

# Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment In advance of Development of Land at St John's Place, Canterbury, Kent

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## Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment In advance of Development of Land at St John's Place, Canterbury, Kent

### 1 SUMMARY

SWAT Archaeology has been commissioned by Shubunkin Ltd to carry out an archaeological desk-based assessment of land at St John's Place, Canterbury in Kent. The proposed development is to comprise the demolition of temporary classrooms and the replacement with terraced housing.

This Desk Based Assessment examines the wide variety of archaeological data held by Kent County Council and other sources. This data is reviewed and it is recommended in this case that an **Archaeological Evaluation** will be required and if necessary further archaeological mitigation.

The proposed development area (PDA) is located in part of the city of Canterbury that was just outside the northern line of the City Wall, although little of it remains visible above ground.

St John's Place is located to the west of Northgate of which the Canterbury Conservation Area Appraisal (October 2010) says:

'Northgate follows the line of the Roman road to Reculver (Regulbium) and is lined on both sides by a mix of buildings dating from the 15th to 20th centuries. Many buildings were re-fronted in the 18th and 19th centuries and a large number of good 19<sup>th</sup> century shopfronts survive..... The gap adjacent to 54 Northgate opens up the view down St John's Place with the 'oasthouse' (roof) of Kingsmead School as a focal point. The building on the corner of Northgate and St John's Place is early 19th century with a rounded corner and small 19<sup>th</sup> century shopfront. This is the first building of a group that continues to St Radigund's Street. The group (Nos. 58 to 71) has similar characteristics to that opposite in that it is predominantly three storey with sash windows in vertical openings in painted facades of brick, stucco and mathematical tile. Most of the group has 18th century facades, in some cases to earlier timber-framed buildings (e.g. Nos. 66 and 68) and again there are many

examples of good early and late 19th century shopfronts. The composition of roof tiling, chimneys, weatherboarded gables and tile hanging of numbers 69 to 71 is an attractive visual termination to the view from Broad Street' (CCAA 2010: 137-139).

### **1.1 History of the site**

The Proposed Development Area (PDA) is located outside the Canterbury city walls on the north side of the city. Archaeological activity in the vicinity of present day Canterbury started in the prehistoric period with people taking advantage of the resources provided by the River Stour. By the Iron Age a large 'oppidum' had been established to the west of Canterbury at Bigbury and it was probably a tribal capital by the 1<sup>st</sup> century BC.

With the arrival of the Roman Empire in AD 43 a Roman town was established at the crossing point of the River Stour and became a regional (cantonal) capital and administrative centre known as *Durovernum Cantiacorum*.

With the demise of the Roman Empire in the west Canterbury became the centre of a new Kentish Kingdom. In AD597 Canterbury became the centre of the re-introduction of Christianity to Britain with the arrival of St Augustine from Rome.

By the 9<sup>th</sup> century a new pattern of streets had been laid out on top of Roman ruins and with the murder of Thomas Becket in 1170 Canterbury became the focus for pilgrimage. The city walls were rebuilt in the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> century on the line of the Roman walls and the city and its environs continued to prosper to the present day.

The proposed development site (PDA) is located adjacent to St John's Hospital and the Canterbury UAD entry (HER Number TR 15 NE 4) is worth quoting in full:

'St Johns Hospital for the lame, weak and infirm, lies just outside the northern city walls of Canterbury, to the north-west of Northgate street. The land slopes gently down towards the River Stour and stands at elevation of between 8.75m and 7.25m above Ordnance Datum. The subsoil on the lower part of the site, consists of river-deposited gravels and mud silts (Parfitt 1990-1991). The Hospital of St John was

founded in 1084, or early 1085 by Archbishop Lanfranc as a sister establishment to the house of secular canons at St Gregory's Priory, sited opposite. St Johns was founded together with the Leper Hospital of St Nicholas at Harbledown. With the exception of the Hospital of St. Bartholomew at Chatham, no other hospital in Britain has such an early documented foundation date (Tatton-Brown 1984).

Although largely ruins, there are visible surviving remains of substantial nature, going back to foundation date, unlike the scanty remains of the afore mentioned two hospitals of the same date. Remains include ruins of a dominating dormitory block (dorter) with overall internal dimensions of some 62m (north east to south west) by 8.45m (north west to south east) originally divided between men and women, the axis parallel with the river (Parfitt (1990-1991). Joining this range at a right angle on the south side was the substantial double chapel, which still partially survives and is in use. Somner talks of the chapel being 'decently kept, wherein divine service is said, sacraments administered, and Gods word preached to them of the house' (Somner 1703). On the north west side of the main dorter range were two (one largely still intact) unique late 11th century "rere-dorters" (necessaria i.e. multi-seat privies). These were set back approx. 5m from the main dorter range. To the north west of the southern latrine block lay another substantial masonry building, perhaps the kitchen. The double nature of the buildings at St John's Hospital reflect the original wishes of the founder that it should be for both 30 men and 30 women.

After surviving some 600 years, the medieval buildings were unfortunately largely demolished in c.1684. Correspondence between Archbishop William Sancroft and the Trustees sanctioning their demolition still survives in the Tanner MS in the Bodlean Library, Oxford. Since c.1684 the inhabitants lived in little houses (rebuilt again in the nineteenth century) around a courtyard. Only one part of one aisle of the chapel and fragments of the original dormitory and privy walls on the south (now the modern kitchen and refectory) are used in the present buildings. Recent survey work however has shown that two thirds of the northern privy block survived and was divided up to combine both the male and female privies in one building, presumably in the late seventeenth or eighteenth century when the hospital had far fewer inhabitants.

For the last 300 years the ruins of Lanfranc's buildings on the north have been neglected. Lean-to sheds were built up against them and gradually the ivy took over. By 1983 the ruins were in a very poor condition and heavily overgrown. Unsightly shed and garages encumbered them on the outside as well as rubbish and compost heaps, and an 'Anderson' shelter. Despite being largely buried in ivy, the northern privy building was still intact and housed two sheds (the uncovered northern end had been a bottle and rubbish dump). A survey of this building carried out early in 1984 by the Canterbury Archaeological Trust showed it still had elements of its medieval roof as well as all its late 11th century windows with wooden lintels. also about 900 years old) and parts of the seating for the floor above the original drain. This drain, which still has its four original round headed arches on the north-west, ran into the River Stour (channels from both privy buildings survived until the late nineteenth century and are shown on the 1874 Ordnance Survey 1:500 map of Canterbury. The north rere-dorter was constructed as an integral part of the hospital complex. Initially a large rectangular pit 3m deep was cut into underlying river silts (to depth of approx. 5.4mOD) a little to the north west of the main dormitory range. Then lined with solid masonry on 3 sides. On the fourth, north western side, a series of five round headed arches, each some 2m in height and 1.4m wide were built (Parfitt 1990-1991 p21).

Above ground remains survive of all buildings except for the kitchen block, first revealed by excavations in 1990. Much of the ruins of the great dormitory building also survive on the north (a first floor was inserted in the later medieval period). Here too, uniquely early features survive including a corner spiral stair-turret, one complete first floor window and an original doorway, also containing original timber lintels that support a 'tympalum' area.

Occupation extending as far back as the roman period has been recorded within the grounds of the hospital. Roman pottery has been retrieved from the ground lying north-west of the hospital complex (Canterbury's Archaeology 1989-90 p20-22). Cartographic evidence suggests that houses flanked both sides of Northgate street in the late and post-medieval periods (the ruins have been made County Ancient monument No.382)'.



The Ordnance Survey map of 1873 shows for the first time buildings on the PDA which include the Methodist (Primitive) Chapel, the British School opposite, and terraced housing running along St John's Place (Figure 5).

By 1898 the OS map shows the Methodist Chapel is now a school and the north-west facade has been rebuilt and the school opposite extended (Figure 6).

The 1907 OS map shows no change on the PDA but the school opposite has been demolished and rebuilt as two schools, one set back from St John's Place (Figure 7).

By 1955 the gardens of St John's Hospital have given way to large rectangular greenhouses-St John's Nursery. The strip of land running down from the PDA to the River Stour has now a number of buildings on it including one inside the PDA. The schools opposite are now named- Kingsmead County Primary Infants School and Kingsmead County Primary Junior School (Figure 9). The OS maps of 1988 and 1992 show little change apart from the development of Kings Mews (Figures 9, 10).

