

# *Archaeology Wales*

## **Old Baptist Chapel, Shifnal Shropshire**

Archaeological Field Evaluation  
and Photographic Survey



By  
James Weaver and  
Irene Garcia Rovira


Report No. 1628


# Archaeology Wales

## Old Baptist Chapel, Shifnal Shropshire

Archaeological Field Evaluation  
and Photographic Survey

Prepared For: Shropshire Towns  
and Rural Housing

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## **Table of Contents**

Non-technical summary	3
1. Introduction	3
2. Site description and archaeological background	4
3. Aims and objectives	5
4. Methodology	5
5. Evaluation results	6
6. Finds	8
7. Discussions and conclusions	8
8. Bibliography	9

Appendix 1: Figures

Appendix 2: Plates

Appendix 3: Context Catalogue

Appendix 4: Written Scheme of Investigation

### **Figures**

Figure 1	Site location
Figure 2	Location of proposed development site
Figure 3	Trench location
Figure 4	Trench section, looking N
Figure 5	Direction of shot, building exterior
Figure 6	Direction of shot, building interior

### **Plates**

Plate 1	Front elevation, looking S
Plate 2	West elevation, looking NW
Plate 3	Detail of window opening, west elevation

Plate 4	West elevation, looking NW
Plate 5	South elevation, looking N
Plate 6	East elevation, looking SE
Plate 7	Building interior, N elevation
Plate 8	Utility room, looking N
Plate 9	Utility room, looking E
Plate 10	Utility room, looking S
Plate 11	Interior, south elevation
Plate 12	Interior, west elevation
Plate 13	Bathroom area, looking W
Plate 14	Interior, W elevation
Plate 15	Interior – main space, looking NW
Plate 16	Bathroom door, looking W
Plate 17	Post-excavation plan of (105)
Plate 18	East facing section of (104)
Plate 19	East facing section of (102)

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## **Non-technical Summary**

*This report results for work undertaken by Archaeology Wales Ltd at The Old Chapel, Shifnal. It draws upon the results of an archaeological field evaluation and a photographic survey, undertaken in November 2017, at the request of Shropshire Towns and Rural Housing.*

*This programme of works was recommended by SCHET – archaeological advisors for Shropshire County Council – as a condition of planning to assess the impact of the proposed development on the archaeological resource. The trial trench evaluation and the photographic survey were undertaken prior to the erection of seven apartments (in two blocks) following demolition of existing building, along with ancillary works at The Old Chapel, Shifnal, TF11 8AQ centred on SJ 74754 07807 (Planning Application: 17/01565/FUL).*

*The chapel was built in 1843 and its function as a place of worship lasted until 1921. From 1931 this space was re-used as a magistrates' court until 1985 when the building was left unoccupied. The Old Chapel is listed in the local HER as a non-designated asset and is located within Shifnal conservation area. The site has been investigated previously in the form of a desk-based-assessment and a heritage statement carried out by Bear Archaeology in 2016 (Sowerby 2016).*

*The trial trench evaluation consisted of the hand excavation of a 7m x 2m trench located in the yard to the rear of the chapel. This investigation revealed that the backyard had been used previously as an area of dumping of structural material in the late 19<sup>th</sup> or early 20<sup>th</sup> century, and as an area used by the Old Fire Station as possible practicing ground in the later 20<sup>th</sup> century. The photographic survey recorded the present condition of the chapel.*

*All work conformed to Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation (2014), Standard and Guidance for the archaeological investigation and recording of standing buildings or structures (2014) and Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Artefact and Environmental Collection, Documentation Conservation and Research (2014).*

### **1. Introduction**

In November 2017, Archaeology Wales Ltd was commissioned by Shropshire Towns and Rural Housing to carry out an archaeological field evaluation and a photographic survey. This programme of works was recommended by SCHET – archaeological advisors for Shropshire County Council – as a condition of planning to assess the impact of the proposed development on the archaeological resource. The trial trench evaluation and the photographic survey were undertaken prior to the erection of seven apartments (in two blocks), following demolition of existing building, and the construction of associated parking and amenity space, and the formation of vehicular access at The Old Chapel, Shifnal, TF11 8AQ, centred on SJ 74754 07807 (Figures 1-2). Planning Application: 17/01565/FUL.

A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by Archaeology Wales and approved by SCHET prior to the commencement of the fieldwork outlined the location of the trenches. The field evaluation was carried out by James Weaver, and Stephanie McCulloch, all of Archaeology Wales. The project was managed by Mark Houliston. The fieldwork was undertaken between the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> of November 2017. The Archaeology Wales project number for the work is 2562 and the site code is OBC/17/EV.

All work conformed to Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation (2014), Standard and Guidance for the archaeological investigation and recording of standing buildings or structures

(2014) and Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Artefact and Environmental Collection, Documentation Conservation and Research (2014).

## **2. Site description and archaeological background**

### **2.1. Location, topography and geology**

The Old Chapel is located within the post-medieval urban span of Shifnal. The site is currently bounded by the Old Fire Station to the east, and by residential housing to the south and west. The site is flanked by Shrewsbury Road. The site is located within a plot, measuring *circa* 45m in length and 11m in width. It is centred on the following coordinates: SJ74754 07807.

The underlying geology is characterised by Permian sandstone and conglomerate, overlain to the north-east by Triassic sandstone and conglomerate. The superficial soils are defined by till, with glacial sand and gravels to the north-east (BGS 2017).

### **2.2. Archaeological and historical background**

#### *The chapel*

The Old Chapel was first built in 1843 and used as a place for worship until its closure in 1921. This space was reused in 1931 as a magistrates' court. During this phase, most of its original fittings and fixtures were altered to create a space suited to its new function. The chapel was finally unoccupied in 1985.

The site is listed as a non-designated asset in the local Historic Environment Record (HER), and it is located within Shifnal conservation area. The site is surrounded by an urban landscape defined by terraced houses of Georgian and Victorian date.

A desk-based-assessment carried out in 2016 by Bear Archaeology (Sowerby 2016) noted that within 500m of its surroundings, there are 80 non-designated assets, and 40 designated assets in the form of Listed buildings.

#### *The area*

A recent desk-based-assessment (Sowerby 2016) notes that no evidence of Prehistoric and Roman activity is documented within the immediate area of the site.

Shifnal is first mentioned in the Domesday Book, which described a small settlement surrounded by areas of plough land. It is not until the 13th century that the town begins to develop into its urban form.

A moated manor house to the south of the church appears to have been occupied during the 13th and 14th centuries (Barker 1961) and it is likely that a settlement surrounding a church and a manorial enclosure existed at this time.

A search into the local HER illustrates the imprint of the Medieval period that still exists in Shifnal in the form of churches, moated sites, tenement plots, and the medieval urban form of the town. Furthermore, the post-medieval character in which the site is located is attested by the number of designated and non-designated assets located within the surroundings of the chapel.

### **3. Aims and Objectives**

#### Trial trench evaluation

The WSI set out a program of works to ensure that the intrusive trial trench evaluation met the standard required by The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (2014).

The objective of the intrusive trial trench evaluation was to locate and describe, by means of strategic trial trenching, archaeological features present within the development area. The work elucidated the presence/absence of archaeological material, its character, distribution, extent, condition and relative significance. The work included an assessment of regional context within which the archaeological evidence rests and aimed to highlight any relevant research issues within national and regional research frameworks.

The intrusive trial trench evaluation has resulted in a report that provides information of sufficient detail to allow informed planning decisions to be made which can safeguard the archaeological resource. Preservation *in situ* has been advocated where at all possible, but where engineering or other factors result in loss of archaeological deposits, preservation by record has been recommended.

#### Photographic survey

The work was undertaken by a suitably experienced archaeologist and comprised a rapid survey of the standing building and perimeter.

The survey was completed in accordance with ClfA *Standard and Guidance for the archaeological investigation and recording of standing buildings or structures* (2014) and to a standard equivalent to a Photographic Survey (English Heritage *Understanding Historic Buildings: A Guide to Good Recording Practice* 2006).

The objective of the Photographic Survey was to provide with a full visual record of the chapel. The work has resulted in a report, which provides a comprehensive record of all the work undertaken.

### **4. Methodology**

#### Trial trench evaluation

The work was undertaken to meet the standard required by The Chartered Institute for Archaeologist's *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (2014).

Prior to work commencing all constraints to ground works were identified, including the siting of any live services and Tree Preservation Orders. A CAT scan was carried out by a suitably qualified person before any work was undertaken.

The agreed evaluation area was positioned to maximise the retrieval of archaeological information and to ensure that the archaeological resource was understood. The exact location and dimension of the trench was agreed with SCHET prior to the commencement of works.

