



Old County Hall, Truro, Cornwall

Archaeological assessment



Historic Environment Projects

Old County Hall, Truro, Cornwall

Archaeological assessment

| | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Client | PBWC Ltd |
| Report Number | 2012R084 |
| Date | November 2012 |
| Status | Final |
| Report author(s) | Graeme Kirkham MA MIfA |
| Checked by | Andy Jones PhD |
| Approved by | Andy Jones PhD |

Historic Environment, Cornwall Council

Kennall Building, Old County Hall, Station Road, Truro, Cornwall, TR1 3AY

tel (01872) 323603 fax (01872) 323811 E-mail hes@cornwall.gov.uk

www.cornwall.gov.uk

Acknowledgements

This study was commissioned by Mr Paul Perry of PBWC Ltd and carried out by Historic Environment Projects, Cornwall Council.

The Project Manager was Andy Jones PhD. Thanks to Jane Powning, Historic Environment Record, for help with finding the historic photograph and other information.

The views and recommendations expressed in this report are those of Historic Environment Projects and are presented in good faith on the basis of professional judgement and on information currently available.

Freedom of Information Act

As Cornwall Council is a public authority it is subject to the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, which came into effect from 1st January 2005.



Historic Environment, Cornwall Council is a Registered Organisation with the
Institute for Archaeologists

Cover illustration

Undated photograph of Old County Hall (courtesy Cornish Studies Library, Redruth).

© Cornwall Council 2012

No part of this document may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means without the prior permission of the publisher.

Contents

| | | |
|-----------|--|-----------|
| 1 | Summary | 1 |
| 2 | Introduction | 3 |
| 2.1 | Project background | 3 |
| 2.2 | Aims | 3 |
| 2.2.1 | Key objective | 3 |
| 2.3 | Methods | 3 |
| 2.3.1 | Desk-study | 3 |
| 2.3.2 | Assessment report | 3 |
| 3 | Location and setting | 4 |
| 4 | Description of the historic environment resource | 4 |
| 4.1 | Historic and archaeological background | 4 |
| 4.1.1 | Bronze Age metalwork find (HER PRN 18879) | 4 |
| 4.1.2 | Possible late prehistoric – Romano-British enclosure (PRN 18885-7) | 5 |
| 4.1.3 | Medieval chapel and lazar house (PRN 18889-90) | 5 |
| 4.2 | Historic development of the project area | 6 |
| 4.3 | Landscape character | 7 |
| 4.4 | Identified sites within the project area | 8 |
| 4.5 | Potential survival of buried archaeology | 8 |
| 4.6 | Other archaeological potential | 8 |
| 5 | Potential impacts on the historic environment resource | 8 |
| 6 | Assessment of importance | 9 |
| 6.1 | Designations (Fig 22) | 9 |
| 6.1.1 | National | 9 |
| 6.2 | Regional/county | 9 |
| 6.3 | General statement of significance | 9 |
| 7 | Recommendations | 10 |
| 8 | Site inventory (Fig 21) | 10 |
| 9 | References | 16 |
| 9.1 | Primary sources | 16 |
| 9.2 | Publications | 16 |
| 10 | Project archive | 17 |

List of figures

- Fig 1 Project area: location
- Fig 2 The project area on current Ordnance Survey MasterMap digital mapping
- Fig 3 The project area on the Ordnance Survey 1st edition 1in: 1 mile map of c 1813
- Fig 4 The project area on the Kenwyn tithe map, 1840
- Fig 5 The project area on the Ordnance Survey 1st edition 25in: 1 mile map, c 1880
- Fig 6 The project area on the Ordnance Survey 2nd edition 25in: 1 mile map, c 1907
- Fig 7 The project area on the Ordnance Survey 2nd revised edition 25in: 1 mile map, 1930s
- Figs 8a Ordnance Survey 1:10,560 (6in: 1 mile) map of 1963
- Fig 8b Ordnance Survey 1:10,000 map, 1973
- Fig 9 Old County Hall and environs on an RAF vertical air photograph, 12 July 1946 (C32/4405).
- Fig 10 Meridian Airmaps vertical air photograph, 18 May 1963 (T6 111810)
- Fig 11 RAF vertical air photograph, 19 May 1980 (39 RAF/ 5608 A42)
- Fig 12 Cornwall County Council vertical air photograph, 14 November 1988 (91 88 007)
- Fig 13 Oblique air photograph, Cornwall Archaeological Unit, 16 July 1989 (© Historic Environment, Cornwall Council, F23-94)
- Fig 14 Cornwall County Council vertical air photograph, June 1996 (06 236)
- Fig 15 Cornwall County Council vertical air photograph, 2000 (GIS layer)
- Fig 16 Cornwall County Council vertical air photograph, 2005 (GIS layer, © Geosense)
- Fig 17 Undated photograph (probably pre-World War II) of Old County Hall (Cornish Studies Library)
- Fig 18 Architect's drawing, 1908 (Koch 1909)
- Fig 19 Elevations and basement plan, 1908 (Koch 1909)
- Fig 20 Plan, 1908 (Koch 1909)
- Fig 21 Locations of sites identified and described in the site inventory
- Fig 22 Historic environment designations
- Fig 23 Archaeological potential

Abbreviations

- GIS Geographical Information System
- HER Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Historic Environment Record
- HE Historic Environment, Cornwall Council
- NGR National Grid Reference
- PRN Primary Record Number in Cornwall HER

1 Summary

A desktop archaeological assessment was carried out on a project area based on Old County Hall, Truro, and its environs, with the aims of identifying and describing the historic environment resource, assessing its significance and the possible impact of the proposed development on the resource. A particular objective was to assess the impact of previous works on the site on the historic environment resource and identify areas of archaeological potential.

The assessment identified more than 20 individual features within the project area, some of which are of comparatively recent origin. Key heritage assets include Old County Hall itself, constructed 1910-12 and a Grade II Listed Building, a probable former stables or coach house of slightly earlier date, and an extant wooden structure which has formed part of the administrative complex on the site for at least 65 years. Part of the project area lies within the Truro Conservation Area.

The site lies within the Anciently Enclosed Land Historic Landscape Character Type, regarded as having significant potential for buried archaeology because of its long history of human activity. This potential was confirmed for the current project area by the recovery of four items of Bronze Age metalwork when the groundworks for construction of the Old County Hall building were carried out. Two other archaeological sites recorded in the wider vicinity have possible implications for the archaeological potential of the project area.

The assessment concludes that there is potential for buried archaeology over much of the site, other than where levels have been truncated by past construction. The proposed scheme could potentially impact on buried archaeology and standing historic fabric in a number of places.

2 Introduction

2.1 Project background

HE Projects was requested by Mr Paul Perry of PBWC Ltd to provide a project design and an estimate for a rapid archaeological assessment in advance of the proposed redevelopment of the Old County Hall site, Truro (Figs 1 and 2). The proposed development will cover an area of approximately 1 ha. The site includes a Grade II Listed Building and lies within the Truro Conservation Area (Fig 22).

A brief outlining the scope of the proposed development was supplied by the client.

The assessment is intended to provide a desktop level of information. Further stages of archaeological recording - which may include detailed assessment (including a walkover), building recording and archaeological mitigation - may subsequently be required.

2.2 Aims

The purpose of the assessment is:

- To identify and describe the archaeological resource (buildings and buried archaeology).
- To assess the significance of the resource.
- To assess the impact of the proposal on the importance, integrity and character of the resource.
- To make recommendations for mitigation of the impact, which may include archaeological recording prior to and / or during redevelopment.

2.2.1 Key objective

To assess the impact of previous building and landscaping in the area upon the archaeological resource, and identify areas where significant archaeological deposits may survive within the redevelopment scheme.

2.3 Methods

The assessment consisted of two stages: desk-study and report.

2.3.1 Desk-study

This involved inspection of the following sources and the plotting of archaeological and historic information onto gazetteer maps:

- Cornwall and Scilly Historic Buildings, Sites and Monuments Record (including secondary sources in HE library).
- Aerial photographs, including RAF and CC verticals and HE's own photo archive.
- Historic map sources held at HE, including Gascoyne's map (1699), Martyn's map (1748), the Ordnance Survey 1st edition 1in: 1 mile map (c 1813) and relevant Surveyors' drawings (c 1810), the tithe survey (c 1840) and large-scale Ordnance Survey mapping from c 1880 to the present.

2.3.2 Assessment report

The results from the desktop study are presented in this report, copies of which will be distributed to the Client, the Principal Historic Environment Officer and (after a period) local and national archaeological record libraries. A PDF copy of the report has been produced.

3 Location and setting

The project area focuses on Old County Hall (NGR SW 81500 44835) on Station Road, Truro, together with areas to the east and south (Fig 2). It is situated on the upper part of the north-facing slope forming the southern side of the valley of the River Kenwyn (Fig 1). The site is in the civil parish of Truro and ecclesiastical parish of Kenwyn and lies on the western limits of the historic extent of the city of Truro. The wider area around the site is now largely built-up but until the 1960s much of it was enclosed agricultural land.

The geology of the site is Middle Devonian mudstones, slates and siltstones (British Geological Survey digital dataset 2012). This is locally termed killas.

4 Description of the historic environment resource

4.1 Historic and archaeological background

Historic mapping shows that much of the land around the medieval and early post-medieval core of Truro, including the project area, was morphologically of the type characterised as Anciently Enclosed Land (AEL) (section 4.3). This comprises land initially enclosed and incorporated in an agricultural landscape at some point prior to the seventeenth century. In Cornwall it has been demonstrated that such land was often first enclosed and farmed in the later prehistoric period, often beginning in the Middle Bronze Age, c 1500 BC. The historic form of the landscape, however, typically derives from patterns of enclosure established in the medieval and early post-medieval periods. Because of its long history of human activity AEL frequently preserves significant archaeological remains.

Historic maps (Figs 4-6) show that the fields within the current project area were part of a wider pattern of AEL on the western side of Truro. This took the form of long narrow enclosures lying approximately north east – south west, with their longer sides defined by gently curving boundaries approximately following the contours. These fields are almost certainly medieval in origin and fossilise groups of cultivation strips. During the post-medieval period many of the original long enclosures were subdivided by short, markedly straighter cross boundaries, forming an overall 'patchwork' or 'checkerboard' field pattern.

Characterisation of the proposed development area as former AEL provides a strong indication of its potential for incorporating archaeological remains. There is one known archaeological find-spot within the project area and two other records from the near vicinity which have implications for the site's archaeological potential. These are discussed below.

4.1.1 Bronze Age metalwork find (HER PRN 18879)

Four bronze axes or palstaves of Middle Bronze Age types were recovered by workmen when the foundations for Old County Hall were being dug in 1910. At a meeting of the Royal Institution of Cornwall on 20 December 1910 a number of recent donations to the Royal Cornwall Museum were acknowledged:

'The four bronze palstaves found in July last on the site of the new county offices have been presented by Messrs Crispen and Wingate, and the curator. These are of exceptional local interest and belong to the middle bronze age, the approximate date being considered to be about 1000 B.C.' (Anon 1911, 288).

In an accompanying list of 'Gifts and additions to the museum' the following donations to its 'Department of antiquities and ethnography' were noted:

'Bronze Palstave (one of four) found in July 1910, when excavating for foundation on which to build new County Offices at Truro. Middle Bronze Age – approximate date about 1000 B.C. [Donated by] Mr G Penrose, F.L.S.

Three Bronze Palstaves, remainder of the four found as above – approximate date 1000 B.C. [Donated by] Messrs Crispen and Wingate.’ (Anon 1911, 297)

A contemporary account notes them as having been found ‘lying loosely in the soil’ at a depth of 2 ft 4in (0.7m) and described the pieces as all ‘slightly mutilated and worn’ (Henderson nd).

The items may originally have been deposited as a ‘founder’s hoard’, intended for subsequent recovery and re-smelting. Alternatively, they may represent a votive deposit: there are numerous examples of metalwork deposits dating to this period, often damaged prior to burial, which are now interpreted as having social, ritual or religious significance (Barber 2003; Bradley 1998).

