



Druitt Gardens, Christchurch, Dorset

Desk-based Archaeological Assessment

Harry P Manley
Bronwen E Russell

With a contribution from:

Iain Hewitt

Bournemouth Archaeology

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Executive summary

Christchurch Borough Council wish to regenerate the area known as Druitt Gardens as an outside community space and, in partnership with the Christchurch Community Partnership, construct a new Community Building. This Desk-based archaeological assessment was commissioned by Hilary Martin (Landscape architect) on behalf of Christchurch Borough Council.

The assessment has indicated that there is evidence for the Saxon Burh and a later medieval ditch within the study area. Earthworks visible in the gardens are probably the remains of 19th century boundaries or landscape gardening.

It is recommended that an archaeological evaluation be carried out prior to the construction of the proposed Community Building. It is also recommended that a non-invasive, geophysical survey be undertaken in areas where new improvement works are proposed to take place. A watching brief should be undertaken if ground disturbance results from this regeneration activity.

Druitt Gardens – Desk-based Assessment

29th January 2008

On behalf of Hilary Martin Integrated Design (for Christchurch Borough Council)

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1.0 Introduction

1.1 Project background

Christchurch Borough Council's Town Centre Strategy has identified Druitt Gardens and its environs as an opportunity to create a cultural focus for the town (Christchurch Borough Council 2005,). This would include the development and management of the gardens as native broadleaved woodland for the use of the Community, and the construction of a new Community Building. However, an area of the gardens forms part of a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM 831). As such, Bournemouth Archaeology has been commissioned by Hilary Martin Integrated Design (on behalf of Christchurch Borough Council) to carry out a Desk-based Assessment in order to determine the nature of the archaeological resource in the vicinity of Druitt Gardens.

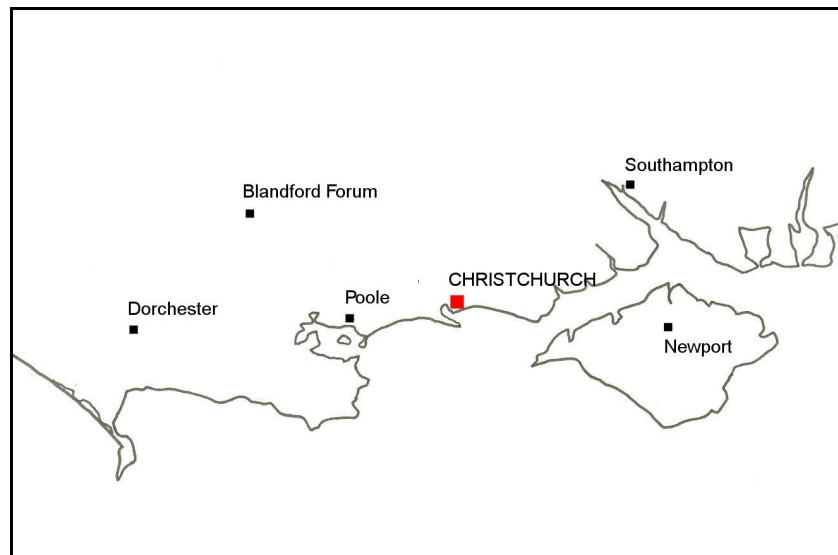


Figure 1. Location of Christchurch within Dorset

1.2 Site location

Druitt Gardens is located in Christchurch (Figure 1), Dorset (NGR 415710/ 92715). Covering an area of 1.2 hectares (3.07 acres), it is positioned between the High Street to the north, Wick Lane to the east, the Creedy footpath to the south and Sopers Lane to the west (Figure 2). The underlying geology of the site is described as River Terrace Deposits (sand and gravel) overlying Branksome Sands (Jarvis 1983, p.16). The Gardens have been designated a Public Open Space and lie within the Town Centre Conservation Area.

1.3 Restrictions and access to relevant records

1.3.1 Historically, Christchurch was part of the County of Hampshire. However, after local government reorganisation in 1974 it became part of the County of Dorset. Although many records relating to the

history of Christchurch were transferred to the Dorset County Records Office and were freely accessible, other records remained at the Hampshire Records Office. However, during the undertaking of this Desk-based Assessment Hampshire Records was closed for refurbishment. As such, original documents in its archives could not be consulted. This was remedied by viewing all available material at Dorset County Record Office and by consulting maps held at the Red House Museum in Christchurch to achieve full coverage of the study area.

1.3.2 The National Monuments Record holds a large collection of historic aerial photographs. This was due to be searched as part of the Desk-based Assessment. However, due to the Christmas shutdown, an enquiry could not be answered within the time-frame of this research. Bournemouth University's more limited aerial photograph collection was instead consulted as well as those held at the Red House Museum in Christchurch. Having consulted these, as well as information online, it was concluded that the dense cover of tree growth made identification of archaeological potential from aerial photographs impossible.

2.0 Aims and Objectives

The aim of this study is to establish, as far as is reasonably possible, by desk-based research and surface inspection of the site, the following in order to make an archaeological assessment:

- The location, extent, condition, nature and date of any archaeological features and/or deposits that might be present within or immediately adjacent to any component of the proposed scheme.
- The integrity and state of preservation of any archaeological sites, features and deposits that may be present.
- The impact of the proposed development of the new community centre, and any improvements within the gardens, on the archaeological resource of the proposed development site and thereby determine the nature of such mitigatory actions as may be required.

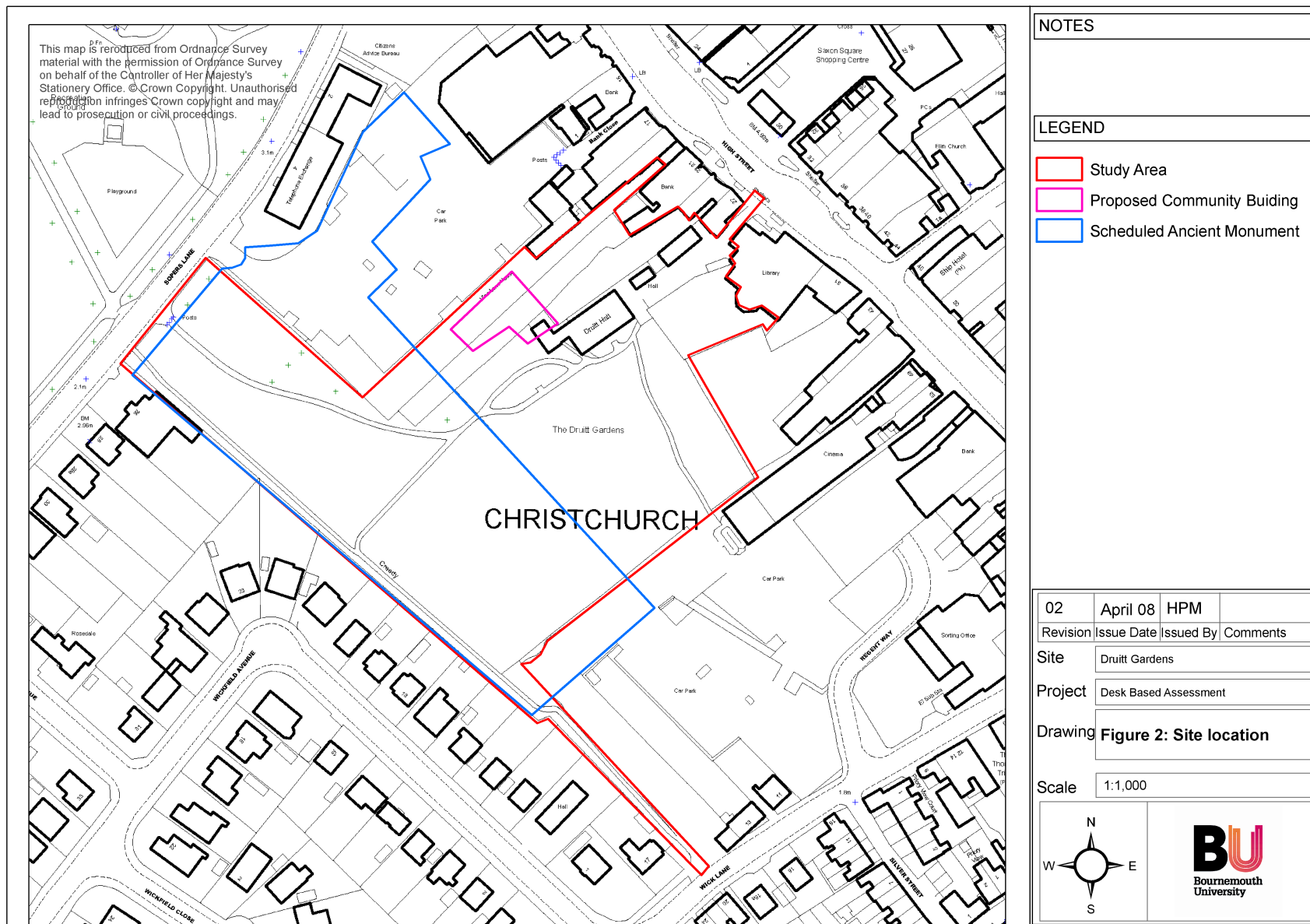


Figure 2. Location of study area

3.0 Methodology

3.1 Desk-based Assessment

3.1.1 The methodology for this assessment has been set out in the Project Design produced by Bournemouth Archaeology. This reflects best practice, as set out by the Institute of Field Archaeologists Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Desk-based Assessment. (Institute of Field Archaeologists 1999).

