



19, St Mary's Street, Bridgnorth Shropshire.

November 2017
V 1.0



aeon archaeology



Archaeological Watching Brief
Project Code: A0135.1
Report no. 0147



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**19, St Mary's Street, Bridgnorth
Shropshire.**

November 2017

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Archaeological Watching Brief

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Project Code: A0135.1

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Client: Mr. Warren Holland

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1.0 NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

Aeon Archaeology was commissioned to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the groundworks associated with the construction of a single storey extension to the rear elevation, following demolition of the existing extension, at no. 19 St Mary's Street, Bridgnorth, Shropshire WV16 4DW (NGR SO 71487 93128). (Planning permission: 17/03907/FUL):

The archaeological watching brief at the property revealed the existence of three post-medieval features including two circular pits, a linear pit and a sandstone planter within a foundation trench, all cut directly into the natural sand-clay substrata. The ceramics found within the lower fills of these features provided general dates alluding to the late 18th to early 19th century. A single sherd of medieval red-grey ware with green-glaze was found within the subsoil, suggesting that the ground to the rear of 19, St Mary's Street has been in use since at least the medieval period.

2.0 INTRODUCTION

Aeon Archaeology was commissioned by Mr Warren Holland, hereafter the Client, to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the groundworks associated with the construction of a single storey extension to the rear elevation, following demolition of the existing extension, at no. 19 St Mary's Street, Bridgnorth, Shropshire WV16 4DW (**NGR SO 71487 93128**). The property is a Grade II listed building (LB ref: 1053919) forming a group listing with no's. 12-14 and 18-20, and within the Bridgnorth conservation area.

A mitigation brief was not prepared for this scheme by the Natural and Historic Environment Manager at Shropshire Council but the following condition was applied to full planning permission (**17/03907/FUL**):

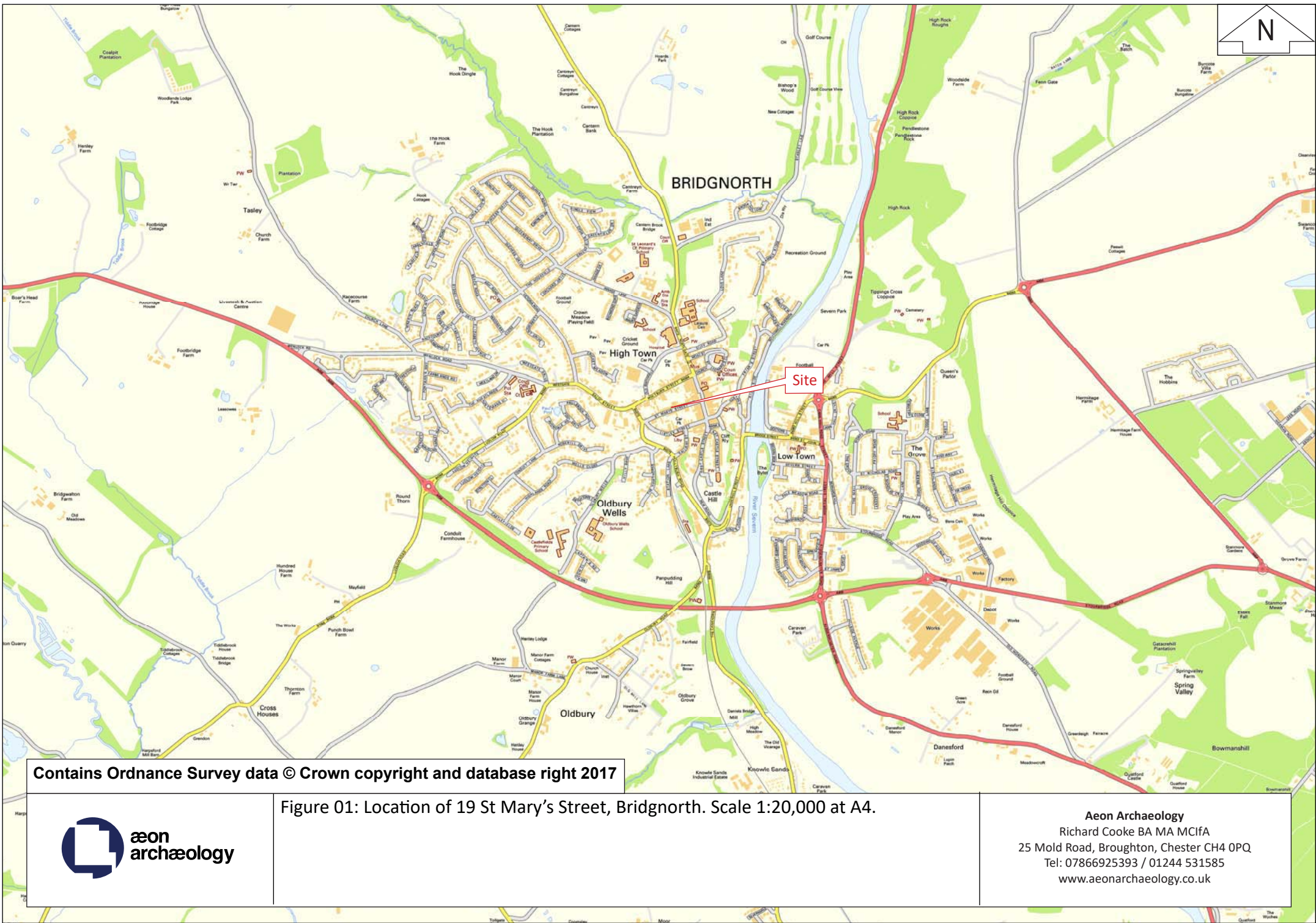
Condition 5

No development approved by this permission shall commence until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation (WSI). This written scheme shall be approved in writing by the Planning Authority prior to the commencement of works.

Reason: The site is known to hold archaeological interest.

The use of such a condition is in line with guidance set out in paragraph 141, Section 12 (Conserving and Enhancing the Historic Environment) of the National Planning Policy Framework (2012), published by the Department for Communities and Local Government; Policy MD13 of the SAMDev component of the Shropshire Local Plan; and Managing Significance in Decision Taking in the Historic Environment, Historic Environment Good Practice Advice in Planning: 2 (Historic England 2015)

The work will adhere to the guidelines specified in *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Brief* (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2014).