Little is known of spatial relationships between hoard sites and settlement and other activity in Cornwall at this period. Metalwork has seldom been found in any quantity in association with settlement sites but a number of metalwork finds have been made in field boundaries of this period (Todd, 1987, 133-5). In general, however, it is not clear whether hoard depositions were more usually made within or away from areas used for human activity. If the original deposit was made with some ritual or religious intent it is possible that the extensive views from the Old County Hall site over the valley of the Kenwyn and to the higher ground beyond were significant.

4.1.2 Possible late prehistoric – Romano-British enclosure (PRN 18885-7)

The Truro place-name Carvedras, first recorded in the mid thirteenth century, is likely to incorporate the Cornish element *ker*, a fort or ‘round’, with a personal name, suggesting the possible former existence of an Iron Age or Romano-British earthwork enclosure in the area (HER PRN 18886). The feature referred to, however, is not closely located. Although in the post-medieval period the name has been associated with a tin smelting complex close to the River Kenwyn it may not always have referred to this area; if the name in fact referred to an Iron Age – Romano-British enclosure (as do many other Cornish place-names incorporating *ker*), such a site would more typically be located on the valley side. The enclosure, its accompanying fields and potentially also associated unenclosed settlement remains (*cf* recent investigations in the Threemilestone area) are likely to lie somewhere on the western side of Truro in the wider vicinity of the project area.

A local researcher proposed in the mid 1960s that traces of an enclosure could be identified close to Chapel Hill, in the area between Parkvedras and Dereham Terraces and Stratton Terrace (Somerscales 1965), approximately 450m east of Old County Hall. However, further investigation of the suggested site concluded that visible features were the remains of medieval field boundaries and that there was no other direct evidence for the existence of an earlier earthwork in this area (HER PRN 18885).

4.1.3 Medieval chapel and lazar house (PRN 18889-90)

Chapel Hill was formerly the main medieval route to the west out of Truro (Kirkham 2003). It takes its name from a chapel of St George - first recorded in 1420 but described as ruinous in 1427 - which once stood close to it (Sheppard, 1980, 24). No precise location for the chapel is recorded but an 1831 map of the Manor of Newham gave the name ‘St George’s Chapel Tenement’ to a group of three fields immediately north of the modern junction of Chapel Hill with Treyew Road and it is possible that the chapel lay in this area (Kirkham 2004). A lazar house (leper hospital) recorded in 1309 may also have been located close to Chapel Hill, although it is not clear whether it was on the same site as the chapel. Both the chapel and lazar house are likely to have had additional land nearby for gardens, fields and, for the lazar house, conceivably a cemetery.

4.2 Historic development of the project area

No detail for the area of the proposed development site is shown on Joel Gascoyne's map of 1699 or Thomas Martyn's map, 1748, although in both instances the small scale and conventions of these maps means that it is unlikely that features smaller in extent and importance than a farm, country house or small settlement would have been represented. The same is true of the early nineteenth-century Ordnance Surveyors' Drawings and the published 1in: 1 mile Ordnance Survey map of c 1813 (Fig 3).

The Kenwyn tithe map of 1840 (Fig 4) shows the project area extending over parts of four fields. The accompanying tithe apportionment recorded these as:

| Field no | Field name | 'State of cultivation' | Area (Acres-Roods-Perches) | Occupier | Landowner (and lessees where applicable) |
|----------|-----------------|------------------------|----------------------------|--------------|---|
| 319 | Lower Field | Pasture | 1-2-13 | Mary Bull | Elizabeth Heard, lessee; Anna Maria Agar, owner |
| 320 | Middle Field | Pasture | 1-1-3 | Mary Bull | Elizabeth Heard, lessee; Anna Maria Agar, owner |
| 347 | Jenkins Meadow | Pasture | 4-2-17 | Henry Ellery | Sir Charles Lemon |
| 354 | Bolithos Meadow | Pasture | 1-3-0 | James Clarke | John Allen |

The field pattern shown by the tithe map was unchanged on the Ordnance Survey 1st edition 25in: 1 mile map of c 1880 (Fig 5). However, in the intervening years a new route into Truro had been constructed passing the present project area. This road – the present Station Road – linked the principal road from Redruth and west Cornwall at Higher Town with the suburban development of Richmond Hill, created in the 1840s, passing the new Truro railway station, opened in 1859 (Kirkham 2003). The 2nd edition 25in map, published c 1907 (Fig 6), named the route as Station Road and also showed the initial encroachment of new suburban terraced developments onto a field on the eastern side of the project area. Within the project area a rectangular building (**2**) had been constructed on the west side of the lane providing rear access to a recently constructed terrace of houses on the west side of Avondale Road.

In 1908 a site on Station Road was obtained for a new headquarters for Cornwall County Council (Acton 2002, 24) and a competition launched for designs for the new building (Koch 1909). The winning design was by Bath architects Silcock and Reay (Figs 18-20) and the present Old County Hall building was constructed there in the period 1910-12 (not 1890 as indicated in the Listed Building description). An account of the discovery of Middle Bronze Age metalwork on the site (section 4.1.1) indicates that excavations for the foundations were in progress in July 1910 (Anon 1911, 297).

The Ordnance Survey revised 2nd edition 25in map of the 1930s (Fig 7) shows the completed County Hall complex on Station Road on a rectangular plot. The map depiction shows a scarp (**15**) to the rear of the building, coinciding with the steep bank which now divides the Old County Hall building from the car park to the south. Two rectangular buildings, (**13**) and (**14**), were shown located behind the south-east corner of County Hall, one of them extending across the present access road (**12**). Two smaller structures were located to the east of these (**6b**) (**7**). Approach paths or drives were shown on the northern and eastern sides of the building.

An air photograph taken in July 1946 (Fig 9) shows the addition of several other buildings within the project area, including the Kennall Building (**11**). It is probable that these were constructed during World War II to accommodate the expanded functions of the County Council. The area to the south of the building complex had been metalled as a car park (**24**). The field to the west of the project area appears to have been incorporated into the Old County Hall site and this also accommodated a number of new structures.

A vertical air photograph taken in 1963 (Fig 10) shows a similar situation within the project area to that of 1946 (Fig 9), with the exception of the replacement of structure (**5b**) by structure (**5a**) and construction of structure (**3**).

The present access road (**12**) between the northern entrance to the Old County Hall site and the car park to the rear was created before 1988 (Fig 12), by which time building (**13**) had been removed, possibly by 1980 (Fig 11). The other buildings to the rear of County Hall – (**14**) and (**19**) – had also been removed by 1988 and the area grassed over. A communications mast (**17**) was in place by 1989 (Fig 13).

The principal subsequent change to the site was the creation between 1989 and 1996 of Sainsbury's supermarket and car park on the site of the former Girls' Grammar School and the field to the west previously occupied by Cornwall County Council. A substantial revetment was erected along the west side of the site to enable the levelling of the supermarket car park. It is clear from the sequence of air photographs (Figs 9-16) that there was no change in the level of the Old County Hall car park (**24**).

4.3 Landscape character

The Cornwall Historic Landscape Characterisation (Cornwall County Council 1996) showed the current project area as Settlement; that is, settled areas from larger farming settlements upwards. Subsequent development of the Historic Landscape Characterisation method now classes the project area as Settlement 20th century; that is, in practical terms, development postdating the early twentieth century 2nd edition of the Ordnance Survey 25in: 1 mile map.

Prior to urban development the site fell within the Historic Landscape Character Type known as Anciently Enclosed Land (AEL). The defining attributes of this Historic Landscape Character Type are its character as Cornwall's agricultural heartland, based on farming settlements documented before the seventeenth century AD and whose field patterns are morphologically distinct from the generally straight-sided fields of later enclosure. The Type tends to be on relatively sheltered land, not too steep and not too poorly drained. These areas include networks of winding lanes and roads, often deeply cut by the passage of people, animals and vehicles over centuries or thousands of years. These connect farming settlements whose layouts are typically irregular, often clearly shrunk from hamlets; some are still hamlets. Churchtowns and a few larger villages are scattered through the Type which also contains, or surrounds, most of the county's ancient towns.

Much, even most, of this Type will have been enclosed and farmed since later prehistory (Middle Bronze Age onwards, from c 1500 BC). Most of the land cleared and improved in later prehistory was re-organised in the medieval period into extensive 'strip' field systems. These were 'open' in that a low bank, at most, and not a stock-proof hedge defined each strip-shaped holding. Many strip field systems are still recognisable in the Cornish landscape, either as bundles of enclosed or unenclosed strips, or as the cropping units that contained the strips.

The gradual enclosure of 'open' strip fields, mainly from the fourteenth to the seventeenth century in Cornwall, much earlier than in most parts of England, transformed this Type into that which survives today, fields of various sizes and shapes, but almost all with sinuous sides, usually parallel with each other, whose boundaries are substantial, stock-proof hedges and walls. In the post-medieval period,

particularly in the vicinity of towns, these fields were often sub-divided by intermediate boundaries, creating a pattern of relatively small, near square fields.

Archaeological potential within AEL is regarded as high, as a consequence of its long history of human activity. Buried archaeological features from the prehistoric, medieval and post-medieval periods and including settlements, fields, ceremonial and ritual monuments and industrial remains can be expected virtually anywhere in this Type.

4.4 Identified sites within the project area

The full list of 'sites' identified within the project area is described in the site inventory (section 8). In addition to Old County Hall itself (**16**), these include the locations of a number of boundaries shown on historic mapping, of structures, extant and removed, documented on historic maps and air photographs, and associated facilities including the access road and car park area.

4.5 Potential survival of buried archaeology

This assessment has been carried out as a desktop exercise and no detailed examination of the project area has been undertaken. Observations on the potential survival of buried archaeology are therefore made on the basis of historic mapping and air photographs.

Areas of potential for the survival of buried archaeology are shown on Figure 23. Areas predicted to have low or zero potential include Old County Hall (**16**), the northern part of the Kennall Building (**11**) and the former stables or coach house (**2**). In each of these instances it is probable that terracing into the slope prior to construction and the excavation of foundations will have severely damaged or completely destroyed any buried archaeology.

Two areas are of uncertain potential. It is unclear whether the group of buildings to the north of the Kennall Building sit on a terrace cut into the slope or on partly made ground; there is some evidence for past changes of ground levels in this area. Building (**5**) may in any case stand on a concrete plinth. To the south of the car park there is a scarped bank below the building immediately to the south. It is unclear whether this scarp represents a cut into the hillslope or, more probably, the lower face of a terrace of made ground on which the building stands.

Elsewhere on the site there is no immediate evidence of truncation of former ground levels and these areas should be regarded as having potential for preservation of buried archaeology.

Evidence of former Cornish hedges across the site may survive in the form of buried ditches.

4.6 Other archaeological potential

The character of the area as Anciently Enclosed Land (section 4.3), taken with the implications of its proximity to known or suspected archaeological sites (including the find of Bronze Age metalwork), suggests that there is potential for buried archaeology to survive within the project area.

5 Potential impacts on the historic environment resource

The following impacts on the historic environment resource are foreseen, based on the proposed site plan for redevelopment of the Old County Hall site:

- Construction of a new retaining wall, steps and The Link at the rear of Old County Hall is likely to disturb any surviving buried archaeology in this area. This area of disturbance is the closest to the presumed site of the discovery of Bronze Age

metalwork when groundworks were carried out for construction of Old County Hall in 1910.

- There will be potential disturbance of buried archaeology at the upper, southern end of the present car park in construction of the proposed Aparthotel suites. It is not clear whether ground levels have been previously truncated in this area.
- There will be potential disturbance to the historic fabric and character of the former stables or coach house (structure **(2)**) in the process of conversion to three one-bedroom apartments.
- There will be a severe impact (demolition) on the integrity of the Kennall Building (**11**) and potential impact on buried archaeology below its southern end from the proposed construction of flats on the site.
- There will be severe impact on surviving historic fabric in buildings (**6a**) and (**7**) to the south of the Kennall Building and potential impact on any surviving buried archaeology in this area from the proposed construction of flats on the site.

