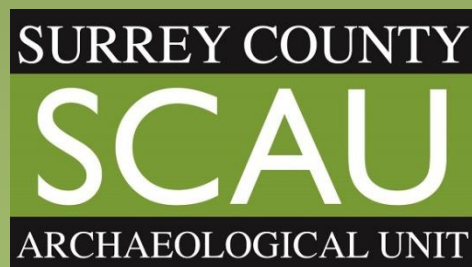


**PROPOSED CARPARK  
EXTENSION AT REIGATE TOWN  
HALL, CASTLEFIELD ROAD,  
REIGATE, SURREY**

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING  
BRIEF**



# PROPOSED CARPARK EXTENSION AT REIGATE TOWN HALL, CASTLEFIELD ROAD, REIGATE

## An archaeological watching brief report

### Summary

An archaeological watching brief was carried out on groundworks ahead of the construction of a new car park.

The new development area was situated on the location of two modern annexes at Reigate Town Hall and the existing car park was extended over the site of South Annex 1. No archaeological deposits or finds were discovered.

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|                |                                      |
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| Client         | Reigate and Banstead Borough Council |



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## **1 INTRODUCTION**

1.1 In March 2017 an archaeological watching brief was carried out at Reigate Town Hall in preparation for the extension of the existing car park (see figures 1-4).

1.2 The site is located immediately to the east of a Scheduled Ancient Monument that includes the historic remains of Reigate Castle and also within an Area of High Archaeological Potential (AHAP) as well as a Conservation Area. The projected line of the bailey ditch of Reigate Castle, which originally formed the outer defence of the castle, is shown on the Bryant Survey of Reigate of 1785 (see fig 3). The construction of Tunnel Road in 1823 which consequently destroyed a section of the bailey ditch and probably resulted in the infilling of its eastern end, left a levelled area available for the later construction of the Town Hall in 1901 (see figs 3-4). In view of the areas archaeological potential an archaeological watching brief undertaken to monitor the impact of the proposed development on potential archaeological deposits. The form and scope of the work was set out in the Written Scheme of Investigation (Collie 2017).

1.3 The fieldwork was commissioned by Reigate and Banstead Borough Council, and was undertaken by staff of the Surrey County Archaeological Unit, on behalf of Reigate and Banstead Borough Council.

## **2 METHODOLOGY**

2.1 The watching brief was designed to allow the identification of any archaeological artefacts or features. Full details of methodology are found in the WSI (see Collie 2017).

2.2 The area subject to archaeological supervision and observation is highlighted in fig 2.

2.3 The archaeologist monitored the removal of all deposits by machine until the depth required by the contractor was reached. The machining process was carefully watched for the occurrence of any features or artefacts of archaeological interest that might relate to ancient activity in the immediate vicinity. The exposed sections of the trenches were also carefully examined, and the removed spoil scanned for any stray unstratified artefacts.

2.4 The groundworks undertaken consisted of removal of a thick concrete slab as well as a number of layers of tarmac from previous car park surfaces and brick foundations from the previous building. This was achieved by mechanical excavator.

## **3 RESULTS**

3.1 No archaeological deposits or artefacts were discovered. The required level of the foundations of the car park extended to 300mm below ground surface, and did not go below the layers of made-ground that comprised the foundations of the previous building and the surrounding car parking services.

## **4 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

4.1 Only modern stratigraphic layers of Made Ground were revealed in the observation of excavations.

4.2 It is recommended that there is no need for further archaeological involvement in relation to this development.

4.3 The statements and recommendations in 4.1-4.2 are the considered views of the Surrey County Archaeological Unit, based on the evidence presented in the earlier part of this report. It must be emphasised, however, that whether further archaeological work is required, what form it should take and when it might be scheduled are decisions to be made by the Local Planning Authority (generally acting under the advice of Surrey County Council's Heritage Conservation Team) and any further action in response to this report should await their opinion.

