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SHREWSBURY  
HERITAGE  
PROJECT  
RESEARCH DESIGN

Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit

# SHREWSBURY HERITAGE PROJECT RESEARCH DESIGN

Produced by Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit's  
SHREWSBURY HERITAGE PROJECT TEAM

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SHREWSBURY ABBEY CHURCH

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## 1 INTRODUCTION

Shrewsbury Heritage Project was created in October 1985 by Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit to take advantage of a unique archaeological opportunity provided by the redevelopment of an area covering the greater part of the precinct of the Benedictine Abbey of St Peter, and extending into part of an adjoining suburb. It is strongly believed that the potential resources available - well preserved archaeological deposits, unusually complete documentation, and the evidence of standing buildings - can be effectively combined within a carefully designed framework of general and specific research aims in order to investigate and define both the form of the abbey, and its role in the development of the medieval town.

## 2 THE MEDIEVAL DEVELOPMENT OF SHREWSBURY

The shape of the later medieval town and the directions of its growth were determined, above all, by the natural topography. The town occupied an area of high ground (gravel-capped sands and clays) contained within a broad loop of the River Severn, bounded on either side by an alluvial zone of varying width and impassibility. The high ground was split between two hills by a shallow, boggy valley in the High Street area, out of which rose a watercourse flowing westward towards the river.

Shrewsbury makes its first documentary appearance as Scrobbesbyrig in a Wenlock charter of 901. By the end of the 10th century it was clearly regarded as the chief settlement of the shire; these facts, and the minting of coins in this period, suggest that it was a defended place with some urban characteristics.

The origins of the town are obscure, but its early development is likely to have been polyfocal. Artefactual evidence and historical supposition point to a middle Saxon origin for the Old St Chad's site; the three churches to the north, St Alkmund's, St Julian's and St Mary's were all established within the pre-Conquest period, and late Saxon domestic activity has now been defined on three sites - St Alkmund's Place, Pride Hill Chambers and Rigg's Hall - through the discovery of pits containing Stafford-type ware. A further focus of late Saxon activity is known, from documentary evidence, on the east bank of the river around a chapel dedicated to St Peter, with an associated 'homestead' and possible mills.

Norman control in the late 11th century is represented in the archaeological record by the construction of a motte-and-bailey castle across the neck of the peninsula, by the foundation of the Benedictine Abbey of St Peter, and by the creation of transpontine suburbs to the east and west (Abbey Foregate and Frankwell). The eastern suburb was administered by the abbey and developed many of the characteristics of a seignorial borough, and the feudal monopolies bestowed on the abbey soon after its

foundation were a recurrent source of friction with the growing town.

By the 13th century, the regional dominance of the town was unchallenged. Shrewsbury merchants monopolised the buying and processing of raw wool, cloth and hides over a wide area, and they controlled the marketing of the finished products. A century later, Shrewsbury had become one of the staple towns for wool and leather for the whole of Wales, and controlled trade with the Welsh Marches as far south as Hereford. The early/mid 13th century also saw the concerted acquisition by the abbey of properties in the Abbey Foregate - Coleham area, a growing industrial suburb where cloth and hide-processing industries were probably concentrated. The abbey's precise role in the stimulus of these has yet to be defined.

The built-up area is known to have expanded during the course of the 13th century. There are, however, only two surviving physical manifestations of this period of increasing urban wealth: the town walls, built in 1220-1242 around the contemporary settlement but also enclosing a large area of open, agricultural land on the south; and a series of large, high-status domestic stone halls of the middle and later 13th century. These developments were paralleled by the growth of urban institutions, with a consequent increase in the level of the surviving documentation.

### 3 BACKGROUND TO THE BENEDICTINE ABBEY

The Benedictine Abbey of St Peter and St Paul was founded by Roger de Montgomery in 1083 on the site of a small Saxon church outside the east gate of the town (see Fig 1). The precinct was sited on a raised area of land bounded on the south and west by the Meole Brook (now Rea Brook) and was c 26,000 sq metres in extent. Within the precinct, entered by a gatehouse in the north wall, the claustral buildings were laid out in a standard fashion to the south of the church, and 19th century drawings suggest two further buildings, the 'Guest House' and the 'Abbot's Lodgings' running E-W on the south side of the enclosure. Further buildings including the 'Infirmery' and the Abbey Mill were constructed in the western area of the precinct. In addition to the known buildings, many others of stone and timber would have been constructed, although evidence for these is at present lacking (see Fig 2 for known monastic buildings).

After a relatively slow start, (the church still incomplete by 1094) the Abbey appears to have managed its affairs well for the majority of its history. By the time of the Domesday survey, it had acquired land to the value of £34. 8s. 4d. and continued to add to this in the following years. In the early 12th century its freedom from tolls was confirmed, and the abbey was granted the multure of the town and the right to take timber from the royal forests for building purposes. Although possessing lands in Lancashire, Cambridgeshire and S Staffordshire, the Abbots pursued a policy of consolidating their estates within the county

of Shropshire, and by the late 13th century it had greatly increased its holding of local land, including properties in Abbey Foregate, Coleham and Castle Foregate, and orchards, a vineyard and a sand-pit within the town. In the 14th century, over 100 was spent by Abbot Nicholas on property, and by 1536 the Abbey's total profits were assessed at £532. 4s. 10d.

The abbey had a profound influence on the landscape of the eastern suburb. During its history it was responsible for the large-scale manipulation of the communications, encroaching on and replanning the principal approach-road, constructing hundreds of metres of stone bridge and earthen causeway, laying out a new market place, and creating an elaborate system of hydraulic engineering, with fishponds and a two-kilometre long mill-stream, (See Fig 7).

In the years prior to the Dissolution, however, visitation records show the Abbey to have been having management problems, with debts unpaid and buildings in a poor state of repair. This culminated in the Dissolution of the Abbey on 24th January 1540. Despite petitions from the townsmen to leave the Abbey buildings standing to receive the king or other visiting nobility, many existing buildings were demolished. The western part of the church was preserved as the parish church of Holy Cross.

The later land-use history of the area saw the diversion of the London-Holyhead road through the area of the cloisters (c 1836). From 1855 much of the area was used by the Potteries, Shrewsbury and North Wales Railway Company for sidings and yards, followed by the laying-out of modern tenements. Apart from the much shortened church, the only extant remains of the abbey complex are the 'Infirmmary' building, now used for the storage of wood, and the refectory pulpit, a scheduled ancient monument (see Fig 2, Fig 3).

#### 4 THE NATURE OF THE THREAT

The area to the south of Abbey Foregate and to the north of the present course of the Rea Brook has been earmarked for a large re-development. All the land is owned by the British Rail Property Board and the architectural design is being undertaken by Eric Thompson and Associates. Although its exact form has yet to be finalised the development will take the form of a superstore and housing, both with parking facilities. This will be combined with a proposed road scheme (the 'gyratory') undertaken by Shropshire County Council. One possible suggestion for the overall development is shown in Fig 4, implying large scale destruction of archaeological deposits within the abbey precinct. It is presumed that the pulpit and the 'Infirmmary' will be incorporated into any development scheme. Negotiations between the developers and other interested parties have suggested the possibility of moving the housing development to the south of the claustral area of the abbey, but this has not been confirmed.



At present, the land is leased to a number of different businesses, and the scheduled re-siting of these has implications for access to sites for archaeological work. The timings for the development are as yet provisional, but the work on the road system is envisaged to start in March 1987 and it is likely that preliminary work on the other developments will have begun at this time.

## 5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL

An initial evaluation of the surviving archaeological deposits has been completed using information from a number of sources: trial excavations, a watching brief, two borehole surveys, cellar survey, modern service location maps, and a range of maps and illustrations showing the land-use history from the 1600's to the present day. The overall conclusion is that the archaeological deposits have survived surprisingly well.

After the Dissolution the remains of several monastic buildings stood until the mid 18th century, when clearance for a large garden and limited building activity took place within the precinct. In c 1836 the precinct was separated from the church by Telford's London - Holyhead road, and shortly after 1855 the land to the south of this road was purchased by the railway company for sidings and various works. It was at this stage that a large amount of dumping took place in order to prepare the area for use. The abbey pool, the northern arm of the Rea Brook, and eastern and parts of the western area of the precinct were infilled, the build-up of some 3-5 metres sealing and protecting the surviving archaeological deposits from further activities (see Fig 5). Although this will add to the technical difficulties of excavation, it also suggests a higher potential than was initially expected.