3.1.2 This information gathering stage consisted of three phases:

- Organisation of access to data sources;
- Acquisition of data sources and or information from those sources;
- Synthesis of data sources into a coherent whole.

3.1.3 This was then followed by an assessment stage of the archaeological and historical background.

3.2 Sources

3.2.1 The information for this report has been gathered primarily from the sources given below. These concur with the sources given in the project design by Bournemouth Archaeology.

- Records held by Dorset Historic Environment Record (HER);
- Online Resources: Archaeology Data Service (ADS) ArchSearch facility - York, National Monuments Record (NMR) - Swindon, Archaeological Investigations Project (AIP) gazetteers and searchable database - Bournemouth University;
- Historic and Modern Cartographic Sources;
- Local museum resources;
- Secondary sources relating to the general and specific recorded archaeological presence in the landscape in Bournemouth University's library;
- Aerial Photographs.

4.0 Summary of Archaeological results

4.1 Historical background

Much of the information in this section was researched at the Heritage Zone, Bournemouth Library; Dorset History Centre, Dorchester and the Red House Museum, Christchurch. Especially useful was

the information collected by Sue Newman, a local Historian, for an exhibition on the History of Druitt Gardens.

4.1.1 Christchurch town

The study area sits within the Borough of Christchurch. The place names Christchurch and Twynham have appeared together in early documents and it has been assumed that they are indeed one and the same place. The Sources have different spellings of the settlements beginning with Tweoxneham, in the 900s AD, then subsequently Tweonea, Twynham, Crischarche de Twenham, Christeschirche and Christchurch (Doubleday & Page 1973). It is believed that the name Twynham derives from 'betwuxthæm eaum' meaning 'between the waters' (Coates 1989, 54).

When Twynham appears in the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle of 901 it is actually referring to the year 899, the year of the death of King Alfred, when Ethelwold the younger son of Ethelred I seized the estates of Twynham and Wimborne (Garmonsway 1953, 92). Interestingly at this point Twynham was not referred to as a *burh* or a strong place, but instead as a '*ham*', a word more closely associated with the Norman '*manoir*' implying that it had no more defence than a normal estate of the period. It does then appear in the burghal hidage from 920, which may suggest the settlement was fortified and made a borough during the first quarter of the 10th century. It is recorded that Lymington along with Christchurch was given to Richard Redvers in around 1102 AD by Henry I (Doubleday & Page 1973, Vol 5, 83).

The inclusion of Twynham in the burghal hidage (Hill & Rumble, 1996, 199) and the results of a number of excavations in the vicinity of the study area have been interpreted as confirmation that there was indeed a fortified burh at Christchurch. Part of the defensive system of bank and ditches assumed to be associated with the burh run right through the Druitt Gardens.

An important church was known to have existed in Twynham from c.800 AD and in the 11th century a Priory (known as Christ Church) was constructed. This ecclesiastical important association may well be the source of the new place name Christchurch. In around 1100 the construction of a castle was begun within the town. Throughout the medieval period it appears that the dominant trade was agriculture and fishing with fairs being held twice a year. The Boundary Commissioners of 1832 reported that no trade or manufactures were then carried on. 'The town presents no symptoms of activity or industry. The houses are of a middling description. The appearance of the inhabitants, who are thinly scattered, gives no indications of prosperity.' (Doubleday & Page 1973 Vol 5).

The town remained relatively small, not expanding much beyond its medieval suburbs until the large scale urban expansion in the latter half of the 20th century.

4.1.2 Druitt Gardens

The initial property development, which has ultimately led to the formation of the Druitt Gardens which exists today, is the building of the house in 1844 owned by James Druitt. During the late 1800's Mr Druitt continued to buy up land around his property to extend his formal gardens. The house was

extended in 1870 and the O.S. map of that year shows an ornamental garden with paths laid out and a greenhouse next to where Druitt Hall currently stands.

A feature of the gardens is the route of the Creedy, a definitive right of way running east-west along the southern boundary of the Druitt Gardens (Figure 2). The origins of the name are obscure; although the Christchurch Cartulary records that the land on which “Crede” had a house was given to Christchurch Priory in October 1194 by William Redveriis, Earl of Devon (Hanna 2007). This may be a derivation of the name of the Creedy path as a property boundary or route to the property.

In 1904 James Druitt died, although his widow continued to reside in the house until her death during the First World War. Amongst a number of photographs collected for ‘The History of Druitt Gardens’ exhibition at the Red House Museum is one showing the croquet lawn and features of the ornamental garden.

The house passed to Herbert Druitt and in turn to his sister Charlotte Druitt (the younger two children of James). They both died in the 1940s. Although neither lived in the house for any extended period of time they did however, during the 1930s, continue to acquire neighbouring plots of land enlarging the area their father had acquired during the late 1800s and early 1900s. Herbert used the house itself to house his great collection of local history. The garden was therefore not well tended and whereas it has been a more formal, ornamental garden became more of wild plot.

A plot of land to the south south-east of the current gardens was purchased from the antiques dealers the Messrs Galton in 1932. They owned a shop on which land Woolworths stands today. In 1939 Charlotte Druitt was able to purchase, for £100.00, a strip of land within the central portion of the current gardens from Martins Bank. Now assets held by Barclays.

In a conveyance relating dated to 12/10/1946 Charlotte Druitt records that she was leaving an amount of land to the Corporation of Christchurch as a *“gift for use in establishing a welfare centre at Christchurch”*. It is recorded in letters between herself and her solicitors that she intended the land to be a garden of rest and bird sanctuary. The county medical authorities persuaded her to give consent for the building of a ‘welfare centre’, but she was very specific about where she would allow this to be built, namely the strip of land fronting Sopers Lane, away from the main body of the gardens (*History of Druitt Gardens* archive)

Documentation suggests that although the Christchurch Corporation were keen for Miss Druitt to convey the land directly to them she was not disposed to doing so as she feared they would not abide by her wishes to use the land for the purpose she was leaving it to them for. Mr Aldridge, Miss Druitt’s solicitor, referred to suggestions he had heard regarding the site being used for a car park (memo dated 9th April 1946 – *The History of Druitt Gardens* archive)

As well as the gift of the gardens Miss Druitt also left Druitt House to the Education Committee as a County Library and Reading Room. The grade II listed building opened as Christchurch Library in 1952. The extension added by James Druitt in 1870 forms the library reception area today.

The Welfare Centre never was built, but in 1953 to commemorate the Coronation, Druitt Hall was opened, along with the gardens, as a public amenity. The building was not erected in the area of the gardens that Miss Druitt had specified, but it did serve as an old peoples club and welfare centre.

Over the years R.H. Mooring and Son, as trustees of the Druitt estate, have resisted a number of moves to redevelop the library and gardens. Proposals have included a sport and youth centre and a civic centre. Whilst these suggestions have been strongly objected to it was proposed that a small strip of the gardens to the north of Druitt Hall could be exchanged between a third party (Mathews Shoe Centre) and the Borough Council for a another piece of land adjacent to the garden boundary in order to facilitate the development of The Lanes shopping, a mixed use development.

4.2 Archaeological evidence

4.2.1 Statutory legal protection

The south-western half of Druitt Gardens is protected as a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM No. 831) following the discovery of possible Saxon burh related features.

4.2.2 Nature of the evidence

Over the last few decades a number of archaeological excavations have been undertaken in and around the study area (Figure 3). The results of these are curated as grey literature client reports in Heritage Environment Records (HER) and sometimes published as papers in County archaeological journals and sometimes as monographs. A number of online resources such as the National Monuments Excavation index supported by the Archaeological Data Service (ADS) and the Archaeological Investigations Project (AIP) searchable database. By searching through these resources it has been possible to build up a picture of the Archaeological potential of Druitt Gardens. Appendix 1 lists the Historic Environment Records and supplementary AIP search results consulted during the production of this report.

