

Archaeological desk-based assessment of a site at Kingsholm Road, Gloucester



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Worcestershire Archaeology
Archive and Archaeology Service
The Hive, Sawmill Walk,
The Butts, Worcester
WR1 3PD

Date: 7 October 2014
Author: Elizabeth Connolly, econnolly1@worcestershire.gov.uk
Illustrator: Laura Templeton
Project reference: P4325
Report reference: 2150

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Desk-based assessment at Kingsholm Road, Gloucester

Author Elizabeth Connolly

Summary

A desk-based assessment for the historic environment was undertaken at Kingsholm Road, Gloucester. It was undertaken on behalf of Astam (the Client), who are currently undertaking feasibility, design and planning works for the construction of a new shop and flats off the Kingsholm Road, Gloucester (National Grid reference SO83471933). Initial discussions with the local planning authority have established the requirement for an archaeological report to accompany a planning submission.

This report describes and assesses the significance of the heritage assets (and potential heritage assets) that are potentially affected by the application. The setting of heritage assets is considered. The potential impact of the application, and the need for further on-site evaluation, is assessed.

The site, currently a car sales outlet, lies on the east side of Kingsholm Road which leads north from Gloucester city centre. The River Twyver, a former course of the River Severn flows over 200m to the south.

Iron Age coins found within the area support a theory that there was a pre-Roman crossing of the Twyver in Kingsholm. Several Roman roads are aligned towards Kingsholm and it is considered by some commentators that Kingsholm Road might be one of them.

Archaeological works have demonstrated that a Roman military fortress was once situated in this area. The fortress which was a predecessor of Gloucester is thought to have been abandoned in the AD60s at which time the walled colony of Gloucester (*Glevum Colonia*) was established. In the later Roman period the fortress became a cemetery and Roman burials including high status burials and a mausoleum have been found in the vicinity. The exact layout of the fortress is not fully established, but some estimates have shown the site as lying within its boundaries. A secondary Saxon burial, known as 'the Goth', in the mausoleum suggests that it continued as a feature of the landscape after the Roman era, and during the time of Edward the Confessor there was a royal palace at Kingsholm, at the site of the Roman fortress.

The site lay outside the medieval city of Gloucester, though adjacent to a major route into the city. A map of 1624 depicts the site as undeveloped to the north of the city. On the Inclosure map of 1799 part of the site is depicted as a '*messuage garden &C*' with a possible house shown, and a part of an orchard. Most of the land in the vicinity was shown as agricultural on the Inclosure map, but Kingsholm was built up by the late 19th Century. In the 1880s the site lay within the curtilage of a house known as Castle Grim but by 1902 this building, had been demolished and the grounds converted into playing fields, now Kingsholm Stadium, a rugby ground. During the 20th Century the site was occupied by various small buildings one of which survives as a workshop.

Archaeological fieldwork in the vicinity of the site and within the site itself have demonstrated the survival of Roman archaeological remains. Watching briefs carried out partially within the site demonstrated the survival of Roman deposits; pits and a ditch, as well as the junction of Medieval or Post Medieval walls at a relatively shallow depth and it is concluded that there is a high potential for the survival of archaeological deposits within the site. These may relate to the fortress or to activity associated with the road or the cemetery and there is a potential for the survival of human remains. These deposits would be vulnerable to groundworks associated with development of the site including the excavation of foundations, service runs, ground reduction and other landscaping.

Report

1 Background

1.1 Reasons for the project

A desk-based assessment for the historic environment was undertaken at Kingsholm Road, Gloucester (SO83471933). It was undertaken on behalf of Astam (the Client), who are currently undertaking feasibility, design and planning works for the construction of a new shop and flats off the Kingsholm Road, Gloucester. Initial discussions with the local planning authority have established the requirement for an archaeological report to accompany a planning submission.

The proposed development site is considered to include potential heritage assets, the significance of which may be affected by the application.

The project conforms to a project proposal (including detailed specification) produced by Worcestershire Archaeology (WA 2014).

The project also conforms to the *Standard and guidance for historic environment desk-based assessment* (IfA 2012).

1.2 Planning background

Present government planning policy is contained within the *National Planning Policy Framework* (DCLG 2012). This is supplemented by detailed guidance which had related to earlier government policy but which is at least partially still relevant to the present policy (DCLG/DCMS/EH 2010).

Gloucester's current planning policies pre-date NPPF (DCLG 2012, Section 126) and contain little that directly fulfils the obligations in section 126 although the *Development Affecting Sites of Historic Environment Interest-Interim Adoption SPD* (Gloucester City Council 2008) states:

- The Council will seek to protect, enhance and preserve sites of archaeological interest and their settings.
- There will be a presumption in favour of the physical preservation of nationally important archaeological remains, whether scheduled or not, and their settings.

2 Aims

The general aims of this assessment are to:

- collect relevant information relating to the historic environment potential of the proposed development area;
- assess the potential significance of any heritage assets;
- assess the impact of the proposed development on these heritage assets;

The project will only assess heritage assets which are of archaeological interest and will not include consideration of Listed Buildings, and Conservation Areas.

3 Methods

3.1 Personnel

The assessment was undertaken by Elizabeth Connolly MA; who joined Worcestershire Archaeology in 2013 and has been practicing archaeology since 1999. The project manager responsible for the quality of the project was Tom Rogers MSc. Illustrations were prepared by Laura Templeton.

All relevant information on the history of the site and past land-use was collected and assessed. Records of known archaeological sites and monuments were obtained from Gloucester City

Historic Environment Record (HER). Site archives held by the Gloucester City Historic Environment Record were also consulted. Historic maps and published sources were consulted at Gloucestershire Archives.

The results are mapped on Figure 2 and the details of individual features of the historic environment are given in Appendix 1. HER references have been used throughout this assessment.

3.2 List of sources consulted

Cartographic sources

- Map of the inshire of the town of Gloucester, 1624; GRO/PC863
- Gloucester Inclosure Map, London Road, Wooton Pitch and Meanham Meadow, 1799; GRO/Q-RI-70
- Ordnance Survey Town Plan of Gloucester, 1:500, 1884; GRO/D2428/3/25/15/7
- Ordnance Survey 1st Edition Gloucestershire, 1:2500, 1886
- OS 1902, Gloucestershire, 1:2500
- OS 1923, Gloucestershire, 1:2500
- OS 1936, Gloucestershire, 1:2500
- OS 1955, Gloucestershire, 1:2500

Aerial photographs

- Google Maps, viewed September 2014

Documentary sources

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- Archives held by the Gloucester City Historic Environment Record
- DCLG 2012 *National Planning Policy Framework*, Department for Communities and Local Government
- DCLG/DCMS/EH 2010 *PPS5 Planning for the historic environment: historic environment planning practice guide*, Department for Communities and Local Government/Department for Culture, Media and Sport/English Heritage
- English Heritage 2011 *The setting of heritage assets*, English Heritage
- British Geological Society, Geology of Britain Viewer accessed at <http://www.bgs.ac.uk/discoveringGeology/geologyOfBritain/viewer.html> on 26 September 2014
- Garrod, AP and Heighway, CM, 1984 *Garrod's Gloucester*, Bristol
- Heighway, C 2012 Goths and Saxons? The Late Roman Cemetery at Kingsholm, Gloucester, in *Transactions of the Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society* **130** (2012) 63-88
- Hurst, HR, 1985 *Kingsholm* Gloucester Archaeological Publications
- IfA 2012 *Standard and guidance for historic environment desk-based assessment*, Institute for Archaeologists, updated 16 November 2012

- Ragg, J M, Beard, G R, George, H, Heaven, F W, Hollis, J M, Jones, R J A, Palmer, R C, Reeve, M J, Robson, J D, and Whitfield, W A D, 1984 *Soils and their use in midland and western England*, Soil Survey of England and Wales, **12**
- VCH N.M. Herbert (ed), 1988 *Victoria History of the County of Gloucestershire; Gloucester*
- WA 2014 *Proposal for an desk-based assessment at Kingsholm, Gloucester*, Worcestershire Archaeology, Worcestershire County Council, unpublished document dated 9 April 2014, P4325
- 110 Archaeology, 2004 *Archaeological Watching Brief at Gloucester Rugby Football Club*, unpublished report, HER 1872

3.3 Other methods

A site visit was undertaken on 30 September 2014.

Consultation has been undertaken with the Andrew Armstrong to establish the key issues of importance in decision-making in response to the planning application.

This assessment is limited to consideration of heritage assets and potential assets that are relevant to the application site.

3.4 Impact assessment criteria

The criteria cited in Table 1 have been used.

<p>Major Beneficial: Demonstrable improvement to a designated heritage asset of the highest order (or its setting), or non-designated asset (or its setting) of archaeological interest of demonstrable significance equal to that of a scheduled monument. Designated assets will include scheduled monuments, grade I/II* listed buildings, grade I/II* registered parks and gardens, registered battlefields, protected wrecks or World Heritage Sites. Improvement may be in the asset's management, its amenity value, setting, or documentation (for instance enhancing its research value). It may also be in better revealing a World Heritage Site or Conservation Area's significance.</p>
<p>Beneficial: Demonstrable improvement to a designated heritage asset (or its setting), or non-designated asset (or its setting) of archaeological interest such that the level of improvement will demonstrably have a minor affect the area and its heritage resource, either at a local or regional level. For instance grade II listed buildings, Conservation Areas and undesignated heritage assets important at a sub-national level. Improvement may be in the asset's management, its amenity value, setting, or documentation (for instance enhancing its research value).</p>
<p>Not Significant: Impacts that have no long-term effect on any heritage asset.</p>
<p>Minor Adverse: Minor harm to a designated heritage asset (or its setting), or non-designated asset (or its setting) of archaeological interest such that the level of harm will demonstrably have a minor affect the area and its heritage resource, either at a local or regional level. For instance grade II listed buildings, Conservation Areas and undesignated heritage assets important at a sub-national level.</p>

<p>Moderate Adverse: Minor harm to a designated heritage asset (or its setting) of the highest significance, or non-designated asset (or its setting) of archaeological interest of demonstrable significance equal to that of a scheduled monument. For instance scheduled monuments, grade I/II* listed buildings, grade I/II* registered parks and gardens, registered battlefields, protected wrecks or World Heritage Sites.</p> <p>Harm to a designated heritage asset (or its setting), or non-designated asset (or its setting) of archaeological interest such that the level of harm will demonstrably affect the area and its heritage resource, either at a local or regional level. For instance grade II listed buildings, Conservation Areas and undesignated heritage assets important at a sub-national level.</p>
<p>Major Adverse: Harm to a designated heritage asset (or its setting) of the highest significance, or non-designated asset (or its setting) of archaeological interest of demonstrable significance equal to that of a scheduled monument. For instance scheduled monuments, grade I/II* listed buildings, grade I/II* registered parks and gardens, registered battlefields, protected wrecks, World Heritage Sites or harm to a building or other element that makes a positive contribution to the significance of a Conservation Area as a whole.</p> <p>Substantial harm to, or loss of, a designated heritage asset (or its setting), or non-designated asset (or its setting) of archaeological interest such that the level of harm or loss will demonstrably affect the area and its heritage resource, either at a local or regional level. For instance grade II listed buildings, Conservation Areas and undesignated heritage assets important at a sub-national level.</p>
<p>Severe Adverse: Substantial harm to, or loss of, a designated heritage asset (or its setting) of the highest significance, or non-designated asset (or its setting) of archaeological interest of demonstrable significance equal to that of a scheduled monument. For instance scheduled monuments, grade I/II* listed buildings, grade I/II* registered parks and gardens, registered battlefields, protected wrecks, World Heritage Sites or the loss of a building or other element that makes a positive contribution to the significance of a Conservation Area as a whole.</p>
<p>Unknown: Where there is insufficient information to determine either significance or impact for any heritage asset, or where a heritage asset is likely to exist but this has not been established, or where there is insufficient evidence for the absence of a heritage asset. For instance where further information will enable the planning authority to make an informed decision.</p>

Table 1: Impact assessment criteria for heritage asset

4 The application site

4.1 Location and size

The study area included the application site (Figure 1), though a search of HER events within 100m of the site was considered in order to provide a broader understanding of the local context (Figure 2). The site is c 800m² in area.

