

**43 St Mary's Stadium****Context**

The gas holders and St Mary's Stadium are old and new local landmarks respectively. The character area includes both these structures and is located on the north-eastern edge of the study area. To the north-east is Northam, outside the study area, and to the east is the modern working waterfront of the River Itchen (CA42 in part). To the west is CA41: Golden Grove Estate. There are good views east towards cranes on the wharf edge. To the south are the low sheds of the Melbourne Street industrial estate (part of CA40).

Excavations have shown that Saxon Hamwic extended into this area – and it is possible that some of the earliest occupation occurred in this area. This area was glebe land in the nineteenth century and remained undeveloped until the late nineteenth century.

**Grain**

The area comprises buildings of a very coarse grain.

**Scale**

The height of the gas holders by their nature is variable but can be as much as the equivalent of nine to ten residential storeys. The stadium is the equivalent of seven residential storeys.

The stadium is orientated on a north-south axis which presents its long elevation to views from the city east and from across the Itchen looking west.

**Uses**

Sports facilities and utilities.

**Public Realm**

The public realm is adequate but uninspiring.

**Connectivity**

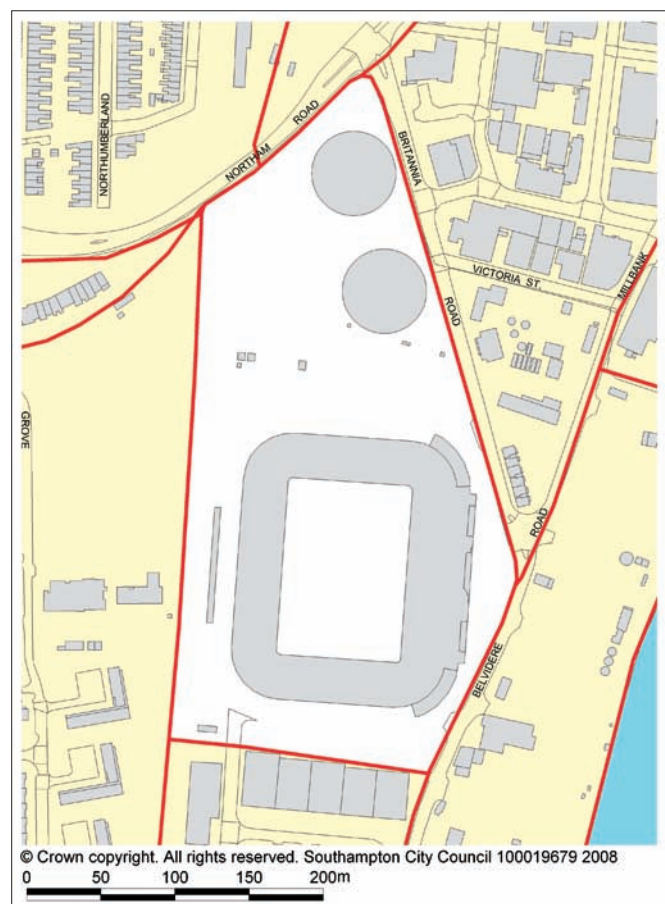
The Longcroft footbridge connects Golden Grove and Northam Road with the stadium and there are pedestrian routes from Northam Road south down through the industrial estate (along Britannia Road). Other than this there is very little physical connectivity to the stadium although visually it is very strongly connected to its immediate and wider setting.

**Views**

There are good local views east to the waterfront where the historic cranes on the wharf side are prominent striking landmarks.

There are uninterrupted views to the gas holders.

St Mary's spire can be glimpsed from the grounds of the stadium.



**Building types**

Football stadium and gas holders.

**Architectural qualities**

The skyline profile of the stadium is architecturally accomplished and makes a very positive contribution to the skyline of the city in extended views. Its lattice work of structural members has some affinity with the cranes seen to the water's edge and different viewpoints accentuate this imagery.

**Heritage Assets**

This character area is considered to possess a high degree of evidential value due to fact that it lies within the extent of Saxon Hamwic, an area of national importance for its Saxon archaeology. Excavations on the site of the football stadium revealed evidence for the origins of Hamwic including a cemetery site, suggesting an earlier date for its foundation than previously thought. The northern part of the area is largely uninvestigated. In addition to the Saxon evidence the c.1800 canal crossed the area and Northam railway station was located in the area. Much of the area is designated as a Local Area of Archaeological Importance to reflect this potential to yield significant evidence for past activity in the area.

