



Heritage Statement

Proposed Purpose-Built Student
Accommodation at Simmonds Road,
Canterbury, Kent

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Heritage Statement

NGR Site Centre: 514219 157342



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Proposed Purpose-Built Student Accommodation at Simmonds Road, Canterbury, Kent

Summary

SWAT Archaeology has been commissioned by the client to prepare a Heritage Statement relating to the proposed development area (PDA) at Simmonds Road, Canterbury in Kent.

There is a requirement under the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) for the client to explain the significance of any particular designated heritage assets that have been identified in the vicinity of the study site and demonstrate any potential impacts that a development proposal will have upon their significance.

The PDA is located outside the walled city of Canterbury and within the Wincheap Industrial Estate (MAP 1).

The map regression show that the PDA has been open ground since 1871 if not before. Indeed the 1871 OS map and the 1907 OS map show the PDA as open ground and the aerial photograph of 1960 shows the PDA as allotment gardens (MAPs 1-2. AP 1).

The proposed development is for a Purpose-built Student Accommodation (Figure 1).

The Heritage Statement has found that the adjacent heritage assets will remain unaffected by the proposed development and retain their historical and aesthetic qualities with the proposed development producing 'no harm' on their settings or significance of these assets in accordance with NPPF paragraph 202.

Proposed Purpose-Built Student Accommodation at Simmonds Road, Canterbury, Kent

Heritage Statement

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Planning Background

1.1.1 Swale & Thames Archaeological Survey Company (SWAT) was commissioned by the client, to carry out a Heritage Statement relating to a proposed development area on land at Simmonds Road, Canterbury, Kent and centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 614219 157342.

1.1.2 In acknowledgement of the Site being located within the Archaeological Notification Area and close to a number of designated assets this document has been prepared to support the planning application to Canterbury City Council to assess the impact of the proposed development. This document comprises the baseline for this Heritage Statement.

1.2 Site Description

The PDA is located on the north side of the Wincheap Industrial Estate and just south of the London to Dover embanked railway line. About 100m NW is located the River Stour and just to the east Bingley Island and about 120m NE the city walls of Canterbury. The site (PDA) itself was a Gas Distribution Station (AP's 2-4).

Geology

1.2.1 The British Geological Society (BGS 1995) shows that the local geology at the PDA is bedrock geology of Seaford Chalk Formation- Chalk. Superficial Deposits are Alluvium- Clay, Silt, Sand and Gravel.

1.3 Scope of Document

1.3.1 This assessment was requested by the Client in order to determine, as far as is possible, the nature, extent and significance of the development affecting the significance of designated and undesignated heritage assets. The assessment forms part of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) requirement and is intended to inform and assist with decisions regarding heritage assets and is to be used in the support of planning applications associated with the proposed development.

1.3.2 The assessment was carried out in accordance with the current guidelines as defined by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA 2014). The purpose of an assessment is to establish the known or potential cultural heritage resource in a local, regional, national or international context. This specifically includes:

- the identification of site specific statutory and non-statutory cultural heritage constraints (including planning constraints)
- the examination of available cartographic and documentary sources
- a walkover survey to assess the surviving cultural heritage resource
- an assessment of potential impacts upon the setting of nearby heritage assets

2 LEGISLATIVE AND PLANNING POLICY FRAMEWORK

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 National legislation and guidance relating to the protection of, and proposed development on or near, important archaeological sites or historical buildings within planning regulations is defined under the provisions of the Town and Country Planning Act (1990). In addition, local authorities are responsible for the protection of the historic environment within the planning system.

2.1.2 The National Planning Policy Framework was updated in July 2018 and is the principal document which sets out the Government's planning policies for England and how these are expected to be applied. It provides a framework in which Local Planning Authorities can produce their own distinctive Local Plans to reflect the needs of their communities.

2.2 National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)

2.2.1 The Historic Environment, as defined in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF 2021): Annex 2, comprises:

‘all aspects of the environment resulting from the interaction between people and places through time, including all surviving physical remains of past human activity, whether visible, buried or submerged, and landscaped and planted or managed flora.’

2.2.2 NPPF Annex 2 defines a Heritage Asset as:

‘a building monument, site, place, area or landscape identified as having a degree of significance meriting consideration in planning decisions, because of its heritage interest. Heritage assets include designated heritage assets and assets identified by the local planning authority (including local listing)’.

