

The Kent Compendium of Historic Parks and Gardens for Dover



Connaught Park, Dover



May 2017

Connaught Park

Dover, Kent

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INTRODUCTION

This site description and accompanying dossier have been prepared by the Kent Gardens Trust as part of its wider review of ***The Kent Compendium of Historic Parks and Gardens***. This part of the review was carried out for Dover District Council (DDC) from 2015-2017 and covers sites within the Dover local authority area. The reports detail the historic nature, content, current state and significance of the sites currently identified in the ***Kent Compendium of Historic Parks and Gardens*** for the Dover local authority area along with others identified by DDC.

Dover District Heritage Strategy.

The Dover District Heritage Strategy 2013 (DDHS) seeks to ensure that heritage plays a clear role in shaping any future regeneration, development and management decisions. To achieve this aim the DDHS contains a series of recommendations intended to promote and enhance the protection and enjoyment of the Districts heritage assets. A heritage asset is defined 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 asset includes designated heritage assets and assets identified by the local planning authority (including local listing)”¹.

The review carried out by the Kent Gardens Trust supports the following DDHS recommendations:

- *Recommendation 9: Systems should be put in place to ensure that historic environment information and advice is readily accessible to local communities to help them shape the places in which they live.*
- *Recommendation 14: a Local List of Heritage Assets should be developed...gardens identified within the Kent Gardens Compendium and any enhancement of the Compendium should be included in the Local List.*
- *Recommendation 23: Opportunities should be sought and support given to local communities, groups and individuals in researching their past, develop projects with them that identify, enhance understanding of the Districts heritage assets and involve them in condition assessment, monitoring, management, promotion and interpretation of the assets:*

How was the review carried out?

The review has been undertaken using Historic England’s criteria for identifying the significance of local heritage assets to provide a consistent approach². A template for the reports was developed by DDC, building on the experience of previous work by the Kent Gardens Trust. The heritage values of the historic

¹ National Planning Policy Framework 2012

² Historic England “Conservation Principles: Policy and Guidance” 2008

park or garden subject to the report are defined within the Statement of Significance.

The extent of the area identified represents the current surviving area of the designed landscape, the boundary line generally reflecting the maximum extent of the historic gardens or parkland (although there are exceptions such as where land has been irreversibly lost to development). The boundary line takes no account of current ownership.

How will the reports be used?

- a) The revised list of sites has the potential to support development of a Local List³ of Heritage Assets in Dover, should the Council progress with the recommendation in the DDHS in the future. The list of sites researched and evaluated in this review would be subject to consultation as part of any Local List development and is therefore not intended to be final.
- b) In response to recommendation 9 of the DDHS, the reports will be made publically available both on the DDC website and to the Historic Environment Record held by Kent County Council.
- c) The reports will help to inform future funding applications for historic spaces by the identification of significance.
- d) The review will help to inform future policy making, conservation and/or any development of sites, and contribute to the understanding, and where possible enjoyment, of these heritage assets by the identification of the significance of key historic character, features and association including that of setting and viewpoints.

Further information is available from the contacts listed below. The partnership would like to thank the volunteers and owners who have participated in this project and given so much of their time, effort and hospitality to complete this challenging and rewarding task.

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Dover
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www.dover.gov.uk

Kent County Council
Heritage Conservation
Invicta House
County Hall
Maidstone
ME14 1XX
www.kent.gov.uk

Kent Gardens Trust
www.kentgardenstrust.org.uk

³ Historic England “Local Heritage Listing”: Historic England Advice Note 7 2016

**KENT
DOVER**

CONNAUGHT PARK

TR 318 425

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

EVIDENTIAL

A late C19 public gardens and park in which much of the original design and planting remains, including entrances, lodge, terracing, walks, tennis courts, late C19 and early C20 specimen trees and an ornamental lake.

Numerous photographs of the park are held by the Dover Museum and Iron Age Boat Gallery

HISTORICAL

The Park was laid out in 1883 and opened by the Duke and Duchess of Connaught in 1884, with the Duchess planting a holm oak which survives. Following the beginning of the movement earlier in the C19, the late Victorian era saw the continuing establishment in towns, of set-piece public parks as amenities for the local population. Connaught Park, on account of the well-conceived design which makes good use of the natural topography and extensive views, is a very good example of the type.

Both the creation of the park, and the provision of features within it, benefitted from a range of donations and philanthropic acts of the local townsfolk.

AESTHETIC

A variety of terraces and paths are contained within the Park, maximizing the use of the steeply sloping ground overlooking Dover, with its extensive views to the docks, sea, Dover Castle and the surrounding hills to the west.

Formerly, and particularly during the inter-war years, the park was renowned for its splendid flowerbeds, lawns, shrubberies, and promenades.

COMMUNAL

The park is open to the public and was the town's response in the late C19 to establishing open space for the health and well-being of the inhabitants. Throughout its history, Connaught Park has provided a popular venue for fetes, celebrations, concerts and other entertainments and continues to provide a popular recreational facility.

SUMMARY OF HISTORIC INTEREST

A public park laid out in 1883, extended in 1884, by Dover Town Council, leased from the Department of Woods and Forests (Crown Estates) who owned the land. The Park was purchased by Dover Town Council in 1962/3 from the Crown Estates. It comprises amenity grassland, late C19 and early C20 ornamental trees, pathways, tennis courts, five-a-side football pitch, children's play area and an ornamental lake. The Park lodge, originally built in 1883, to house the Park Superintendent is now in private ownership.

CHRONOLOGY OF THE HISTORIC DEVELOPMENT

In the early C19, the area now known as Connaught Park was administered by the Department of Woods and Forests on behalf of the War Department (currently called Crown Estates) and formed part of Dover Castle Farm. Land to the south of this farm, and north of the town of Dover, had been traditionally devoted to agriculture and horticulture. As the population of Dover grew during the C19, the demand for housing increased and the Woods and Forest Department agreed to lease this land as a building estate. In 1866, the Dover Land Company commenced construction of some roads to this estate. It was not until 1881, however, when William Crundell, by an arrangement with the Woods and Forest Department and the Trustees of the Land Company, took a 99 year building lease of the entire estate, that construction commenced. The area became known as Castle Estate.

In the first half of the C19, Western Heights, located close to the town, was freely accessible to ramblers and provided rural walks with fine views. As the town extended landwards, and fortification took place at Western Heights, limiting public access, demand grew for a public park. Around 1881 a number of influential local people of Dover formed a committee, under the chair of Dr Edward Astley (1812- 1907), to create a public gardens on the Dover Castle slopes. The committee approached the Department of Woods and Forests for 17.5 acres of Castle Farm to be leased at £20 per annum to the Corporation of Dover on a 99 year lease as a public park or recreation ground. The lease was granted on the understanding that the land could not be used for building development except for one building for the use of the Park Superintendent. A public subscription was set up which resulted in £2700 being raised for fencing, planting and forming lawns and terraces on the sloping ground. William Crundell gave a piece of adjacent land from the Castle Estate, which was to form the park entrance. The maintenance of the park (to be known as Town Park or Peoples Park) was to be a charge on the council rates and a section of the site was set aside as a nursery (Kent History and Library Centre DO/CA1/16/2).