There are no listed buildings in the character area. The gas holders are locally listed because of their relatively early date. They are considered to have illustrative and associative value as they relate to a particularly successful period in Southampton's history and are distinctive city landmarks.

**Materials**

Steel, glass, profiled metal and brick.

**Condition**

Good.

**Ownership**

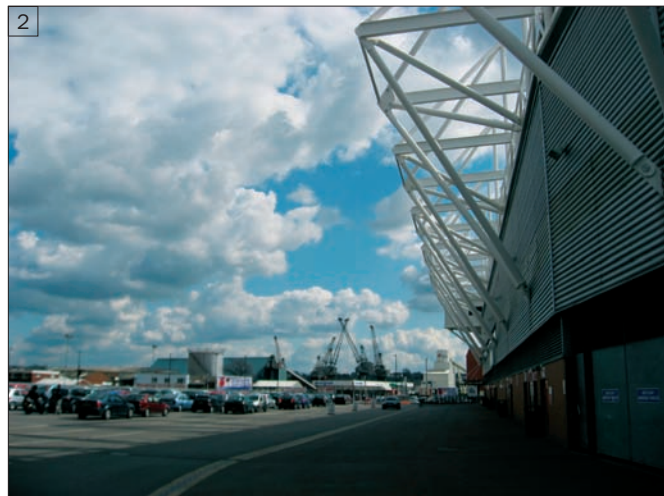
Southampton Football Club and Transco.

**Intervention**

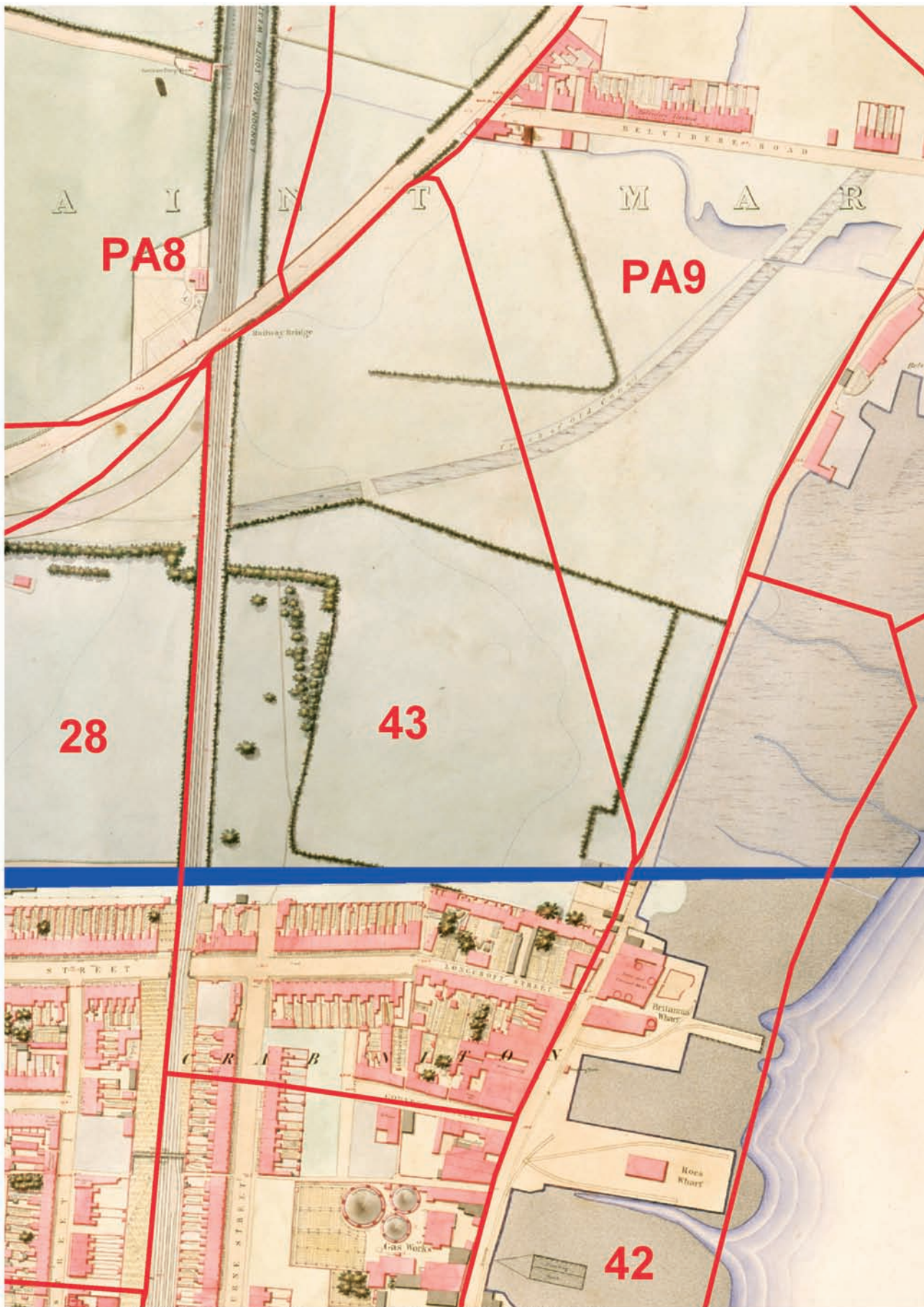
- In the light of the site being identified for future potential uses related to the football stadium, the long-term future of the gas holders needs to be carefully considered.