A single trench, measuring 7m x 2m, was hand-excavated in the yard to the rear of the chapel, no closer than 3m from the perimeter of the building (Figure 3). All areas were subsequently hand cleaned using pointing trowels and/or hoes to prove the presence/absence of archaeological features and to determine their significance. All identified archaeological features was examined and recorded, to elucidate the character, distribution, extent and importance of the archaeological remains. Recording was carried out using AW recording systems (on pro-forma context sheets) using a continuous number system for all contexts. Plans and sections were drawn to appropriate scales and related to Ordnance Survey datum and fixed to local topographical boundaries. Photographs were taken of all deposits and features in digital format with appropriate scales, using a 12MP camera.

Sufficient excavation was undertaken to ensure that the natural horizons were reached and proven.

### The Photographic Survey

The work was undertaken by a suitably experienced archaeologist and comprised a rapid survey of the standing building and its perimeter. A health and safety Risk Assessment was prepared before the start of the work. Areas were not surveyed when it was not possible to do so safely.

The survey was completed in accordance with ClfA Standard and Guidance for the archaeological investigation and recording of standing buildings or structures (2014) and to a standard equivalent to a Photographic Survey (English Heritage 'Understanding Historic Buildings: A Guide to Good Recording Practice' 2006).

All photographs were taken in a high resolution (12+ Mega Pixel) digital format. For both general and specific photographs, a photographic scale was included. The photographic record was accompanied by a photographic register detailing relevant information.

## **5. The results**

### **Field evaluation**

Trench 1 (Figures 3-4) measured 7m in length, 2m in width and 0.20m in depth, barring one section at the eastern most end of the trench where a 1m slot was cut. The trench was oriented on an east/west alignment, approximately 4m from the perimeter of the Old Baptist Church building.

The natural substrate (103) was found 0.95m below ground level. (103) was defined by friable mid-red brown sand with gravel inclusions. (103) was overlaid by (106), located 0.56m below ground level. (106) was comprised of loose dark brown silty soil and included the remains of fragmented bricks, concrete and other building waste. (106) yielded various sherds of 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century pottery, a stem of a clay pipe and a fragment of a clay pipe bowl. The nature and character of this deposit suggests that the back yard may have been used as a dump area at some point during the 19<sup>th</sup>/20<sup>th</sup> century.

(106) was overlaid by (105) lying 0.40m below ground level. (105) was comprised of a crushed brick and lime mortar deposit, possibly from the demolition of a brick structure. (105) was heavily compacted, possibly to form a surface. It could also be interpreted as backfill that has become



heavily compacted over time due to ground water reactivating the bonding agent that is present within the deposit (Plate 17).

(105) was overlaid by (104) lying 0.15m below ground level. (104) was comprised of a dark brown/black cinder deposit with inclusions of charcoal and ceramic building material (Plate 18). (104) appears to be a backfill of cinder waste that has been exposed to high temperatures, as there was ceramic building material that was heavily deformed from intense heat. This could be evidence of burning simulations carried out by the fire brigade as the site is located to the east of the Old Fire Station.

(104) was overlaid by (102) subsoil that was 0.07m below ground level. (102) was comprised of a mid-brown silty soil with small stone inclusions and an abundance of ceramic building material waste (Plate 19). (102) subsoil had an abundance of 20<sup>th</sup> century pottery within the layer. (102) was overlaid by (101) topsoil that was 0.07m thick. (101) was a dark brown, heavily rooted topsoil with building material waste within the deposit. (101) had a large quantity of 20<sup>th</sup> century pottery and glass lying on the surface of the deposit.

### **Photographic survey**

#### *The building exterior (Figure 5)*

The chapel is defined by a rectangular block measuring 15.39m in length and 8.35m in width, orientated approximately North/South. A small brick extension is located to the South of the building.

A concrete path leads towards the entrance of the building, with an area of landscaping at either side of it. Two burials orientated East/West are located to the West of this area. The burials are currently fenced off.

#### *Front elevation*

The front elevation preserves most of its original design. This elevation is stuccoed and follows Greek Revival Style. It has two pediment gables at either side of the main entrance with two rectangular windows framed by moulded render architraves. The entrance is defined by double timber panelled doors, and with a projecting canopy supported by fluted console brackets (Plate 1).

#### *East elevation*

This elevation is made of exposed brick, and contains four cast iron windows with shallow brick arches, and projecting canted bricks sills (Plate 2-4). This elevation is neighbouring the Old Fire Station and its ancillary buildings.

#### *South elevation*

This elevation is characterised by a small stretcher bond extension with a tile roof. The south elevation of the extension contains two small windows and two entrances. Both entrances were blocked at the time of the survey and, therefore, it was not possible to characterise their style and fabric used for their construction. Both windows are square and decorated with a brick segmental arch (Plate 5).

#### *West elevation*

This elevation is made of exposed brick. This elevation is currently covered by climbing vegetation (Plate 6).

Building interior (Figure 6)

At the time of the survey, the interior of the building was derelict. The structural integrity of the southern area of the building was questioned and, therefore, it was not surveyed.

During the survey, it was concluded that almost no original fittings and fixtures had been preserved over time. The building had been altered to suit its changing function from a place of worship to a magistrates’ court. Furthermore, the interior clearly suffered the effects of vandalism postdating its closure in 1985.

The main space was characterised as an open space, most probably the area initially used for worship. The walls of this area contained the remains of light green white paint, and of a false ceiling made of rectangular panels.

While climbing vegetation made it difficult to define the exterior western elevation, from inside the building, it was clear that this elevation contained three window openings. These were large rectangular opening with clear glass panels using a combination of casement and hung styles.

A wooden platform was located to the south of the main interior compartment; however its function is uncertain.

**6. Finds**

A number of finds dating from the late 19<sup>th</sup> to the late 20<sup>th</sup> century were found throughout the dumping events revealed during the excavation of Trench 1.

CONTEXT	DESCRIPTION	DATE	KEPT/DISCARDED
106	Fragment of clay pipe stem	19 <sup>th</sup> century	Kept
106	Fragment of clay pipe bowl	19 <sup>th</sup> century	Kept
106	Blue and white pottery sherds	19 <sup>th</sup> century	Discarded
102	Glass bottles - fragments	Late 20 <sup>th</sup> century	Discarded
102	Fragments of pottery sherds	Late 20 <sup>th</sup> century	Discarded

**7. Discussions and conclusions**

The archaeological evaluation revealed the remains of at least three events of activity/deposition within yard south of the chapel. The first phase was characterised by the remains of building material mixed with a number of finds dating to the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century. The area seems to have subsequently been used by the Old Fire Station as a practicing ground. A third phase of activity is also defined by a dumping event dating to the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

The photographic record documented the interior and exterior of the chapel. It was noted that the original layout and style of the chapel had been altered during the course of its use both as a place of worship and as a magistrates’ court. The chapel was also heavily vandalised once it was

unoccupied. A small area of the interior of the chapel was not surveyed due to health and safety reasons.

## **8. Bibliography**

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McKinley, J., Roberts C., 1993, Excavation and post-excavation treatment of cremated and inhumed human remains, Technical Paper 13.

