

Archaeological Evaluation and Assessment of Land at Kent Cottage, 19 Chapel Street, Hythe, Kent



Planning Application Y13/0463/SH
Date of Report: 29/04/2015

Report for Marc Carney

SWAT. ARCHAEOLOGY

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Archaeological Evaluation and Assessment of Land at Kent Cottage, 19 Chapel Street, Hythe, Kent

NGR 616063 134703
Site Code: 19/TP/15

SUMMARY

Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT) carried out an archaeological evaluation and assessment of land to the rear of 6-9 Bank Street, Chapel Street (known locally as Kent Cottage) Hythe in Kent. A planning application (Y13/0463/SH) for the construction of a three storey building comprising of 4 ground floor office units and 4 one bedroom flats in the upper floors, following demolition of the existing buildings was submitted to Shepway District Council whereby the Council requested that an Archaeological Investigation and Assessment be undertaken in order to determine the possible impact of the development on any archaeological remains. The work was carried out in accordance with the requirements set out within an Archaeological Specification (KCC 2015) and in discussion with the Archaeological Heritage Officer, Kent County Council.

The Archaeological Evaluation consisted of two archaeological test pits which encountered no archaeological features. The Archaeological Evaluation has therefore been successful in fulfilling the primary aims and objectives of the Specification.

INTRODUCTION

Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT) was commissioned by Marc Carney to carry out an archaeological investigation and assessment at the above site. The work was carried out in accordance with the requirements set out within an Archaeological Specification (KCC 2015) and in discussion with Ben Found the Archaeological Heritage Officer, Kent County Council.

The evaluation was carried out on 16th February 2015.

SITE DESCRIPTION AND TOPOGRAPHY

The development is situated on Chapel Street in the centre of the historic Cinque Port of Hythe. The proposed development site (PDA) occupies a small plot on the north side of Chapel Street and to the east the site backs on to 6-8 Bank Street (Figure 1).

The site is presently occupied by two buildings both of which have planning permission for demolition.

PLANNING BACKGROUND

Planning consent (Y13/0463/SH) for the for the construction of a three storey building comprising of 4 ground floor office units and 4 one bedroom flats in the upper floors, following demolition of the existing buildings was approved by Shepway District Council.

Shepway District Council (SDC) requested that an archaeological evaluation and assessment

be undertaken in order to determine the possible impact of the development on any archaeological remains. The Local Planning Authority (SDC) placed the following condition (8) on the planning consent:

No development shall take place until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.

Reason: In order to safeguard any remaining archaeological interest on the site in accordance with saved Local Plan Review policy SD1 and the NPPF:2012.

Requirements for the archaeological investigation comprised two archaeological test pits (Figure 1) designed to establish whether there were any significant archaeological remains at the site that may be affected by the proposed development. The results from this investigation will be used to inform KCC of any further archaeological mitigation measures that may be necessary in connection with the development proposals.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL and HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The development site lies within an area of archaeological potential based on the proximity of archaeological remains presently recorded in the HER.

Medieval sherds were found during a watching brief on development at 6-12 East Street (TQ 83 SE 52). In Chapel Street an archaeological watching brief recorded a late 19th century ragstone wall and associated floor surfaces (TR 13 SE 201). In Hillside Street remains of a medieval building under the present floor of the current building were found. Finds included c.1400 AD pottery, iron fittings, wooden objects and a iron helmet (TR 1616 3485).

Archaeological investigation elsewhere has exposed additional medieval archaeological remains. The PDA is located overlooking the former beach and harbour and would have been a significant location in the medieval period. A search of Historic OS Mapping shows that by 1872 the site was already developed (Figure 3). By 1898 additional building were on site (Figure 4), and by 1933 a veranda to the main building added (Figure 6).

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The purpose of the evaluation, as set out within the Archaeological Specification (2012) was:

- To determine whether any significant archaeological remains survive on site
- To ascertain the extent, depth below ground surface, depth of deposit, character, significance and condition of any archaeological remains on site

METHODOLOGY

Trial test-pitting was carried out on 16th February 2015 with the excavation of two test pits. Test pit location was agreed prior to the excavation between KCC and SWAT. Excavation was carried out using a tracked 360° mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket removing the overburden to the top of the first recognisable archaeological horizon, or natural, under the constant supervision of an experienced archaeologist.

Each Test Pit measured about 1.10m x 1.30m (Fig. 2) and they were excavated (by machine) to a depth of 1.90m. Following cleaning of the section, a detailed record of the sedimentary sequences within each test pit was made, identifying sedimentary units and their composition. One face of each test pit was drawn (at a scale of 1:10 see Fig. 2) and photographed. Samples were not collected from the recorded section within each test pit, as the stratigraphy encountered deemed this unnecessary.

Test Pit Description and Location

A total of two test pits were excavated, in accordance with the KCC specification (Fig. 1).

Test Pit One (TP1)

TP1 was located in the front area of the PDA just to the south of the facade of 19 Chapel Street.