4.2 Topography, geology and soils

The underlying geology of site is mapped as the Blue Lias Formation and Charmouth Mudstone Formation which is dated to between the Triassic and Jurassic periods and is typical of the shallow lime rich seas of the period. This is overlain by the Cheltenham Sand and Gravel formation, deposited three million years ago (British Geological Society, 2014).

4.3 Current land-use

The site lies on the northern side of Gloucester city centre fronting onto the A430, Kingsholm Road just north of the playing field of Kingsholm Rugby Club, approximately 600m NNE of the cathedral. It is currently a used-car dealership (Plate 1).

A brick built work shop stands in the centre of the site (Plate 2), with the rest of the area being tarmacked for car parking with a low concrete fence between the site and the road. It was established that the workshop does not have a mechanic's pit. The ground slopes gently from east to west. A slightly raised area (7.8m north west by south east; 3.5m south west by north east) of concrete slabs containing projecting ironwork and edged with kerbing, possibly the base or foundation to a floor area of a previous building on the site, is immediately to the rear of the current workshop (Plates 3 and 4). Evidence of drainage runs across the site to the north of the workshop with two drainage grilles and a manhole recorded (Plate 7).

From the south to the north-west of the site a brick wall forms a border with the rugby club. In the grounds of the rugby club there is a small car parking area immediately south of the wall. This and the proposed development site are overlooked from the south by a stand. To the west, a rugby club pavilion overlooks the site from behind the brick wall. To the north-west the site is bordered by the gardens of 19th century terraced housing fronting St Mark Street. Between the brick wall and a shed, a breeze block wall forms part of the boundary of the site. There is a shed built into a corner in the north of the site (Plate 5). The shed is brick built with a rendered face to the east. This face is at 90 degrees to a wall of similar construction which runs along part of the northern boundary of the site. Access to the shed is from the site. Where the wall runs out the boundary of the site is shared with a narrow gabled three storey house with brick frontage. The house is set back from the road and there is a flat roofed two storey brick built shop to the front of this. The house's frontage is brick with stone window mouldings. The tarmac to the immediate south of the house is extremely uneven.

The streetscape is mixed residential and retail with several streets of terraced housing radiating from the main artery of Kingsholm Road. The ornate White Hart public house is visible to the south of the site (Plates 8 and 9).

4.4 Historic land-use and archaeological character

4.4.1 Iron Age

Information provided by Gloucester City HER indicates that the earliest archaeological evidence for human activity within the study area comes from the Iron Age. Iron Age coins and pottery recovered from a site near 'Coppice Corner' (c 500-600m north of the proposed development site) support the theory of an Iron Age settlement in association with a pre-Roman river crossing in Kingsholm.

4.4.2 Romano-British

At the Roman conquest a legionary fortress was constructed at Kingsholm, a part of which survives as a Scheduled Ancient Monument (Kingsholm Palace, List Entry No : 1002074) just over 100m to the north of the proposed development site

The precise boundaries of the first fortress are uncertain (Figure 12). A bank and ditch at 24 Kingsholm Square were interpreted as a southern defence of a first phase fortress. This bank was not a long-lived feature and was ignored by 4th-century inhumations (see below). The east and west fortress boundaries are guesswork. According to Garrod and Heighway, 1984, the course of the Twyver stream probably represents the old course of the Severn and thus the western limit of the fort. A conjectured plan of the fortress in Heighway (2012) depicts a large area continuing south towards the rugby ground, including the proposed development site, but the southern extent

is more likely to be around Edwy Parade (A Armstrong, 2014, pers comm, Fig. 12). Watching briefs from 4-24 Edwy Parade in 1996 recorded ditches that are possible alignments for the fortress ditch, the Kingsholm palace ditch and the Kingsholm manor ditch. (HER event 1031)

The alignment of Roman roads in the area are noted to be towards Kingsholm rather than Gloucester. The main east-west Roman communication line, Ermin Street (the road from Cirencester/London), reached the Severn at Kingsholm rather than at the city centre (Green, 1942, noted in Hurst, 1985). The presence of a major pre-Roman Iron Age settlement at Kingsholm provides an explanation for this; it also explains why the Kingsholm fortress was on low-lying ground (about 9.5 m AOD), rather than on the gravel promontory with a high point of about 16 m AOD where the later city-centre fortress was placed (Hurst 1985, 3). The Kingsholm fortress was approached from the north by a Roman road which is now represented by the A38 to Tewkesbury. Today the A38 Tewkesbury Road continues south as the A430 Kingsholm Road to connect with the city centre, though not all commentators agree that this is the Roman alignment (Hurst 1985, 119).

In about 66-67AD the fortress was abandoned for a more defensible site further south, which became the walled colony of Gloucester (Glevum Colonia). The fortress was dismantled, but remained officially part of the town, being used for cultivation. In the later Roman period, however, it was re-used for burial and a number of excavations have revealed high numbers of inhumations at various locations in the Kingsholm area roughly corresponding with the conjectured extent of the fortress.

Excavations at Kingsholm Close in 1972 (c 100-200m north of the proposed development site), revealed a first century building interpreted as a military copper smithing workshop, which had been destroyed by rubbish pits of the mid- 60s AD. Above this were loam layers from 2nd century and later cultivation. The site was then used for burial. Seven inhumations were found. Remains of a masonry building measuring 6.1m E-W were also found and in its interior was an *opus signinum* (broken tile) surface laid in irregular ridges, as if it had formed the setting for stone blocks. This was interpreted as a burial mausoleum, of the kind known from later Roman cemeteries elsewhere; blocks in the interior might have been the settings for stone coffins.

Burial 1 from this mausoleum seems to date from much later. Nicknamed 'the Goth'; the burial was dug into the floor and consisted of a wooden coffin containing the skeleton of a male aged about 40 with the head to the West (aligned on the mausoleum). The body had been buried fully clothed wearing a silver belt buckle, silver shoe buckles, a pair of silver strapends and an iron knife. The belt and other fittings, originally thought to be British, were later shown to be of Eastern European type, which gained the burial the nickname.

Excavations at 76 Kingsholm Road in 1987 (c 100m north of the proposed development site) revealed that the earliest features were first-century structures, of which the earliest perhaps predated the military division of the land. Subsequent buildings, which did conform to the military alignment, were either within, or part of the vicus of, the first fortress. These buildings were demolished in the late 1st century. The site was for some time under agricultural use, with the land divided into a series of narrow fields within a large rectangular close. Finally the site became a cemetery in the late 3rd/early 4th century.

At 35 Kingsholm Road (c 170m north of the proposed development site) excavations in 1981 revealed Early Roman (Claudio/Neronian) timber buildings. There were also 23 late Roman burials.

An excavation in 1985 Sandhurst Road site (c 400m north of the proposed development site) located the north fortress defence. A mid-1st-century turf rampart and ditch was replaced by an

enlarged rampart and new ditch slightly further north. This second phase was interpreted as accompanying an enlargement of the fortress to the south. The defences were partly levelled in the late 1st century but remained a boundary line at least until the late Roman period (Atkin 1986, quoted in Heighway, 2012).

In the cemetery at Coppice Corner, over 300 burials were noted, as well as 17 cremations in urns, the latter probably in the eastern part of the site. More than eleven burials were crouched. The burials were largely laid supine in coffins, some of which apparently had bases made of spaced planks. Some graves contained pottery vessels, coins and personal jewellery. Several dozen burials in the western zone were headless, and a collection of skulls were found in a contemporary ditch. The burials were thinly scattered, but there were some groups of overlapping burials which probably represent the reuse of family plots. The cemetery overlay a polygonal building, possibly a shrine, but perhaps a dwelling. The Coppice Corner cemetery appears to have been in use from the second to the fourth centuries AD.

The location of a Roman shrine at Kingsholm, found in 1876, is unknown. However, an altar discovered in a rockery on the Kingsholm Road originally came from a house on Deansway; c 200m from the proposed development site.

Several pottery kilns were recorded in watching briefs at the rugby ground, and fragments of Roman road have been recorded in watching briefs along Kingsholm Road and St Mark Street. In antiquity finds of 'legionary swords, urns, lachrymonies and other relics pertaining to a place of the dead' were found at an undisclosed location on Edwy Parade, while on St Mark Street, 'many coins including a hoard of 700' and coins of Augustus, Claudius, Nero and Vespasian were reported, also from an undisclosed location (HER events information, see Appendix 1).

A watching brief (HER event 648, Figure 11) was carried out in 1976 by Garrod along the line of trenches being excavated for the concrete footings of the boundary wall to the east and north of the rugby club. This wall borders the proposed development site from the north-west to the south east.

In Trench 1, in the north west of the proposed development site, the excavator found what could be interpreted as either a Roman make-up layer, or a destruction level, comprising crushed oolite and wall plaster, and occasional tile fragments. This was overlain by *opus signinum* mortar but the area excavated was too small to ascertain whether this was a floor surface. Garrod dated the building to the 2nd century.

Beneath this an occupation layer of dark gritty charcoal flecked loam was recorded within a layer of clay loam. Another area of mortar surface was also recorded within this trench. All the layers in this trench were truncated by cultivation activities and the features were overlain by a dark clay loam.

In Trench 2, which forms the southern edge of the development site, some patches of metallised surface were recorded, comprising oolite and lias worn cobbles with oolite gravel beneath. A layer of 'green gritty road silt' was recorded underneath. Beneath this were layers containing iron slag and long pieces of charcoal, presumably industrial waste. An area approximately 5m wide was recorded in section, approximately 6m west of the Kingsholm Road (Plate 10). It was interpreted as a Roman street alignment, pottery found was of Claudian/Neronian date. Garrod suggested that it was likely that this street 'may also represent the later Roman street which extended from the north gate of the Flavian fortress/*Colonia* along the line of Hare Lane'.

