

Archaeological Evaluation Report

63A HIGH STREET BRIDGNORTH

For Hightown Homes

Author Matthew Williams MA MifA

L~P:ARCHÆOLOGY

Archaeological Evaluation Report

63A HIGH STREET BRIDGNORTH

Client: Hightown Homes

Local Authority: Shropshire Council

NGR: 371750, 293220

Planning App: X09/00562/FUL

Author(s): M.Williams

Doc Ref: LPI387M-AER-v1.1

Site Code: STL12

Date: September 12

L-P:ARCHAEOLOGY

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Abstract

An archaeological evaluation was carried out on land at the rear of 63A High Street, Bridgnorth. Research indicated that the projected line of the town defences crossed the east end of the site and one trench was positioned to investigate this feature. A second trench was located in the western part of the site to investigate the potential for general archaeological deposits.

The eastern trench identified undisturbed Medieval layers overlying natural sand deposits. It was unclear from the trench section whether the layers were fills of the defensive ditch or hillwash following the natural topography of the site. One post Medieval pit was recorded in the western trench.

Further work is suggested to investigate the potential ditch in the eastern area of the site, as this area will be impacted by the development.

1. Introduction

- 1.1. This document has been prepared by Matthew Williams of L - P : Archaeology on behalf of Hightown Homes Ltd and contains the results of the archaeological evaluation. The fieldwork was carried out by Matthew Williams of L - P : Archaeology on 13th August 2012. The work was carried out in accordance with the method statement prepared by Matthew Williams of L - P : Archaeology (doc. ref: LP1387M-SAE-v1.1) and agreed with the client and Shropshire Council.
- 1.2. Planning consent has been granted for the site, the application reference is X09/00562/FUL. The evaluation was carried out as part of condition 8 to inform on the final mitigation strategy.
- 1.3. The site is on the west side of the River Severn to the north of the historic core of Bridgnorth at the rear of 63A High Street, Bridgnorth, WV16 4DX. It is bounded by open land to the north, St. Leonard's Steps to the east, dwellings and gardens to the south and buildings to the rear of High Street to the west (FIGURE 1). The site slopes down severely from 99.97m OD at the west of the site to 87.71m OD in the east.
- 1.4. The British Geological Survey GeoIndex for the site records the bedrock deposits as Bridgnorth sandstone ([HTTP://WWW.BGS.AC.UK/GEOINDEX](http://www.bgs.ac.uk/geoindex)). Dark yellow natural sand was recorded during the works.
- 1.5. The projected line of the historic town defences (PRN 00374) crosses the eastern part of the site (FIGURE 1). The defences were originally built of timber between 1216 and 1223 and were gradually replaced with stone over the following two centuries ([WWW.HERITAGEGATEWAY.ORG.UK](http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk)). The western part of the site falls within the rear of a medieval tenement plot that fronts onto High Street (PRN 05640) and the rest of the site falls within a tenement plot that fronts Friar's Street to the east (PRN 05650). There is no evidence for medieval structures within these plots ([WWW.HERITAGEGATEWAY.ORG.UK](http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk)).
- 1.6. This project is registered as part of the OASIS project (APPENDIX 1).

2. Aims

2.1. The aim of the western evaluation trench was to investigate the Medieval plot boundary and any Medieval remains within the plots; the aim of the eastern evaluation trench was to investigate the projected line of the town defenses. The overall objectives of the evaluation trenches were to assess the character and preservation of any surviving archaeological deposits and to collect enough information to allow a suitable mitigation strategy to be devised.

3. Methodology

3.1. The trenches were excavated by machine and by hand. Archaeological deposits were hand cleaned and recorded in plan and section. A full description of the methodology employed is given in Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) which is included as Appendix 2.

3.2. The western boundary of the site does not cover part of the car park as shown in the WSI and therefore Trench 1 was moved several metres to the east to a location that could be excavated by the machine. As such the works could not investigate the Medieval plot boundary. This was discussed with Andy Wigley (Shropshire Council) on 13th August.



