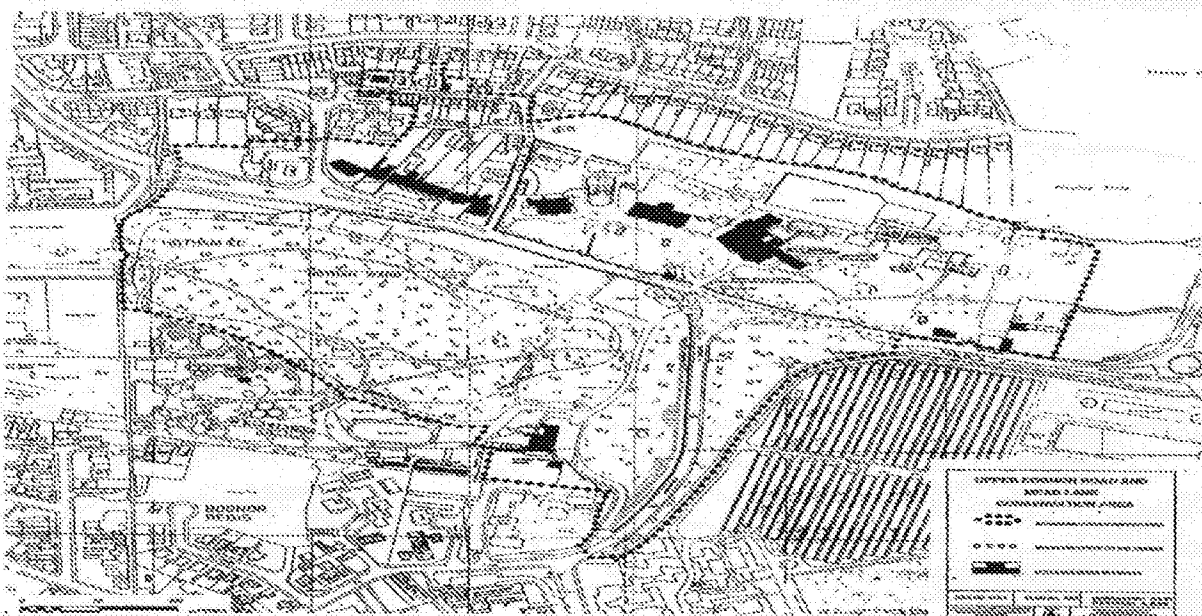


Bognor Regis is often, in advertising, described an oceanic climate. Published figures do show that the town has many hours of sunshine per year. The University of Chichester's Bognor Regis campus is situated within a Conservation Area less than a mile north of the Esplanade. The campus measures approximately 10.35 hectares (25.58 acres).