The layout of the Park was designed by Robert Chigwell (1837-1923) who owned Castlemount, (on the other side of Connaught Road at the eastern end of the Park), a preparatory school for boys, which had extensive grounds terraced with lawns, plants and trees which the public were invited to enjoy when the pupils were not in residence. The Park construction was supervised by Edward C May who became the first Park Superintendent, occupying the newly built residence adjacent to the main entrance. In May 1883, Dr Astley, as chairman of the

committee, handed over the keys to the mayor, and it was announced that the Park was to open to the public for the next few weeks on Saturdays from 2pm and on Sunday from noon until sunset. In order to make access easier the public roads leading to the Park were widened and improved at a cost of £200 19 shillings. The road forming the southern boundary of the Park was known as Love Lane but following the widening and Park opening it was later renamed Connaught Road. Once the terraces had been created, walks were laid to enable the public to promenade the entire length of the Park and enjoy the extensive views of the sea, harbour and Western Heights. A small lake was created with a central fountain. The nursery, adjacent to the Park lodge included a hot house where plants could be grown or brought and kept for planting out (doverhistorian.com).

In June 1884, the Park was extended eastwards to Castle Hill Road with the rent increasing to £30 per annum for the enlarged park. An additional entrance was created opposite the Castle. The Park was formally opened by the Duke and Duchess of Connaught on 14 July 1884, the Duchess planting a holm oak (quercus ilex) tree, and was renamed Connaught Park.

Mr William Tourney Tourney, the eccentric owner of Brockhill Estate, Hythe, presented a pair of whale jawbones to the town in 1886, which were later erected in the Park as a 7m (22ft) high arch near the west end of the lake. The arch became unsafe in 1967 and was to be demolished, despite local opposition, but this move was preempted, the arch being cut down one night by vandals (Kent Messenger 3 & 17 March 1967).

In 1886, tennis lawns were opened to the public and a 30m (99ft) high flagpole was erected presented by William Crundall. Dr Astley presented a drinking fountain at the east end of the lake, and a shelter midway along the upper path and by 1888 a summerhouse had been erected (Kent History and Library Centre DO/CA1/16/4).

By 1889, the Park had two glasshouses. The Park Superintendent was paid £2 per week with a rent free lodge, free oil and coal, and supervised four staff earning between twenty three shillings and thirteen shillings per week. In 1891 Isaac Berry was appointed Head Gardener from 105 applicants following the resignation of E C May (Kent History and Library Centre DO/CA1/16/3).

Public toilets were installed in May 1896. In the early part of the C20, the council engaged the unemployed to dig out part of the hillside within the Park in order to create additional tennis courts and, in 1912, a croquet lawn. A variety of religious meetings, services, band concerts and firework displays were held in the Park during this period. A Pageant Week was celebrated in 1908, with James Pain & Sons (fireworks manufacturer) engaged to illuminate the Park, and there were more firework displays here during the annual cricket week held in Dover. In the years prior to the outbreak of the 1st World War, the Park was managed by a head gardener and five gardeners (Kent History and Library Centre DO/CA1/16/4 &5).

During the inter war years, Connaught Park became known for its splendid flowerbeds, lawns, shrubberies, promenades and celebrations. On Easter weekend 1919, the Dover Peace Celebrations Committee provided a tea in the Park for 6500 children. In 1921, Sir William Crundall gave a garden party here for nearly 8000 Dover school children. The council provided entertainment on holiday weekends during the summer. On the 1925 August Bank Holiday, for example, the Queen's Royal Regiment Band gave concerts, and J S Pain and Sons Ltd provided a firework display which 4000 people attended (doverhistorian).

During the economic depression of the 1930s, work was provided by the council for the unemployed. A children's play area was built in 1932, partly funded by a grant of £50 from the Kent County Playing Fields Association (Dover District Council legal documents). In 1934, the War Department gave permission for the creation of a car park alongside Connaught Road, approximately 80m long, by regrading the land and constructing a set of steps to provide access into the park. A grand fete followed the planting of a copper beech tree by the Mayoress Mrs Morecroft on 12 July 1933 to celebrate the golden jubilee of the opening of the Park. Another tree was planted by the Mayoress Mrs Norman, in 1937, to celebrate the coronation of King George VI.

Near the children's play area, a trench shelter designed to accommodate 423 people, was built in 1938, as preparation for war, which was demolished but rebuilt in 1939. During World War II, people were killed in the Park during bomb raids and the upkeep of the Park was neglected (doverhistorian).

In the years following the war, various organisations held fetes and garden parties at the Park, despite it being in a state of neglect. Money was finally set aside by the council in 1954 for restoration of the Park, which was completed in 1956. The Scouting movement's silver jubilee was celebrated in the restored Park, and the Scouts continued to hold their annual fete at this location for the next few years. The Park became the favoured venue for many events and celebrations during the 1950s and 1960s. The annual exhibition of the National Sweet Pea Society was held here in 1955 in conjunction with the annual Dover Flower Show. The Park's flowerbeds were often designed and planted to reflect an event such as the twinning of the town with Split (in former Yugoslavia) in 1956 and the Teddy Bears Picnic in 1960. Mr E J T Taylor was the Park Superintendent from 1932 (following the retirement of Mr Berry in 1931), until his retirement in 1962, and had commenced the floral displays in 1932. These displays often included carpet bedding of thousands of flowers, which he was forced to stop in 1962 with the completion of the sea front gardens, as there was then insufficient space in the Park's greenhouses for growing the necessary shrubs and flowers (Kent Messenger 18 May 1962).

During 1962/3, Dover Council purchased Connaught Park, paying £75 to The Crown Estate Commissioners (on behalf of Her Majesty) and £4865 to Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the War Department. Conditions of the sale included covenants that "Not at any time to use the property otherwise than an open space for recreation of the public" and "At all times hereafter to

maintain and keep in repair the walls, hedges and fences on all sides of the property hereby conveyed.” (Dover District Council legal documents)

Up to 1974, the Park was well kept and retained its popularity. Following the Local Government Reorganisation in that year, with the creation of Dover District Council (DDC), the levels of maintenance began to deteriorate. Flowerbeds were replaced with plants requiring less attention, or became overgrown. The cafe only opened occasionally and the tennis courts were neglected. The council proposed that, as the Park was no longer used, it be changed into a tourist caravan park: public objection forced the council to withdraw this proposal.

1983 saw the Dover Pageant reintroduced at the Park, and this event became very popular, and was held on alternate years up to 2001 when it was moved to Dover College. In the early 1990s, the condition of the Park improved. A Pageant to mark the opening of the Channel Tunnel was held on 6 May 1994, and from 1990 onwards the Lions Club organised an annual Park's fireworks display. Following the closure of the nursery, the council declared, in 1991, that the lodge was no longer needed and it was put up for sale. It was also decided that there was no need for a refreshment kiosk, and the crazy golf course was dug over and grassed. Following calls for action and a 1500 signature petition in 2002 to save the Park from further neglect, to have more facilities provided and to have an improvement to its upkeep, the council responded by installing five a side football posts and picnic tables, with a mobile catering vehicle providing refreshments. The pond was drained, cleaned, refilled and planted (Dover Mercury 11 April 2002).