6 Assessment of importance

6.1 Designations (Fig 22)

6.1.1 National

Old County Hall is designated a Grade II Listed Building.

6.2 Regional/county

The northern part of the project area falls within Truro Conservation Area.

6.3 General statement of significance

Old County Hall (**16**), now in its centenary year, is a Grade II Listed Building and is therefore classed as of National importance.

NB. It is unclear whether other buildings on the site, although not themselves referred to in the Listed Building description, may be regarded as falling within the Listed Building curtilage of Old County Hall because of their long association with the local authority administrative complex. The oldest of those surviving is the Kennall Building (**11**), now probably in the region of 70 years old.

The northern part of the project area, including Old County Hall (**16**) and the Kennall Building (**11**) lies within the Truro Conservation Area (Fig 22). Conservation Areas are defined locally but were introduced through national legislation, the Civic Amenities Act 1967. The primary legislation is the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 and the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990. The key reference to government policy on all development affecting Conservation Areas is now the National Planning Policy Framework (Department for Communities and Local Government 2012).

Building (**2**), the probable former stables and or coach house, represents an unusual survival in an urban area and is locally significant.

The known find of Bronze Age metalwork from the site opens the possibility that the wider project area may contain buried archaeology potentially of regional or national significance. The proven high archaeological potential of Anciently Enclosed Land and the potential for remains associated with the late prehistoric or Roman-period settlement enclosure and the medieval chapel and lazaret house supports the potential significance of buried archaeology on the site.

7 Recommendations

The following recommendations are made on the basis of this assessment:

- Clarification of the status and extent of the Listed Building curtilage of Old County Hall is required.
- Further documentary research and enquiry from oral sources about the past history of the site may be specified by the HEPAO, who might also request a walkover survey and inspection of any surviving site records to clarify the areas of archaeological potential.
- Building recording of Old County Hall and other significant buildings on the site to a level specified by the relevant Historic Environment Planning Advice Officer (HEPAO).
- The HEPAO may require a watching brief during site works. This may lead to archaeological excavation if significant remains are discovered.

One or more of these stages may be required. All works should be guided by briefs prepared by the appropriate HEPAO.

8 Site inventory (Fig 21)

1 Boundary

A boundary on the south side of the rear access lane to houses on Station Road and west side of the rear access lane to houses on Avondale Road is shown on the Ordnance Survey 2nd revised edition 25in map (1930s). It lies on the boundary of the present project area. The original form of this boundary is unknown; a wall of brick and killas is extant.

2. Building

This structure – currently used as an archive and publications store by Cornwall Council Historic Environment – is sometimes referred to as 'The Stables' or 'The Coach House'. There is evidence for such former use in the form of stable-block flooring in the main space within the structure and a loft door on the eastern front of the building. The presence of a chimney suggests that it may also have provided accommodation for a groom.

The structure, approximately 11-12m long and 6m wide, was first shown on the 2nd edition Ordnance Survey 25in: 1 mile map of c 1907, located adjacent and parallel to the back lane serving the rear access to the terraced houses on the west side of Avondale Road.

The building clearly pre-dates development of the Old County Hall complex and was therefore almost certainly not originally associated with it. The structure is of brick and semi-coursed killas with brick detailing around openings. The west elevation has a partly blocked window to the south with a furnace opening built into a structure below; it seems probable that ground levels have been raised around the south-west corner of the building, probably at the same time that a furnace or boiler was constructed adjoining it. A single-storey structure with a single pitch roof adjoining to the north is first shown on an air photograph dating to 1963 (Fig 10).

3 Structure

A rectangular structure 3.3m by 2.2m is shown in this location on current Ordnance Survey large-scale digital mapping. It is not apparent on the 1946 air photograph of the site (Fig 9) but a structure in this position and on the same orientation is shown on the 1963 air photograph (Fig 10). The function of the structure is unknown. It is no longer extant.

4 Electricity sub station

This is a modern structure, marked on current Ordnance Survey digital mapping as 'El Sub Sta' (Electricity Sub Station). A building in this location appears on the 1963 air photograph (Fig 10) and probably also that of 1946 (Fig 9), although it is not apparent whether these represent the current structure.

5a Wooden building

This building, a wooden structure approximately 9m by 4m, is currently used as a finds store and processing area by Cornwall Council Historic Environment Projects. It is said to have formerly been a carpenters' workshop and store (Carl Thorpe, pers comm). A structure resembling the present building is visible on a 1963 air photograph (Fig 10).

5b Structure

A rectangular structure with a roof ridge lying east - west appears in this position on an air photograph of 1946 (Fig 9) but appears to have been replaced by structure (5) before 1963. There is no information on the function of the structure.

6a Toilet and store

A structure approximately 10m by 4.5m is shown on current Ordnance Survey digital mapping (Fig 2), the southern portion of which is labelled 'PCs' (Public Conveniences). No structure in this location is shown on the Ordnance Survey 2nd revised edition 25in map of the 1930s (Fig 7). The 1946 air photograph (Fig 9) appears to show it, including the small tower at its northern end (probably holding a water tank) which is also evident on the 1963 air photograph (Fig 10). The northern part of the building slightly overlies or otherwise intrudes into structure (7).

6b Structure

A structure approximately 4m square was shown at this location on the Ordnance Survey 2nd edition revised map of the 1930s (Fig 7). There is no indication of its function and the site is now occupied by structure (6a).

7 Building

A rectangular structure approximately 14m by 7.5m and aligned east-west is shown on the Ordnance Survey 2nd revised edition 25in map of the 1930s (Fig 7) with its northern half unroofed. The roofed portion of this structure lay on approximately the same alignment as the current building on the site but extended further to the west. There is no indication of its original function other than a chimney of granite ashlar at the eastern end. Use of this material, apparently closely comparable with that used on the quoins of Old County Hall (16), suggests that (although clearly substantially rebuilt) part of this structure may be contemporary with the Listed Building.

8 Boundary

The boundary between the field recorded by the tithe survey as Jenkins Meadow (TA 347) and the field to the west (Fig 4). This boundary was shown on the 1st and 2nd edition Ordnance Survey 25in: 1 mile maps of c 1880 and 1907 (Figs 5 and 6); at the time of the latter it divided the future Old County Hall site from the terraced development to the east on Station Road. It was not shown on the 2nd edition revised map of the 1930s (Fig 7) and is likely to have been removed when the Old County Hall plot was defined, c 1909-10.

9 Boundary

A straight boundary defining the eastern side of the plot on which the current Old County Hall is located is first shown on the 2nd revised edition of the Ordnance Survey 25in: 1 mile map dating to the 1930s (Fig 7). It is likely to be contemporary with the construction of Old County Hall c 1910-12. The original form of this boundary is unknown. However, a surviving length of walling on the line of this boundary to the north of the Kennall Building (11) is of mortared random killas stonework and this may

represent a survival. A further portion may survive immediately south of the Kennall Building. The boundary clearly guided the siting of structures (6b) and (7).

10 Structure

A small roofed structure lies immediately north of the Kennall Building. It is apparently modern. It does not appear on current Ordnance Survey digital mapping and its function is unknown.

11 Structure (Kennall Building)

This is a two-storey structure with the southern and western portion, facing west, largely of wood and lower storey addressing ground level to the north apparently of masonry construction. The building was first documented on an air photograph of 1946 (Fig 9), apparently in its current form, and may date from World War II; it was not shown on the 1930s Ordnance Survey 2nd revised edition 25in map (Fig 7). As with other structures around Old County Hall, it is likely to represent the expanding functions of the County Council during the 1930-40s. It has been suggested that it was constructed as drawing offices for the staff of the County Architect of Cornwall County Council (Nick Johnson (former County Archaeologist), pers comm). It was used during the 1980s as an equipment store for Cornwall County Council education department's kitchen division. For the past 20 years it has been the offices of Cornwall Council Historic Environment and its predecessor, Cornwall Archaeological Unit.

This building through its historic association with Old County Hall may be included within the curtilage of the Listed Building, although this remains to be established.

12 Access road

The access road passing the east side of Old County Hall is probably shown on the 1930s Ordnance Survey 2nd revised edition 25in map (Fig 7) and 1946 and 1963 air photographs (Figs 9 and 10). Until after the latter date it was blocked from extending further south by building (13), although both these air photographs show that a stub road to the south of the building, in approximately the location of the current access road, was already in place. The completed through route is first certainly shown on an air photograph of 1988 (Fig 12), possibly on that of 1980 (Fig 11).

It is probable that when the current road was created it was necessary to cut through the hill slope immediately south east of Old County Hall, thus forming the north east-facing scarp which now forms the western side of the access road.

13 Building

A structure approximately 17m by 7m is shown adjacent to the south-east corner of Old County Hall on the 1930s Ordnance Survey 2nd revised edition 25in map (Fig 7). Air photographs of 1946 (Fig 9) and 1963 (Fig 10) and the Ordnance Survey 6in sheet of 1963 (Fig 8a) show what is probably the same building; the 1963 photograph shows that it was approached from the north by steps. It had been removed by 1988: an air photograph of that date (Fig 12) shows the access road passing through the former site of the building. (This may have occurred by 1980 (Fig 11) but is not clear.) The 1988 air photograph (Fig 12) shows the site under grass. No further details of the form, function or history of the building are currently known.

14 Building

A structure approximately 19m by 5m (with a slight bay projecting at the western end of the north side) is shown adjacent to the rear of Old County Hall on the 1930s Ordnance Survey 2nd revised edition 25in map (Fig 7). Air photographs of 1946 (Fig 9) and 1963 (Fig 10) and the Ordnance Survey 6in sheet of 1963 (Fig 8a) show what is probably the same building, but it had been removed by 1988 (Fig 12) and the area grassed. No further details of the form, function or history of the building are currently known.

15 Scarp

The steep scarp to the rear of Old County Hall is shown on the 1930s Ordnance Survey 2nd revised edition 25in map (Fig 7) and represents the cut into the slope made to accommodate Old County Hall (**16**). Current Ordnance Survey digital mapping indicates that this feature survives as the present scarp in this location.

16 Old County Hall

Old County Hall is a Grade II Listed Building (National Heritage List no 1282633). The Listed Building description for the structure is as follows:

'County hall. 1890. By TB Silcock. Dressed elvan brought to course with granite dressings; dry Delabole slate roofs; dressed stone axial and gable stacks. Large plan enclosing 2 small courtyards: central council chamber. Classical style. 2 storeys over basement; symmetrical 1:4:1:4:1-bay north entrance front. Quoin strips to single bays broken forward and surmounted by triangular pediments; moulded stone parapets between; basement plinth is rock-faced granite with segmental-arched 4-pane sashes; all windows have 12-pane sashes set in moulded stone square-headed architraves, with hoods over first-floor openings: single bays have open pediments over first-floor windows and round arches to 2nd-floor windows; central entrance bay is fronted by a bowed porch carried on Tuscan columns; balustrade to parapet. Central cupola with open pediments. INTERIOR: where inspected retains most of its original features: open-well stair with heavy turned balusters; vaulted ceilings to corridors and parquet floors.'

The date of construction was in fact 1910-12, not 1890. Until that time, the County Council, established in 1889, had met in Truro Town Hall (Palmer 1994, 46). It was noted at the time that the proximity of the site to the railway station would 'enable the members to give half-an-hour more time to the County business' (quoted in Acton and Acton 2002, 24).

In 1908 the County Council staged a competition for designs for new 'County Buildings' on the Station Road site, the competition particulars noting specifically that the 'style of architecture and the materials to be employed are left to the discretion of the Competitors, but preference will be given to a style embodying the requirements of the Council, with simplicity of design; Gothic will not be favoured' (Koch 1909, 359). The conditions also noted that the supervising committee 'may not for the present proceed with the erection of the Council Chamber . . . Further, the designs should be compatible with the addition, if hereafter desired, of a Block of Rooms as Offices for the Clerk of the County Council' (*ibid*).