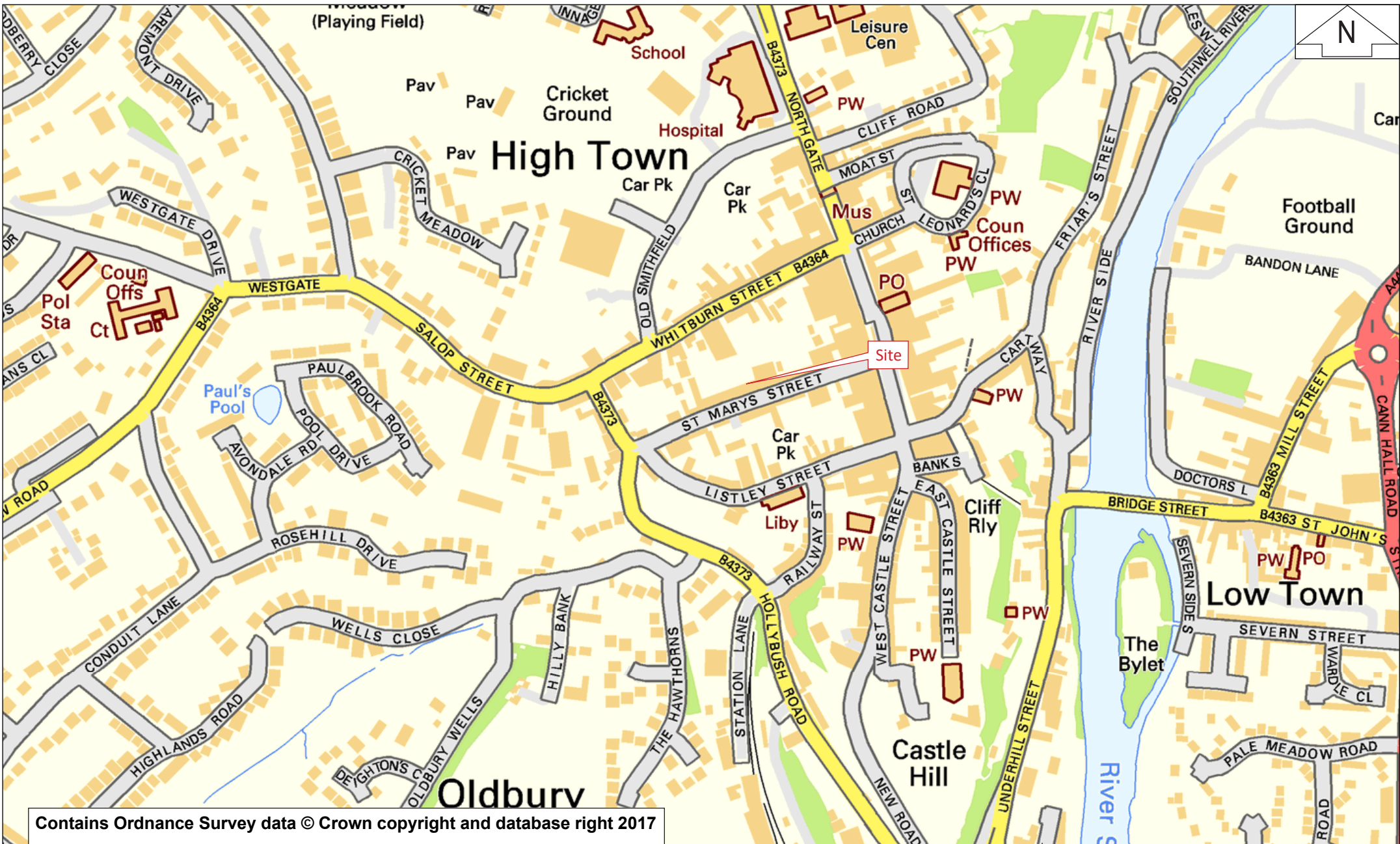


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Figure 01: Location of 19 St Mary's Street, Bridgnorth. Scale 1:20,000 at A4.



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Figure 02: Location of 19 St Mary's Street, Bridgnorth. Scale 1:5,000 at A4.



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3.0 SITE LOCATION AND HISTORY

The proposed development site lies within the historic medieval core of the town of Bridgnorth (Shropshire Historic Environment Record [HER] PRN 06044) as defined by the Central Marches Historic Towns Survey, within a group of tenement plots between Whitburn Street and St Marys Street (PRN 05642). No 19 St Mary's Street is an 18th century terraced house protected as a Grade II Listed Building (National Ref. 1053919). The proposed development site can therefore be deemed to have some archaeological potential and any below ground archaeological remains are likely to be affected by groundworks associated with the proposed development.

Bridgnorth is mentioned in historical records as early as 895AD when the Danes set up a camp at *Cwatbridge* which may have been the contemporary site of Bridgenorth or Quatford down the river Severn (approx. 3.8 miles). In 912AD Ethelfleda, a lady of Mercia and King Alfred's daughter, built a castle at 'Bridge' and in the same year, Roger de Montgomery founded a church at Quatford dedicated to St Mary Magdalene. Robert de Belleme (Montgomery) succeeded as Earl in 1098AD and in 1101AD he transferred both church and borough to the site of modern day Bridgnorth.

Bridgnorth Castle was founded in 1101AD by the same Robert de Belleme who became the Earl of Shrewsbury. The castle was besieged in 1102AD by Henry I who took it from Robert de Belleme. The town then began to extend into the High Street and became a '*Royal Peculiar*'. This meant its church was not subject to a bishop's rule, and the king became its Patron. It was not until 1157AD that Bridgnorth received its first Royal charter. The stone-constructed town wall at Bridgnorth was built in the reign of Henry III replacing a wooden stockade but by 1260AD this stockade had been almost completely replaced by a strong stone wall.

In 1646AD Bridgnorth was held for the King during the Civil War, but on 31st March, Parliamentary forces forcibly entered St Leonard's Close. Some of the guards were killed, and Colonel Billingsley, the Royalists' leader, was mortally wounded and died. The Royalists retreated back inside the Castle, setting fire to some stables in Listley Street (not far from Bridgnorth Library). St Leonard's Church was also set alight by incendiary 'bombs' fired from the northeast tower of the Castle. This caused ammunition stored inside the Church to explode and burning timbers were scattered all over the High Town starting the Great Fire of 1646AD.

For many centuries, Bridgnorth was an extremely busy river port. Merchandise was ferried downriver in trows or barges and pulled up the river by teams of four to eight men harnessed to a tow rope. Bridgnorth's early trades included malting, tanning, weaving, nailers, drapers and iron founders. Between 1804AD and 1815AD steam locomotives were built at Hazeldine's Foundry in Low Town on the eastern side of the Severn. One famous locomotive called *Catch Me Who Can* was built in 1808AD and was the first steam locomotive to draw fare paying passengers, at one shilling a ride. River trade began to decline with the opening of the railway in 1862AD, and in 1895AD the last barge came down the river, the last trow being built in 1868AD. In 1891AD the Cliff Railway was opened and is now the only inland inclined railway in England, operating a service throughout the year. Other notable buildings are the seventeenth century Bridgnorth Town Hall, the surviving northern town gate and Daniel's Mill - an historic iron watermill is situated a short distance along the River Severn from Bridgnorth.

Until 1961AD the Royal Air Force's initial recruit training unit was at RAF Bridgnorth, a station opened in 1939AD. During the Second World War, two women were killed during a German air raid in August 1940AD when bombs hit neighbouring houses in High Town. Some historians postulate that it was Hitler's intention to make Bridgnorth his personal headquarters in Britain, due to its central position in the UK, rural location, rail connections and now-disused airfield.

(From website; *About Bridgnorth* and Buteux V. et al 1996)

4.0 METHODOLOGY

4.1 Archaeological Watching Brief

The methodology for the watching brief was prepared with reference to the CIfA's document *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Brief* (2014) and was kept under constant review during the project, in order to see how far it met the terms of the aims and objectives, and in order to adopt any new questions which should they have arisen.

Curatorial monitoring of the archaeological work was carried out by the Planning Officer (Archaeology) at Shropshire county council.

A suitably qualified and experienced archaeologist from Aeon Archaeology was commissioned for the maintenance of the watching brief. On arrival on site, the archaeologist reported to the site manager and conformed to the arrangements for notification of entering and leaving site. The archaeologist kept a record of the date, time and duration of all attendances at site, the names and numbers of archaeologists deployed and any actions taken. The archaeologist was provided with a Health & Safety Induction by the construction contractor and wore a safety helmet, safety footwear and high visibility jacket/vest at all times.

All of the archaeological deposits, features and structures identified were investigated and recorded under the terms of the watching brief and were excavated manually in a controlled and stratigraphic manner sufficient to address the aims and objectives of the project.

The method of recording followed the normal principles of stratigraphic excavation and the stratigraphy was recorded by written descriptions even where no archaeological deposits were identified. The archaeologist recorded archaeological deposits using proformae recording forms and located them on a large-scale site plan related to the Ordnance Survey National Grid and Datum references.

The groundworks excavations were undertaken using a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket.

The drawn record comprised of plans at scale 1:20 and sections drawn at scale 1:10; propriety electronic hardware and software to prepare site drawings was used as appropriate.

A photographic record was maintained throughout, using a digital SLR camera (Canon 600D) set to maximum resolution and any subsurface remains were also recorded photographically, with detailed notations and measured drawings being undertaken where required.

The archive produced is held at Aeon Archaeology under the project code **A0135.1**.

4.2.1 Post-excavation Assessment

This report on the results of the watching brief, in accordance with the recommendations in *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment Project Manager's Guide* (English Heritage 2006; 2015), and in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists *Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (2014) has now been produced upon conclusion of the archaeological fieldwork.

4.2.2 Post-excavation Report

This report includes the following:

- A non-technical summary.
- A table of contents.
- An introduction with acknowledgements, including a list of all those involved in the project and the location and description of the site.
- A statement of the project aims.
- An account of the project methodology undertaken, with an assessment of the same to include a statement on preservation bias and the means of data collection and sampling strategies.
- A factual summary of the history, development and use of the site.
- A statement setting out the nature, quantity and condition of the material archive (artefacts and ecofacts) including commentary on any bias observed due to collection and sampling strategies and commentary on long-term storage requirements.
- A statement setting out the nature and quantity of the documentary archive (notes, photographs, drawings, digital data).
- A general site plan indicating the position and size of the areas subject to watching brief and the locations of archaeological deposits identified and recorded during the works.
- Plans and sections at appropriate scales, augmented with appropriate photographs. All plans and sections will be related to the Ordnance Survey datum levels and to the
- National Grid.
- Other maps, plans, drawings, stratigraphic matrices and photographs as appropriate.
- Summary assessment reports on the artefact, bio-archaeological, dating and other assessments/analyses.
- A discussion of the location, extent, date, nature, condition, quality and significance of any archaeological deposits and finds identified during the project.
- A discussion of any research implications arising from the archaeological work.
- Notes on consultations with conservators and the nominated archive repository related to the immediate and long-term conservation and storage requirements for the data held in the site archive and recommendations of retention/discard of artefacts and ecofacts.
- A bibliography of sources consulted.
- Appendices to the report will include artefact catalogues, reports on assessments/analyses and an index to the project archive and a statement on its location/proposed repository.
- In addition the post-excavation report will summarise and draw together the findings of all of the phases of work.