2.2.3 NPPF Section 16: Conserving and enhancing the historic environment sets out the principal national guidance on the importance, management and safeguarding of heritage assets within the planning process. The aim of NPPF Section 16 is to ensure that Local Planning Authorities, developers and owners of heritage assets adopt a consistent approach to their conservation and to reduce complexity in planning policy relating to proposals that affect them.

2.3 Designated Heritage Assets

2.3.1 Designated heritage assets are defined in NPPF Annex 2 as:

‘World Heritage Sites, Scheduled Monuments, Listed Buildings, Protected Wreck Sites, Registered Park and Gardens, Registered Battlefields and Conservation Areas designated under the relevant legislation.’

2.3.2 Designation is a formal acknowledgement of a building, monument or site’s significance, intended to make sure that the character of the asset in question is protected through the planning system and to enable it to be passed on to future generations.

2.3.3 Statutory protection is provided to certain classes of designated heritage assets under the following legislation:

- Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act (1990);
- Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act (1979); and
- Protection of Wrecks Act (1973).

2.3.4 There are a number of criteria to address, and they include the impact of the proposed development on the significance of the Heritage Assets.

Heritage Assets

2.3.5 Any Heritage Asset that includes a World Heritage Site, Scheduled Monument, Listed Building, Wreck, Registered Park or Garden, conservation area or Landscape can be identified as having a degree of significance meriting consideration in planning decisions. Heritage Assets are the valued components of the historic environment and will include designated Heritage Assets as well as assets identified by the Local Planning Authority during the process of decision making or through the plan making process.

Setting

2.3.6 The surroundings in which a Heritage Asset is experienced is of importance. Its extent is not fixed and may change as the asset and its surroundings evolve. Elements of a setting may make take several guises; a positive or negative contribution to the significance of an asset, the ability to appreciate that significance or it may have a neutral effect with no changes observed.

Significance

2.3.7 The value of a Heritage Asset to this and future generations because of its heritage interest. That interest may be archaeological, architectural, artistic or historic. Significance may be informed by a number of factors which may include; assessment of the significance of the site, setting and building, where relevant, under a number of headings:

- Cultural significance – the role a site plays in an historic setting, village, town or landscape context, the use of a building or land perhaps tied to a local industry or agriculture and social connections of an original architect or owner.
- Aesthetic/architectural significance – the visual qualities and characteristics of the asset (settlement site or building), long views, legibility of building form, character of elevations, roofscape, materials and fabric special features of interest.
- Archaeological significance – evolution of the asset, phases of development over different periods, important features, evidence in building fabric and potential for below ground archaeological remains.

2.4 Planning Policy Guidance

Planning Policy Guidance that help to preserve the built and archaeological heritage are:

Conservation Principles, Policy and Guidance (Historic England, 2008)

2.4.1 Historic England sets out in this document a logical approach to making decisions and offering guidance about all aspects of England's historic environment. The Conservation Principles, Policies and Guidance are primarily intended to help ensure consistency of approach in carrying out the role as the Government's statutory advisor on the historic environment in England. Specifically, they make a contribution to addressing the challenges of modernising heritage protection by proposing an integrated approach to making decisions, based on a common process.

2.5 Sources

2.5.1 A number of publicly accessible sources were consulted prior to the preparation of this document.

Archaeological databases

2.5.2 Although it is recognised that national databases are an appropriate resource for this particular type of assessment, the local Historic Environmental Record held at Kent County Council (KHER) contains sufficient data to provide an accurate insight into catalogued sites and finds within both the proposed development area and the surrounding landscape.

2.5.3 The National Heritage List for England (NHLE), which is the only official and up to date database of all nationally designated heritage assets is the preferred archive for a comprehensive HER search.

Cartographic and Pictorial Documents

2.5.4 A full map regression exercise has been incorporated within this assessment. Research was carried out using resources offered by the Kent County Council, the internet, Ordnance Survey and the Kent Archaeological Society. A full listing of bibliographic and cartographic documents used in this study is provided in Section 9.