**Key design principles**

- Maintain and do not compete with, or compromise, key views towards the stadium roofline.

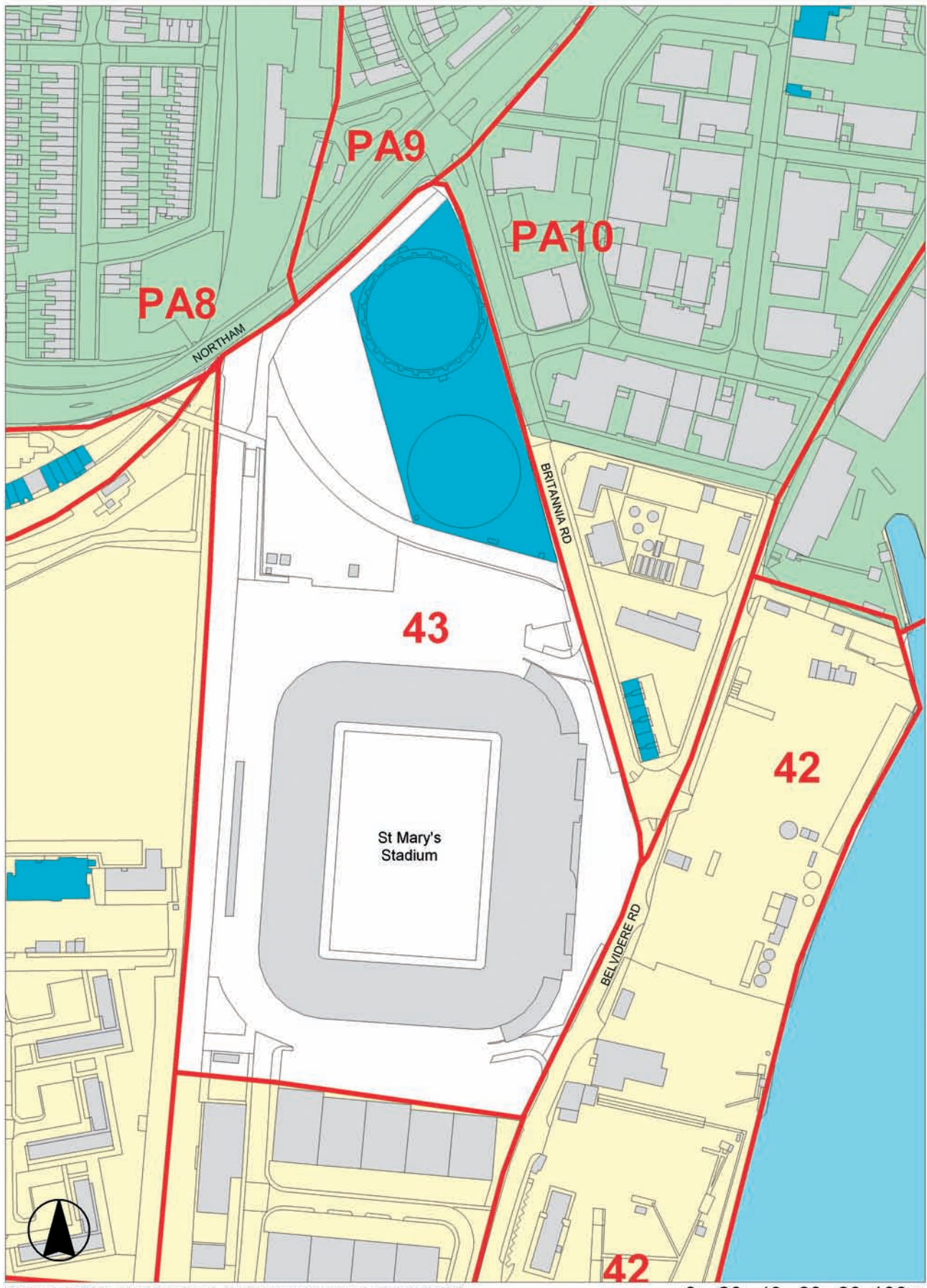


- 01** The gas holders viewed from the south-east  
**02** The lattice structure of the football stadium reflects the structure of the cranes on the waterfront  
**03** The principal elevation of the football stadium