Plate 1 - General view of site looking northeast. Trench 1 is in the foreground.

4. Results

4.1. Trench 1 was at the west end of the site at the top of the slope (FIGURE 2) adjacent to the line of the proposed steps. The section is shown in Figure 3. It revealed 0.7m of dark brown humic topsoil (9) directly overlying dark yellow natural sand (12). At the west of the trench was the east side of a pit [11] filled by a firm mid brown silt (10). The sides were rounded in plan and vertical in section and it was more than 1m deep. It could not be excavated or approached for detailed recording for safety reasons although an animal bone and fragment of brick was seen in (4). Despite further excavation by machine, no datable artefacts were recovered from (10). The function of [11] was unclear.

4.2. The layers of hillwash seen in Trench 2 were not present in Trench 1. The loose topsoil immediately overlay a very uneven and mixed interface with the natural yellow sand. The lack of subsoil and mixed interface suggest that this area has been disturbed relatively recently.



Plate 2 - Trench 1 looking west. Cut [11] is visible in the east facing section. 1m scale.

4.3. Trench 2 was at the east end of the site at the base of the slope, 1.1m from the retaining wall that separates the site from St. Leonard's Steps (FIGURE 2). The section drawing is shown in Figure 4. It revealed 0.5 - 1m of dark brown humic topsoil (1) which sealed cut [4] in the east end of the trench. Only the west side of [4] was seen in section, it was concave with a shallow gradient and seemed to be bottoming out in the south facing section, although a base was not visible in either section. It was filled with a soft mid brown silt (3), from which one fragment of Medieval pottery was recovered.

4.4. The edge of [4] was not clear in plan, however it was visible in the opposing section and therefore an approximate line of the feature can be projected (FIGURE 5). Cut [4] does not appear to be large enough to be the town defensive ditch, and the soft

humic silt suggests a Post Medieval rather than Medieval date. It may have been excavated as a drainage ditch when St. Leonard's Steps were built to stop rainwater runoff flowing directly onto the path below.

4.5. Ditch [4] cut layer (2), which overlay layers (7) and (6). All these layers were variations of pale grey/orange friable sand with some very occasional charcoal flecks. The lowest layer (6) overlay compact orange natural sand (8). Medieval pottery was recovered layers (2), (7) and (6) as well as the interface of (6) and (8) and therefore all may be considered undisturbed Medieval deposits.



Plate 3 - Trench 2 looking northwest. 1m scale.

5. Finds

5.1. POTTERY

5.1.1. Finds were collected and washed by hand. Seventeen sherds of pottery were recovered (TABLE 1).

5.1.2. The pottery is predominantly Medieval, and the lack of glaze and thumbled decoration from the base sherd in (5) suggests an early Medieval date. Most sherds were abraded and less than 60mm across which suggests that they have moved from the original deposition location. It is possible that the sherds were deposited as refuse upslope from the back of the plot fronting High Street and have gradually moved down the hill.

