

ST. COLUMBA'S COLLEGE, ST. ALBANS, HERTS.

HN602

Report No. 376

Site name and address:	St. Columba's College, King Harry Lane, St. Albans, Herts		
County:	Hertfordshire	District:	St. Albans
Village/town:	St. Albans	Parish:	Non-civil parish
Planning reference:	05/06/0789	NGR:	TL 1420 0620
Client name and address:	F T Gearing Landscape Services Ltd., Crompton Rd. Depot, Stevenage, Herts		
Nature of work:	Car park extension	Former land use:	Lawn
Site Status:	AS.R.25	Reason for investigation:	Direction of local planning authority (PPG16)
Position in planning process:	After full determination (as a condition)	Project brief originator:	Local Authority
Size of affected area:	c.350m ²	Size of area investigated:	c.350m ²
Site Code:	HN602	Other reference:	n/a
Organisation:	Heritage Network	Site Director:	David Hillelson
Project type, methods etc...	Monitoring	Archive Recipient:	Verulamium Museum
Start of work	25/10/2006	Finish of work	25/10/2006
Related SMR Nos:	n/a	Periods represented:	Modern
Oasis UID	heritage1 - 19869	Significant finds:	none
Monument types:	none		
Physical archive:	none		
Previous summaries/reports:	n/a		

Synopsis: In response to a condition on the planning permission for the construction of a car park extension at St. Columba's College, St. Albans, the Heritage Network was commissioned by F T Gearing Landscape Services Ltd., to undertake the archaeological monitoring of the development groundworks.

The car park extension is located on the eastern side of the college grounds, adjacent to the science block. The site slopes downwards in a northeasterly direction falling approximately 1m over the study area (Figure 1).

The observed stratigraphy of the site consisted of 0.1m of very dark grey (10YR 3/1) silty clay topsoil overlying 0.45 – 0.5m of made ground. The natural geology is strong brown (7.5YR 4/6) clay with frequent flints.

The topography of the site appears to have been formed partly by the redeposition of the natural clay removed during the construction of the adjacent science block and partly by the addition of imported material.