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## **5 REFERENCES**

Collie, T, 2017; Proposed carpark extension at Reigate Town Hall, Castlefield Road, Reigate – a Written Scheme of Investigation for the conduct of an archaeological watching brief; SCAU client report.



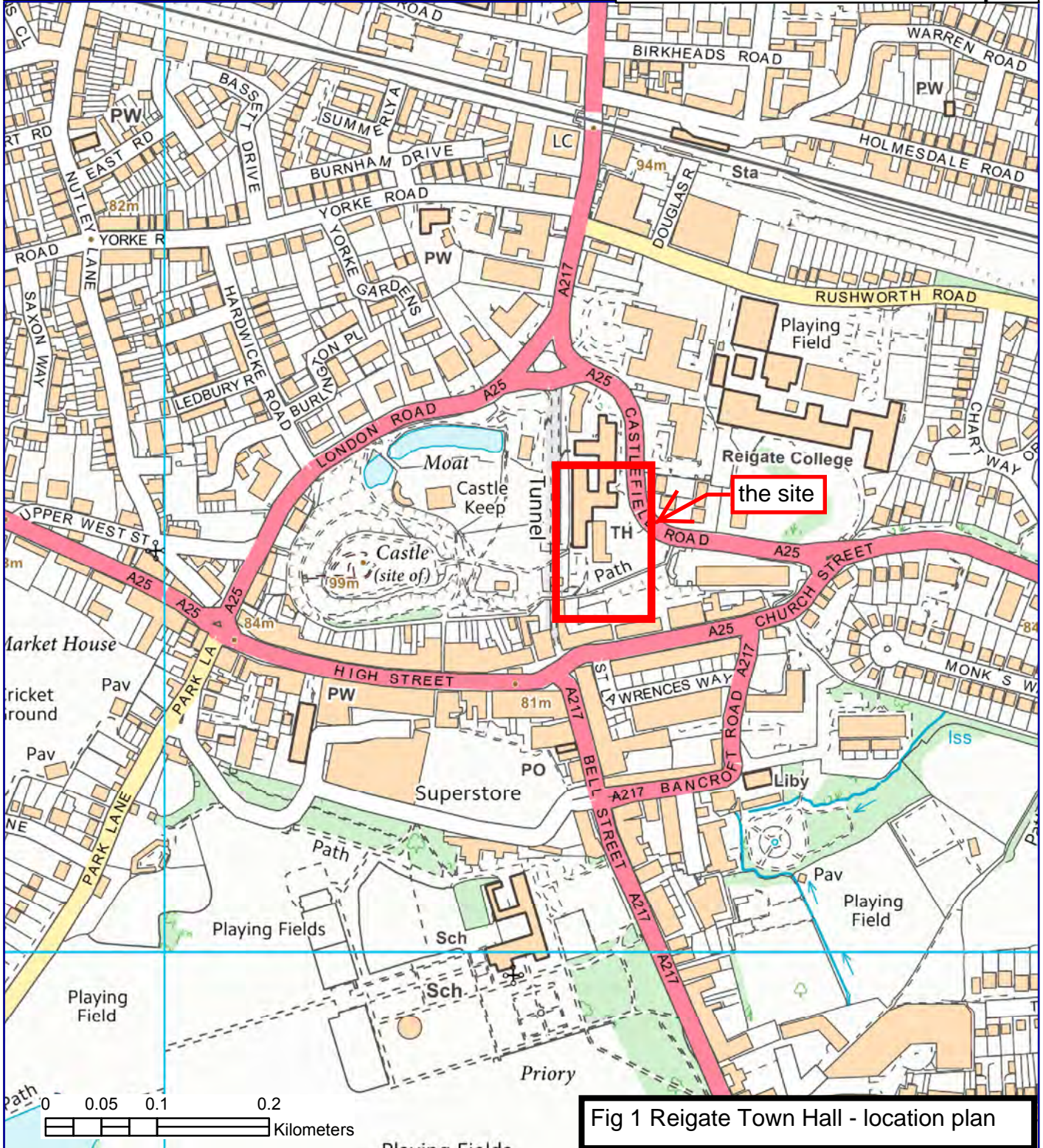
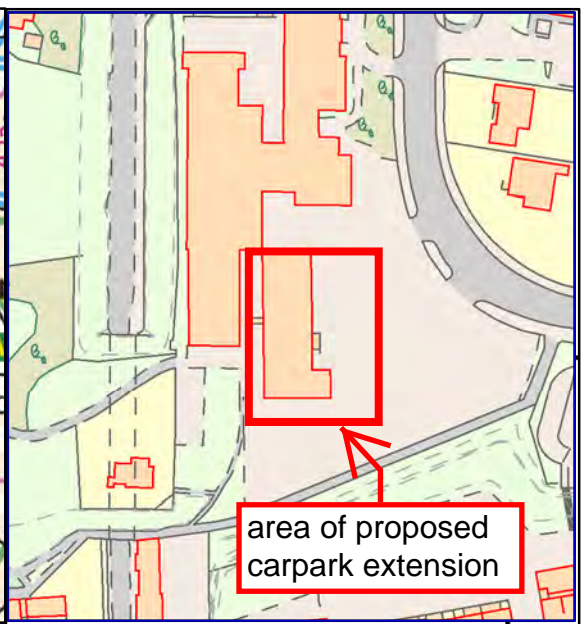
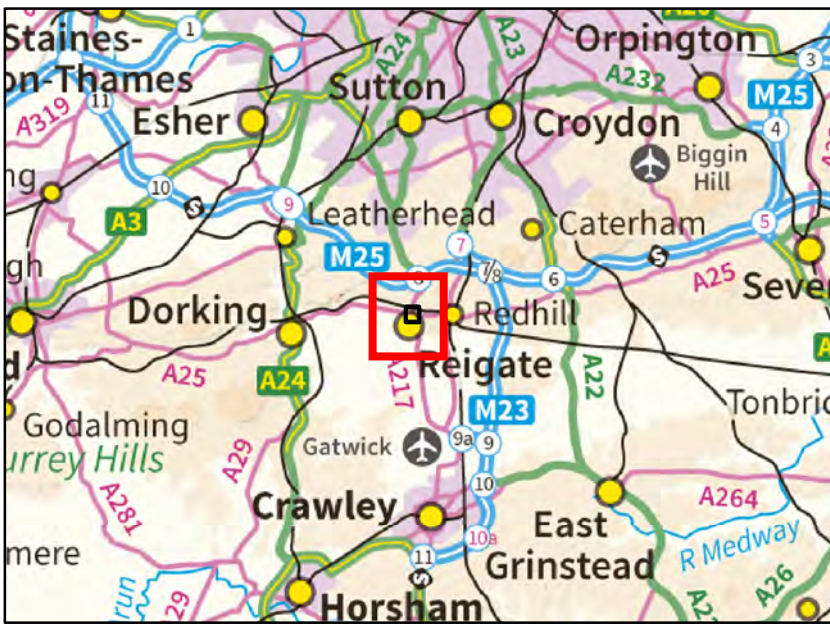