5.1.3. This assemblage will be assessed in more detail with the assemblage from the mitigation work.

5.2. OTHER ARTEFACTS

5.2.1. One fragment of very abraded animal longbone was recovered from (6).

CONTEXT	FABRIC	FORM	DECORATION/NOTES	PERIOD
2	Coarse orange	Dish rim sherd	Dark orange coating on inside face	Med
2	Coarse cream	Jar base sherd	Thick glassy dark brown glaze on inside face	17-18C
3	Mod fine mid brown	-	One rounded edge, very damaged.	-
5	Course pale cream	Jug or jar base sherd	Red outer coating with yellow glaze splashes. Thumbed base.	12-13 C
5	Coarse pale orange cream	Body sherd	Grey coating on inner surface	Med
5	Grey with orange oxidised inner and outer surface	Body sherd	No decoration. Very abraded	Med
5	Fine grey	Base sherd	No decoration. Very abraded.	Med
5	Hard coarse dark red - sandstone?	Roof tile edge sherd	White/clear glaze on outer surface	-
6	Cream with slightly orange oxidised outer surface	Body sherd	None	Med
6	Coarse mid brown	Body sherd	None. Very abraded	Med
6	Coarse dark brown	Body sherd	None. Very abraded	Med
6	Cream with pale orange oxidised inner surface	Body sherd	None. Very abraded	Med
6	Coarse cream with pale orange oxidised surface	Rim sherd	None	Med
7	Coarse grey with red oxidised surfaces	Body sherd	Green splash glaze on the inner surface	Med
7	Mod coarse mid orange	Rim sherd	None	Med
8	Fine cream	Body sherd	Clear glaze on outer face	Med
8	Very hard dark grey	Body sherd	None	Med

Table 1- Pottery recovered by context

6. Summary and Conclusions

- 6.1. The pit in trench 1 could not be dated but the colour and compaction of the fill suggests that it is later than the Medieval layers further downslope. It may be a rubbish pit or tree throw.
- 6.2. There are two interpretations for the deposits seen in trench two. Firstly, the profile of the top of the natural sand may be the natural gradient (which follows the general topography from Hightown to the river below) and the sand layers represent hillwash from the erosion of the sand upslope. Secondly, the break in the slope in the natural sand (FIGURE 3) may be the west side of the town defensive ditch. The line in plan of this break of slope is similar to the projected line of the defenses, although this also follows the natural curve of the topography. The abraded nature of the pottery suggests that it travelled down the slope within hillwash rather than being deposited directly in a ditch.
- 6.3. Cut [4] may be the edge of a later ditch re-cut. However, the soft fill suggests a Post Medieval date and it may be a drainage ditch associated with the construction of St. Leonard's Steps below.
- 6.4. An on site meeting was held at 3pm on 14th August between Matthew Williams (L - P : Archaeology), Andrew Jennings (Hightown Homes) and Mick Krupa (Shropshire Council) and the following mitigation was suggested: No further site work is suggested in the western area of the site as the impact level of the proposed steps is within the topsoil i.e. above the level of the pit feature recorded in that area. The area of the proposed house footprints should be subject to watching brief after the removal of the topsoil overburden (visible in section in Figure 4). When the potential ditch edge is clear in plan, excavation should cease and the feature should be excavated and recorded archaeologically. This will comprise a plan of the ditch and a further section through the fills from the ditch edge to the eastern site boundary. The area of watching brief and approximate area of excavation are shown in Figure 5.

7. Archive

7.1. The paper archive consists of:

- ◆ 1 x Drawing Register
- ◆ 3 x Drawing Film
- ◆ 1 x Photographic Register
- ◆ 1 x Black and white photographs and negatives
- ◆ 1 x Context Register
- ◆ 12 x Context sheets

7.2. The finds archive consists of:

- ◆ 1 x box artefacts as described in Section 5 (all materials).

7.3. The archive is to be deposited with the Shropshire Museum Service.

SOURCES CONSULTED

ELECTRONIC

www.heritagegateway.org.uk accessed 20/07/12

www.bgs.ac.uk/geoindex accessed 20/07/12

STATUTORY AND GUIDANCE

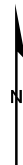
STANDARD AND GUIDANCE FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD EVALUATION Institute for
Archaeologists 2008

