



The Commonwealth Memorial Garden

St. George's Garrison Church

For the Woolwich Garrison Church Trust

Version 2: 30th April 2019



Above and Below: Aerial views showing the Garrison Church site, with the white tensile roof canopy over the Chancel featured prominently.

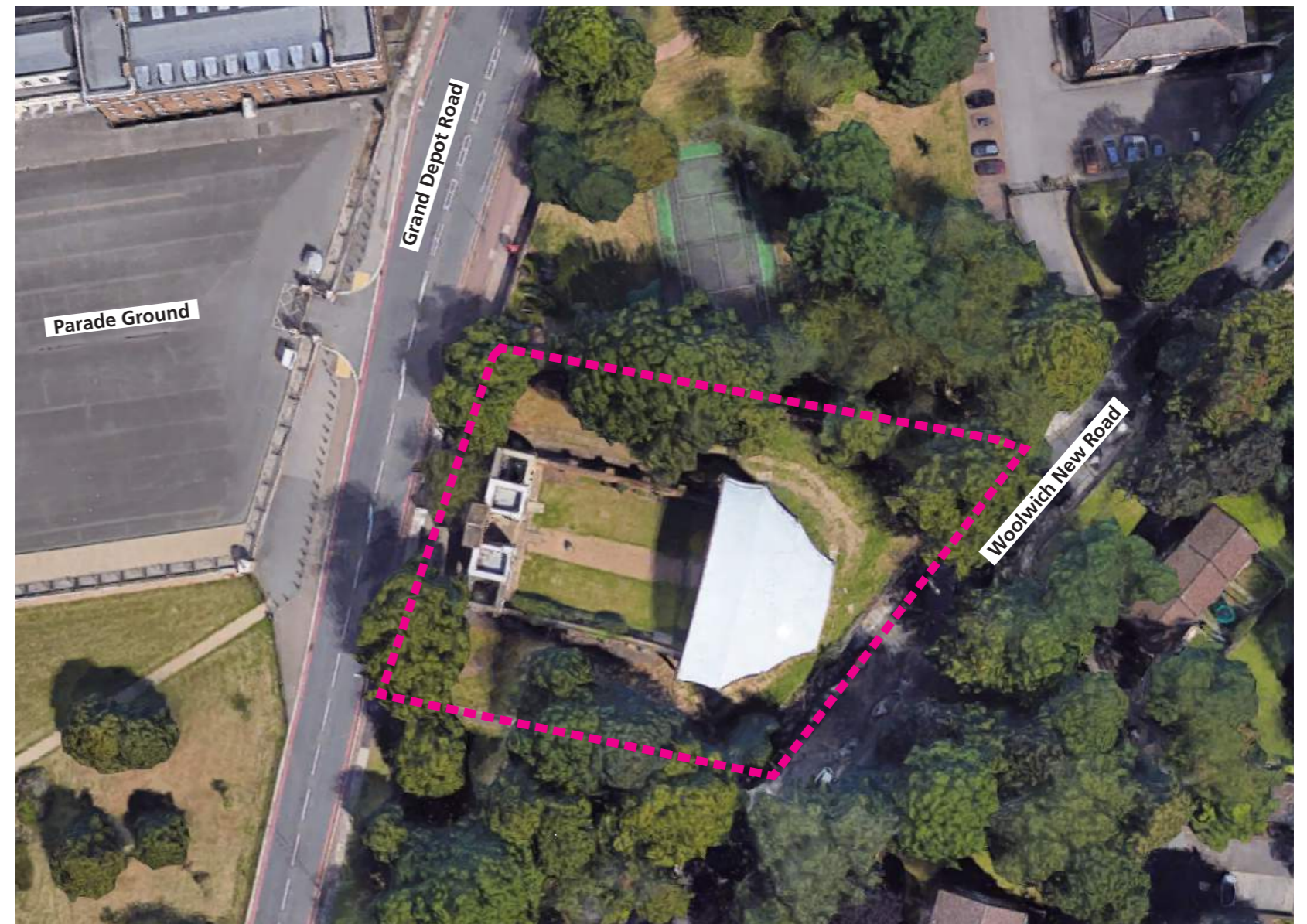
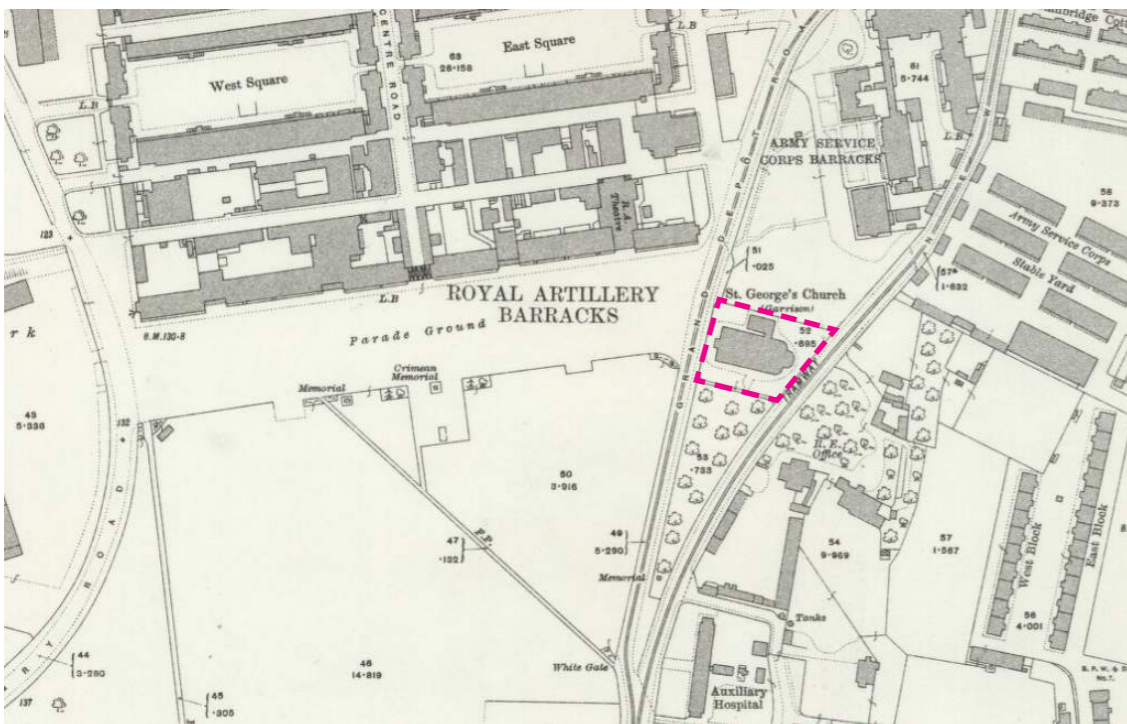
Location:

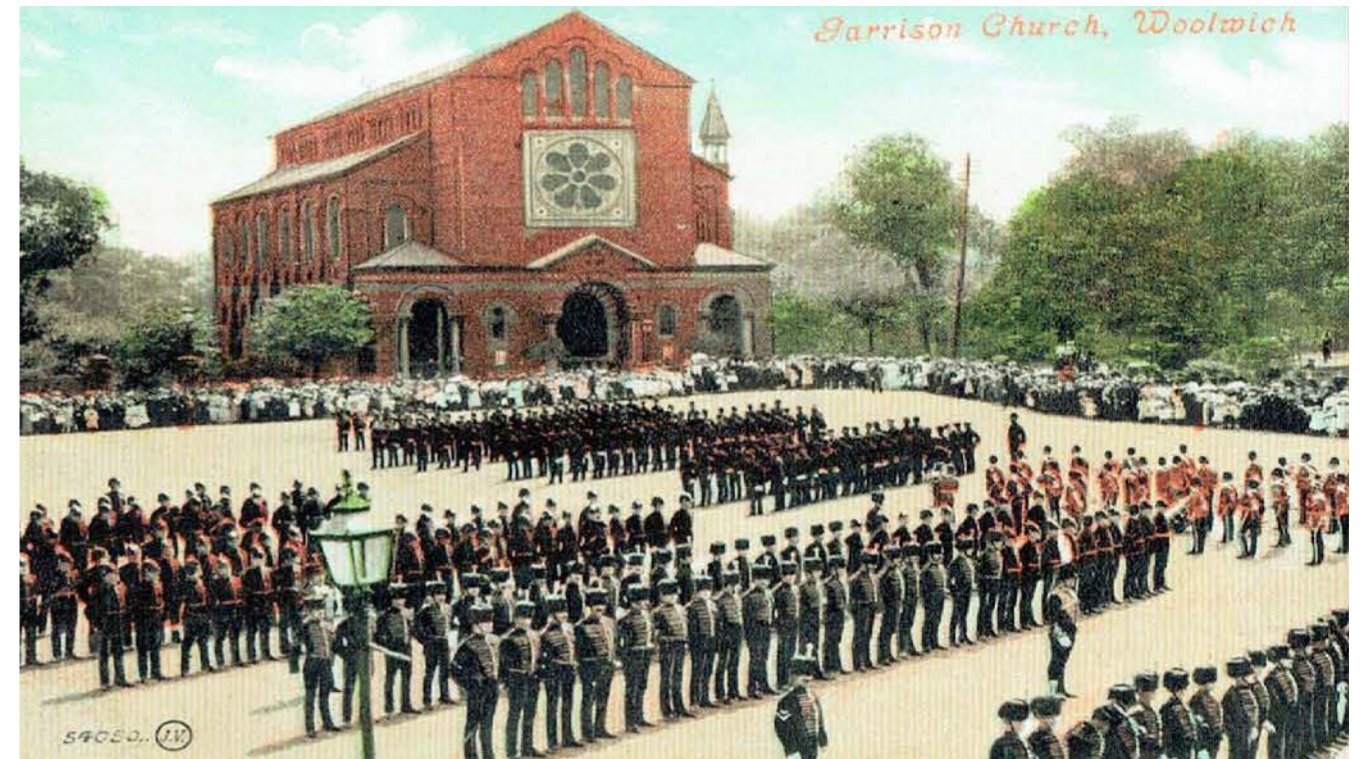
The Garrison Church was completed in 1863 to serve the Woolwich Royal Artillery Garrison. Although now separated by the busy Grand Depot Road the church was originally directly connected to the Woolwich Royal Artillery Barracks parade ground and was built within the Garrison Commandant's garden.