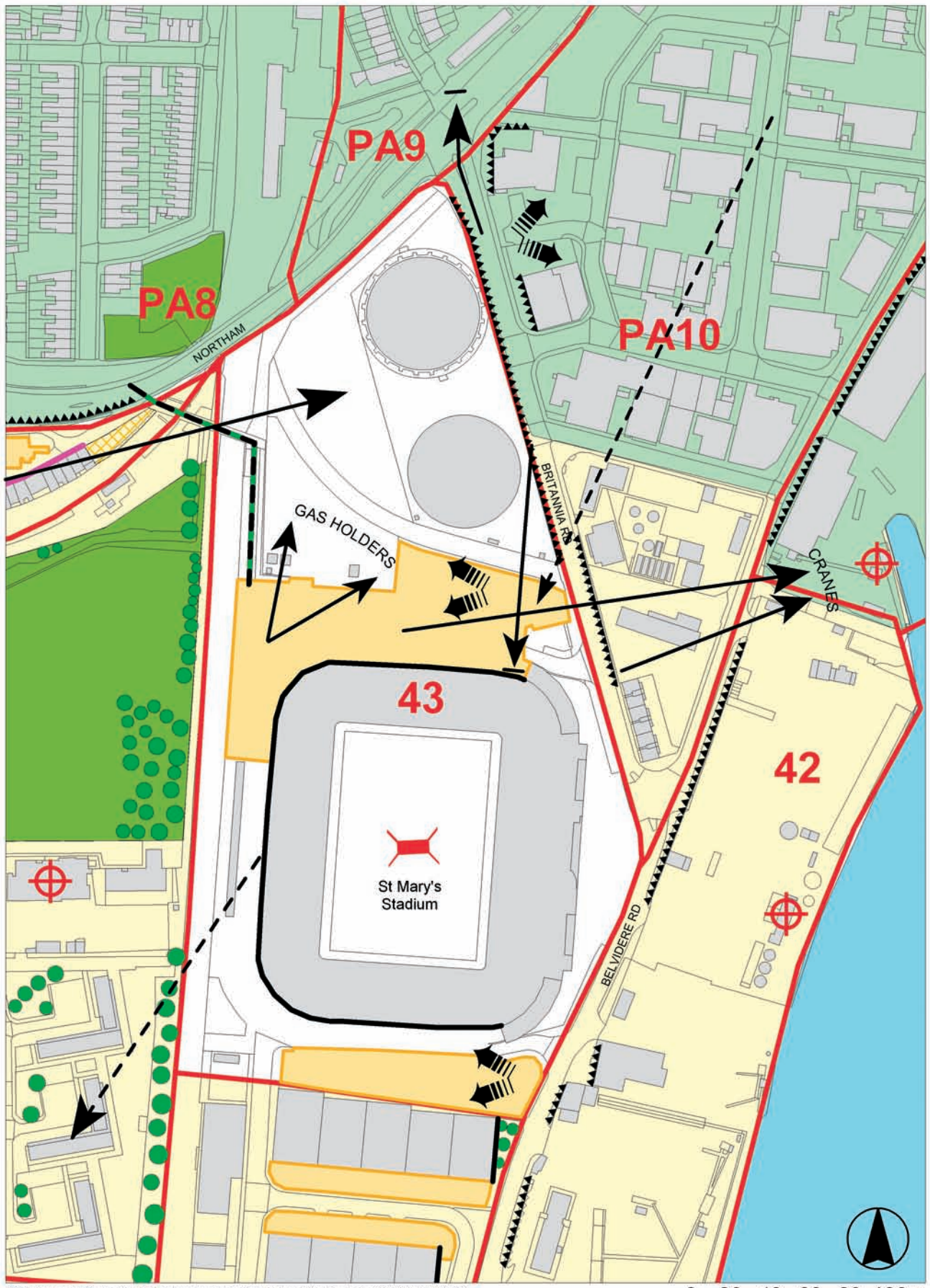
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**Heritage Assets**



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**Townscape**