The west facing section was recorded and this comprised of 'Type 1' aggregate (101) to a depth of 0.75m. This sealed mid-grey pink sand with moderate to frequent angular and sub-angular gravels, varying in size from 20mm to 60mm (102). This layer sealed (103), a thick (50cm) 'band' of light grey-brown colluvium. This contained moderate to frequent angular and sub-angular gravels that varied in size from 20mm to 60mm. Underneath this was (104), a thin layer of mid-yellow brown silty sand, containing moderate to frequent angular and sub-angular gravels, that varied in size from 20mm to 100mm. This sealed a thick layer of mid-grey silty sand (105). Excavation ceased at this level (1.90m). There was no evidence of Marine Gravels or archaeological remains although 19th and 20th century 'blue and white' porcelain sherds were recovered from Context 102.

Test Pit Two (TP2)

TP2 was located to the north west corner of the site. Excavation of this test pit encountered a ragstone wall and its building trench truncating the north west section. The south facing section was recorded and this comprised of garden soil mixed with demolition rubble (201) to a depth of 0.75m. This sealed mid-grey brown sand with moderate to frequent angular and sub-angular gravels, varying in size from 20mm to 60mm (202). This layer sealed (203), a thick (50cm) 'band' of light grey-brown colluvium. This contained moderate to frequent angular and sub-angular gravels that varied in size from 20mm to 60mm. Excavation ceased

at this level (1.90m). There was no evidence of Marine Gravels or archaeological remains. 19th/20th century pottery sherds were retrieved from Context 201.

Discussion

The excavation of the test pits produced negative results, as the Marine Gravels or archaeological remains were not observed or exposed. Excluding the present land surface of the proposed development site (contexts (101, 201), there is no direct correlation between the stratigraphy observed in the test pits. It is possible that contexts (105) and (203) share a relationship and Contexts 102 and 201 are contemporary by the pottery dates but the remainder of the deposits indicate random dumping or natural deposition over time.

All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with the specification. A single context recording system was used to record the deposits, and context recording numbers were assigned to all deposits for recording purposes. These are used in the report and shown in bold. All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with KCC and IFA standards and guidance.

MONITORING

Curatorial monitoring was not carried out during the course of the evaluation.

FINDS

19th and early 20th century pottery sherds were retrieved but not retained.

DISCUSSION

The test pits failed to reveal any archaeological remains. What was revealed was a site on which the strata had been formed by either dumping or natural deposition.

CONCLUSION

The archaeological evaluation has been successful in fulfilling the primary aims and objectives of the Specification. No archaeological activity was found during the evaluation which will inform the Archaeological Officer of the negative archaeological potential of site. The evaluation has, therefore, assessed the archaeological potential of land intended for development and found none.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

SWAT would like to thank Marc Carney commissioning this project. Thanks are also extended to Ben Found, Heritage Officer, Kent County Council for his advice and assistance.

Paul Wilkinson supervised the fieldwork, assisted in the field by Peter Cichy. Illustrations were produced by James Madden for *Digitise This*. The project was managed by Paul Wilkinson.

Paul Wilkinson PhD., MifA

April 2015

REFERENCES

Bibliography

Kent County Council (KCC), (2015) *Specification for Archaeological Evaluation of land at Kent Cottage, 19 Chapel Street, Hythe, Kent CT21 5BE*

Institute for Field Archaeologists (IfA), Rev (2008) *Standard and Guidance for archaeological field evaluation.*

Maps

Ordnance Survey 1st Edition (1872-1890)

Ordnance Survey 2nd Edition (1898-1900)

Ordnance Survey 3rd Edition (1907-1923)

Ordnance Survey 4th Edition (1933-1952)