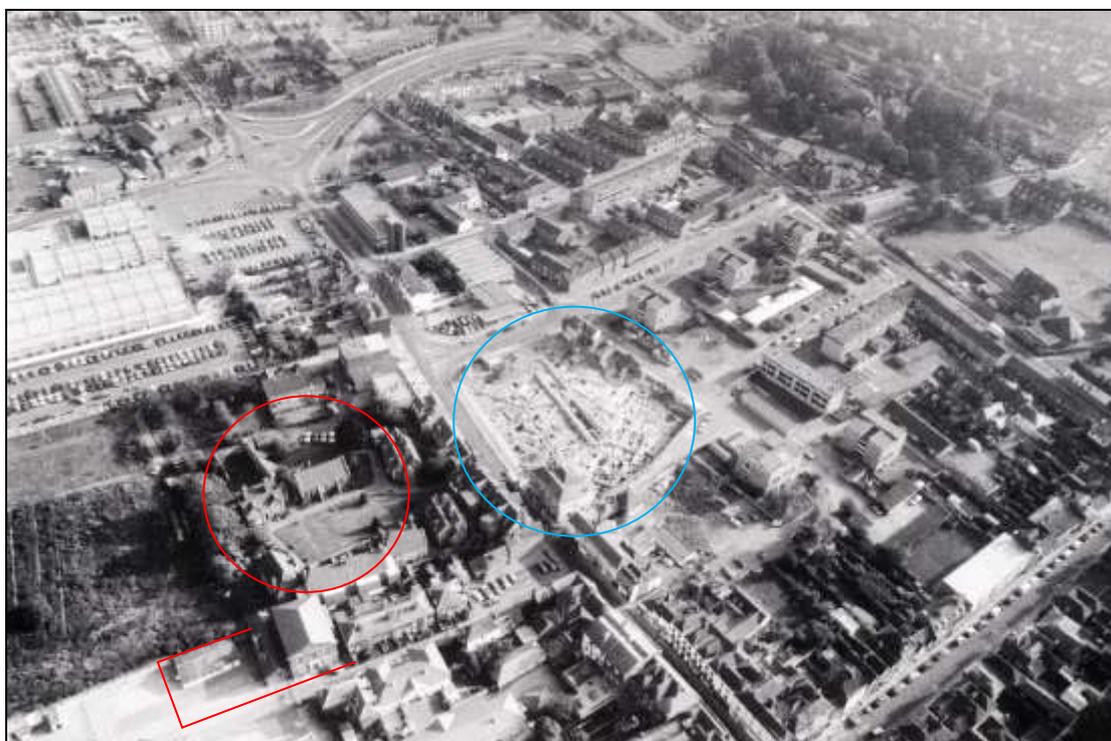


Plate 12. Showing the PDA (red box) and excavations at St Gregory's Priory (blue circle).  
St John's Hospital (red circle)

### **1.3 Aerial Photographs**

Google Earth provided a 1940, 1960 and 2013 location aerial photograph of the PDA (Plates 9-12). In addition an aerial photograph of excavations at St Gregory's Priory in 'Canterbury's Archaeology 1989-90' by Canterbury Archaeological Trust (Plate 12) show with some clarity the location of the PDA in close proximity to St John's Hospital. The 1940 photograph shows the Methodist Hall but no buildings to the west but the 1960 photograph shows the 'temporary' classroom as does the 2013 photograph.

### **1.4 Archaeological investigations and finds**

Of particular interest are two excavations conducted in the vicinity of the PDA. The first in January 1986:

*ECA8177: An evaluation was commissioned by Ansley Abott Homes Ltd in advance of a proposed housing development on a parcel of open ground (formerly a small allotment fronting onto St John's Place). The evaluation was undertaken in January 1986 and the site code was SJP86. A trench was excavated measuring 11.00m long by 2.00m wide and aligned east-west. A sequence of deposits was removed to the level of natural brickearth and gravel (total depth was 1.80m). The top 1.10m of material consisted of layers of loam dumped in the eighteenth or nineteenth centuries and interpreted as material to raise the ground level well above the water table or resulting from considerable building activity. Below this deposit was a well-defined medieval horizon containing worn and abraded pottery sherds dating from the thirteenth to fifteenth centuries. It was inferred from this evidence that the soils had been cultivated in the medieval period and that it was likely that the area had been under arable cultivation throughout the middle ages. Below this horizon, the lowest soil horizon above natural was exposed: this contained considerable quantities of Roman pottery and building materials, as well as two shallow rubbish pits and a gully or ditch. Although no structural remains were discovered, it was suggested that, based on previous archaeological work in the vicinity and the Roman debris recovered from the evaluation excavation, the site lay on the fringe of a Roman cemetery or perhaps near to a Roman building.*

*ECA8260: A watching brief was carried out during the excavation of wall foundations for houses being built as part of a housing development on open land (formerly a small allotment) fronting onto St John's Place. The watching brief was undertaken following the archaeological evaluation of the proposed housing development area but no further archaeological features were discovered. <ref 167>*

(Cummings R. pers corres and Figure 13).

In addition an entry in the Canterbury Archaeological Trust year book of 1985-6 writing on the same site:

*Although no structural remains were located, the quantities of Roman debris recovered from the lowest soil horizon, together with a known Roman burial discovered during the construction of Kingsmead School in the immediate vicinity, strongly suggest that the site lies on the fringes of a Roman cemetery and perhaps a Roman building (CAT Annual Report 1985-6: 11).*

Alison Hicks writing on investigations just to the north of the PDA in 1996 inside the St John's Hospital area suggests that the area in the Roman period was a flood plain with alluvial deposits at 1.35-1.40m OD and covered by dumped material into the open, perhaps boggy ground. These trenches are about 10m north of the PDA (Hicks A. 1996: 1-2).

Monuments and finds in the near vicinity include Roman flood defence ditches found during the Hicks evaluation at the adjacent St John's Hospital (TR 15 NE 420-424). St John's Hospital itself (TR 15 NE 532). The extensive medieval remains in Northgate and at St Gregory's Priory. The known Roman road is to the east of the PDA.

## **2. Introduction**

The Desk-Based Assessment was commissioned by Shubunkin Ltd in order to supplement a planning application for the development of the site at St John's Place. Canterbury City Council has indicated it will require an Archaeological Desk-based Assessment Report to clarify the extent of known archaeology on the development site and its environs as part of the planning process.

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)

The purpose of a desk-based assessment is to gain an understanding of the historic environment resource in order to formulate as required:

- 1. an assessment of the potential for heritage assets to survive within the area of study.*
- 2. an assessment of the significance of the known or predicted heritage assets considering, in England, their archaeological, historic, architectural and artistic interests*
- 3. strategies for further evaluation whether or not intrusive, where the nature, extent or significance of the resource is not sufficiently well defined*
- 4. an assessment of the impact of proposed development or other land use changes on the significance of the heritage assets and their settings*
- 5. strategies to conserve the significance of heritage assets, and their settings*
- 6. design strategies to ensure new development makes a positive contribution to the character and local distinctiveness of the historic environment and local place-shaping*

*7. proposals for further archaeological investigation within a programme of research, whether undertaken in response to a threat or not.*

(CIfA 2014)

## **2.1 INTRODUCTION**

### **Planning Background**

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

12. Conserving and enhancing the historic environment

12.6. 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.

12.8. 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.

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 its 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”.

#### Local Policy

The relevant Canterbury District Local Plan (Canterbury Council draft 2014) policies are 9.1-3 (Scheduled Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites).

#### Regional Policy

The South-East Research Framework (SERF) is ongoing 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 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.

## **2.2 The Proposed Development**

The proposed development will comprise of a planning application for demolition of temporary classrooms and the new build of terraced housing. In addition the adjacent listed building (St John's Board School 1876) is to be converted to residential use.

## **2.3 Project Constraints**

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

## **2.4 Geology and Topography**

The Geological Survey of Great Britain (1:50,000) has been consulted and shows that the proposed development site (PDA) is situated within the floodplain of the River Great Stour on alluvial deposits. Natural gravel deposits are likely to underlie any archaeological horizon as indicated in recent nearby archaeological excavations.

The bedrock is shown as Thanet Formation of Sand, Silt and Clay.

The PDA itself is located on the north side of St John's Place and to the west of Northgate. The average OD height of the PDA is 08.00mAOD.

# **3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

## **3.1 Introduction**

The Desk-Based Assessment was commissioned by Shubunkin Ltd in order to supplement a planning application for the development of land at St John's Place, Canterbury in Kent.

## **4 METHODOLOGY**

### **4.1 Desk-Based Assessment**

#### *4.1.1 Archaeological databases*

The local Historic Environment Record (HER) held at Kent County Council was consulted but because of the plethora of sites and finds in this part of Canterbury only monuments, sites and finds within a 75m radius of the proposed development area (PDA) of the PDA have been researched. The Historic England Online Listing was also sourced:

<https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/> and also the Portable Antiquities Scheme at [www.finds.org.uk](http://www.finds.org.uk)

#### *4.1.2 Historical documents*

Historical documents, such as charters, registers, wills and deeds etc were not relevant to this specific study. However, historic maps were consulted.

#### *4.1.3 Cartographic and pictorial documents*

A limited map regression exercise was undertaken for this assessment. Research was carried out using the Internet plus Ordnance Survey Historical mapping (Figs. 5-10).

