

It must be remembered that this was an interim report, ending with a brief summary of the finds. The authors must have hoped to get further information in the subsequent season, and then to produce a more complete analysis. The reasons for this not happening are not known.

The archive has been deposited with the North Somerset Museum at Weston-super-Mare under accession number WESTM 1995.46.

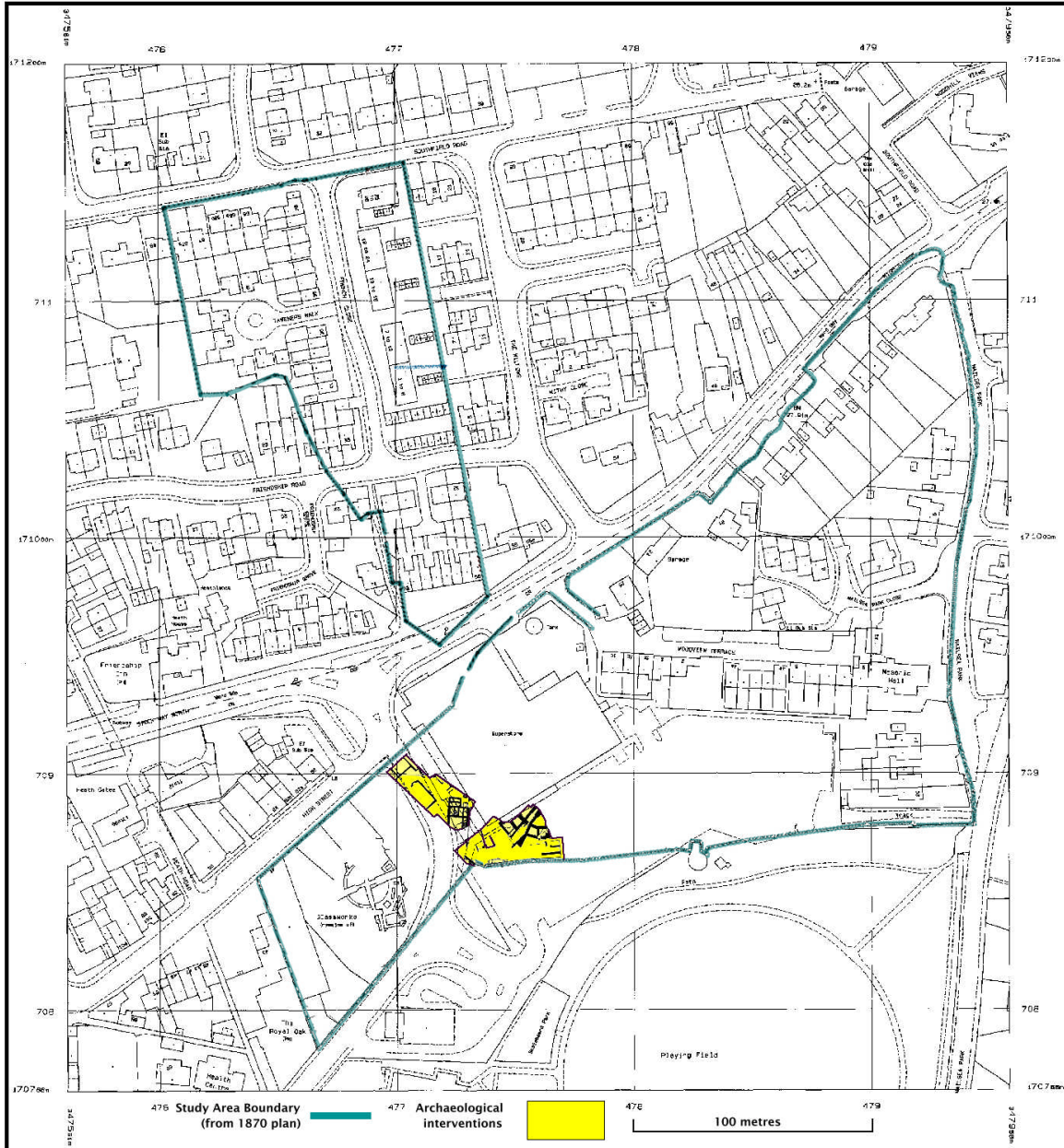


Figure 2.37: 1995 excavation on site-centred map

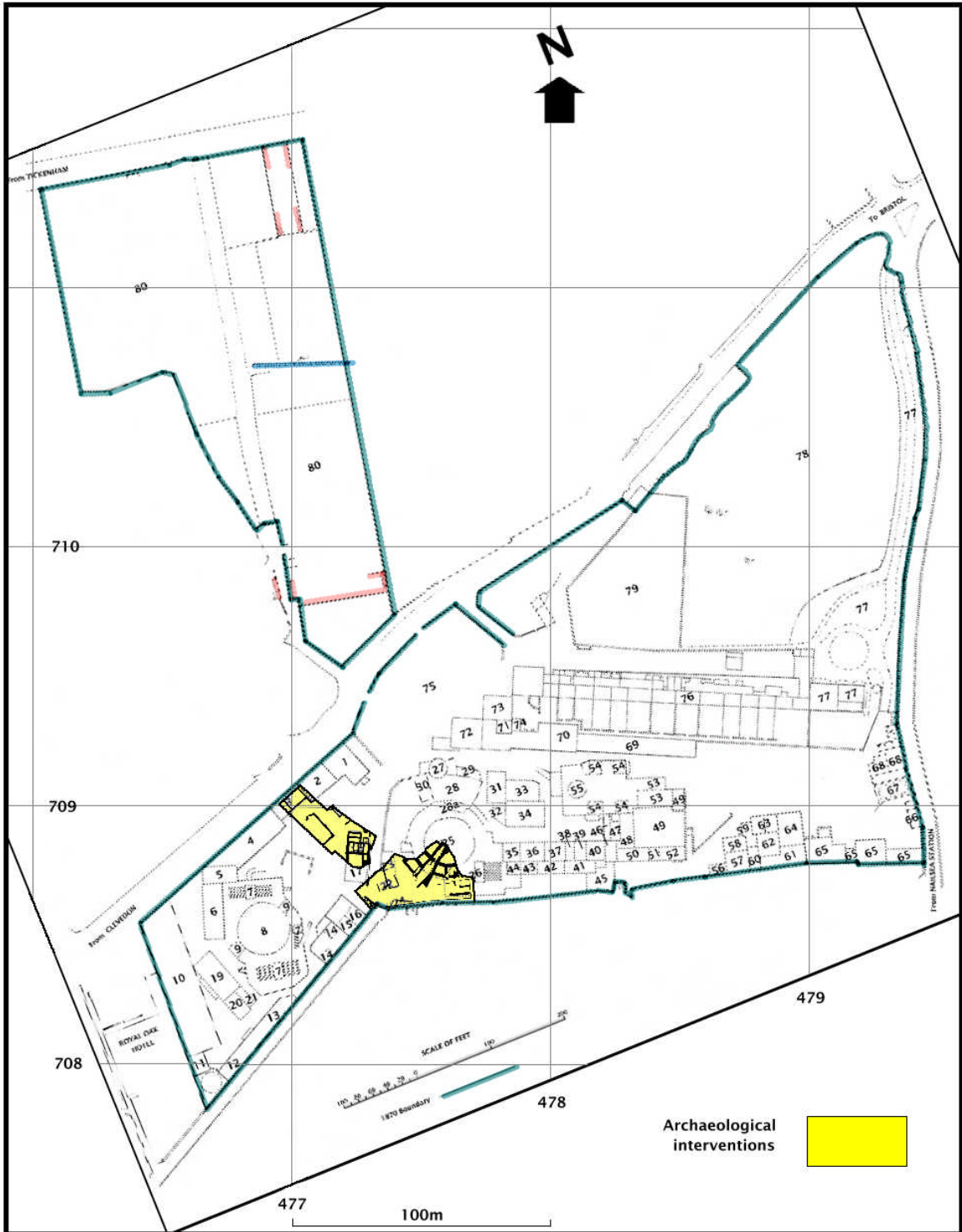


Figure 2.38: 1995 excavation superimposed on 1870 plan

8. 1999

The purpose of this archaeological recording project on 13th and 14th September 1999 (NSSMR Event 40597) was to observe the geotechnical trial/test pits being opened up by Intégrale Consulting of Nailsea. This work was on behalf of White Green Young Environmental ahead of the proposed supermarket development, together with the usual car parking, which it seems

was becoming more of a reality. It was planned to sit over the site of the former Avon Motor Centre, which by this time had been demolished to floor and hard-standing levels.

These hard areas covered most of the areas of interest. The test pits were therefore primarily positioned in order to:

- Locate a former sandstone quarry subsequently used as a rubbish tip in the past.
- Locate exposures of coal seams known to exist in the area.
- Locate a known mine shaft.
- Check for contaminated ground caused by leakage/spillage from diesel and motor spirit storage tanks.