4.3 Archive

A full archive including plans, photographs, written material and any other material resulting from the project has been prepared. All plans, photographs and descriptions have been labelled, and cross-referenced, and upon approval from the Client copies of the report will be sent to the Shropshire Historic Environment Record, the Planning Officer (Archaeology) at Shropshire County Council, and the OASIS online database.

5.0 QUANTIFICATION OF RESULTS

5.1 The Documentary Archive

The following documentary records were created during the archaeological watching brief:

Watching brief day record sheets	3
Digital photographs	78
Context sheets	19
Drawings	2 on 1 sheet

6.0 SPECIALIST ANALYSIS – ARTEFACTS

Summary

The 19, St. Mary's Street, Bridgnorth ceramic finds assemblage comprised the following range of artefacts: 10 sherds of post-medieval pottery and 1 sherd of medieval pottery. The finds span a period between the mid 13th century and the early 19th century.

Artefact Category	Post-Medieval Pottery		Medieval Pottery		Animal bone	
	No.	Wt.	No.	Wt.	No.	Wt.
(1001)	1	29g				
(1002)	1	130g	1	75g		
(1004)	1	12g			1	23g
(1011)	5	98g				
(1019)	1	5g			2	40g
Total	11	291g	1	75g	3	43g

Table 1: Quantification of all finds by category and context

Post-Medieval Pottery

Two ware groups were identified; these were a fragment of alkaline glazed stoneware (probably from a jar) and a yellow glazed bone china (body sherd of a plate).

Wares	Willow Pattern		Redware – Black Glaze		Redware – Brown Glaze		Cistercian Ware	
	No.	Wt.	No.	Wt.	No.	Wt.	No.	Wt.
(1001)	1	29g						
(1002)			1	130g				
(1004)							1	12g
(1011)					2	66g	3	32g
(1019)					1	5g		

Table 2: Quantification of post-medieval pottery by ware group and context

Context (1001)

This context produced a single body sherd of a blue and white transferware with willow pattern. The geometric motifs borders tend to incorporate honeycombs, lozenges, and grid patterns and are found

most typically in conjunction with Chinese and Chinoiserie central motifs. They have a peak production between 1818 and 1829AD, which suggests a date at the start of the 19th century.

Context (1002)

This context produced a single large base sherd of lead glazed red-ware storage vessel; the date for this relates from the late 17th century onwards and these wares are largely appreciated as domestic.

Context (1004)

This context produced a single small base sherd of lead glazed Cistercian ware cup or tyg; dark-red, typical hard red earthenware with a black or iron-brown metallic-appearing glaze with very small white specks within the glaze. These wares were discovered during excavations of Cistercian abbeys in Yorkshire hence the name, but were generally distributed through the market towns of the North Midlands between 1475-1700AD.

Context (1011)

This context produced three sherds of Cistercian ware, 2 rim sherds which fitted together and a single body sherd. Furthermore it produced two sherds of glazed red earthenware with brown glaze; the clay fabric is smooth, and a biscuit in colour. Lots of different types of pots were made with this design choice and method, particularly very large bowls, cooking pots and cauldrons. Almost all of them have shiny, good-quality orange, green or clear glaze on the inner surface, and sometimes on the outside as well. They generally date from the mid-17th century to the 19th century AD. The Cistercian ware rim sherds projected to a rim size of 145mm possibly suggesting that it was a large jug type vessel.

Context (1019)

A single pottery body sherd, with a fine hard biscuit coloured fabric with a thick streaky brown glaze internally and externally. The suggested date is somewhere between 1700-1800AD.

Medieval Pottery

Context (1002)

This context produced a single body sherd of red-grey ware with green/brown glaze on interior and partially on exterior. Red/grey wares were made from clays local to North Wales, Cheshire and the West Midlands from at least the mid-late 13th century. This sherd is of a red/grey firing ware, vessels manufactured in this ware were commonly jars, jugs and bowls, and were widely distributed across Cheshire, North Wales, and North Shropshire.

There were numerous sources producing a variety of jars, bowls, and both plain and decorated jugs in this ware from the mid-13th century, including Audlem and Ashton, both in Cheshire, and Rhuddlan in Flintshire. The dominance of this ware at Caergwrle Castle has been interpreted as suggesting that one production site may lie in the region between Chester and Wrexham.

Conclusion

The recovered ceramic sherds were mostly of post-medieval date with a date range between the late 15th century and the late 19th century. The recovery of Cistercian wares from within the contexts (1004) and (1011) promotes the notion that these were later examples of the ware; these features had been cut into the subsoil (1002) which presumably originated from the time of the great fire of Bridgnorth 1646AD. The single sherd of red/grey ware (mid to late 13th century) is very much a residual find which appears to have been transported into the subsoil from an earlier archaeological period via an unidentified anthropogenic process. The ceramic analysis from this report has allowed for the satisfactory dating of the features at 19, St. Mary's, Bridgnorth.

7.0 RESULTS OF THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

The archaeological watching brief was maintained on 10th-11th and the 16th-17th October 2017 during the excavation of a foundation trench for the single storey extension to the rear of the property at 19, St. Mary's Street, Bridgenorth. During the excavations archaeological contexts were assigned where relevant and are shown in brackets. Details of contexts are presented in appendix I.

7.1 Excavation of south eastern sub rounded pit

Description

The archaeological watching brief was maintained while the garden area to the rear of the property was levelled in advance of excavation of the foundation trench. During this process approximately 0.43m of a firm, dark black-brown clay-sand-silt topsoil (1001) was removed as was 0.22m of a quite firm, mid-orange-brown sand-silt subsoil (1002) with very frequent charcoal flecks.

This deposit (1002) was cut by a sub rounded pit [1003] in the south-eastern corner of the site, the western extent of this pit extended beyond the limit of excavation to the east. It measured > 1.10m wide by 0.87m long and was orientated approximately north to south. Once excavated the sides of the pit were gradual on the northern side with a comparatively gentler break of slope at the top of the cut, however the southern side was almost vertical with a sharp break of slope near the top. The sides led to a narrow concave base.

The pit [1003] was cut through a > 0.47m deposit of the mid-orange-brown sand-silt (1002) subsoil and on its southern side a > 0.41m deposit of a very firm, dark black-brown clay-sand-silt (1014) with very frequent large to small sub-rounded/sub- angular cobbles and small boulders.

This cut had a primary fill of a 0.15m deep firm mid-orange-brown sand-silt (1010) with very occasional small sub-rounded cobbles. The secondary fill of the pit consisted of a 0.32m deep deposit of fairly loose, dark black-brown sand-silt (1004) with very frequent fragments of ceramic building materials (CBM), frequent charcoal lumps and fragments and very occasional sub-rounded small cobble and pebble inclusions

Discussion

The subsoil (1002) appears to have been a possible relict garden surface; owing to its relatively firm compaction and the prevalence of anthropogenic materials (CBM, pottery fragments and charcoal content) when compared with the archaeologically inert, softer imported topsoil (1001) above it. It was within this deposit in the immediate vicinity above the pit [1003] that a single sherd of medieval red-grey ceramic was uncovered. This find provided the rationale for the complete excavation of the sub rounded pit [1003] in order to establish its origin. However upon excavation of the pit there were no other finds from this period and both deposits within the pit were assigned dates from the post medieval period due to relative dates derived from ceramic analysis. The single medieval sherd was most likely a residual find that had been laid down sometime after the mid-13th century and that was subsequently moved to its found location above the post medieval pit; probably via anthropogenic or bioturbation processes after the excavation of [1003] and backfilling (1002) of the post medieval pit.

7.2 Excavation of the north-eastern sandstone planter

The second feature to be uncovered during the levelling process prior to the excavation of the foundation trench was the foundation cut [1005] which contained a presumed sandstone planter. This feature was also cut into the subsoil (1002) and was located to the immediate north of the pit [1003]. As with the pit [1003] the western extent of [1005] extended beyond the limit of excavation to the

east. It measured 1.40m wide by > 0.70m long and was orientated approximately north to south once more. Upon excavation of the upper deposit (described below) a course of seven large rough-hewn sub-angular sandstone cobbles and small boulders were uncovered, below these stones were two small angular sandstone boulders – these stones were unbonded by mortar. The cut [1005] that the stones had been placed in had stepped sides with a sharp break of slope at both sides of the cut, with a flat base.