Fig 1 Reigate Town Hall - location plan



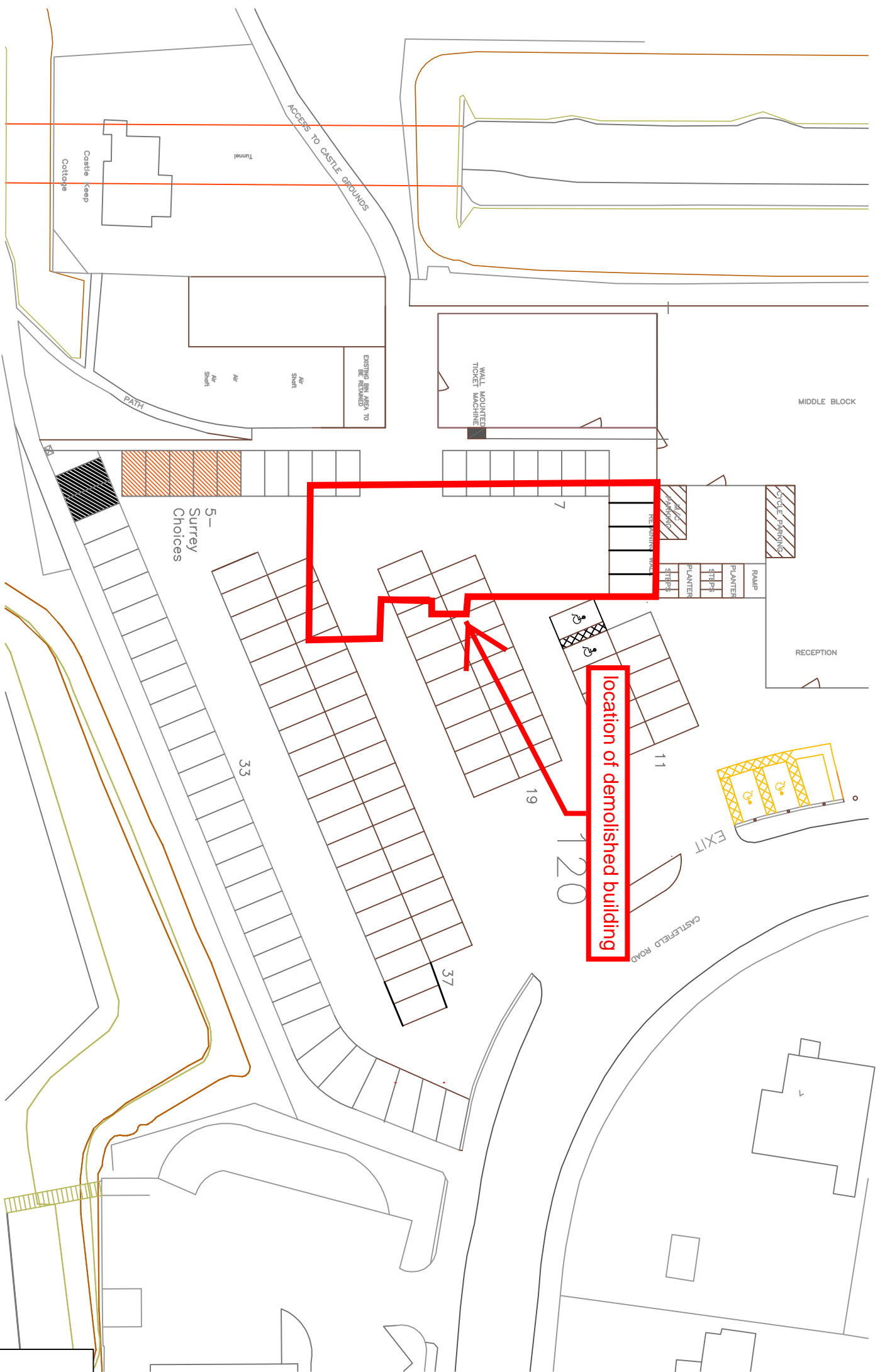