#### *4.1.4 Aerial photographs*

The study of aerial photographs held by Google Earth was consulted with some success (Plates 9-11).

#### *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**

5.1.1 The archaeological record for Canterbury is recognised as a major archaeological resource of international importance. Archaeological investigations suggest that Prehistoric activity and Bronze Age settlement have been found in Canterbury and its immediate surrounds. In the adjacent allotment to the PDA a broken Palaeolithic hand axe was recovered (TR 15 NE 1132).

Prehistoric Iron Age settlement has been found on the banks of the Stour and the area of Northgate close to the PDA is thought to have been water meadows.

In 1987 excavation in St Radigund's Street frontage found Iron Age field boundaries, quarries and a trackway (ECA 8737).

5.1.2 The Romans built a tribal town and capital (Durovernum Cantiacorum) at the crossing point of the River Stour of the Roman road now called Watling Street. Northgate Street, close to the PDA was the Roman road to Reculver and the Island of Thanet. Some extra-mural activity is known outside the Roman walled town in the Northgate area at Duck Lane just south of the PDA where 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> century pits,

area of gravel cobbling and drainage gullies have been found (MCA 2176., MKE 15990).

5.1.3 The early medieval period is attested by excavation finds of Saxon pits and two possible sunken huts just south of the PDA at the Chantry Court site (ECA 8737). By 1085 St John's Hospital at Northgate had been established by Lanfranc Archbishop of Canterbury. The remains include the flint walls of the original hospital, the Tudor gatehouse, and 19<sup>th</sup> century guest houses.

By the end of the medieval period most the religious establishments in Canterbury had been closed including the adjacent Priory of St Gregory the Great. Without the priests to look after the 80 odd inmates of St John's Hospital it fell into disrepair.

5.1.4 By the 19<sup>th</sup> century a 'British School' had been established in St John's Place and opposite the proposed development whilst part of the proposed development site is located near the Methodist Chapel (Primitive) and in 1876 became part of St John's Board School (Figs. 5-10).

The following 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. Time scales for archaeological periods represented in the report are listed on page 17 in Table 1.

### **5.3 Scheduled Monuments, Listed Buildings Historic Parks & Gardens and Conservation Areas**

The PDA is located next to the St John the Baptist SAM and HPG and also adjacent to the Canterbury City World Heritage Site Buffer, and is within the Canterbury City Council Conservation Area (Fig. 12). There are numerous listed buildings fronting Northgate to the east of the PDA.

### **5.3 Prehistoric (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. Evidence of prehistoric settlement within the county of Kent can be dated back to the Palaeolithic period and can be found around the River Gravels of the Thames and the Greater Stour.

Within the Assessment Area a possible Palaeolithic hand axe was found in the Northgate Allotments some 75m south-west of the PDA (TR 15 NE 1132).

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.

### **5.4 Iron Age**

The Iron Age is, by definition a period of established rural farming communities with extensive field systems and large 'urban' centres and hillforts. That there was an Iron Age presence at Canterbury there is no doubt. However, no monuments or find spots are to found in the assessment area.

### **5.5 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 Roman town of Canterbury is the largest walled Roman town in Kent and as can be expected has revealed extensive remains from that period. In addition a major Roman road is located about 75m to the east of the PDA with a likelihood that Roman cemeteries may survive in or close to the PDA (A Roman burial was recovered from the nearby Kingsmead School 10m from the PDA). Archaeological investigation

20m to the north-west of the PDA revealed possible Roman flood defence ditches parallel to the River Stour (TR 15 NE 420-424).

### **5.6 Anglo-Saxon**

The Late Anglo-Saxon period is possibly represented by finds from the Priory of St Gregory's about 350m to the east.

### **5.7 Medieval**

The medieval period is represented within the assessment area by the Priory of St Gregory's and St John's Hospital (TR 15 NE 532).

### **5.8 Post-Medieval**

The Post Medieval period within the assessment area is represented by an archaeological evaluation in 1996 in Northgate Car Park which revealed a number of rubbish pits and a stone lined cess pit. Two walls were also uncovered with two chalk floors covered in occupation debris (TR 76 NW 263).

### **5.9 Modern**

Modern archaeology within the assessment area has been limited to remains from the establishment of the various schools in the vicinity of the PDA- St John's Board School of 1876 (TR 15 NE 728). Second World War air raid shelters and the Canterbury Fortress Inner Perimeter Defences located in the school yard immediately adjacent to the PDA (TR 15 NE 899).

## **6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL**

### **6.1 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 is therefore considered **low**.

### **6.2 Iron Age**

The potential for finding remains dating to the Iron Age within the confines of the development site is also considered **low**.

### **6.3 Romano-British**

The potential for Romano-British archaeology is considered to be **medium**.

### **6.4 Anglo-Saxon**

The potential for finding remains dating to the Anglo-Saxon period on the development site are considered as **medium**.

### **6.5 Medieval**

The potential for finding remains dating to the medieval period are considered as **high**.

### **6.6 Post-Medieval and Modern**

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

## **7 IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

### **7.1 Existing Impacts**

The search area is for the most part, has been subject to rural activity. The map regression exercise has shown little historical development in the area to be developed. Two archaeological investigations in the vicinity of the PDA have shown that the archaeological horizon was about 1.10-1.80m below ground level. A sequence of deposits indicate that the natural geology of brickearth and gravel was overlain by a Roman horizon of dumped building material and pottery overlaid by medieval cultivated soil overlaid by layers of loam dumped in the 18<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. The existing impact on the PDA is likely to be **low**.

## 7.2 Proposed Impacts

At the time of preparing this archaeological assessment, the extent of the proposed development was the demolition of the concrete classrooms and the refurbishment of the adjacent Methodist Chapel with the new build of terraced housing on the area of tarmac and concrete buildings adjacent to the Methodist Chapel. Extensive impact is to be expected within the development area once construction begins. The excavation of footings and the installation of services will be the main cause of this impact and it is therefore considered as **high**. However, following on from an archaeological evaluation the design of the foundations of the new build terraced housing may be considered as a ring beam/concrete slab construction with less impact on the postulated archaeological resource.

## 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 maybe 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.

It is recommended in this case that further archaeological assessment will be required and that an Archaeological Evaluation should be carried out to a specification approved by the Canterbury City Council Archaeological Officer on the areas that will be impacted on by the proposed development. This will provide an additional assessment of the nature; depth and level of survival of any archaeological deposits present within the extents of the proposed development site and used to inform Canterbury City Council Archaeological Officer if further mitigation is necessary.

## **9 OTHER CONSIDERATIONS**

### **9.1 Archive**

Subject to any contractual requirements on confidentiality, two copies of this desk-based assessment will be submitted to Canterbury City Council Archaeological Officer and 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**

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## **10 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

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Paul Wilkinson PhD., MCifA., FRSA.

30/09/2015 (Revised 05/11/2015)

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Kent County Council Historic Environment Record:

<http://www.kent.gov.uk/ExploringKentsPast/advancedsearch.aspx>

National Monument Records: <http://www.pastscape.org.uk/>

Plates



Plate 1. View looking east



Plate 2. View looking east

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Plate 3. View to the north-west (site inside heras fencing)