Aerial photographs

2.5.5 The study of the collection of aerial photographs held by Google Earth and KCC Heritage was undertaken (APs 1-4).

Secondary and Statutory Resources

2.5.6 Secondary and statutory sources, such as regional and periodic archaeological studies, archaeological reports associated with development control, landscape studies, dissertations and research frameworks are considered appropriate to this type of study and have been included within this assessment.

Walkover Survey

2.5.7 The purpose of the walkover survey was to;

- Identifying any historic landscape features not shown on maps.
- Conduct a survey for Heritage Assets.

- Understanding the setting of the Heritage Assets and the wider landscape.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL RESOURCE

2.6 Introduction

A search has been made of historic archive material pertaining to this site in County museums and the results are below-

2.7 Kent County Council Historic Environment Record (KHER)

2.7.1 A search of the KCC HER was carried out on the 25th June 2024, centred on the proposed site with a search radius of 500m. The search provided a relatively low number of records. There are no Scheduled Monuments, World Heritage Sites, registered battlefields or registered parks and gardens. The PDA is situated within an Archaeological Notification Area.

2.8 Historical Map Progression

2.8.1 Historic maps were found dating from 1871 which had the PDA identified as open field (MAP 1) and was still in 1907 (MAP 2) with the area was allotment gardens by 1960 (AP 1).

2.9 Aerial Photographs

The photograph's show the PDA as allotment gardens by 1960 but by 2007 a large gas container as part of the Gas Distribution Works (AP's 2-4).

3 ASSESSMENT OF HERITAGE ASSETS

3.1 Introduction

3.1.1 There are two designated heritage assets that are in the vicinity of the Proposed Development Area (PDA) including about 60m west a WWII fortified house (TR 15 NW 947). About 120m SSE a possible Roman building with flint surfaces was found during an archaeological investigation (TR 15 NW 2472).

4 DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS AND ASSESSMENT OF IMPACT

4.1 Assessment of Physical Impact on Setting

4.1.1 Step 1 of the methodology recommended by the Historic England guidance *The Setting of Heritage Assets* is 'to identify which designated heritage assets might be affected by a proposed development. Development proposals may adversely impact heritage assets where they remove a feature which contributes to the significance of a designated heritage asset or where they interfere with an element of a heritage asset's setting which contributes to its significance, such as interrupting a key relationship or a designed view'.

4.1.2 Consideration was made as to whether any of the designated heritage assets present within or beyond the 500m study area include the site as part of their setting, and therefore may potentially be affected by the proposed development. No assets in the vicinity have been identified for further assessment on the basis of proximity and intervisibility.

5 CONCLUSION

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 The purpose of this Heritage Impact Statement was to assist the Local Authority to understand the impact of the proposed development as required by the NPPF on the significance of any Heritage Assets affected, including any contribution made by their setting. This Heritage Statement has been prepared by SWAT Archaeology for the client in support of the application for proposed development of a purpose-built student accommodation (Figure 1).

5.1.2 The proposed development site is not a designated heritage asset and is not in a Conservation Area.

5.1.3 The Heritage Statement has found that the heritage assets will not be affected by the proposed development producing 'no harm' on their settings or significance of these assets in accordance with NPPF paragraph 202.

6 OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

6.1 Archive

- 6.1.1 Subject to any contractual requirements on confidentiality, two copies of this Heritage Statement will be submitted to the LPA and Kent County Council (Heritage) within 6 months of completion.

6.2 Reliability/Limitations of Sources

- 6.2.1 The sources that were used in this assessment were, in general, of high quality. The majority of the information provided herewith has been gained from either published texts or archaeological 'grey' literature held at Kent County Council, and therefore considered as being reliable.

6.3 Copyright

- 6.3.1 Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT Archaeology) and the author shall retain full copyright on the commissioned report under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988. All rights are reserved, excepting that it hereby provides exclusive licence to the Client (and representatives) for the use of this document in all matters directly relating to the project.

