

St Margaret's Plain History Panel

This document consists of three designs for the History Panel at St Margaret's Plain. Each one is slightly different (*although design 2 is an expansion on the layout of design 1*). After research was conducted by local historians, not many good photos of the site could be found, alongside limited information so the aim of these boards is to spark interest. The size of the designs makes large amount of contents (including photos and graphics) difficult, especially when considering accessibility.

Designs 1 & 2

As mentioned above, these two designs are the same in content but are developments on a layout. The panel consists of information and photos provided by local historians plus additional research undertaken by officers. This research was to bring context to the photos provided which were not mentioned in the original information. The result of this research was the them "*The many names of St Margaret's Plain*" as the area has been known by different names depending on its use and what was there.

Design 2 develops design 1 by looking like a "working wooden pin board". The use of pins and tape imagery makes the design look interactive with different textures, and highlights how things have been added to the area's history (and could keep being added!).

Design 3

This design simplifies the information received from the local historians. The design is meant to give a few, quick facts on the market history of the site, with the farmer graphic being a visual aid to younger people (and to encourage imaginative play with the market stall play equipment). The farmer also introduces the photograph, which gives them a character. The use of the photo provided from the 1950s and displayed in an interesting way encourages people to look to see what has changed. Additional interactivity with the panel could include questions linked to the history ("What would you sell at your market stall? etc.)

Conclusion

Feedback is welcome on the panel designs. There is a balance to be had between information and accessibility to young people (who this panel should be aimed at).

In terms of information, panel 2 is the best and the design/layout is different to other boards, whereas panel 3 is most suited to young children.

THE MANY NAMES OF ST MARGARET'S PLAIN

14th/15th Century - 'Fair Green'

During the 14th Century, this area was known as **Fair Green** (or **Fairstead**). The area held a Wednesday Market and Annual Fair from 1308 in honour of the town's patron saint St Margaret of Antioch.

In 1445, this became two six-monthly events, each lasting seven days!

Fairs in those days were largely for the trading of goods and livestock, but there would have been novelty attractions of some kind as well.

When the land wasn't being used for the fairs, the area was probably used for grazing animals.



Site of the Play Area (c.1950)

Photo Credit: Jack Rose Collection



The Infirmary

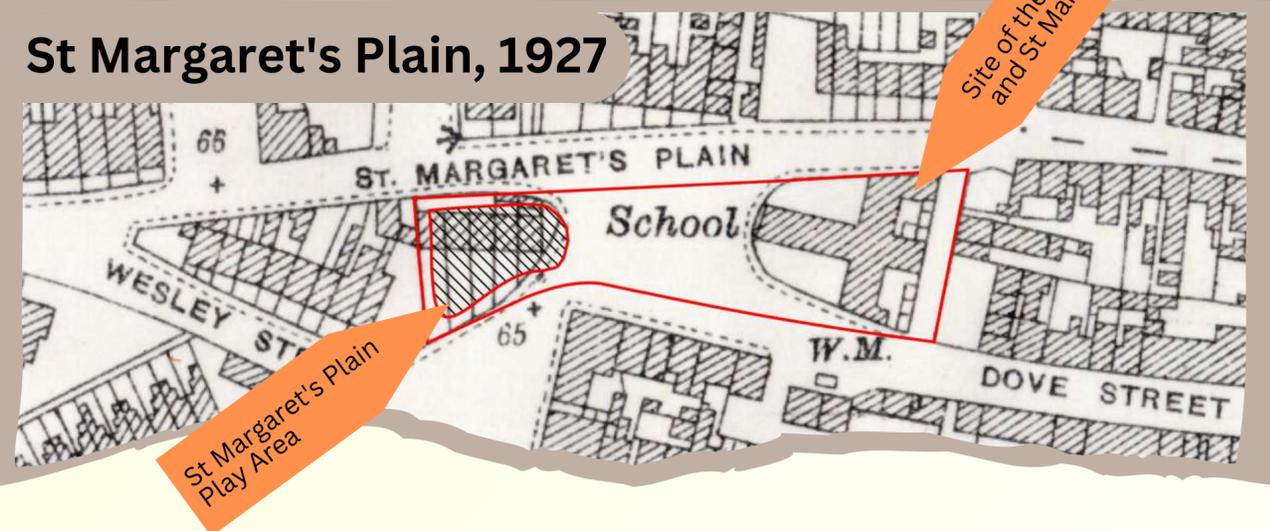
Photo Credit: Jack Rose Collection



The Former St Margaret School

Photo Credit: Jack Rose Collection

St Margaret's Plain, 1927



18th Century - 'Cage Green'

In 1748, Lowestoft was granted the right to hold legal sessions. With this, a small gaol or lock-up, known as "The Cage" was built on this site which became known as **Cage Green**. This was used to hold - on remand - people due to appear before the town's petty session or quarter sessions.