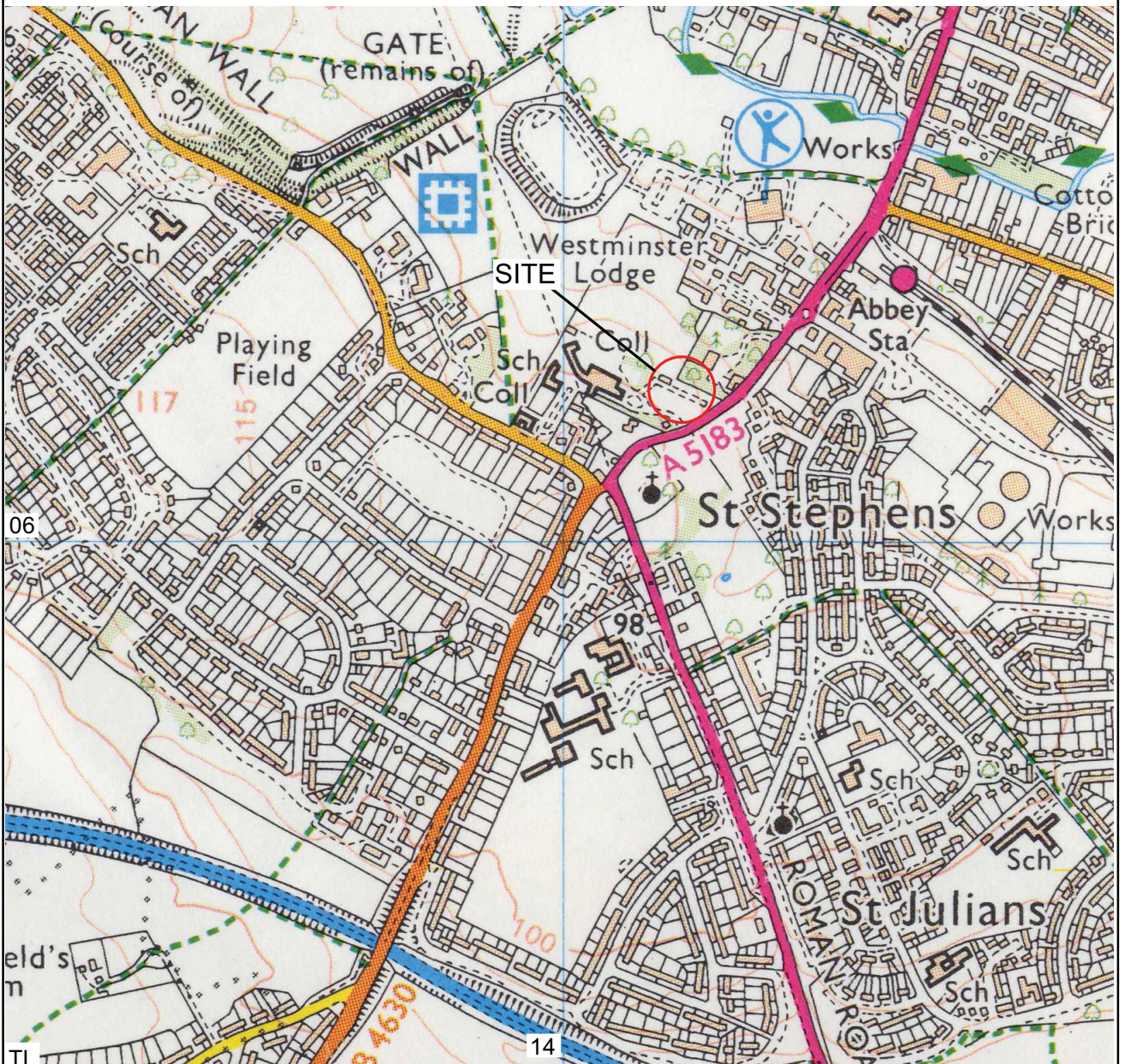
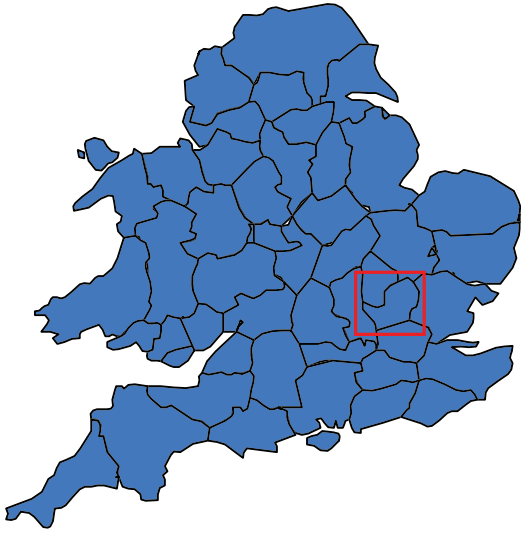
The natural geology was exposed in approximately 20% of the stripped area and was confined to a single patch on the steepest part of the gradient between the study area and the existing car park (Plate 1a). The redeposited clay was located in an area immediately adjacent to the science block (Plate 1b), (Figure 2).

The made ground consisted of a mixture of silty clay, chalk and sand with some modern construction debris scattered throughout. Within this layer was a fractured length of concrete, 0.15m wide x 0.1m deep by at least 6m long. It was orientated northeast to southwest and represents protection for computer cabling which was subsequently re-routed (contractor, *pers. comm*).

The spoil from the excavation was inspected but no artefacts of archaeological significance were recovered.

No cut features or deposits were exposed during the groundworks programme. The depth of the made ground was such that it remained unbreached over much of the site thereby leaving any archaeology which may have been present undisturbed.