North



Below: 1915 OS Map





A Brief History:

The Church was designed by the prominent Victorian Architect Thomas Wyatt, President of the RIBA from 1870-1873 who was awarded the Gold Medal for Architecture in 1873.

Completed in 1863 The Church served The Woolwich Royal Artillery Garrison until the second world war. In July 1944 the Church received a direct hit from a V1 Flying Bomb causing a fire storm that gutted the building. In 1952 the debris was cleared away after which the Church was left as a ruin. It remains consecrated ground within the building footprint.



Above: Photo by Blackheath Photographer Wellington, thought to be soon after completion in 1860's.

Below: 1869 OS Map showing the Church Garden path route and what appears to be a formal entrance from the South.





Above: Phase 1 canopy and the Phase 2 restoration works ongoing below.

Below: Phase 2 Excavating the Crypt, which had filled with debris from the bombed church tower above.



Existing Photos - Restoration Works Phase 1 - The Commonwealth Memorial Garden - Ireland Albrecht Landscape Architects - 30th April 2019



Above: Phase 2 Works; Capitals Cleaned.

Restoration Works: Phase 1 & 2

Phase 1: 2013-15: Following a successful application to the Heritage Lottery Fund a canopy was built to protect the stone and mosaics at the east end of the church. Other improvements included a Kitchen and WC at the west end of the church.

Below: Phase 2 Works; Brick and Stone cleaning to the main entrance facing Grand Depot Road and the Parade Ground.





Restoration Works: Phase 2

Phase 2: 2018-19: A second phase of conservation works was completed in April 2019. The scope of the work was based on the results of a survey funded and commissioned by Historic England in Summer 2015, and aimed to secure outstanding areas of the fragile fabric- largely the decorative fittings and features in the east end. This work included excavations within the Crypt.





Service of Thanksgiving, 7th April 2019

A service was held to celebrate the completion of the restoration works, which have been on-going since the start of 2018.



The Commonwealth Memorial Garden

St. George's Garrison Church



Countries by region

Africa

- Botswana
- Cameroon
- Gambia, The
- Ghana
- Kenya
- Kingdom of eSwatini
- Lesotho
- Malawi
- Mauritius
- Mozambique
- Namibia
- Nigeria
- Rwanda
- Seychelles
- Sierra Leone
- South Africa
- Uganda
- United Republic of Tanzania
- Zambia

Asia

- Bangladesh
- Brunei Darussalam
- India
- Malaysia
- Pakistan
- Singapore
- Sri Lanka

Caribbean and Americas

- Antigua and Barbuda
- Bahamas, The
- Barbados
- Belize
- Canada
- Dominica
- Grenada
- Guyana
- Jamaica
- Saint Lucia
- St Kitts and Nevis
- St Vincent and The Grenadines
- Trinidad and Tobago

Europe

- Cyprus
- Malta
- United Kingdom

Pacific

- Australia
- Fiji
- Kiribati
- Nauru
- New Zealand
- Papua New Guinea
- Samoa
- Solomon Islands
- Tonga
- Tuvalu
- Vanuatu

Initial Brief:

The brief will be developed as part of the feasibility study process, in liaison with The Woolwich Garrison Church Trust, Stakeholders and through consultation.