Circa 1839 - 'Infirmary Plain'

In 1839, an Infirmary was opened a short distance from the area which led to it being known as **Infirmary Plain**. The Infirmary is detailed to have had two wards, each with eight beds in. The Infirmary was later replaced in 1882 when Lowestoft Hospital opened on Tennyson Road.

Circa 1882 - 'St Margaret's Plain'

Following the closure of the Infirmary, the building was sold for £550 and converted into St. Margaret's National (all-age) School. This led to the area being named as **St Margaret's Plain** - a name it has kept to this day.

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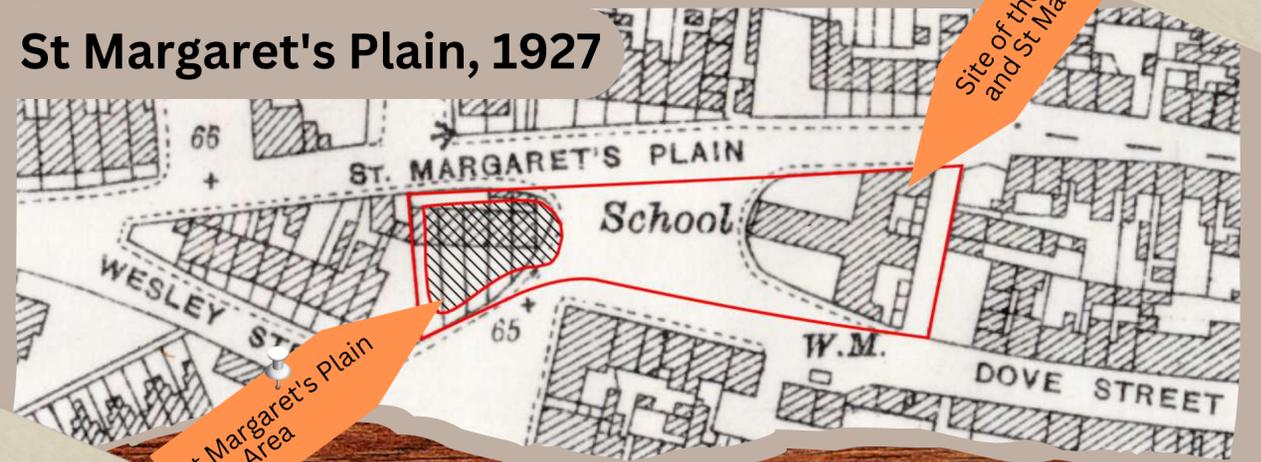
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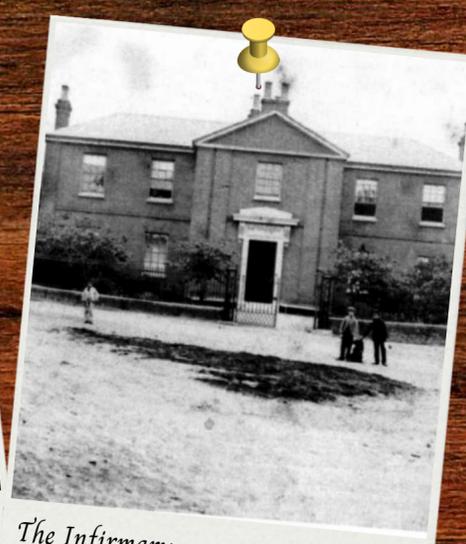
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Site of the Play Area (c.1950)

Photo Credit: Jack Rose Collection



The Infirmary

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The Former St Margaret School

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A Short History of St Margaret's Plain

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Fairs in those days were largely for the trading of **goods and livestock**, but there would have been novelty attractions of some kind as well.

When the land wasn't being used for the fairs, the area was probably used for **grazing animals**.

Photo credit: Jack Rose Collection



This photo shows what the area looked like in the 1950s - before there was a play area!