The tertiary fill (1006) of the sandstone planter cut [1003] was a 0.04m deep deposit of very loose, light white-grey silt with very occasional burnt small angular pebbles – this deposit overlaid the sub-angular sandstone blocks. This overlaid the secondary fill (1011) which consisted of 0.32m deep deposit of very loose light red-brown sand-silt with very frequent red tile fragments and small sub-angular pebbles and occasional small sub-angular cobbles – this deposit was 0.09m wide (max) and was contained within the bounds of the sub-angular sandstone blocks. The primary fill (1012) constituted 0.25m of a firm dark orange-brown sand-silt with very frequent flecks of charcoal – this deposit was also 0.09m wide (max) and also seemed to be contained within the confines of the sandstone blocks.

Discussion

The sandstone planter appeared to have been a garden feature which had previously been located towards the south-eastern corner of the garden. There appears to have been a rectilinear pit excavated against the garden's eastern boundary, in order to receive the sub-angular sandstone cobbles (upper course) and boulders (lower course) which formed a drywall constructed planter. At the time of excavation during the watching brief; the planter was roughly level with the subsoil/relict land surface (1002), it is possible that this construction was more substantial at some point with further courses continuing below the ground surface, however there is no evidence of this.

Following the placement of the sandstone blocks in the stratigraphic sequence came the primary fill (1012) which contained a high quantity of charcoal. The secondary fill (1011) was the most concentrated of the backfill events associated with the planter. The red tile and sandstone fragments and the pottery sherds contained within a homogenous red-brown silt-sand matrix alludes to a single event in time relating to the disposal of material – possibly associated with the re-use of the sandstone planter as a convenient refuse pit. The tertiary fill (1006) was the final event associated with the planter; an ash layer that was apparently disposed of, covering both the in-fill of the planter but also covered the sandstone blocks themselves. The matrix of the ashes was homogenous with only very small inclusions suggests domestic activity as opposed to industrial. Furthermore the dry appearance (upon excavation), the bright white/grey colour and well spread out context of the ashes may correlate to a hot temperature state in which these ashes were disposed of.

7.3 Excavation of north – south linear ditch

Upon excavation of the foundation trench for the extension to the dwelling at 19, St Mary's Street a ditch was revealed in the southern most east-west footing trench; the ditch was linear in plan and was orientated north to south. It measured > 0.60m long by 1.22m wide and was 1.40m deep.

This feature was cut [1017] through a 0.22m layer of demolition and debris (1014) that was located in a contained area along the southern extremity of the excavation area, through 0.75m the subsoil/relict land surface (1002) and 0.43m into a firm, mid brown-orange sand (1015) which constituted the natural glacial substrata.

This ditch had a 0.74m deep primary fill of firm mid-grey-brown silt-clay (1019) with very frequent small sub-rounded/angular cobbles near its base and frequent small sub-rounded/angular boulders located closer to centre in an almost vertical line. The secondary fill of the pit consisted of a 0.63m deep deposit of fairly firm, dark grey-brown (with black mottling) clay-silt (1018) with frequent small

sub-rounded/sub-angular cobbles and frequent charcoal flecks and fragments of butchered animal bone.

Discussion

The linear feature aligned north to south to the rear of 19 St. Mary's Street may be a drainage ditch/gulley or a historic boundary – its function is difficult to reliably ascertain; the presence of a clay silt (1018) combined with the rounded nature of the pebbles and cobbles within this upper fill (1018) allude to the movement of water, however there is unsatisfactory evidence to refer to it as a drainage ditch and the clay at the base may refer to prolonged periods of a scarcity of water flow. Furthermore if it were a boundary it is not shown on the 25 inch OS Maps 1888-1913 therefore suggesting it was a not a boundary ditch during this time, this is not say it was not an earlier boundary. The pottery dating evidence places this feature within the post medieval period; sometime after the fire in Bridgnorth in 1645AD and before 1850AD. Therefore all that may be supposed reliably about the linear feature is that it was a post medieval ditch of unknown function.

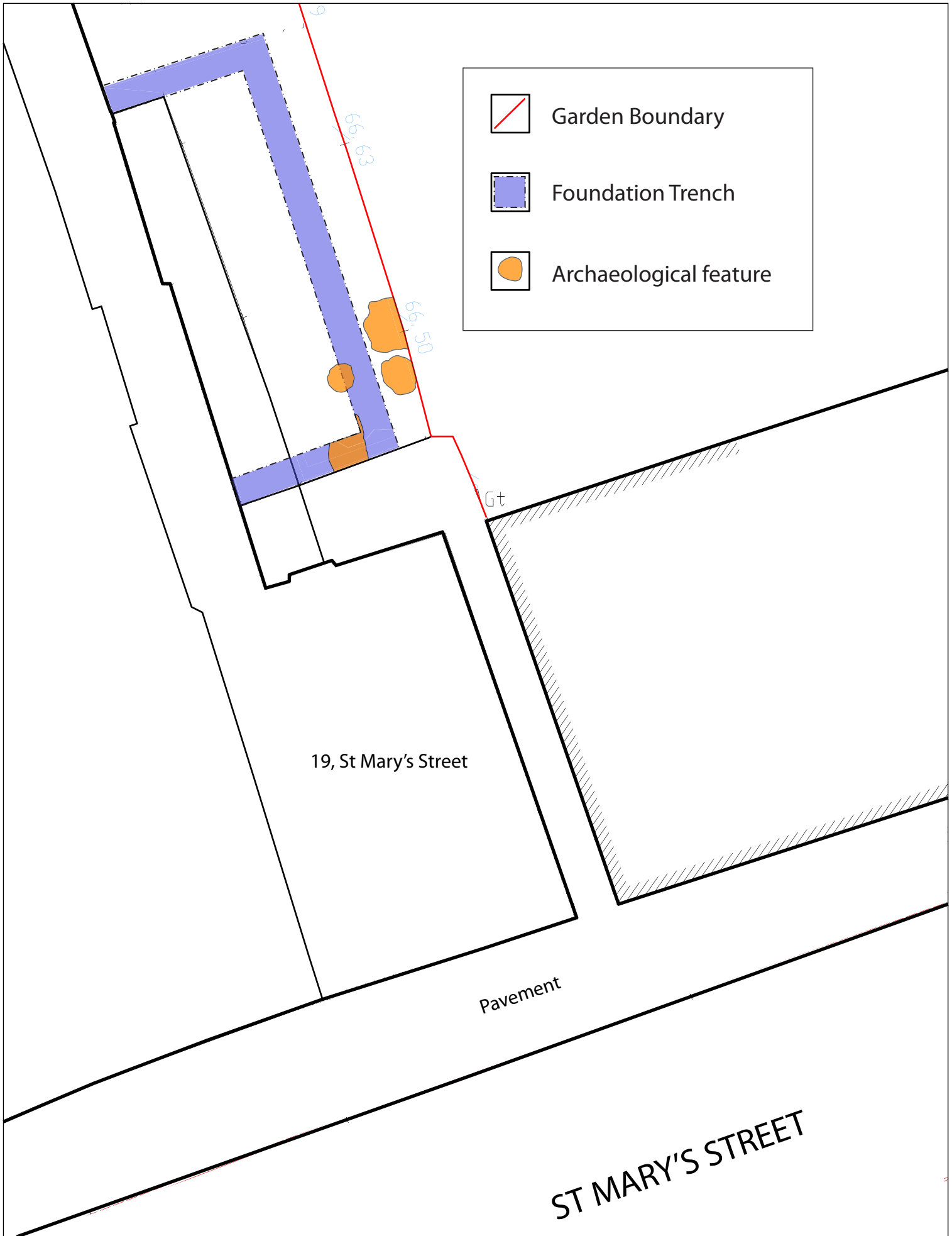


Figure 03. Location of archaeological features at 19, St, Mary's Street, Bridgenorth. Scale: 1:200 @ A4.