7 REFERENCES

7.1 Bibliographic

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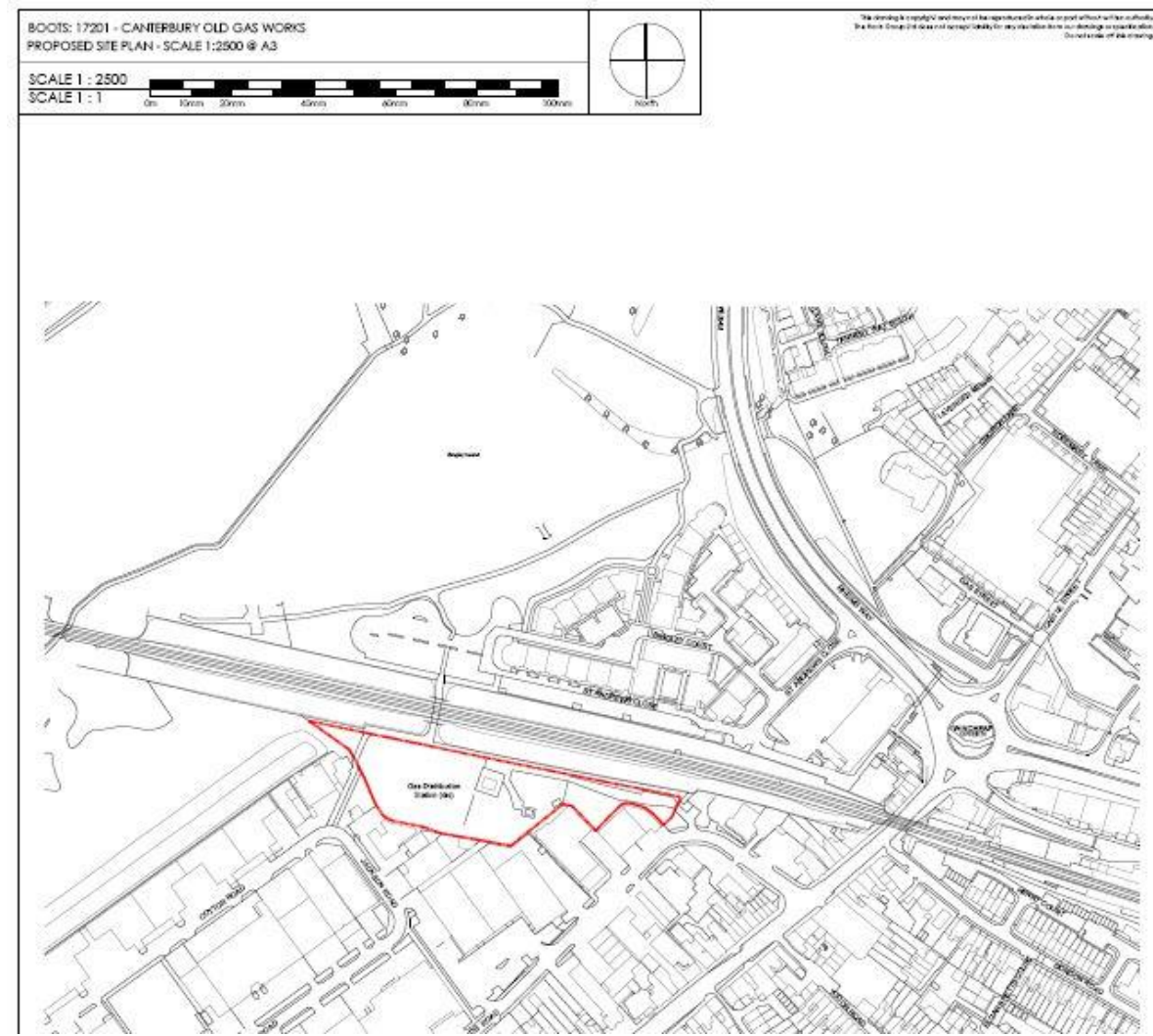
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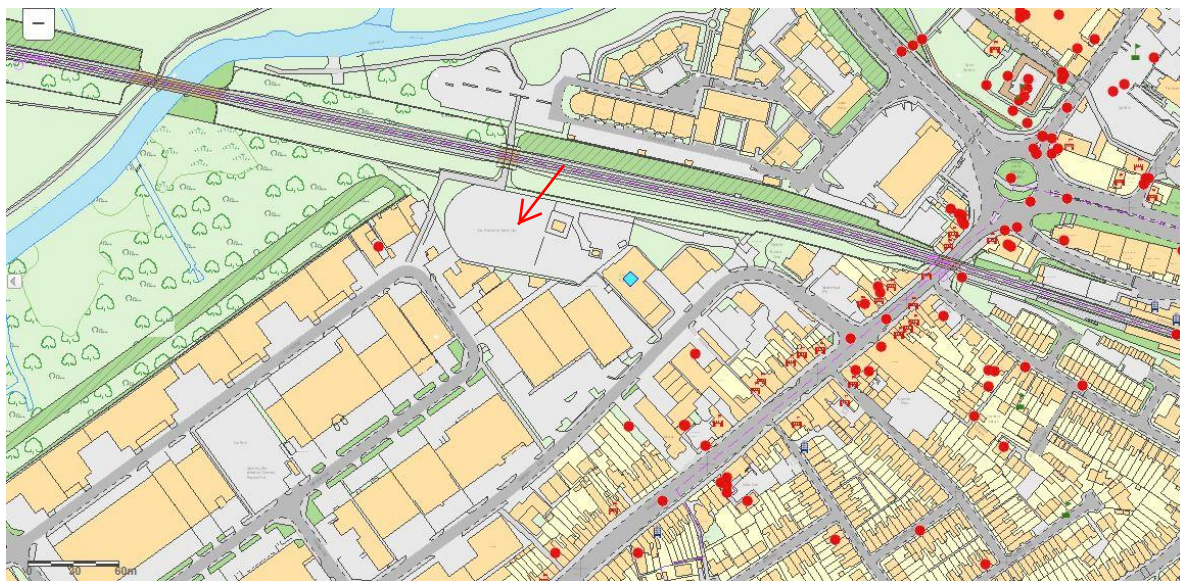
Historic England (2015) Advice Note 1: Understanding Place: Conservation Area Designation, Appraisal and Management.