The initial Concept has been well received:

To create themed areas within the garden, taking inspiration from the Commonwealth regions, as shown by the map of the Commonwealth to the left.

Proposed Garden Areas:

- Africa
- Asia
- Caribbean and Americas
- Europe
- Pacific

Other important areas of the developing brief include:

- Within the themed garden areas above; creating space for particular memorials, such as plaques or sculptures, that will become important areas of the garden for visitors from the Commonwealth.
- Enhancing the community offer, reaching out to local groups with Commonwealth links.
- Enhancing the educational offer; creating a garden that can be maintained by volunteer and community gardeners, with professional assistance.
- Developing a planting strategy that links to the Commonwealth regions, as far as possible within our climate. This would include edible produce, from Herbs to Fruit.
- Sustainable Design; with zero carbon footprint.
- Use of Water as a feature and for irrigation, re-using water collected from the roof.
- Creating a fully accessible step free circulation route with other less accessible routes to allow maintenance and children to explore.
- Creating a mix of seating areas, with space for wheelchair users.
- Contributing to financial sustainability, by enhancing the visitor and private function appeal of the Church.
- Respecting and enhancing the heritage value.
- Enhancing the sites ecology and biodiversity

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Site Analysis:

The Main Entrance to the West: The main Church entrance faces Grand Depot Road and onwards to the parade ground. Originally this small frontage had a garden character with formal railings and planting marking the boundary. The current situation of scrappy hard surfacing and low wall could be significantly enhanced to announce the entrance and complement the outstanding elevation behind.

North and South Gardens: The two principal areas of garden to be developed lie to the north and south of the church. These spaces are very different; the space to the north being naturally sheltered and private and the space to the south being more open.

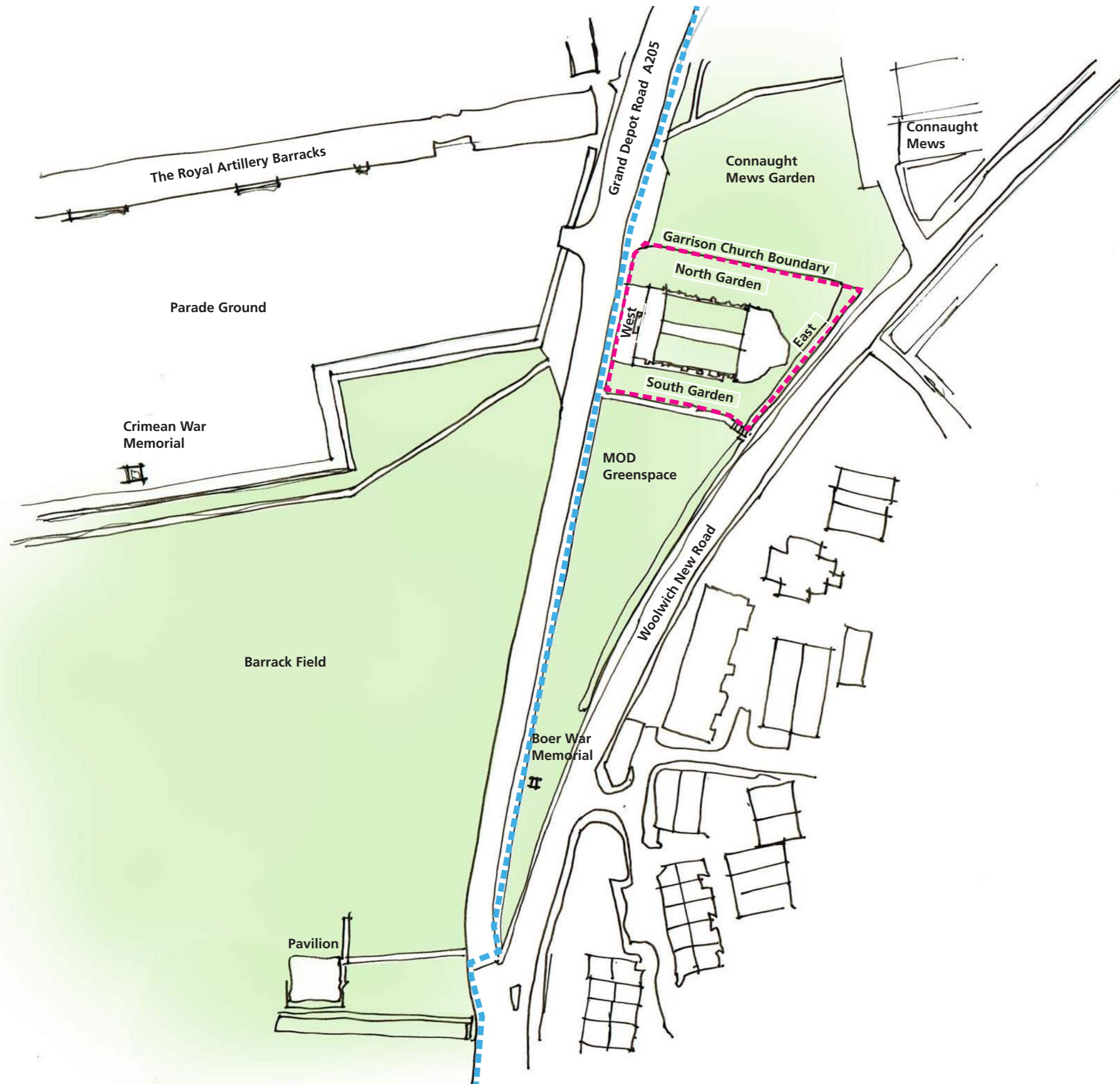
Early maps indicate that the front boundary to the west extended along the south garden boundary and a secondary entrance was accessed from the footpath: This might be an element worth reinstating or at least referencing in the updated garden proposals.