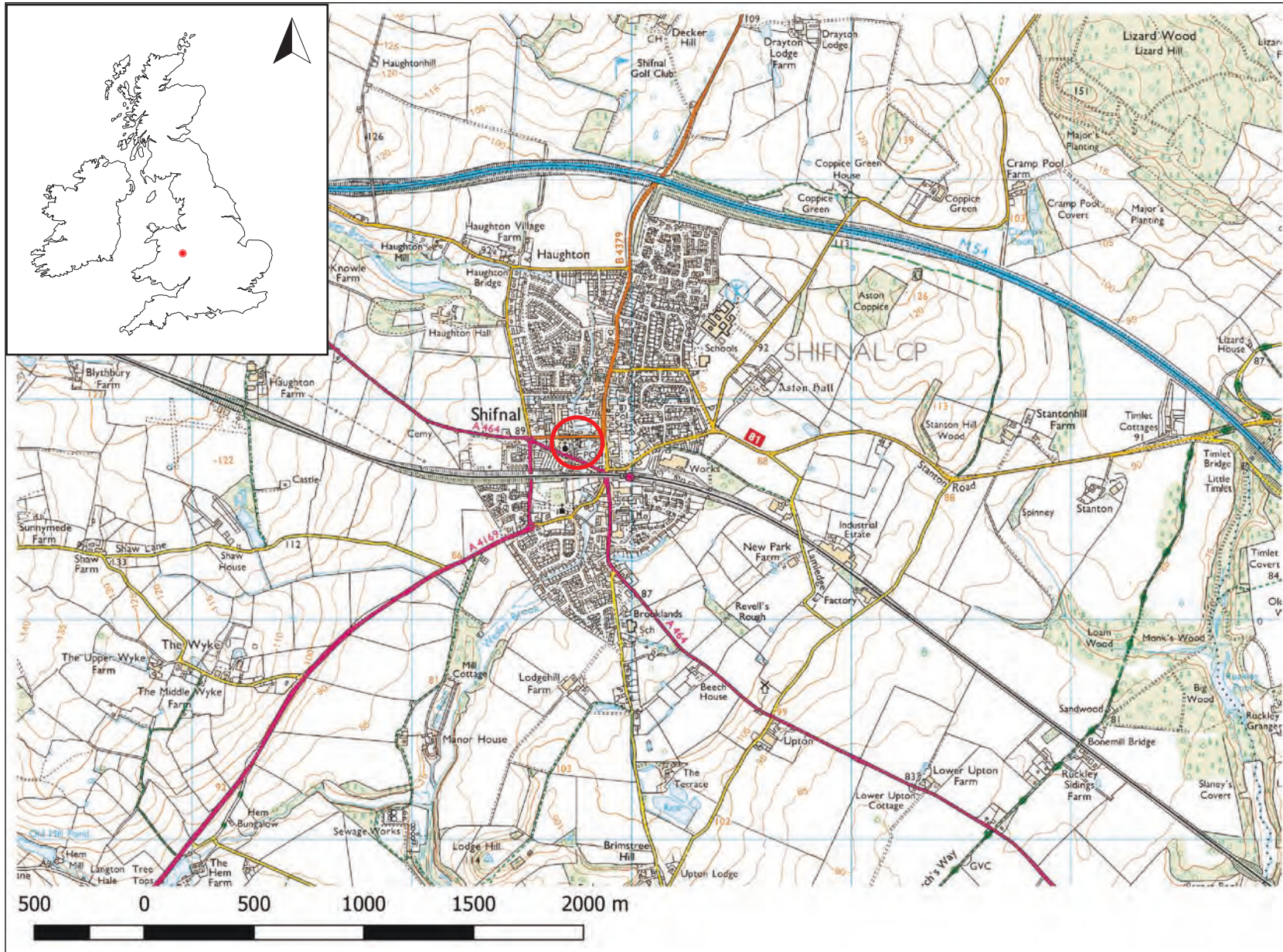
Sowerby M., 2016, Former Zion Chapel, Shifnal, Shropshire. A desk-based-assessment (unpublished report).

British Geological Survey: Geology of Britain viewer:

[www.bgs.ac.uk/discoveringGeology/geologyOfBritain/viewer.html](http://www.bgs.ac.uk/discoveringGeology/geologyOfBritain/viewer.html)