In 2006, the council took the decision to close the aviary. The Park was used as an open-air cinema in August of that year, with buses put on from the town centre, the event proving very successful. To mark the Park's 125th anniversary in 2008, a holm oak was planted by the chairman of DDC, Cllr Bernard Butcher. The tree was donated by the Dover Society and the surrounding protective fence, by Jacksons Fencing. The council arranged for the pond to be drained, cleaned and restored together with reinstatement of the water fountain. A flagpole was erected near the main entrance to the Park to mark the 60th wedding anniversary of Elizabeth II, the initiative being arranged by Graham Wanstall, chairman of the Friends of Connaught Park (doverhistorian).

In about 2010, DDC called in Wicksteed Playscapes to refurbish the children's play area and the Friends of Connaught Park arranged for metal seats to be installed along the top of the Park. The maintenance of the Park has again deteriorated in the C21 due to lack of finance, but a voluntary group known as Connaught Park Appreciation Group, have carried out a variety of improvements including refurbishing benches, weeding, clearing flowerbeds and replanting, clearing the pond and refurbishment of the Victorian shelter.

SITE DESCRIPTION

LOCATION, AREA, BOUNDARIES, LANDFORM, SETTING

Connaught Park lies on the chalk hills immediately to the north of the town of Dover and adjacent to the western edge of Dover Castle Grounds. The 10ha (25 acres) triangular site is bordered along its southern boundary by Connaught Road, by St Marys Cemetery to the north-west and by a tree belt with agricultural land beyond, to the northeast. The cemetery and Connaught Road boundaries have a 1.2m high galvanised metal railing fence, that along the Connaught Road being located at the top of the steep bank to the road. The north-east boundary consists of a simple wooden post and wire fence located behind the tree belt.

The originally steeply sloping ground to the south-west has been reshaped into a series of terraces, with the upper (north-eastern) edge of the Park gently rising from the west to the eastern entrance near the Castle. The upper levels of the Park offer extensive views east to the Castle, and south to Western Heights, Dover harbour and Dover town but these views are becoming more restricted by tree growth within the Park.

ENTRANCES AND APPROACHES

Connaught Park has four entrances. The main entrance at the western end of the Park, one of the original entrances created in 1883, lies at the junction of Park Avenue, which provides the main access from the town, and Connaught Road. This entrance is gated but is left open to provide vehicular access to the former lodge, now (2017) in private ownership, and to the Park. A further 400m east along Connaught Road lies a second entrance, again gated, which provided an alternative entrance to the Park in 1883. This entrance consists of a locked vehicular ornamental metal access gate alongside an unlocked pedestrian matching ornamental gate. The gate posts to both sets of gates appear older than the gates themselves; photographs taken mid C20 show wooden gates in use (Dover Museum and Bronze Age Boat Gallery). At this entrance, midway along Connaught Road, a curved bank which follows the path into the Park contains the remnants of shrubs now overgrown and stunted by the lack of light caused by the overhanging tree canopy.

The eastern park entrance, at the junction of Connaught Road with Castle Hill Road, was formed when the Park was extended in 1884: it is of similar construction to the entrance gate midway along Connaught Road.

A fourth entrance is provided at the car parking lay-by, created in 1934, on Connaught Road approximately 300m east of the main entrance. A random brick retaining wall supports the bank. A flight of steps leads from the lay-by up the bank to a gated pedestrian access into the Park.

An OS map dated 1896 (Dover Library), shows that a further entrance existed midway along the path adjacent to the northeastern boundary at its junction with the secondary path from the lower terraces. The path though the tree belt is now (2017) gone but two gate posts in the fence denote the former entrance.

PRINCIPAL BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES

The principal building in the park is the lodge located adjacent to the main entrance, built c1883 for the Park Superintendent. The building has been extended but the original construction is a two storey structure comprised of brick walls, with knapped flint infill, up to first floor level, with a tile clad first floor and a tiled roof. A two storey brick extension has been added to the north side of the property with a tiled roof. The property, together with its garden, with brick and flint walls on two sides, is now in private ownership.

PARK GARDENS AND PLEASURE GROUNDS

The Park layout comprises of a series of terraces which have been created from the sloping ground, together with three meandering tarmac paths which principally traverse the site in a northwest to south-east direction. These paths along the northern and southern boundaries and centrally through the Park, are interconnected by shorter secondary paths.

The lowest terrace level is separated from the adjacent Connaught Road by a belt of coniferous and deciduous trees on a bank which increases in height towards the east, and divided off from the upper levels by a central tree belt. The majority of the mature trees in these belts, and elsewhere in the Park, were planted during the Park's original construction in 1883 and 1884.

The lowest level terrace is divided into four distinct areas by the secondary paths. The Park lodge and its garden, now in private ownership, is located at the western end of the terrace adjacent to the main entrance. The boundary between the lodge garden and the terrace is formed from euonymus shrubs which have grown into a hedge which extends eastwards for approximately 200m along the Connaught Road boundary. Facing the lodge on the opposite side of the terrace is an aviary. DDC announced in 2007 that the aviary was to close, as a cost saving measure, but it has been kept open by volunteers, with a dwindling number of birds (doverhistorian).

The most western grassed area (approximately 80m by 40m) of the lower terrace has a lower and an upper level, which contains four circular flower beds equally spaced alongside the central path. Photographs taken in 2009 show cherry trees in all four beds, now (2016) only two remain. At the east end of this section is a raised triangular area containing a stone bird bath within a larger circular flower bed around which are three small triangular flower beds. Along its northern edge beneath the tree belt is evidence of previous shrubbery planting, which has not been maintained, and which is now overshadowed by the trees. Benches are spaced along the edge of the former shrubbery.

The second grassed area moving eastwards (approximately 100m by 30m) is surrounded by tree belts to the north and south and leads to the lake which is centrally located within the Park. Photographs taken in 1933 of either the first or second grassed area show flower beds alongside, to the south, of the central path with masses of shrubs under the tree belt on the other side of the path. At

regular intervals, wooden rose pergolas spanned the path providing shade to the seats under the pergolas. All this ornamental detail is (2017) now gone (Dover Museum and Bronze Age Boat Gallery).

At the west end of the lake are the foundations of the refreshment kiosk which closed in the early 1990s, alongside which stands a set of steps which lead up to an upper terrace and a painted timber shelter probably erected early C20 (4th edition OS map 1929-52). An arch formed from the jaw bones of a whale was erected here at the end of C19 and demolished in 1967.