Modern disturbance within the central area of the precinct has been limited in that many of the brick buildings do not have cellars, and the other buildings tend either to be post-built sheds or prefabricated huts standing on, rather than set into, the ground surface. The only known major earth removals have been for the cellar of Queen Ann House, for storage tanks in the oil depot and for one major sewer running east west across the precinct.

Archaeological evaluation has taken place in three areas of the precinct by means of two trial excavations (A Roe, BUFAU, Feb 1984) and a watching brief (M D Watson, Shropshire County Council), see Fig 8 a, b, c. In summary, trial trench 'a' in the back garden of Queen Ann House demonstrated archaeological deposits to a depth of some 3 metres, and revealed three sandstone walls of the abbey period. The latter interpreted as the remains of the main drain of the abbey. The deeper deposits within the walls were in a waterlogged state, preserving organic material of both artefactual and environmental potential.

Trial trench 'b' in the eastern area of the precinct showed some

two metres of dumping for the railway line and station beneath which, sandstone walls were again encountered, belonging to the abbey period, and interpreted as part of the 'Abbot's lodgings'. Due to the nature of the weather and instability of deposits the 'natural' subsoil was not encountered. Again, waterlogged deposits were uncovered at the southern end of the trench.

The watching brief was undertaken on a small trench ('c') for structural assessment work on the south west corner of the 'Infirmary'. Here part of the precinct wall was encountered with archaeological deposits to a depth of 1.40m to the east and 3.00m, to the west.

The combination of surviving building remains and relatively deep deposits suggests an unusually high potential for unravelling the development of the abbey and for the answering of specific research objectives. (See Research Aims, below). The possibility of waterlogged deposits suggests a high likelihood of preservation of organic material, both on the southern and western peripheries of the precinct. (A borehole through the abbey pool showed waterlogging and preserved timber at a depth of some 4 metres). This, in combination with the possibility of organic and charred remains from within the enclosure, will add a further dimension to the story of the abbey's economic history and its impact upon the local environment.

## 6 RESEARCH AIMS

The surviving abbey buildings - the church, refectory pulpit, and the so-called 'Old Infirmary' - together with documentary, illustrative and cartographic evidence, and comparisons with better-known sites allow the construction of a general model of the abbey's internal geography, and zones of activity at least in its final phase of development (see Fig 6). This enables us to predict, in general terms, which areas of the medieval monastery will be affected by intended redevelopment, permitting the formulation of a general research policy within these constraints.

The project's primary research aim is to define the role of the abbey in the growth of the medieval town. At a general level, it is felt that this question may best be answered by the complete excavation of the monastic outer court (areas A, B, C, Fig 8) with selective sampling of other areas within and immediately outside the suspected precinct boundaries, together with the sampling of secular activity in one of the adjoining suburbs. At a more detailed level, historical sources and surviving or documented structures have led to the definition of outstanding problems or questions and to the formulation of particular models that the excavations are designed to answer or to test.

### The Late Saxon Background

As outlined above, the abbey was not a fresh plantation within an unoccupied agricultural landscape. It was established around a

Y Bilforegate

pre-existing chapel with some form of parochial status and associated charcoal burials. This had been built in the years preceding the Norman Conquest as part of a 'homestead' belonging to Siward, a wealthy English landowner. It is known from several documentary sources that the building of the abbey got off to a slow start with an endowment which was barely adequate. However, within three years of Roger of Montgomery's decision to establish the abbey, Domesday Book records the existence of monastic mills, producing a substantial income. It is extremely likely that these were a part of the pre-existing settlement, and that the abbey took them over, possibly with other facilities, as a going concern. The site of the chapel of St Peter is traditionally the same as that of the later abbey church, and associated settlement is likely to have been in the same general area. The site of the mill or mills is unknown, though almost certainly on the Meole (Mill) Brook, possibly in association with a ford carrying the approach road Bilforegatam to the main crossing point over the River Severn. Excavation towards the northern boundary of the redevelopment area may be able to establish the position and function of pre-abbey settlement in the area of the abbey church, and could confirm whether the abbey precinct represents an encroachment onto the line of a pre-existing approach road (see Fig 7). Excavations on either side of the northern arm of the Rea/Meole Brook in the area of the Abbey Mill may be able to establish the presence of a pre-Norman mill, from associated watercourses, if not from the structure itself.

#### Changing Function within the Outer Court

##### a) Agricultural Functions

It is clear from the Shrewsbury Cartulary that in common with other monastic and lay estates, in the early 14th century the abbey followed a deliberate policy of reducing the extent of its demesne land. Direct control by bailiffs gave way to a 'preference for rents', and the bulk of the food consumed within the precinct walls was eventually bought in the markets in Shrewsbury. It is highly likely that these changes will have had an effect on the fabric of the outer court, possibly in the general level of investment in this part of the monastery, and in specific functional changes within and between buildings.

##### b) Industrial Functions

The occupational structure of the eastern suburbs in the early years of the abbey's existence is completely unknown; however, by the early 13th century the expanding cloth-finishing and leather-finishing trades were becoming established in the Coleham/Abbey Foregate area, attracted by tenements with access to running water. Shrewsbury Abbey, and Haughmond, exploited this demand and acquired rentable properties in the area during the early to mid-13th century. Direct, major stimulus of these trades may have been provided by monastic capital investment in the fulling process, discussed below. Further, the policy of leasing agricultural land may have been paralleled by the leasing of other facilities of assets - particularly within the area of the Outer Court. It may be possible to define, by excavation on a

large-enough scale, the changing use of buildings in this area from agricultural to industrial activities, possibly accompanied by internal sub-division and increasingly well-defined structural separation between the 'commercial' and 'spiritual' zones of the monastery. A transition of this nature is also likely to have seen the relocation of guest accommodation from the western to the eastern half of the monastery. Such developments should be distinguishable from earlier, direct, monastic industrial activity on the site, for internal consumption and maintenance, or for the generation of a small saleable surplus.

#### c) The Monastic Waterfront

It seems highly probable that the abbey, established on a riverine site with the bulk of its estates down-stream to the south-east, would have had some private waterfront access. None is documented; however, 18th and 19th century illustration depicting the western precinct wall elevation and the gable of the 'Old Infirmary' show the precinct wall to have been pierced by an arcade of six arches leaning onto a hard-standing, revetted in stone, on the northern arm of the Rea Brook, (see Fig 2). The arcade with a building above it within the precinct wall, bears a strong resemblance to structures like the Hampton Court warehouse in King's Lynn. Excavation within the Outer Court will be able to shed more light on the function and chronology of these features; excavation of the area outside may be able to date the revetment and possible reclamation of the bank and watercourse.

#### Mills and Hydraulic Engineering

The possibility of pre-monastic milling within the site has already been outlined; it is at present unknown whether this would have utilised or adapted natural watercourses. By the later medieval period, the three mills owned by the abbey in the lower Rea Valley were served by a two kilometre-long artificial watercourse known as the Mill Stream, the date of which is unknown, (see Fig 7). Excavation along the southern periphery of the precinct offers the opportunity to date this feature where it is likely to come into contact with material dumped over wet ground in order to extend the living area of the monastery. Excavations currently in progress (see Fig 8, A) have exposed walls possibly associated with this watercourse. Elsewhere within the site, the mill-stream may have been revetted in timber, and the possibility of dumped ceramic assemblages in association with waterlogged structural timbers yielding dendrochronological dates cannot be ignored.

The same conditions may apply to the edge of the abbey's fishponds to the south, making it quite possible that excavation of this area will be able to determine both the relative and absolute chronology of the principal monastic alterations to the drainage of the Rea Valley.

The function of the monastic mills themselves may have changed through time, unrecorded by the surviving documentary evidence. Monastic and lay investment in fulling mills is known in the West Midlands and elsewhere from the late 12th century onwards. The

increasing demand by the cloth-finishing trades for space in the Coleham/Abbey Foregate area has already been described, as has the possibility of monastic investment and encouragement and exploitation of these industries. The Abbey Mill site must be the prime candidate for the detection of a change from food processing to industrial functions, through the structure or machinery of the mill itself, or through associated residues. However, as in the case of the internal functioning of the Outer Court, it may be difficult to distinguish monastic industrial activity from the leasing-out of capital assets.

#### Coleham Island

The historical mode for the occupational structure of the areas around the abbey has been outlined above. The testing or refinement of this, by further documentary research and by archaeological sampling, is seen to be critical for the understanding of the abbey's changing role in its suburbs.