The accommodation to be provided was specified as:

- Council Chamber and Committee Rooms
- Education Block
- Accounts and other departments
- General (a 'heating chamber', caretakers' rooms and a separate dining room and service accommodation for Members of the Council were specified).

An advisor, George H Fellowes Prynne, was appointed to aid the Council committee in judging the competition. The winning entry was that submitted by Silcock and Reay of Bath, 'on account of the general completeness and convenience of the arrangements of the plan, combined with a dignified and yet economical treatment of the design generally' (*ibid*, 361).

Despite this praise, it is apparent that the building as constructed differed significantly from the plans which originally gained the commission (Figs 19 and 20). For example, these showed the Council Chamber sited at the rear of the complex, flanked by single-storey ranges to east and west. Part of the western north-south range of the complex was also single storey. The members' dining room was planned as a north-south single-

storey block partly projecting from the rectangular building plan at the south-east corner of the complex. Provision was made for a future extension to accommodate the County Clerk at the south-west corner. The architect's drawing (Fig 18) also showed the new building fronting directly onto Station Road, behind a wide pavement. However, Old County Hall as built has the former Council Chamber at the core, not at the rear. The rear and side ranges are all of two storeys, with the exception of a single-storey block at the south-east corner, probably the members' dining room. The current plan has a projection at the south-east corner, perhaps a revision of the access to a further block shown on the initial plans. The building location was presumably moved back from Station Road to accommodate a railed forecourt with a crescentic approach to the main entrance (Fig 17). Small lanterns over the eastern and western side ranges were also additions to the original design; a number of chimneys shown on the original drawings appear not to have been built (*cf* Figs 17 and 18).

Cursory inspection of the exterior of the Old County Hall complex indicates that elements of the original plans survived in the execution of the revised design. An example is the use of round-headed windows in the south-facing range to the rear, contrasting with the square-headed window openings on most of the rest of the elevations. The apparent close matching of materials and their uses throughout also suggests that the complex was of one build or that there was no prolonged period between construction of the main block to the north and the ranges to the rear.

17 Communications mast

A communications mast is visible in the current location on a 1989 air photograph (Fig 13) and the position of the mast is indicated on current Ordnance Survey mapping (Fig 2).

18 Boundary to Station Road

This is shown in an undated but probably pre-World War II photograph of the main elevation of Old County Hall (Fig 17). It comprised pillars topped by granite capstones joined by iron railings over a granite ashlar plinth. The railings and pillars have been removed but the current boundary incorporates the plinth and capstones.

NB. The earlier boundary to the site on this alignment, associated with the construction of Station Road in the middle decades of the nineteenth century, was presumably similar to the Cornish hedge shown lower right in Figure 17.

19 Building

A 1946 air photograph (Fig 9) shows a rectangular structure to the west of building (14) at the rear of Old County Hall. No building is shown in this location on the 1930s Ordnance Survey 2nd revised edition 25in map (Fig 7) and it is probable that this was a structure erected to cater for the expansion of County Council activity during World War II or shortly before.

20 Boundary

This boundary was shown on the Kenwyn tithe map of c 1840 dividing Lower Field (TA 319) from Jenkins Meadow (TA 347) (Fig 4). It was shown on the 1st and 2nd edition Ordnance Survey 25in maps of c 1880 and 1907 (Figs 5 and 6) but had been removed by the 2nd edition revised 25in map of the 1930s (Fig 7). It was probably removed at about the same time that the plot surrounding Old County Hall was defined.

21 Boundary

This boundary was shown on the Kenwyn tithe map of c 1840 dividing Lower Field (TA 319) from Middle Field (TA 320) (Fig 4). It was shown on the 1st and 2nd edition Ordnance Survey 25in maps of c 1880 and 1907 (Figs 5 and 6) and the 2nd edition revised 25in map of the 1930s (Fig 7). It had been removed by July 1946 (Fig 9), presumably at the time that the areas to the south and west of Old County Hall were acquired.

22 Boundary

The southern boundary to the plot on which Old County Hall was located is shown on the 1930s Ordnance Survey 2nd revised edition 25in map (Fig 7). It was probably broadly contemporary with the construction of Old County Hall. Later maps and air photographs show no trace of it and its original form is unknown.

23 Boundary

The western boundary to the plot on which Old County Hall was located is shown on the 1930s Ordnance Survey 2nd revised edition 25in map (Fig 7) and was probably broadly contemporary with the construction of Old County Hall. The northern end of the boundary is visible in an undated historic photograph of Old County Hall (Fig 17) and took the form of an earth bank with roughly coursed stone-facing ('Cornish hedge').

24 Car park

An area of metalled car parking to the south of the Old County Hall complex and apparently forming part of it is shown on the 1946 (Fig 9) and subsequent air photographs. It is evident that there was level access between this area and the former field to the west, which also appears to have become part of the Cornwall County Council property in the period prior to the 1946 view.

9 References

9.1 Primary sources

- Ordnance Survey 1in: 1 mile map c 1813 (georeferenced GIS layer)
- Tithe map and apportionment, parish of Kenwyn 1840 (georeferenced GIS layer)
- Ordnance Survey 1st edition 25in: 1 mile map, c 1880 (licensed digital GIS layer)
- Ordnance Survey 2nd edition 25in: 1 mile map, c 1907 (licensed digital GIS layer)
- Ordnance Survey 2nd revised edition 25in: 1 mile map, c 1932-9 (licensed digital GIS layer)
- Ordnance Survey *Mastermap* digital mapping, c 2007
- Henderson, C, nd. Parochial antiquities, vol 5, parish of Kenwyn (ms held by Courtney Library, Royal Institution of Cornwall)

9.2 Publications

- Acton, V, and Acton, B, 2002. *A history of Truro. Vol 2: cathedral city to county town*, Truro
- Anon 1911. Royal Institution of Cornwall. Annual meeting, 1910, *Jnl Royal Institution Cornwall*, **18, 2**, 286-98
- Barber, M, 2003. *Bronze and the Bronze Age: metalwork and society in Britain c 2500 - 800 BC*, Stroud
- Bradley, R, 1998. *The passage of arms: an archaeological analysis of prehistoric hoards and votive deposits*, Oxford, 2nd edition
- Cornwall County Council, 1996. *Cornwall Landscape Assessment*, Truro
- Department for Communities and Local Government 2012, *National Planning Policy Framework*, London (online at www.communities.gov.uk/documents/planningandbuilding/pdf/2116950.pdf)
- Kirkham, G, 2003. *Cornwall and Scilly Urban Survey. Historic characterisation for regeneration: Truro*, Truro (Historic Environment Service, Cornwall County Council)
- Kirkham, G, 2004. *Old County Hall car park, Truro, Cornwall: archaeological assessment*, Truro (Historic Environment Service, Cornwall County Council)
- Koch, A, 1909. Cornwall County Council offices, Truro, in *British competitions in architecture*, **2, 1-12**, 359-86
- Palmer, J, 1994. Local government, in *Edwardian Truro*, ed J Palmer, Truro, 45-51
- Sheppard, P, 1980. *The historic towns of Cornwall: an archaeological survey*, Truro (Cornwall Committee for Rescue Archaeology)
- Somerscales, M I, 1965. Earthworks at Carvedras, Truro, *Cornish Archaeol*, **4**, 84-6
- Todd, M, 1987. *The south west to AD 1000*, London

10 Project archive

The HE project number is **HEXQPR 146213**

The project's documentary, photographic and drawn archive is housed at the offices of Historic Environment, Cornwall Council, Kennall Building, Old County Hall, Station Road, Truro, TR1 3AY. The contents of this archive are as listed below:

1. A project file containing site records and notes, project correspondence and administration.
2. GIS-derived graphics stored in the directory: L:\Historic Environment (Data)\HE_Projects\Sites_T\Truro Old County Hall assessment 2012 146213
3. English Heritage/ADS OASIS online reference: cornwall2-138487

This report text is held in digital form as: G:\TWE\Waste & Env\Strat Waste & Land\Historic Environment\Projects\Sites\Sites T\Truro, Old County Hall assessment 2012 146213\Truro Old County Hall assessment 2012 146213.doc