East Garden: There is a steep drop-off down to the Woolwich New Road level, with a high retaining wall with railings over. This gives quite a dramatic feel and allows views to the north east over Woolwich. We would like to reinstate the connecting path here, linking the north and south gardens. This path would also give access to the crypt.

The inner 'Aisle' Gardens within the footprint of the church: The north and south Aisles are laid to grass. This allows flexibility with seating or tent structures to be erected for events. There are well cared for planted borders adjacent to the church walls to the north and south, with memorial plaques on the walls.

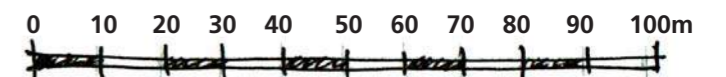
There is a desire to give greater definition to the Nave Path both in terms of size and materiality, to reflect the importance of what was once a fine tiled floor.

Connections: Connecting to the MOD greenspace to the south will be considered and might include a memorial trail to link to the Boer War Memorial. The Woolwich History Walk passes to the west; our hope is that the Church will be very much a part of the developing appreciation of the wider area's rich history.



North

Woolwich History Walk



Scale 1:1250 @ A3



The Commonwealth Garden - Site to the North:

A sheltered and naturally protected site with great potential to form an attractive garden space, with views of the Church, The Royal Artillery Barracks to the west and an elevated view across Woolwich to the East. There is a boundary wall to the northern boundary that will create a favourable microclimate, absorbing the heat from the southern sun, a good location for wall shrubs and climbers from hotter areas of the Commonwealth. Some tree removals and a reduction in the overhanging tree canopies from Connaught Mews would be required.