Levels

TBM = 0.66m

BS = 1.56m

IH = 2.22m

RL's

1 = 0.63m

2 = 0.68m

3 = 0.09m

4 = 0.53m

5 = 0.55m

6 = 0.10m

7 = 0.49m

8 = 0.59m

9 = 0.51m

10 = 0.57m

11 = 0.61m

KEY

 Sandstone

DWG 02

SHT 01

N



[1005]

(1002)

(1006)

(1015)

(1002)

[1003]

(1002)

Foundation Trench

DWG 01

SHT 01

(1002)

(1013)

(1014)

(1018)

[1017]

(1015)

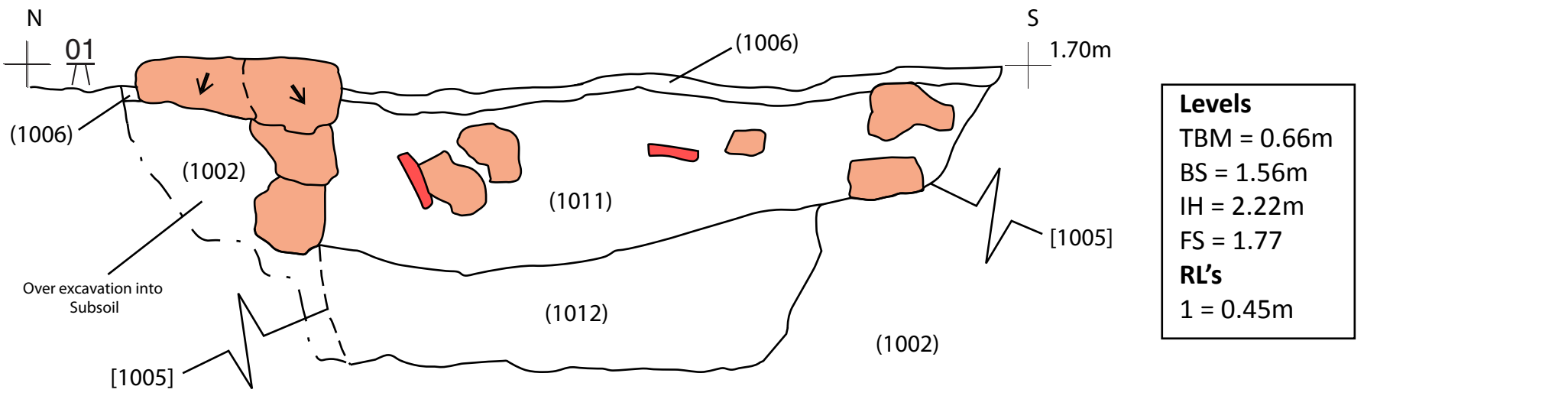
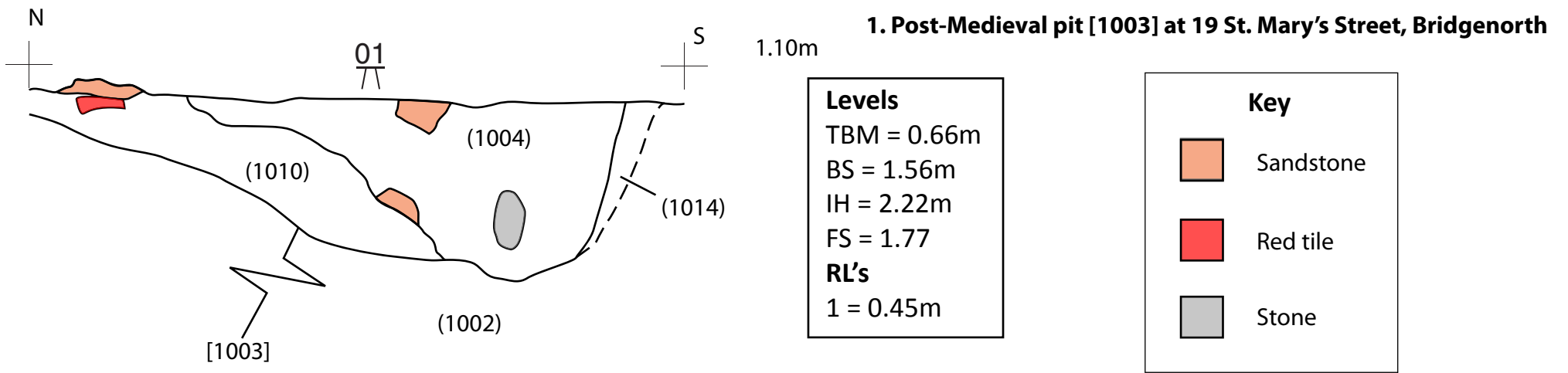
brick patio

1:20



Figure 04. Plan of archaeological features and levels at 19, St, Mary's Street, Bridgenorth (Located on Figure 03). Scale: 1:20 @ A4.

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1:10



Figure 05. Archaeological sections of features at 19, St, Mary's Street, Bridgenorth.
 (1. Post-Medieval pit, 2. Post-Medieval sandstone planter) Scale: 1:10 @ A4.

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Plate 01: Pre excavation shot - from the south - scale 1m



Plate 02: Pre excavation shot - from the north - scale 1m



Plate 03: Pre excavation shot (imported topsoil) - from the southwest - scale 0.50m



Plate 04: Post excavation shot - from the north - scale 1m



Plate 05: Pre excavation shot [1005] & [1003] (left and right) - from the west - scale 1m



Plate 06: Section of [1003] - shot in plan - from the west - scale 0.50m



Plate 07: Section of [1003] - from the west - scale 0.50m



Plate 08: Pit [1003] Excavated in full - from the west - scale 1m



Plate 09: Section of Pit [1003] Excavated in full - from the west - scale 1m



Plate 10: Sandstone blocks within [1005] - from the north - 0.50m scale



Plate 11: Sandstone blocks removed [1005] - from the north - 0.50m scale



Plate 12: Section of [1005] - shot in plan - from the west - scale 1m



Plate 13: Section of [1005] - from the west - scale 0.50m



Plate 14: Oblique shot of section [1017] - from the northwest - scale 1m



Plate 15: Southern footing trench, showing [1017] in foreground - (east-west trench) - from the east - 1m scale



Plate 16: Eastern footing trench - (north-south trench) - from the south - 1m scale



Plate 17: Northern footing trench - (east-west trench) - from the east - 1m scale



Plate 18: Box excavation for concrete pad - from the northeast - scale 1m



Plate 19: Generic section within foundation trench - from the north - scale 1m

8.0 CONCLUSION

The archaeological watching brief at 19, St. Mary's Street, Bridgenorth Shropshire revealed the remains of three post-medieval features. There was a small sub-rounded pit [1003] in the southeast area of the garden and a backfilled sandstone garden planter [1005] cut into the subsoil to the immediate north of pit [1003]. These features were allotted relative dates with the use of pottery sherd evidence that had been found within the backfilled material that had been deposited within their fills. The third feature was a linear ditch [1017] which has also been dated to the post-medieval period using the ceramic evidence, however its function is less reliably established – it is not shown on the 25 inch OS Maps 1888 - 1913 which makes it difficult allocate it as a boundary ditch although its alignment supports such an interpretation.

The features that were present to the rear of 19 St, Mary's street can be said to help us to characterise some of the decisions of its previous occupants. These pits were excavated in order to facilitate practical solutions, as in the sub-rounded refuse pit, but also in order to derive benefits from social or cultural incentives, as evidenced by the sandstone planter. The ceramic evidence also alludes to a continuation of domestic life despite the devastation wrought on Bridgnorth following the fire of 1645AD, the evidence of which is present in the subsoil (1002) of the garden which has very frequent charcoal fleck inclusions. The linear ditch may reference an earlier phase in the archaeological record but due to the limited archaeological evidence recovered from the feature and the inability of the documentary evidence to support any of the proposed interpretations, this feature cannot be characterised satisfactorily.

Apart from the discovery of these post-medieval features there were no other archaeological remains found and it is the recommendation of this report that the archaeological condition associated with planning permission be discharged.

9.0 SOURCES

OS Maps

OS 1:10 000 Series sheet SO 79 NE, SO 79 SE, SO 79 SW and SO 79 NW.

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APPENDIX I – DETAILS OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXTS

Context	Description
1001	Topsoil & Turf.
1002	Relict Surface/Subsoil
1003	Cut of south eastern sub-rounded pit
1004	Secondary fill of [1003]
1005	Cut of sandstone planter
1006	Tertiary fill [1005]
1007	Void
1008	Void
1009	Void
1010	Primary fill of [1003]
1011	Secondary fill of [1005]
1012	Primary fill of [1005]
1013	Cut of demolition layer
1014	Demolition layer
1015	<i>Sand Natural</i>
1016	Void
1017	Cut of linear pit
1018	Secondary fill of [1017]
1019	Primary fill of [1017]

**APPENDIX II – WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL
WATCHING BRIEF**



**19 St Mary's Street, Bridgnorth,
Shropshire WV16 4DW.**

**Written Scheme of Investigation
for Archaeological Watching Brief.**

October 2017 v1.0

aeon archaeology



Project Code: A0135.1
Planning Ref: 17/03907/FUL

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

Aeon Archaeology has been commissioned by Mr Warren Holland, hereafter the Client, to provide a written scheme of investigation (WSI) for carrying out an archaeological watching brief during the groundworks associated with the construction of a single storey extension to the rear elevation, following demolition of the existing extension, at no. 19 St Mary's Street, Bridgnorth, Shropshire WV16 4DW (NGR SO 71487 93128). The property is a Grade II listed building (LB ref: 1053919) forming a group listing with no's. 12-14 and 18-20, and within the Bridgnorth conservation area.

