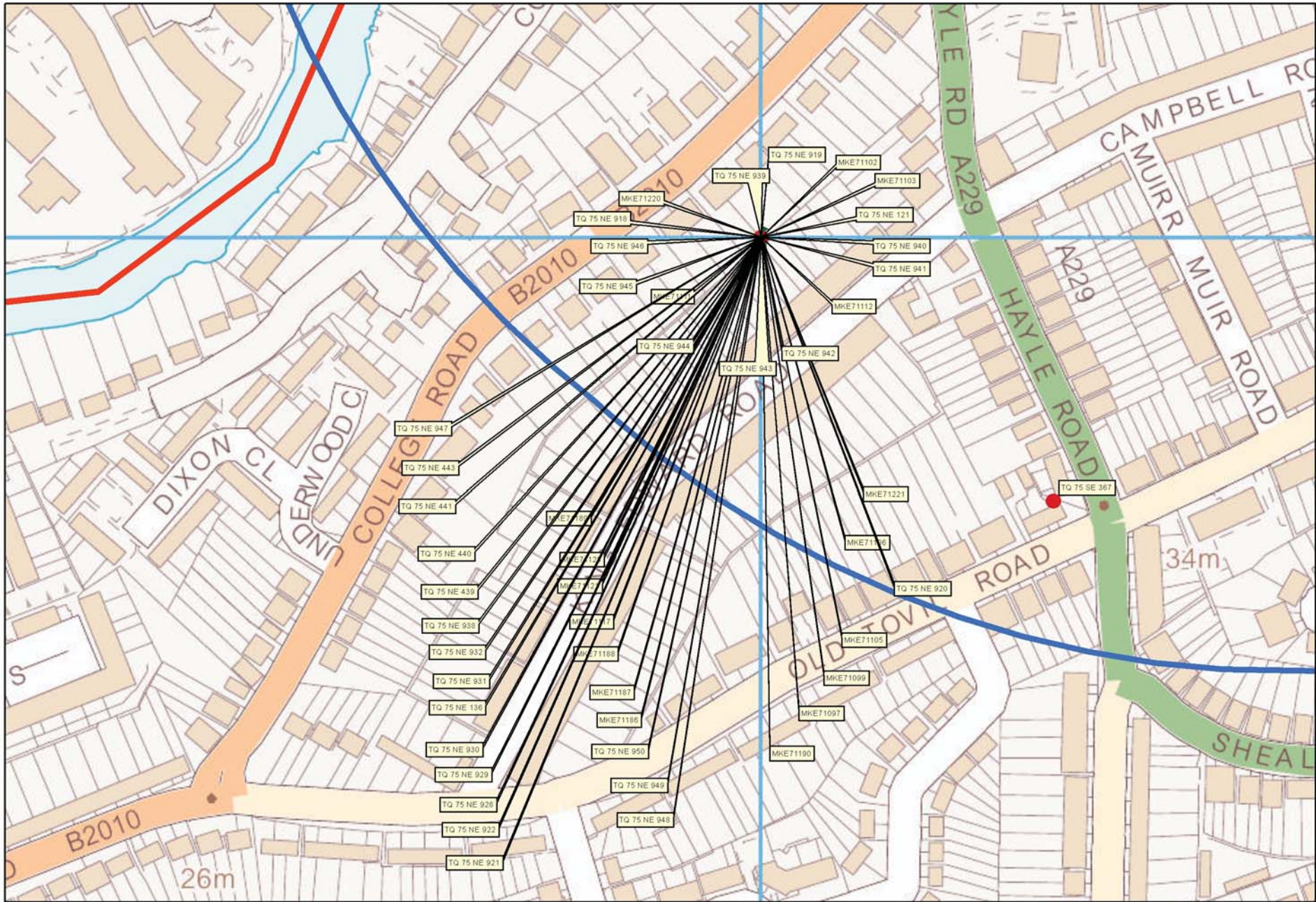
Kent Historic Environment Record - Wren's Cross - Monuments 4



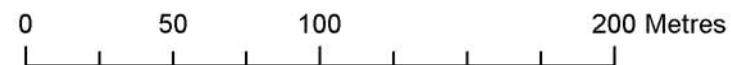
- Legend**
- Building
 - Crash Site
 - Farmstead
 - Findspot
 - Listed Building
 - Landscape
 - Maritime
 - Monument
 - Place
 - HEDGE
 - MON
 - Mon (poly)