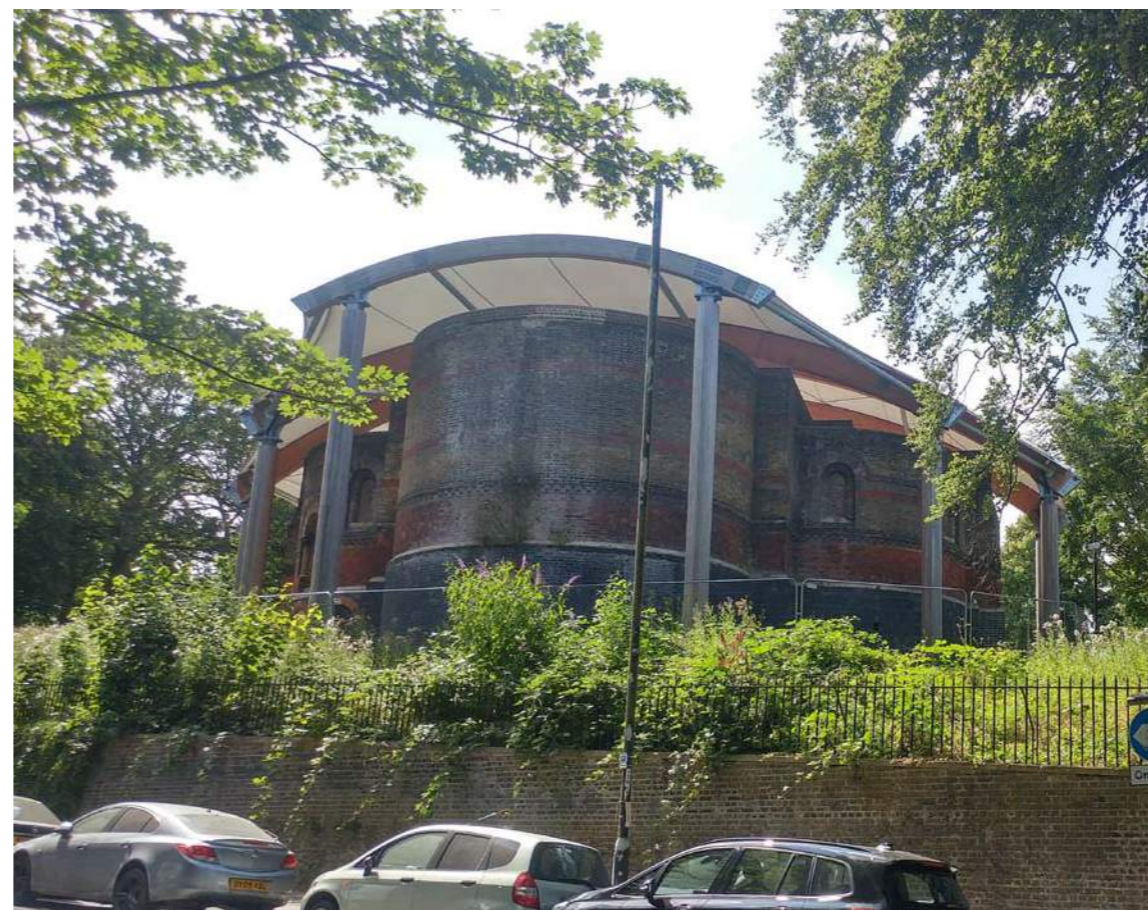


Above: South Garden; taken at the Thanksgiving Service, 7th April 2019

Below: Front Entrance with new gates, opened by HRH The Duke of Gloucester.