While there are no OD levels supplied with the reports of this watching brief, it is stated that the top of the loam layer encountered in Trench 1 was 1.1m above the Kingsholm Road.

In 1988 a further watching brief was carried out by Garrod (HER 876). In Trench 1 of this watching brief, along the southern boundary wall to the site (Figure 11), an Early Roman ditch was recorded, interpreted by Garrod as a mid-1st century ditch alignment with a width exceeding 1.6m (Plate 12). This was bounded on the south side by a possibly contemporary bunter and oolite pebble metallised

surface. Garrod notes that the alignment follows the Kingsholm fortress' east-west axis. He assumed the ditch to be an outer perimeter ditch located approximately 100m beyond the southern defences alignment. The ditch had been subsequently backfilled and sealed beneath successive gravel and stone metalled surfaces.

In Trench 2 of this watching brief two Roman pits and a possible Roman ground surface were recorded. A Flavian kiln was also recorded in a further trench, c 80m south of the site, as well as pits, a ditch and evidence of a ground surface, all Roman.

A small trench dug as part of a watching brief (HER event 1462, Figure 11), immediately south of the proposed development site revealed a rammed surface of oolite pebbles embedded on a layer of natural or redeposited natural silt. This metaled surface was recorded at a depth of c 0.35m below present ground level, and was overlain by a layer of dark brown loam, which contained numerous small stones and pebbles; possibly the remains of metalled surfaces disturbed by ploughing activities.

Evidence from a watching brief associated with excavations for the grandstand on the east side of the rugby ground (110 Archaeology, 2004; HER1872) suggests that the area had been used for the disposal of waste and the production of pottery. Several 1st century pits and a 1st century kiln were recorded at the ground, the kiln at a distance of c 60m south of the proposed development site. There were no burials found during the course of this watching brief.

4.4.3 Medieval

Just before the Norman conquest, in the time of King Edward the Confessor, Kingsholm was the site of an Anglo-Saxon royal hall, described as a 'palace'. This residence was superceded by Gloucester Castle and the 'palace' became a manor house which was demolished by 1591 (VCH 4, 1988).

Medieval pits (dating to the 11th and 12th centuries) were recorded during a watching brief at the rugby ground to the south of the site (HER 1872). The Kingsholm Road would clearly have been an important route into the city from the north during this period.

4.4.4 Post Medieval

According to Heighway, 2014, the Kingsholm, after the demolition of the manor house the area given over to market gardening and pasture, until the suburban building boom of the 19th century.

On the 1624 map of the inshire of Gloucester (Figure 3), Kingsholm is shown as mainly undeveloped, with some houses fronting onto the road north out of Gloucester. A raised area is depicted which might be the site of the palace, and later the Manor House at Kingsholm Close.

On the 1799 Inclosure map (Figure 4) the proposed development site is shown as part of two parcels of land, one small, squarish piece, land parcel number 84, described in the apportionment as *messuage garden &c*. The land parcel is small and some shading along its western boundary might in fact represent a building. The term *messuage* generally refers to a dwelling house and appurtenances legally as one. The second land parcel, number 85, is a larger irregular shaped field, described in the apportionment as the *St Pt of the Orchard* (South Part of the Orchard). The road running north is shown as a turnpike. The distinctive curve of Edyw terrace is identifiable to the north of the site but the landscape is clearly mainly agricultural.

A junction between two medieval to early post medieval wall footings were found in Trench 2 of the 1976 watching brief, 19.5m west of the Kingsholm Road. Both were 80cm wide and were composed of oolite angular stones. Wall 1 was oriented north-south and Wall 2 was oriented east-west (Plate 11). The walls were recorded as medieval or post medieval in date and may represent

the *messuage* on the Inclosure map. Garrod recorded a possible Post Medieval pit in Trench 1 of his 1988 watching brief (HER 876, Plate 12)

On the 1884 town plan and on the Ordnance Survey First Edition (Figures 5 and 6), rows of terraces are depicted on streets radiating from Kingsholm Road, labelled on the plan as Roman Road. Terraces are shown lining the newly-built St Mark Street, sheds of some of which are now within the current development site. The newly built Sebert Street is depicted, across the road to the east with terraces having been constructed.

At a distance of about 160m to the south of the site a large house, Castle Grim, is depicted with laid out gardens and orchards, with much of the site appearing to be part of this landscape feature. A building, 'Ivy Cottage', is shown immediately to the south of the site, and in the vicinity of the site to the west and south, gardens are depicted with trees and walkways. Two larger houses, 'Sebert Villas', are shown at the junction of St Mark Street and Roman Road, fronting onto Roman Road (Kingsholm Road), the more southern of which is within the area of proposed development. The river Twyver is shown running 230m to the south of the proposed development. Eight small buildings, probably outhouses, are shown in various parts of the site, and appear to be associated with Ivy Cottage as there is a more firm boundary between Sebert villas and the buildings. The rear of the site, to the west, is shown to be orchard or garden.

By 1902 (Figure 7) the 'Football and Athletic' ground has been built, covering the area between the proposed development site and the River Twyver. A pavilion is shown west of the site and a flagstaff is marked. There are no boundaries shown between the site and the new football ground development. There are no buildings shown at the site, south of Sebert Villas which are not labelled on the map.

By 1923 (Figure 8) another pavilion has been built at the Football and Athletic Ground to the east of the original.

On the 1936 OS map (Figure 9) two square buildings are shown abutting each other in the centre of the site, with the more eastern one abutted by a rectangular building at the boundary to the south.

On the 1955 OS map (Figure 10) the boundary of the site to the north has been extended to the north to include the more southern of the two houses facing the Kingsholm Road. An extension to the south appears to have been built onto this house.

On the modern plans a single building stands in the centre of the site, not in the footprint of either of the two shown on previous maps. The house in the north of the site has been demolished.

5 Heritage assets

5.1 Designated heritage assets

There are no Scheduled Ancient Monuments, Listed Buildings, Parks, Battlefields, Conservation Areas or Wrecks within the study area.

The proposed development site lies just over 100m south of the Scheduled Ancient Monument Kingsholm Palace, site of, Gloucester.

5.2 Undesignated heritage assets

The Gloucester City HER does not currently record monuments. The events that are recorded on the HER indicate a high density of Roman archaeology in the vicinity of the site, as well as a potential archaeology from the Iron Age and Medieval or Post Medieval periods.

5.3 Potential heritage assets

Archaeological evidence demonstrates that the site lay within or close to a centre of activity in the Roman and Iron Age periods. A conjectured Iron Age settlement associated with a river crossing lies some 500m north of the site. The potential for survival of deposits of this period is thought to be **low to moderate**.

The evidence for Roman activity in the vicinity of the site is abundant including the fortress itself, its later use as a burial ground, evidence for industrial activity and individual finds. Watching briefs undertaken immediately adjacent to, or within the site have demonstrated the survival of well-preserved Roman deposits and the potential for the survival of Roman deposits within the site is therefore considered to be **High**.

The site lies adjacent to an important route into the city of Gloucester from the north. It is known that a building stood on the site in the 18th Century and substantial stone footings were found during the watching brief carried out during the construction of a wall adjacent to the site. It is considered that the potential for the survival of remains of these periods is **High**.

6 Assessment of the significance of heritage assets

6.1.1 Nature of the archaeological interest in the site

The watching briefs carried out along the course of the foundation for the walls now standing adjacent to the site give a clear indication of the deposits likely to survive within the site itself. Along the southern boundary wall an Early Roman ditch was recorded, on a roughly north-east by south-west alignment. This ditch is possibly associated with the Kingsholm Roman fortress and is likely to continue across the site.

To the north-west a Roman make-up layer, or a destruction level, comprising crushed oolite and wall plaster was overlain by a possible *opus signinum* surface, while beneath this an occupation layer of dark gritty charcoal flecked loam was recorded within a layer of clay loam. Another area of mortar surface was also recorded within this trench, while to the south of the site some patches of a metallised surface were recorded. Beneath this were layers containing iron slag and long pieces of charcoal, presumably industrial waste. Another surface of oolite pebbles was recorded in a watching brief on a trench to the south.

There is a strong likelihood that these, or similar deposits, continue into the site and this sequence implies that several phases of Roman activity survive in this location including a possible outer defence of Kingsholm legionary fortress and surfaces either adjacent to or possibly part of the road itself. The presence of industrial waste including slag at the base of the sequence may imply that this area was industrialised in the earlier Roman period either close to, or as part of the legionary fortress and this activity may relate to pottery kilns recorded during a watching brief on the rugby ground to the south.

The site lies adjacent to a major route into the city of Gloucester from the north which probably had its origins in the Iron Age or Roman periods and was certainly used during the medieval period. The junction between two substantial medieval or post medieval walls also to the south of the site implies that a building or substantial wall stood within the site. This may be the building indicated as a *messuage garden &c* on the 1799 Inclosure map and is likely to continue within the site.

6.1.2 Relative importance of the archaeological interest in the site

Despite a number of archaeological interventions in the area, the extent, form and function of Kingsholm fort, the subsequent cemetery and the Roman road are not known. Archaeological

remains surviving within the site therefore have the potential to add to a body of information relating to the extent and function of the nationally important site of the legionary fortress, the function of related features activity carried out in the hinterland of the fortress including possible industrial activity, the extent and form of the later Roman cemetery, the location of the Roman road and possible roadside activity. The buried remains of a medieval or post-medieval building may survive within the site which could yield valuable information about settlement with the Kingsholm area in these periods and the use and importance of the Kingsholm Road as a route into the city.

6.1.3 Physical extent of the archaeological interest in the site

The watching briefs undertaken adjacent to and partially within the site, although not tied to Ordnance Datum, appear to show that archaeological deposits survived at much less than a metre depth at this location. It can be conjectured that these deposits continue at a similar depth within the site. These deposits may have been compromised by the construction of various buildings during the 19th and 20th centuries, including the workshop currently standing, but these were small and it is not anticipated that the foundations were very substantial.

The house that survives of the pair that were Sebert Villas (of which the other had been within the area of the proposed development site) is three storeys high, with a substantial brink frontage. It is likely that the foundations for the other building of the pair would be deeper than other foundations on the site and may, therefore have compromised earlier archaeological layers to some extent.

At the Kingsholm Road frontage, the ground slopes slightly to the road surface and there is a possibility that the remains were compromised to some degree when this was carried out.

7 The impact of the development

7.1 Impacts during construction

The proposed development will affect following heritage assets and the impact has been categorised as described in Table 1.

Details of the proposed development were not available during production of the report. However, it is thought that groundworks related to the development in the form of foundation trenches, service runs, ground reduction and landscaping have the potential to have a **Moderate Adverse** impact on archaeological remains which are likely to exist at a depth of 0.35m below the present ground surface within the site. The use of engineering solutions such as the use of raft foundations or a programme of archaeological mitigation may reduce this impact to **Minor Adverse** or **Not Significant**.