FIGURES

FIGURE I // Site plan



0 10m



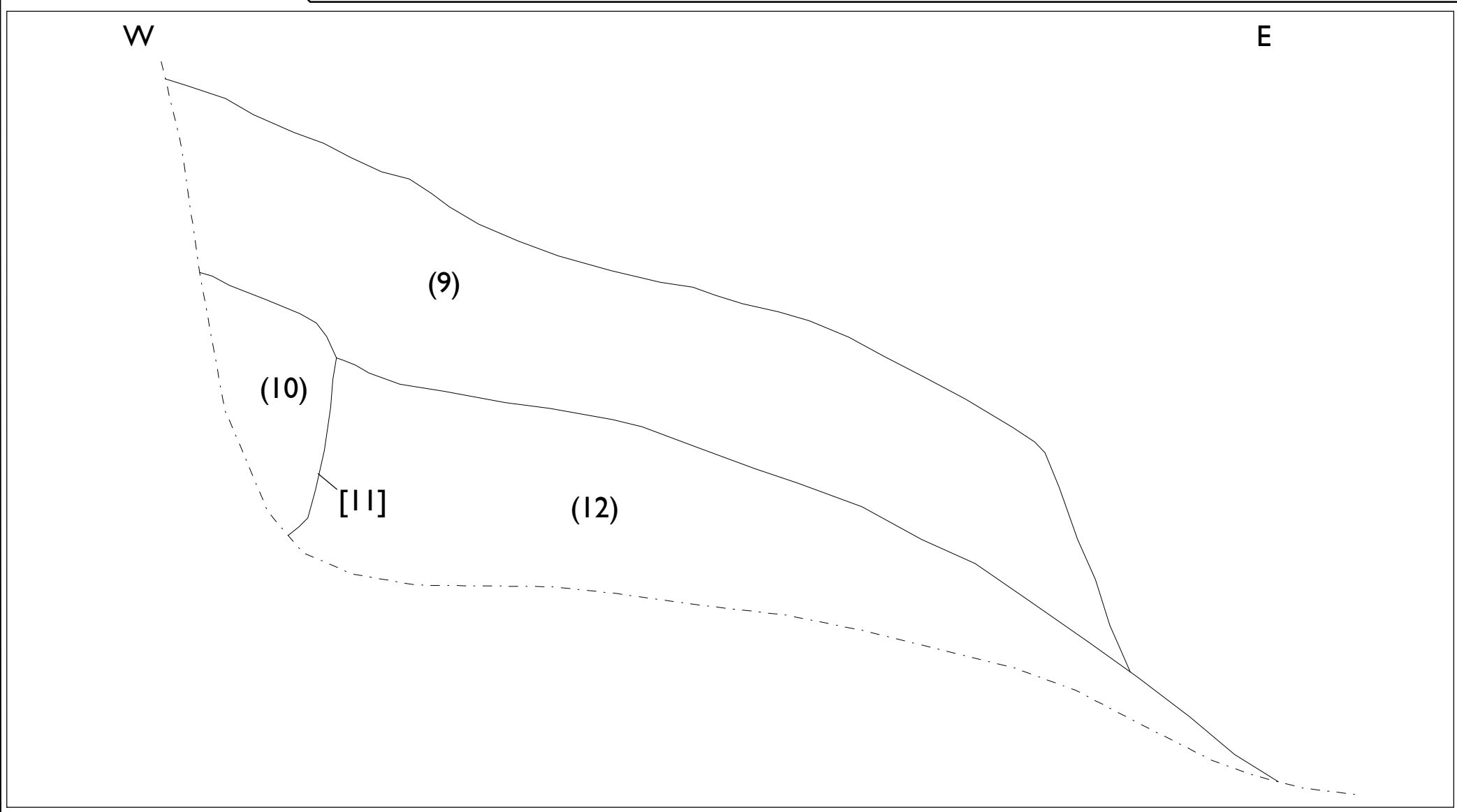
PROJECT // 1387M - 63A High Street, Bridgnorth

DESCRIPTION // Site plan

DOC REF: LPI387M-AER-v1

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FIGURE 2 // Trench I section