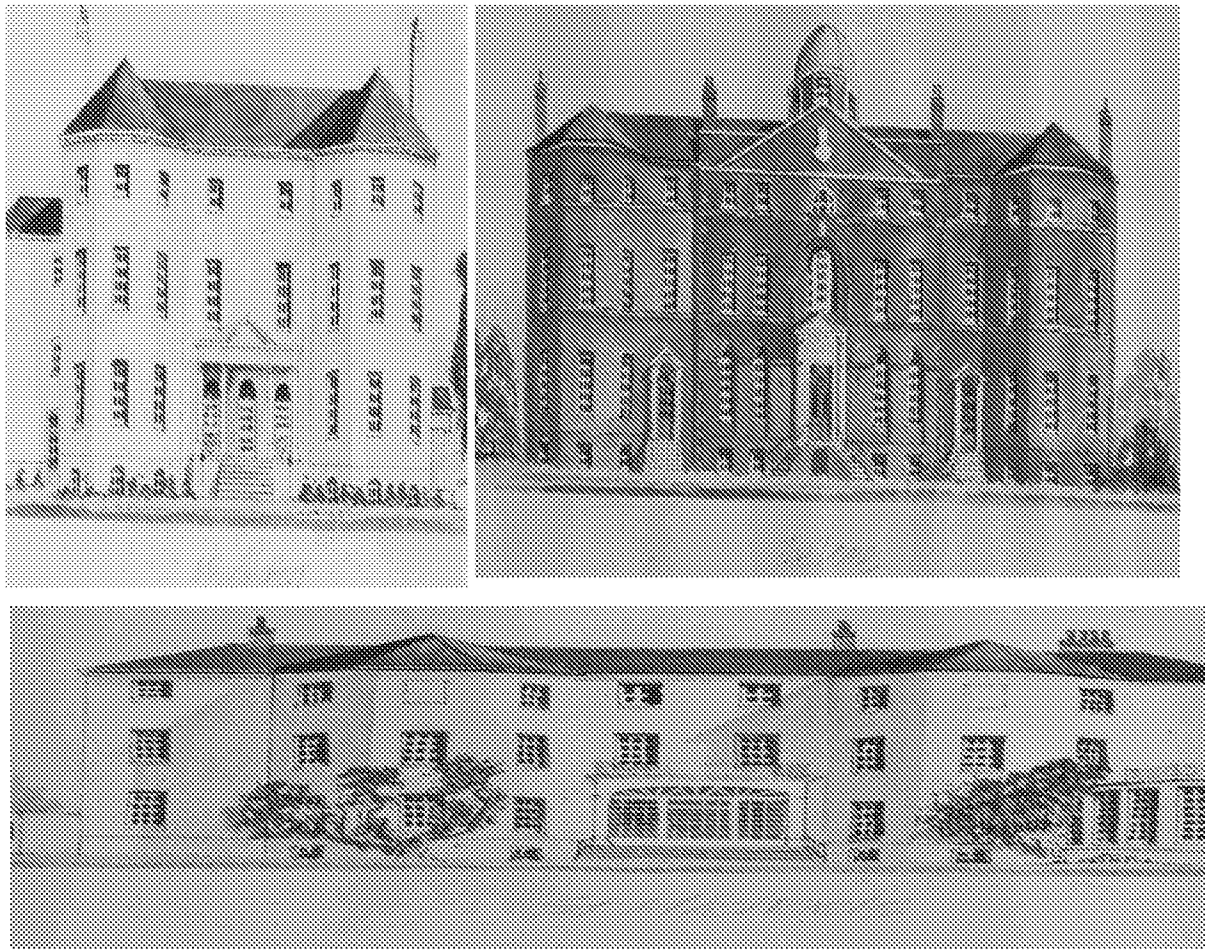
University of Chichester's Estate Management Department Catalogue Number EP/RM/ZZZ/2009/239

University of Chichester Bognor Regis Campus

The Serpentine and other campus walls

A geological survey of the campus describes 'highly variable geology' associated with the 'down cutting of the Aldingbourne Rife' (River). Among the deposits recorded are Alluvium, riverine raised beach, Reading beds, brick earth deposits, chalk and sand. The campus lies west of the Aldingbourne Rife. ¹

Perhaps it was the undeveloped nature of the site combined with the mild weather conditions that attracted Sir Richard Hotham. He began constructing dwellings on Hothampton Crescent, now known as Upper Bognor Road, in circa 1790.



Extracts from a water colour painting of Mordington House, The Dome and St Michael's House, artist Robert Tedman 1991 University of Chichester's Estate Management Department Catalogue Number EP/RM/ZZZ/2009/272

¹ University of Chichester's Estate Management Department Catalogue Number EP/RM/B56/2005/255

University of Chichester Bognor Regis Campus The Serpentine and other campus walls

The South Bersted Tithe Map and Apportionment document of 1842 shows that some of the houses had stables or coach houses but all had private gardens.



Extract of the Tithe Map of 1842 showing Hothampton Crescent and Upper Bognor Road
University of Chichester's Estate Management Department Catalogue Number EP/RM/ZZZ/2007/194

The properties owned or occupied by Lord George Lennox (Tithe Map Plot numbers 492-493 St Michael's House), included hot houses. A variety of fruit and vegetables appear to have been grown in the grounds and it was for this purpose that the 'Crinkle Crinkle' or Serpentine wall that still stands on the campus grounds was used for. In 1992 this structure was described by West Sussex County Council's Planning Officer as 'unique in Sussex'.