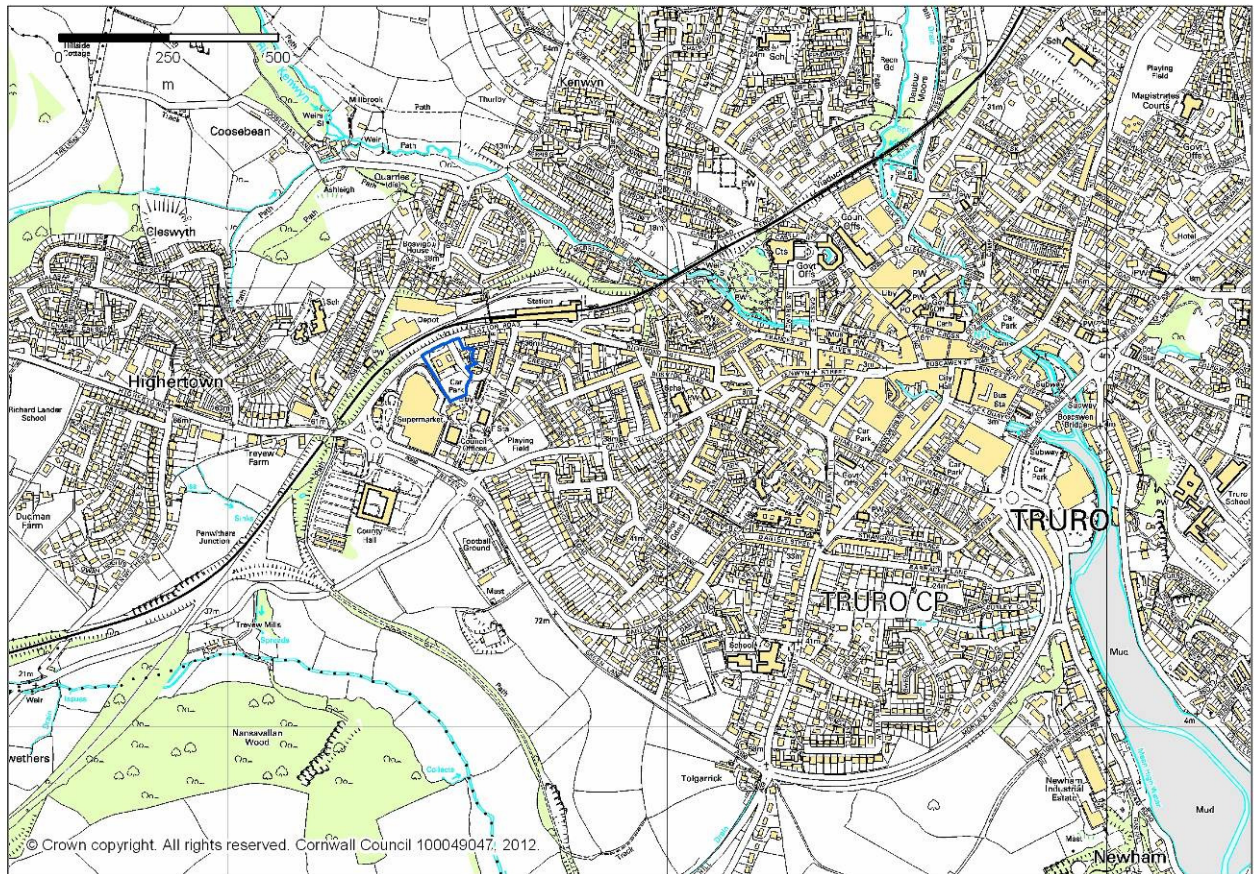


Fig 1 The project area: location

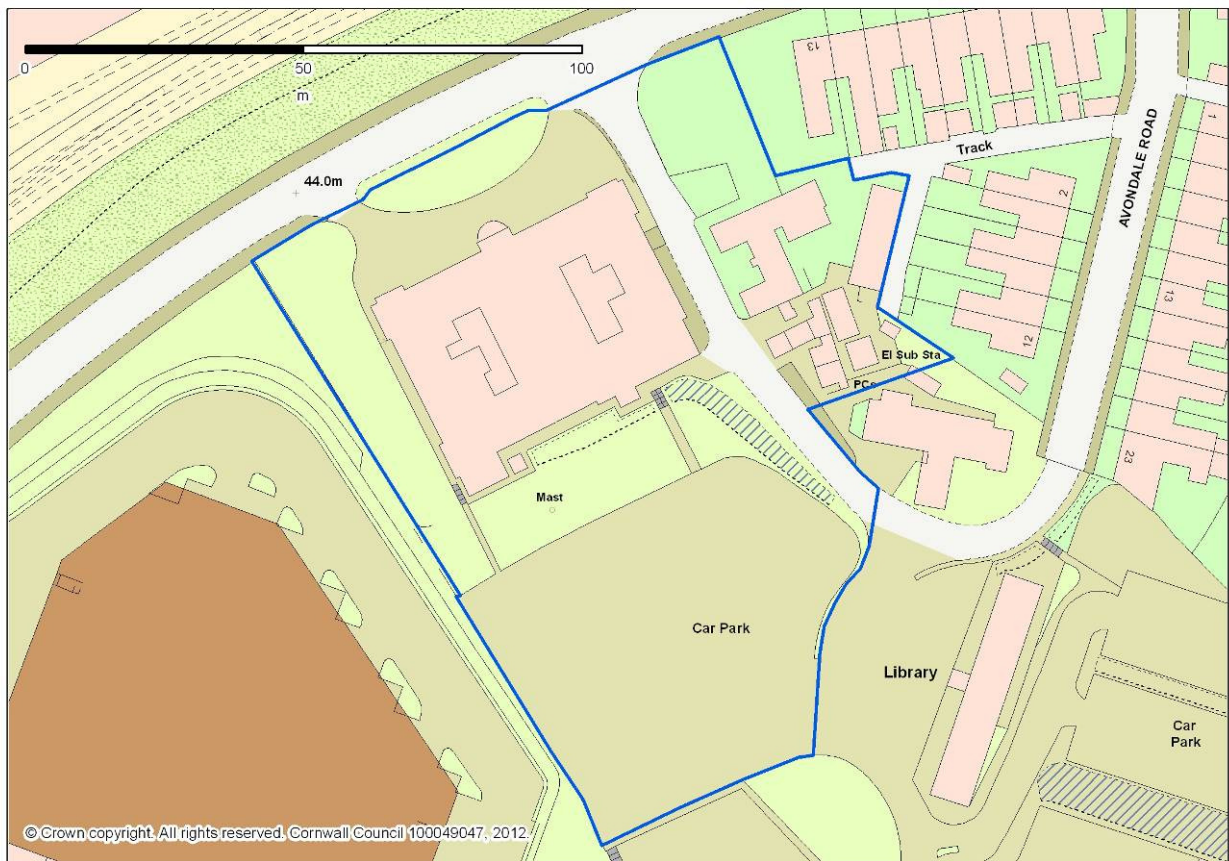


Fig 2 The project area on current Ordnance Survey MasterMap digital mapping

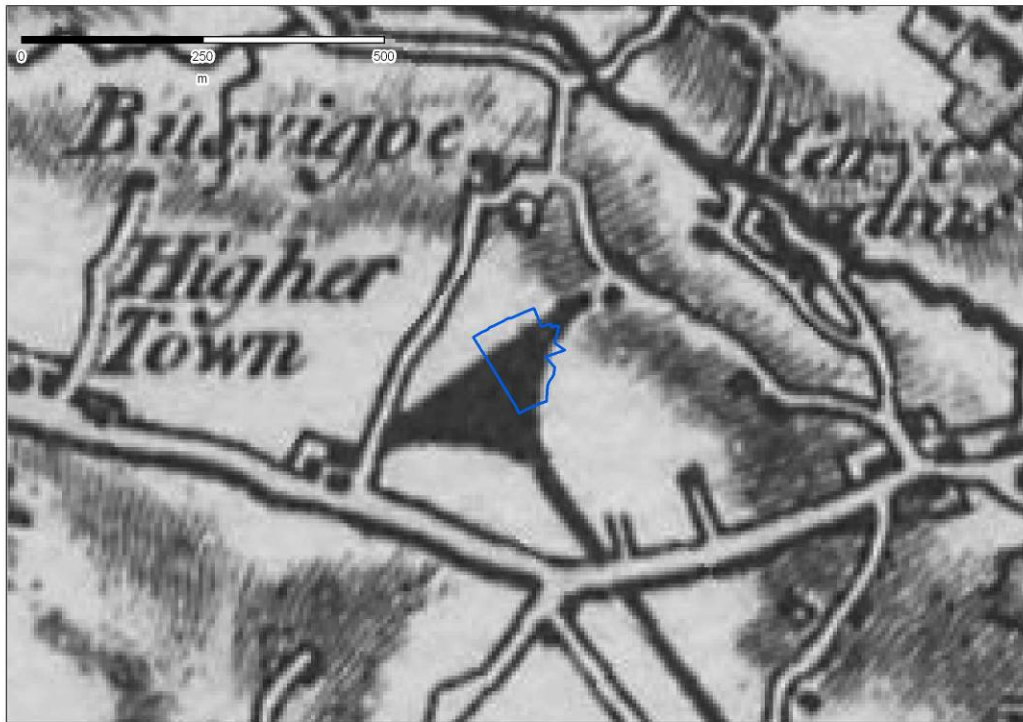


Fig 3 The project area on the Ordnance Survey 1st edition 1in: 1 mile map of c 1813

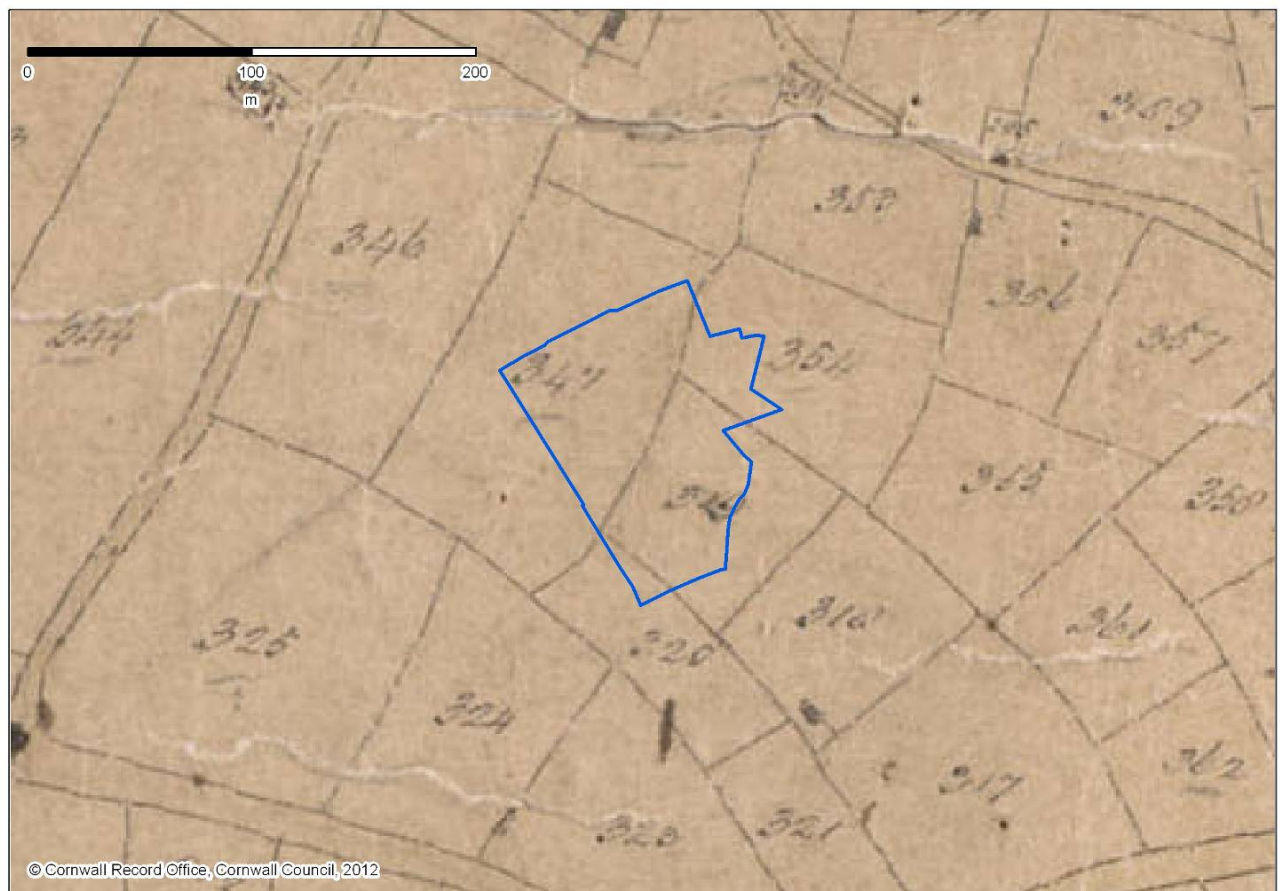


Fig 4 The project area on the Kenwyn tithe map, 1840

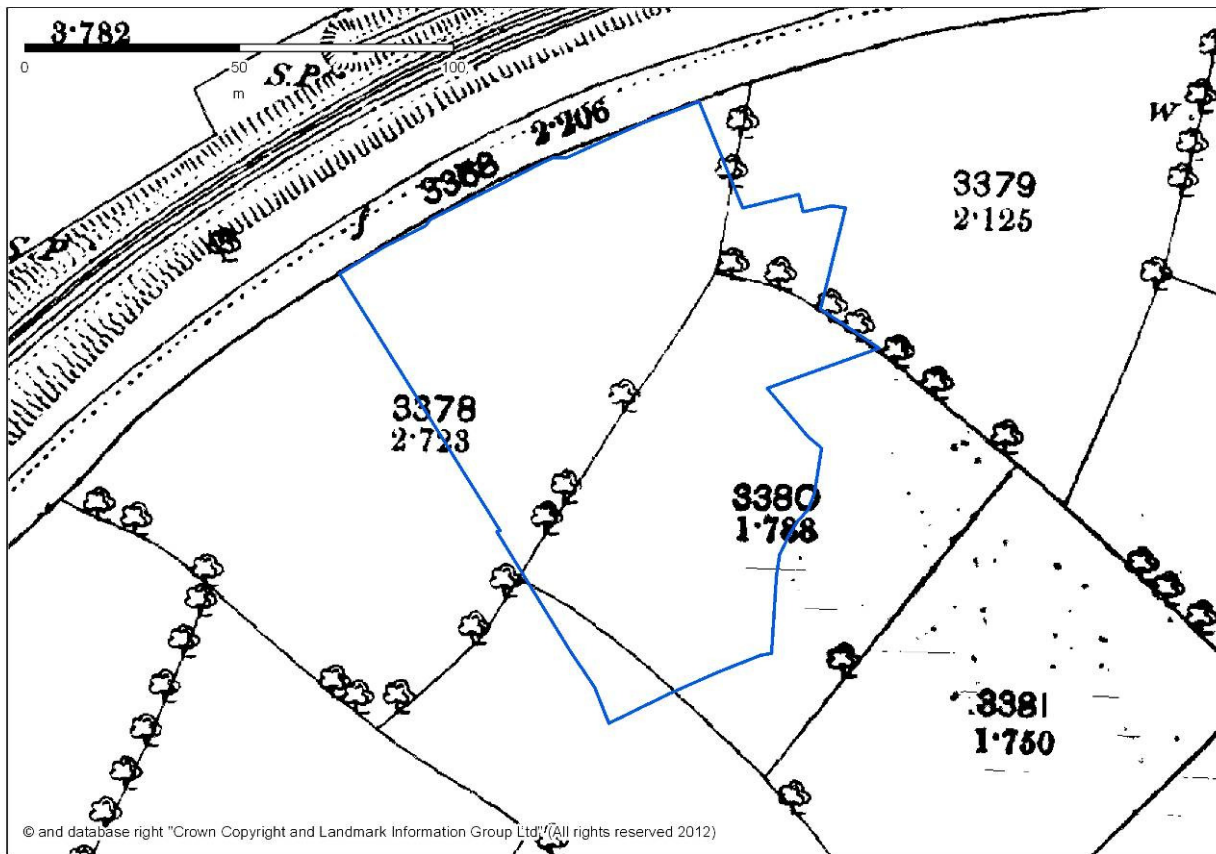


Fig 5 The project area on the Ordnance Survey 1st edition 25in: 1 mile map, c 1880