0 2m



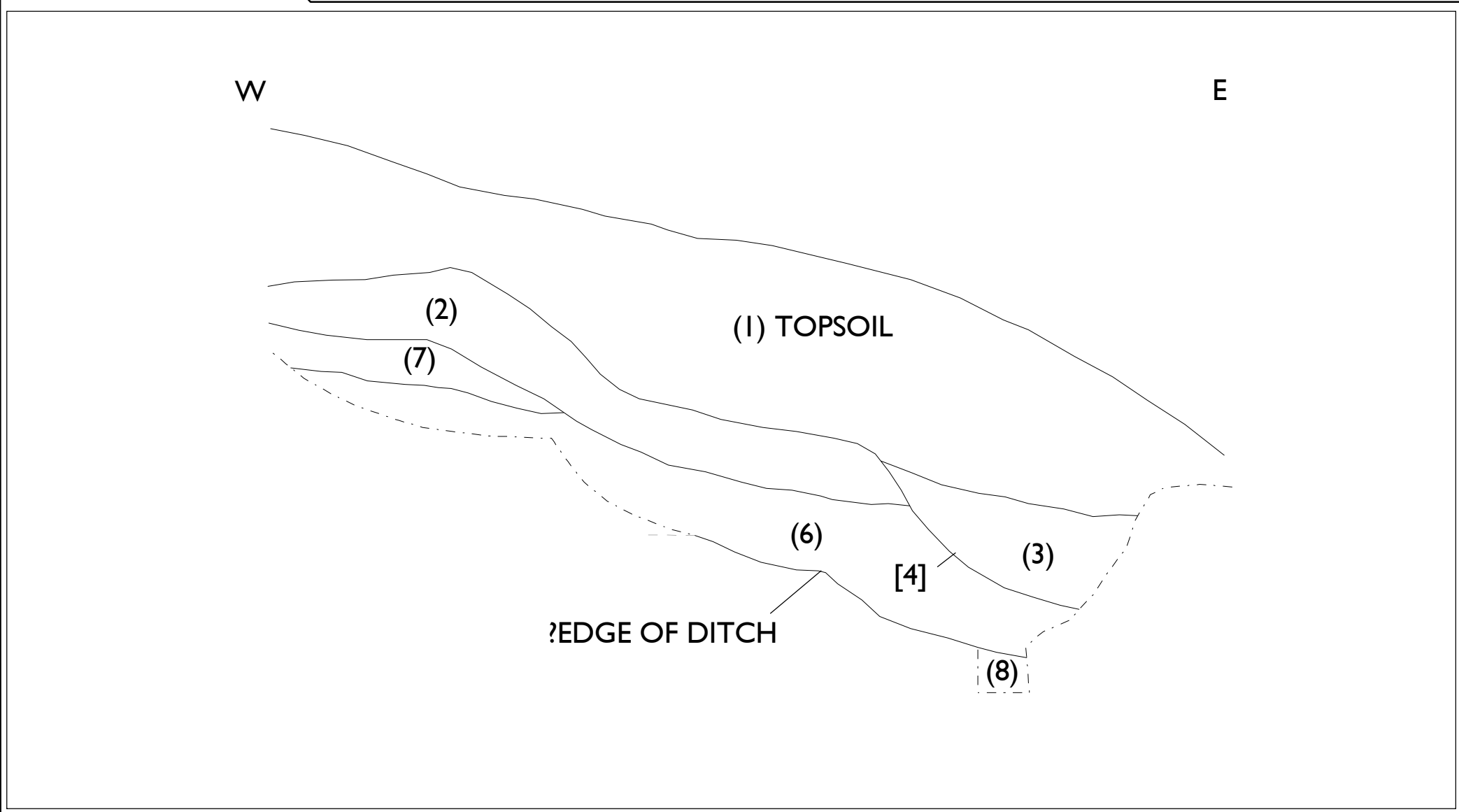
PROJECT // 1387M - 63A High Street, Bridgnorth

DESCRIPTION // South facing trench I section

DOC REF: LPI387M-AER-v1

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FIGURE 3 // Trench 2 section