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MAP 1. Site location inside red line (NGR 614219 157342)



MAP 2. KCCHER map showing the PDA location (red arrow) and locations of archaeological interest (red dots)

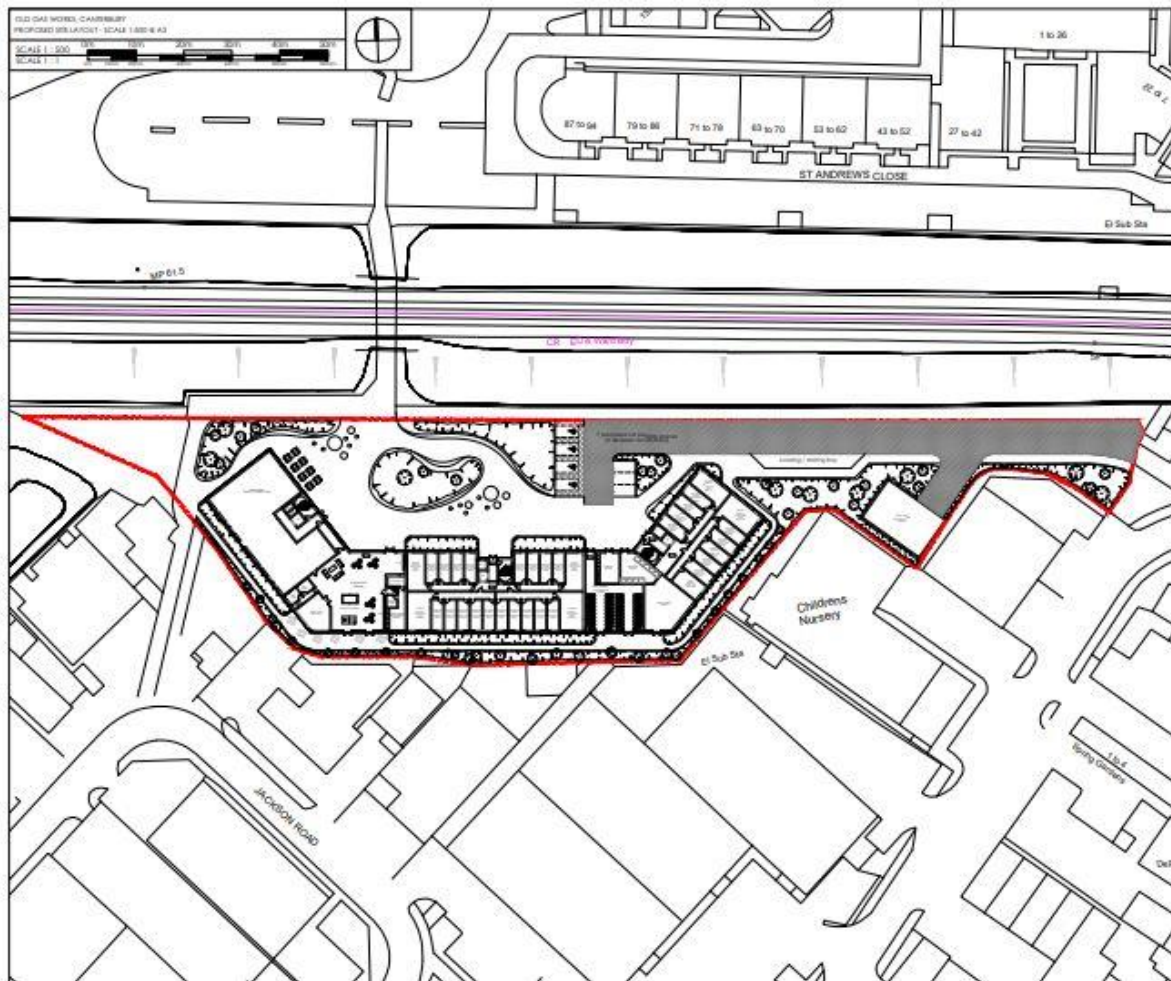