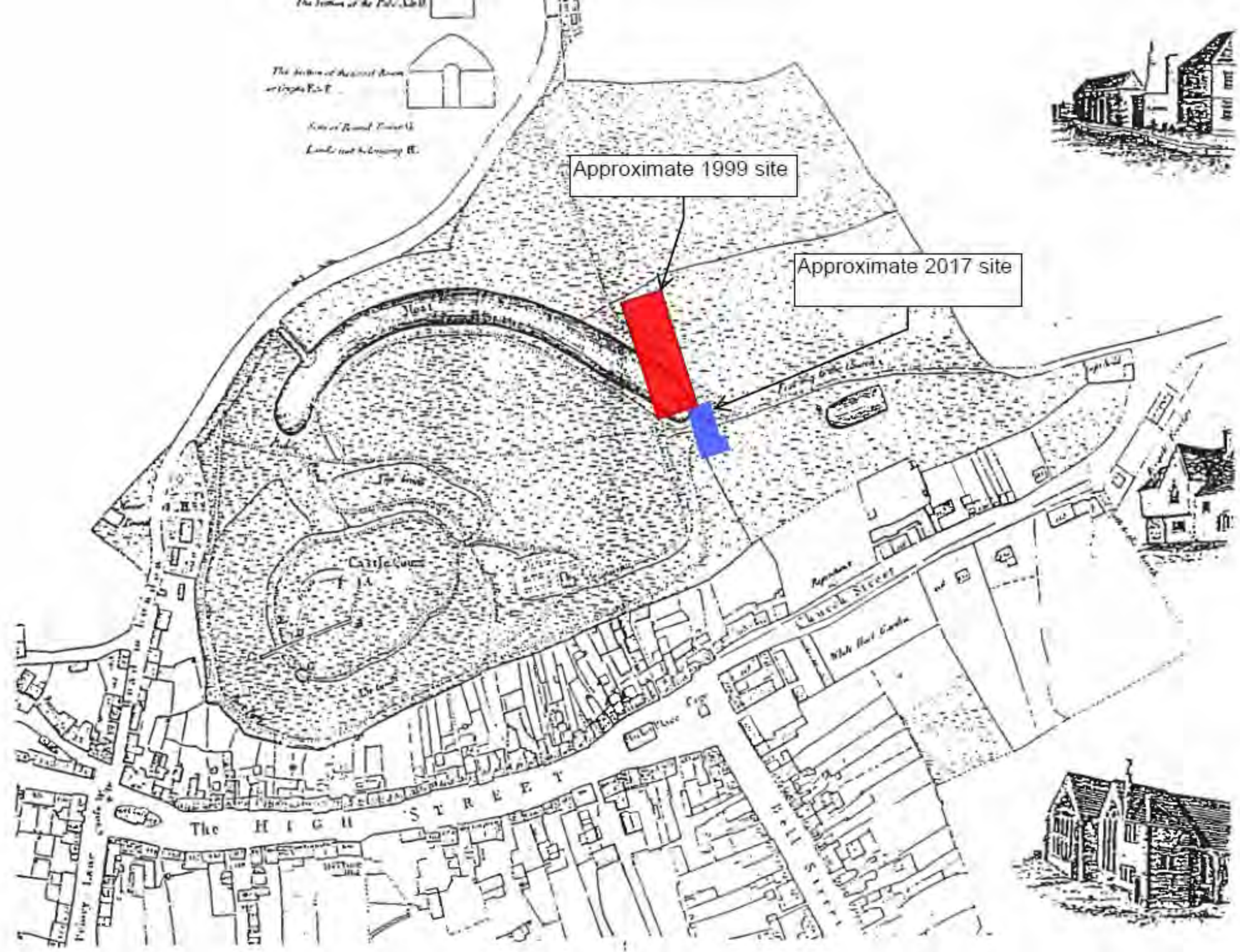