Plate 4. View of PDA looking north-west



Plate 5. View of PDA looking north-east



Plate 6. View of PDA looking north-west



Plate 7. View of PDA looking north-east



Plate 8. View of PDA looking NNE



Plate 9. GoogleEarth 1940

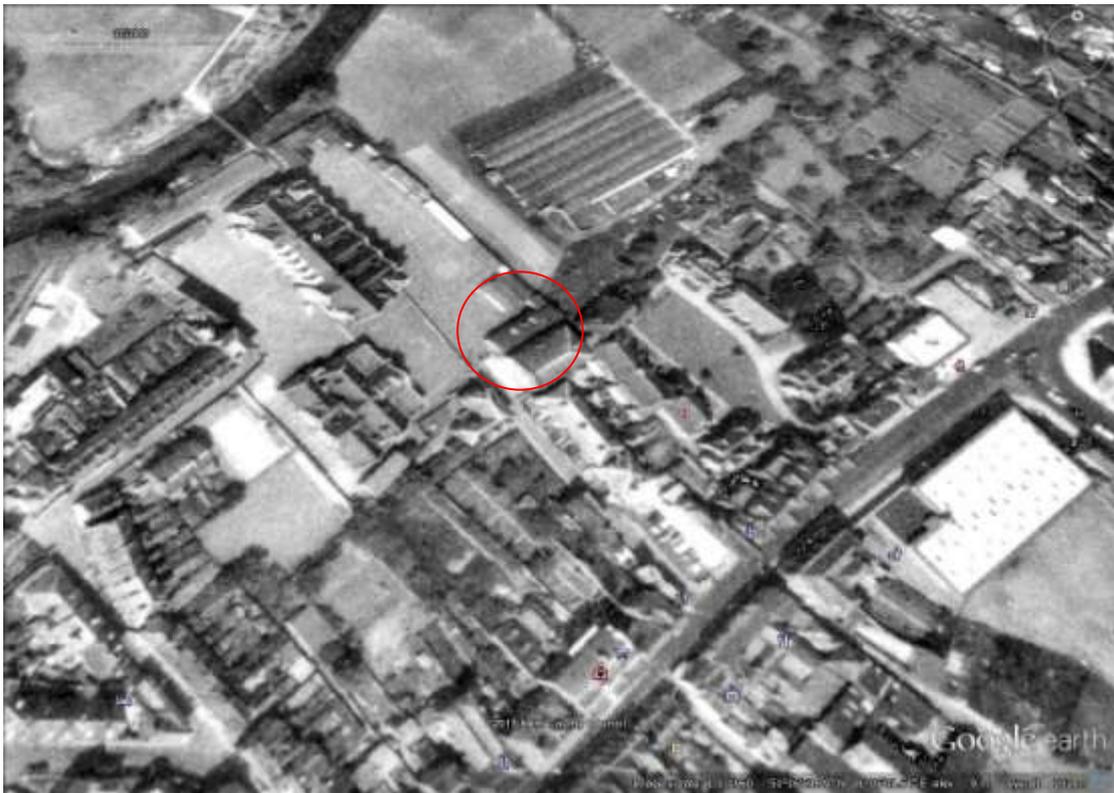


Plate 10. GoogleEarth 1960



Plate 11. GoogleEarth 2013

FIGURES

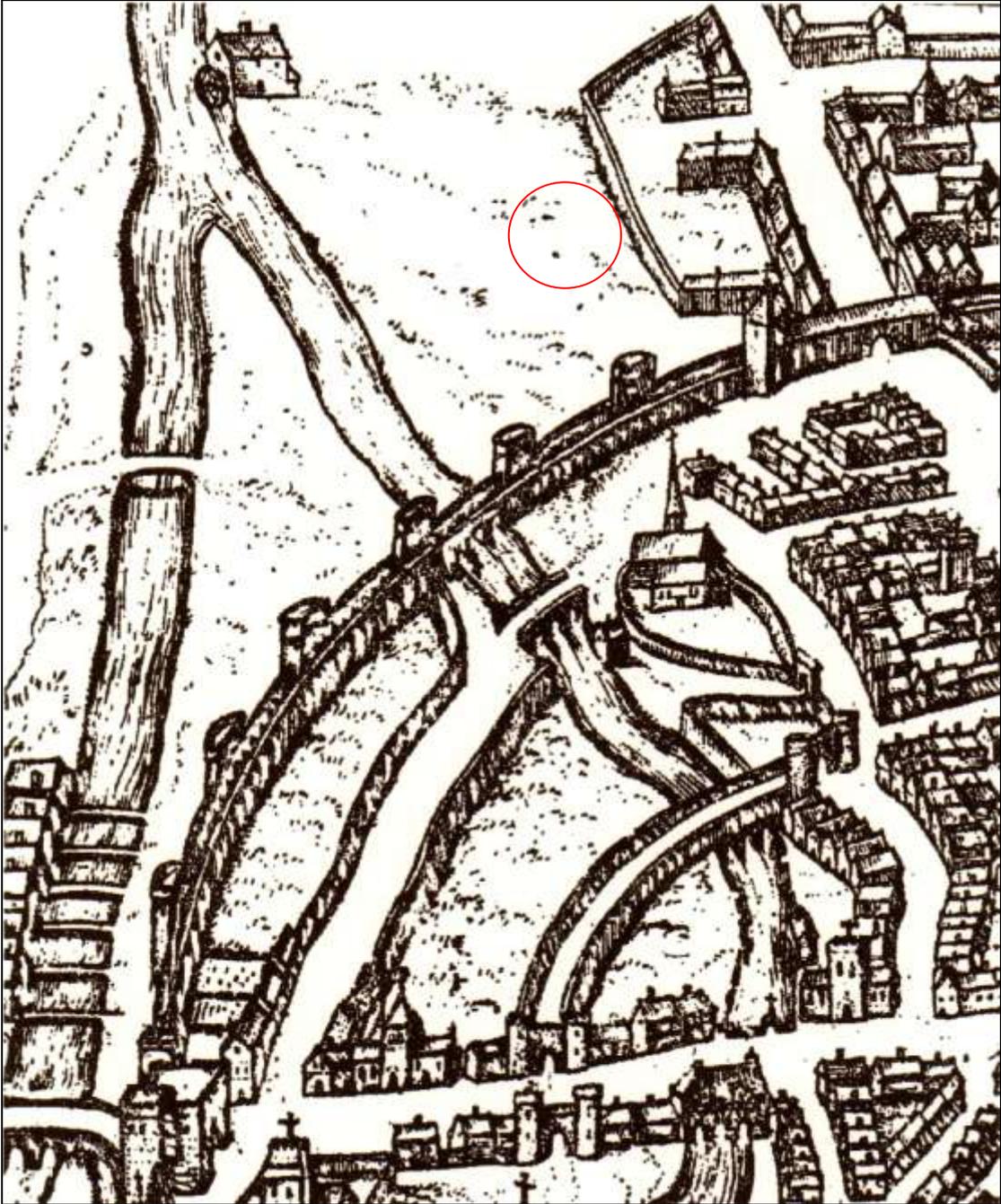


Figure 1. View of 1588 map



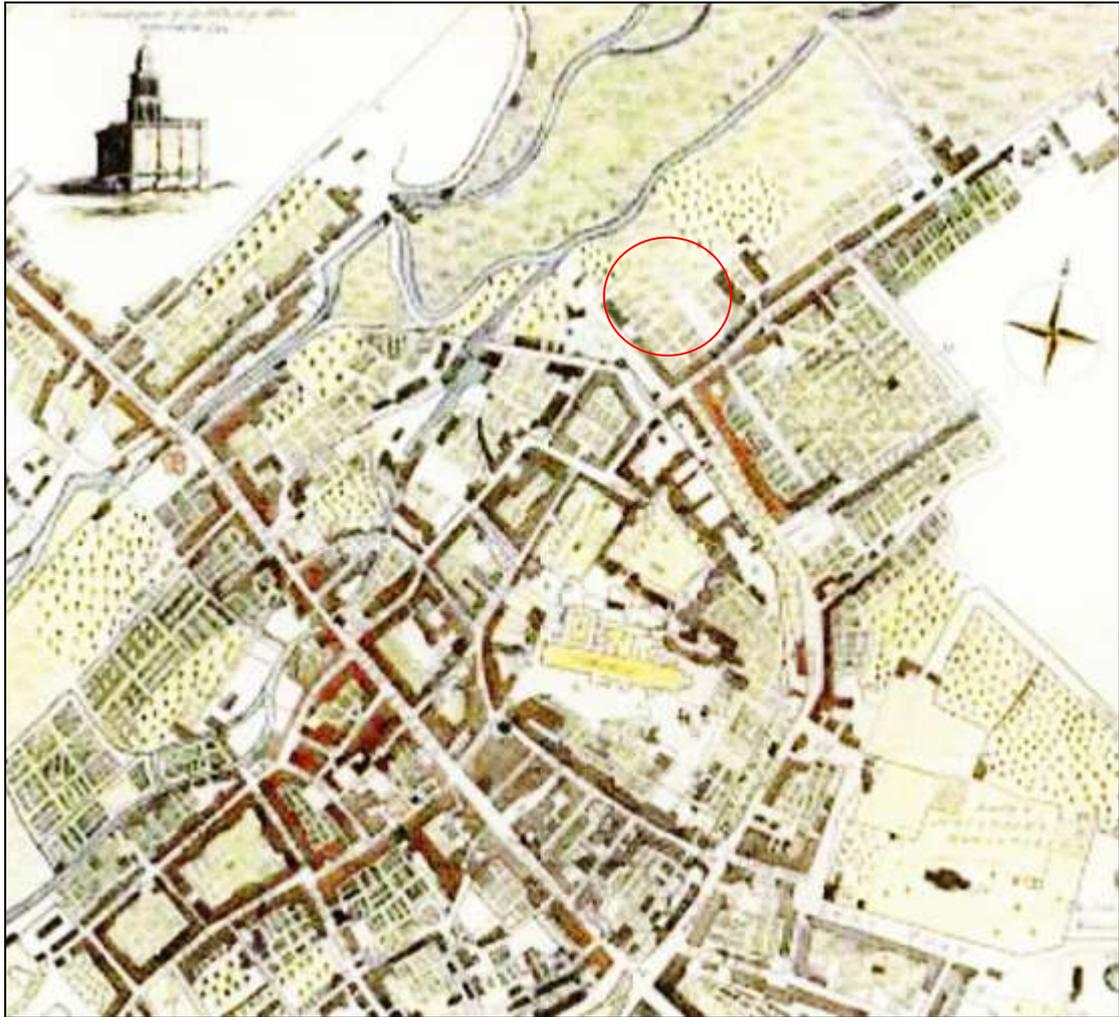


Figure 4. View of 1825 map

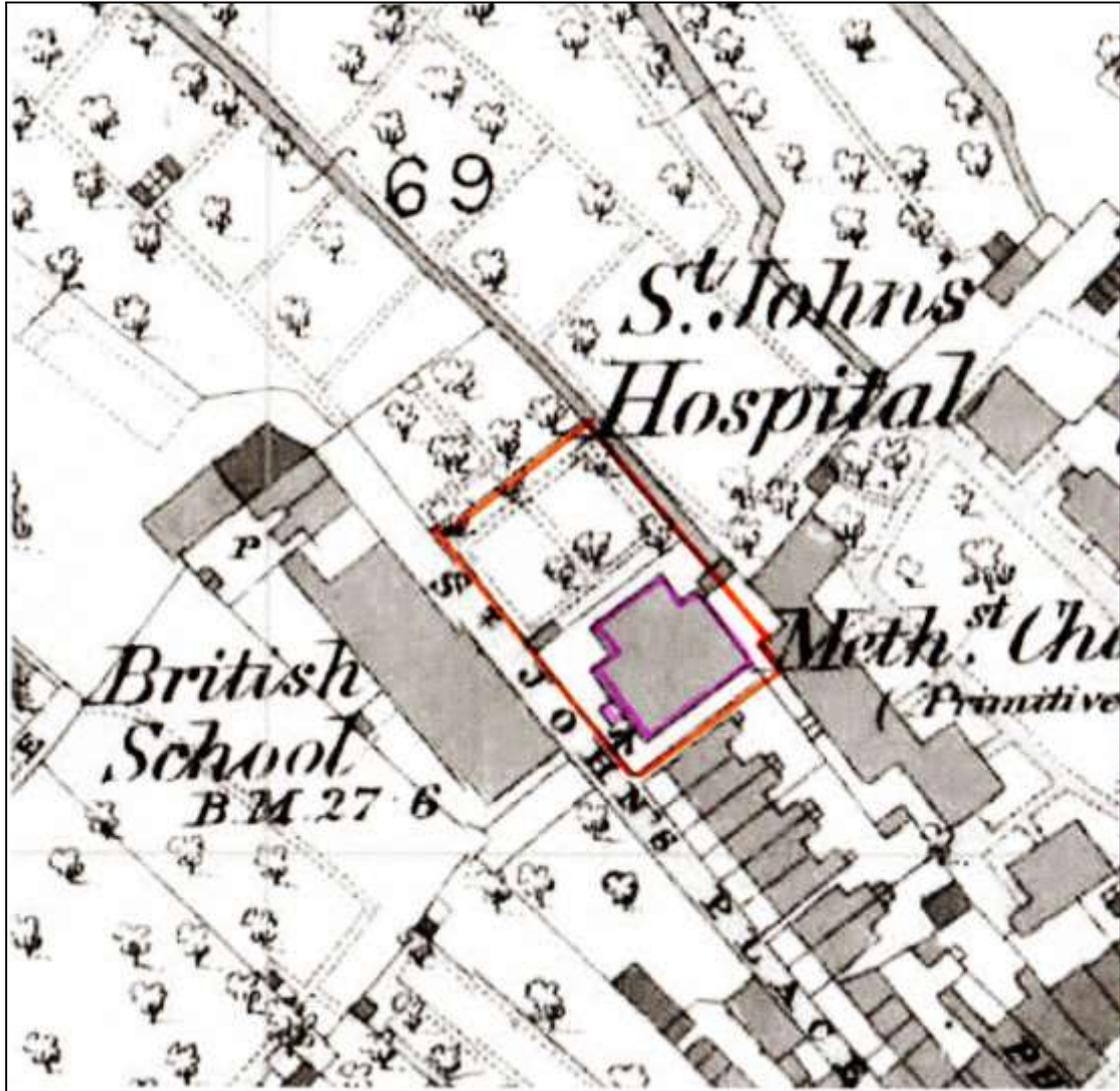


Figure 5. View of 1873 OS map. PDA inside orange line (Methodist Chapel highlighted in colour)