The lake, approximately 50m long by 20m wide, lies to the north of the third grassed area (approximately 90m by 30m) of the lower terrace. The central path forms the southern edge of the lake and a bank containing shrubs and bushes and specimen trees such as beech creates the northern perimeter. The lake contains some plants and a fountain (no longer working) sits centrally in the area. This feature is reputed to have created sufficient waves that any small boats always returned to their owner at the water's edge. At the eastern end of the lake is a stone drinking fountain (also no longer working), presented by Dr Astley in the 1880s. On the opposite side of path to the drinking fountain, enclosed by metal railings, is the holm oak presented by the Duchess of Connaught at the Park's official opening in 1884. Other specimen trees, such as copper beech, have been planted in the third grassed area commemorating the various anniversaries of the park opening, the majority being surrounded by railings. Large aucuba shrubs are spaced in the grass alongside the southern boundary path in both this and the second grassed area, with other shrubs, such as euonymus, now forming a hedge under the boundary tree belt.

At the eastern end of the lake the path divides and the two branches run parallel eastwards. The northern path, shaded by beech trees, at a higher level is set with recesses in the bank along its length, denoting former bench locations. The bank between the two paths, now grassed, is shown as a flower or shrub border in early C20 postcards (Dover Library). Cobble stone walls have been built to maintain the bank alongside the lower path, this detail being repeated at various location around the Park. The two paths lead to the fourth grassed area (approximately 50m by 30m), currently serving as a picnic area with picnic benches and other seats. This area is surrounded by evergreen trees, such as holm oak, conifer and holly. A large holm oak is located at the east end. The 4th edition OS (1929-1952) indicates that this area was previously used as grass tennis courts in the earlier part of C20.

Behind the aviary, on a higher terrace, lies the children's playground renovated in 2010. The play area, approximately 50m by 25m, includes a large timber tree house with a tube slide, representing Dover Castle, with a surrounding palisade of vertical logs replicating its fortifications. A sandpit shaped like a teddy bear's head celebrates the Park's famous teddy bears picnics of some 80 years ago. This area has always been a children's play area, initially providing children's swings in 1888 (Dover Express 2 March 1888)

Seven grass tennis courts lie to the east of the play area, formerly constructed as eight courts in the early C20, although fewer courts were provided in C19 (OS

dated 1896 Dover Library). Due east of these courts is a flat grassed area, approximately 90m by 35m, with five-a-side football posts which were installed in 2002. This area had previously been used as three grass tennis courts, originally laid out in late C19 (OS map 2nd edition 1897-1900). Immediately north of the five-a-side football pitch are two hard tennis courts first shown on the 2nd edition OS. In the early C20, there were thus a total of fourteen tennis courts provided at Connaught Park as a result of public demand and the popularity of tennis clubs at that time. A painted timber shelter overlooks the various courts, erected about mid C20 as it is first shown on 4th edition OS (1929-1952). To the west of the hard courts, there used to be a flagpole erected in 1884, now removed.

One further terrace (approximately 100m by 40m) is to be found between the children's play area and the northern boundary, first shown on 4th edition OS (1929-1952). This terrace is likely to have been created during the depression of the 1930s when Dover council provided work for the unemployed. The remainder of the Park to the east, above the lower level terraces, consists of sloping ground, with clumps of trees, such as cherry, beech and sycamore, scattered through this area, some of which originate from the late C19 (2nd edition OS). Postcards held at the Dover Library show that these sloping grounds were fenced and used for the grazing of sheep in the early C20. More recent plantings of individual trees are to be found throughout the Park, such as cherry trees alongside the southern end of the western boundary, some of which have been vandalised. Planting of copper beech trees (in the late C20) has also been carried out on the upper slopes. The tree planting which has survived at the eastern end of the Park is mainly evergreen of Scots pine, holly and yew reflecting the choice of trees which were planted when the Park was extended in 1884.

A wide vehicular path extends from the main entrance, up the slope between the two toilet buildings to the Park's Department maintenance depot which extends along the remainder of the western boundary. Two toilets blocks have been constructed approximately 50m north of the lodge, one either side of the main path. Each building is a single storey white painted rendered structure, approximately 6m square, with a tiled roof. The toilet blocks are likely to have been constructed in the 1930s as they are not shown on the 3rd edition OS (1907-1923).

The Park's maintenance department area was previously the nursery for the Park with glasshouses and other buildings but only a few single storey structures remain. The 2nd edition OS indicates that at the end of the C19 the nursery was located adjacent to the lodge but was subsequently supplemented along the western boundary during the early part of the C20. The nursery was enlarged mid C20 requiring the boundary path to be moved further east. At the northern end of the former nursery the ground is now used for shredding compost from this and other parks in the Dover area. The former nursery is screened from the park by a two metre high fence and hedge alongside which is a path which climbs to the perimeter path running along the northern boundary.

From the northern boundary path, there are extensive views over the valley to the harbour, town and Western Heights. Old photographs show that Dover Castle was also visible from this path before the trees obscured the view. The boundary

path extends the full length of the Park to the entrance gate adjacent to Castle Hill Road, a distance of approximately 700m. A concrete plinth halfway along this path survives where a shelter once stood, now gone. At the eastern end of the Park, near the entrance, overgrown shrubs, such as cornus, survive from former horticultural displays that welcomed visitors to the Park. North of this area there used to be several short meandering paths now removed with the undergrowth and trees masking a 4m high chalk cliff at the edge of the park which provided interest along the former paths.

Scots Pine provide the northern boundary tree belt, behind which is a post and wire boundary fence. Various evergreen shrubs have been planted under the trees, now overgrown and requiring maintenance (2016), along with other self-sown shrubs and bushes.

REFERENCES

Books, articles

Lorraine Sencicle, *Connaught Park* (2014) doverhistorian.com

Maps

Ordnance Survey 25"to 1mile: 1st edition (1862-1875)

Plan of Park leased from War department 1882. Kent History and Library Centre ref Do/CA/16/2

Ordnance Survey 25"to 1mile: (1896) Dover Library

Ordnance Survey 25"to 1mile: 2nd edition (1897-1900)

Ordnance Survey 25"to 1mile: 3rd edition (1907-1923)

Ordnance Survey 25"to 1mile: 4th edition (1929-1952)

Illustrations

Photographs from late 1880s to 1933. Dover Museum & Bronze Age Boat Gallery

Selection of early C20 postcards. Dover Library

Aerial photograph 1933, Dover Museum and Iron Age Boat Gallery

Aerial photograph 2012, KCC

Archival items

Dover Town Clerk files 1881-1945. Kent History and Library Centre ref Do/CA1/16/2-11