4.2.3 Site X5 – Druitt Gardens

Prior to the construction of the Wick Lane car park (during 1972/73) eight trial pits and a subsequent 70x1.8m trench (aligned north north-east to south south-west) were excavated by R. A. Hill, to investigate the supposed southwest defences of the postulated burh (Figure 3). As well as the discovery of an Iron Age pit, an area of ironstone ‘tumble’ which sealed a ditch, and two possible postholes (seen only in section) were also recorded. The features were sealed by a grey-brown sandy layer which contained large quantities of 13th/14th century pottery. The stone ‘tumble’ did not appear to represent a wall *in situ*, but rather the remains of a robbed stone revetment. The two postholes were interpreted as evidence (albeit very slight) of a possible timber revetment phase. Several Saxo-Norman

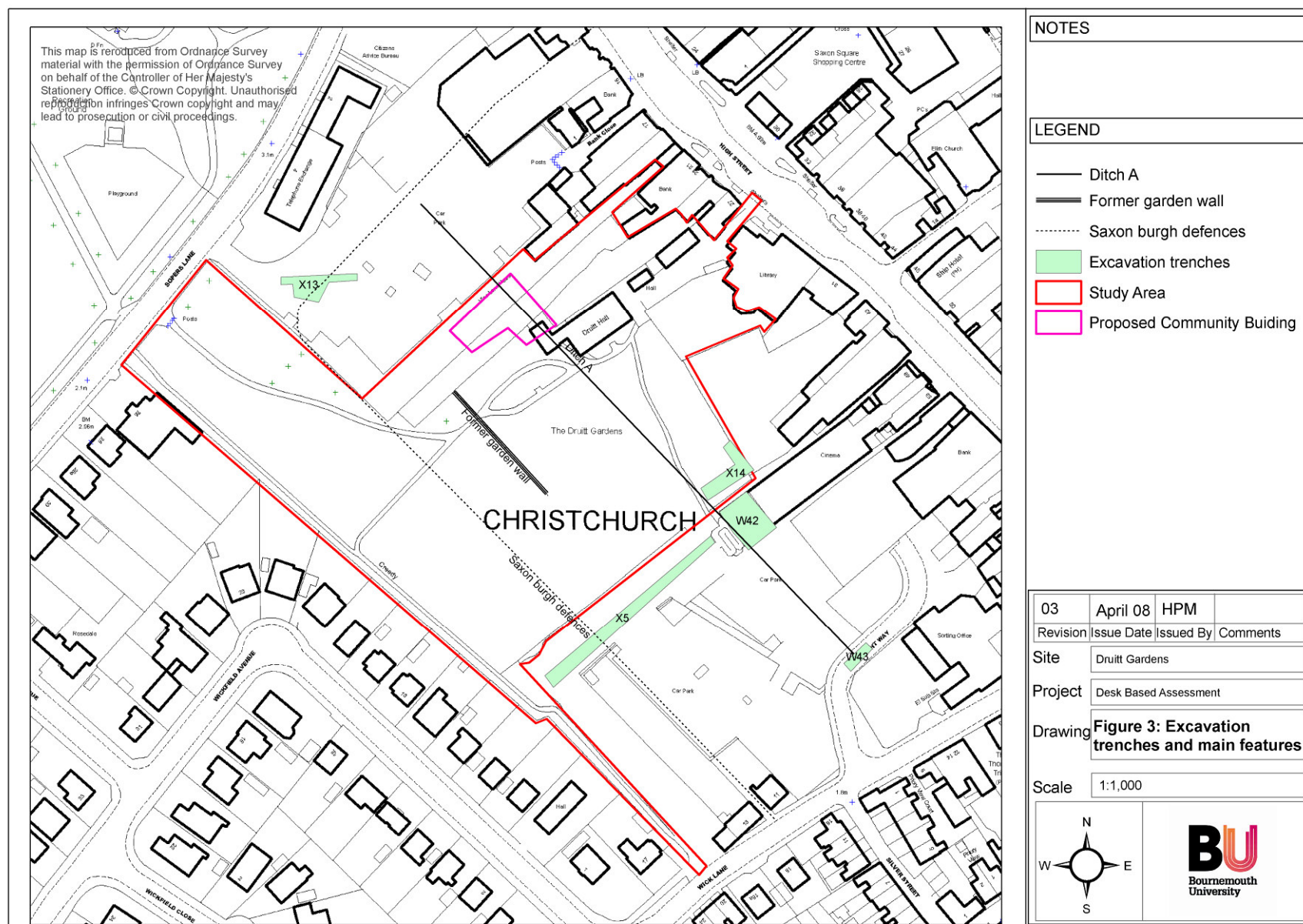


Figure 3. Location of previous excavation trenches and archaeological features in and around the study area

body sherds were recovered from below the tumble layer and were also recorded from the top of the ditch. The stratigraphy indicated that the defensive ditch had silted up completely not later than the 13th/14th century (Jarvis 1983, 32). The results of this excavation seem to confirm that an early medieval/medieval ditch with a stone revetment runs through the study area, however not in the vicinity of the proposed new Community Building (Jarvis 1983).

4.2.4 Site X13 – Keith Motors Site

In 1976 an excavation directed by D. Markell took place on a strip tenement to the west of the Druitt Gardens boundary on the Keith Motors site (Figure 3). The excavation was intended to locate the corner of what have been interpreted as being the town's defences. The excavation was limited by existing modern features however a 2m trench was cut and the centre part was extended. An area of sandy clay, interpreted as the base of a bank, abutted an area of mortar debris. This debris was recorded as the remains of wall robbing activity from the stone revetment of the defences. The only post-medieval feature identified was a small ditch with fill dated to the 18th century, this cut through a spread of mortar and heathstone fragments. Also cut into the mortar spread were a number of shallow pits containing 13th/14th century pottery. The stratigraphy beneath the mortar spread was composed of sandy clay layers above an alluvial deposit of grey sand at least 1.0m thick with occasional bone fragments in the upper 0.2m. These layers were undated although they were interpreted as being Saxon or early medieval in date. It seems likely that the wall feature was robbed out and levelled by the 13th/14th century. The later pits may indicate that initially discarded stone was subsequently resumed. The position of the trench seemed to indicate that only a portion of the defence's berm had been investigated and that any associated ditch lay without the excavation area (Jarvis 1983).

In 1979/80 a subsequent watching brief was undertaken by P. Aitken confirmed the disturbed nature of the archaeology. No trace of the 'burh' wall rubble was identified. Two truncated ditches c.9m apart were, however, recorded in places (Figure 3). Further to the south-west, continuing down slope wall rubble was recorded. They were more than 1m deep but the inner one especially was greatly truncated. They both appear to have silted up naturally and were not backfilled deliberately. No finds were recorded in the clean buff sand which filled the features and they cannot be linked stratigraphically (Jarvis 1983).

In places a predicted natural sand dune formation survived. It was scarped to join with the inner ditch to create a continuous face without a berm.

The two ditches, although at this point outside the study area are important. Should they be continuous they would potentially turn the corner as the remains of the bank recorded in the earlier excavation would seem to. Therefore, at such a point the ditches would run through the southern part of the study area, their projected line would not be compromised by the proposed new Community Building but may be impacted by other renovations within the gardens.

Importantly, for this study especially, was the observation of the terminal of a new v-shaped ditch (Jarvis 1983). Referred to as Ditch A (Figure 3) the feature ran parallel to the High Street. The ditch was over two metres deep and filled with clean buff sand. Augering by Aitken demonstrated that the ditch continued through Druitt Gardens as far south as Wick Lane (see 4.2.5).

Ditch A would appear to be directly in line with the proposed new Community Building and therefore would be subject to some form of archaeological mitigation.

4.2.5 Site X14 – Druitt Gardens

Prior to the construction of an access road in 1977 a rescue excavation was undertaken by K. Jarvis. The shape of the trench was restricted by modern features (Figure 3). The archaeological features encountered were all cut into natural and included a shallow pit or posthole containing sherds of pottery dating from the 13th to 15th centuries and a long vertically sided trench which contained 13th/14th century pottery sherds. The feature was filled with a sandy loam was interpreted as a medieval field drain. Also recorded was a complex of three intercut ditches. The earlier contained 13th and 14th sherds of pottery, whilst the latest contained 18th century finds as well as one sherd of Roman tile and three sherds of Roman pottery. The ditch was not recorded on the Tithe Map. Other features recorded were six undated pits/postholes and a small section of undated ditch.

Prior to the excavation it was thought that an early extension to Millhams Street, south-west of the High Street may have existed. No such evidence was recorded and therefore it was concluded that the road did not exist. The discovery of residual Roman pottery may suggest that some form of Roman settlement exists to the south-west of the town (Jarvis 1983).

The ditches recorded within the trench may well extend into Druitt Gardens but would not be impacted upon by the proposed new Community Building.

4.2.6 Site 42 – Rear of Regent Cinema

The excavation at the rear of the Regent Cinema (Figure 3), prior to construction work, at the south-east edge of Druitt Gardens undertaken by Wessex Archaeology (previously Wessex Archaeological Committee) in 1983 identified a steep sided ditch cut to c.2.85m. Below extensive post-medieval build up the ditch extended to a depth of c.1.5m. The corresponding edge was not located as it ran under the section. Two sherds of 12th/13th pottery were recovered from the fills, one from the primary silt.

Although not completely recorded in plan this ditch is on the line of 'medieval Ditch A' identified by Aitken in 1979/80. No evidence for deliberate backfilling or re-cutting was observed, however one layer of sand and gravel mixed with weathered clay might imply the collapse of an external bank (Davies 1984).

4.2.7 Site W43 - Wick Lane

In 1983 an excavation was undertaken by Wessex Archaeology at Wick Lane (Figure 3). The excavation identified a ditch cut into natural c.4.5m wide with sloping sides and a flat base cut c.1.4m into the natural. The ditch silted up naturally but was later re-cut through the primary silt; this later re-cut was then filled with domestic refuse. Only very slight evidence for an inner bank was recorded.