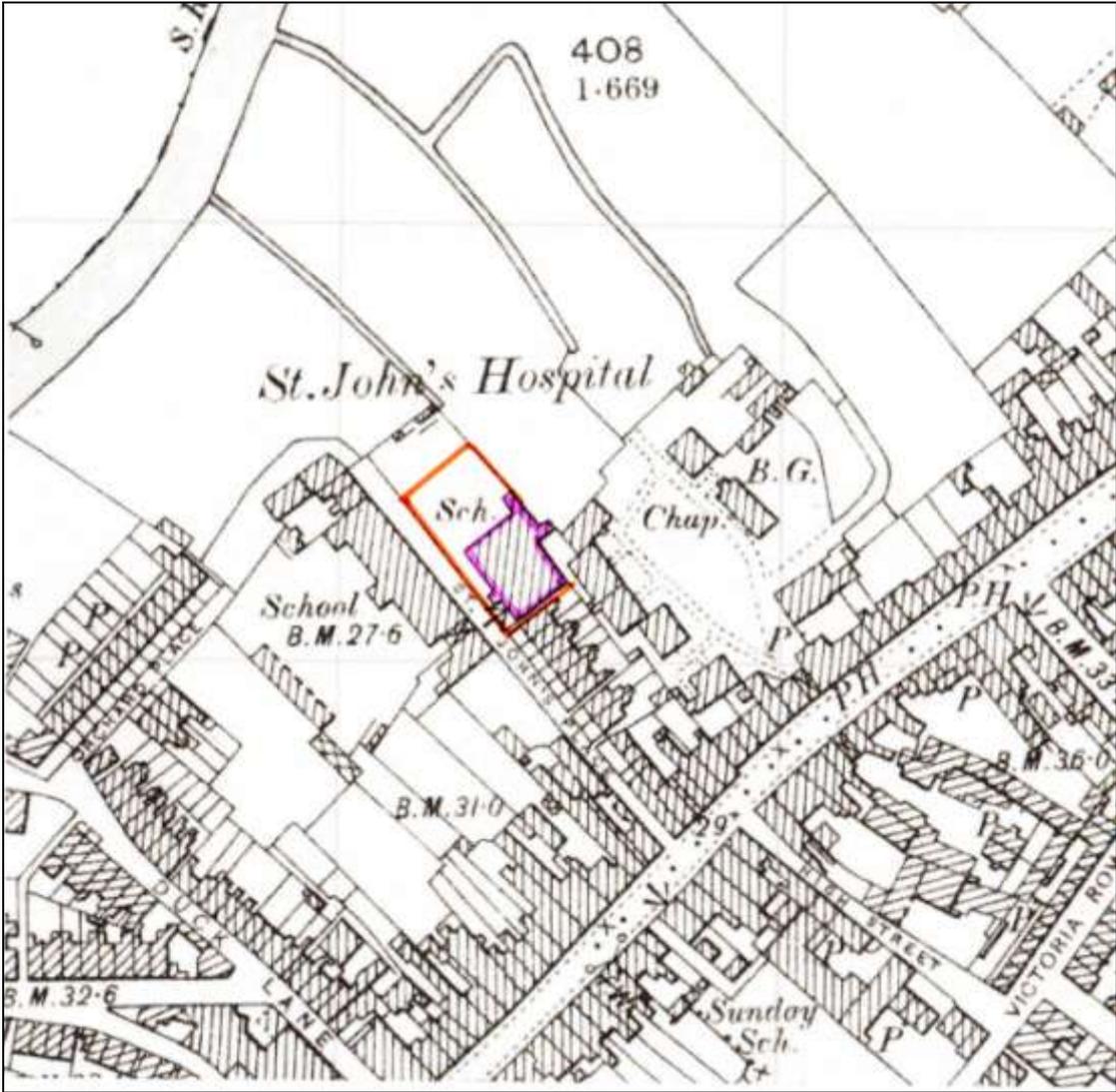


Figure 6. View of 1898 OS map

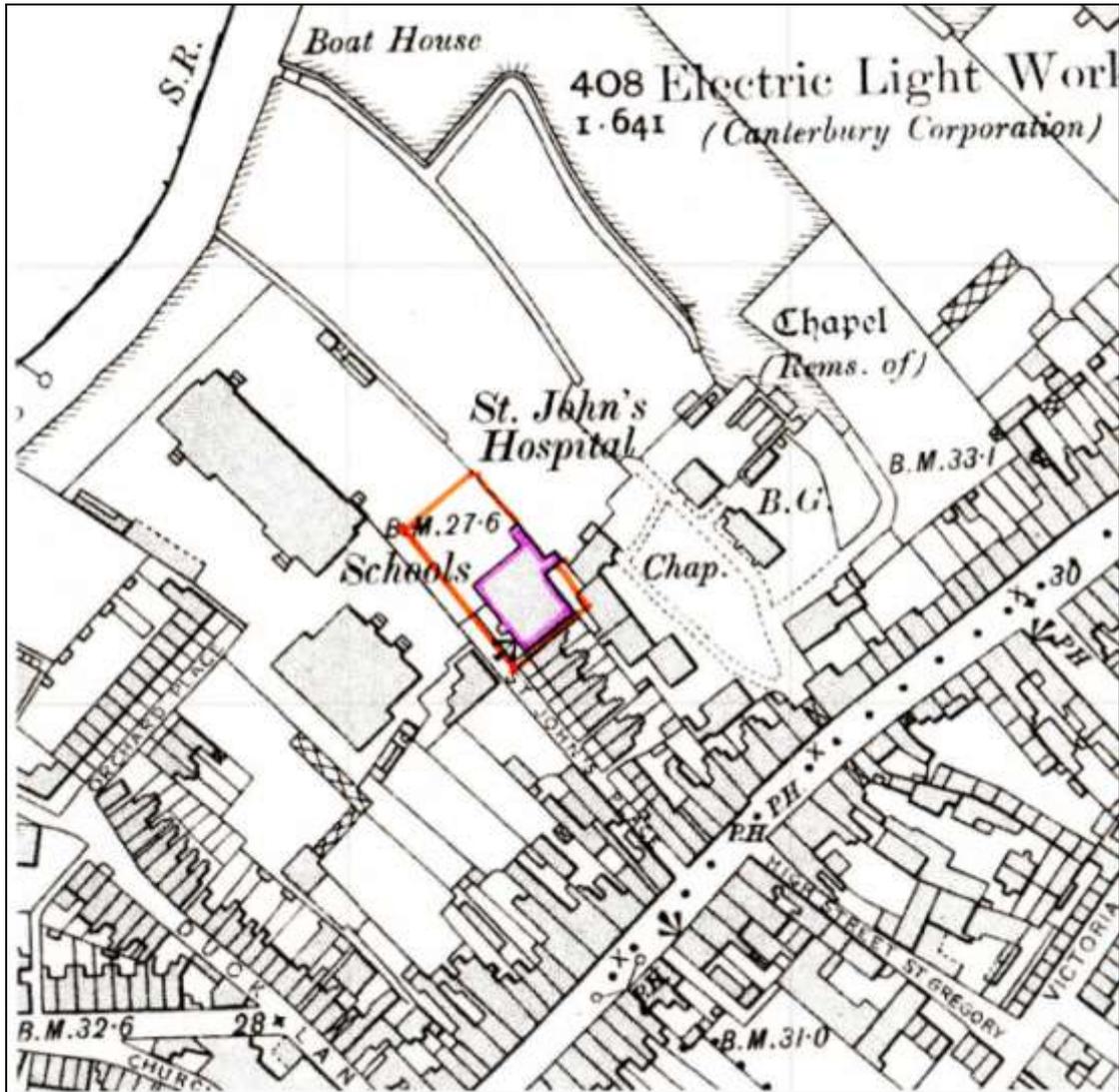


Figure 7. View of 1907 OS map