Dover Express 1882-1950, British Newspaper Archive on line

Dover District Council documents relating to the purchase of Connaught Park

Kent Messenger digital archive

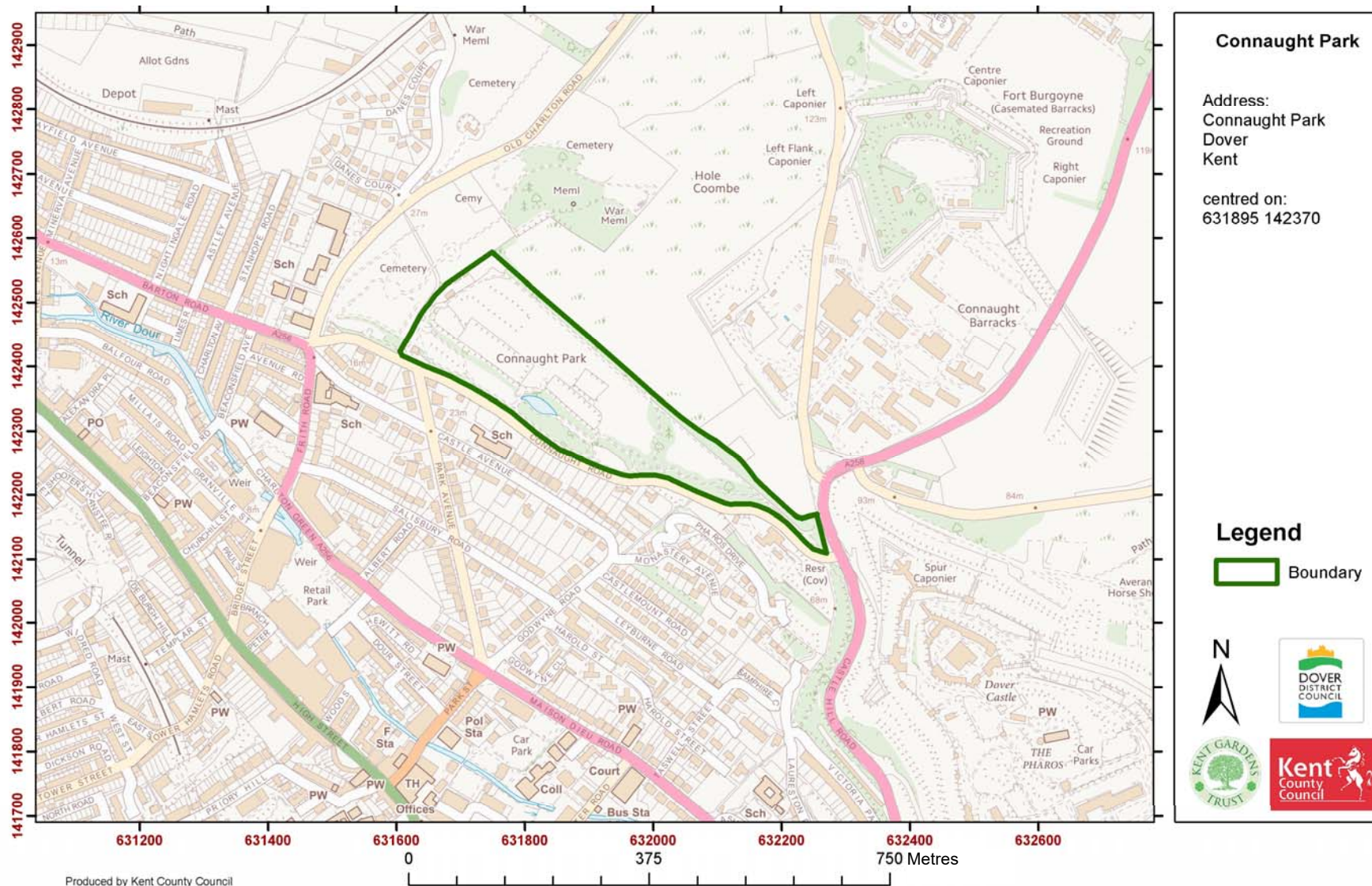
Parks and Gardens UK Record Id 4859 entry

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Kent Compendium of Historic Parks & Gardens – 2015-2017 review of Dover District