David Kaye BA PIFA, October 2006

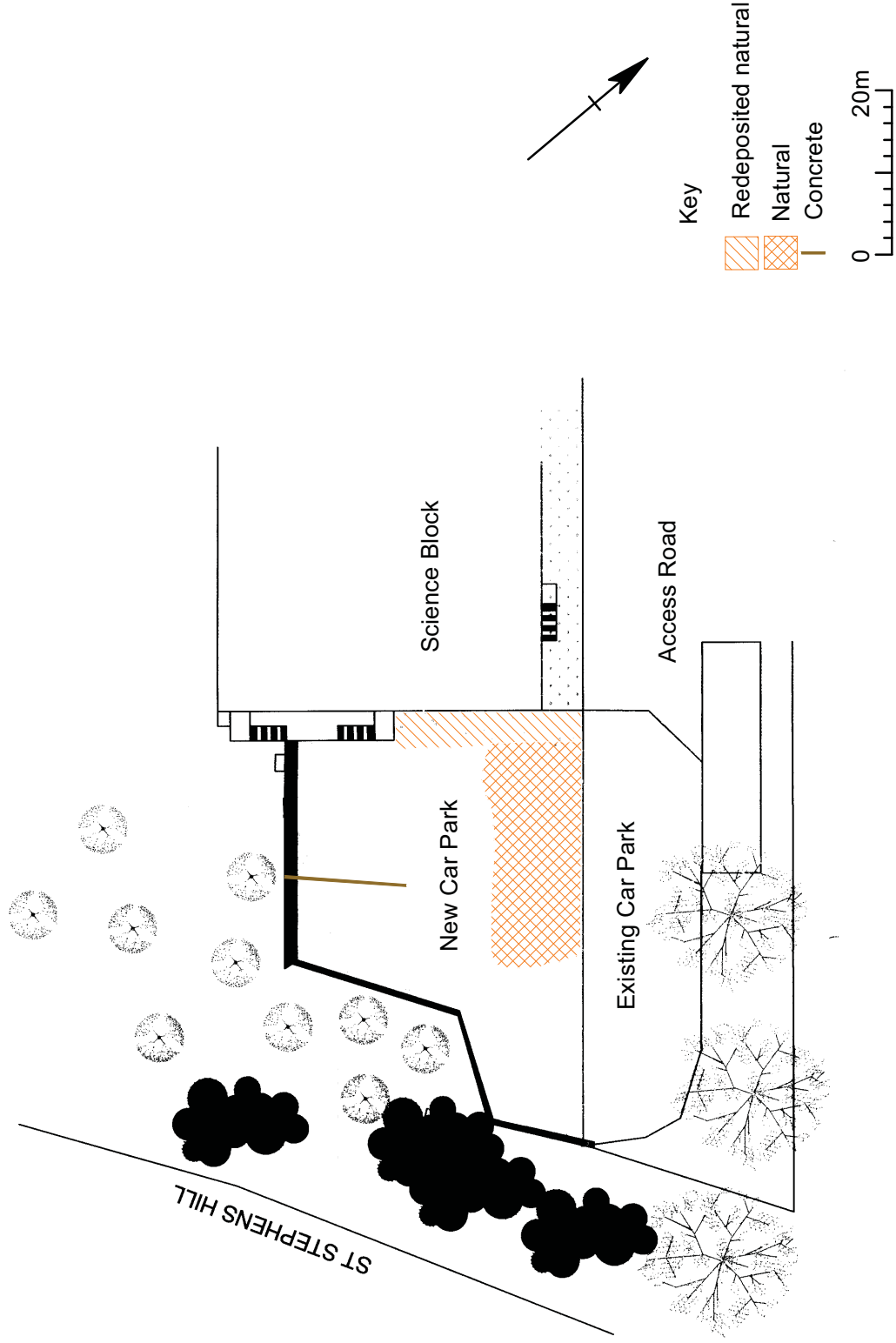


Site Location

Scale 1:10000

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Figure 1



Site Layout



Plate 1a: Ground reduction looking east



Plate 1b: Ground reduction looking north