University of Chichester Bognor Regis Campus The Serpentine and other campus walls



Photograph of the Serpentine, 'Crinkle Crankle wall' 2008
University of Chichester Photographer A Worsfold

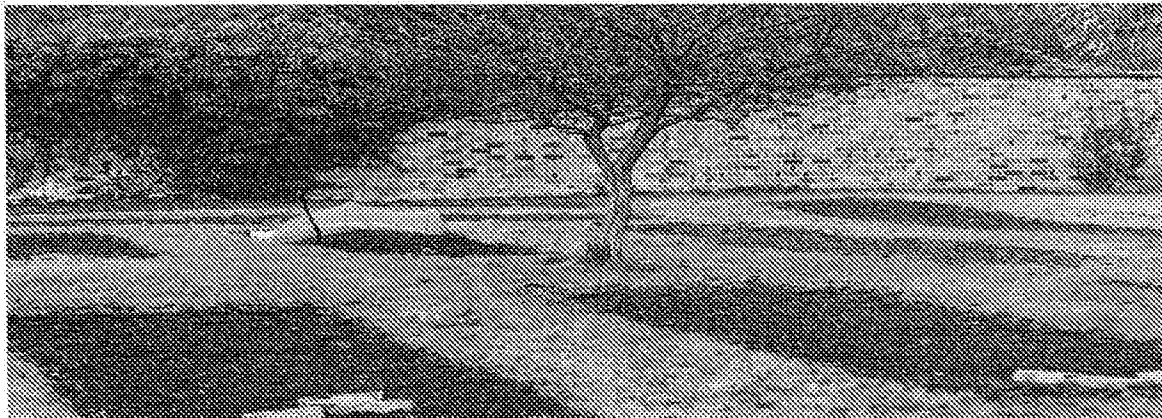
The Rat Trap Bonded, Serpentine Wall sometimes called a 'Crinkle Crankle' Wall, is located within Bognor Regis's Mead Lane Conservation Area. It was built around 1823, although local oral history maintains that the wall was built by Napoleonic Prisoners of War. These wars were fought from 1803 to 1815, however, it was more likely that it was erected on the instructions of the gardening enthusiast Earl Arran, the occupier of St Michael's House and constructed by Henry Silverlock of Chichester. Silverlock F.H.S. patented a design for a wall in 1820. In the patent the wall was described as a 'hollow wall'.

University of Chichester Bognor Regis Campus

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In March 1820 Silverlock described his hollow wall “... erected for the Earl of Arran at Bognor ...” and illustrated his design which was published by the Horticultural Society of London in 1822.² This wall was probably erected near the Serpentine Wall. The Horticultural Society’s *Gardener’s Magazine* of 1828 noted that the grounds were producing cucumbers and by 1836 grapes. Other sources cite fruit and vegetables, soft tender fruits including peaches and apricots and later pineapples, growing on the site.

The Serpentine wall is an important feature in the local townscape, it will become more accessible after the University has completed the building of the Engineering and Digital Technology Park, a development that will contribute to the regeneration initiatives for the Southern Coastal Strip. The restored wall will not only enhance the aesthetic appeal of this particular part of the landscape of Bognor Regis it will reinforce a sense of place for the community, contribute to the sense of inheritance, enhance the aesthetic appreciation of the landscape and will demonstrate clearly that heritage can be incorporated and be complementary to the contemporary, above all the wall is a distinctive structure preserved for future generations to enjoy.