Fig. 1 Boundary map



Kent Compendium of Historic Parks & Gardens – 2015-2017 review of Dover District

Fig. 2 Map of key views and features

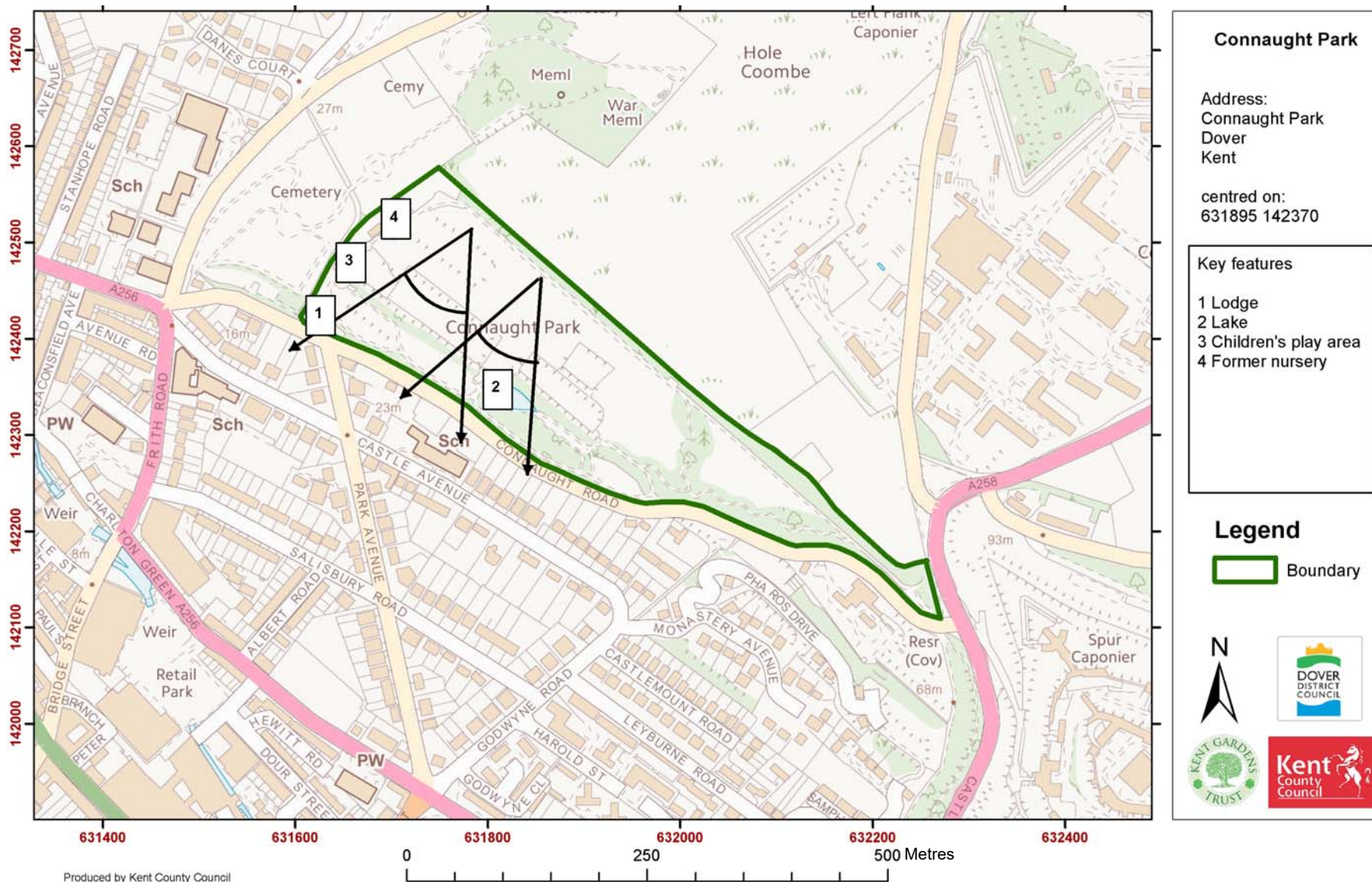
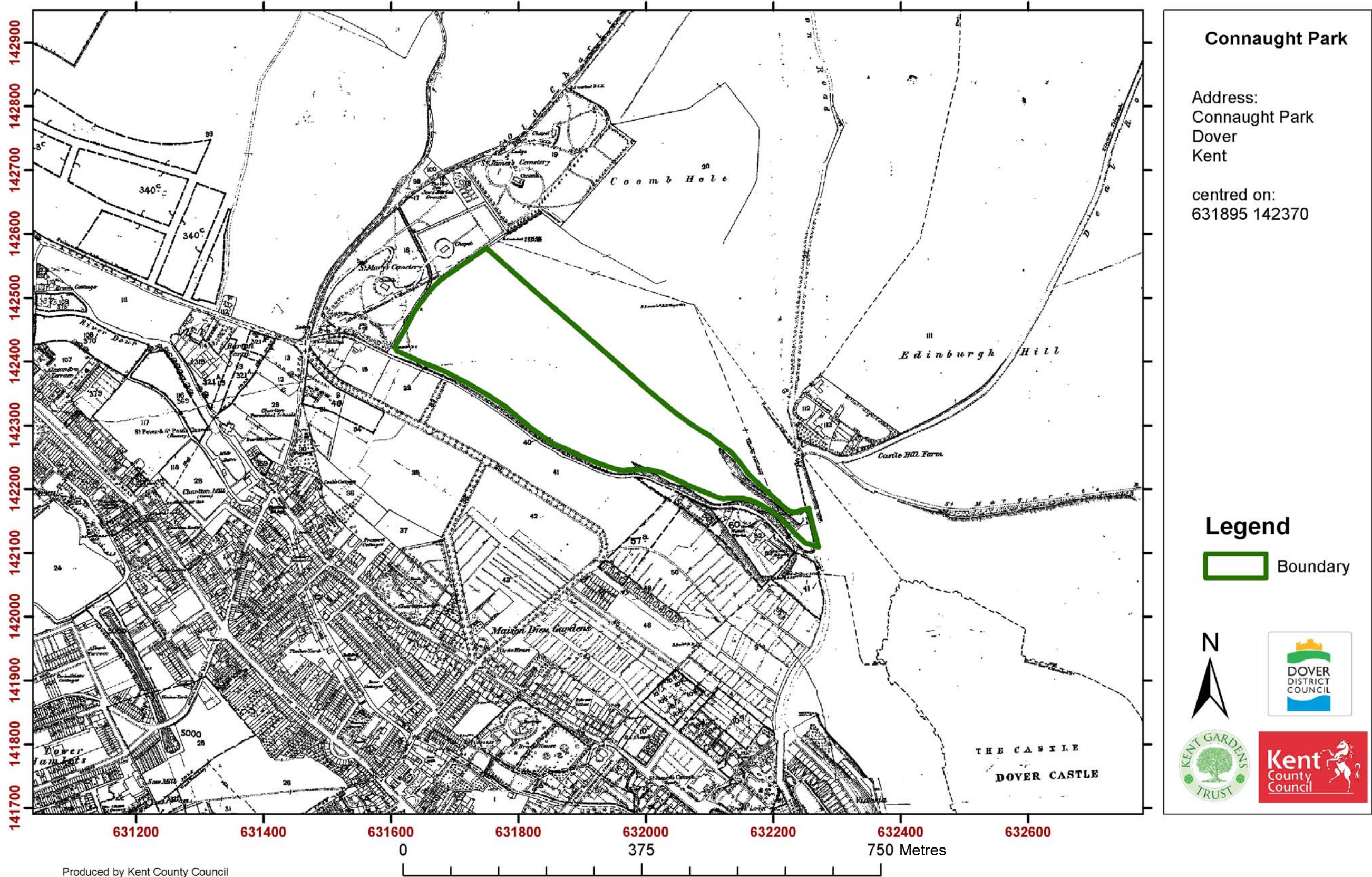


Fig. 3 Ordnance Survey 1st edition 25" map (1862-1875)



Kent Compendium of Historic Parks & Gardens – 2015-2017 review of Dover District

Fig. 4 Ordnance Survey 25" map 1896 (courtesy of Dover Library)