0 2m

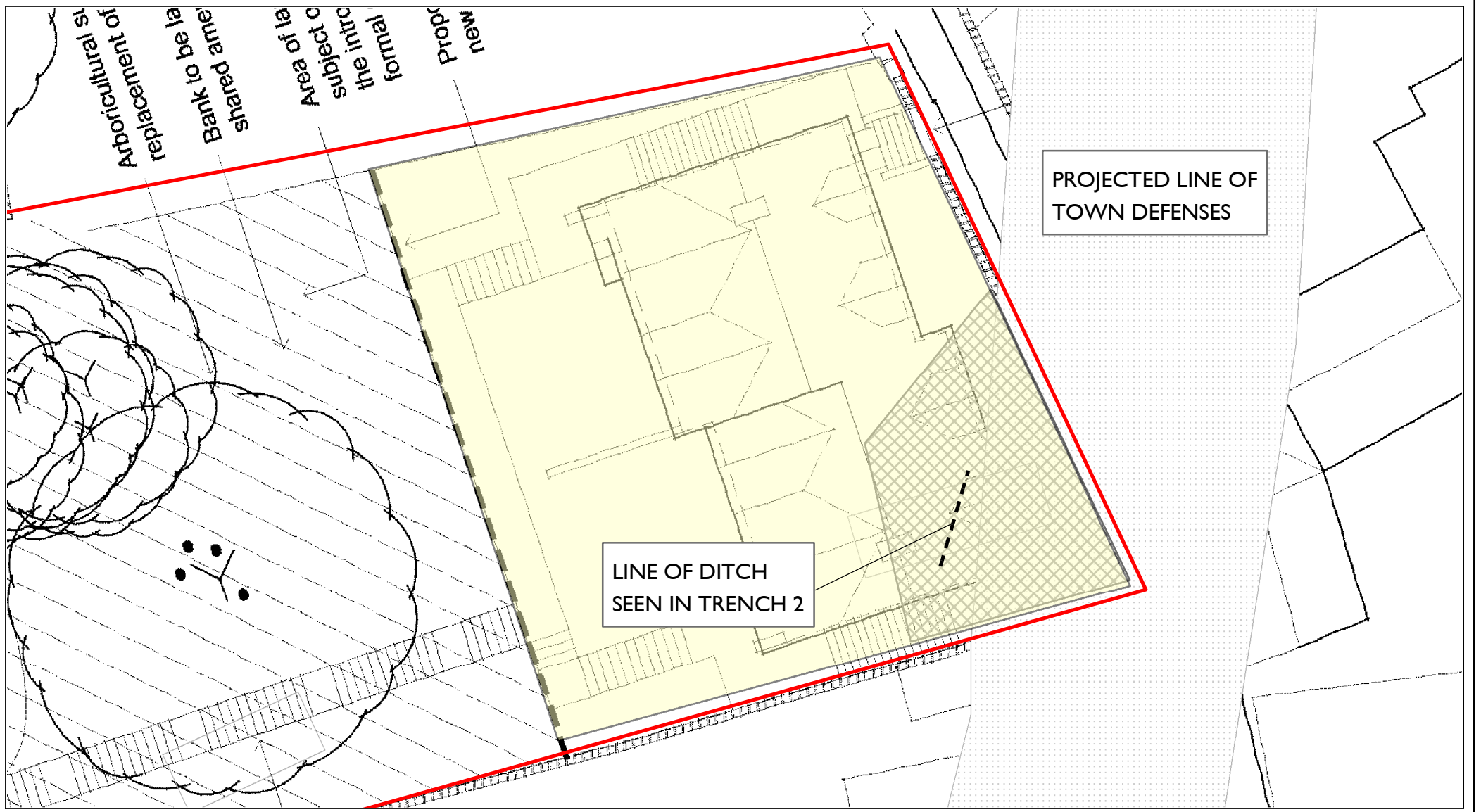
PROJECT // 1387M - 63A High Street, Bridgnorth