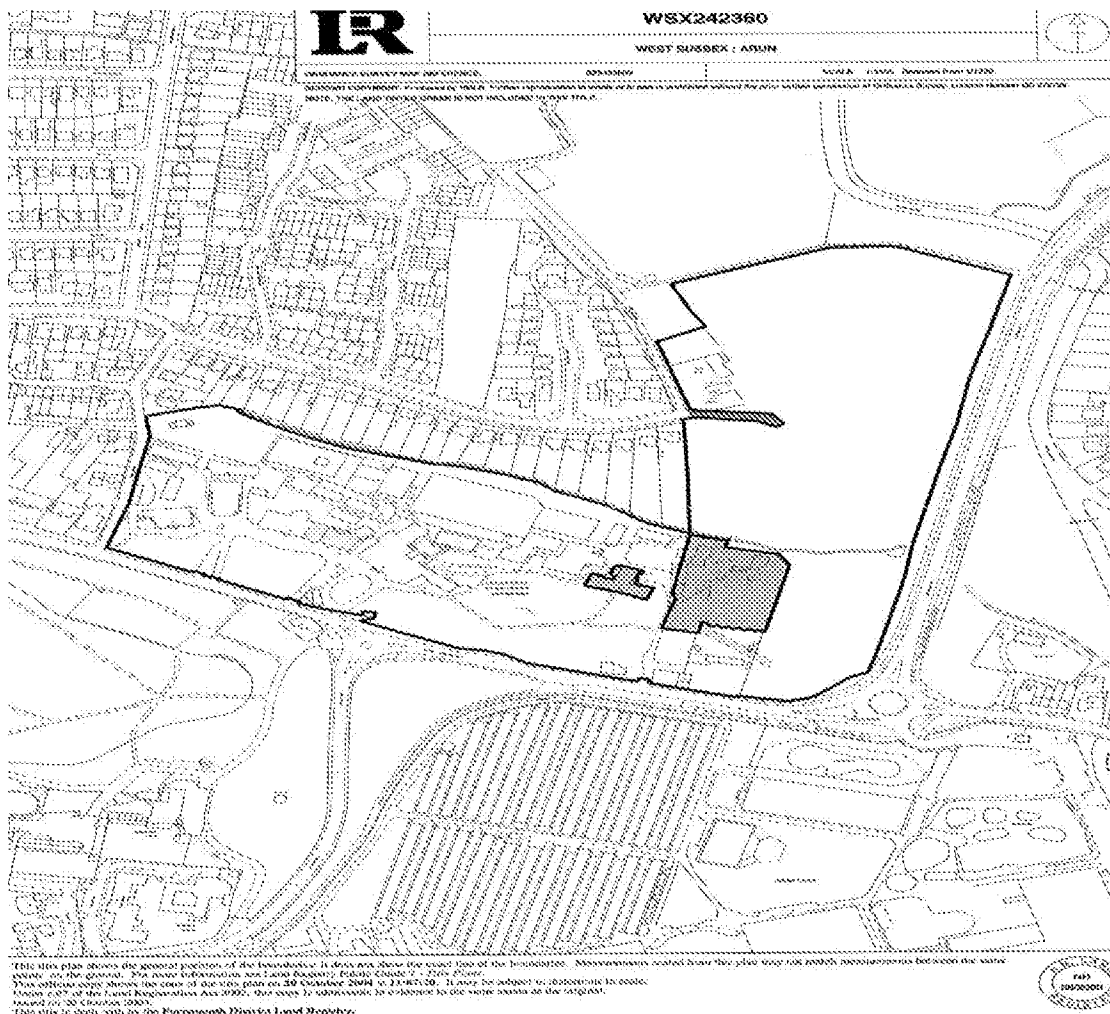
Student and Staff allotments sited near the Serpentine Wall
University of Chichester Photographer A Worsfold 2013
Note the wall, possibly the one constructed by Henry Silverlock in circa 1820

2

<https://books.google.co.uk/books?id=eEMyv8PtaIUC&pg=PA245&lpg=PA245&dq=henry+silverlock+chichester+lord+arran> accessed 31 January 2017

University of Chichester Bognor Regis Campus The Serpentine and other campus walls

The original houses, along with their boundary walls, some of which are flint and some are rat trap bonded walls, were constructed around 1790. The walls originally acted as boundary markers and garden walls. The houses were surrounded by fields, meads, meadows, pasture and an orchard, an environment that would have aided the naturalist Mr Alfred Lloyd, who lived in the Dome House from 1881-1924. He designed his garden with plants and flowers that were especially attractive to butterflies. To-day the fields owned by the university are used for sports and recreation purposes, and will be the site of the new Digital, Engineering and Technology Park but much of the land adjoining the northern boundary was developed in the 1930's for housing.



Scan of Land Registry Map of Bognor Regis Campus
20 October 2004

University of Chichester's Estate Management Department Catalogue Number EP/RM/ZZZ/2009/256

University of Chichester Bognor Regis Campus

The Serpentine and other campus walls

From 1856 the houses, as they were sold, were gradually purchased by educational organisations so that by 1939 Mordington House, the Dome, and St Michael's House were all part of the campus of St Michael's School for Girls.



Post card view of Upper Bognor Road circa 1919

The view shows the entrance to the campus and 55a Upper Bognor Road

Postcard in private collection

Scan of the Postcard University of Chichester's Estate Management Department Catalogue Number
EP/RM/A54/2007/11

At the outbreak of World War Two the school evacuated from Bognor Regis. In October 1946 the Bognor Regis Training College, an emergency college for the training of teachers was established in Mordington House, The Dome, St Michael's House and The Shrubbery in Spencer Terrace, a nearby row of houses also built by Sir Hotham.