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**APPENDIX I:**



— Location of site

Figure 1  
Location map

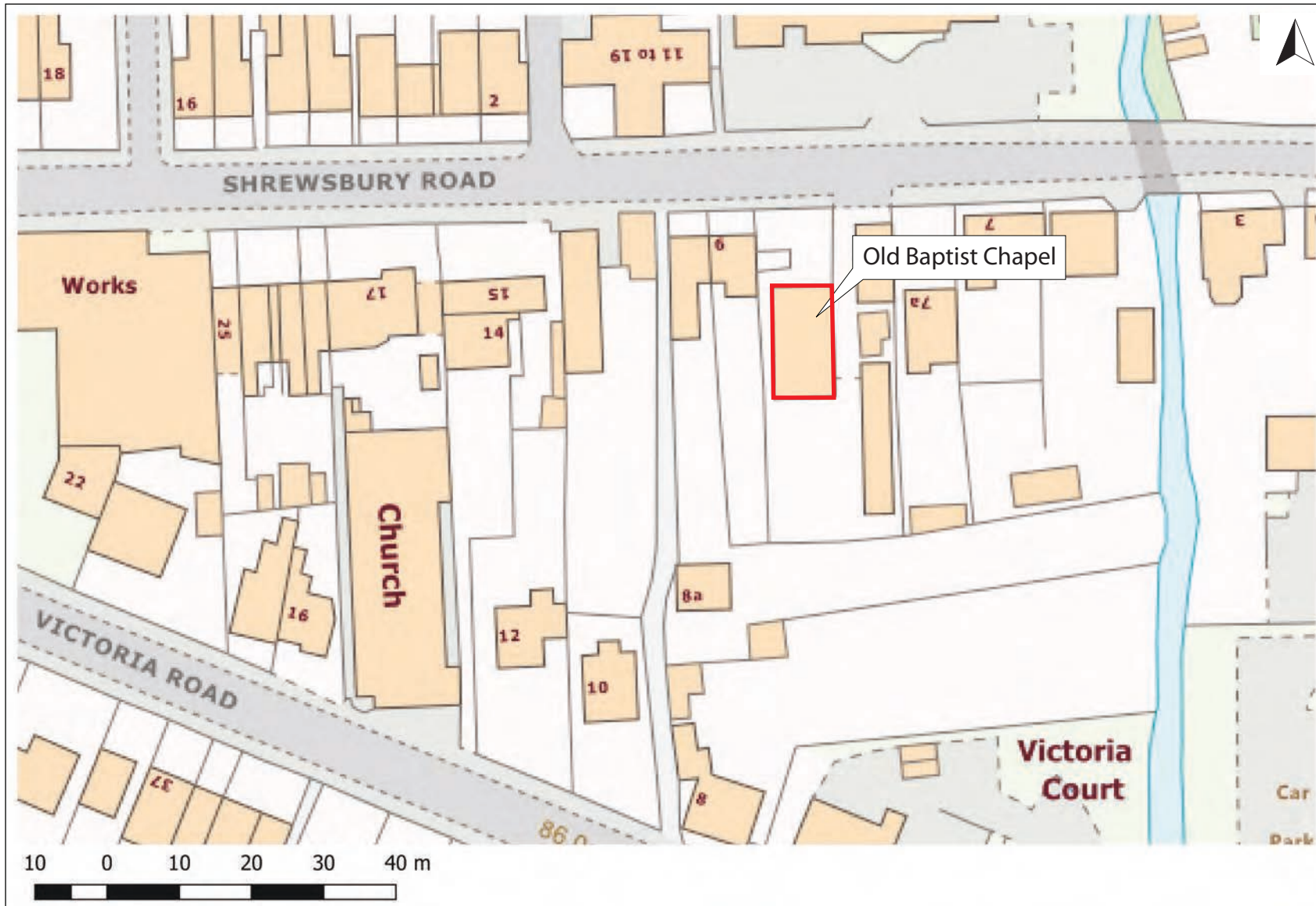


Figure 2  
Detailed location plan

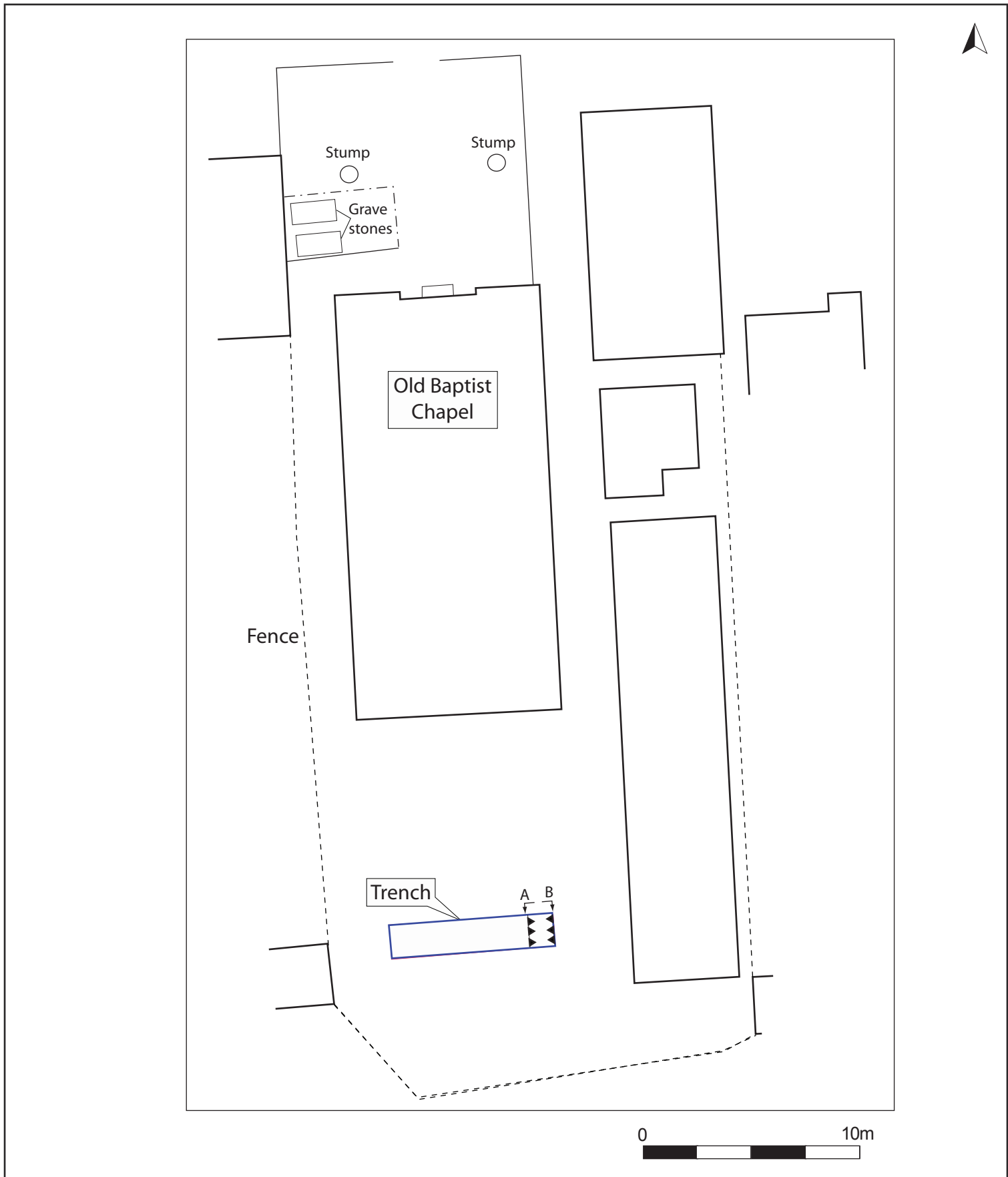


Figure 3. Trench location plan

Representative section taken at east end of Trench

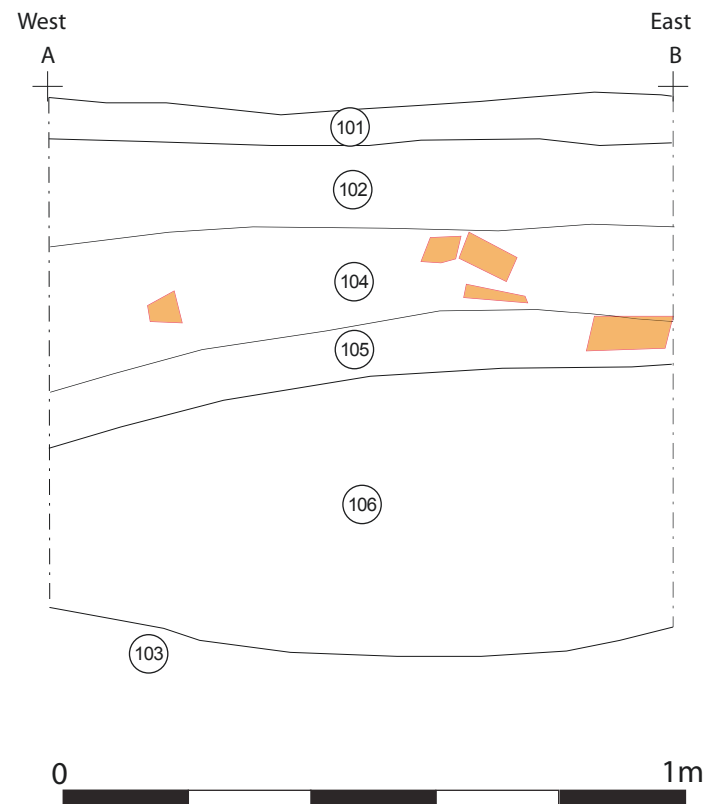


Figure 4.  
Section of Trench



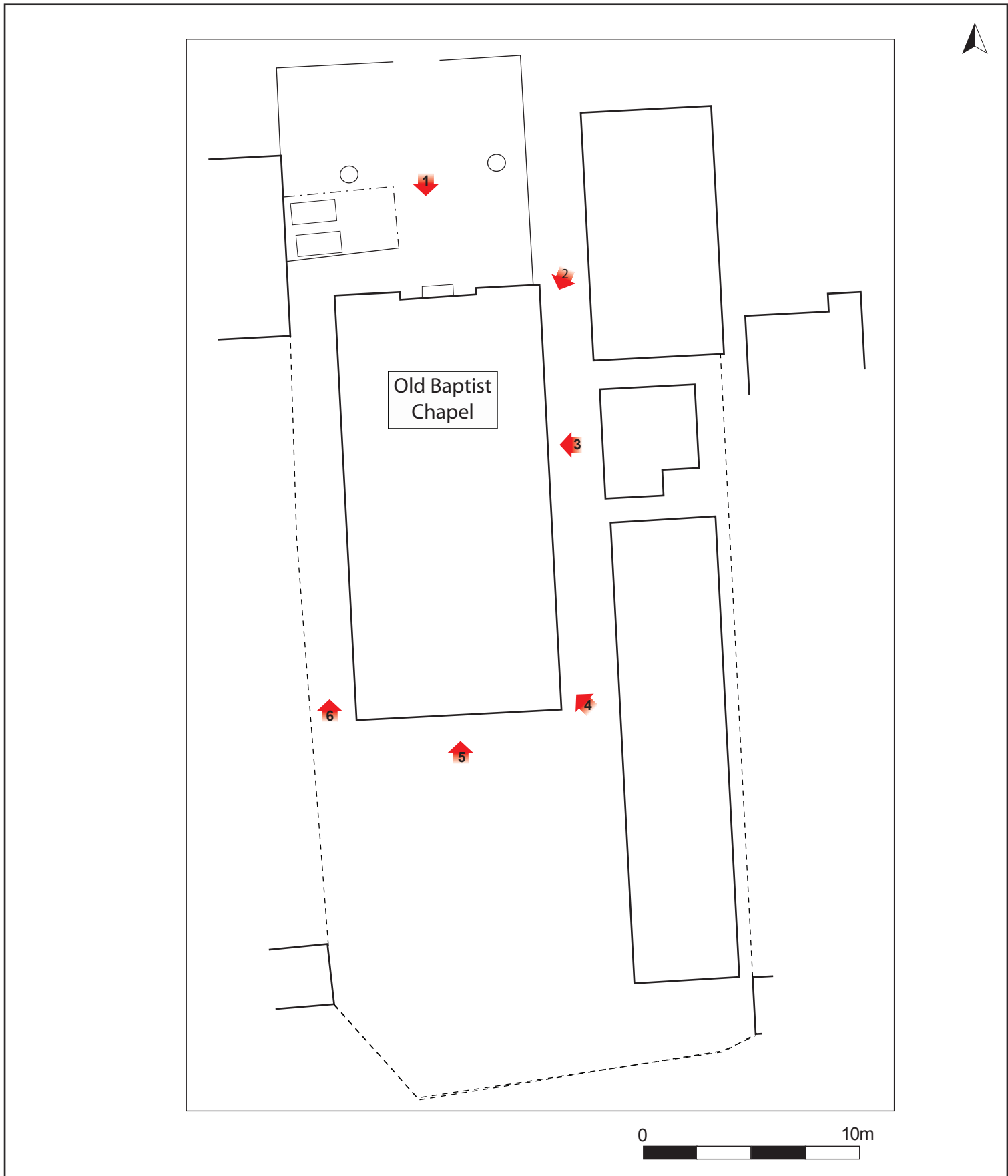


Figure 5. Direction of photographs - exterior

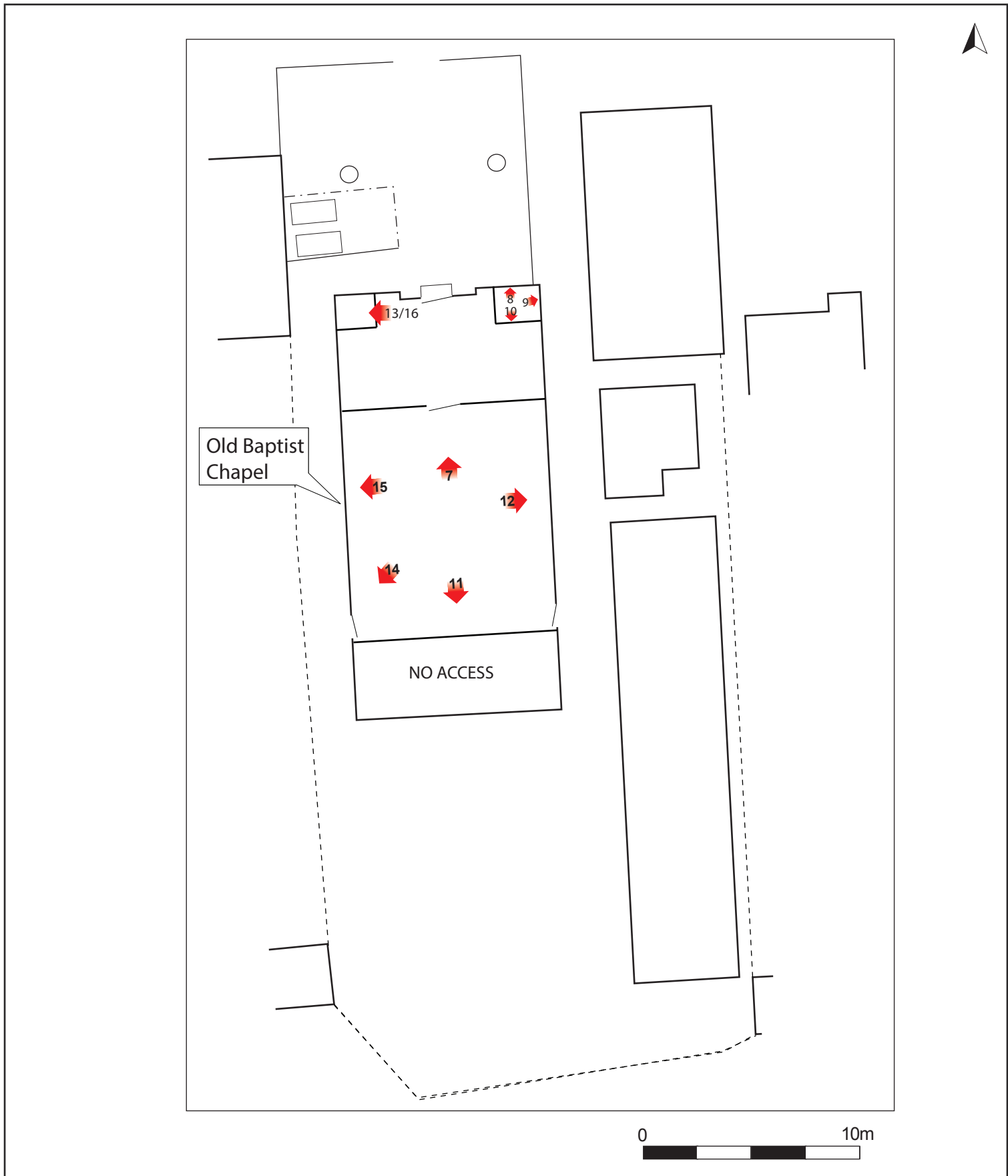


Figure 6. Direction of photographs - interior

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**APPENDIX II:**



Plate 1. Front elevation Old Baptist Chapel, looking south. Scale 2m



Plate 2. West elevation, looking northwest.  
Scale 2m



Plate 3. Detail of window opening, west elevation.



Plate 4. West elevation, looking northwest.



Plate 5. South elevation, looking north.



Plate 6. East elevation, looking southeast.



Plate 7. Building interior, north elevation.  
Scale 2m



Plate 8. Utility room, looking north.  
Scale 1m



Plate 9. Utility room, looking east. Scale 2m



Plate 10. Utility room, looking south. Scale 2m





Plate 11. Interior, south elevation. Scale 2m



Plate 12. Interior, west elevation. Scale 2m



Plate 13. Bathroom area, looking west. Scale 2m



Plate 14. Interior, west elevation, looking west. Scale 2m

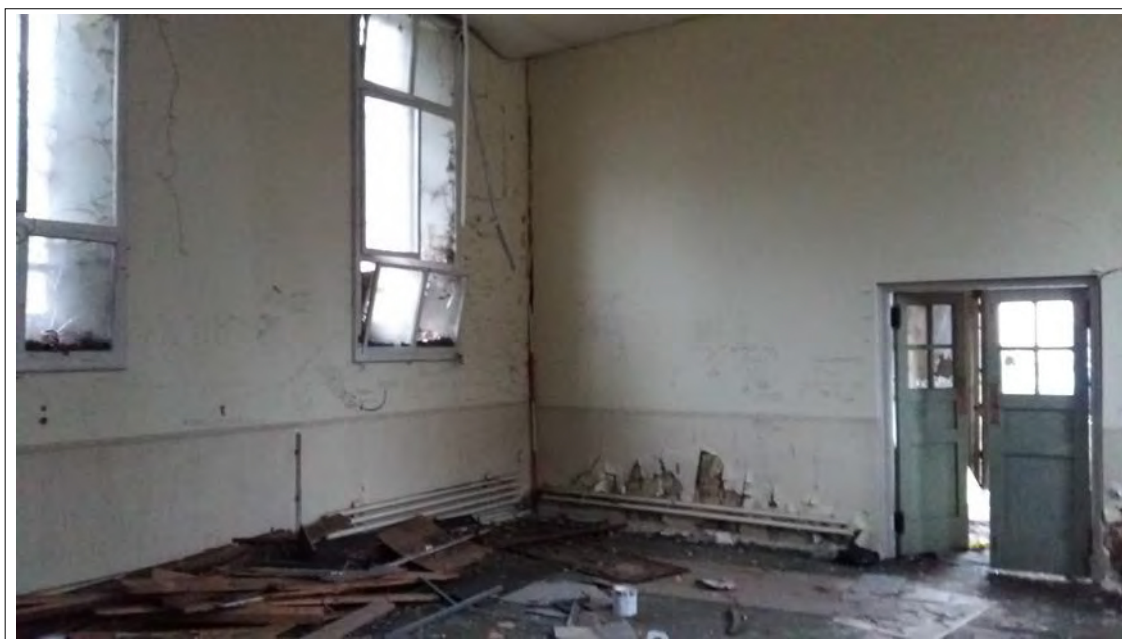


Plate 15. Interior - main space, looking northwest. Scale 2m



Plate 16. Bathroom door, looking west. Scale 2m



Plate 17. Post-excitation plan of (105). Scale 1m



Plate 18. Section of (104), looking west. Scale 1m



Plate 19. Section of (102), looking west. Scale 1m

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**APPENDIX III:**

<b>CONTEXT NUMBER</b>	<b>CONTEXT DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>DATE</b>
101	Dark brown, heavily rooted clay loam with building material waste within the deposit	Topsoil
102	Deposit of mid-brown silty soil with small stone inclusions and an abundance of ceramic building material waste. Found 0.07m below ground level.	Subsoil
103	Loose mid-red brown sand with moderate gravel inclusions. Found 0.95m below ground level	Natural substrate
104	Deposit of dark brown/black cinder deposit with inclusions of charcoal and ceramic building material. Found 0.15m below ground level	Post-medieval
105	Indurated deposit composed of crushed brick and lime mortar deposit, possibly from the demolition of a brick structure. Found 0.4m below ground level	Post-medieval
106	Dark brown silt mixed up with the remains of fragmented bricks, concrete and other building materials. Found 0.56m below ground level	Post-medieval

**WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION**

**FOR AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL**

**EVALUATION**

**AT OLD BAPTIST CHAPEL,**

**SHIFNAL, SHROPSHIRE**

**Prepared for:**

**Shropshire Towns and Rural Housing**

**Project No: 2562**

**October 2017**





<b>Contents</b>	<b>Page</b>
<i>Summary</i> .....	3