DESCRIPTION // South facing trench 2 section

DOC REF: LPI387M-AER-v1



L-P:ARCHAEOLOGY

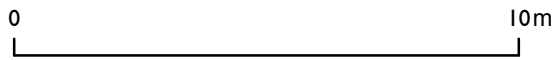
FIGURE 4 // Mitigation



LINE OF DITCH
SEEN IN TRENCH 2

PROJECTED LINE OF
TOWN DEFENSES

-  watching brief area
-  excavation area



PROJECT // 1387M - 63A High Street, Bridgnorth

DESCRIPTION // Mitigation areas

DOC REF: LPI387M-AER-v1

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OASIS FORM

APPENDIX I

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

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Printable version

OASIS ID: Iparchae1-133393

Project details

Project name	63A High St
Short description of the project	Evaluation and watching brief/excavation at land to the rear of 63A High St, Bridgnorth. The projected line of the Medieval town defensive ditch crossed the east edge of the site. Work revealed preserved Medieval deposits with a significant amount of pottery but very few other artefacts.
Project dates	Start: 13-08-2012 End: 17-08-2012
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	X09/00562/FUL - Planning Application No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 13 - Waste ground
Monument type	LAYER Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Medieval
Methods & techniques	"Test Pits"
Development type	Housing estate
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project location

Country	England
Site location	SHROPSHIRE BRIDGNORTH BRIDGNORTH 63A High St
Postcode	1.3. WV16
Study area	730.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	SO 71750 93220 52 -2 52 32 08 N 002 24 59 W Point

Height OD / Depth Min: 87.71m Max: 99.97m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	L - P : Archaeology
Project brief originator	Contractor (design and execute)
Project design originator	L - P : Archaeology
Project director/manager	Matthew Williams
Project supervisor	Matthew Williams
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body	Hightown Homes

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Shropshire Museum Service
Physical Contents	"Animal Bones", "Ceramics"
Digital Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Shropshire Museum Service
Paper Archive recipient	Shropshire Museum Service
Paper Contents	"Ceramics", "Stratigraphic"
Paper Media available	"Plan", "Report", "Section"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Archaeological Evaluation Report 63A High St Bridgnorth
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Williams, M.
Other bibliographic details	Report number LP1384M-AER-v1.0
Date	2012
Issuer or publisher	L - P : Archaeology
Place of issue or	Welshpool

publication

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METHOD STATEMENT

APPENDIX 2

Specification for Archaeological Evaluation

63A HIGH STREET BRIDGNORTH

For Hightown Homes Ltd

Matthew Williams MA MifA

L~P:ARCHÆOLOGY

Specification for Archaeological Evaluation

63A HIGH STREET BRIDGNORTH

Client: Hightown Homes Ltd

Local Authority: Shropshire Council

NGR: 371750, 293220

Planning App: X09/00562/FUL

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Figure 1 - Site location and trench locations

Figure 2 - Development proposals

1. Introduction

- 1.1. This document has been prepared by Matthew Williams of L - P : Archaeology on behalf of Hightown Homes Ltd.
- 1.2. This document has been prepared in response to a planning condition attached to the planning consent granted for the site by Shropshire Council.
- 1.3. The document sets out the methodology for an archaeological evaluation on land at the rear of 63A High Street, Bridgnorth, WV16 4DX. The NGR is 371750, 293220.
- 1.4. This document sets out the detailed method to be employed for the evaluation fieldwork, reporting and archiving at the above site.

2. Site Background

2.1. PLANNING

2.1.1. Planning consent has been granted for two split level semi-detached dwellings with vehicular access, two parking spaces and new pedestrian access (FIGURE 2). The application reference is X09/00562/FUL.

2.1.2. Condition 11 states:

No development approved by this permission shall commence until the applicant has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted by the applicant and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. Such a programme must be prepared and carried out under the supervision and with the agreement of an archaeologist approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.