University of Chichester Bognor Regis Campus The Serpentine and other campus walls

The Dome was listed as a Grade One Building on 22 July 1949, Mordington House on 22 April 1971 as a Grade Two Building and St Michael's House listed on 22 July 1949, as a Grade Two Building. Five other Grade Two listed buildings situated on the campus were all listed on 7 November 1975.³ Each listing mentions the other buildings on the campus and notes "... Nos 41 to 57 (Upper Bognor Road) No 55A, Nos 65 to 71 (odd) and all the walls form a group..." therefore the majority of boundary and garden walls are also listed.



The Dome's rear garden 1947 University of Chichester Archive
Note the Rear Garden Boundary Wall

³ www.britishlistedbuildings.co.uk accessed 30/09/2011,

University of Chichester Bognor Regis Campus The Serpentine and other campus walls

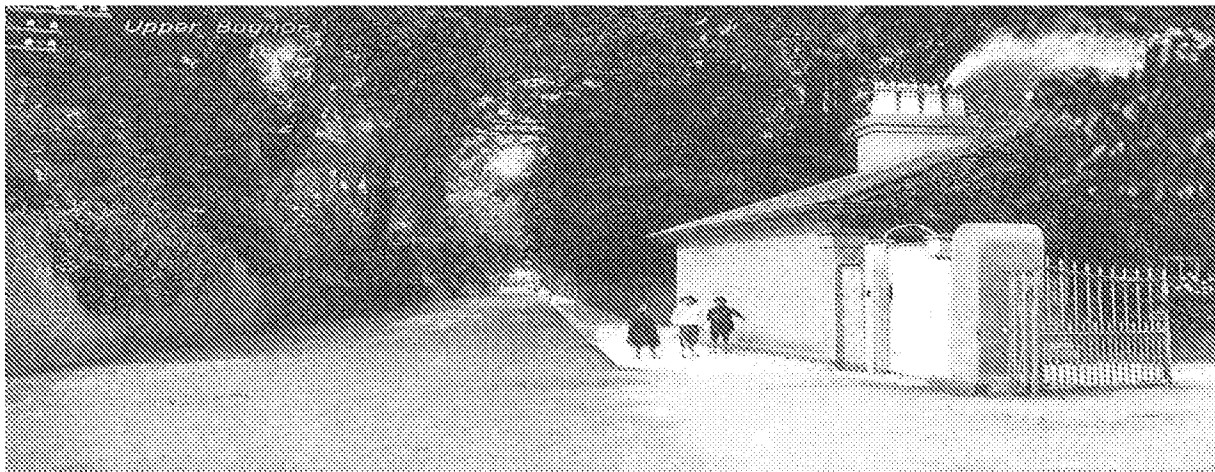
W Roy Macklin the first Principal of the Bognor Regis Emergency Teacher Training College, and an ardent gardener ensured that food was produced on campus from the first season (1946) until the mid to late 1960's when several new buildings were constructed on site.



The Dome's rear garden. Photograph Royal Commission on Historical Monuments (England) 12 February 1975 University of Chichester's Estate Management Department Catalogue Number EP/RM/A56/2008/174

University of Chichester Bognor Regis Campus The Serpentine and other campus walls

The walls that front Upper Bognor Road, a main thoroughfare in the town, are important features in the local townscape and have been regarded as such since the 1950s when West Sussex County Council constructed a new section of wall but ensured that it matched aesthetically the existing older walls on campus.⁴



Post card view of Upper Bognor Road circa 1919

The view shows the entrance to the campus and 55a Upper Bognor Road

Postcard in private collection

Scan of the Postcard University of Chichester's Estate Management Department Catalogue Number
EP/RM/A54/2007/11

Preservation and the restoration works will contribute to the regeneration initiatives for Bognor Regis. The restored walls will not only enhance the aesthetic appeal of this particular part of the landscape of Bognor Regis it will reinforce a sense of place for the community, contribute to the sense of inheritance and help to enhance the aesthetic appreciation of the landscape.