<b>1. Introduction and planning background</b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b>2. Site Description</b> .....	<b>4</b>
<b>3. Archaeological background</b> .....	<b>4</b>
<b>4. Objectives</b> .....	<b>5</b>
<b>5. Timetable of works</b> .....	<b>6</b>
5.1. Fieldwork .....	6
5.2. Report delivery .....	6
<b>6. Fieldwork</b> .....	<b>6</b>
6.1. Detail .....	6
6.2. Recording .....	7
6.3. Finds.....	8
6.4. Environmental sampling strategy.....	8
6.5. Human remains .....	8
6.6. Specialist advisers .....	8
<b>7. Monitoring</b> .....	<b>9</b>
<b>8. Post-fieldwork programme</b> .....	<b>10</b>
8.1. Archive assessment.....	10
8.2. Reports and archive deposition .....	11
<b>9. Staff</b> .....	<b>12</b>
<b>Additional Considerations</b> .....	<b>12</b>
<b>10. Health and Safety</b> .....	<b>12</b>
10.1. Risk assessment .....	12
10.2. Other guidelines .....	12
<b>11. Community Engagement and Outreach</b> .....	<b>12</b>
<b>12. Insurance</b> .....	<b>12</b>
<b>13. Quality Control</b> .....	<b>13</b>
13.1. Professional standards .....	13
13.2. Project tracking .....	13
<b>14. Arbitration</b> .....	<b>13</b>
<b>15. References</b> .....	<b>13</b>

Figure 1. Site location

Figure 2. Site location, close up

Figure 3. Detailed plan of the site, showing area of proposed investigation

## Summary

*This Written Scheme of Investigations (WSI) details an intrusive trial trench evaluation and a photographic survey to be undertaken by Archaeology Wales at the request of Shropshire Towns and Rural Housing.*

*The trial trench evaluation and the photographic survey will be undertaken prior to the Erection of 7 apartments (2 blocks) following demolition of existing building; associated parking and amenity space; formation of vehicular access at The Old Chapel, Shifnal, TF11 8AQ centred on SJ 74754 07807 (Planning Application: 17/01565/FUL). The trial trench evaluation will consist of the hand excavation of a 7m x 2m trench to be located in the yard to the rear of the chapel.*

*The chapel was built in 1843 and its function as a place of worship lasted until 1921. From 1931 this space was re-used for the magistrate's court until 1985 when the building was unoccupied. The Old Chapel is listed in the local HER as a non-designated asset and is located within Shifnal conservation area. 80 non-designated assets are located within 500m of the site. 40 designated assets in the form of designated buildings are found within the aforementioned area. The site has been investigated previously in the form of a desk-based-assessment and a heritage statement carried out by Bear Archaeology in 2016.*

*All work will be undertaken in accordance with the standards and guidelines of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (2014).*

### **1. Introduction and planning background**

This WSI details the methodology for a programme of intrusive trial trench evaluation, and a photographic survey to be undertaken prior to the erection of 7 apartments (2 blocks) following demolition of existing building; associated parking and amenity space; formation of vehicular access at The Old Chapel, Shifnal, TF11 8AQ centred on SJ 74754 07807 (Planning Application: 17/01565/FUL).