Fig 2 Reigate Town Hall - proposed development

Title - Proposed Parking  
 Layout  
 Scale - 1:500 @ A3  
 Date - January 2017  
 Drawing Nr - PS - 002 R-A  
 Author - T.O.P

**Reigate & Banstead**  
 BOROUGH COUNCIL  
 Banstead | Horley | Redhill | Reigate



An extract from Bryant's Survey of Reigate of 1765 showing the full extent of the waterfilled bailey ditch prior to the construction of Tunnel Road and the approximate area of the archaeological investigations (at scale 1:2500).

Fig 3 Reigate Town Hall - Bryants Survey 1795



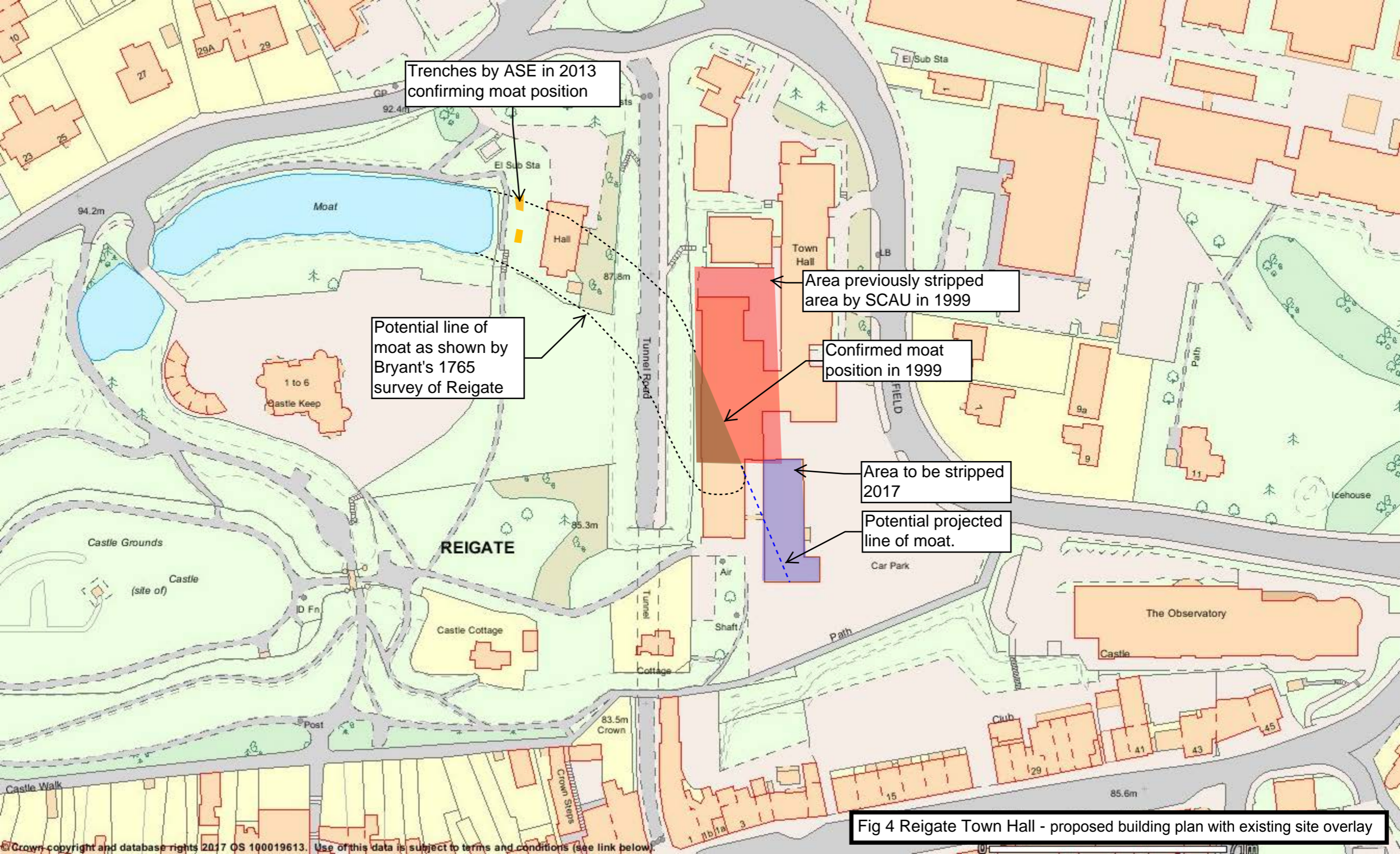


Fig 4 Reigate Town Hall - proposed building plan with existing site overlay