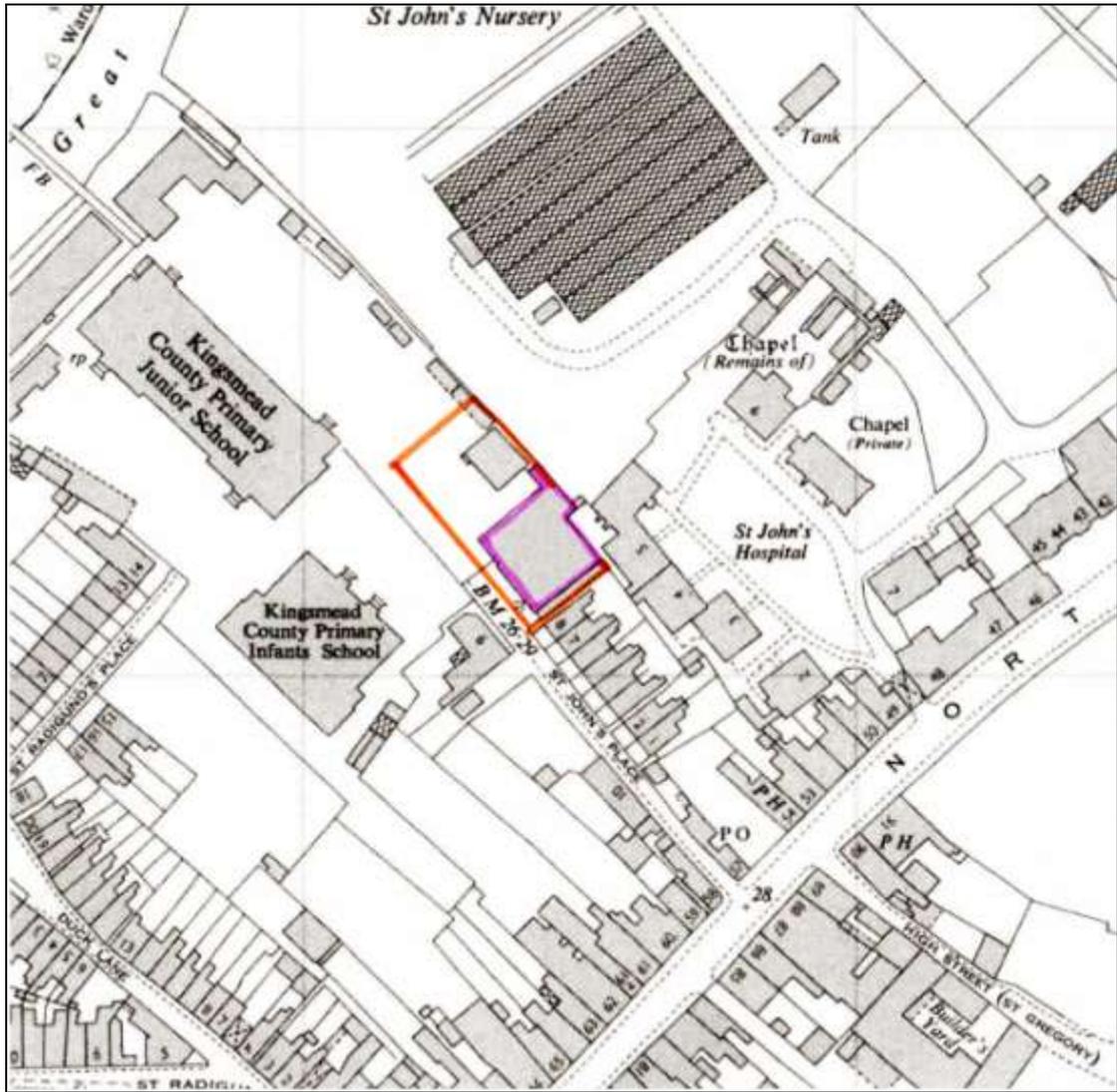


Figure 8. View of 1955 OS map

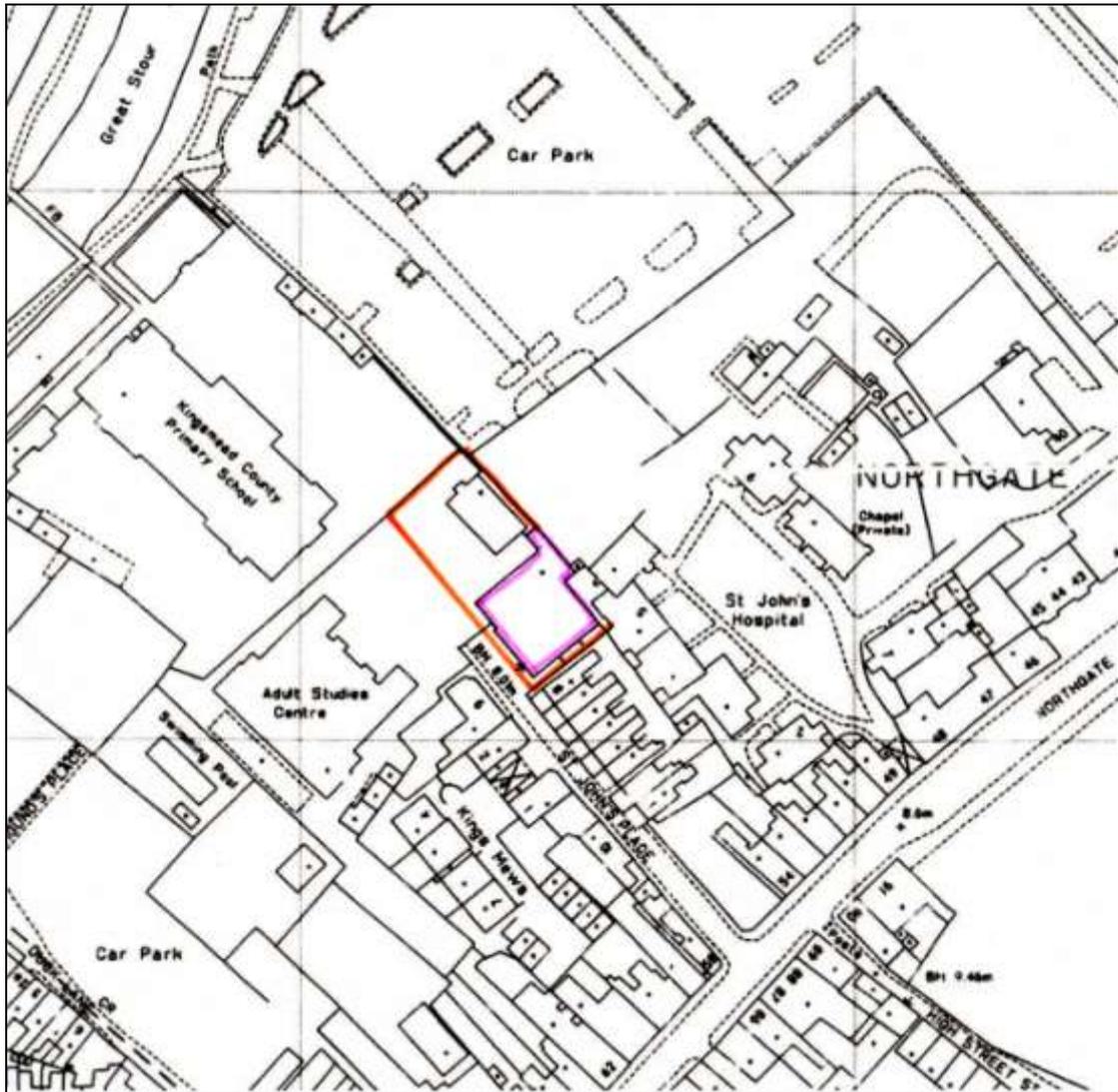


Figure 9. View of 1988 OS map