The ditch is on the line of 'medieval Ditch A' identified by Aitken in 1979/80 which runs parallel and to the west of the High Street, some 60m inside the presumed line of the western town defences. The line of the ditch had been traced by Aitken following the Keith Motors watching brief. It has been suggested that this ditch represents a post-conquest re-organisation of the town defences (Davies 1984).

The presence of domestic waste in this section of the ditch (unlike the previously excavated north-west section of the ditch) perhaps supports the theory that domestic occupation was more dense at the south-eastern end of the settlement.

4.2.8 Discussion of archaeological evidence

Following research and initial excavations from 1969 the location of the burh was postulated to lie within the centre of the town, since there was no evidence to show any shift in occupation after the late Saxon period (Jarvis 1983). Evidence from subsequent excavations (1970 onwards) has appeared to establish the nature of the postulated burh. It seems to enclose an area of c.13 hectares and is situated on a gravel spur at the confluence of the Avon and Stour rivers effectively controlling access along them both.

Limited evidence has been found to indicate the levels of occupation and so it has been assumed that only a small population were resident. The evidence indicating early occupation may well point to a small population or possibly that structural remains are more ephemeral due to their construction materials (i.e. turf and timber). It is also possible that the period is more aceramic than previously thought and remains of organic utensils do not survive. An alternative interpretation is that the Late Saxon burh lies elsewhere.

The 10th and 11th century occupation is likely to have been centred around the Priory towards the south-eastern end of the settlement, an area as yet unexcavated. Pottery recovered from various sites in Christchurch in many cases has proved hard to date, it can most closely be assigned Saxo-Norman which spans c. 850-1150 AD. This makes distinguishing the phases of development between the tenth to the twelfth centuries very difficult.

It is likely that the possible burh was not as affluent as other Wessex burhs but it contained a small area of rural settlement and larger open areas. Probably a rural market and meeting place which could have supported a larger population in times of unrest. Evidence from the excavations within the town support this along with the small population recorded in Domesday (Morris 1982, 1, 28). Unlike larger burhs no

mint has been archaeologically identified at Christchurch. The early church and associated settlement predating the possible burh is assumed to be in the vicinity of the current Priory.

The town defences have been interpreted as consisting of a bank, some 9-10m thick, which is later improved by a stone revetment c1.4m thick and in some areas, including the Keith Motors site; just on the outer north-west edge of the Druitt Gardens study area, possible evidence of a sandy clay bank was recorded. It has been suggested that the north-western section of the defences may have been made up of, at least in part, of an augmented natural sand dune (Davies 1984).

Evidence of associated ditches 9m apart have also been excavated and recorded, although it is not possible to link the two ditches stratigraphically. The excavated evidence shows that the ditches had silted up, rather than having been deliberately backfilled, almost completely prior to the demolition of the town wall. The demolition layer is in turn sealed by 13th and 14th century deposits.

The presence of the stone revetment has been noted on a number of excavations in the town including sites X5 and X13 as robbing debris. The only *in situ* base of a wall was recorded at the site X1 to the north west of the high street at the opposite corner of the postulated line of the burh. Dating for the wall comes from only one sherd of 11th/12th century pot rim sherd found securely stratified below the wall, However as Jarvis points out (Jarvis 1983,19) although a late 10th/early11th century date would seem appropriate for such a construction, reliance of a secure date should not be placed on a single pot sherd.

The core construction of the wall appears to have included carstone, ferruginous sandstone, locally known as heathstone, flint greensand and mudstone which was then faced with ironstone. The evidence for timber revetting behind the rampart (2 postholes in section) is slight but tenuous and the evidence for timber revetting at the front is ambiguous (Jarvis 1983). It has been suggested that the wall may well have been constructed prior to 1160. This is due to the absence of any Purbeck Marble used in the wall unlike the Constables house which contained a large amount of the aforementioned stone (Jarvis 1983). Whether this is likely is unsure. The Constables house was a prestigious building and the question of whether Purbeck Marble would be used in a municipal defence work is in interesting one.

Evidence for later medieval contraction of town defences have been recorded at the Keith Motors (X13) site in the discovery of 'ditch A'. This feature was plotted following augering heading south to Wick Lane in 1979/80 and then confirmed by excavation in 1983 (W43). Evidence of greater domestic activity was recorded at this southern end of the ditch, perhaps indicating that occupation was more concentrated in this part of the settlement.

4.3 Site Visit

The authors visited the site on 26th November and 25 January 2008 to inspect the area of the proposed development.

4.3.1 Current land use

The majority of study area is open to the public, except for a small enclosed space behind the Library. The area between Druiitt Hall and the High Street is surfaced with tarmac. The gardens are predominantly covered by trees and small shrubs with small areas of brambles and clear grassland. Tarmac and unmade paths criss-cross the area, except for the Creedy, a flag-stoned path and definitive right of way, which runs along the southern boundary of the gardens between Wick Lane and Sopers Lane (Plates 1 & 2).



Plate 1. The Creedy looking north-west



Plate 2. The Creedy looking south-east

4.3.2 Topography

The northern half of the study area is general flat up to a low bank which occurs in about the centre of the gardens (see below). The southern half of the gardens is approximately 1.0m lower and slopes down gently towards the Creedy.

4.3.3 Extant features

4.3.3.1 Buildings

Within the study area, three buildings are extant. A red brick, one storey building with wooden doors is present near the High Street (Plate 3). It's current and former use is uncertain although it may be a garage or storeroom. Immediately behind this building is a one storey structure. This is clad in an unknown material and is currently used by the University of the Third Age (U3A) and was formerly the Headquarters of the Red Cross (Plates 3 & 4). Behind the U3A structure is Druitt Hall (Plate 4), used by the Christchurch Housing Society. Again, this is one storey and is clad in an unknown material.



Plate 3. Red brick building and U3A building



Plate 4. Side view of Druitt Hall



4.3.3.2 Walls

On the north western side of the gardens a series of walls begins they all appear as boundaries on the 1842 Tithe Map but the nature of the feature marking the boundary is unknown. They appear to have been constructed in a least three phases.

At the extreme western end of the garden, a wall marking the boundary between the study area and the Bank Close car park (built in 1980) is of embanked ironstone boulder construction. Part of this wall, at its north east extremity, follows the conjectured line of the burh, although the date of the wall is unknown. It has been suggested that the stones were recovered during car park construction and may be the stones from the original defences (Jarvis 1983).

Abutted by this wall is another more complete wall feature (grade II listed, HER no. DO15792, LB no. 101511) made of limestone with occasional blocks of heathstone, and described on the HER as stone rubble construction (Plate 9).



Plate 6. Showing abutment between Wall A and Wall B



Plate 7. Crack in Wall B showing limestone facing with ironstone/heathstone core

The associated boundary wall (Wall C) running south-west to north-east is reputed to have been built in 1817 with the stones from the demolished Waterloo Bridge (Plate 8), It was pulled down in 1772 to allow coal barges access along the River Avon to Salisbury (*The History of Druitt Gardens Archive*).

Moving east, the wall appears to have been subject to a number of repairs and has had modern drainpipes inserted through it. The building materials used have also become more varied, including Ironstone, heathstone and even a small piece of ornamental marble. As the wall turns north, the



Plate 8. Boundary wall supposedly constructed from stones from Waterloo Bridge

building material becomes red brick, buttressed at its south east corner (Plate 10). At its greatest height, the wall is approximately 1.75m high. As it runs north, the wall lowers to a height of 0.50m.



Plate 9. Wall B showing varied construction/repair materials



Plate 10. Wall B showing change from stone to red brick construction

A low (approx 0.30m), rectangular wall (Wall D) of red bricks occurs at the south-western end of Druitt Hall (Plate 11). This is the site of the former greenhouse (see below) and thus could be the foundations for it.



Plate 11. Wall D. Probable footing of a now demolished greenhouse

The buttressed, red brick rear garden wall (Wall E, Plate 13) of Druitt House (now the library) which stands c.3.00m high is also a grade II listed building (HER no. DO15794, LB no. 101513). The wall forms the southern side of the alleyway which leads from the High Street to the U3A and Druitt Hall and into Druitt Gardens (Plates 12 & 13)



Plate 12. View from High Street through to Druitt Hall



Plate 13. Wall E. View from Druitt Hall along Grade II listed wall of Druitt House (the library) viewed from the west

4.3.3.3 Earthen banks

A low bank, orientated north-west to south-east runs across the centre of Druitt Gardens for approximately 40m. The bank is approximately 2.5m wide, and is approximately 0.5m high on the northern side, and 1.0m high on the southern side. At the terminus of this bank in the centre of the gardens, a smaller bank runs north-east. The alignment and positions of these banks correspond with the garden boundaries seen on the historic maps (see below) and are likely to be an artefact of the gardens creation in the late 19th century.



Plate 14. Bank running through centre of Druitt Gardens

A low bank runs parallel with the Creedy at the south western end of the gardens. This may be the archaeological remnant of a known footpath built by James Druitt (Plate 15).