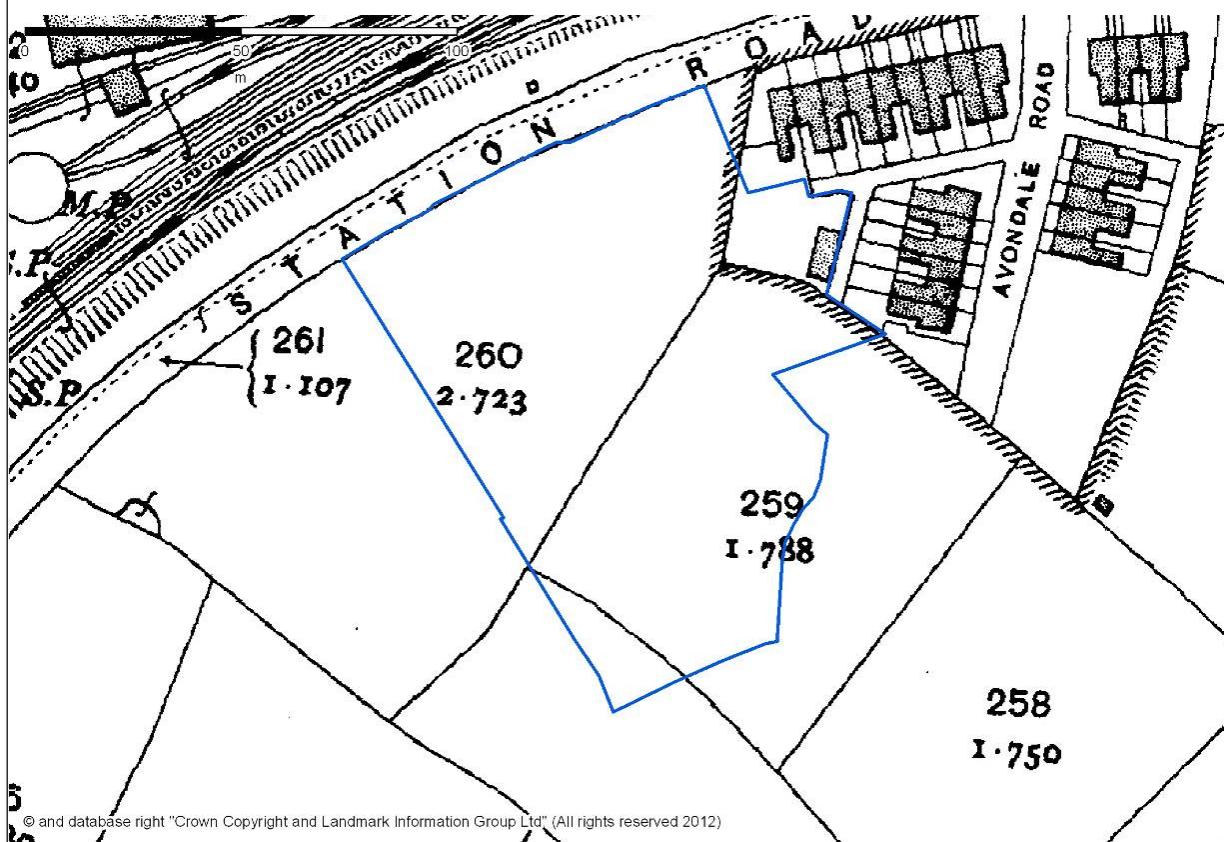


Fig 6 The project area on the Ordnance Survey 2nd edition 25in: 1 mile map, c 1907

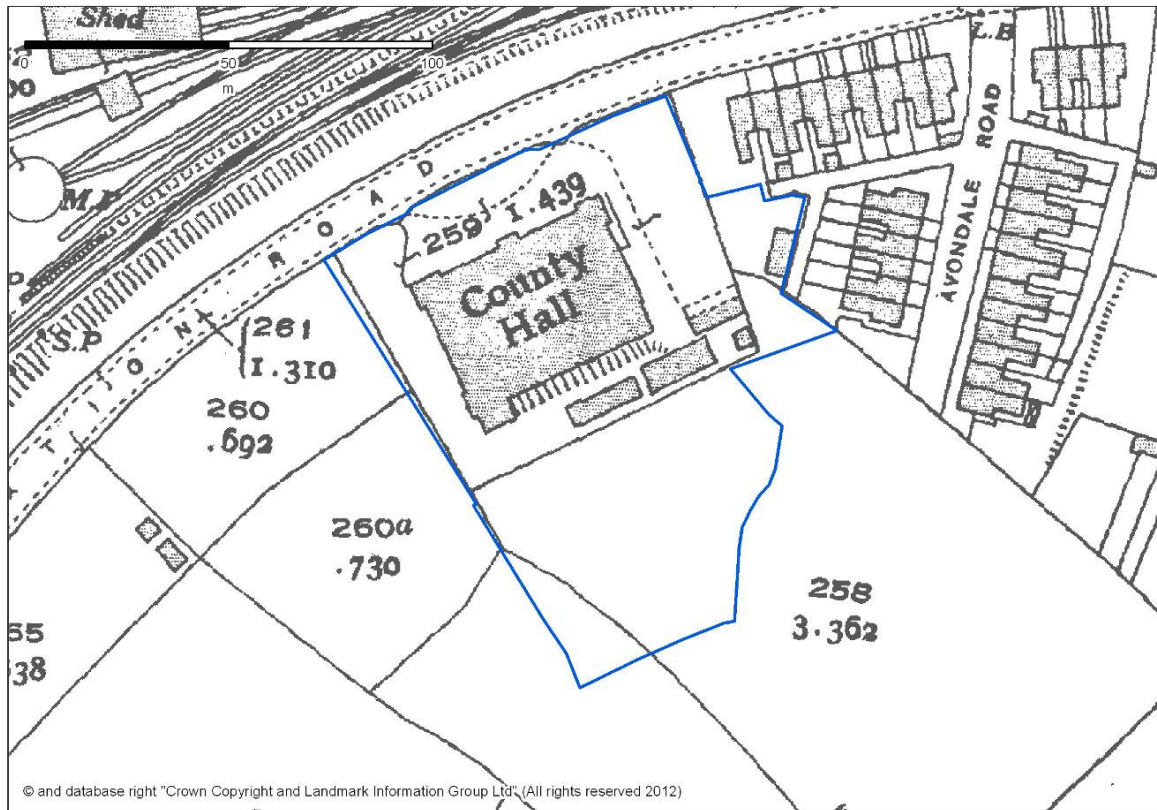
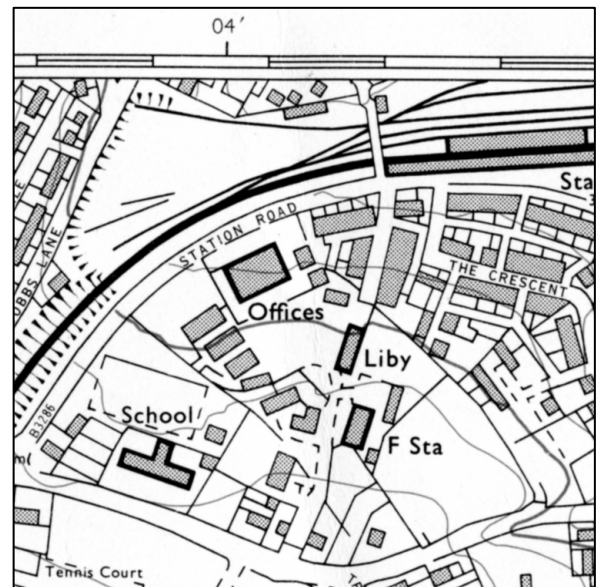
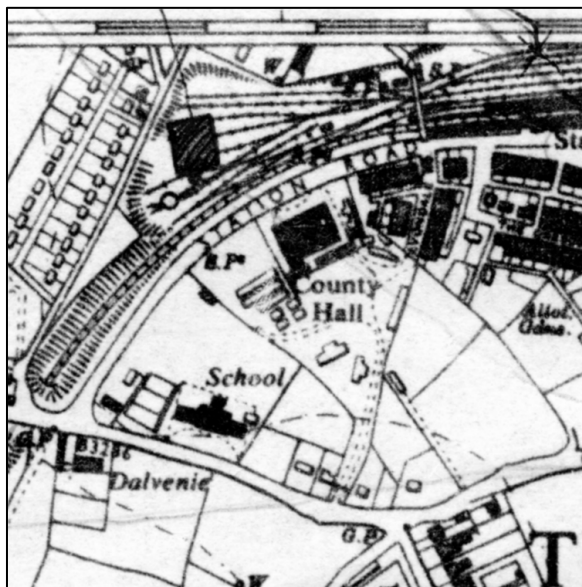


Fig 7 The project area on the Ordnance Survey 2nd revised edition 25in: 1 mile map, 1930s



Figs 8a, 8b Old County Hall and environs on (left) the Ordnance Survey 1:10,560 (6in: 1 mile) map of 1963, and (right) Ordnance Survey 1:10,000 map, 1973



Fig 9 Old County Hall and environs on an RAF vertical air photograph, 12 July 1946 (C32/4405).



Fig 10 Meridian Airmaps vertical air photograph, 18 May 1963 (T6 111810)



Fig 11 RAF vertical air photograph, 19 May 1980 (39 RAF/ 5608 A42)



*Fig 12 Cornwall County Council vertical air photograph, 14 November 1988
(91 88 007)*



*Fig 13 Oblique air photograph, Cornwall Archaeological Unit, 16 July 1989
(© Historic Environment, Cornwall Council, F23-94)*



Fig 14 Cornwall County Council vertical air photograph, June 1996 (06 236)