7.2 Impacts on sustainability

The historic environment is a non-renewable resource and therefore cannot be directly replaced. However mitigation through recording and investigation also produces an important research dividend that can be used for the better understanding of the area's history and contribute to local and regional research agendas (cf NPPF, DCLG 2012, section 141).

7.3 Residual impacts

There are no designated assets within the study area. The Scheduled Ancient Monument of Kingsholm Palace lies at a distance of approximately 100m to the north but the area is not visible from the site. The Roman road, thought to follow the approximate line of Kingsholm Road runs immediately adjacent to the site and 19th Century buildings on the Kingsholm Road, including the ornate White Hart public house may be considered heritage assets whose setting may be affected by development of the site. Here, however, the current environment is suburban and it is therefore considered that the addition of a mixed use development and continuation of the streetscape may have a **Not Significant** or **Minor Beneficial** effect on the setting of these assets.

7.4 Unknown impacts

The survival of archaeological deposits within the site is unknown, although it is thought likely that deposits from the Roman period and the Medieval or Post Medieval periods may survive upon which the development may have an impact. The survival of remains from other periods, in particular the Iron Age or the Saxon period is also thought possible.

8 Publication summary

Worcestershire Archaeology has a professional obligation to publish the results of archaeological projects within a reasonable period of time. To this end, Worcestershire Archaeology intends to use this summary as the basis for publication through local or regional journals. The client is requested to consider the content of this section as being acceptable for such publication.

A desk-based assessment for the historic environment was undertaken on behalf of Astam at Kingsholm Road, Gloucester (NGR ref (SO83471933). The site, currently a car sales outlet, lies on the east side of Kingsholm Road which leads north from Gloucester city centre. The River Twyver, a former course of the River Severn flows over 200m to the south.

Iron Age coins found within the area support a theory that there was a pre-Roman crossing of the Twyver in Kingsholm. Several Roman roads are aligned towards Kingsholm and it is considered by some commentators that Kingsholm Road might be one of them.

Archaeological works have demonstrated that a Roman military fortress was once situated in this area. The fortress which was a predecessor of Gloucester is thought to have been abandoned in the AD60s at which time the walled colony of Gloucester (Glevum Colonia) was established. In the later Roman period the fort became a cemetery and Roman burials including high status burials and a mausoleum have been found in the vicinity. The exact layout of the fortress is not fully established, but some estimates have shown the site as lying within its boundaries. A secondary Saxon burial, known as 'the Goth', in the mausoleum suggests that the mausoleum continued as a feature of the landscape after the Roman era, and during the time of Edward the Confessor there was a royal palace at Kingsholm, at the site of the Roman fortress.

The site lay outside the medieval city of Gloucester, though adjacent to a major route into the city. A map of 1624 depicts the site as undeveloped to the north of the city. On the Inclosure map of 1799 part of the site is depicted as a 'messenger garden &C' with a possible house shown, and a part of an orchard. Most of the land in the vicinity was shown as agricultural on the Inclosure map, but Kingsholm was built up by the late 19th Century. In the 1880s the site lay within the curtilage of a house known as Castle Grim but by 1902 this building, had been demolished and the grounds converted into playing fields, now Kingsholm Stadium, a rugby ground. During the 20th Century the site was occupied by various small buildings one of which survives as a workshop.

Archaeological fieldwork in the vicinity of the site and within the site itself have demonstrated the survival of Roman archaeological remains. Watching briefs carried out partially within the site demonstrated the survival of Roman deposits; pits and a ditch, as well as the junction of Medieval or Post Medieval walls at a relatively shallow depth and it is concluded that there is a high potential for the survival of archaeological deposits within the site. These may relate to the fortress, to activity associated with the road or the cemetery and there is a potential for the survival of human remains. These deposits would be vulnerable to groundworks associated with development of the site including the excavation of foundations, service runs, ground reduction and other landscaping.

9 Acknowledgements

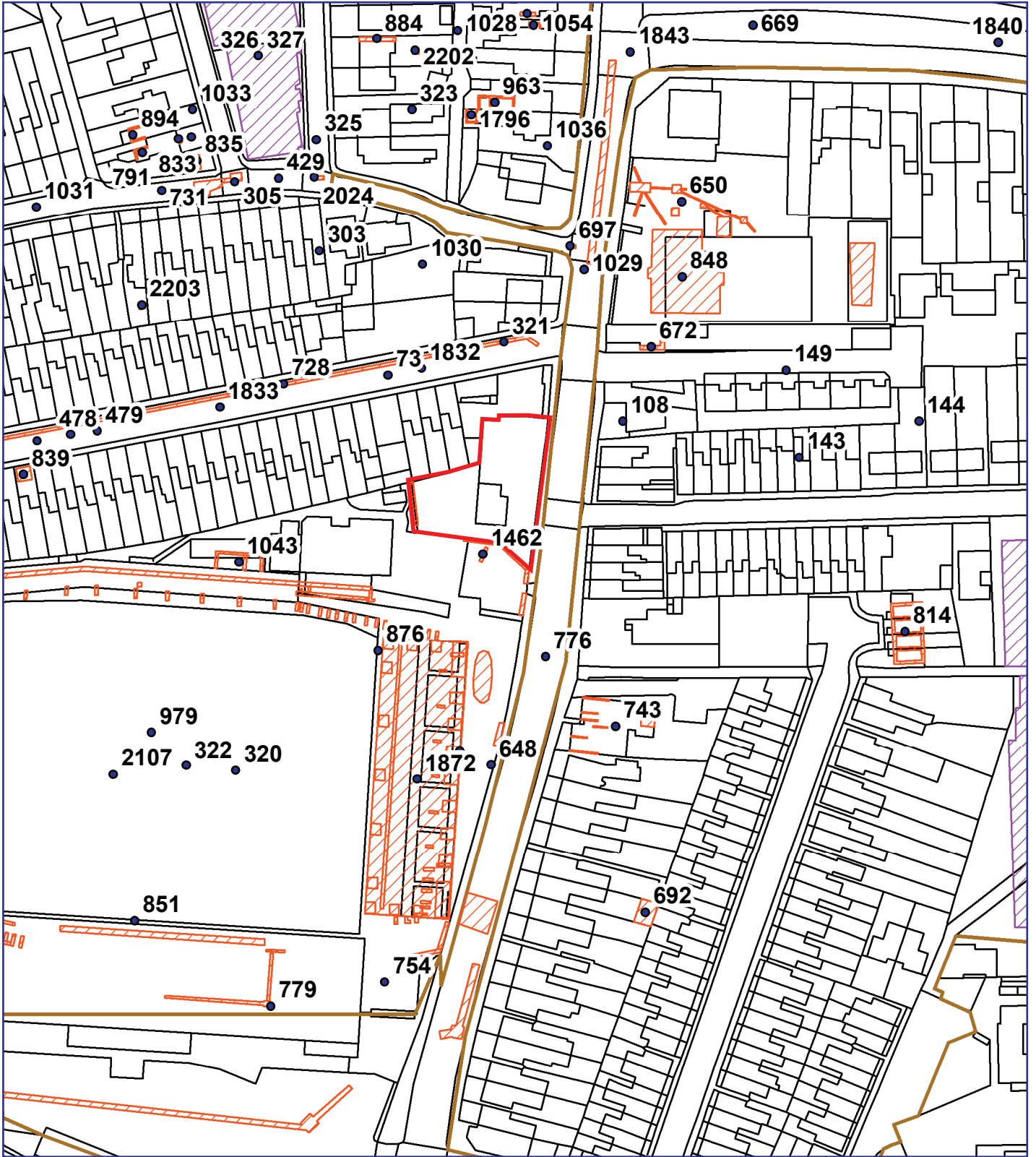
Worcestershire Archaeology would like to thank the following for their kind assistance in the successful conclusion of this project; Mr N Roberts and Mr N Henderson for Astam and Andrew Armstrong, Gloucester City Archaeologist.