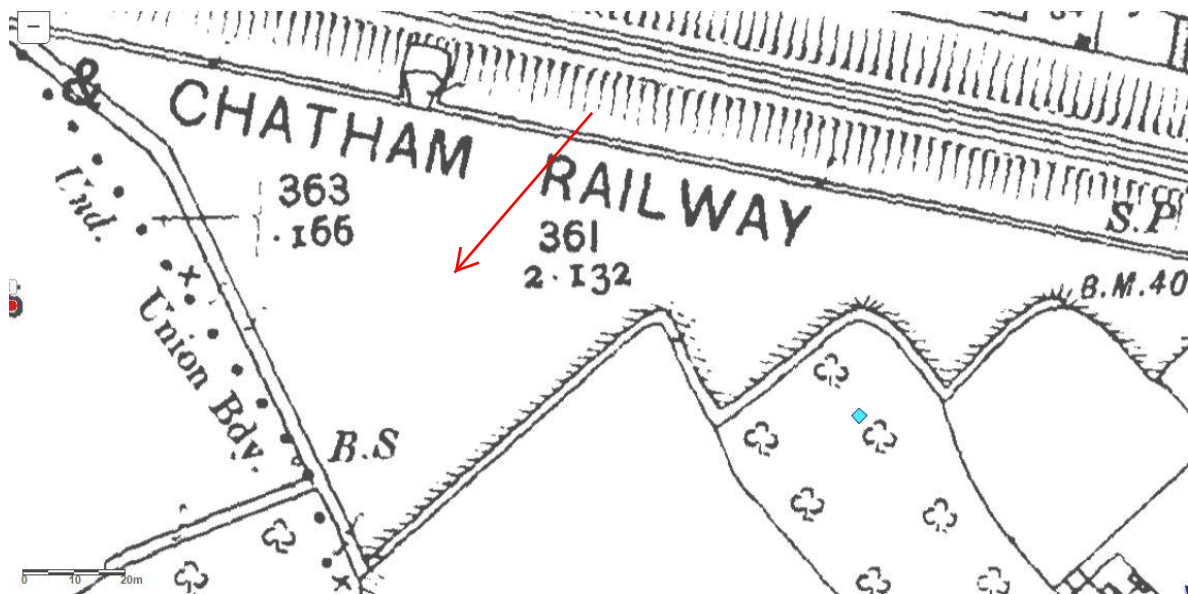


Figure 1. Proposed development



MAP 1. OS Historic mapping c.1871 (Red arrow is PDA)



MAP 2. OS Historic mapping c.1907 (Red arrow is PDA)



AP 1. PDA (1960)



AP 2. PDA (2008)



AP 3. PDA (2022)