A mitigation brief was not prepared for this scheme by the Natural and Historic Environment Manager at Shropshire Council but the following condition was imposed upon full planning permission (17/03907/FUL):

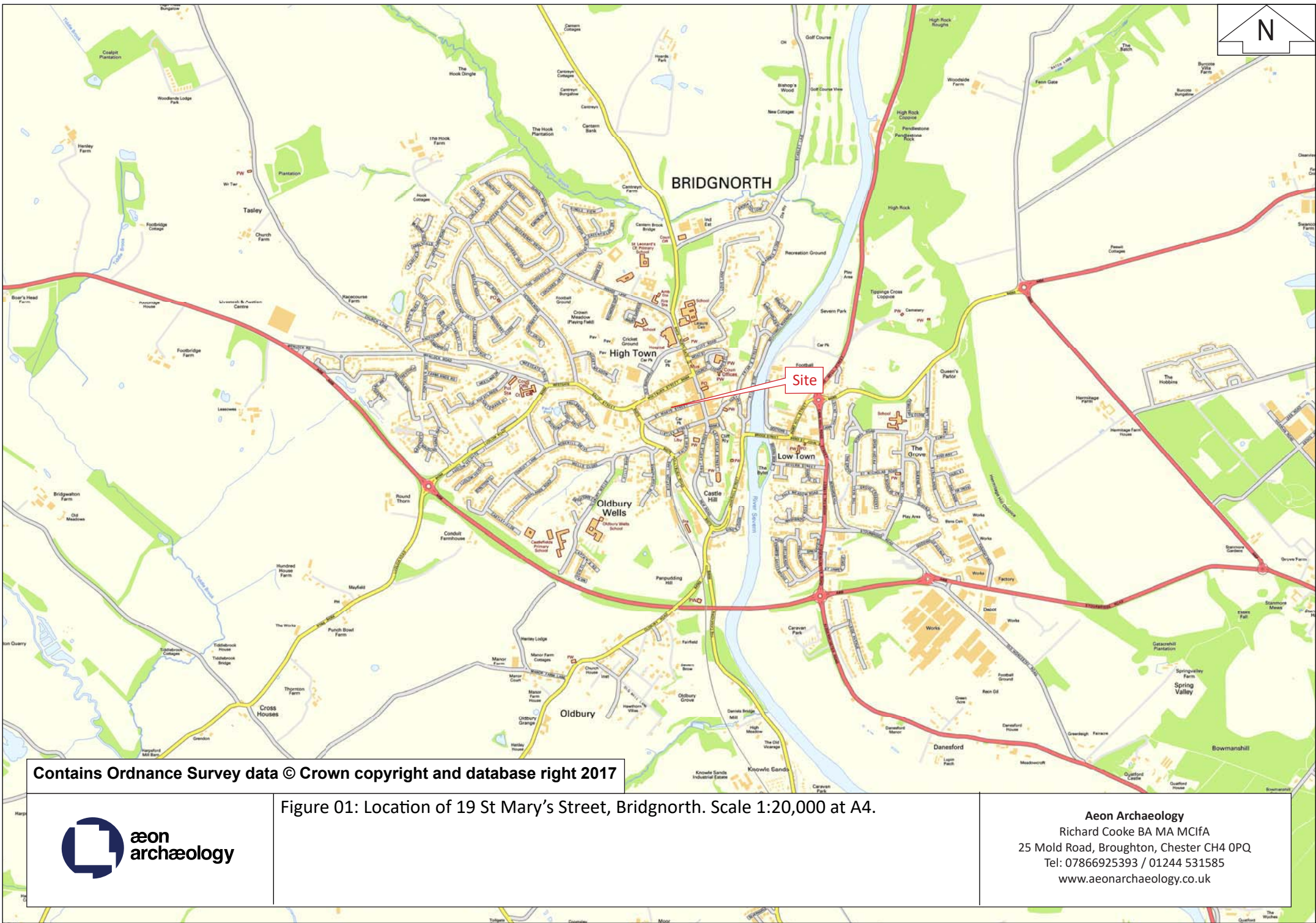
Condition 5

No development approved by this permission shall commence until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation (WSI). This written scheme shall be approved in writing by the Planning Authority prior to the commencement of works.

Reason: The site is known to hold archaeological interest.

The use of such a condition is in line with guidance set out in paragraph 141, Section 12 (Conserving and Enhancing the Historic Environment) of the National Planning Policy Framework (2012), published by the Department for Communities and Local Government; Policy MD13 of the SAMDev component of the Shropshire Local Plan; and Managing Significance in Decision Taking in the Historic Environment, Historic Environment Good Practice Advice in Planning: 2 (Historic England 2015)

The work will adhere to the guidelines specified in Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Brief (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2014).

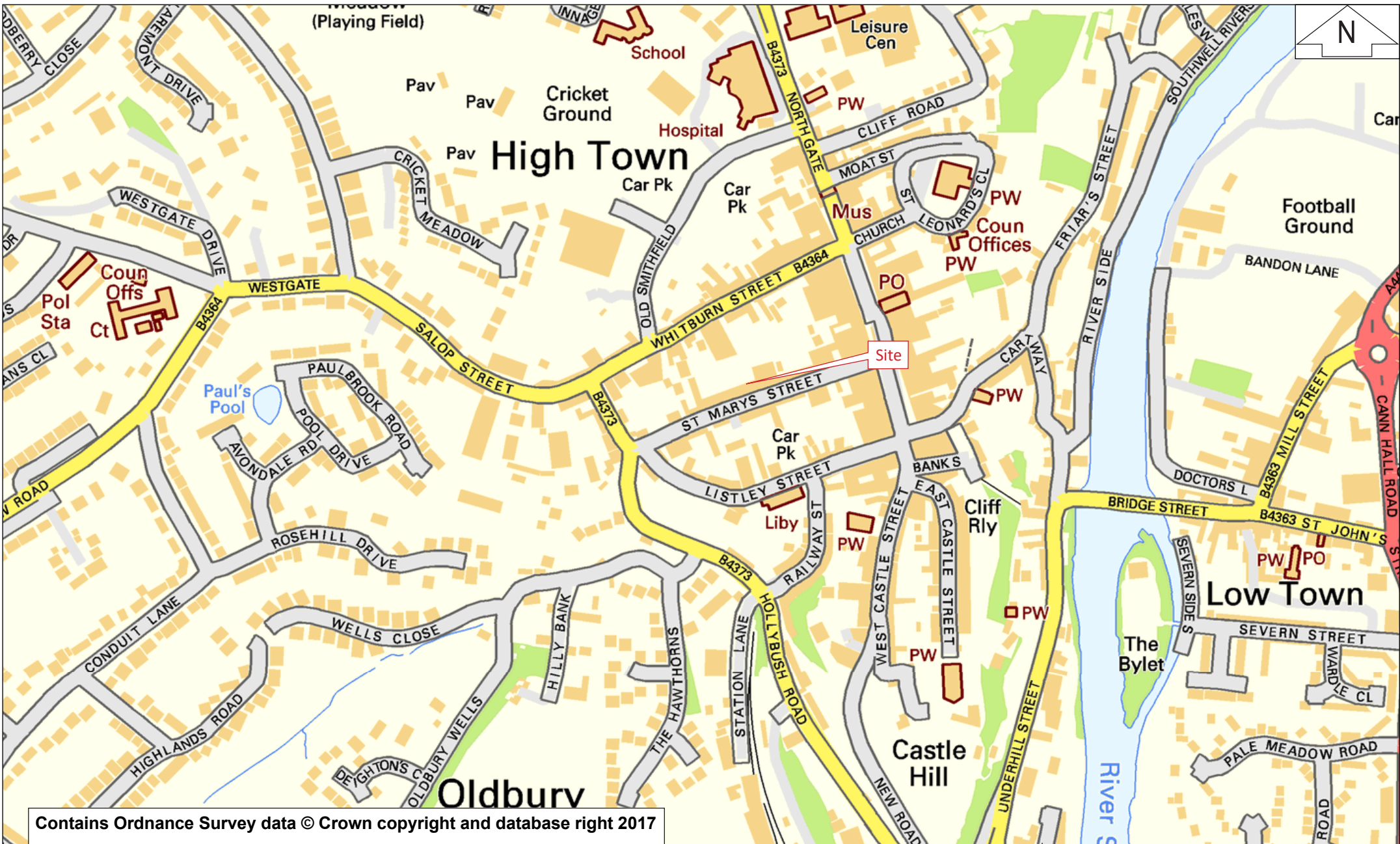


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Figure 01: Location of 19 St Mary's Street, Bridgnorth. Scale 1:20,000 at A4.