Websites

Kent Landscape Information System <http://extranet7.kent.gov.uk/klis/home.htm>

Exploring Kent's Past <http://www.extranet7.kent.gov.uk/ExploringKentsPast/>

Plates



Plate 1. View of TP1 looking south. 1m scale. 10cm segments



Plate 2. View of TP1 looking west, 1m scale



Plate 3. View of TP2 looking west and showing ragstone wall, 1m scale

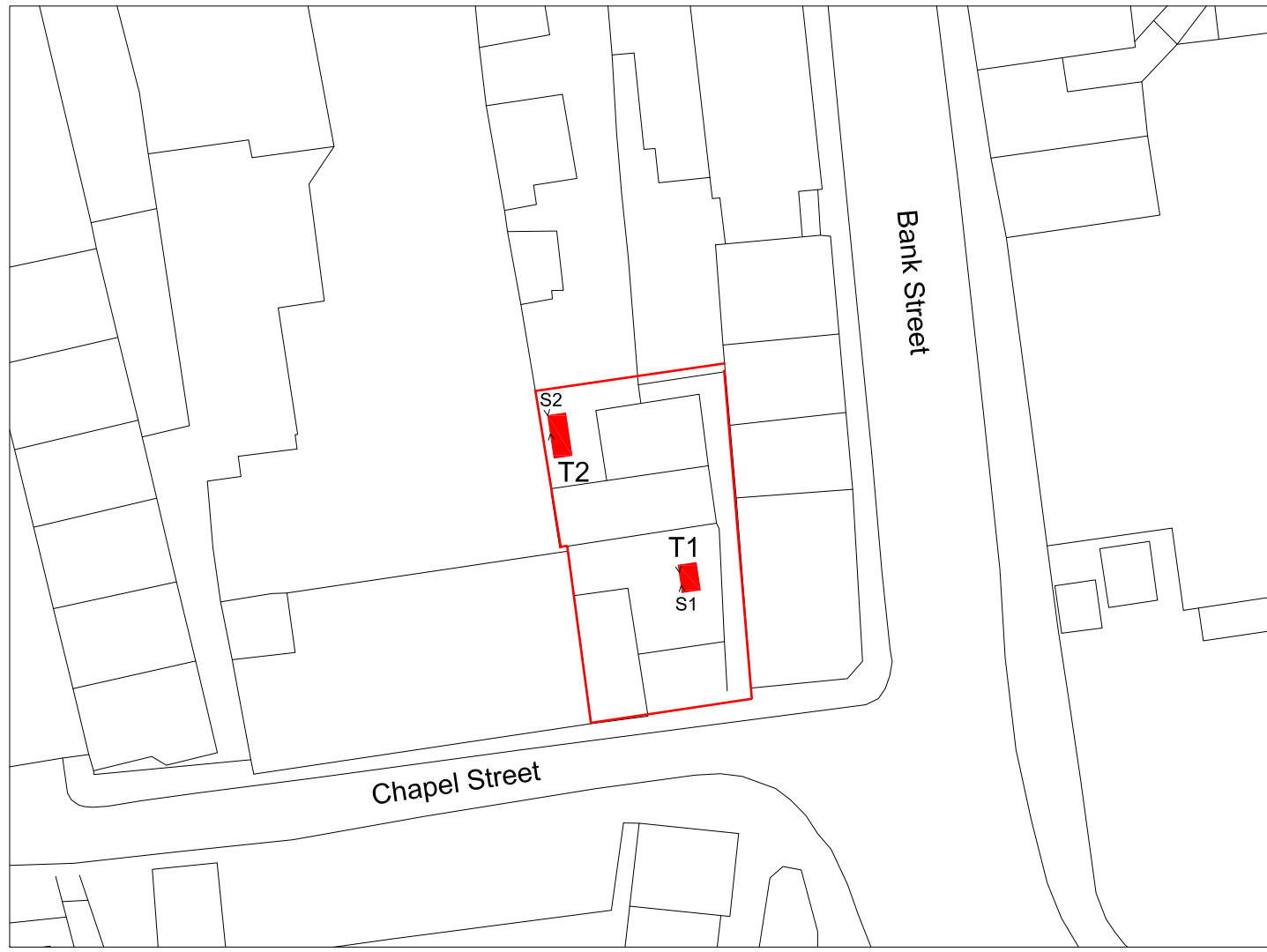


Plate 4. View of TP 2 looking south, 1m scale

APPENDIX 1 – Kent County Council HER Summary Form

Site Name: <i>Kent Cottage, 19 Chapel St, Hythe, Kent</i>	
SWAT Site Code:	
Site Address: <i>As above</i>	
Summary: <i>Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT) carried out an archaeological evaluation on land at Kent Cottage, 19 Chapel Street, Hythe, Kent. A planning application for the construction of a new three storey building at the above site was submitted to Shepway District Council (SDC) whereby Kent County Council Heritage and Conservation (KCCHC), on behalf of Shepway District Council requested that an Archaeological Evaluation by test pits be undertaken in order to determine the possible impact of the development on any archaeological remains. The work was carried out in accordance with the requirements set out within an Archaeological Specification (KCC 2015) and in discussion with the Archaeological Officer, Kent County Council.</i> <i>The Archaeological Evaluation consisted of two test pits which encountered no archaeological features.</i>	
District/Unitary: <i>Shepway District Council</i>	Parish:
Period(s): Tentative:	
NGR (centre of site : 8 figures): (NB if large or linear site give multiple NGRs): <i>NGR 616063 134703</i>	
Type of archaeological work (delete) <i>Evaluation-test pits</i>	
Date of Recording: <i>February 2015</i>	
Unit undertaking recording: <i>Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT)</i>	
Geology: <i>Made up ground</i>	
Title and author of accompanying report: <i>Wilkinson P. An Archaeological Evaluation at 19 Chapel Street, Hythe, Kent</i>	
Summary of fieldwork results (begin with earliest period first, add NGRs where appropriate) <i>As above</i> <p style="text-align: right;">(cont. on attached sheet)</p>	
Location of archive/finds: <i>SWAT</i>	
Contact at Unit: <i>Paul Wilkinson</i>	Date: <i>29/04/15</i>