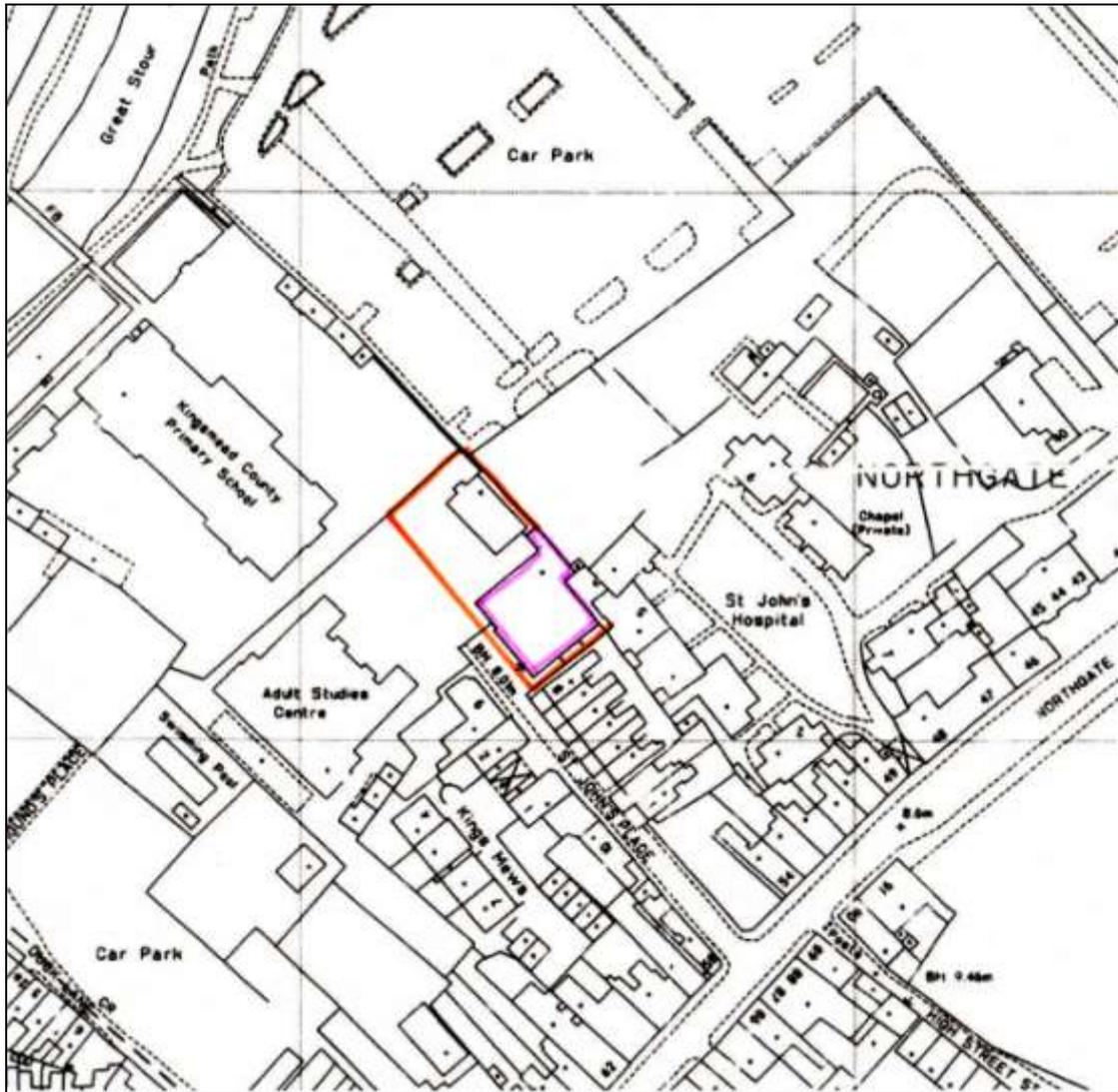
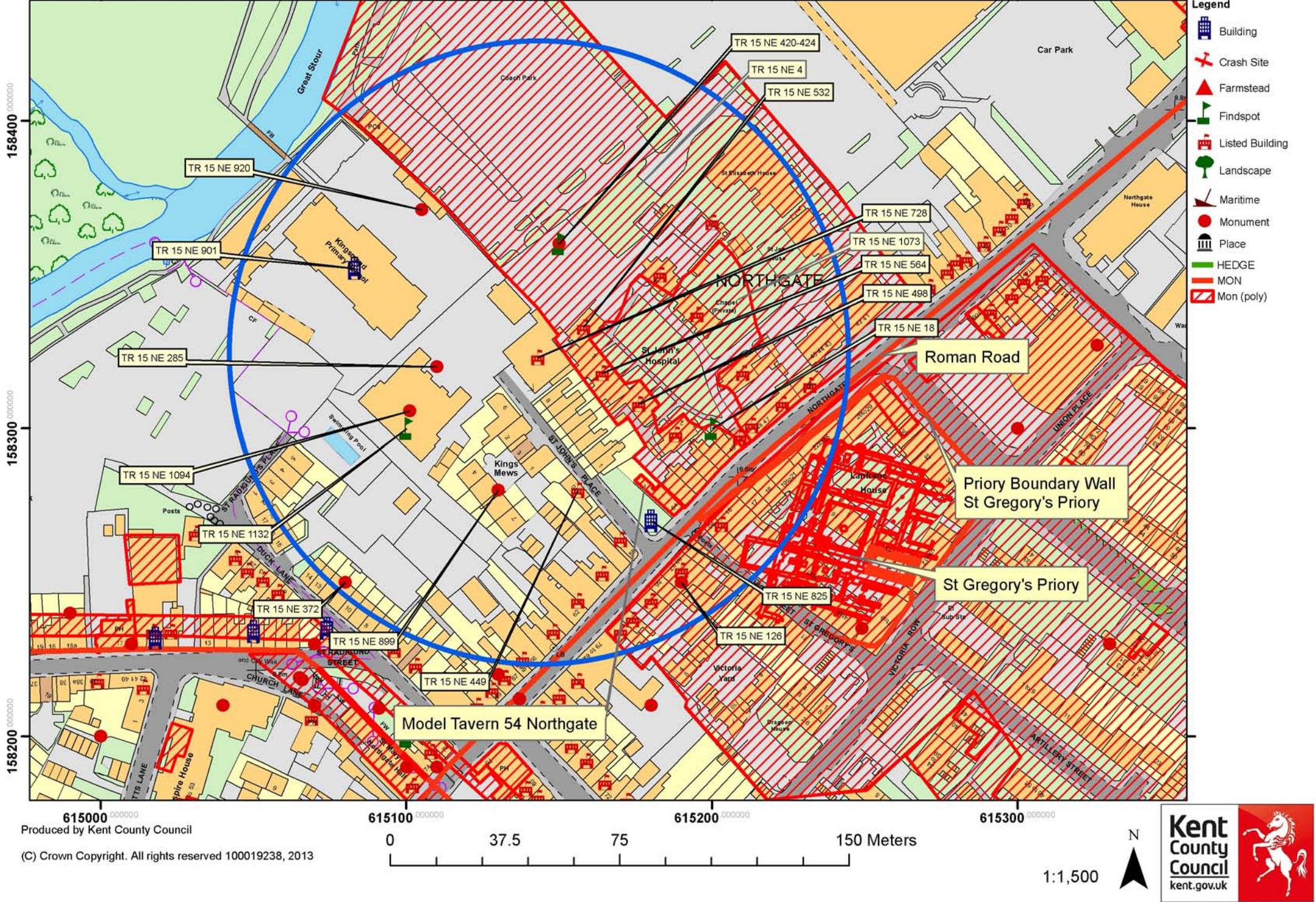
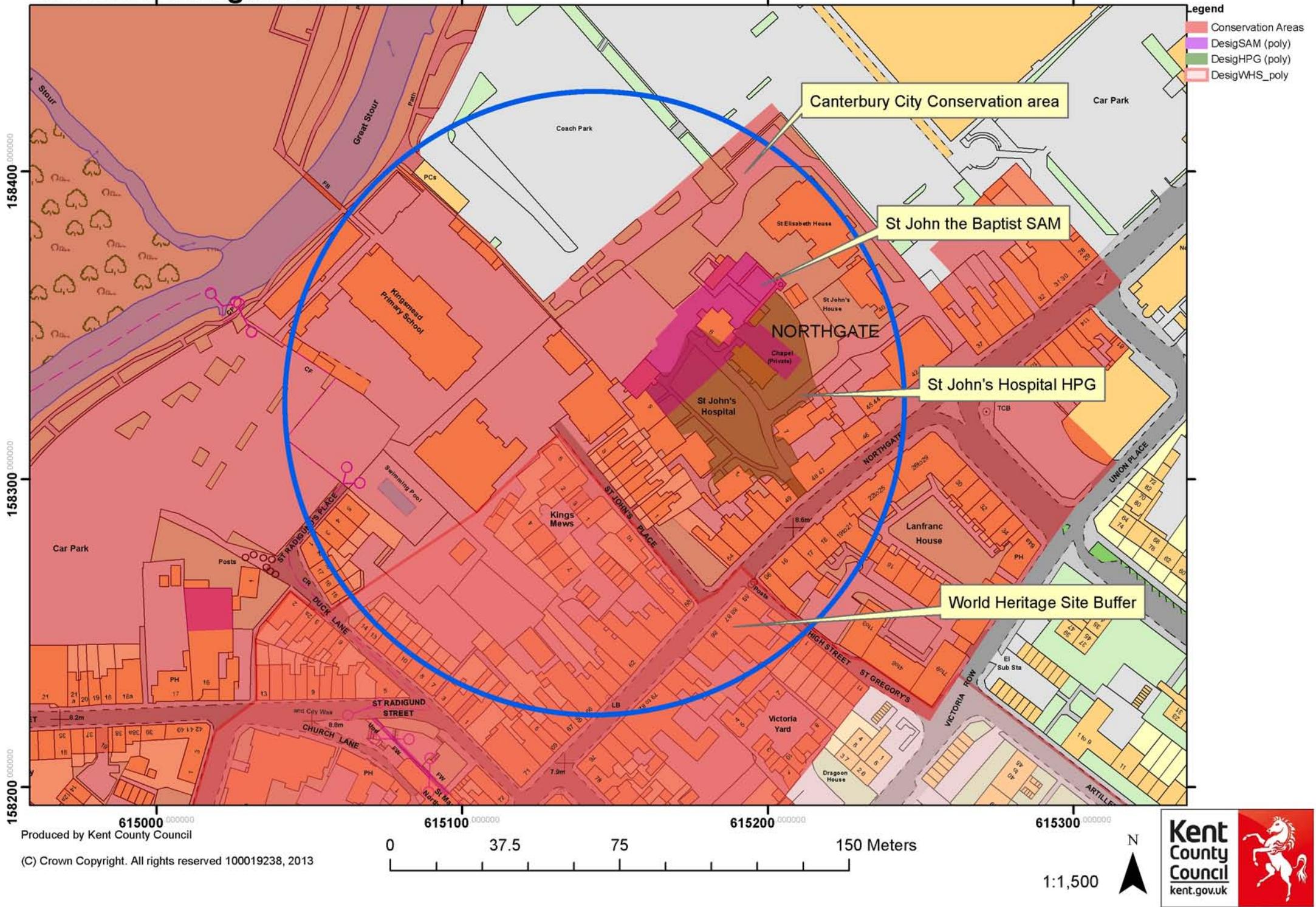