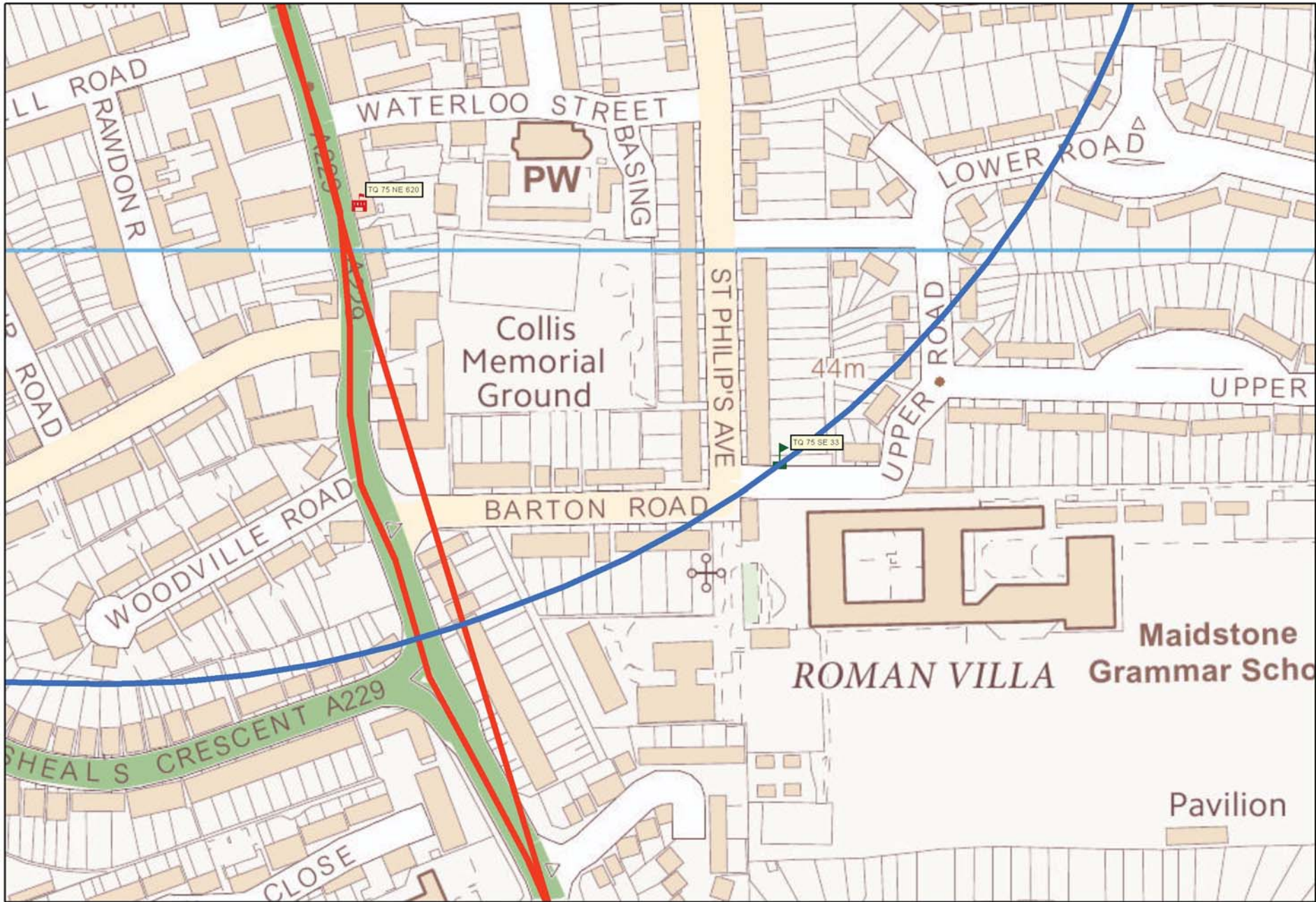
Kent Historic Environment Record - Wren's Cross - Monuments 5



- Legend**
- Building
 - Crash Site
 - Farmstead
 - Findspot
 - Listed Building
 - Landscape
 - Maritime
 - Monument
 - Place
 - HEDGE
 - MON
 - Mon (poly)



Kent Historic Environment Record - Wren's Cross - Monuments 6



Legend

- Building
- Crash Site
- Farmstead
- Findspot
- Listed Building
- Landscape
- Maritime
- Monument
- Place
- HEDGE
- MON
- Mon (poly)