The construction of access roads for the redevelopment scheme has not yet been decided on. Should the 'gyratory' (see Fig 4) go ahead, archaeological investigation by excavation and watching-brief along its east-west route - a transect across Coleham Island - will be able to answer many questions regarding the settlement characteristics and sequence (see Fig 8, H). Excavation on the Coleham Head frontage is likely to encounter medieval buildings, only partly cellared, and possibly waterlogged in the lower levels. Yard deposits may contain features and residues associated with industrial activities. The east side of the island is likely to have been subject to reclamation/revetment assemblages and structures. The pre-monastic state of the island is completely unknown, and excavation would be likely to shed light on original ground-levels and profiles, and the extent of possible monastic reclamation (if any), allowing a more detailed understanding of the history of communications around the assumed site of the river-crossing.

#### 7 EXCAVATION PROGRAMME

The detailed planning of the excavation programme is, at present, problematic for a number of reasons:

- a) The lack of a detailed development plan.
- b) The lack of detailed timings for the development and removal of modern standing buildings.
- c) The lack of timings for access to threatened areas for archaeological investigation.

Without the above, any strategy must to a great extent be provisional as priority must be given to the threatened deposits, especially those which have research potential (at present the

most important of these are Areas A, B, and C, see Fig 8). Although Area D is at present available, no excavation is proposed until the exact nature of the development becomes clear.

#### Phase 1 (November 1985 - April 1986)

Excavation commenced in the back garden of Queen Ann House (Area A, see Fig 8) in late November 1985 and is due to be completed by the first week of April.

During this period, limited trenching of the Abbey Pool area will take place to determine its exact location, the nature and preservation of its deposits, and their environmental potential. Approximate timing two weeks (see Fig 8, trench 'd').

#### Phase 2 (April 1986 - March 1987)

Area B: Work to include excavation of deposits outside the precinct wall, including revetment of the old course of the Brook and to include a trench into its former course for waterlogged and environmental material (April - July).

Area C: Excavation of the northern area of the precinct, including the 'Infirmery' and the mill. As it is likely that the mill was sited at the south west extremity of the precinct, excavation to the south of the mill will initially take the form of a trial trench, further work being designed on the basis of its results (July 1986 - March 1987)

The start date for Area C is not at present confirmed due to delays in the re-siting of the occupants.

Area G: If delays occur with access to B and C, access will be sought to the southern part of Area G (a car parking enclosure behind the oil depot) for the investigation of the southern abbey pool area, where reclamation and revetment is likely (timing 2-4 months).

Area H: Watching brief to the east and area excavation to the west, allowing assessment of occupation and reclamation of land on Coleham island (timing 2-4 months)

#### Phase 3 (March 1987 - )

It is envisaged that after 1987 archaeological investigation will take place where necessary in areas D, E, and G.

### 8 ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH PROGRAMME

It is likely that environmental data will be preserved in a number of different areas of the abbey complex, and a sampling strategy has been designed for the recovery of such material. Although the area of the Abbey pools and the old course of the Rea Brook have not been selected for detailed archaeological excavation, it is proposed to use trial trenches to assess the

environmental potential of the surviving deposits, and if they are identified as having a high potential, a series of samples will be taken in order to reconstruct both the local environment and the economic activity of the abbey.

#### 9 ARCHITECTURAL RESEARCH PROGRAMME

It is envisaged that the following inter-related tasks will be undertaken:-

- 1 Recording and analysis of architectural fragments found during excavation. Excavation of a relatively small area of post-Dissolution deposits already suggests that a huge corpus of material will be collected.
- 2 Recording and analysis of waterlogged structural timbers. The same techniques used to record geometry and finish of worked stone will be applied to preserved timber. A record-and-discard policy for the majority of both types of material is envisaged, although sampling for dendro-chronological analysis will be undertaken where appropriate.
- 3 Recording and analysis of the standing 'Old Infirmary' building and the remains of the western precinct wall elevation. Existing above ground fabric and historic illustrative material suggests that these form part of a complex of buildings with a long and complicated sequence of structural change.
- 4 Advising the excavation director and staff, in a consultative capacity using the data derived from 1-3 above, on likely functions and reconstructions of excavated foundations.

#### 10 HISTORICAL RESEARCH PROGRAMME

Medieval institutional investment in property within the Coleham/Abbey Foregate island area has resulted in a wealth of surviving documentation, particularly for the mid-13th century and later. The project will involve the construction of a historical model for the occupational and tenorial structure of the area, for comparison with the excavated data, identifying as a priority that which bears upon industrial functions within, around and outside the precinct.

#### 11 EXCAVATION WITHIN THE TOWN

Two small sites are currently being excavated in the town centre. The Bennett's Hall site and the Talbot Chambers' site both lie adjacent to major 13th century domestic stone buildings within the southern quarter of the medieval town - an area known to have

undergone rapid expansion during the course of the 13th century (see Fig 9). At the Bennett's Hall site, excavation is producing sequences of medieval and later pits, truncated by terracing, in yard areas between the hall and the town wall. Trial excavation at the Talbot Chambers site has revealed the sandstone footings of a medieval building, behind and at right-angles to the principal street frontage, and an undercroft, known from documentary research but as yet unexcavated. Both sites are yielding artefactual material that adds to the total corpus of excavated finds from the town, providing background data for the study of the abbey material. In addition, the Talbot Chambers site lies on the very edge of a well-known deposit of ancient peat-like material; this is known to survive in the north-west corner of the site to a depth of c. 1 metre beneath a later cellar. It is hoped that this deposit will contain preserved pollen, plant macro-fossils and waterlogged organic artefacts that will contribute comparable urban data to the material provided by excavation of the abbey.

The principal contribution of these sites to the project may lie less in their excavated stratigraphy (though this may yet throw more light on the southward extent of pre-13th century occupation), than in their place within a total landscape history for this part of town. Bennett's Hall and Vaughan's Mansion - the latter overlooking the Talbot Chambers site - are but two stone buildings within a larger group, clustered in the same part of the town. Immediately to the west of the Talbot Chambers site lay Charlton Hall, a building complex of the 13th and 14th centuries within a crenellated enclosure. Across the road to the north lay 'Shute's Place', another sandstone building whose fragmentary remains have recently been exposed and surveyed.

These buildings all lie close to the The Square, a new market place laid out in c. 1261, probably through the amalgamation and clearance of pre-existing tenements.

The role of these buildings, and of the mercantile families who probably built them, in the development of this area is not yet understood. The programme of historical, architectural and archaeological research will, however, reveal a story of piecemeal urban development and speculation fitted within a pre-existing framework of roads and property divisions, and contained within the newly-built town walls. This picture would stand in contrast to that of the broad, seigneurial brush at work in the eastern suburb.

## 12 POST-EXCAVATION AND PUBLICATION

Publication is intended to reach completion by 1990 and is envisaged to take the form of a multi-author monograph, including specialist reports and syntheses. This will be preceded by publication of excavated material and sequences from the two town



sites, with the general/historical conclusions incorporated in the monograph.

### 13 DISPLAY AND EDUCATION

#### a) Display

The excavation of the abbey site has a very great potential for public interest and involvement. While excavation continues, a viewing gallery will allow the public to watch the continuing process of archaeology and this will be combined with changing information sheets and diagrams mounted on the gallery. Guided tours will also be provided for parties, including schools. In parallel with this a portable display is at present being designed to publicise the excavation and to visit local public buildings and schools as a touring exhibition and the use of and on-site portakabin display is under consideration.

Further publicity may be forthcoming as a side effect of the televising of the Ellis Peters' novels set in Shrewsbury Abbey in the 12th century and discussion has been entered into with the producer of the series.

#### b) Education

The abbey, one of Shrewsbury's most famous monuments has already played a part in school project work. After initial discussion, it seems that the design and development of a local schools package would be highly beneficial and this is to be undertaken with advice from the HBMC (E) Education Officer. The package would comprise:-

- a) A slide package on excavation techniques
- b) A slide package on Shrewsbury Abbey, its history and excavation
- c) A workbook giving a historical summary of the Abbey and containing projects and suggestions for class work.

As excavation progresses, it is envisaged that a series of lectures will be given to interested parties and that the excavation will be closely followed by local newspapers and Radio Shropshire.