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Figure 02: Location of 19 St Mary's Street, Bridgnorth. Scale 1:5,000 at A4.



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2.0 ARCHEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

The proposed development site lies within the historic medieval core of the town of Bridgnorth (Shropshire Historic Environment Record [HER] PRN 06044) as defined by the Central Marches Historic Towns Survey, within a group of tenement plots between Whitburn Street and St Marys Street (PRN 05642). 19 St Mary's Street is an 18th century terraced house protected as a Grade II Listed Building (National Ref. 1053919). The proposed development site can therefore be deemed to have some archaeological potential and any below ground archaeological remains are likely to be affected by groundworks associated with the proposed development.

3.0 WATCHING BRIEF - ARCHAEOLOGICAL AIMS

The archaeological watching brief shall be maintained:

1. During the excavation of topsoil and foundation trenches at the Site.

The CIfA maintains a standard for archaeological watching brief which states that:

An archaeological watching brief will record the archaeological resource during development within a specified area using appropriate methods and practices. These will satisfy the stated aims of the project, and comply with the Code of conduct and other relevant by-laws of CIfA.

An archaeological watching brief is defined by the CIfA as a formal programme of observation and investigation conducted during any operation carried out for non-archaeological reasons (CIfA 2014). The watching brief will take place within a specified area within the Site where there is a possibility that archaeological deposits may be disturbed or destroyed.

The CIfA further identifies the purpose of a watching brief as allowing, within the resources available, the preservation by record of archaeological deposits, the presence and nature of which could not be established in advance of development or other potentially disruptive works.

It is also important to note that a watching brief provides an opportunity, if needed, for a signal to be made to all interested parties, before the destruction of the archaeological materials, that an archaeological find has been made for which the resources allocated to the watching brief itself are not sufficient to support treatment to a satisfactory and proper standard.

A watching brief is, therefore, not intended to reduce the requirement for excavation or preservation of known or inferred deposits, and it is intended to guide, not replace, any requirement for contingent excavation or preservation of possible deposits.

The aims of the watching brief are:

- To allow, within the resources available, the opportunity to gain information about and record the presence/absence, nature and date of archaeological remains on the Site affected by excavations and groundworks, the presence and nature of which could not be established with sufficient confidence in advance of works which may disturb them.
- To provide the facility to signal to the relevant authorities, before irreversible impact to remains that an archaeological and/or historic find has been made for which the resources allocated to the watching brief itself are inadequate to support their treatment to an adequate and satisfactory standard.

The specific objectives of the watching brief are:

- To observe and recover any artefacts of archaeological significance.
- To record the location, dimensions and nature of any deposits, features, structures or artefacts of archaeological significance.
- To recover samples of any deposits considered to have potential for analysis for palaeoenvironmental data should the opportunity arise.

4.0 METHODOLOGY

4.1 Archaeological Watching Brief

The methodology for the watching brief has been prepared with reference to the CIFA's document Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Brief (2014) and will be kept under constant review during the project, in order to see how far it is meeting the terms of the aims and objectives, and in order to adopt any new questions which may arise.

Curatorial monitoring of the archaeological work on behalf of the Council will be carried out by the Natural and Historic Environment Manager at Shropshire Council. To facilitate the curatorial monitoring, the officer shall be provided with a minimum of two weeks' notice of the start of the archaeological work.

A suitably qualified and experienced archaeologist(s) from Aeon Archaeology will be commissioned for the maintenance of the watching brief. On arrival on site, the archaeologist(s) will report to the site manager and conform to the arrangements for notification of entering and leaving site. The archaeologist(s) will keep a record of the date, time and duration of all attendances at site, the names and numbers of archaeologists deployed and any actions taken. The archaeologist will be provided with a Health & Safety Induction by the construction contractor and wear a safety helmet, safety footwear and high visibility jacket/vest at all times.

If deposits and or artefacts are exposed during excavations for the development which require recording and recovery, it may be necessary to delay works whilst the proper investigation and recording takes place. Watching brief recording can often be undertaken without delay to groundworks, depending upon the specific circumstances and flexibility of all the staff on site.

Within the constraints of the terms of the watching brief work, the archaeologist will not cause unreasonable disruption to the maintenance of the work schedules of other contractors on site. In the event of archaeological discoveries the treatment of which (either arising from the volume/quantity of material and/or the complexity/importance of the material) is beyond the resources deployed the Client will be notified and a site meeting/telephone consultation arranged with the Natural and Historic Environment Manager at Shropshire Council. The aim of the meeting will be to confirm that an archaeological find has been made for which the resources allocated to the watching brief itself are not sufficient to support treatment to a satisfactory and proper standard and identify measures which would be sufficient to support treatment to a satisfactory and proper standard prior to destruction of the material in question.

Any archaeological deposits, features and structures identified which can be investigated and recorded under the terms of the watching brief will be excavated manually in a controlled and stratigraphic manner sufficient to address the aims and objectives of the project – subject to the limitations on site access.

It may not be necessary to excavate the complete stratigraphic sequence to geologically lain deposits but the inter-relationships between archaeological deposits, features and structures will be investigated sufficient to address the aims and objectives of the project and the complete stratigraphic sequence to geologically lain deposits will be investigated where practicable.

The method of recording will follow the normal principles of stratigraphic excavation and the stratigraphy will be recorded in written descriptions even where no archaeological deposits have been identified. The archaeologist will record archaeological deposits using proformae recording forms and locate them on a large-scale site plan related to the Ordnance Survey National Grid and Datum references.

The groundworks excavations shall be undertaken using a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket.

The drawn record will comprise plans at scale 1:20 and sections at scale 1:10; propriety electronic hardware and software to prepare site drawings may be used as appropriate.

The photographic record will be maintained throughout using a digital SLR camera (Canon 600D) set to maximum resolution (72 dpi) and all archaeological features will be recorded photographically with photographs taken in RAW format and later converted to TIFF format for long-term storage and JPEG format for presentation and inclusion in the archive. The standards for the digital archive will adhere to those set out in '*Guidelines for Digital Archaeological Archives*' (RCAHMW, 2015).

The archive produced will be held at Aeon Archaeology under the project code **A0135.1**.

4.2 Watching brief report

4.2.1 Post-excavation Assessment

A report on the results of the watching brief, in accordance with the recommendations in *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment Project Manager's Guide* (English Heritage 2006; 2015), and in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists *Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (2014) will be required to be produced upon conclusion of the archaeological fieldwork. The report will be completed within a maximum of two months of completion of work on site and may include examination and quantification leading to the identification of function, form, date, method of manufacture, material/fabric type, source, parallels, attributes and condition of artefacts; of the exploitation of wild or domesticated resources; the reconstruction of environments; and the nature of human populations.

Full analysis of the results of the project, including: dating and interpretation of excavated features; pottery and other finds analysis; analysis of industrial residues by an appropriate specialist or specialists; analysis of samples for environmental data (including pollen, plant macrofossils and beetles) by an appropriate specialist or specialists; radiocarbon dating; discussion of the results in their local, regional and national context, including relating the excavated features and palaeoenvironmental data to evidence from nearby sites, and discussion of the results in their local, regional and national context may be required.

The scope of post-excavation assessment will be subject to a specification for approval by the Natural and Historic Environment Manager at Shropshire Council upon the conclusion of the fieldwork project and preliminary report.

4.2.2 Post-excavation Report

Following completion of the stages outlined above, a report will be produced that will include:

- A non-technical summary.
- A table of contents.
- An introduction with acknowledgements, including a list of all those involved in the project and the location and description of the site.
- A statement of the project aims.
- An account of the project methodology undertaken, with an assessment of the same to include a statement on preservation bias and the means of data collection and sampling strategies.
- A factual summary of the history, development and use of the site.
- A statement setting out the nature, quantity and condition of the material archive (artefacts and ecofacts) including commentary on any bias observed due to collection and sampling strategies and commentary on long-term storage requirements.
- A statement setting out the nature and quantity of the documentary archive (notes, photographs, drawings, digital data).
- A general site plan indicating the position and size of the areas subject to watching brief and the locations of archaeological deposits identified and recorded during the works.
- Plans and sections at appropriate scales, augmented with appropriate photographs. All plans and sections will be related to the Ordnance Survey datum levels and to the National Grid.
- Other maps, plans, drawings, stratigraphic matrices and photographs as appropriate.
- Summary assessment reports on the artefact, bio-archaeological, dating and other assessments/analyses.
- A discussion of the location, extent, date, nature, condition, quality and significance of any archaeological deposits and finds identified during the project.