4.3.3.4 Raised beds

Plate 15. Low bank running adjacent to the Creedy path

On the north western edge of the gardens are two narrow raised strips of earth contained within a low wall of red bricks (Plate 16). Stannard (1999, 231) notes that Herbert Druitt used the gardens more for the growing of vegetables rather than flowers. It is possible that the enclosed strips of earth are the remains of vegetable beds.



Plate 16. Low red brick wall

4.3.4 Summary

The buildings and walls inside the study area appear to have been constructed in the late 19th and early 20th Century, and the earthen banks are most likely to be boundaries associated with the creation of the formal gardens behind Druitt House in the late 19th Century. The topographical difference between the northern (upper) and southern (lower) parts of the gardens may be in part be due to some landscaping when the gardens were created. The area abutting the northern side of the central earthen bank could be made ground deposited to form a flat surface. The remains of possible raised vegetable beds are also present on the north western edge of the study area.

During the site visit, it was noted that an area (approximately 2.0x5.0m) of disturbed ground was visible on the western side of the gardens near the Creedy. A scatter of post-medieval finds was noted on the surface, including pottery sherds, tile and oyster shell. This area lay within the scheduled area.

4.4 Cartographic Sources

The historic maps discussed below are shown in Appendix III.

4.4.1 Tithe map-1842

The Christchurch Parish Tithe Map of 1842 shows the area of Druitt Gardens was divided into approximately nine land parcels. A large rectangular building fronting the High Street is shown, with a smaller structure located behind it. The Tithe Apportionment indicates that two land parcels (3841 & 3842) were owned by John Sullivan and were occupied by Gilbert Fuller. Parcel 3841 was described as a "Plot", whereas 3842 was described as a "Garden and gig house". A garden in this case usually refers to a horticultural plot, although no state of cultivation was attributed to the land. A small structure is visible in the north-east corner of land parcel 3841. Details regarding the ownership or land use of the other land parcels could not be found, and there appears to be no other buildings located in the study area.

4.4.2 Ordnance Survey 1870 edition

The OS map of 1870 (Hampshire-Southern Division-Sheet 86) indicates a formalisation of the land behind James Druitt's house, built in 1844 (Stannard, 1999 217). A number of structures appear to have been built behind Druitt House, including a green house on the western side of the garden. Gardens appear to have been created running from immediately behind Druitt House on the High Street through to the Creedy on the southern boundary of the study area. The Creedy footpath ran through Creedy Fields, (3840 & 3896 on the 1842 Tithe Map) now covered by the Wickfield estate. Here, boundaries shown on the Tithe map have been removed, and bush-lined paths have been established. A hedge, orientated northwest-southeast, has also been created. The south-eastern side of the current Druitt Gardens appears to be of a different character to that of James Druitt's gardens. There are fewer trees and the paths are more formally laid out. There is a clear boundary wall between the two sets of gardens which was not evident on the 1842 Tithe Map. In the most recent maps it is shown as having been truncated. The date of this feature has over time come to be seen as possibly Saxon or medieval with a height impressive enough to retain quite a lot of extant wall. The cartographic evidence does not

support this. S. Newman notes in *The History of Druitt Gardens* archive held at the Red House Museum that 'the ridge' is 'not apparently a Saxon or medieval wall' (see discussion below).

4.4.3 Ordnance Survey 1924 edition

The OS map of 1924 has less detail than that of the 1870 map. However, it appears that more structures have been built behind Druitt House, and a boundary wall has been removed in the south-western side of the study area. In the centre of the gardens a rectangular area of vegetation is visible- the associated map legend indicates that these are bushes. A row of mixed woodland trees lines the route of the Creedy (see discussion below).

4.4.4 Ordnance Survey 1933 edition

The OS map of 1933 shows little change from the 1924 map. However, the vegetation in the centre of the gardens has become a mixture of bushes and trees, and a boundary has been re-established on the south-western side of the study area.

4.4.5 Ordnance Survey 1939 revision

The revised OS edition of 1939 indicates that much more of the study area has become wooded. Trees and bushes are evident from the north-eastern side of the study area through to the Creedy on the south-western edge. An orchard appears to have been established in the north-eastern corner of Druitt Gardens. No other changes are discernable.

4.4.6 Ordnance Survey 1951 edition

The OS map of 1951 shows substantial change to the layout of Druitt Gardens. Trees and bushes now stretch from the rear of Druitt House to the Creedy and as nearly as far as Sopers Lane to the west. On the eastern side of the site, trees have been established and boundary walls have moved, probably reflecting a change in ownership. A small structure has been built in the vicinity of the proposed Community Building.

4.4.7 Topographical Survey-2007

The topographical survey undertaken by Southern Land Surveys Ltd in 2007 shows the position and species of each tree and shrub in Druitt Gardens. These include Holm Oak (of which two individuals, in and around the gardens, are protected by Tree Preservation Orders), Sycamore, Horse Chestnut and Ash. There is possibly a linear alignment of trees running parallel with the Creedy on the western side of the gardens, this may relate to a tree lined path constructed by James Druitt and mentioned in the 'History of Druitt Gardens' prepared by Sue Newman, a local historian, for the Red House Museum . The small structure in the east of the gardens, which was first recorded in 1842, is no longer present, nor is the structure located in the vicinity of the proposed Community Building.

4.4.8 Summary

Cartographic sources have indicated that between 1840 and present day, the study area has changed from a series of separate land parcels into one, "L" shaped piece of land. Throughout this period, boundary walls have been established and removed, one of which is still extant in the centre of Druitt Gardens, and a number of structures have either been built or destroyed. The land use has changed from enclosed plots in 1842, to formal, private gardens in 1870, through to a more wooded, open public space in the present day.

4.5 Aerial photographs

The aerial photographs consulted came from Bournemouth University's collection.

4.5.1 RAF Vertical photograph-1974

The aerial photograph shows that the area of Druitt Gardens was heavily wooded at the time. No features can be discerned on the ground due to a thick tree canopy.

4.5.2 RAF Vertical photograph-1975

There is no discernable change to that observed in the previous aerial photograph.

4.5.3 Summary

The two aerial photographs indicates that in the mid 1970s Druitt Gardens was heavily wooded and as such are not useful to the understanding of the archaeological potential of the study area.

4.6 Confidence rating

4.6.1 Sources used

The excavation reports, cartographic sources and HER records provided a sound basis for the compilation of this Desk-based assessment. However, the limited information gained from the Bournemouth University and Red House Museum aerial photograph collections added little to the understanding of the site. A site visit further enhanced the integrity of this report.

4.6.2 Limiting factors

The temporary closure of the Hampshire Records Office and the limited coverage of the Dorset History Centre (due to changed administrative boundaries), coupled with the fragile nature of certain key cartographic sources potentially could have hindered the compilation of this report. However, alternative resources were utilised and thus a high confidence rating can be attributed to the resulting research.

5.0 Conclusions and Recommendations

5.1 Conclusions

Druitt Gardens represents a precious resource within the town of Christchurch. It is increasingly rare to find a green space within ever developing urban areas especially one dedicated to the welfare of its residents. By keeping this land as an open space free for public access it provides a rare opportunity to preserve the archaeology of early Christchurch.

The results of the Desk-based assessment indicate that within the study area there is evidence for the postulated Saxon burh and a later medieval ditch. The evidence is scarce but it is possible that this is a defensive ditch rather than just a boundary demarcation. However, other extant earthworks visible in Druitt Gardens are likely to be the remains of property boundaries or 19th century landscape gardening.

It is possible that other features associated with the early defensive features and the medieval ditch may remain preserved within Druitt Gardens, as well as back plot activity from some of the properties fronting the High Street. A number of these are Listed Buildings (see Appendix II) and are situated on plots which may well have been occupied at an earlier date. Evidence for both domestic and defensive activity would be a welcome addition to the known archaeology and history of Christchurch.

5.2 Recommendations

The proposed location for the Community Building is centred on a medieval (11th-12th century) ditch, the route of which was identified elsewhere by a number of previous excavations (1979-1983). Due to the lack of development at Druitt Gardens, it is likely that any *in situ* archaeological remains will be well preserved. As such, it is recommended that an archaeological evaluation is undertaken in the vicinity of the proposed Community Building to adequately define and record the underlying archaeology. During excavation of the known ditch elsewhere, few finds or associated features have been recovered to fully interpret the nature and function of the feature. An evaluation would hopefully resolve these archaeological questions. Should the County Archaeological Officer decide that an evaluation is required they will specify the extent and area of trenching to be undertaken.

In addition, it is recommended that, where possible, a non-intrusive, geophysical investigation be undertaken in areas of the garden that are likely to have improvement work carried out. An S42 licence should be applied for from English Heritage, prior to any work being undertaken in the area outlined by the Scheduled Ancient Monument. Furthermore, it is recommended that should tree root removal be carried out, an archaeological watching brief is undertaken for the duration of this work.

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Appendix I: Historic Environment Records and AIP search results

The following records have been retrieved from the Dorset County Council Historic Environment Record (HER), located in Dorchester. They relate to archaeological finds and features both within Druitt Gardens and also those sufficiently nearby to be relevant to the discussion of the Archaeological Potential of the study area.