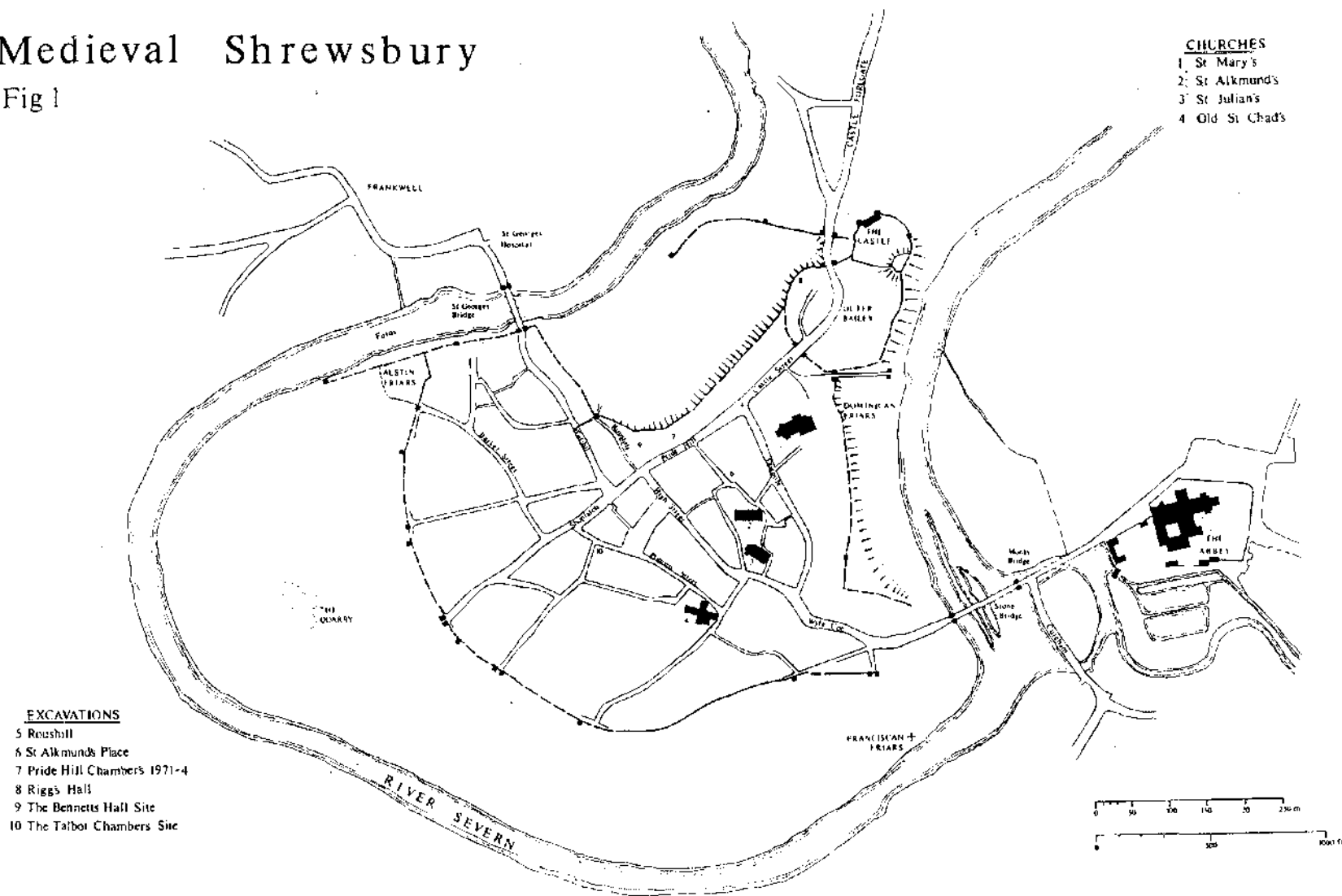
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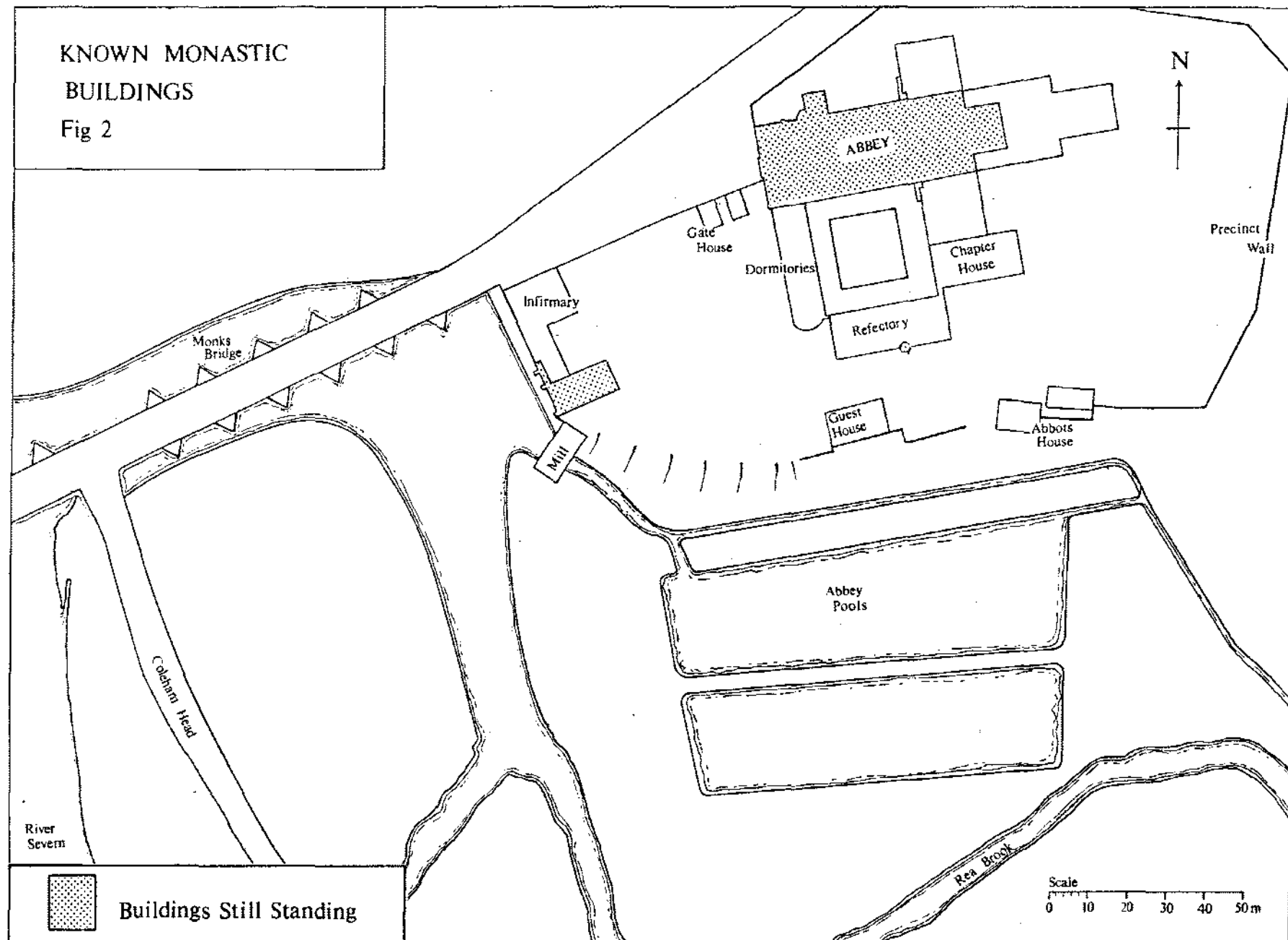
## Medieval Shrewsbury