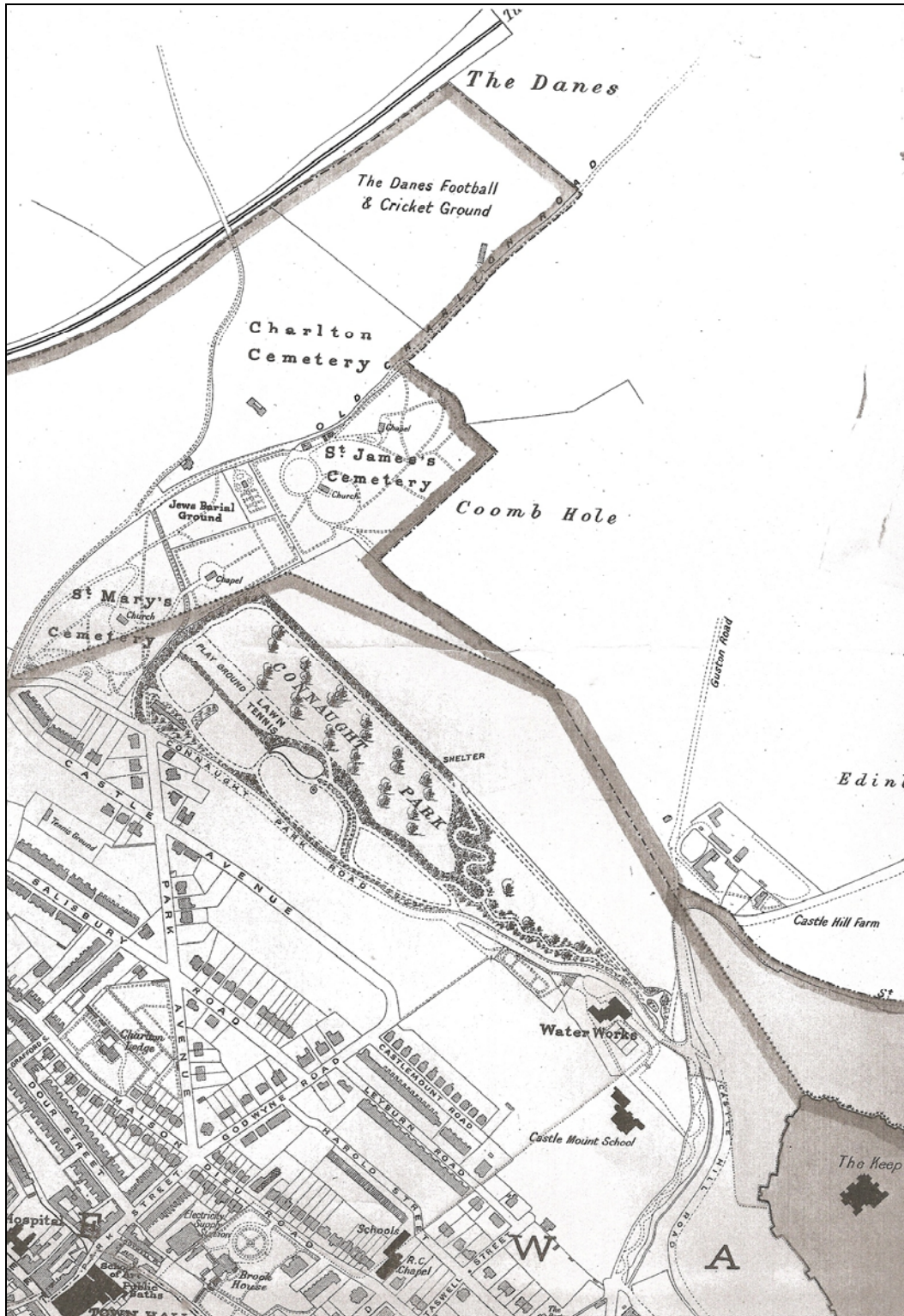


Fig. 5 Ordnance Survey 2nd edition 25" map (1897-1900)

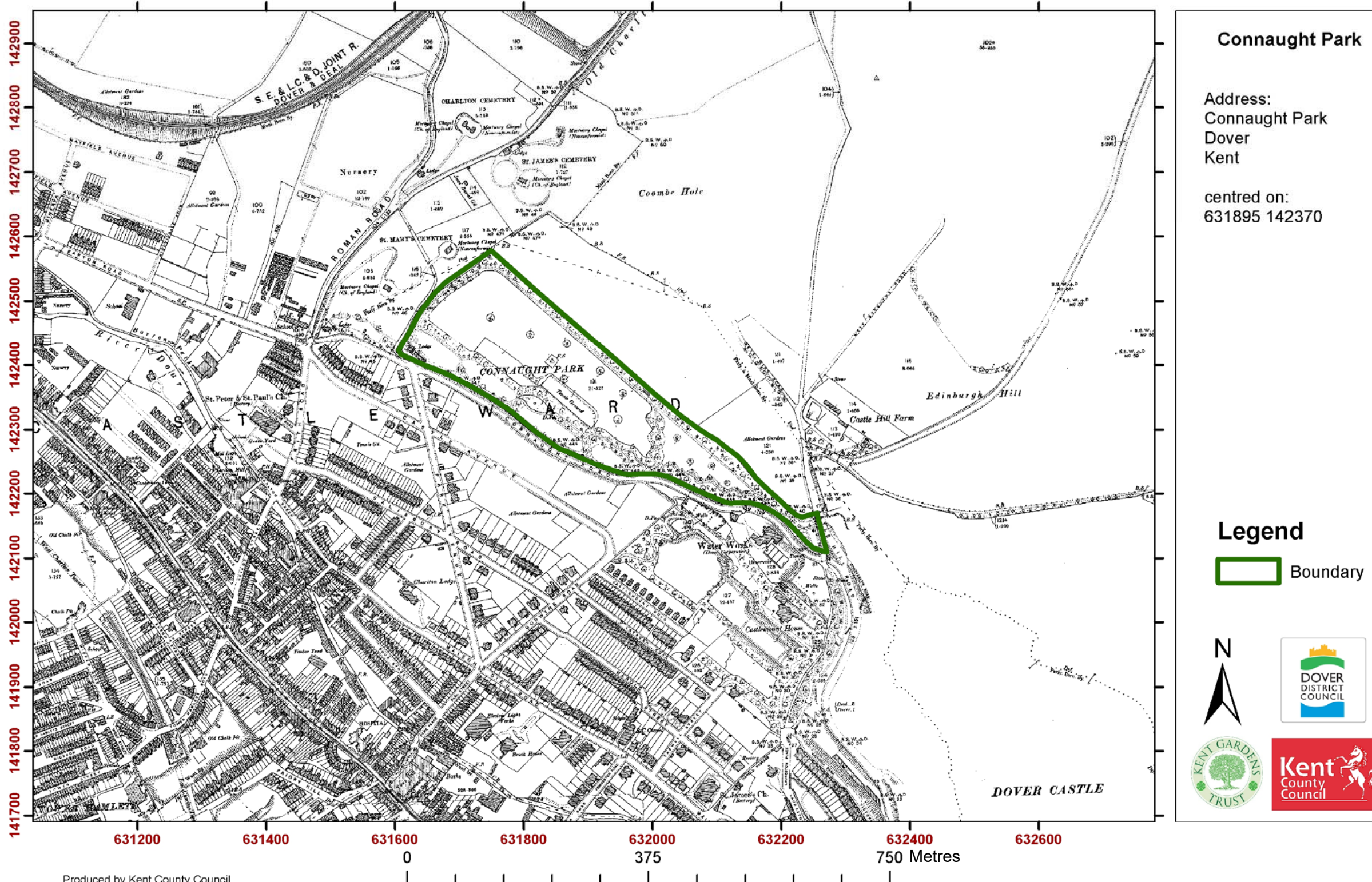


Fig. 6 Ordnance Survey 3rd edition 25" map (1907-1923)