616000.0mE
134750.0mN



616106.0mE
134671.0mN

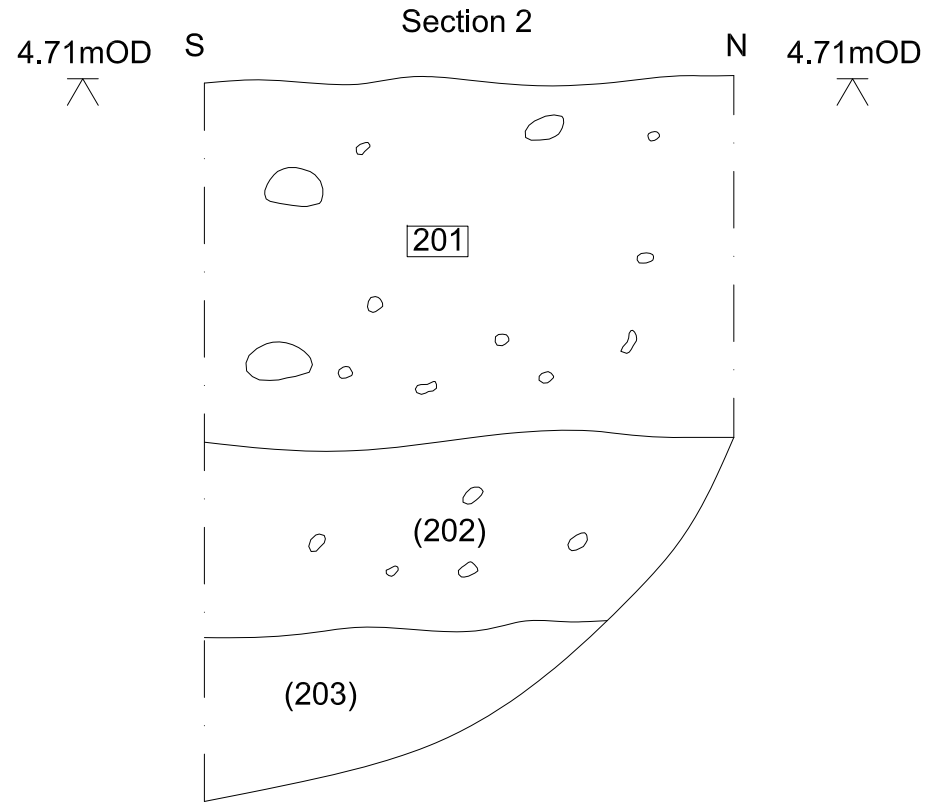
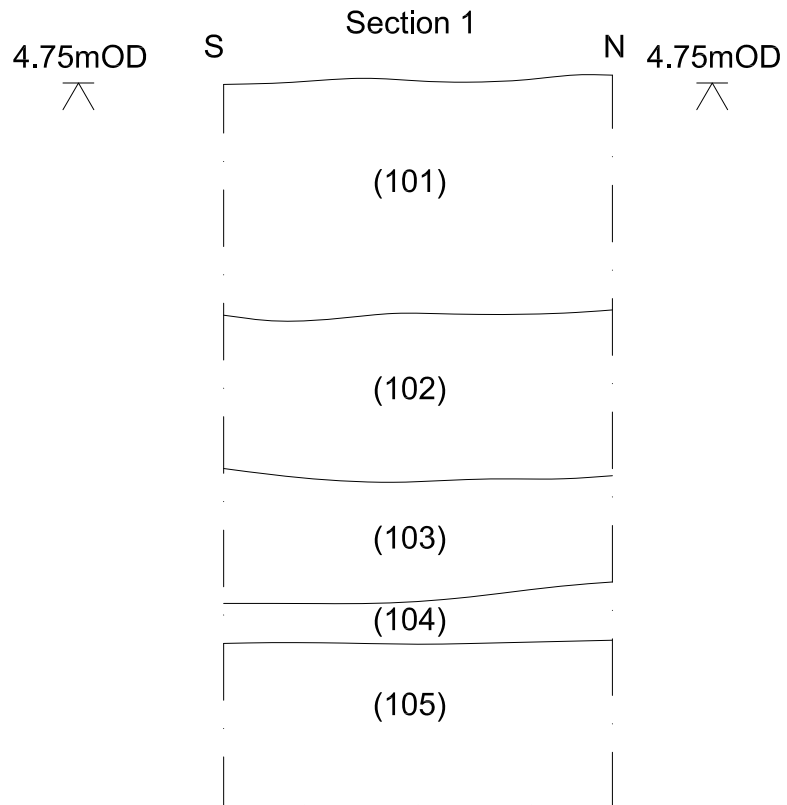
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50m