Fig 1



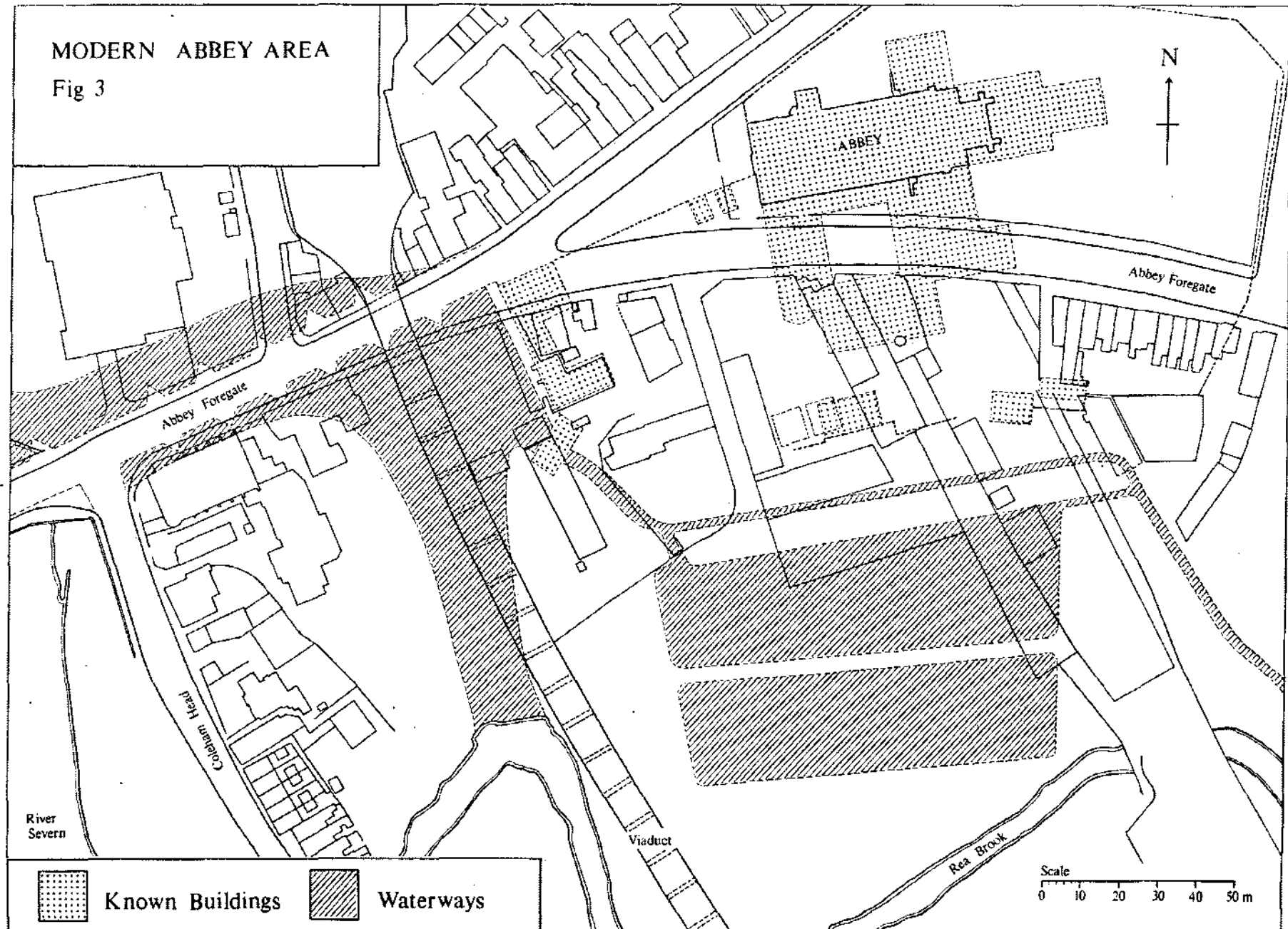
KNOWN MONASTIC  
BUILDINGS

Fig 2



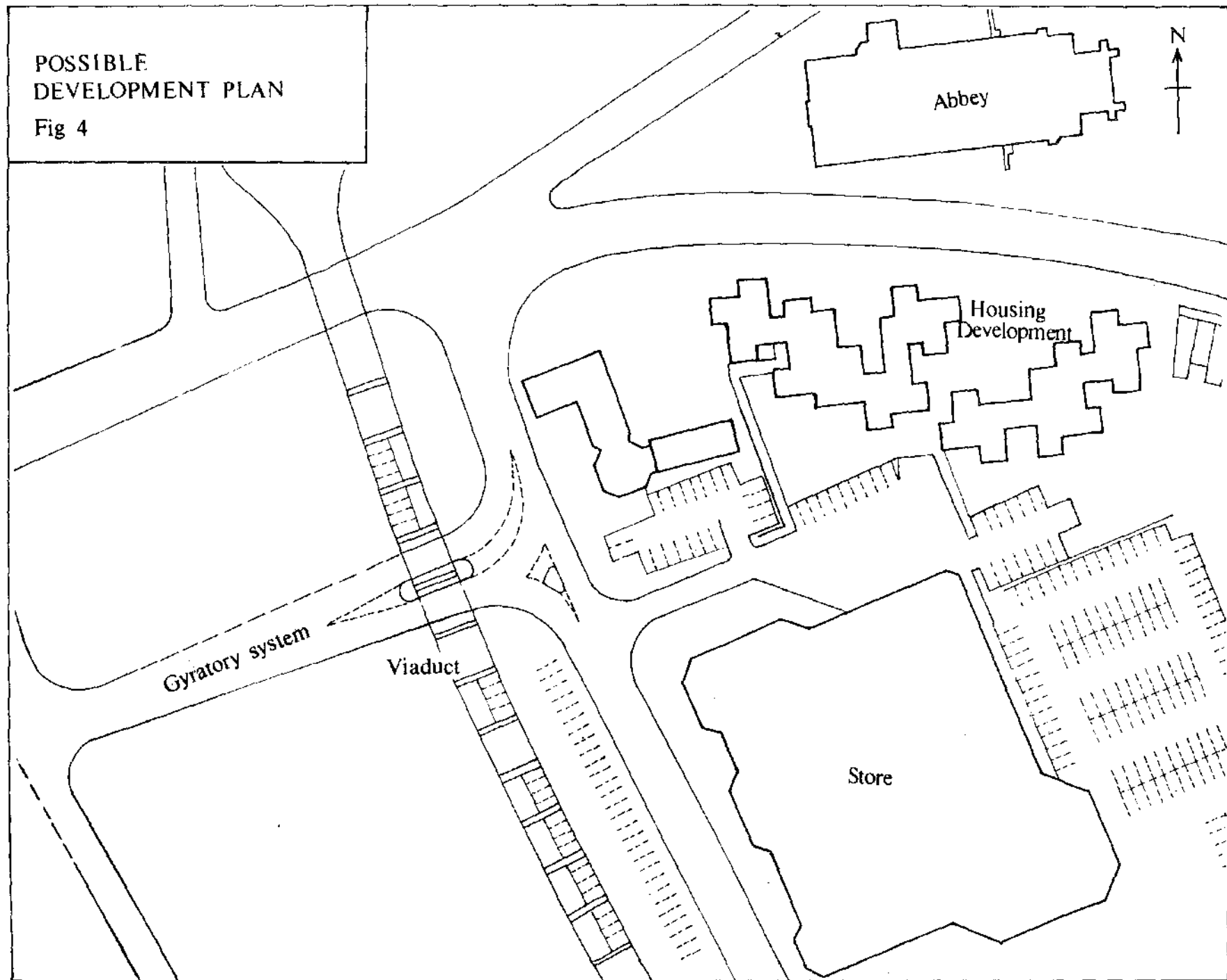
# MODERN ABBEY AREA

Fig 3



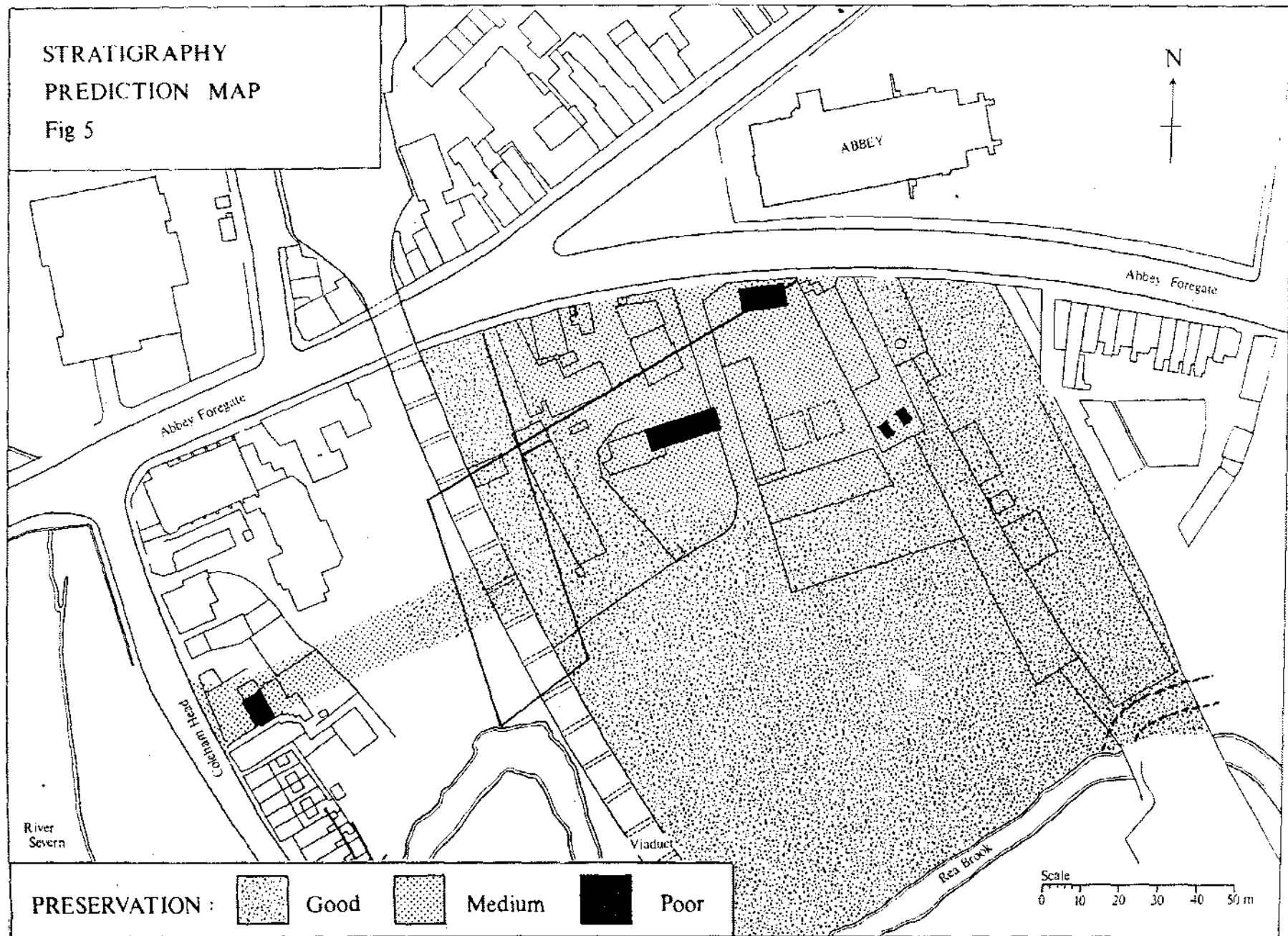
POSSIBLE  
DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Fig 4