- Define the physical characteristics of the subsurface geology.

Probe-holes and boreholes were also sunk, but no archaeological recording was carried out on these. The hard surfaces over the test pit sites were first broken out by a pneumatic breaker. The excavation was then done by a JCB with a 600mm wide toothed bucket. Once recorded the pits were back-filled immediately.

Ten pits were excavated in total, defined as Test Pit A/99 to Test Pit J/99. Pits D, E, F and H did not reveal any significant archaeology. Pits I and J were to the southwest of the former glassworks site, “towards the modern Sports Centre”, and their precise location was not recorded in the report. Weathered coal measures were found in Pit I but, again, no archaeology. In Pit J there were two parallel lines, each of one course, of mortared bricks on edge about 600mm below present ground level. They were “set in a matrix of black industrial waste.” The feature was not fully investigated, but may have been a “drain or culvert or even a duct possibly accommodating driving rods for a coal mine pump from a centrally placed steam engine.” Further investigation was recommended, but was not, apparently, followed up.

For the remaining pits the following details were recorded. The ground level heights AOD were provided by courtesy of Intégrale Consulting, as was the location plan in the report, from which the locations recorded in this section have been taken.

In Test Pit A/99 there were two areas of large mortared sandstone blocks some 100mm to 400mm below the then existing concrete surface which lay at 31.73m AOD. The areas were approximately 5m apart and five courses of masonry survived. Two large worked, but damaged sandstone blocks were also recovered. These “probably measured about 43 inches square originally” [1.1m approx.] and appeared to have been bases for machinery. These, taken with a brick surface from a yard or workshop indicated almost certain survival of structures associated with the glassworks.” These would have been in the area associated with the ‘Calcining House and Flattening Kilns’ in the 1830s and/or {72} -”3 Storey Building - Cutting packing & assorting Rooms.

Test Pit B/99, surface at 31.55m AOD had a similar general profile to A/99, that again indicated the survival of a mortared sandstone structure at the west end of the test pit at a depth of 2m on the southern edge of the former quarry. This may be the boundary wall between the yard and the quarry shown on the 1830s plan.

Test Pit C/99, at 31.76m AOD was a multi-area pit to investigate a possible coal mine shaft. As in A and B the north end again produced evidence of structures, this time of sandstone with a pinkish mortar to about 0.5m depth. This would be in the vicinity of {27} – “Brick kiln”, on both the 1830s and 1870 plans. A series of probeholes, (BH 20/99) was sunk in a grid pattern in the middle of Test Pit C/99 in an attempt to locate the mineshaft recorded on earlier drawings. Similarly BH/19/99, some 45m east of the centre of the Old House Cone, was to