Historic Environment Record Number	Details
8 000 017B MDO8683	1928, Several worked flints were recovered from the site of the new Telephone Exchange.
8 000 031 MDO8722	Excavations in Druitt Gardens during 1972-73. Site X5. R.A.Hills. A ditch was partially excavated and found to be completely silted up by end of 11 th century. An associated spread of ironstone and heathstone rubble. Both were sealed by a 13 th -14 th century sandy layer. Interpreted as deriving from robbed out medieval town wall and associated features.
MDO19436	Site X5 Druitt Gardens. Residual Roman sherds (2) recorded from a 12 th century pit. 1972-73
MDO19395	Druitt Gardens Site X5. 1972-73. Prior to the construction of the Wick Lane car park excavation revealed evidence for Late Saxon town defences. Ditch containing Saxo-Norman pottery sealed by 13 th /14 th century layers. Very slight evidence for timber revetment recorded, 2 post-holes 9m apart. Similar in width of bank recorded at other sites.
MDO19396	Small Iron Age pit recorded during the excavations prior to the construction of the Wick Lane car park (Site X5). A contaminate group of 48 pottery sherds including one 2 nd /3 rd century BC sherd.
MDO19352	Excavation X13 undertaken by D. Markell on the Keith Motors site recorded features relating to the early medieval town defences. 1976.
8 000 042	Excavation X13 undertaken by D. Markell on the Keith Motors site MDO8721 recorded features relating to the medieval town defences. 1976.
MDO19351	A small post-medieval ditch aligned SW-NE was recorded during excavation X13 undertaken by D. Markell on the Keith Motors site. May represent a post medieval property boundary. 1976
MDO19340	A watching brief was undertaken at the Keith Motors site by P. Aitken in 1979/80. Evidence for 2 ditches 9m apart were recorded. Although the associated town wall rubble was not <i>in situ</i> they appear to represent the town defences. Inner ditch v-shaped in profile, 2m deep, silted up naturally. Outer ditch similar in size and filling although truncated to 0.7m deep. Both filled with clean buff sand. In places natural dune had survived although had been scarped to create a continuous face without a berm.
MDO19339	During the watching brief at Keith Motors 1979/80 the terminal of a medieval ditch (Ditch A) was recorded, running parallel to High Street. V-shaped in profile, over 2m deep. By augering Aitken followed the line of the ditch as far south as Wick Lane. Later work dates ditch as 13 th century or earlier.
8 000 043 MDO8700	Excavations in Druitt Gardens by K. Jarvis site X14 revealed medieval ditch, medieval field drain, medieval pit. 1977.
MDO19430	Excavations in Druitt Gardens by K. Jarvis site X14 prior to the

	construction of a small access road revealed one piece of Roman tile and three sherds of Roman pottery in the fill of an 18 th ditch. May suggest Roman settlement to the SW side of the town.
8 000 050A MDO8731	Wick Lane. Site W43. Medieval ditch A and medieval pottery recovered. as augured by Aitken ,1983
8 000 050B MDO8732	Rear of Regent Cinema. Site W42. Medieval ditch. Appears to be continuation of medieval Ditch A, as augured by Aitken. 1983.
8 000 058 MDO8743	Banks Close car park watching brief. Oven-like structure observed, built into the rear of a bank associated with the 12 th /13 th century medieval Ditch A. It contained an almost complete medieval green glazed tripod jug. 1980.
MDO19401	Observations during construction of Banks Close car park revealed a sandy layer to the NE of the line of the medieval ditch. The sandy layer may represent the remains of the bank.
MDO19305	AC Archaeology evaluation on site of 43-45 High Street, prior to residential development. A ditch possibly medieval recorded. Over 1.5m wide although likely to be 3m wide as remainder outside trench, aligned WNW-ESE. Profile slightly curved with sandy silt fill. Contained charcoal, oyster shell, animal bone and a piece of medieval pottery. A shallow pit was also recorded, it contained domestic rubbish including medieval pottery burnt and worked flint and bone.
WX1124	Proposed site of west gate. Taken from Tithe Map showing a constriction in Wick Lane.
WX1175	Findspot. Lower Palaeolithic hand axe. Junction of terrace 2 and 3 geology. Recorded 1968.
WX1176	Findspot. Lower Palaeolithic hand axe. Terrace 4 geology. Recorded 1968.

Results from AIP search (in addition to those obtained from the Dorset HER)

Project title	Contracting Unit	Author	Map sheet	East	North	Biblio	Summary of results	Year
Rear of 19-25 High Street, Christchurch, Dorset: Preliminary Archaeological Assessment (Doc: 1697/2/0)	AC archaeology	Valentin, J	SZ	1750	9250	22pp figs, refs	The archaeological assessment of land to the rear of the site comprised a review of historical sources, data held in the SMR and a detailed site inspection. The rear boundary of the site was on the projected line of the western portion of the Saxon burh, which was an SAM (Dorset 831, site 2). Similarly, the north zone of the proposed development area fell within the scheduled area. The only previously excavated site within the proposed development zone was a medieval kiln. It was considered likely, based on an analysis of all recorded evidence, that remains related to the town's historic core may be present within the site. [AIP]	1998
The Archaeological Assessment And Evaluation Of A Proposed Residential Development At The Rear Of 43/45 High Street, Christchurch, Dorset	AC archaeology	Cotton, J, Cox, P W & Hawkes, J	SZ	1579	9275	32pp figs, tabs, refs	An evaluation was carried out at a proposed development site within Christchurch, a town with Saxon and medieval origins. Documentary research revealed that a portion of the site was likely to have devolved from the manor held by an Augustinian priory, founded in the town in 1150. Previous archaeological work in the vicinity of the site had established the line of the burghal defences and had located medieval activity and Roman artefacts. During the evaluation, a medieval pit and a possible ditch were recorded, both of which contained 13th or 14th century pottery. Animal bones, worked and burnt flints and a small amount of post-medieval pottery were also found. [AIP]	1995

Appendix II: Listed Buildings in the vicinity

Listed Building (II) Bow House 11 High Street. 18th century.



Listed Building (II) 15 High Street. Edwardian Baroque.



Listed Building (II) 27 High Street, Early 19th century.

Listed Building (II) Front railings and railed wall to side of 27 High Street, Early 19th century.

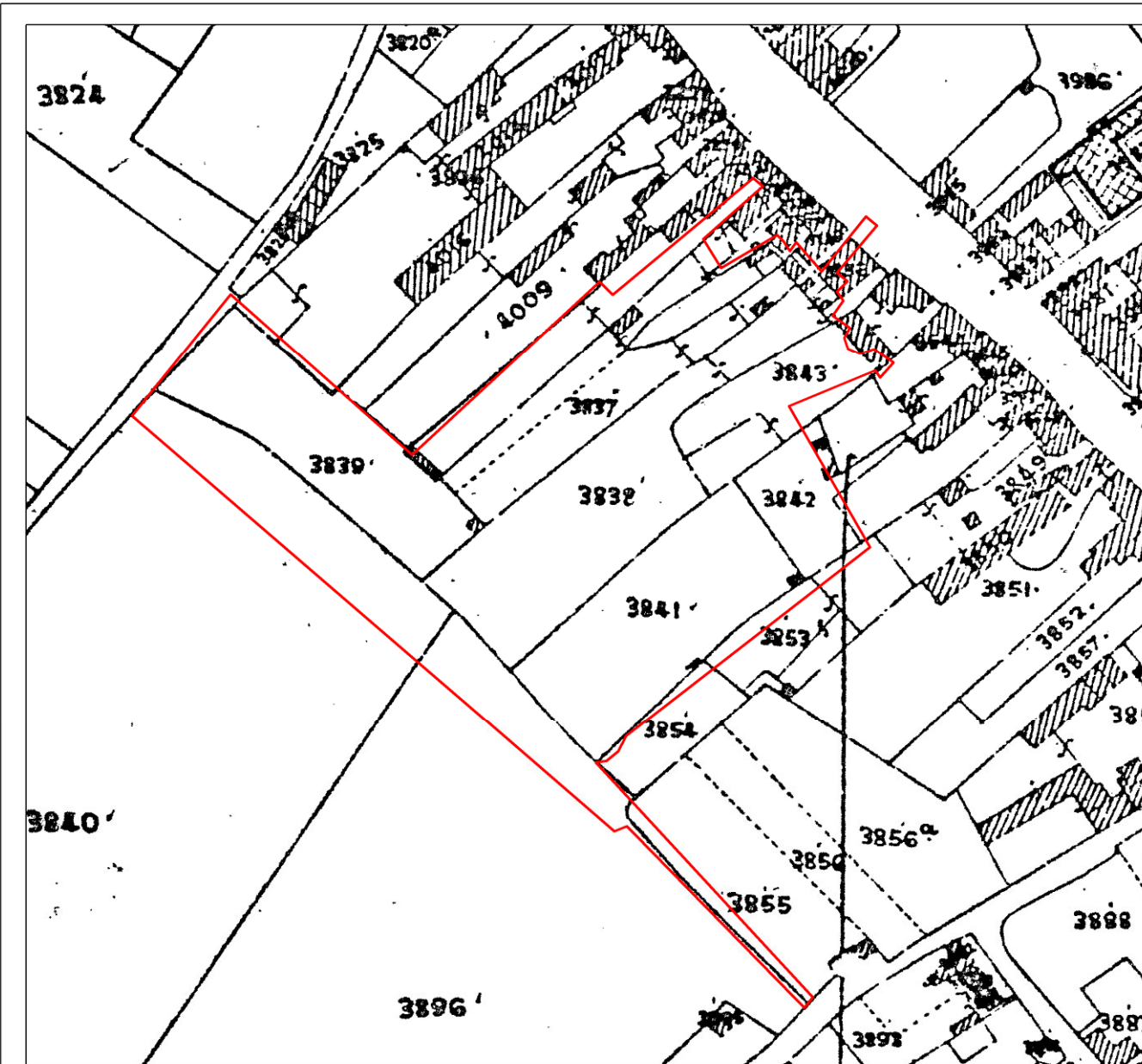


Listed Building (II) 29 High Street (Druitt Library), Early 19th century.