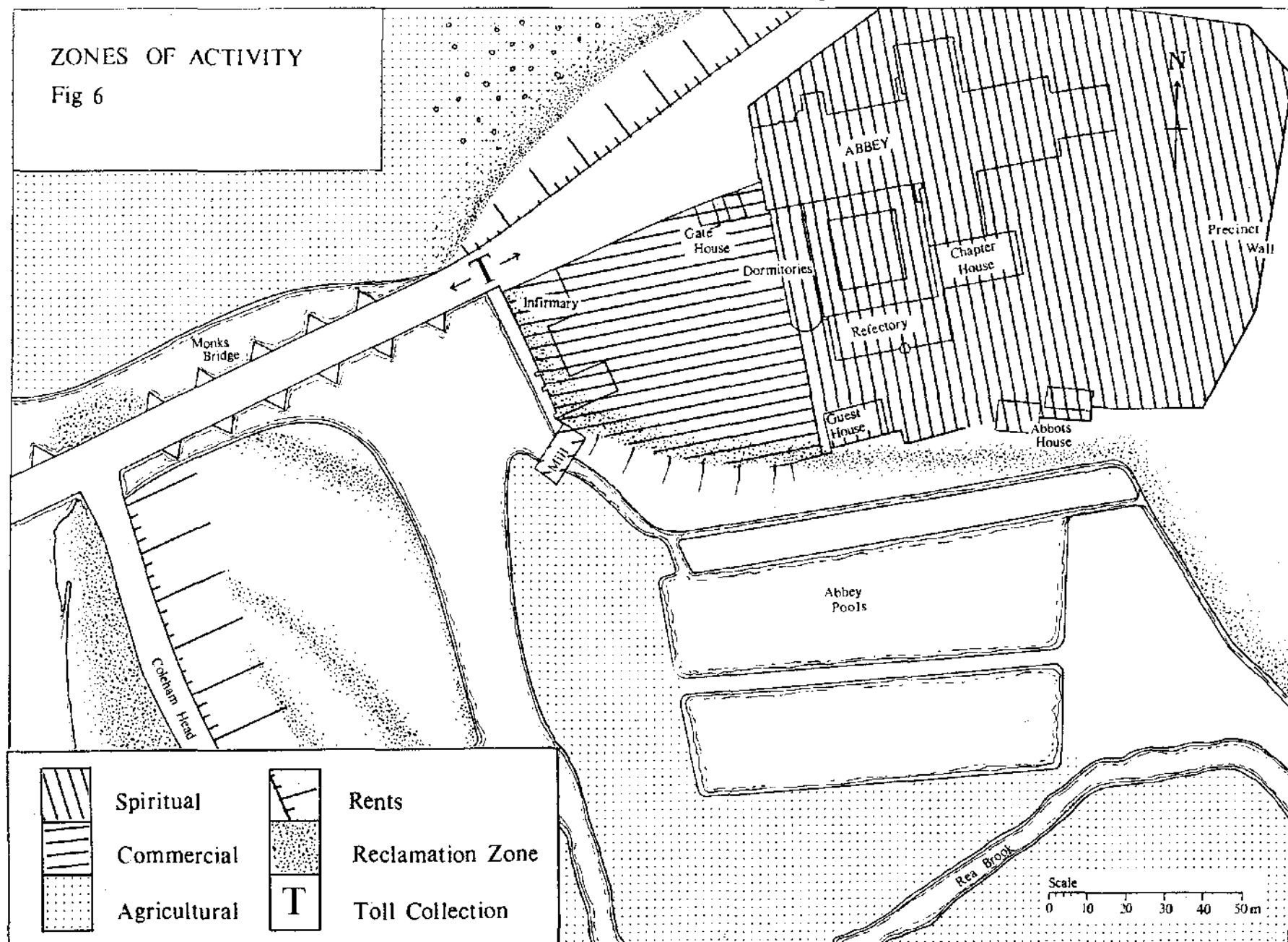
STRATIGRAPHY  
PREDICTION MAP

Fig 5



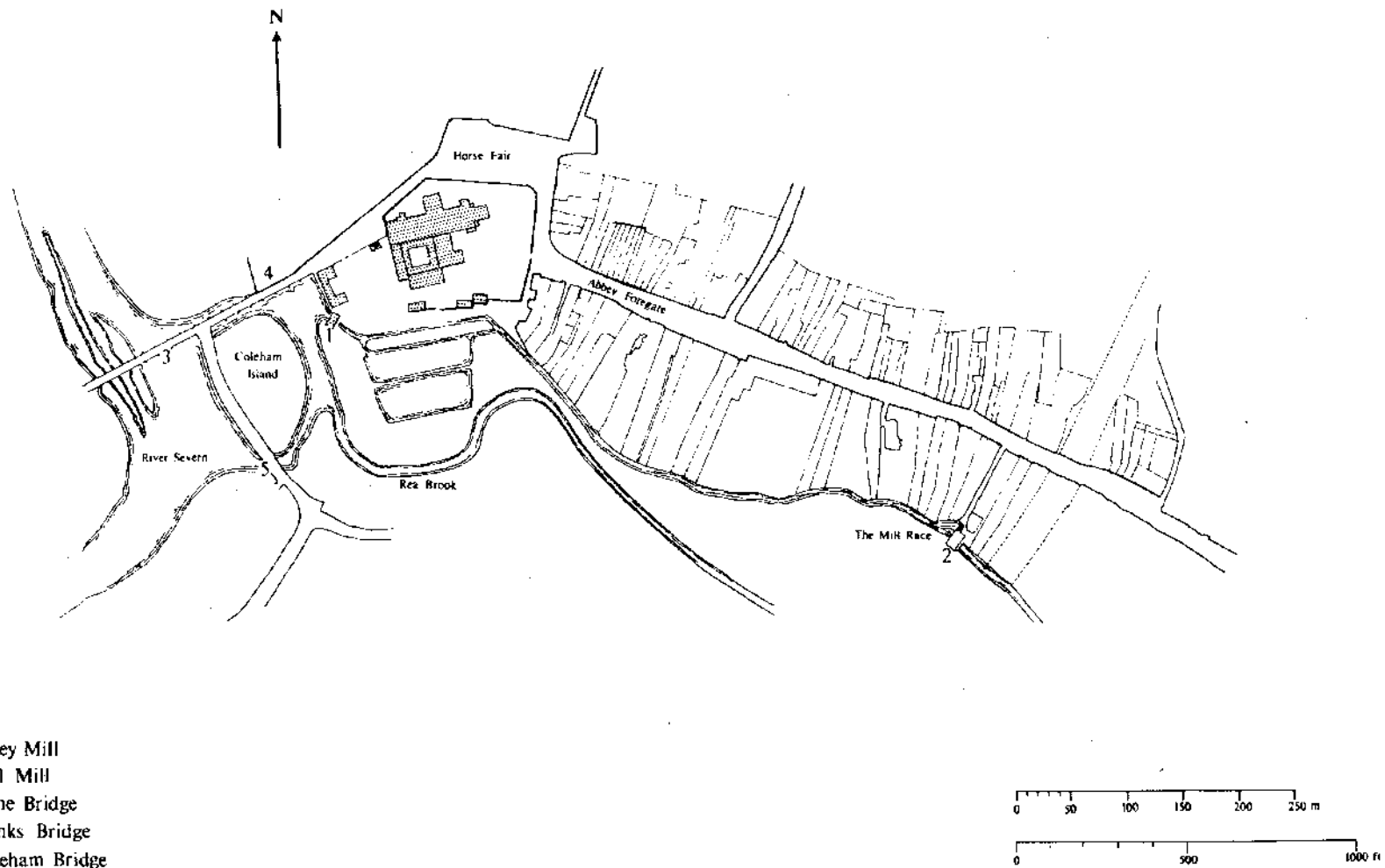
# ZONES OF ACTIVITY

Fig 6