Figure 1: Location of test pits

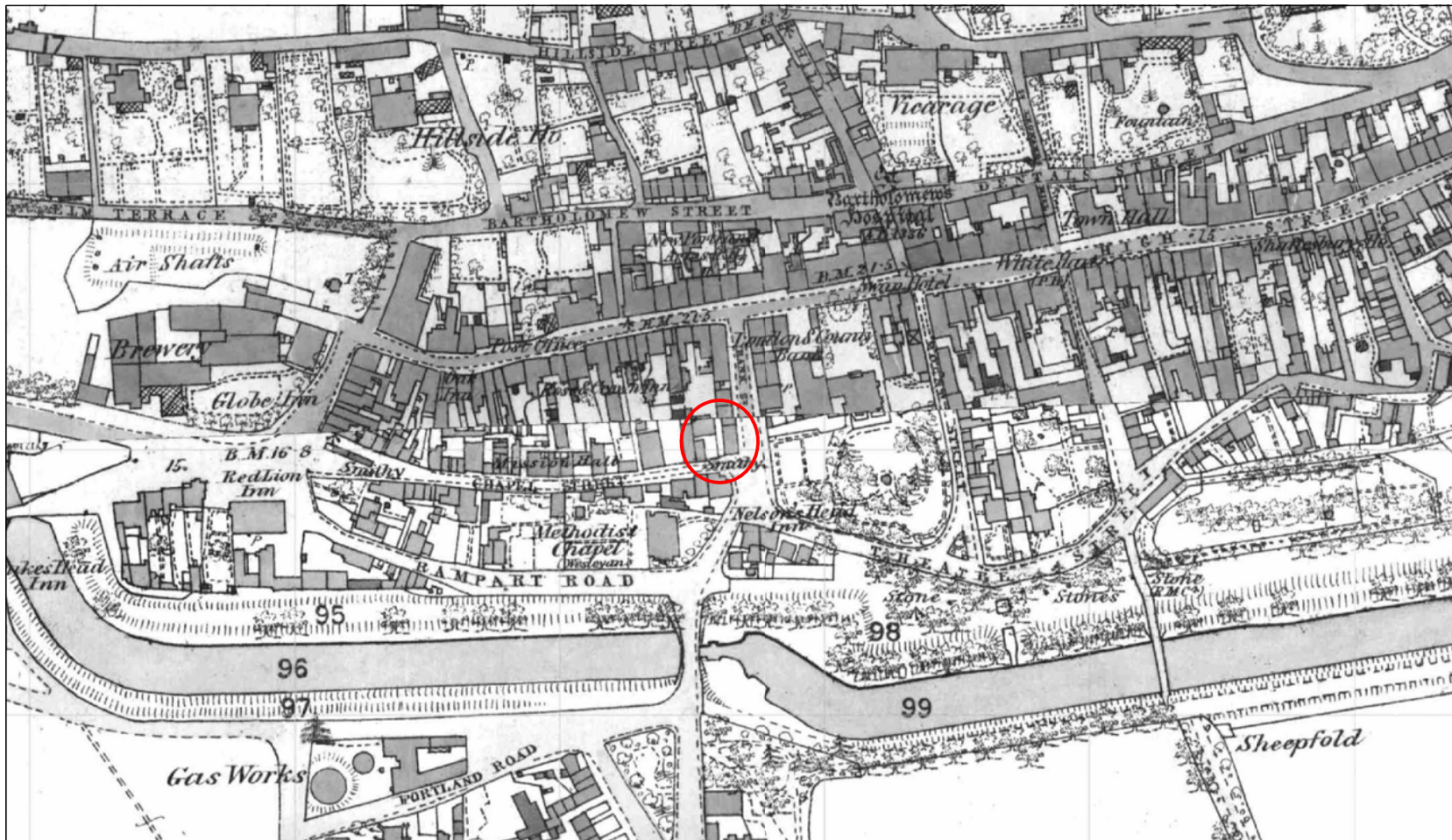
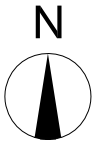


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Figure 2: Sections of test pits