Figures



Location of the site

Figure 1



Gloucester City Council HER results; events

Figure 2



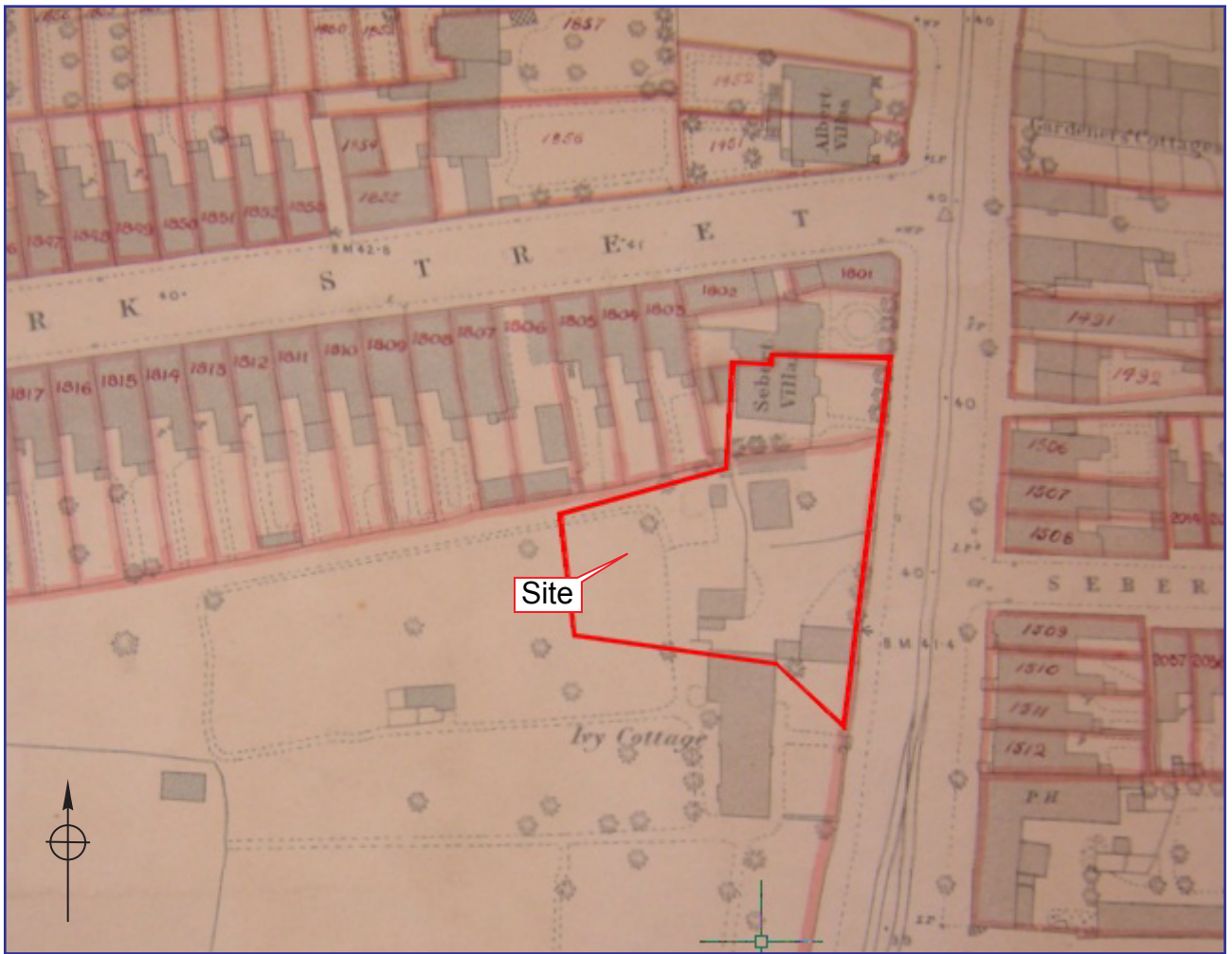
Extract of 1624 Map of Gloucester

Figure 3



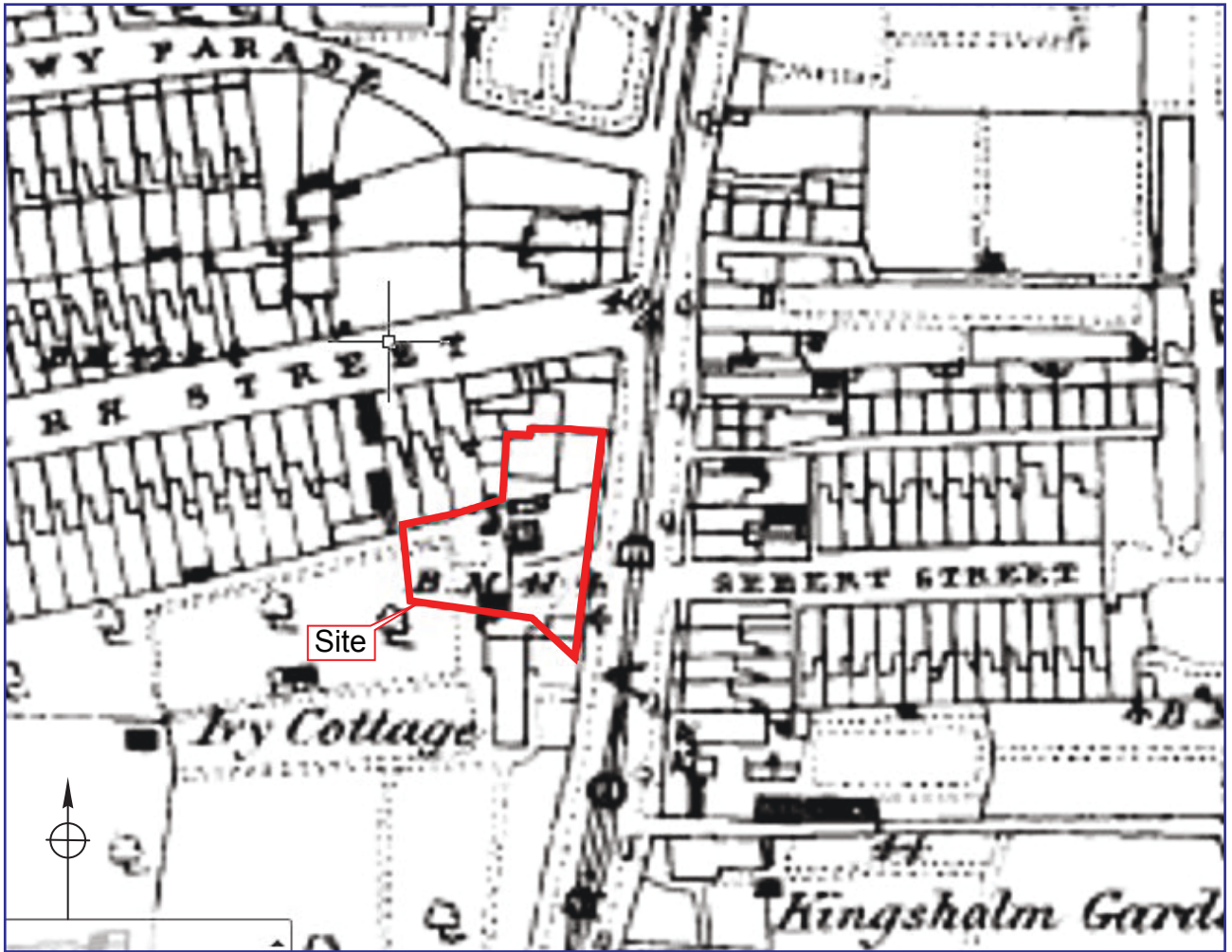
Extract of 1799 Inclosure Map

Figure 4



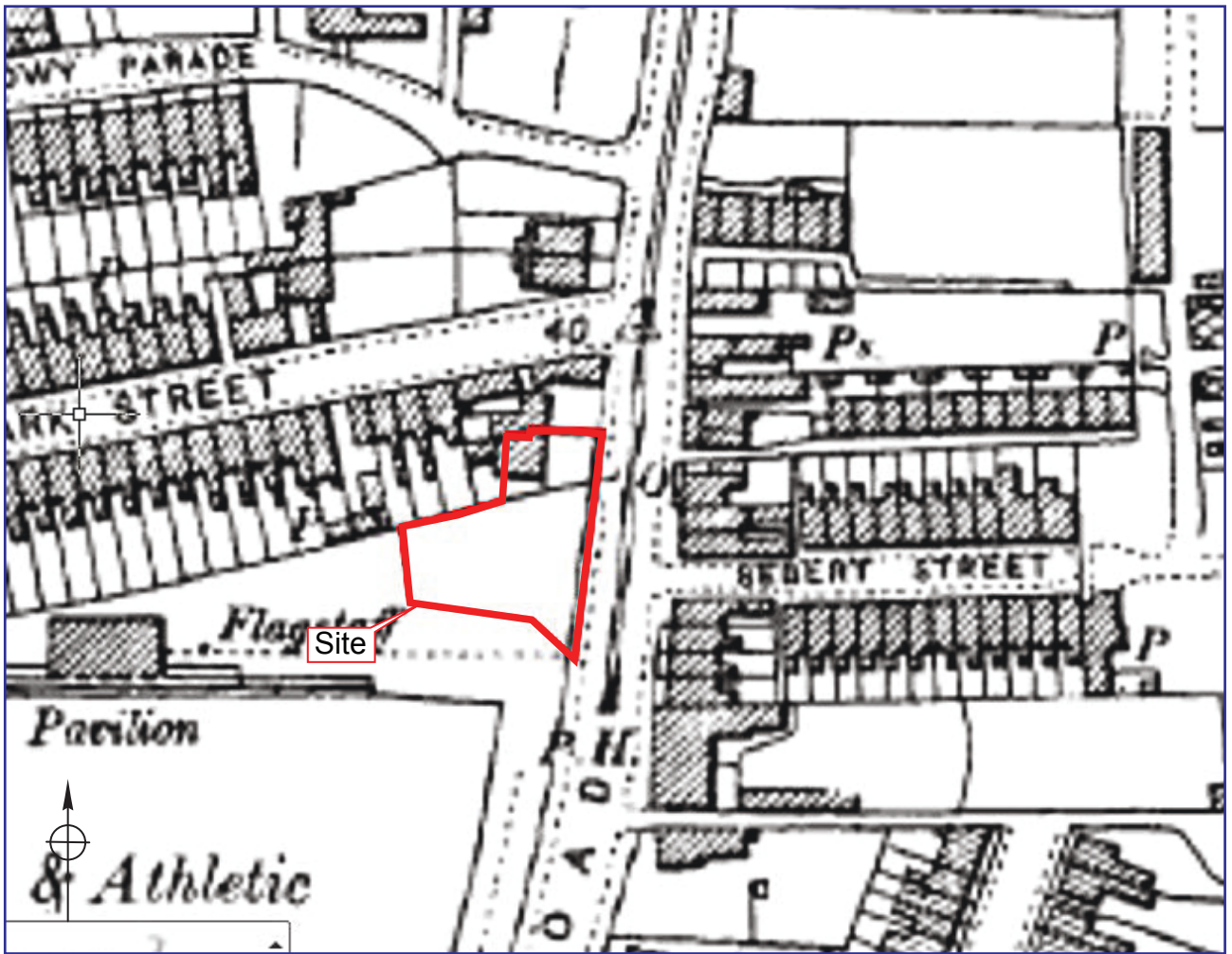
Extract of 1884 OS Town Plan, 1:500

Figure 5



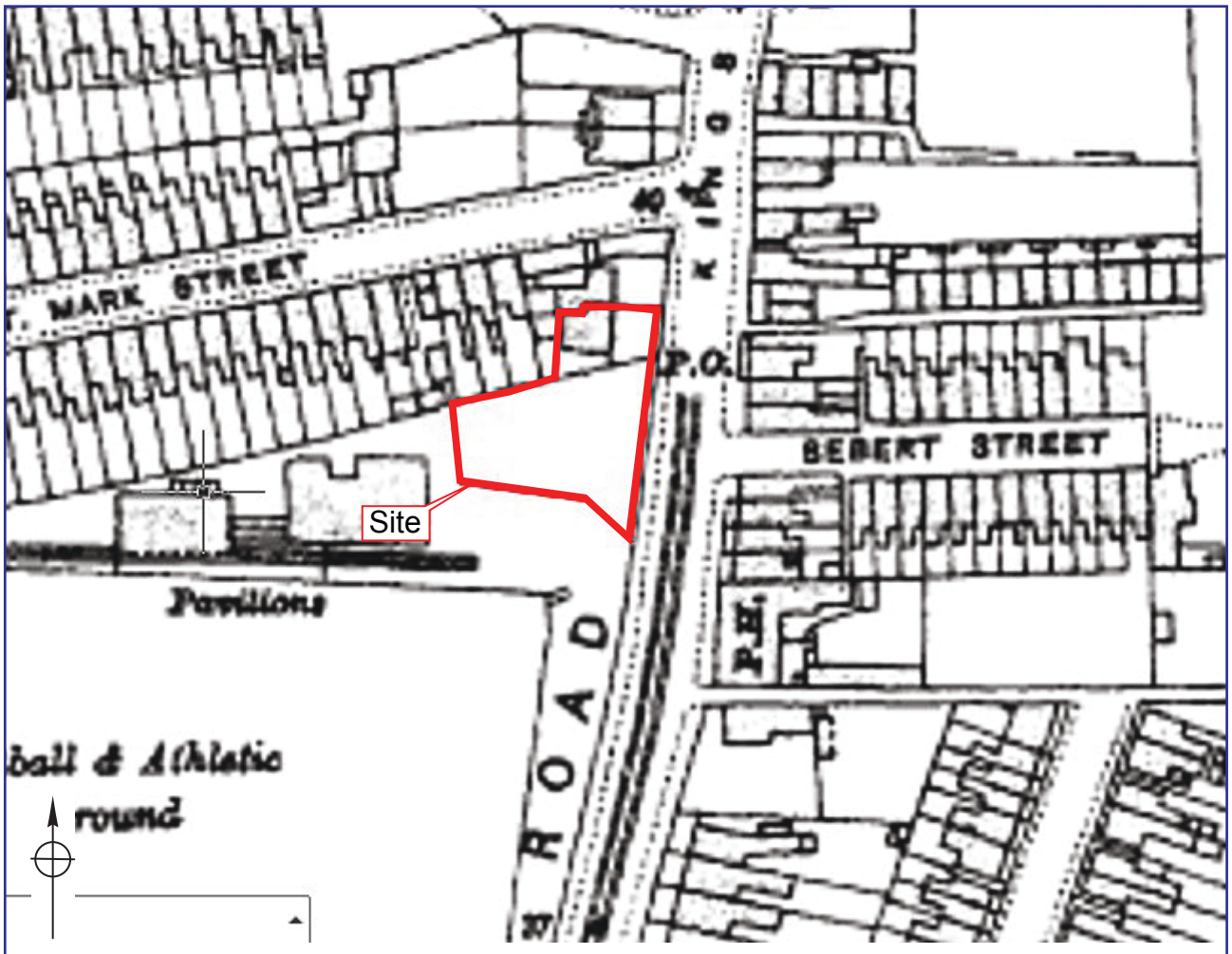
Extract of Ordnance Survey 1886, scale 1:2500