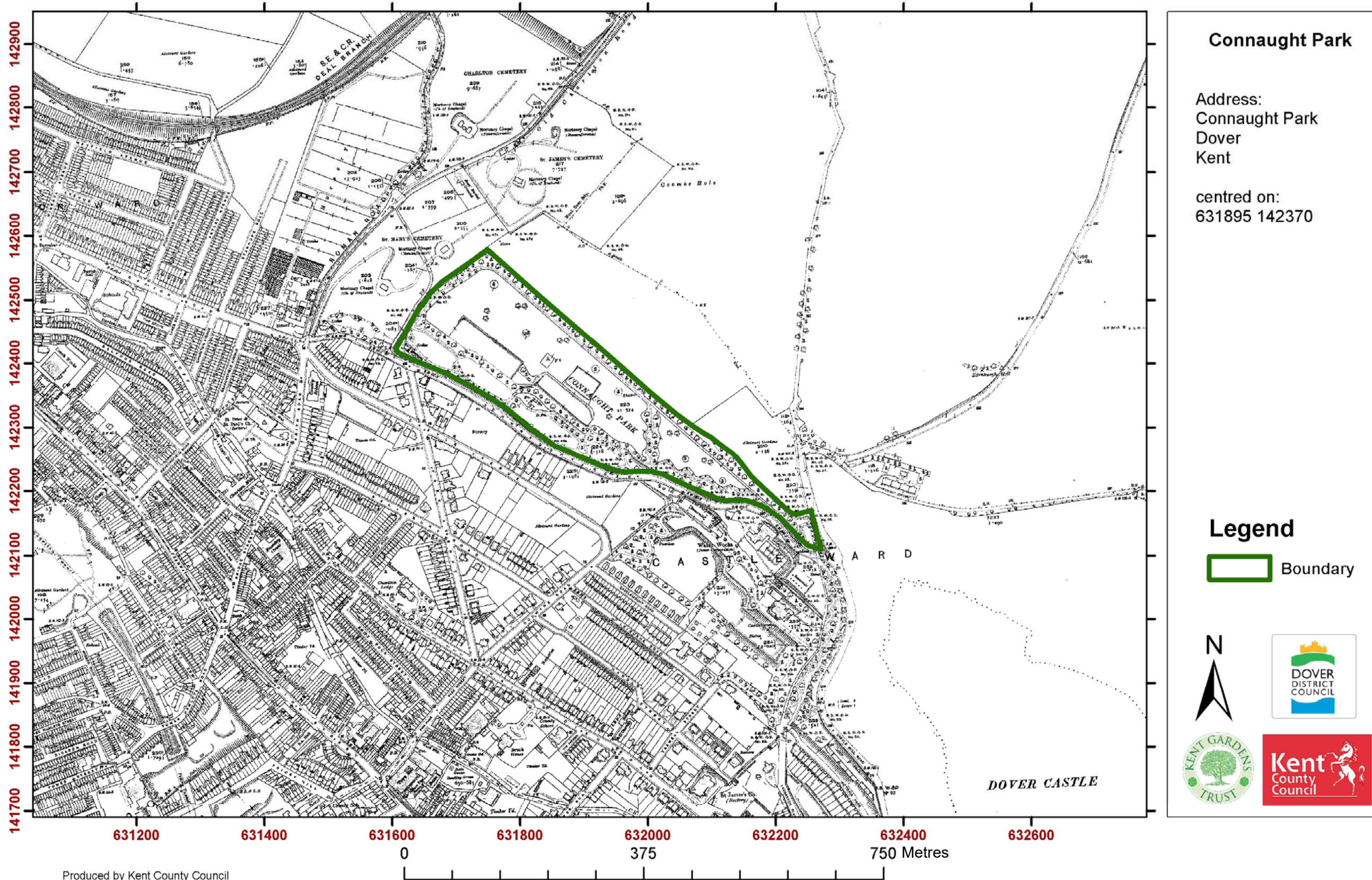
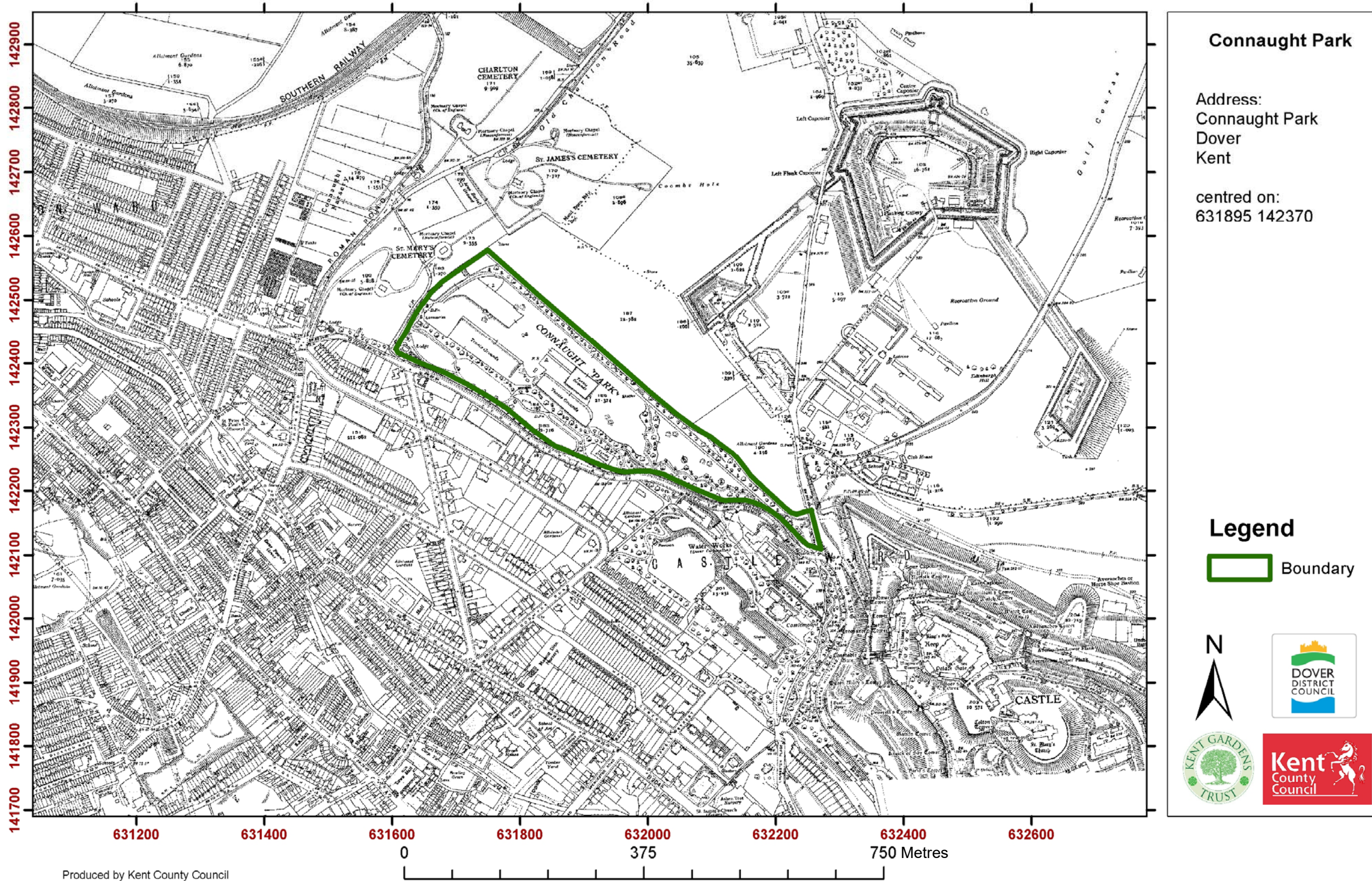


Fig. 7 Ordnance Survey 4th edition 25" map (1929-1952)



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Fig. 8 Aerial photograph (2012)



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Fig. 9 Photograph of Connaught Park Lake 1892 (courtesy of Dover Museum)



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Fig. 10 Photograph of Connaught Park Terrace 1933 (courtesy of Dover Museum)



9916. THE TERRACE, CONNAUGHT PARK, DOVER.

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Fig. 11 Connaught Park view from Children’s Play Area 2016



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Fig. 12 Connaught Park looking north-east along the top path 2016



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Fig. 13 Connaught Park, 5 a-side pitch on former tennis courts 2016