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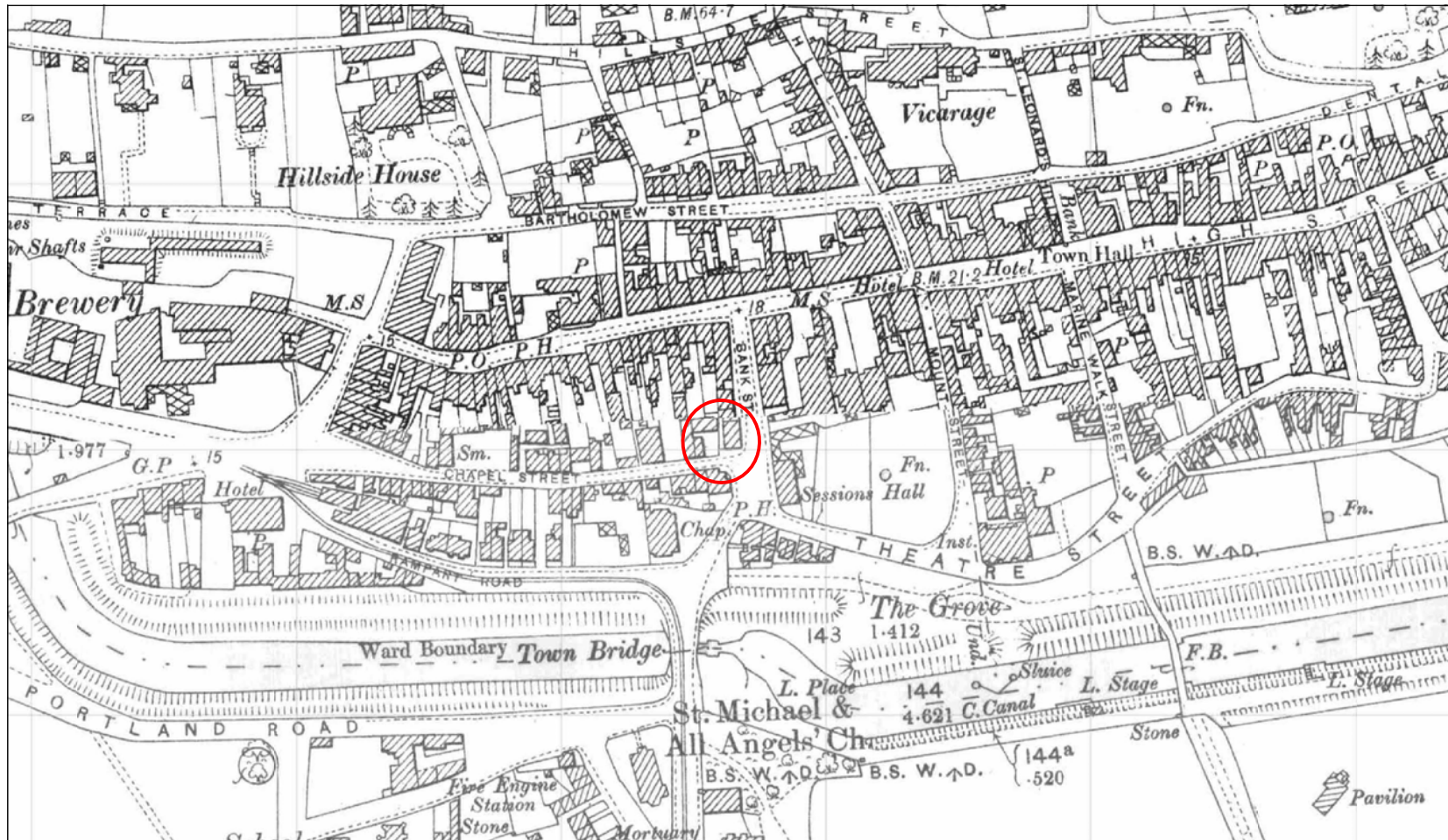
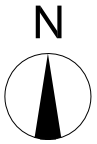


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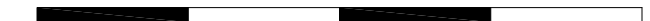
Figure 3: Historic mapping 1872

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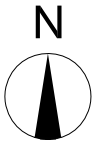


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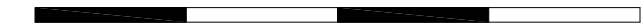
Figure 4: Historic mapping 1898

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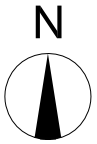


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Figure 5: Historic mapping 1907

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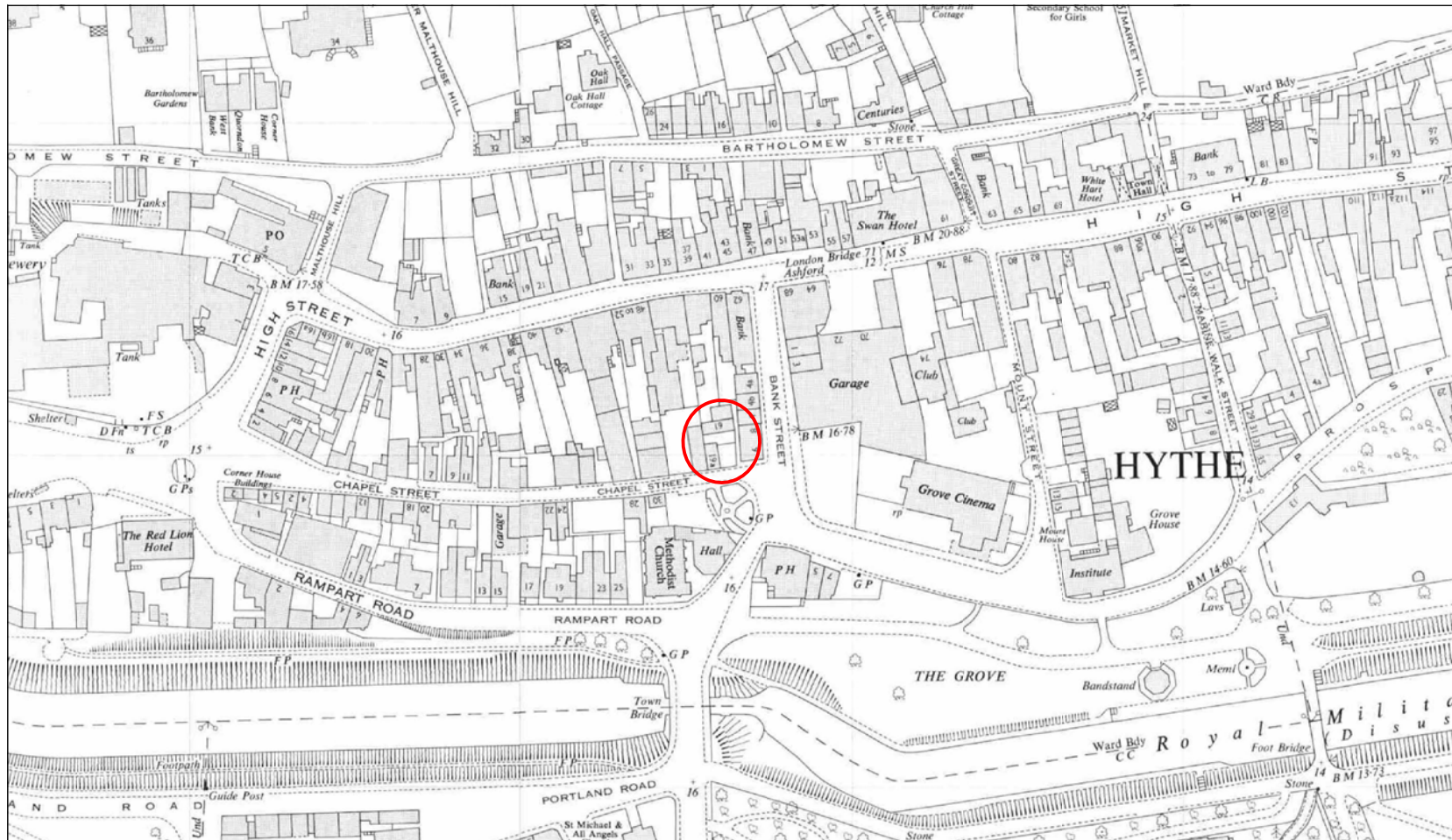
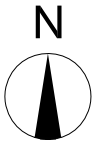
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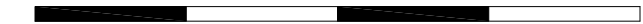
Figure 6: Historic mapping 1933