Figure 6



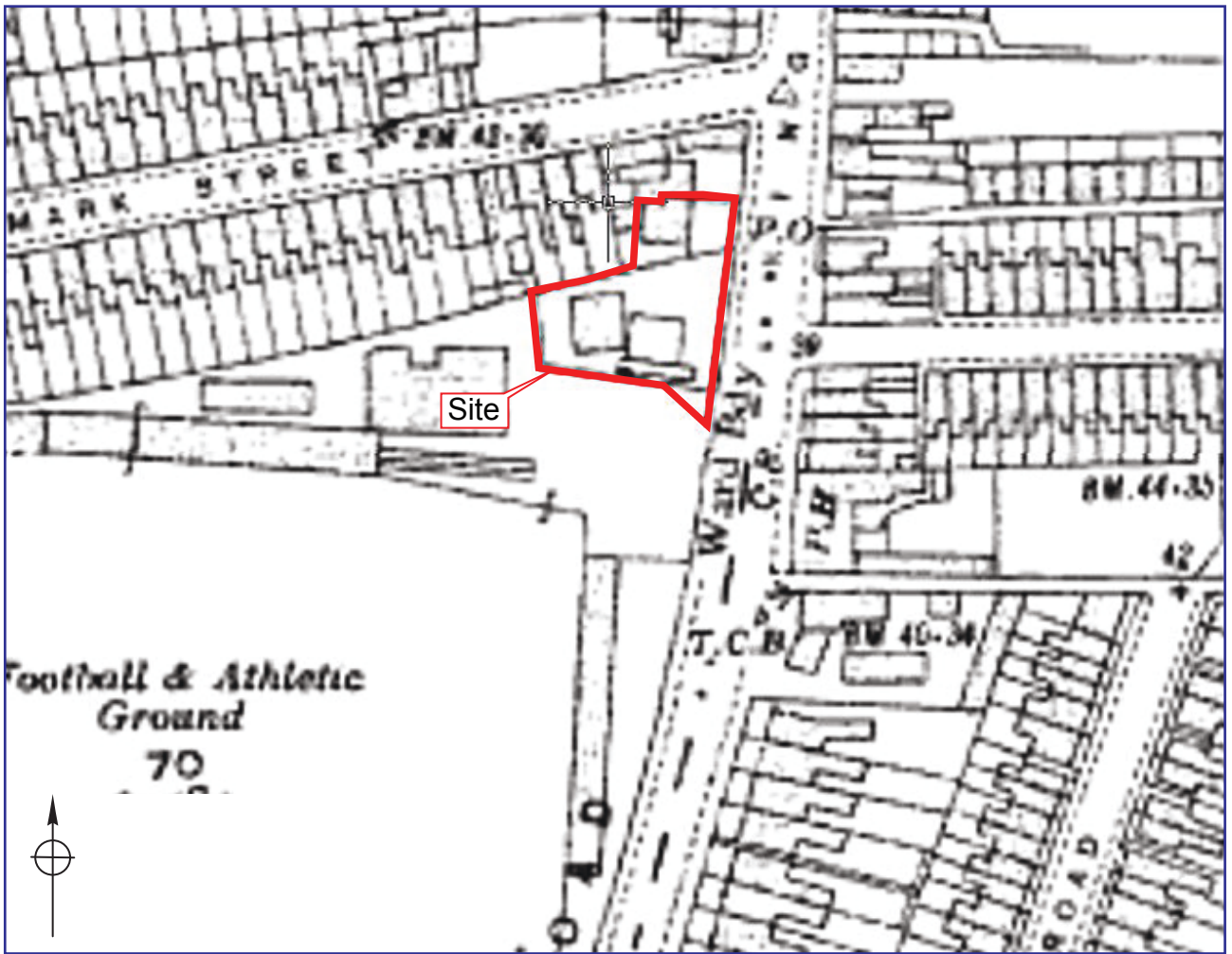
Extract of Ordnance Survey 1903, scale 1:2500

Figure 7



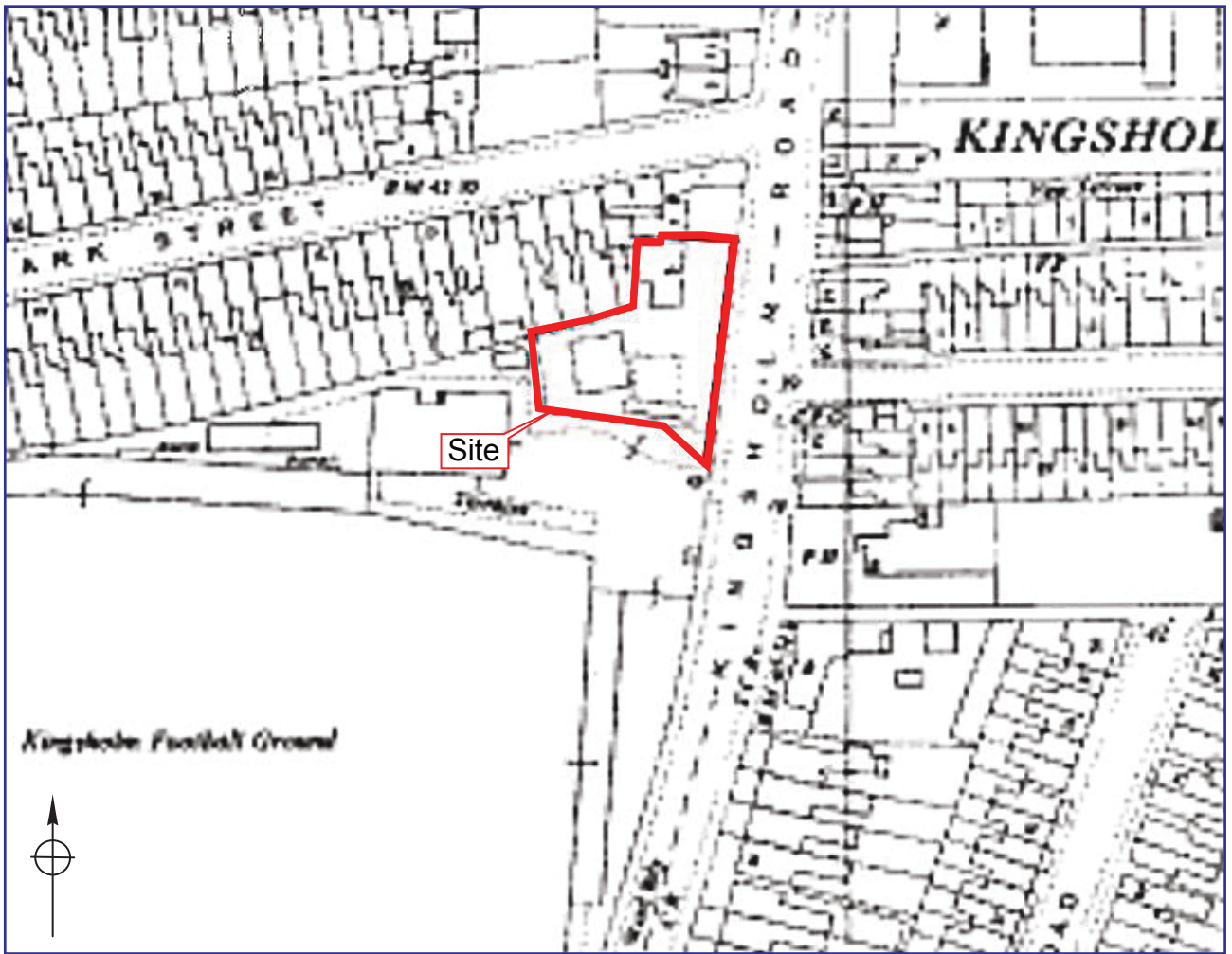
Extract of Ordnance Survey 1923, scale 1:2500