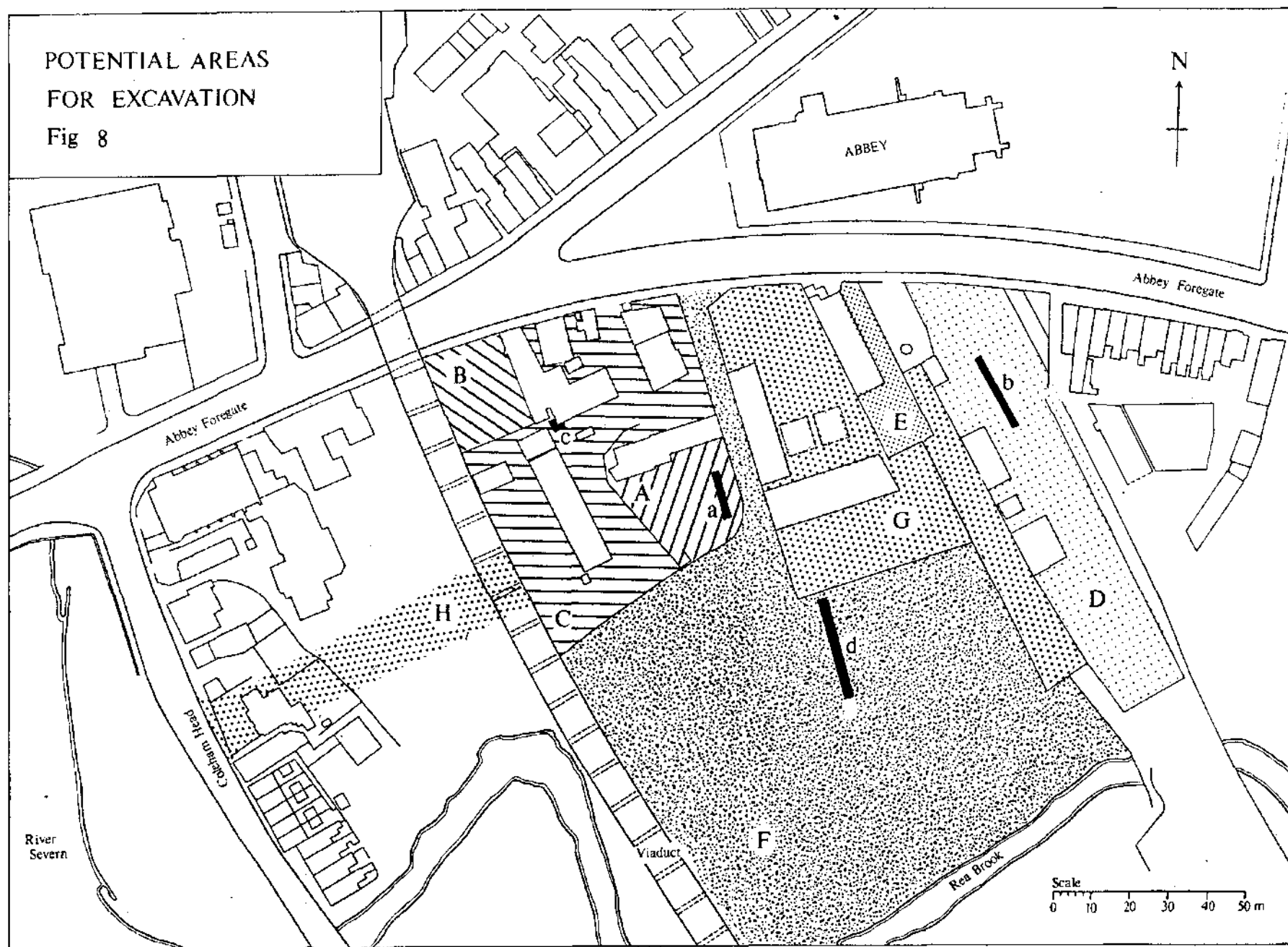
# Shrewsbury Abbey and its Suburbs

Fig 7





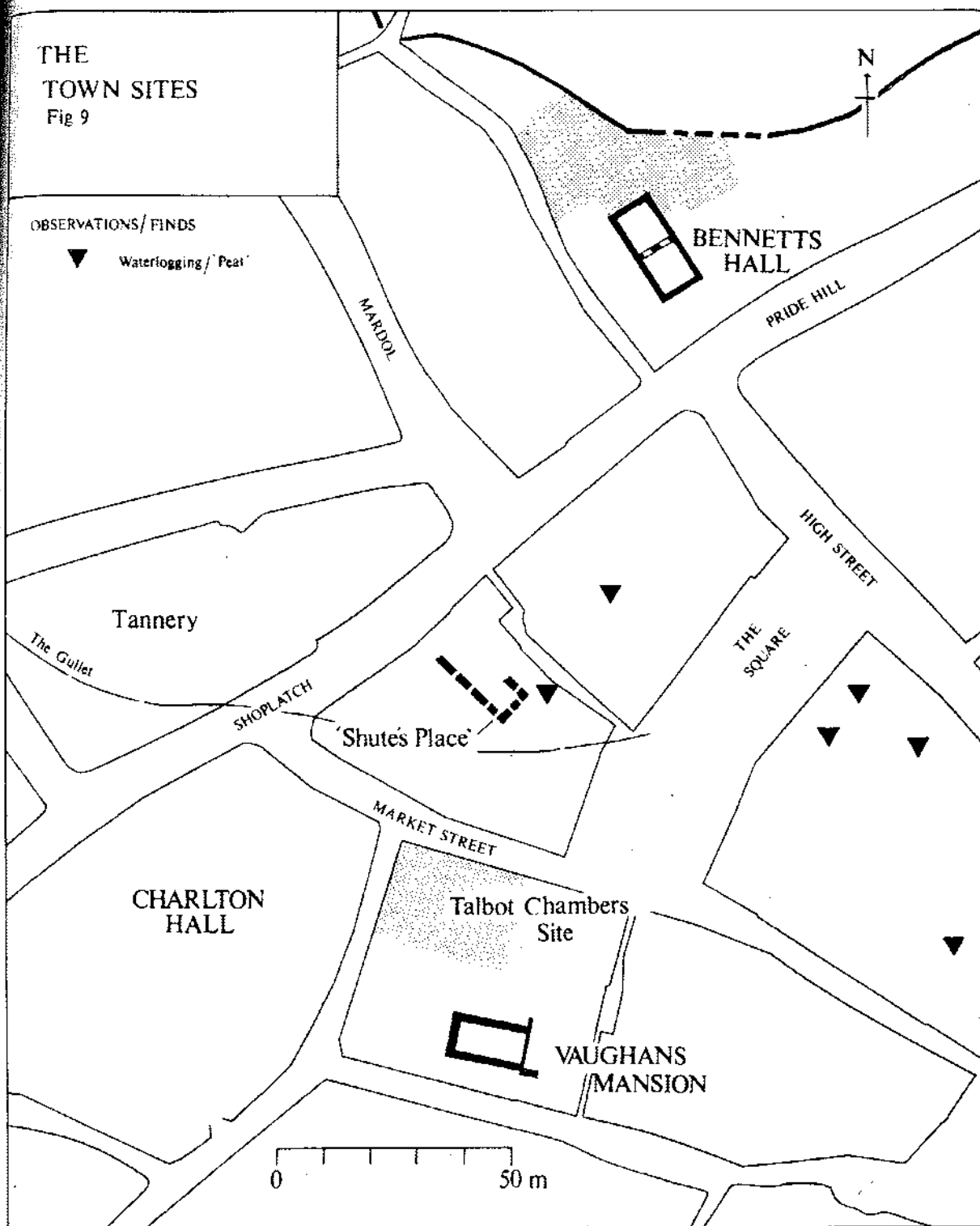
POTENTIAL AREAS  
FOR EXCAVATION  
Fig 8