- A discussion of any research implications arising from the archaeological work.
- Notes on consultations with conservators and the nominated archive repository related to the immediate and long-term conservation and storage requirements for the data held in the site archive and recommendations of retention/discard of artefacts and ecofacts.
- A bibliography of sources consulted.
- Appendices to the report will include artefact catalogues, reports on assessments/analyses and an index to the project archive and a statement on its location/proposed repository.
- In addition the post-excavation report will summarise and draw together the findings of all of the phases of work.

Illustrations will include plans of the location of the study area and archaeological sites. Historical maps, when appropriate and if copyright permissions allow, will be included. Photographs of relevant sites and of the study area where appropriate will be included.

A draft copy of the report will be sent to the Natural and Historic Environment Manager at Shropshire Council and to the client for comment and approval prior to production of the final report.

Aeon Archaeology will not be held responsible for delays and subsequent costs incurred through the onset of adverse weather. If such conditions occur additional costs may be incurred.

5.0 FURTHER ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORKS DESIGNS (FAWDs)

The discovery of substantial archaeological remains and/or features during the archaeological works may result in the requirement for an extended programme of archaeological mitigation. This may require the submission of revised quotes to the client as well as a new specification which will be required to be approved by Natural and Historic Environment Manager at Shropshire Council prior to implementation.

6.0 ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLES

Relevant archaeological deposits will be sampled by taking bulk samples (a minimum of 10.0 litres and maximum of 30.0 litres) for flotation of charred plant remains. Bulk samples will be taken from waterlogged deposits for macroscopic plant remains. Other bulk samples, for example from middens, may be taken for small animal bones and small artefacts.

Bulk environmental samples will also be taken from any fills, deposits or structures which yield archaeological artefacts, charcoal flecks/ fragments, bone, or any other historic remains.

Advice and guidance regarding environmental samples and their suitability for radiocarbon dating, as well as the analysis of macrofossils (charcoal and wood), pollen, animal bones and molluscs will be obtained from Oxford Archaeology.

For guidance purposes the following volume criteria represent the minimum feature sampling requirements:

- 50% of each discrete feature (e.g. pits and postholes)
- 25% of the exposed areas of each linear feature and all terminals/intersections
- 50% of structural features (e.g. beamslots, ring-ditches)
- 50%-100% of domestic/industrial working features (e.g. hearths and ovens)

7.0 HUMAN REMAINS

Any finds of human remains will be left *in-situ*, covered and protected, and both the coroner and the Natural and Historic Environment Manager at Shropshire Council and the Inspector of Ancient Monuments at Historic England informed. If removal is necessary it will take place under appropriate regulations and with due regard for health and safety issues. In order to excavate human remains, a licence is required under Section 25 of the Burials Act 1857 for the removal of any body or remains of any body from any place of burial. This will be applied for should human remains need to be investigated or moved.

8.0 ARTEFACTS

All artefacts and ecofacts will be retrieved for identification and recording and will be treated in accordance with Cifa 2008 Guidelines for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2014).

All artefacts are the property of the landowner but it is recommended that finds are deposited with the rest of the project archive within an appropriate museum. Furthermore, the client agrees to granting access to all artefacts recovered by Aeon Archaeology for analysis, study and publication as necessary. All finds would be treated according to advice provided within *First Aid for Finds* (Rescue 1999). Aeon Archaeology staff will undertake initial identification, but any additional advice would be sought from a wide range of consultants.

The recovery policy for archaeological finds will be kept under review throughout the archaeological works. Any changes in recovery priorities will be under guidance from an appropriate specialist and agreed with the Natural and Historic Environment Manager at Shropshire Council. There will be a presumption against the disposal of archaeological finds regardless of their apparent age or condition.

All finds will be collected and processed including those found within spoil tips. Their location and height will be plotted; finds numbers attributed, bagged and labelled as well any preliminary identification taking place on site. Where specialist advice is required provision will be made to do so at the earliest possible convenience.

After processing, artefacts which are suitable will be cleaned and conserved in-house. Artefacts requiring specialist cleaning and conservation will be sent to the relevant specialist. All artefacts will then be sent to a specialist for analysis, the results of which will then be assessed to ascertain the potential of the finds assemblage to meet the research aims of the project. The value of the finds will also be assessed in terms of the wider educational and academic contributions.

Depending upon the material of the remains the following experts will be consulted regarding the conservation of waterlogged material:

- Organic material: Mr Phil Parkes, Cardiff Conservation Services (tel: +44(0)29 2087 5628)
- Non-organic material: Mr Phil Parkes, Cardiff Conservation Services (tel: +44(0)29 2087 5628)

Depending upon the material of the remains the following experts will be consulted regarding the conservation and analysis of artefacts:

- Bone: Nora Bermingham
- Glass: Hilary Cool, Barbican Research Associates.
- Metal artefacts: Phil Parkes, Cardiff Conservation Services, Cardiff.
- Slag, burnt clay, hammerscale: Dr. Tim Young, Geoarch, Cardiff.
- Stone artefacts: George Smith, Gwynedd Archaeological Trust, Bangor.
- Wood artefacts: Jane Foley, Foley Conservation, Builth Wells.
- Leather: Quita Mould, Barbican Research Associates.
- Environmental Material: Dr Mike Allen, Allen Environmental Archaeology.
- Numismatics: Peter Guest, Barbican Research Associates.
- Ceramics: Leigh Dodd

If well preserved materials are found it may be necessary to employ additional staff. Furthermore, it may be necessary to suspend work within a specific region of the site, or across the whole site, while conservation and excavation/recording takes place. Aeon Archaeology accepts no responsibility for any costs incurred from delays as a result of unexpected archaeological finds.

9.0 UNEXPECTED DISCOVERIES: TREASURE TROVE

Treasure Trove law has been amended by the Treasure Act 1996. The following are Treasure under the Act:

- *Objects other than coins* any object other than a coin provided that it contains at least 10% gold or silver and is at least 300 years old when found.
- *Coins* all coins from the same find provided they are at least 300 years old when found (if the coins contain less than 10% gold or silver there must be at least 10. Any object or coin is part of the same find as another object or coin, if it is found in the same place as, or had previously been left together with, the other object. Finds may have become scattered since they were originally deposited in the ground. Single coin finds of gold or silver are not classed as treasure under the 1996 Treasure Act.
- *Associated objects* any object whatever it is made of, that is found in the same place as, or that had previously been together with, another object that is treasure.
- *Objects that would have been treasure trove* any object that would previously have been treasure trove, but does not fall within the specific categories given above. These objects have to be made substantially of gold or silver, they have to be buried with the intention of recovery and their owner or his heirs cannot be traced.

The following types of finds are not treasure:

- Objects whose owners can be traced.
- Unworked natural objects, including human and animal remains, even if they are found in association with treasure.
- Objects from the foreshore which are not wreck.

All finds of treasure must be reported to the coroner for the district within fourteen days of discovery or identification of the items. Items declared Treasure Trove become the property of the Crown.

The British Museum will decide whether they or any other museum may wish to acquire the object. If no museum wishes to acquire the object, then the Secretary of State will be able to disclaim it. When this happens, the coroner will notify the occupier and landowner that he intends to return the object to the finder after 28 days unless he receives no objection. If the coroner receives an objection, the find will be retained until the dispute has been settled.

10.0 ARCHIVING

A draft copy of the report will be produced within two months of the completion of the fieldwork and sent to the Client and the Natural and Historic Environment Manager at Shropshire Council for comment prior to finalisation of the report and dissemination. Bound copies of the report and an archive CD will be sent to the regional HER, and the Oasis online database for long term archiving. Furthermore, a summary of the project will be sent to relevant journal for publication if required.

11.0 PERSONNEL

The work will be managed by Richard Cooke BA MA MCIFA, Archaeological Contractor and Consultant at Aeon Archaeology.

12.0 MONITORING AND LIAISON

Regular liaison and site monitoring meetings will take place during all stages of work. The Natural and Historic Environment Manager at Shropshire Council will be informed of the start date and of discreet subsequent stages.

13.0 HEALTH AND SAFETY

Aeon Archaeology has a Health and Safety Policy Statement which can be supplied upon request. Furthermore, site-specific Risk Assessments and Method Statements are compiled and distributed to every member of staff involved with the project prior to the commencement of works.

14.0 INSURANCE

Liability Insurance – Insignia Underwriting Policy 347002

Employers' Liability: Limit of Indemnity £10m in any one occurrence

Public Liability: Limit of Indemnity £2m in any one occurrence

Legal Defence Costs (Health and Safety at Work Act): £250,000

The current period expires 07/09/18

Professional Indemnity Insurance – Insignia Underwriting Policy 347002

Limit of Indemnity £500,000 any one claim

The current period expires 07/09/18