The chapel was built in 1843 and its function as a place of worship lasted until 1921. From 1931 this space was re-used for the magistrate's court until 1985 when the building was unoccupied. The Old Chapel is listed in the local HER as a non-designated asset and is located within Shifnal conservation area. 80 non-designated assets are located within 500m of the site. 40 designated assets in the form of designated buildings are found within the aforementioned area. The site has been investigated previously in the form of a desk-based-assessment and a heritage statement carried out by Bear Archaeology in 2016.

This WSI has been prepared by Dr Irene Garcia Rovira, Assistant Project Manager, Archaeology Wales Ltd (henceforth - AW) at the request of Shropshire Towns and Rural Housing.

The methodology set out in this WSI has been agreed with SCHET in its capacity as archaeological advisors to Shropshire County Council. SCHET has recommended that an intrusive archaeological evaluation of the development area is undertaken as a condition of planning to assess the impact of the proposed development on the archaeological resource.

All work will be undertaken to the standards and guidance set by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (2014). AW is a Registered Organisation with the CIfA.

## **2. Site Description**

The Old Chapel is located within the post-medieval urban span of Shifnal. The site is currently bounded by gardens and buildings to the east, south and west, and flanked by Shrewsbury road. The site is located within a plot, measuring circa 45m in length and 11m in width. It is centred on the following coordinates: SJ74754 07807.

The underlying geology is characterised by Permian sandstone and conglomerate, overlain to the north-east by Triassic sandstone and conglomerate. The superficial soils are defined by till, with glacial sand and gravels to the north-east (BGS 2017).

## **3. Archaeological and historical background**

### **The chapel**

The Old Chapel was first built in 1843 and used as a place for worship until its closure in 1921. This space was in 1931 reused as a magistrate's court. During this phase, most of its original fittings and fixtures were altered to create a space suited to its new function. The chapel was finally unoccupied in 1985.

The site is listed as a non-designated asset in the local HER, and it is located within Shifnal conservation area. The site is surrounded by an urban landscape defined by terraced houses of Georgian and Victorian date.

A desk-based-assessment carried out in 2016 by Bear archaeology noted that within 500m of its surroundings, there are 80 non-designated assets, and 40 designated assets in the form of designated buildings.

### **The area**

A recent desk-based-assessment (see Sowerby 2016) notes that no evidence of prehistoric and roman chronologies is documented within the immediate area of the site.

Shifnal is first mentioned on the Doomesday book, which described a small settlement surrounded by areas of plough land. It is not until the 13<sup>th</sup> century that the town begins to develop into its urban form.

A moated manor house to the south of the church appears to have been occupied during the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> centuries (Barker 1961) and it is likely that a settlement surrounding a church and a manorial enclosure existed at this time.

A search into the local HER testifies the imprint that still exist in Shifnal from Medieval chronologies in the form of churches, moated sites, tenement plots, and the medieval urban form of the town. Furthermore, the post-medieval character in which the site is located is attested by the number of designated and non-designated assets located within the surroundings of the chapel.

## 4. Objectives

### Trial trench evaluation

This WSI sets out a program of works to ensure that the intrusive trial trench evaluation will meet the standard required by The Chartered Institute for Archaeologist's *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation (2014)*.

The objective of the intrusive trial trench evaluation will be to locate and describe, by means of strategic trial trenching, archaeological features that may be present within the development area. The work will elucidate the presence or absence of archaeological material, its character, distribution, extent, condition and relative significance. The work will include an assessment of regional context within which the archaeological evidence rests and will aim to highlight any relevant research issues within national and regional research frameworks.

The intrusive trial trench evaluation will result in a report that will provide information of sufficient detail to allow informed planning decisions to be made which can safeguard the archaeological resource. Preservation *in situ* will be advocated where at all possible, but where engineering or other factors result in loss of archaeological deposits, preservation by record will be recommended.

### Photographic survey

The work will be undertaken by a suitably experienced archaeologist and comprise a rapid survey of the standing building and perimeter.

The survey will be completed in accordance with *CIfA Standard and Guidance for the archaeological investigation and recording of standing buildings or structures (2014)* and to a standard equivalent to a Photographic Survey (English Heritage 'Understanding Historic Buildings: A Guide to Good Recording Practice' 2006).

The objective of the Photographic Survey is to provide with a full visual record of the chapel. The work will result in a report, which will provide a comprehensive record of all the work undertaken.

## **5. Timetable of works**

### **5.1. Fieldwork**

The programme of intrusive trial trench evaluation and the photographic survey will be undertaken prior to the submission of a planning application associated with the proposed development. The work is proposed to start on the 24<sup>th</sup> of October 2017. Archaeology Wales will update SCHET with the exact date.

### **5.2. Report delivery**

The report will be submitted to Shropshire Towns and Rural Housing and to SCHET within three months of the completion of the fieldwork. A copy of the report will also be sent to the regional HER.

## **6. Fieldwork**

### **6.1. Detail**

#### Trial trench evaluation

The work will be undertaken to meet the standard required by The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (2014).

The archaeological project manager in charge of the work will satisfy him/herself that all constraints to ground works have been identified, including the siting of live services and Tree Preservation Orders. A CAT scan will be carried out by a suitably qualified person before any work is undertaken.

The agreed evaluation area will be positioned to maximise the retrieval of archaeological information and to ensure that the archaeological resource is understood.

It is proposed that a single trench, measuring 7m x 2m will be hand-excavated at the yard to the rear of the chapel, no closer than 3m from the perimeter of the building (Figure 3). The exact location and dimension of the trench will be agreed with SCHET prior to the commencement of works.

The evaluation trench will be hand-excavated under close archaeological supervision. All areas will be subsequently hand cleaned using pointing trowels and/or hoes to prove the presence, or absence, of archaeological features and to determine their significance. The excavation of the minimum number of archaeological features will be undertaken, to elucidate the character, distribution, extent and importance of the archaeological remains. As a minimum small discrete features will be fully excavated, larger discrete features will be half-sectioned (50% excavated) and long linear

features will be sample excavated along their length - with investigative excavations distributed along the exposed length of any such feature and to investigate terminals, junctions and relationships with other features. Should this percentage excavation not yield sufficient information to allow the form and function of archaeological features/deposits to be determined full excavation of such features/deposits will be required.

Sufficient excavation will be undertaken to ensure that the natural horizons are reached and proven, where this can be practically and safely achieved. If safety reasons preclude manual excavation to natural, hand augering may be used to try to assess the total depth of stratification within each area. The depth of the excavation will conform to current safety requirements. If excavation is required below 1m the options of using shoring will be discussed with Shropshire Towns and Rural Housing and SCHET. The trench will be with Netlon fencing and road pins.

Where potentially significant archaeological features be encountered during the course of the evaluation then SHCET and Shropshire Towns and Rural Housing will be informed at the earliest possible opportunity. SCHET may subsequently request that further archaeological work is undertaken in order to fully evaluate areas of significant archaeological activity. Such work may require the provision of additional time and resources to complete the archaeological investigation.

### The Photographic Survey

The work will be undertaken by a suitably experienced archaeologist and comprise a rapid survey of the standing buildings and perimeter. A health and safety Risk Assessment will be prepared before the start of the work. Areas will not be surveyed if it is not possible to do so safely.

The survey will be completed in accordance with CIfA Standard and Guidance for the archaeological investigation and recording of standing buildings or structures (2014) and to a standard equivalent to a Photographic Survey (English Heritage 'Understanding Historic Buildings: A Guide to Good Recording Practice' 2006).

All photographs will be taken in a high resolution (12+ Mega Pixel) digital format. For both general and specific photographs, a photographic scale shall be included. The photographic record shall be accompanied by a photographic register detailing relevant information.

## **6.2. Recording**

Recording will be carried out using AW recording systems (pro-forma context sheets etc) using a continuous number sequence for all contexts.

Plans and sections will be drawn to a scale of 1:50, 1:20 and 1:10 as required and related to Ordnance Survey datum and published boundaries where appropriate.