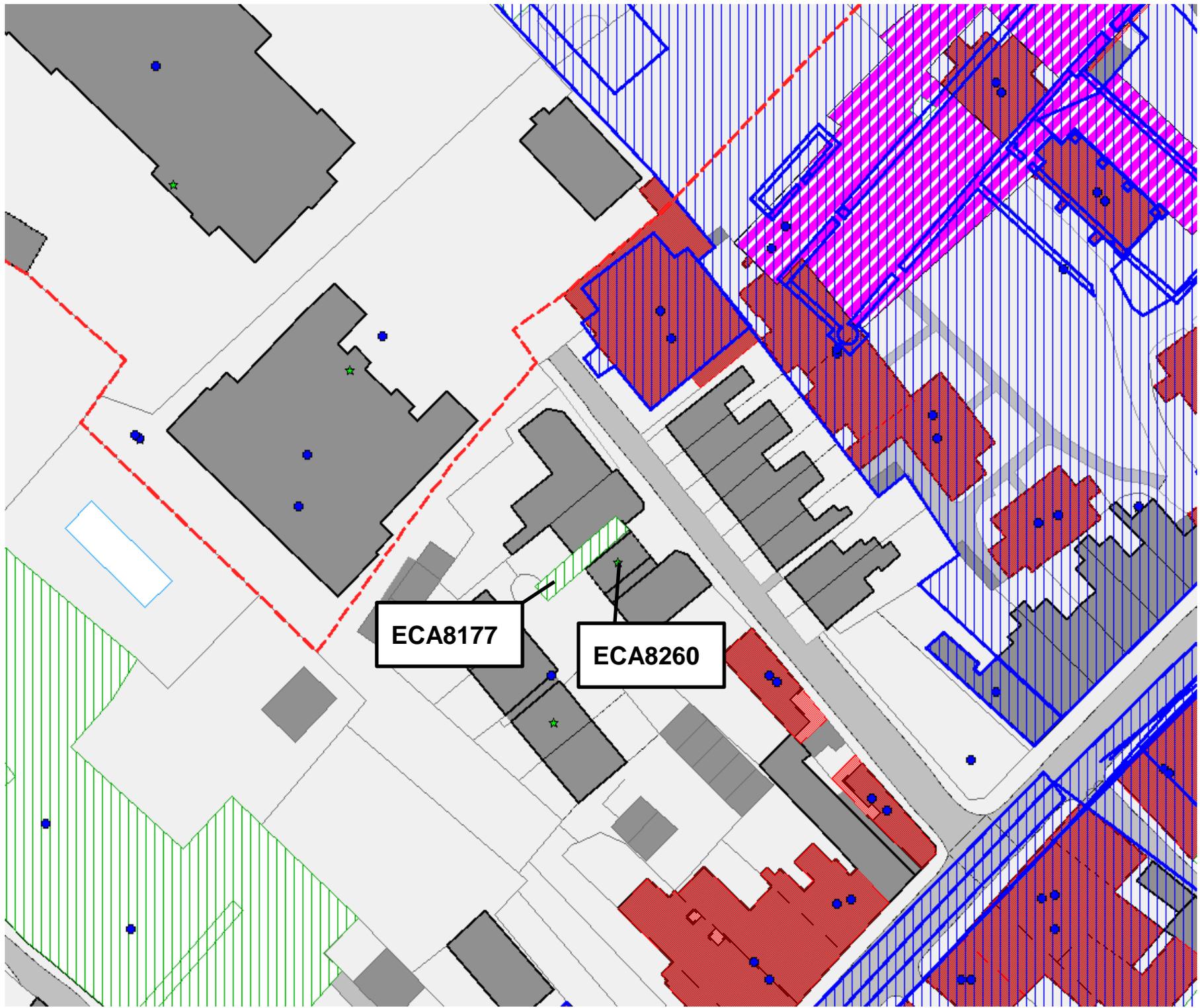
Figure 10. View of 1992 OS map

# St John's



# St John's designations





ECA8177

ECA8260