⁴ University of Chichester's Estate Management Department Catalogue Number EP/RM/A54/2007/12

University of Chichester Bognor Regis Campus
The Serpentine and other campus walls

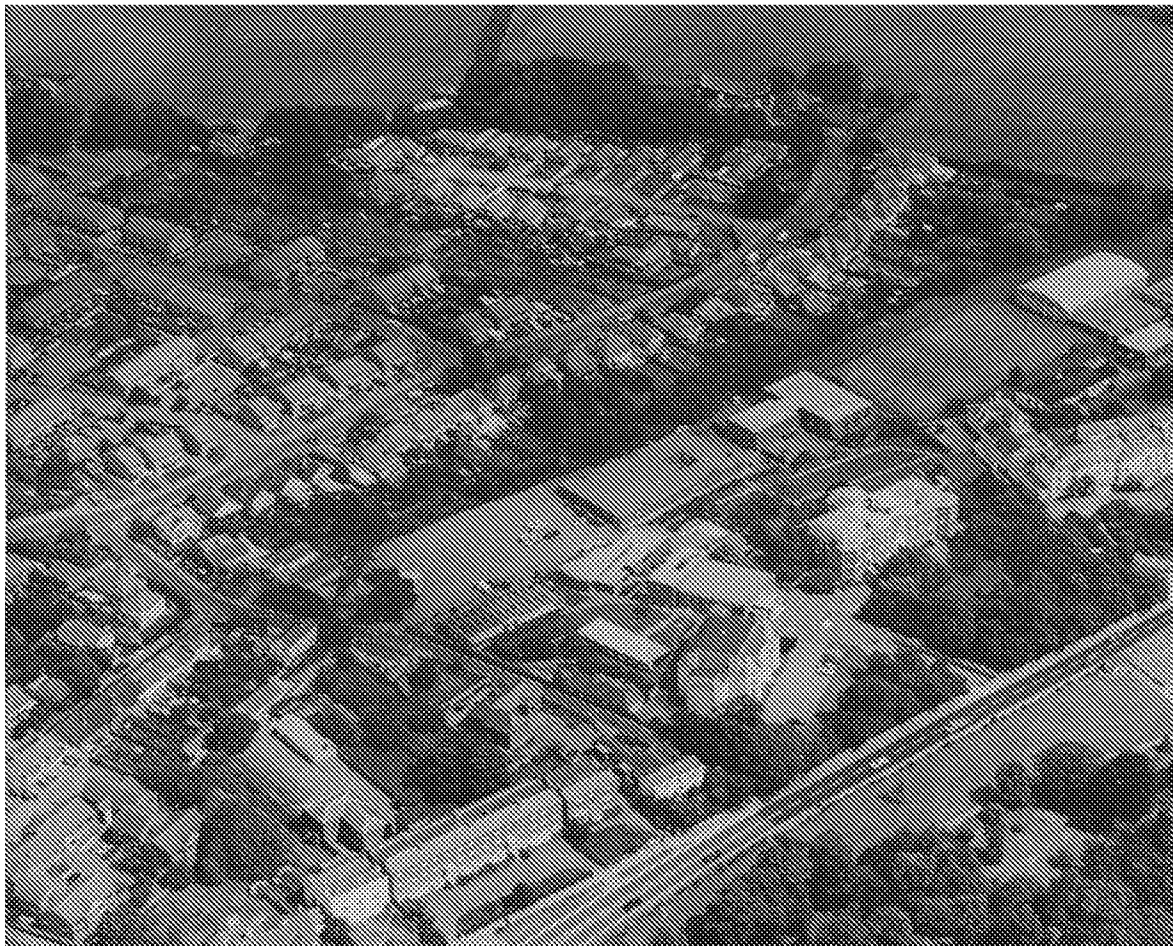


This view: The walls leading to the entrance to the campus and the corner of the white wall of
55a Upper Bognor Road

University of Chichester Photographer
S Tressler February 2017

University of Chichester Bognor Regis Campus The Serpentine and other campus walls

The Dome, became the only Grade I listed building in Bognor Regis and it is the Dome that underwent major refurbishment works to demonstrate the university's commitment to not only the campus but the plans for the regeneration of Bognor Regis. A commitment being demonstrated today with the construction on the new Science Technology Engineering and Maths buildings being constructed as part of the University's Digital Technology Park.



Aerial view of the campus 14 July 1998 Photographer Sean Gallaher Commercial Photography
University of Chichester's Estate Management Department Catalogue Number EP/RM/ZZZ/2010/389

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