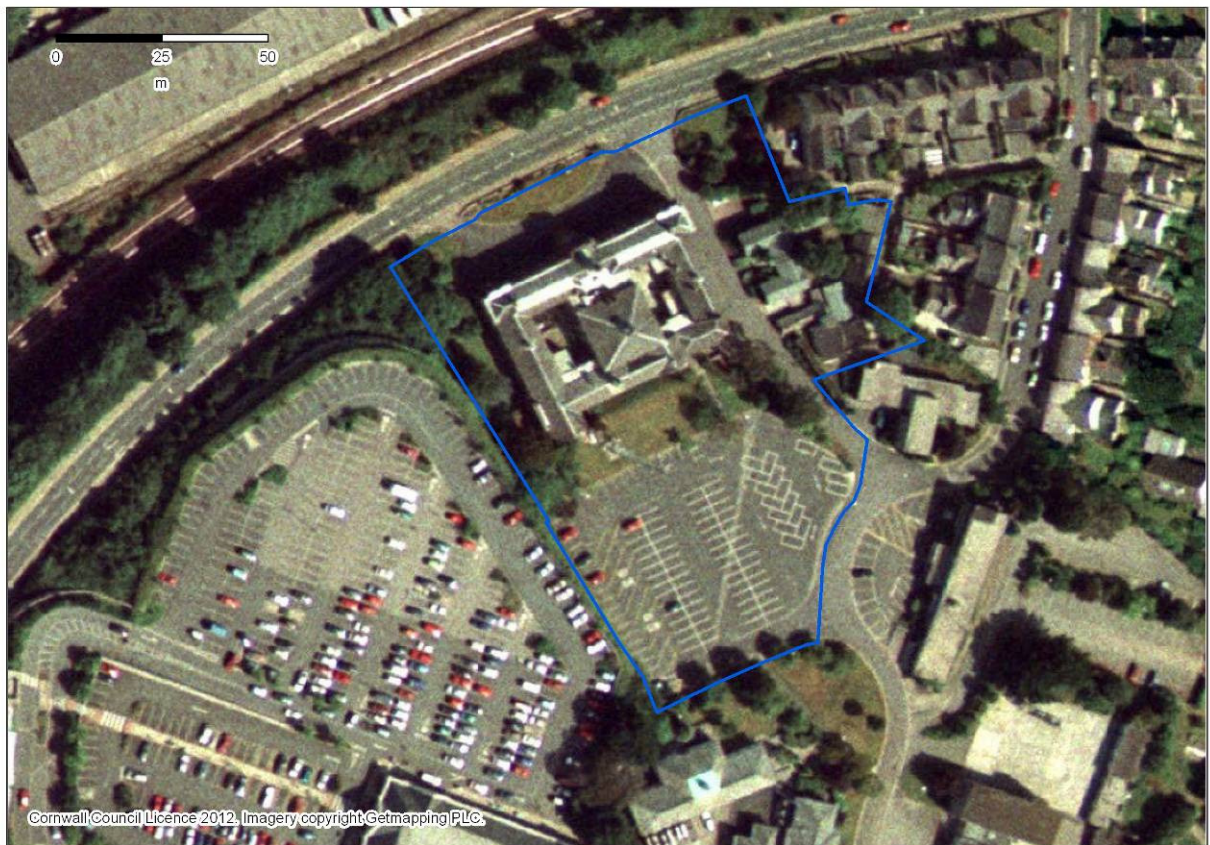


Fig 15 Cornwall County Council vertical air photograph, 2000

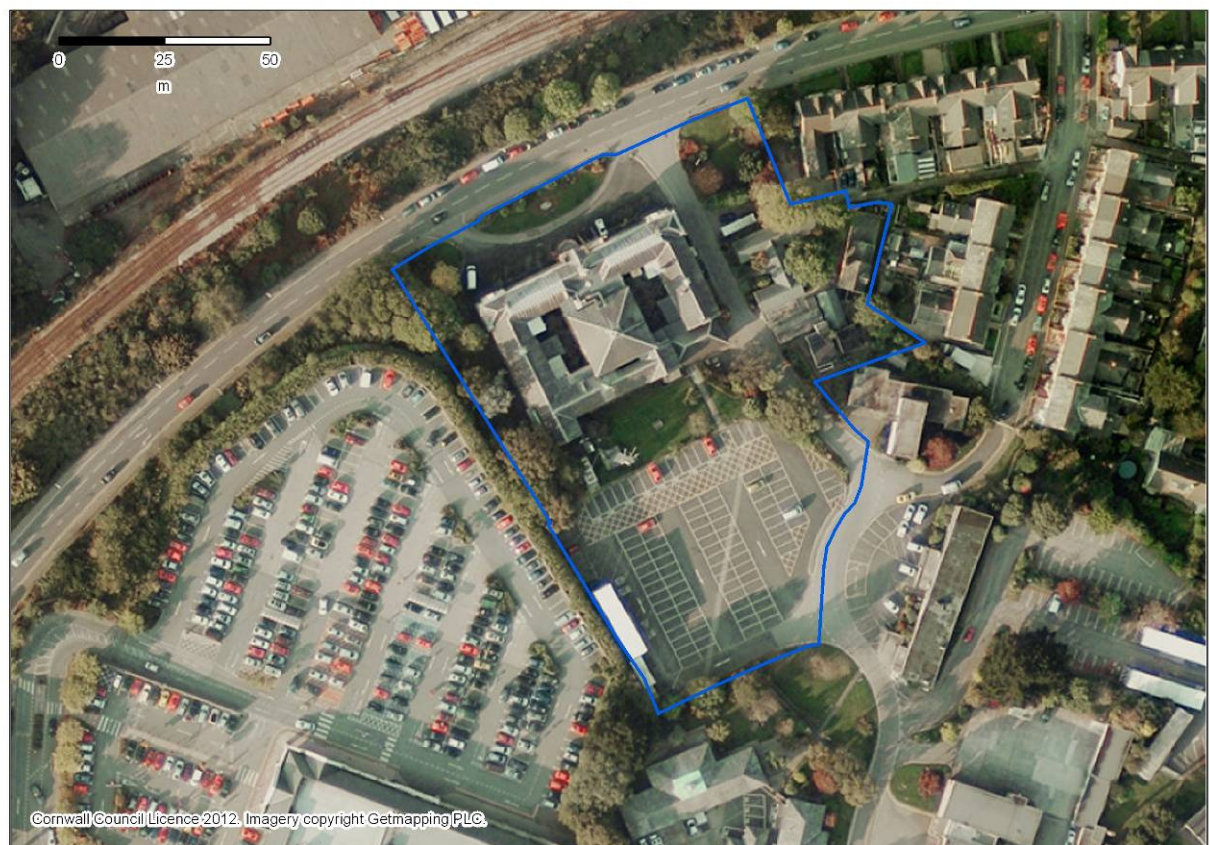
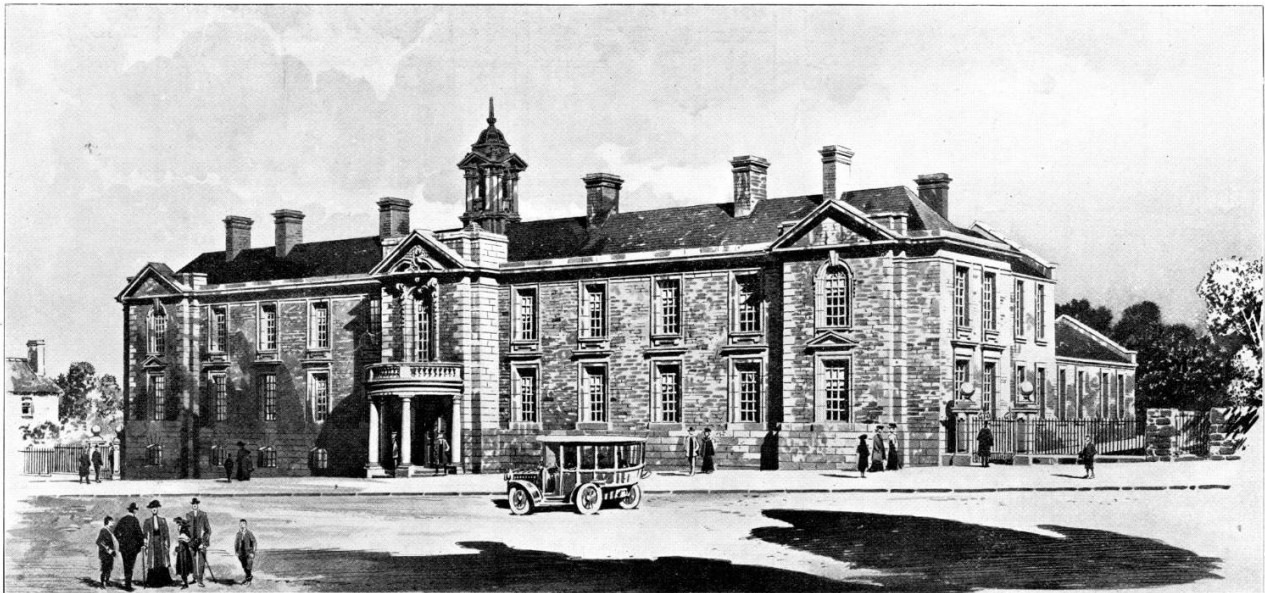


Fig 16 Cornwall County Council vertical air photograph, 2005



Fig 17 Undated photograph (probably pre-World War II) of Old County Hall (Cornish Studies Library)



First Premiated Design.

SILCOCK & REAY, Architects.

Fig 18 Architect's drawing, 1908 (Koch 1909)

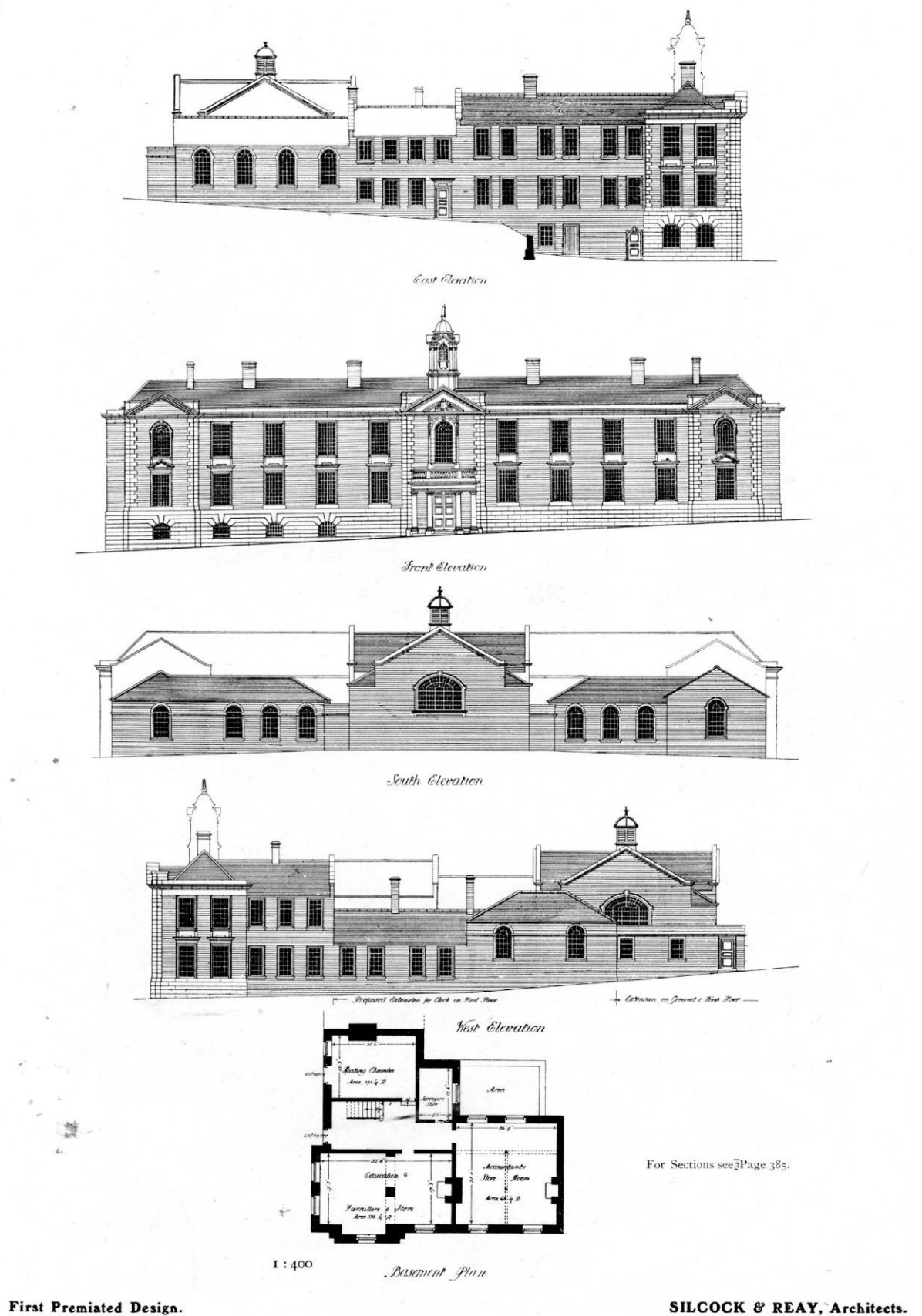


Fig 19 Elevations and basement plan, 1908 (Koch 1909)