All features identified will be tied in to the OS survey grid and fixed to local topographical boundaries.

Photographs will be taken in digital format with an appropriate scale, using a 12MP camera with photographs stored in Tiff format.

The archaeologist undertaking the watching brief will have access to the AW metal detector and be trained in its use.

### **6.3. Finds**

The professional standards set in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological* (2014) will form the basis of finds collection, processing and recording.

All manner of finds regardless of category and date will be retained.

Finds recovered that are regarded as Treasure under *The Treasure Act 1996* will be reported to HM Coroner for the local area.

Any finds which are considered to be in need of immediate conservation will be referred to a UKIC qualified conservator (normally Phil Parkes at Cardiff University).

### **6.4. Environmental sampling strategy**

Deposits with a significant potential for the preservation of palaeoenvironmental material will be sampled, by means of the most appropriate method (bulk, column etc). Where sampling will provide a significant contribution to the understanding of the site AW will draw up a site-specific sampling strategy alongside a specialist environmental archaeologist. All environmental sampling and recording will follow English Heritage's *Guidelines for Environmental Archaeology* (2002).

### **6.5. Human remains**

In the event that human remains are encountered, their nature and extent will be established and the coroner informed. All human remains will be left *in situ* and protected during backfilling. Where preservation *in situ* is not possible the human remains will be fully recorded and removed under conditions that comply with all current legislation and include acquisition of licenses and provision for reburial following all analytical work. Human remains will be excavated in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Excavation and Post-Excavation Treatment of Cremated and Inhumed Human Remains: Technical Paper Number 13* (1993).

### **6.6. Specialist advisers**

In the event of certain finds, features or sites being discovered, AW will seek specialist opinion and advice. A list of specialists is given in the table below although this list is not exhaustive.

<b>Artefact type</b>	<b>Specialist</b>
Flint	Kate Pitt (Archaeology Wales)
Animal bone	Richard Madgwick (Cardiff University)
CBM, heat affected clay, Daub etc.	Rachael Hall (APS)
Clay pipe	Hilary Major (Freelance)
Glass	Rowena Hart (Archaeology Wales)
Cremated and non-cremated human bone	Malin Holst (University of York)/Richard Madgwick (Cardiff University)
Metalwork	Kevin Leahy (University of Leicester)/ Quita Mold (Freelance)
Metal work and metallurgical residues	Dr Tim Young (GeoArch)
Neo/BA pottery	Dr Alex Gibson (Bradford University)
IA/Roman pottery	Jane Timby (Freelance)
Roman Pottery	Rowena Hart (Archaeology Wales)/ Peter Webster (Freelance)
Post Roman pottery	Stephen Clarke (Monmouthshire Archaeology)
Charcoal (wood ID)	John Carrot (Freelance)
Waterlogged wood	Nigel Nayling (University of Wales – Lampeter)
Molluscs and pollen	Dr James Rackham
Charred and waterlogged plant remains	Wendy Carruthers (Freelance)

### **6.6.1. Specialist reports**

Specialist finds and palaeoenvironmental reports will be written by AW specialists, or sub-contracted to external specialists when required.

## **7. Monitoring**

SCHET will be contacted approximately five days prior to the commencement of archaeological site works, and subsequently once the work is underway.



Any changes to the WSI that AW may wish to make after approval will be communicated to SCHET for approval on behalf of Planning Authority.

Representatives of SCHET will be given access to the site so that they may monitor the progress of the field evaluation. No area will be back-filled, until SCHET has had the opportunity to inspect it, unless permission has been given in advance. SCHET will be kept regularly informed about developments, both during the site works and subsequently during post-excavation.

## **8. Post-fieldwork programme**

### **8.1. Archive assessment**

#### **8.1.1. Site archive**

An ordered and integrated site archive will be prepared in accordance with: Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE) (Historic England 2006) upon completion of the project.

The site archive (including artefacts and samples) will be prepared in accordance with the National Monuments Record (Wales) agreed structure and deposited with an appropriate receiving organisation, in compliance with CIfA Guidelines (*Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives*, 2014). The legal landowners consent will be gained for deposition of finds.

#### **8.1.2. Analysis**

Following a rapid review of the potential of the site archive, a programme of analysis and reporting will be undertaken. This will result in the following inclusions in the final report:

- Non-technical summary
- Location plan showing the area/s covered by the evaluation, all artefacts, structures and features found
- Plan and section drawings (if features are encountered) with ground level, ordnance datum and vertical and horizontal scales.
- Written description and interpretation of all deposits identified, including their character, function, potential dating and relationship to adjacent features. Specialist descriptions and illustrations of all artefacts and soil samples will be included as appropriate.
- An indication of the potential of archaeological deposits which have not been disturbed by the development
- A discussion of the local, regional and national context of the remains by means of reviewing published reports, unpublished reports, historical maps, documents from local archives and the regional HER as appropriate.

- A detailed archive list at the rear listing all contexts recorded, all samples finds and find types, drawings and photographs taken. This will include a statement of the intent to deposit, and location of deposition, of the archive.

## **8.2. Reports and archive deposition**

### **8.2.1. Report to client**

Copies of all reports associated with the intrusive trial trench evaluation, together with inclusion of supporting evidence in appendices as appropriate, including photographs and illustrations, will be submitted to SCHET and Shropshire Towns and Rural Housing upon completion.

### **8.2.2. Additional reports**

After an appropriate period has elapsed, copies of all reports will be deposited with the relevant county Historical Environment Record, the National Monuments Record and, if appropriate, Cadw.

### **8.2.3. Summary reports for publication**

Short archaeological reports will be submitted for publication in relevant journals; as a minimum, a report will be submitted to the annual publication of the regional CBA group or equivalent journal.

### **8.2.4. Notification of important remains**

Where it is considered that remains have been revealed that may satisfy the criteria for statutory protection, AW will submit preliminary notification of the remains to Cadw.

### **8.2.5. Archive deposition**

The final archive (site and research) will, whenever appropriate, be deposited with a suitable receiving institution, usually the relevant Local Authority museums service. Arrangements will be made with the receiving institution before work starts.

Although there may be a period during which client confidentiality will need to be maintained, copies of all reports and the final archive will be deposited no later than six months after completion of the work.

Copies of all reports, the digital archive and an archive index will be deposited with the *National Monuments Record*, RCAHMW, Aberystwyth.

Wherever the archive is deposited, this information will be relayed to the HER. A summary of the contents of the archive will be supplied to SCHET.

### **8.2.6. Finds deposition**

The finds, including artefacts and ecofacts, excepting those which may be subject to the Treasure Act, will be deposited with the same institution, subject to the agreement of the legal land owners.

## **9. Staff**

The project will be managed by Mark Houliston (AW Managing director) and the fieldwork undertaken by James Weaver and Stephanie Mcculloch (Archaeology Wales). Any alteration to staffing before or during the work will be brought to the attention of SCHET and Shropshire Towns and Rural Housing.

## **Additional Considerations**

### **10. Health and Safety**

#### **10.1. Risk assessment**

Prior to the commencement of work AW will carry out and produce a formal Health and Safety Risk Assessment in accordance with *The Management of Health and Safety Regulations* 1992. A copy of the risk assessment will be kept on site and be available for inspection on request. A copy will be sent to the client (or their agent as necessary) for their information. All members of AW staff will adhere to the content of this document.

#### **10.2. Other guidelines**

AW will adhere to best practice with regard to Health and Safety in Archaeology as set out in the FAME (Federation of Archaeological Managers and Employers) health and safety manual *Health and Safety in Field Archaeology (2002)*.

### **11. Community Engagement and Outreach**

Wherever possible, AW will ensure suitable measures are in place to inform the local community and any interested parties of the results of the site investigation work. This may occur during the site investigation work or following completion of the work. The form of any potential outreach activities may include lectures and talks to local groups, interested parties and persons, information boards, flyers and other forms of communication (social media and websites), and press releases to local and national media.

The form of any outreach will respect client confidentiality or contractual agreements. As a rule, outreach will be proportional to the size of the project.

Where outreach activities have a cost implication these will need to be negotiated in advance and in accordance with the nature of the desired response and learning outcomes.

### **12. Insurance**

AW is fully insured for this type of work, and holds Insurance with Aviva Insurance Ltd and Hiscox Insurance Company Limited through Towergate Insurance. Full details of these and other relevant policies can be supplied on request.

## **13. Quality Control**

### **13.1. Professional standards**

AW works to the standards and guidance provided by the *Chartered Institute for Archaeologists*. AW fully recognise and endorse the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct*, *Code of Approved Practice for the Regulation of Contractual Arrangements in Field Archaeology* and the *Standard and Guidance for archaeological watching briefs* currently in force. All employees of AW, whether corporate members of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists or not, are expected to adhere to these Codes and Standards during their employment.

### **13.2. Project tracking**

The designated AW manager will monitor all projects in order to ensure that agreed targets are met without reduction in quality of service.