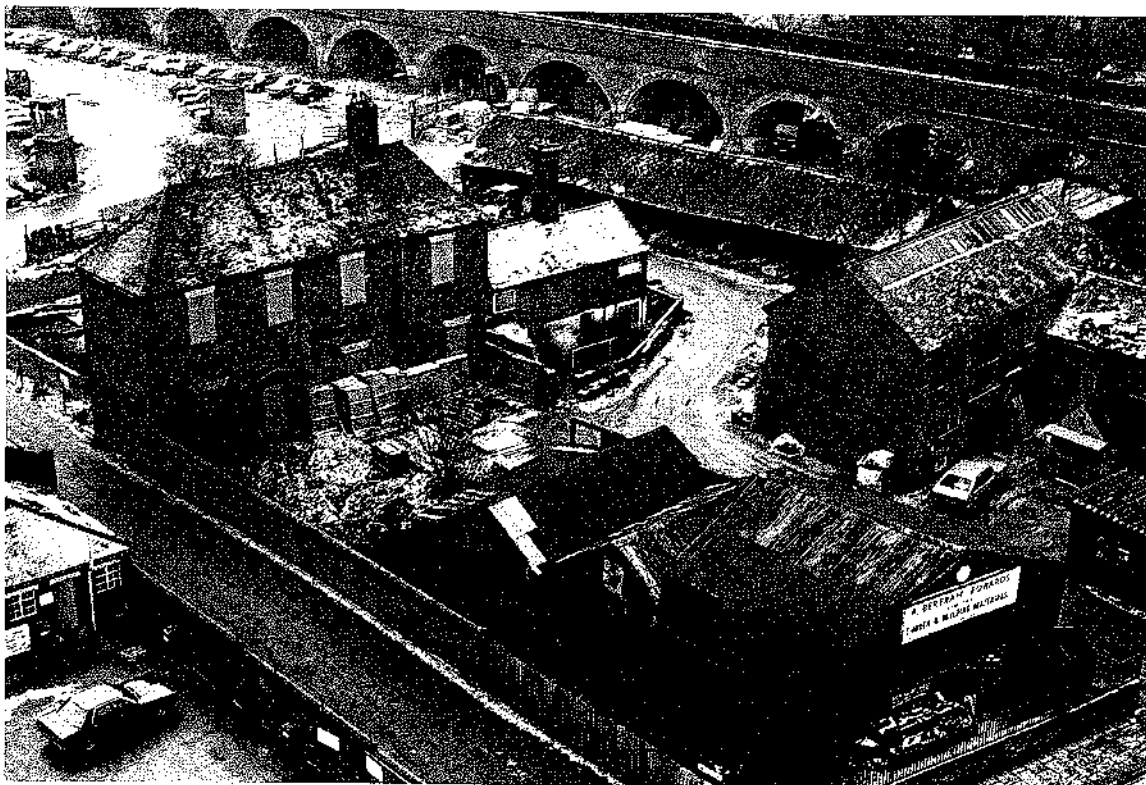


THE  
TOWN SITES  
Fig 9

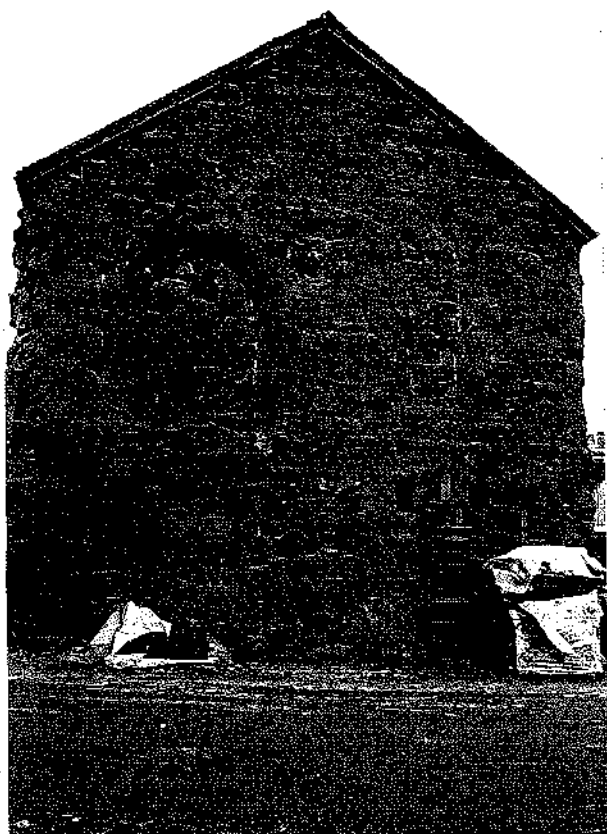
OBSERVATIONS/ FINDS

▼ Waterlogging/ 'Peat'

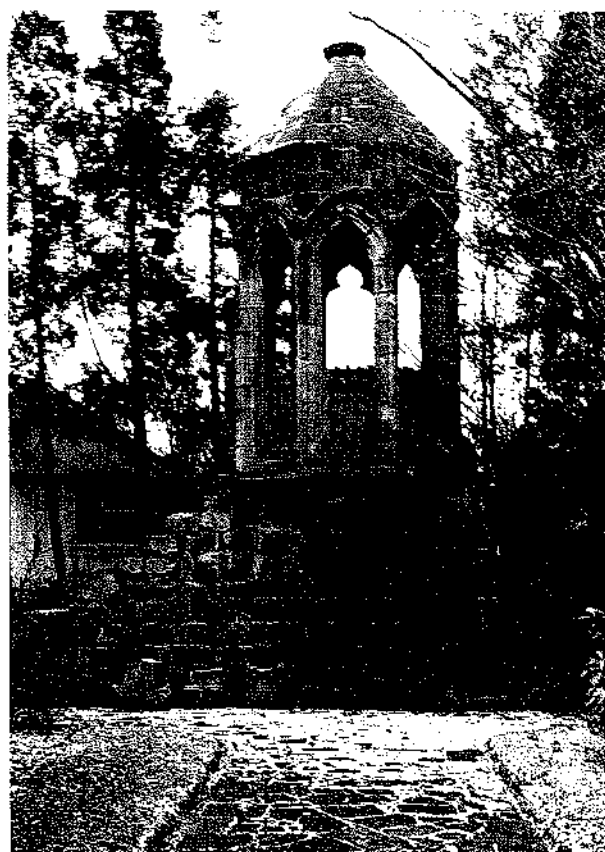




The Zone of Archaeological Interest (the Outer Court of the Abbey Precinct) with the railway viaduct in the background and the Abbey Foregate (A5) running across the bottom right hand corner. The site currently under excavation is behind the Queen Anne House (centre left) and the surviving gable end of the 'Infirmary' can be seen centre right.



Detail of the surviving gable-end wall of the 'Infirmary' building.



The Refectory Pulpit.

(Photos: M.A. Cooper)