Listed Building (II) 43 High Street. Early 18th century. (not shown)

Appendix III: Historic Mapping



NOTES

LEGEND

Study Area

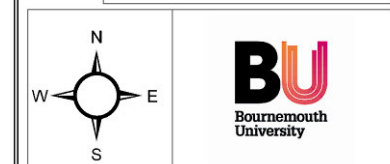
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Revision	Issue Date	Issued By	Comments

Site Druitt Gardens

Project Desk Based Assessment

Drawing 1842 Christchurch Parish
Tithe map

Scale 1:1,000



Reproduced from the 1870 Ordnance Survey map



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LEGEND

Study Area

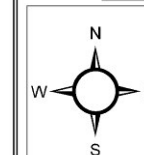
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Site Druitt Gardens

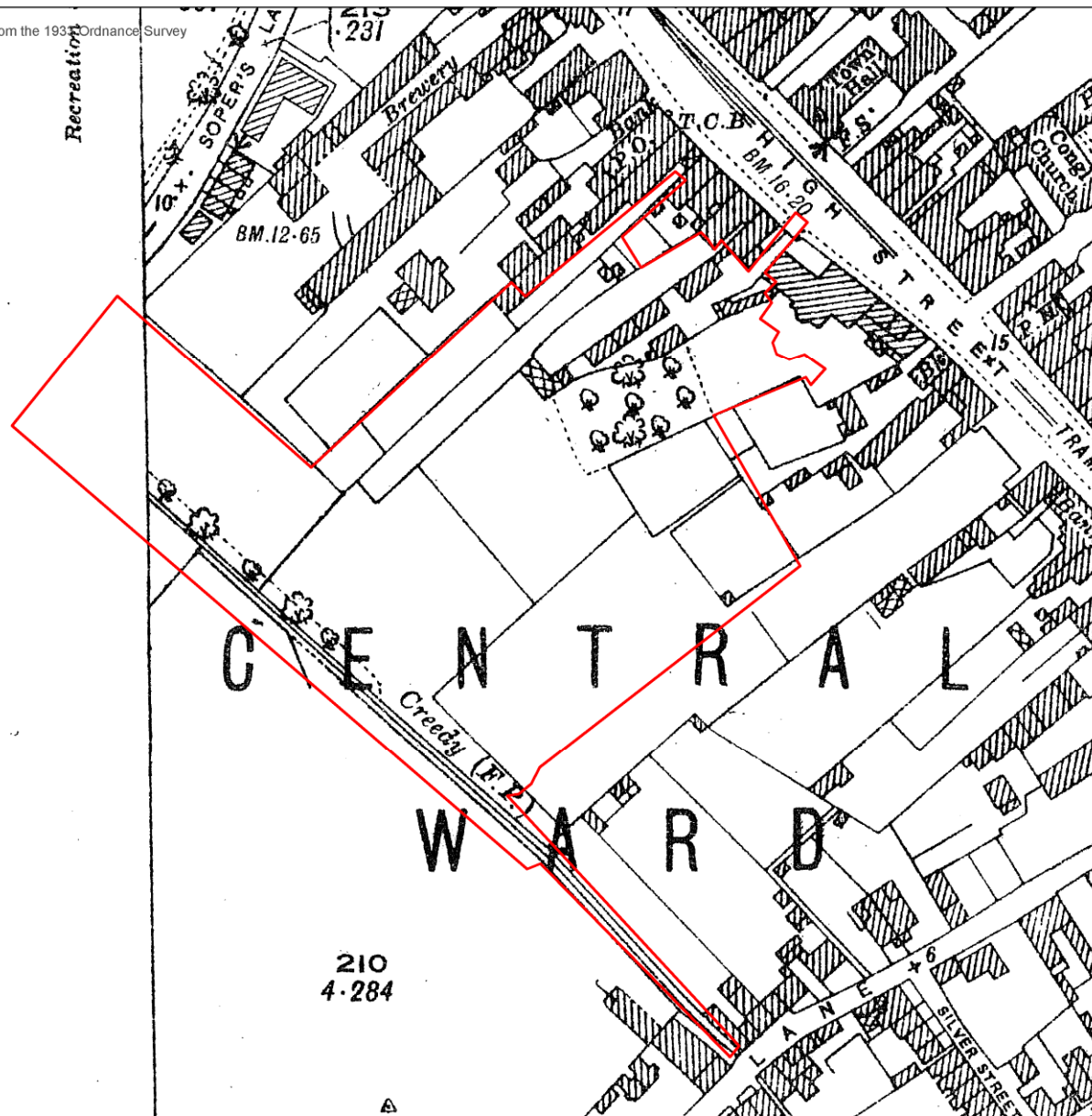
Project Desk Based Assessment

Drawing 1870 Ordnance Survey map

Scale 1:1,000



Reproduced from the 1933 Ordnance Survey map



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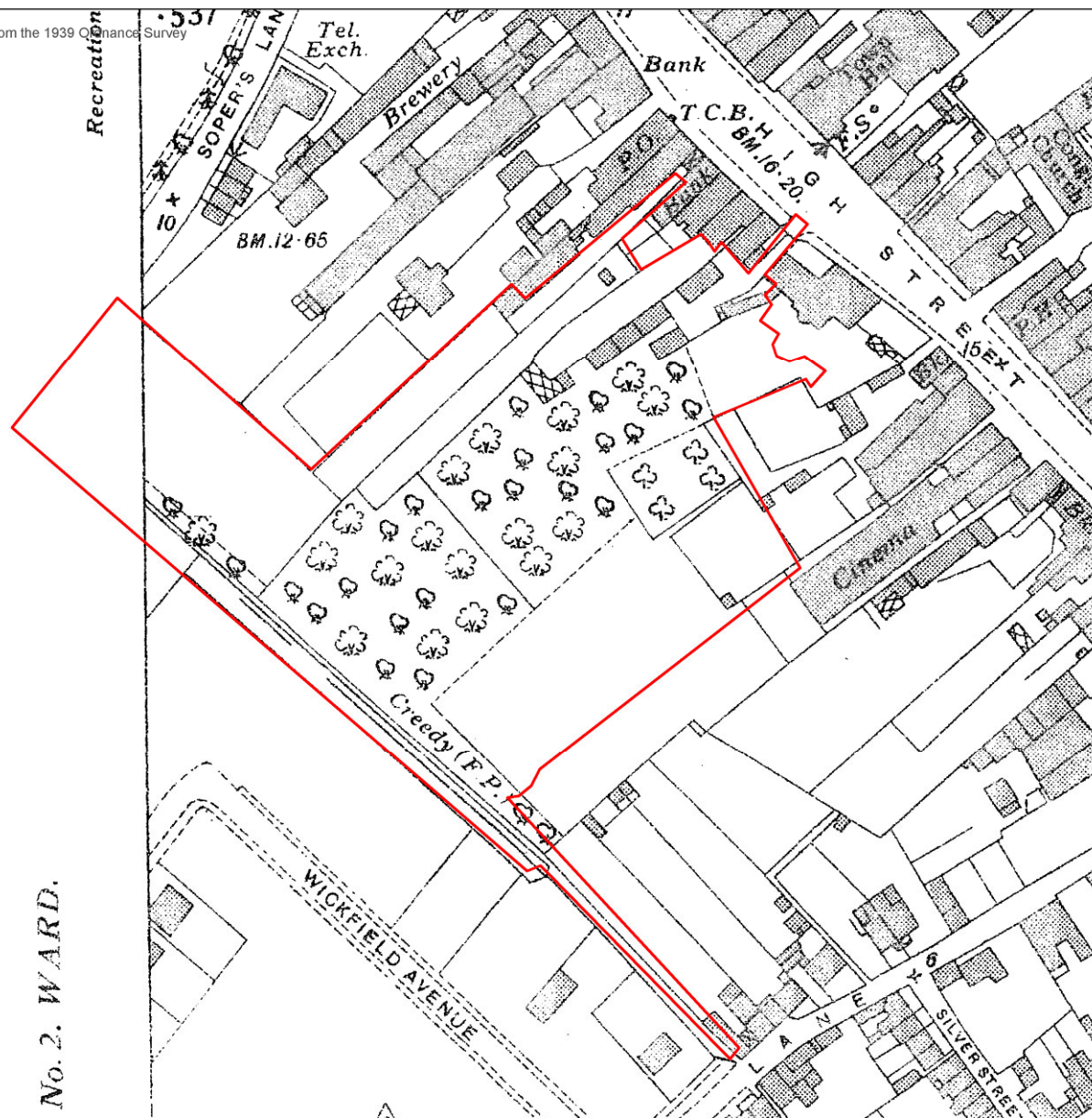
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Scale		1:1,000	