Figure 8



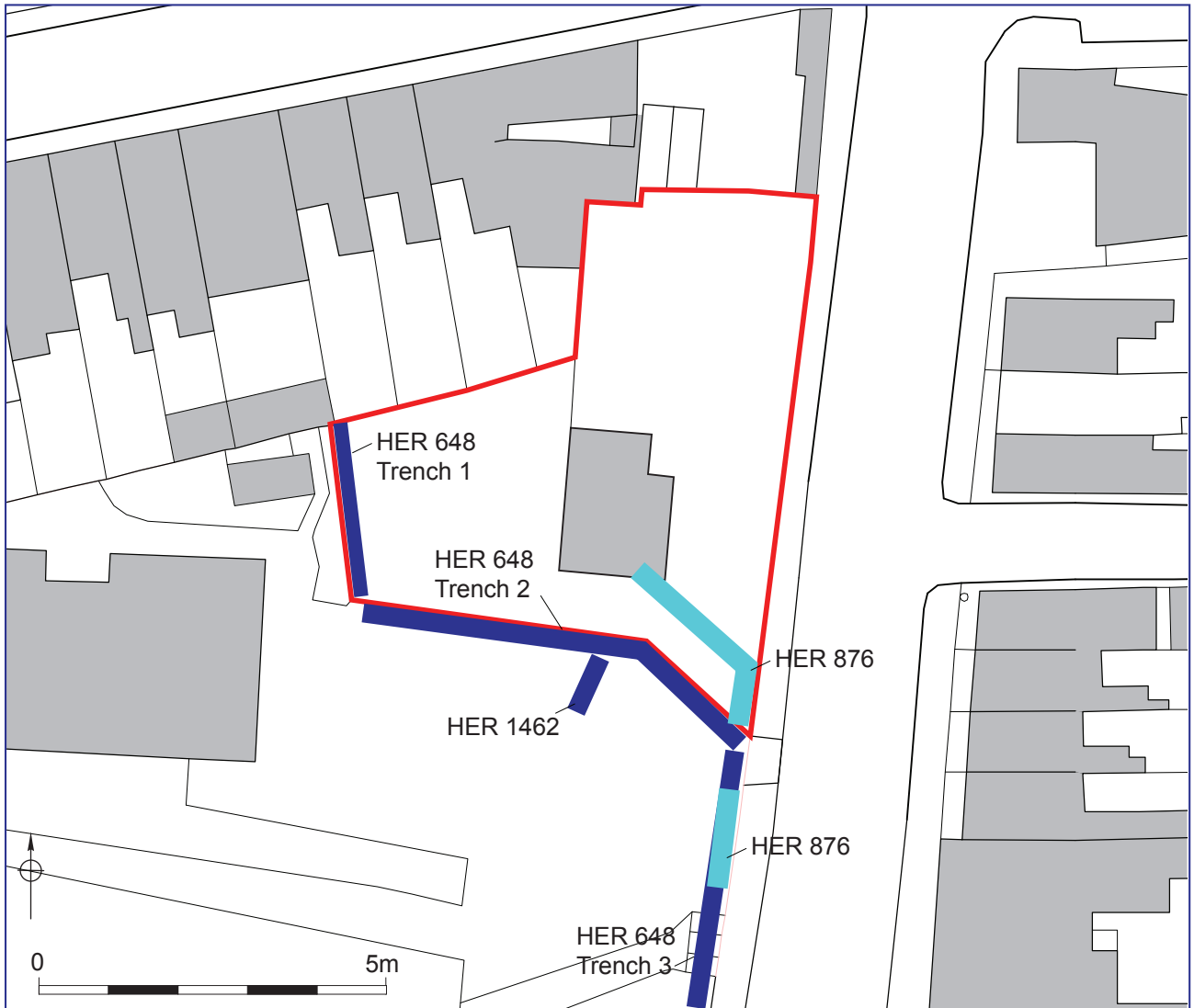
Extract of Ordnance Survey 1936, scale 1:2500

Figure 9

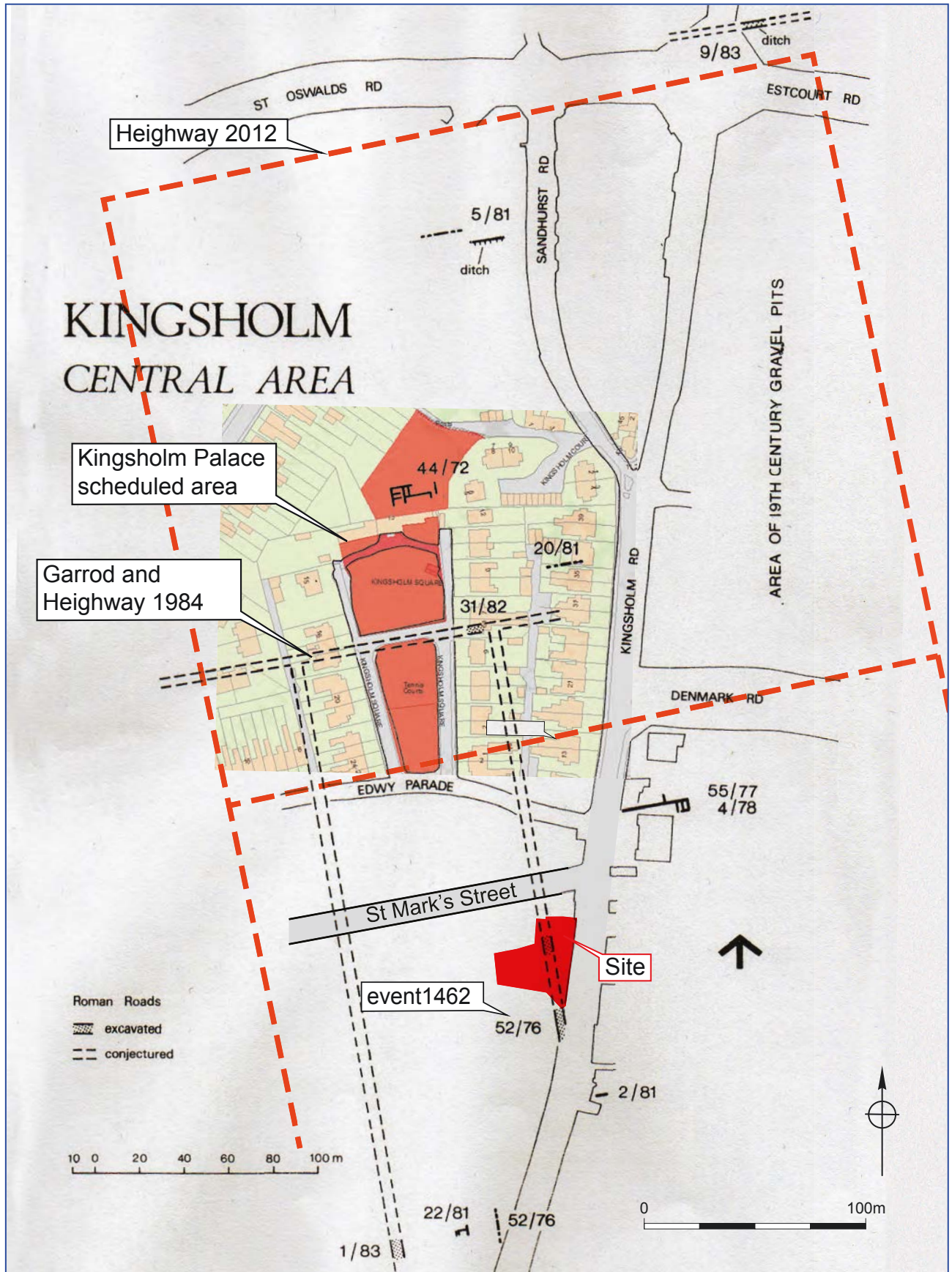


Extract of Ordnance Survey 1955, scale 1:2500

Figure 10



Sketch plan of trenches from watching briefs, in 1976, 1988 and 2000 Figure 11



Kingsholm Palace scheduled area showing conjectured outlines of Roman military construction based on Garrod and Highway 1984, Fig. 52 Figure 12

Plates



Plate 1 Looking north west toward proposed development site



Plate 2 Looking north west toward car workshop bulding



Plate 3 View east from rear of the site showing the car workshop and concrete floor to rear



Plate 4 Detail of concrete floor from south



Plate 5 Shed in north west of site



Plate 6 Three storey building and shop to north of site



Plate 7 Detail of drainage to north-west of car workshop



Plate 8 View south east from site along Kingsholm Road towards the White Hart public house



Plate 9 View north east from site, along Kingsholm Road

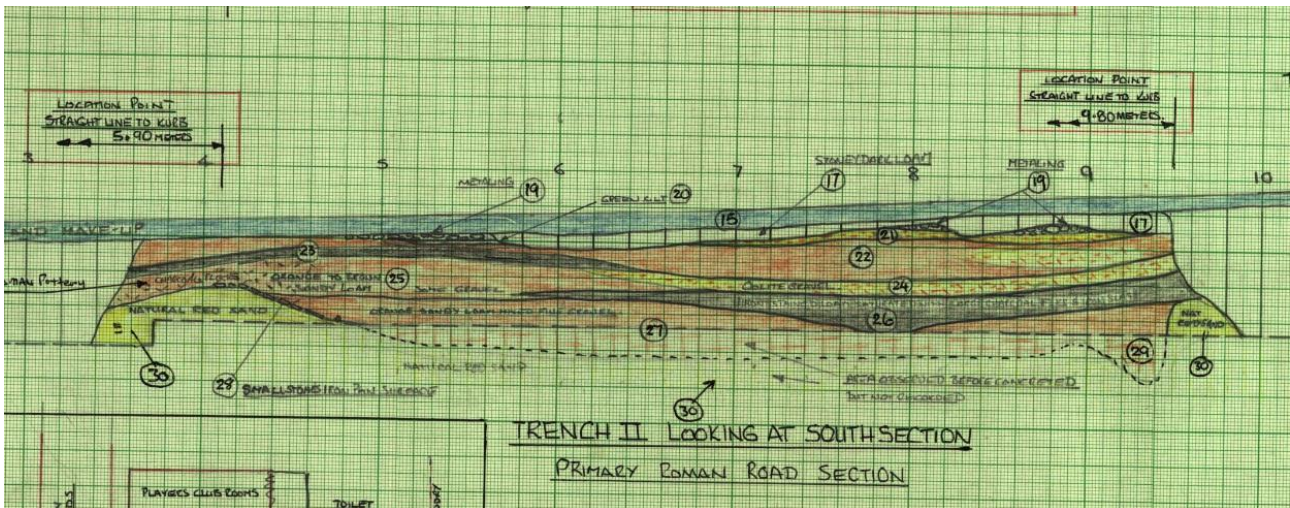


Plate 10 HER 648: Detail of Trench 2, showing the Roman road

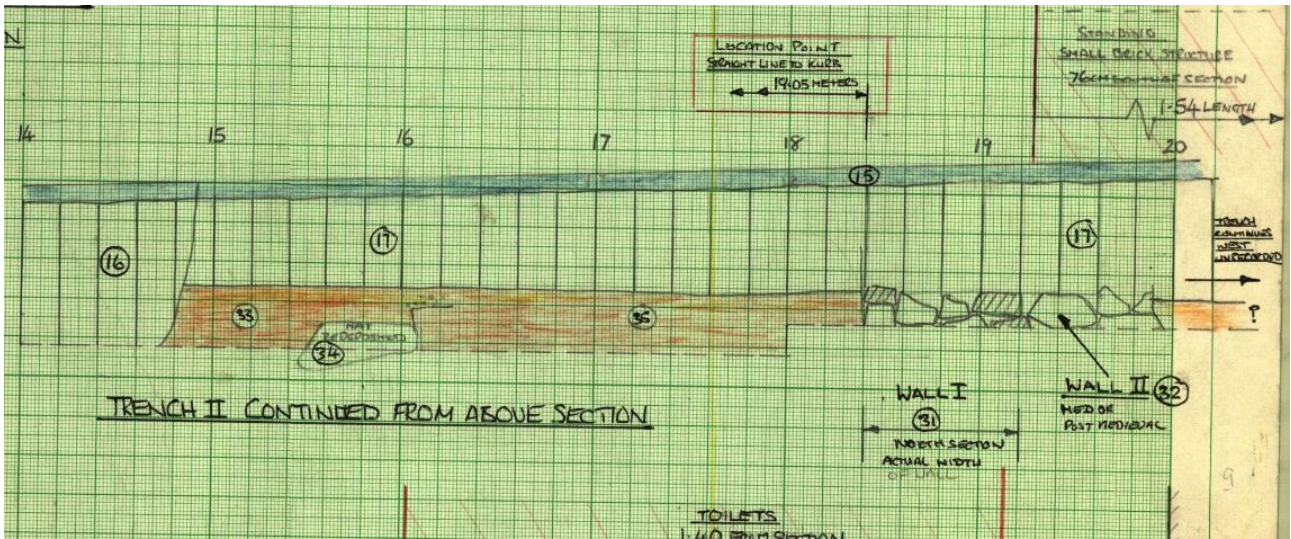


Plate 11 HER 648: Detail of Trench 2, showing the Medieval/Post Medieval wall junction