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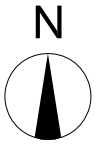


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200m

Figure 7: Historic mapping 1957-1958

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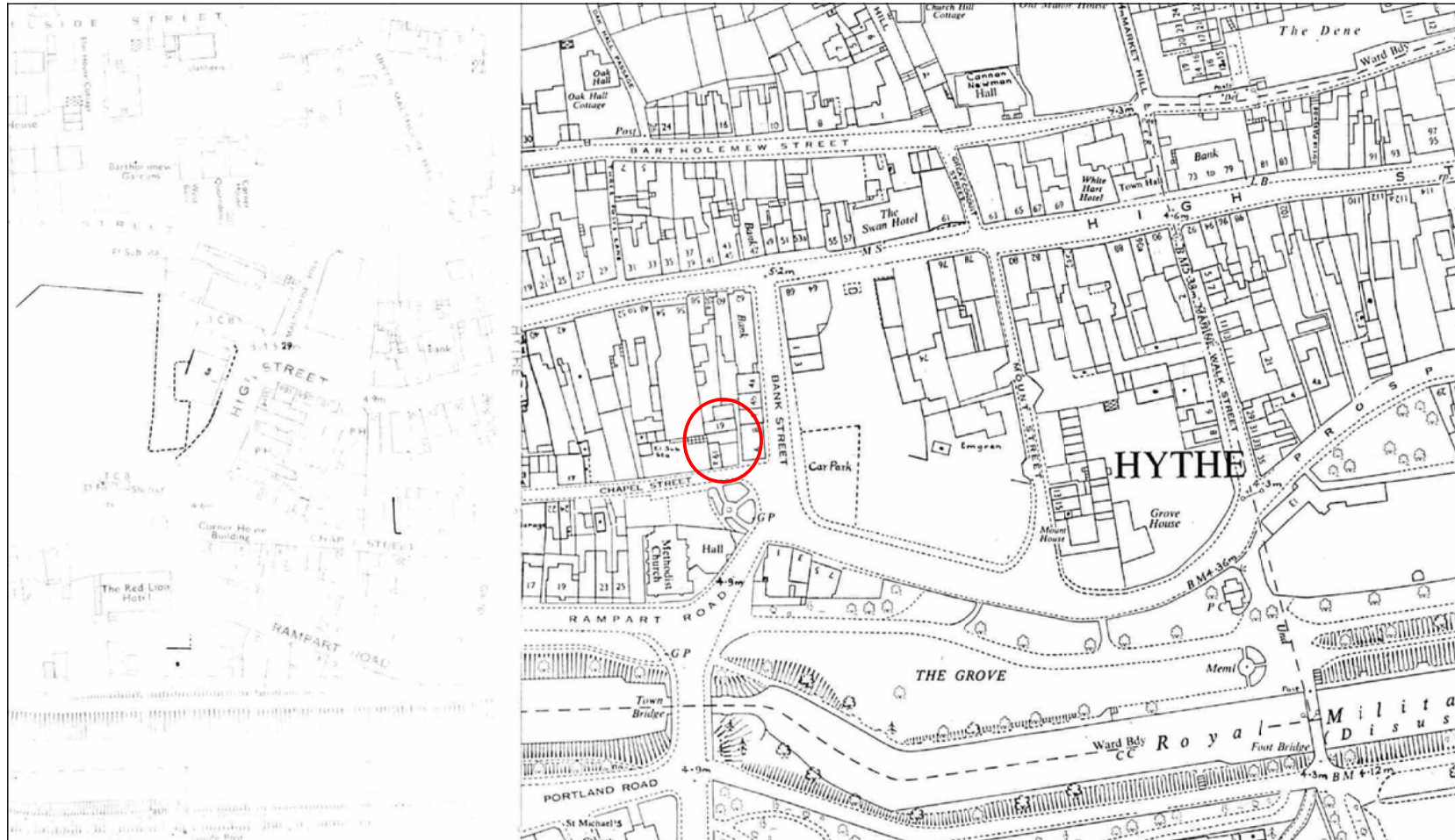
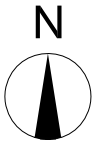
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Figure 8: Historic mapping