Bournemouth University

Reproduced from the 1939 Ordnance Survey map

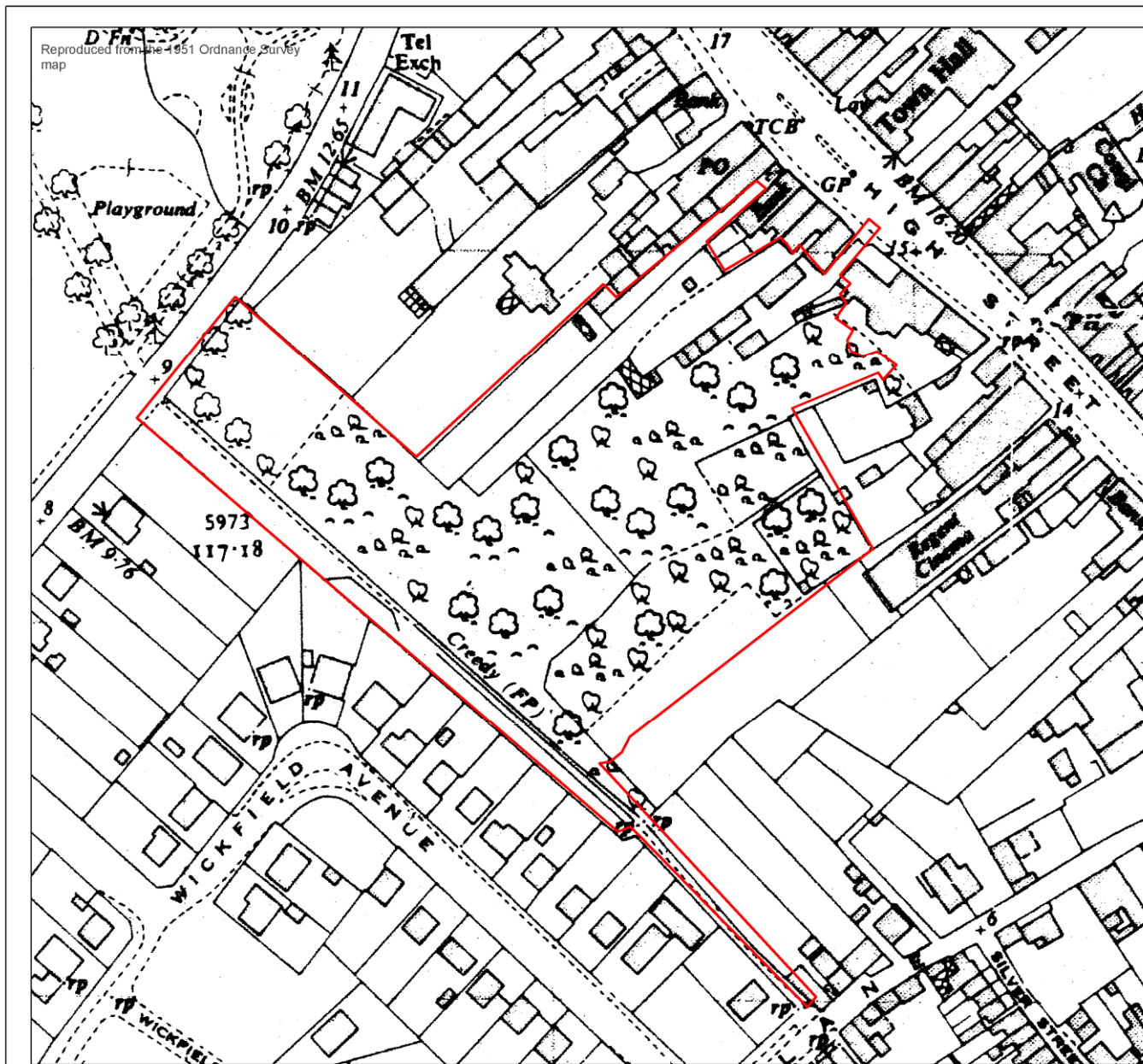


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Project		Desk Based Assessment	
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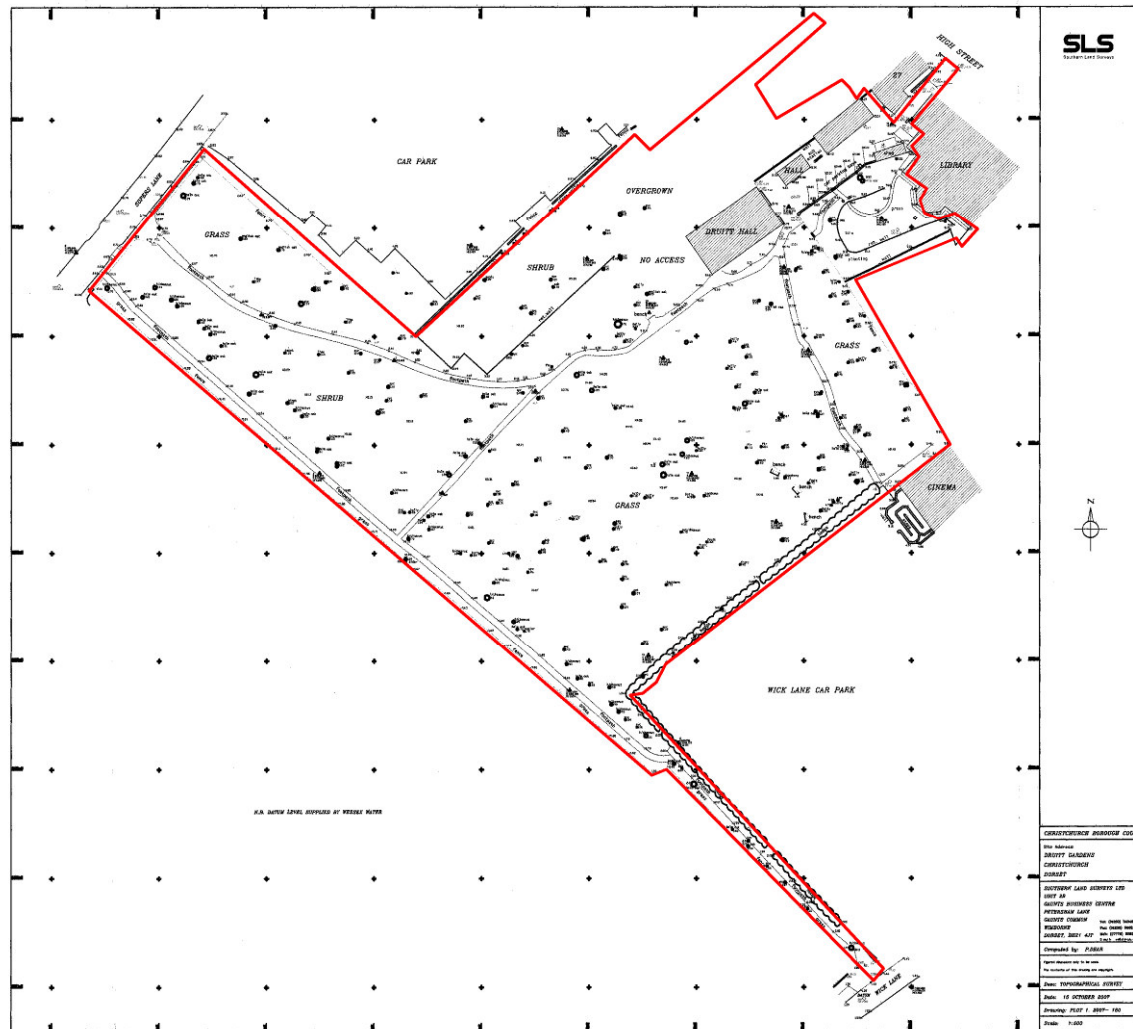
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Study Area

01	April 08	HPM	
Revision	Issue Date	Issued By	Comments
Site	Druitt Gardens		
Project	Desk Based Assessment		
Drawing	1951 Ordnance Survey map		
Scale	1:1,000		

Based upon map supplied by Hilary Martin.
Survey undertaken by Southern Land
Surveys 2007



NOTES

LEGEND

Study Area

01	April 08	HPM	
Revision	Issue Date	Issued By	Comments
Site		Drutt Gardens	
Project		Desk Based Assessment	
Drawing		2007 Topographic Survey	
Scale		1:1,000	