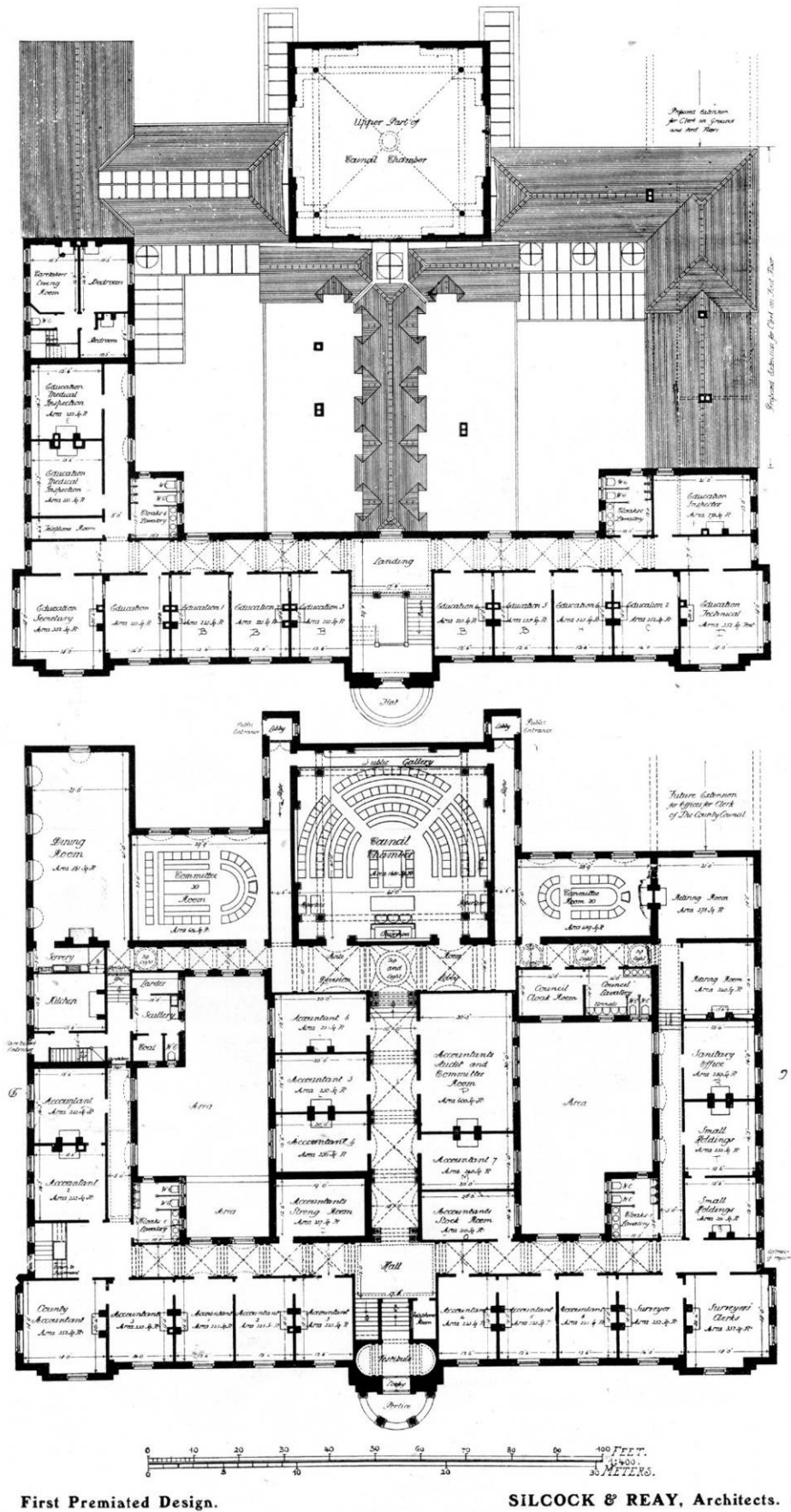


Fig 20 Plan, 1908 (Koch 1909)

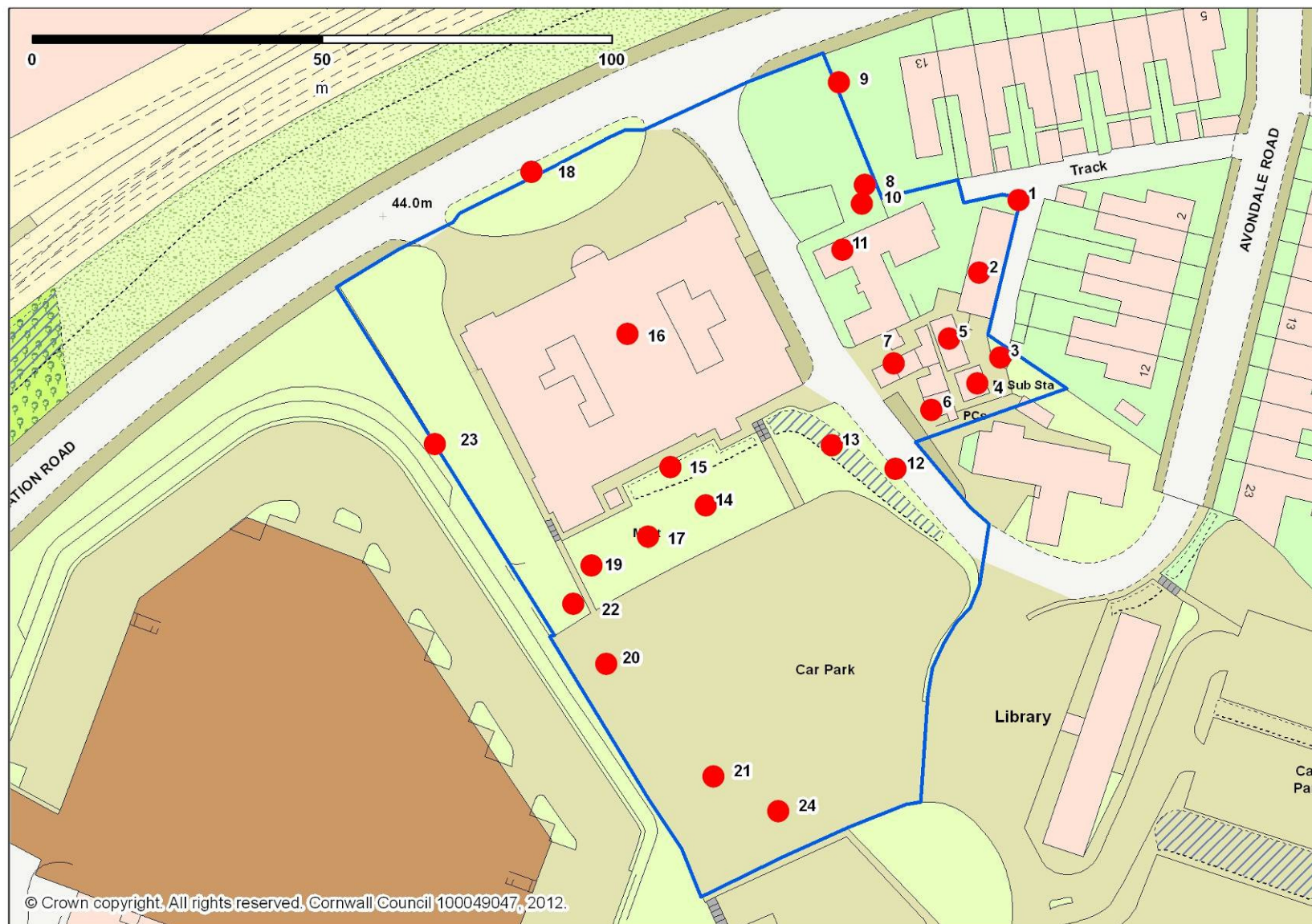


Fig 21 Locations of sites identified and described in the site inventory (section 8)

30

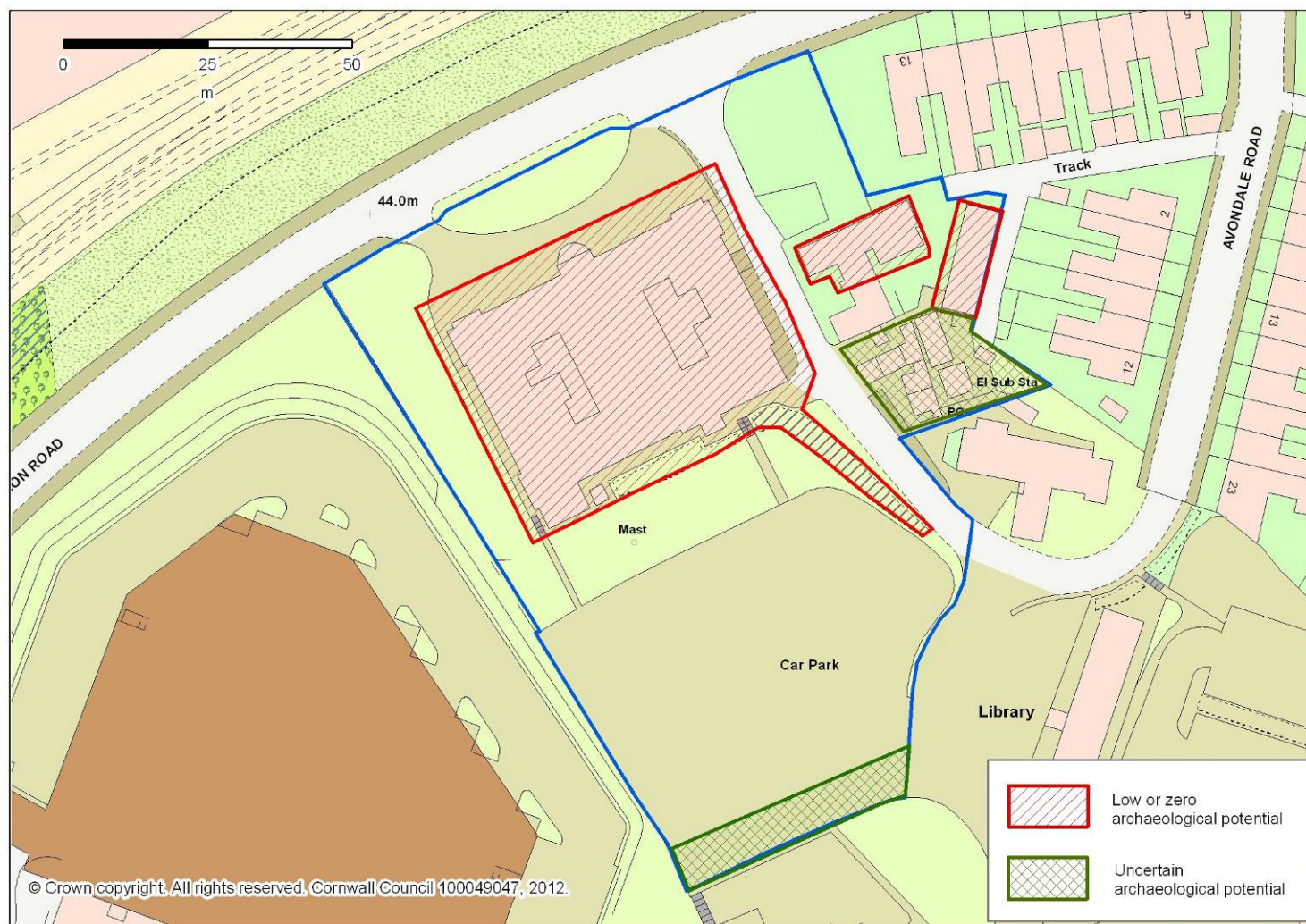


Fig 23 Archaeological potential