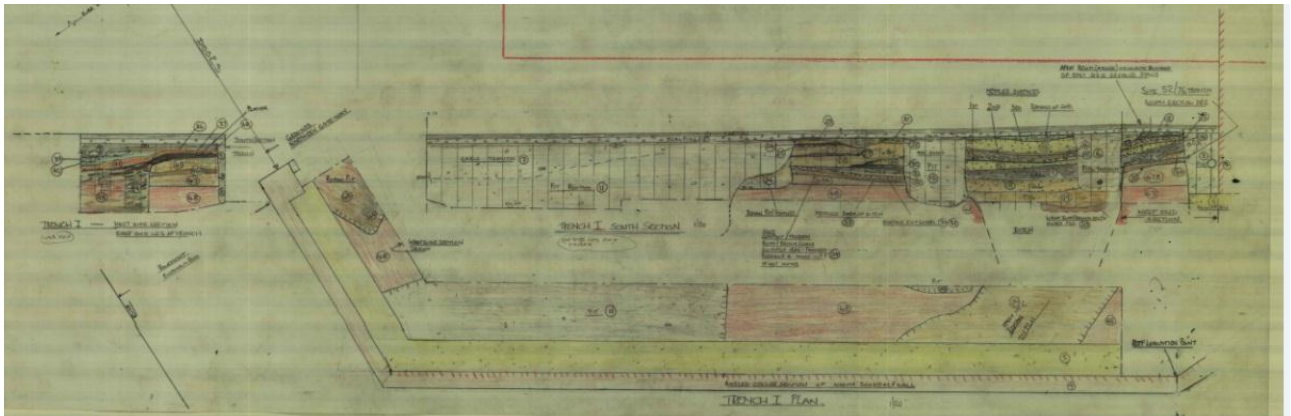


Plate 12 HER 876: Trench 1, plan and section, showing metalled surfaces, Early Roman ditch and Roman pit

Appendix 1 Heritage assets registered with the Historic Environment Record (those within the application site are indicated in bold)

HER no	Name	Easting	Northing	Type	Period	Description
73	St Mark St	8344	1936	Excavation	Roman	Pottery from layer above building levels - late 1st century
108	64-66 Kingsholm Road	8350	1935	Watching Brief	Roman / Medieval	2 inhumations, Roman and Medieval pottery
143	15 Sebert Street	8354	1934	Stray Find	Roman	Inhumation
144	23 Sebert Street	8358	1935	Stray Find	Roman	Coin; Ae3 of Constantine II (AD 317-337)
149	Vine Terrace	8354	1936	Stray Find	Roman	Inhumation
303	3 Edwy Parade	8342	1940	Excavation	Roman / Post Medieval	Pottery; Amphora handle, stamped ---VICI
305	Edwy Parade			Unknown	Roman	Inhumation NOT LOCATED Reference to skull and coin of Constantine...no coffin but stones around burial
320	Kingsholm (Rugby ground)			Stray Find	Roman	Coins / finds (NOT LOCATED) Discovery of various Roman objects and coins (Claudian coins predominate)
321	5-7 Kingsholm Road	8347	1937	Excavation	Roman	Road / floors Roman road to ?Worcester in rear garden, floor surfaces (timber structure?) in front garden

322	Kingsholm (Rugby ground)			Stray Find	Roman	Pottery (NOT LOCATED) Collingwood type 92 amphora (AD 90-130)
325	Kingsholm Square			Stray Find	Post Medieval	Find (NOT LOCATED) 17th-18th century candlestick handle
429	Edwy Parade (Snaky lane)			Documentary Record	Roman	Cremations (NOT LOCATED) Record of finds of 'legionary swords, urns, lachrymonies and other relics pertaining to a place of the dead'
477	St. Mark Street?	833	193	Stray Find	Roman	Coin hoard 'Many coins including a hoard of 700'
478	St. Mark Street?			Stray Find	Roman	Coins (NOT LOCATED) Coins of Augustus, Claudius, Nero and Vespasian
479	St. Mark Street?			Stray Find	Roman	Pottery (NOT LOCATED) Broad-necked Roman flagon (AD 40-70)
648	Kingsholm Road	8345	1921	Watching Brief	Roman / Medieval	Road / buildings Roman road alignment and buildings, Medieval robbed footings
650	76 Kingsholm Road	8351	1941	Watching Brief	Roman	Building / Inhumations / street First century timber building, metalling. Eighteen E-W burials. Roman and later street alignment
672	74 Kingsholm Road	8350	1937	Watching Brief	Roman	Inhumation / pottery Shallow N-S inhumation and a pit containing 1st century pottery
692	34 Kingsholm Road	8350	1922	Watching Brief	Roman / Medieval	Pottery / brooch / coins Roman and Medieval pottery, Colchester type IV M-L brooch, four coins
697	Edwy Parade / Kingsholm Road	8348	1939	Watching Brief	Unknown	Metalling 20cm thick gravel metalling above natural loam level
728	St. Mark Street	8341	1936	Watching Brief	Roman / Medieval	Building / metalling 1st century floor levels,

						1st-2nd century building, Medieval metallurg
731	Edwy Parade	8338	1941	Watching Brief	Roman	Pits / metallurg 1st century pits and metallurg
743	46 Kingsholm Road	8350	1927	Watching Brief	Roman	1st century pits - contemporary with the fortress
754	Kingsholm Road	8343	1920	Watching Brief	Roman	Buildings Pre-Flavian timber building, Roman masonry building
776	46 Kingsholm Road	8348	1929	Watching Brief	Post Medieval	Street surfaces Successive 18th and 19th century street metallurgs bounded by open ditches
779	Kingsholm Road	8341	1920	Watching Brief	Roman	Building / surface Cambered and rutted metallurg surface bounded by ditches, 1st century timber building to East
791	24 Kingsholm Square	8337	1941	Watching Brief	Roman	Inhumations / rampart Four inhumations, ovens built into defensive rampart
814	60-68 Swan Road	8357	1929	Watching Brief	Roman	Surface Eroded 1st century surface disturbed by later pitting, unstratified 3rd and 4th century coins
833	24 Kingsholm Square	8338	1942	Watching Brief	Roman	Inhumation / oven / rampart? Roman inhumation, mid 1st century oven/furnace, suspected tail of southern fortress rampart
835	24 Kingsholm Square	8339	1941	Evaluation	Roman	Ditch / rampart Fortress defensive ditch, redeposited loam on rampart alignment containing human skull fragments
839	47 St. Mark Street	8334	1933	Watching Brief	Roman	Pit Large Roman pit containing 1st century pottery and a Claudian coin - cutting natural to an unknown depth
848	76 Kingsholm Road	8351	1939	Excavation	Roman	Settlement / inhumations Early Roman settlement outside southern fortress boundary, later Roman

						cemetery
849	59 St. Mark Street	8331	1932	Watching Brief	Roman	Metalling Three successive metalled surfaces, second metalling cut by an east-west gully containing 1st century pottery
851	Kingsholm Road	8337	1922	Watching Brief	Roman	Ditch / metalling / kiln 'U' shaped ditch on fortress alignment, 1st century kiln, assorted pits and metalled areas
856	44 St. Mark Street	8332	1935	Watching Brief	Medieval / Post Medieval	Gravel pit Late gravel extraction pit - backfill contains residual 1st and 2nd century pottery, tile and bone
876	Kingsholm Road	8343	1929	Watching Brief	Roman	Defences / kiln: 1st century outer fortress ditch with associated metalling, Flavian kiln and possible timber building
894	23 Kingsholm Square	8337	1942	Watching Brief	Roman	Inhumations, hearth Five inhumations, earlier hearth
901	53 St. Mark Street	8332	1934	Watching Brief	Roman	Fortress annex? Probable west side bank and ditch of fortress annex
905	Kingsholm Road	8332	1926	Watching Brief	Roman / Medieval	Pits Truncated Roman and Medieval pits
979	Kingsholm Road	8338	1927	Watching Brief	Unknown	Findings Fragments of Roman and Medieval pottery - no other information
1024	57-59 St. Mark Street	8331	1933	Watching Brief	Roman	Metalling 1st century metalled surface
1029	11a Kingsholm Road	8349	1939	Watching Brief	Medieval / Post Medieval	Road West shoulder of the Medieval and Post Med Kingsholm road alignment
1030	11a Kingsholm Road (to rear)	8345	1939	Watching Brief	None	
1031	4-24 Edwy Parade	8335	1940	Watching Brief	Roman / Saxon / Medieval	Ditches Possible alignments for fortress ditch, Kingsholm palace ditch and

						Kingsholm manor ditch
1032	24 Kingsholm Square	8339	1942	Watching Brief	Roman / Saxon / Medieval	Ditch Northside shoulder of multi-period ditch (Fortress, palace, manor)
1036	13 Kingsholm Road	8348	1942	Watching Brief	None	
1043	Kingsholm Road	8340	1931	Watching Brief	None	
1462	Kingsholm Road	8346	1931	Watching Brief	Roman	Disturbed surfaces Possible surfaces destroyed by ploughing
1506	Kingsholm (Rugby ground)	8345	1926	Watching Brief	Roman	Pitting, pottery kiln 1st century kiln and extensive Roman pitting
1649	Kingsholm Road	8333	1922	Watching Brief	Roman	Pottery, Possible structure Roman pottery and possible stone structure
1831	48-53 St. Mark Street	8331	1933	Watching Brief	Roman	Buildings Timber buildings sealing annex ditch, stone rebuild in 2nd century. Extensive metalled area to west
1832	3-11 St. Mark Street	8344	1936	Watching Brief	Roman	Gravel workings - possibly Neronian
1833	11-45 St. Mark Street	8339	1935	Watching Brief	Post Medieval	Gravel workings Extensive 18th century? gravel workings
1872	Kingsholm (Rugby ground)	8344	1925	Watching Brief	Roman	Pitting, pottery kiln 1st century kiln and extensive Roman pitting
2024	Estcourt Road Flood Alleviation	8342	1941	Watching Brief	None	
2107	Kingsholm Rugby Club	8337	1926	Evaluation	Roman	Pottery A limited test-pit evaluation identified unstratified Roman pottery but no in-situ archaeological features or deposits.
2203	21 Edwy Parade	8337	1938	Evaluation	Prehistoric/Roman/Medieval	Pottery, Flint, Slag A deposit containing only 2nd century Roman pottery was identified at

						the base of the test pit, the overlying deposits contained a mix of Roman and medieval pottery and a flint thumb scraper
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