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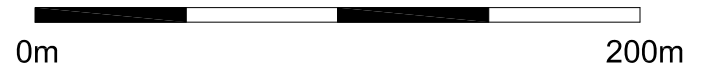
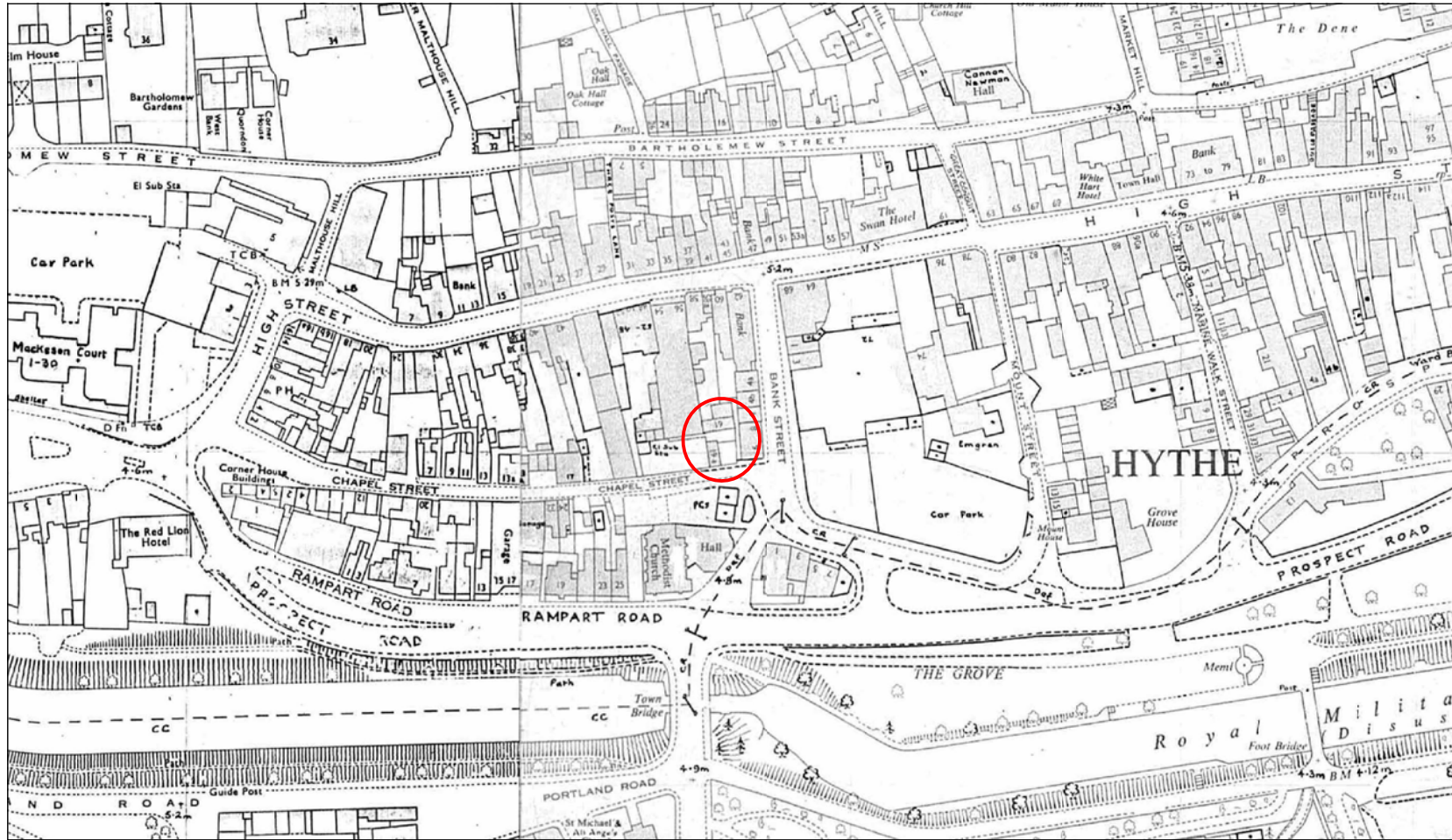
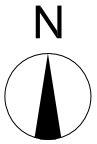


Figure 9: Historic mapping 1978-1979

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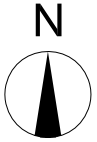
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Figure 10: Historic mapping 1981-1984

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616324.0mE
134525.0mN

1:2500@A4

0m

200m

Figure 11: Historic mapping 1889-1992