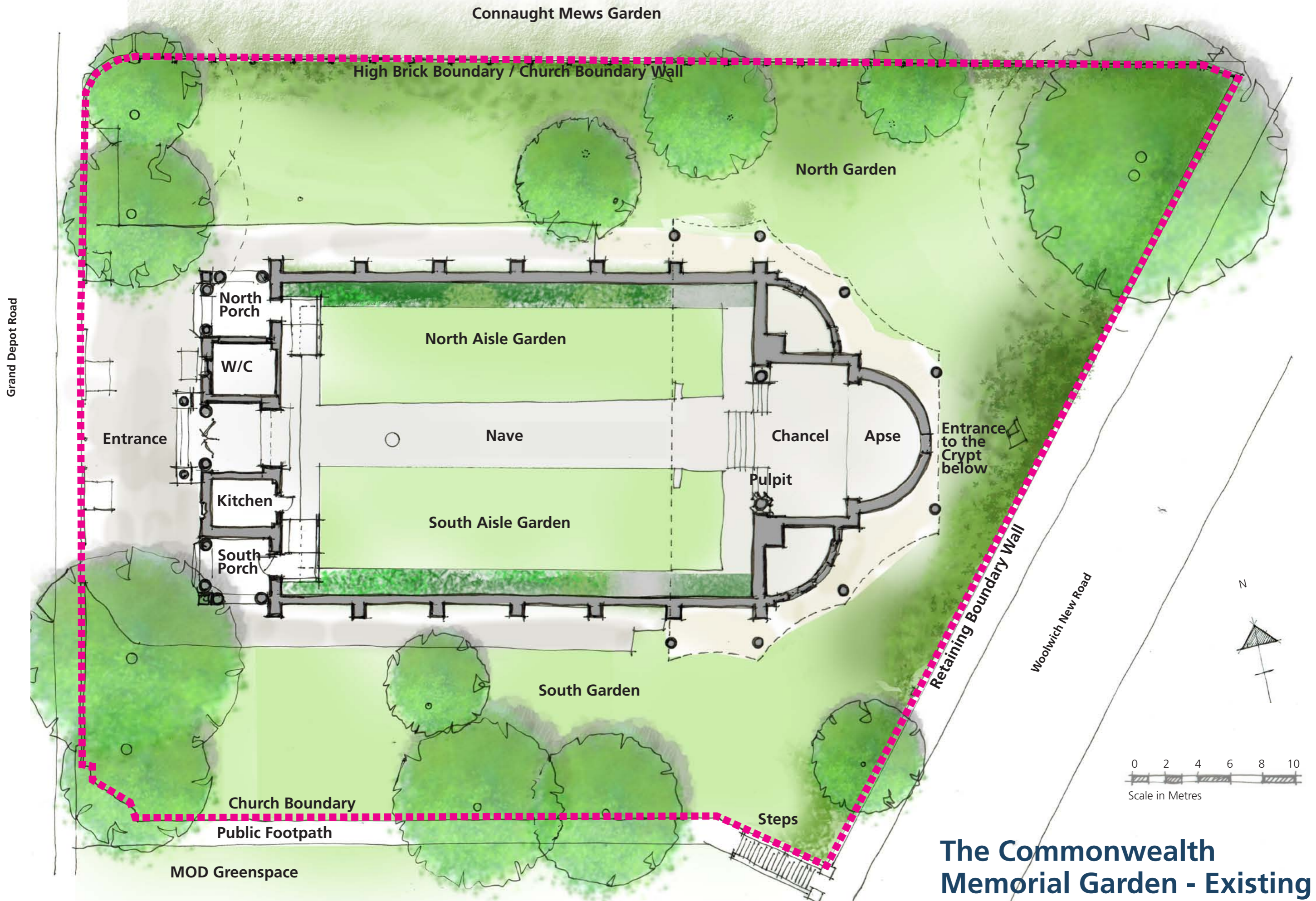
Below: View from the east (Woolwich New Road), with the new roof over The Chancery and The Crypt below.



The Commonwealth Garden - Site to the South:

The garden naturally links outwards and perhaps has a more public emphasis than the physically separated north garden. It is becoming clear that historically there may have been a more formal boundary marking the extent of the church grounds, to the edge of the public footpath. Early maps show what appears to be a formal entrance here. This is something that it may be appropriate to reintroduce.

Some selective tree removals will be considered, allowing light to reach the ground level to increase biodiversity. The theme here is 'British Garden'; proposals include a native meadow, orchard trees with extensive bulb planting, perhaps extending outwards into the MOD greenspace.



The Commonwealth Memorial Garden - Existing
 St. George's Garrison Church

Grand Depot Road

Asia - Spice and Herb Garden

Caribbean and Americas - Smallholders Garden

Pacific - Dry Garden

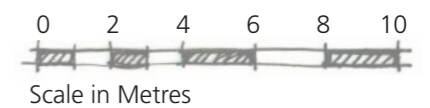
Africa - Meadow Garden

Amphitheatre

Woolwich New Road

British - Native Meadow & Orchard Garden

- 1 Garden Entrance, from the Building or Front Gates
- 2 Step Free Circulation route
- 3 Stepped Route
- 4a 4a Water source, 4b Water Course, 4c Swale
- 4d Below ground Water tank, utilising roof run-off for the water feature.
- 5 Seats
- 6 Gate and Railings
- 7 Compost, Greenhouse, Storage
- 8 Church Entrances
- 9 The Nave
- 10 The Chancel - Tensile Canopy Above
- 11 Crypt Entrance Below
- 12 Kitchen
- 13 W/C



The Commonwealth Memorial Garden - Proposed St. George's Garrison Church



Hyde Hall Dry Garden



Above: Nymans Garden - South African Meadow



Great Dixter - British Meadow



Tower Hill Memorial for the Commonwealth War Graves Commission



Dry Swale

Relevant Ideas and Projects for Inspiration:



Irrigation - Foot Pump above and Solar Below



Wet Swale



The Commonwealth Memorial Garden - Inspiration

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