## **14. Arbitration**

Disputes or differences arising in relation to this work shall be referred for a decision in accordance with the Rules of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators' *Arbitration Scheme for the Institute for Archaeologists* applying at the date of the agreement.

## **15. References**

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2014. Standards and guidance for the collection, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives.

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2014. Standards and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials.

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2014, Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation. Chartered Institute for Archaeologists.

English Heritage, 2002. Guidelines for Environmental Archaeology.

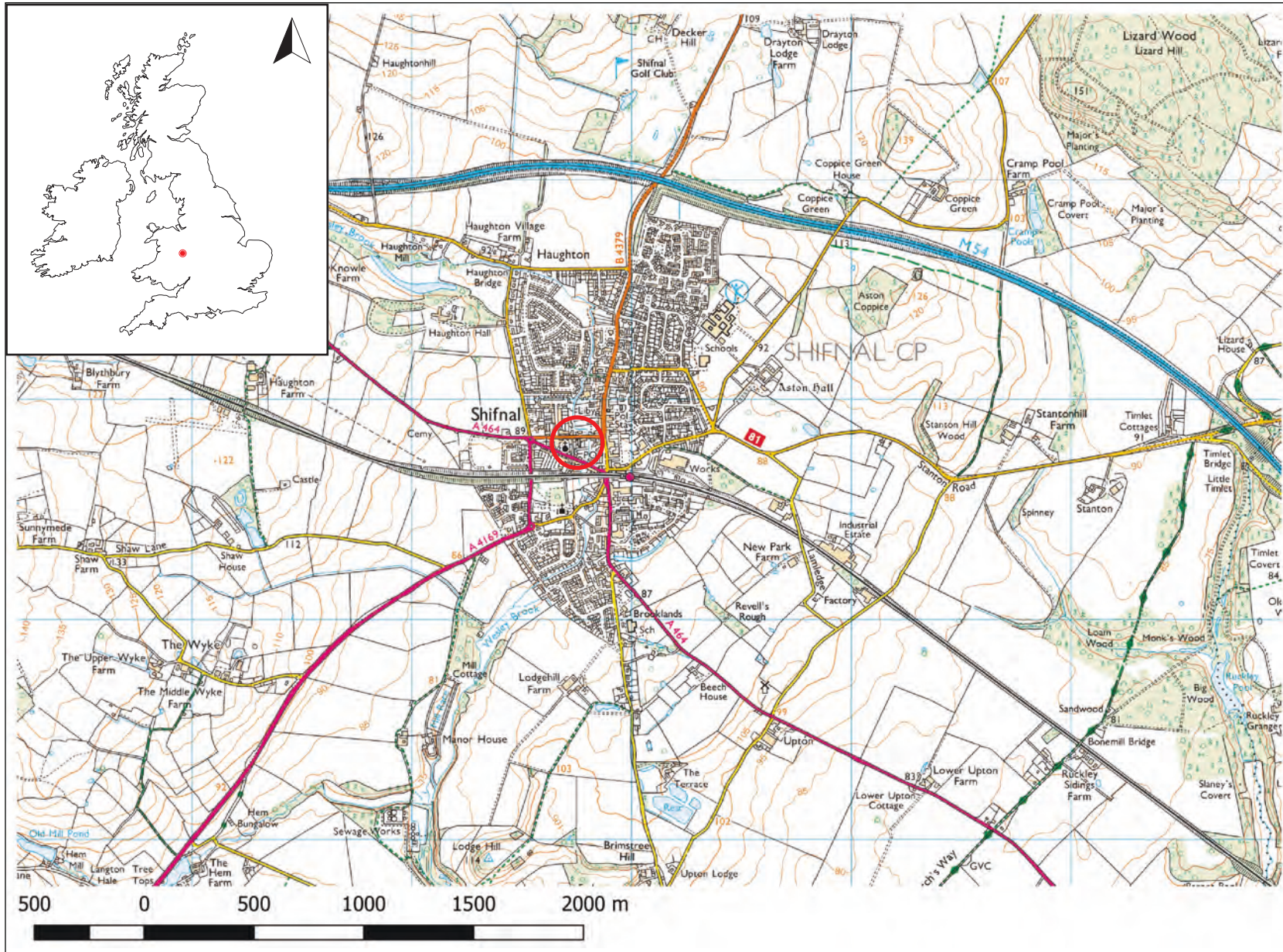
English Heritage, 2006. Management Of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MORPHE).

McKinley, J., Roberts C., 1993, Excavation and post-excavation treatment of cremated and inhumed human remains, Technical Paper 13.

Sowerby M., 2016, Former Zion Chapel, Shifnal, Shropshire. A desk-based-assessment (unpublished report).

British Geological Survey: Geology of Britain viewer:

[www.bgs.ac.uk/discoveringGeology/geologyOfBritain/viewer.html](http://www.bgs.ac.uk/discoveringGeology/geologyOfBritain/viewer.html)



— Location of site

Figure 1  
Location map

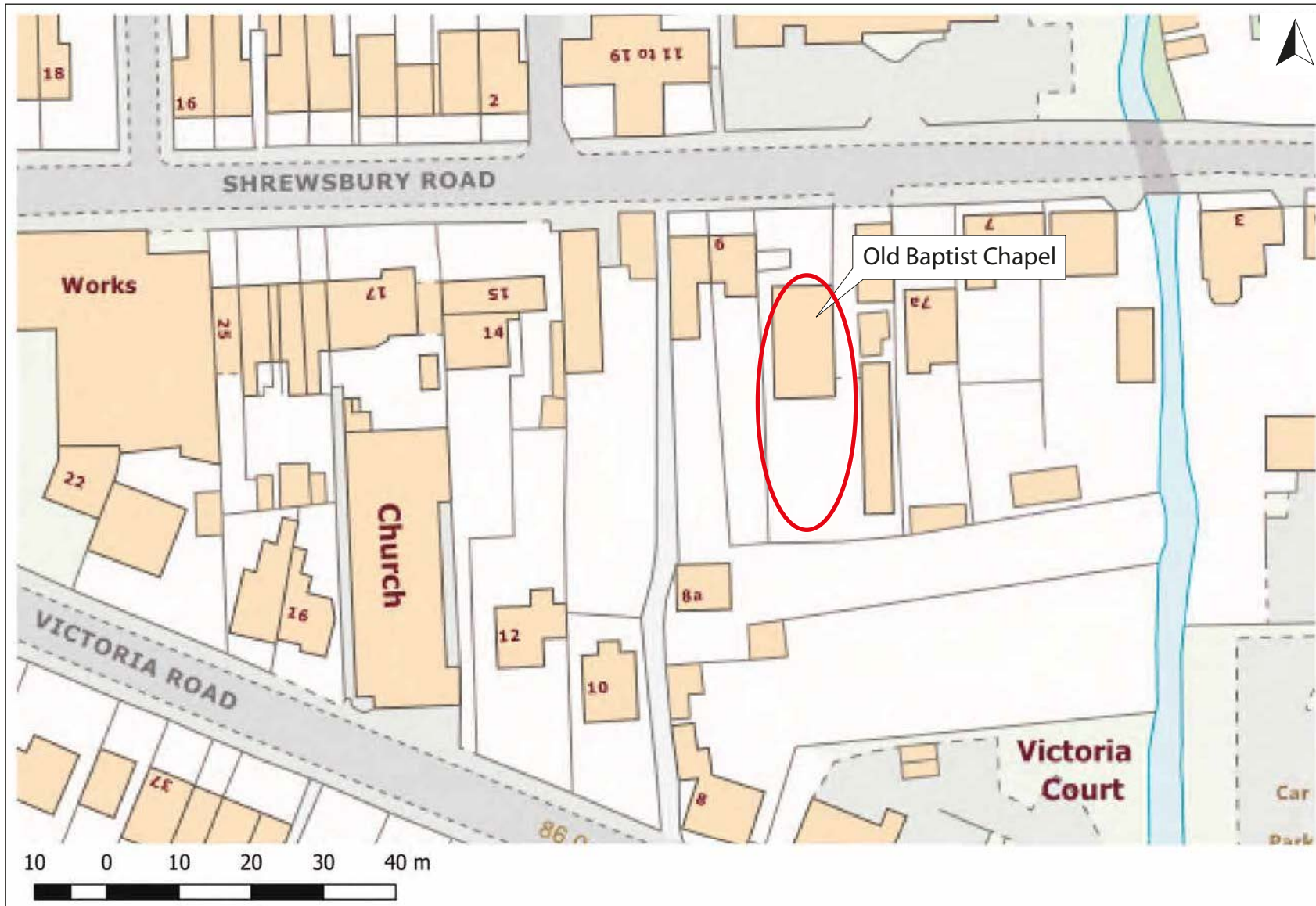


Figure 2  
Detailed location plan



Figure 3. Trench location plan



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