2.1.3. The site is within an Area of Archaeological Importance as defined by Shropshire Council.

2.2. GEOLOGY

2.2.1. The British Geological Survey GeoIndex for the site records the bedrock deposits as Bridgnorth sandstone ([HTTP://WWW.BGS.AC.UK/GEOINDEX](http://www.bgs.ac.uk/geoindex)).

2.3. TOPOGRAPHY

2.3.1. The site is located on the west side of the River Severn to the north of the historic core of Bridgnorth (FIGURE 1).

2.3.2. The site is bounded by open land to the north, St. Leonard's Steps to the east, dwellings and gardens to the south and buildings to the rear of High Street to the west (FIGURE 1).

2.3.3. The site slopes down from west to east. The area of impact slopes from 92.00m OD in the centre of the site to 86.40m OD in the east.

2.4. ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORY

2.4.1. The projected line of the historic town defences (PRN 00374) crosses the eastern part of the site (FIGURE 1). The defenses were originally built of timber between 1216 and 1223 and were gradually replaced with stone over the

following two centuries (WWW.HERITAGEGATEWAY.ORG.UK).

2.4.2. The western part of the site falls within the rear of a medieval tenement plot that fronts onto High Street (PRN 05640) and the rest of the site falls within a tenement plot that fronts Friar's Street to the east (PRN 05650). There is no evidence for medieval structures within these plots (WWW.HERITAGEGATEWAY.ORG.UK).

2.5.SITE CONDITIONS

2.5.1. The site is currently open ground with several trees.

3. Aims

3.1. The general aims of the evaluation are:

- ◆ To assess the character, date, location and preservation of any archaeological remains on the site. The results will include a comment on the quality and significance of the remains.
- ◆ To assess the nature and extent of any previous damage to archaeological remains on the site.
- ◆ To assess the anticipated impact of the development proposals on any surviving archaeological remains.
- ◆ To collect enough information to allow a suitable mitigation strategy to be devised. Any such strategy could consist of further fieldwork followed by a programme of post excavation analysis, reporting and possible publication and dissemination.

3.2. The specific aims of the evaluation are:

- ◆ Investigate the projected line of the town defenses.
- ◆ Investigate the Medieval plot boundary and any Medieval remains within the plots.

4. Methodology

4.1. SITEWORKS

- 4.1.1. Two trenches are proposed within the area of impact, each measuring 1.5m by 7m. Trench 1 is positioned to investigate the depth of made ground at the top of the slope and potentially the rear of the Medieval tenement plot fronting Friar's Street and trench 2 is positioned to investigate the projected line of the town defenses (FIGURE 1).
- 4.1.2. Archaeologically sensitive areas will be excavated using appropriately sized plant. This will normally be a 360 degree tracked excavator with a 1.5m wide toothless bucket.
- 4.1.3. The trench location is subject to reasonable change by the field officer dependent on conditions on site, to avoid services or obstructions. No changes will be made that affect the aims of the project.
- 4.1.4. The trench locations will be accurately surveyed prior to excavation and related to the National Grid.
- 4.1.5. Any modern overburden will be removed by machine under the supervision of an archaeologist. With the agreement of the archaeological advisor, recent make-up deposits and bulk deposits can be removed by machine after identification with hand cleaning.
- 4.1.6. Examination and cleaning of all archaeological deposits will be by hand using appropriate hand tools. Any archaeological deposits will be examined and recorded both in plan and section. The objective will be to define remains rather than totally remove them. Features will be investigated, where possible, as follows:
 - ◆ 50% of each intrusive feature (pits, postholes).
 - ◆ All terminals and intersections of linear features.
 - ◆ 50% structural features (beamslots, ring ditches) - actual surviving structural elements (walls, collapse/debris fields) only require exposure, cleaning and preservation for excavation in more appropriate

circumstances.

- ◆ 50-100% domestic/industrial working features (hearths, ovens) - unless large and structural, in which case see above.

4.1.7. Should significant archaeological deposits be encountered that are worthy of preservation *in situ*, excavation will cease. A site meeting between the advisor to the Local Planning Authority and L – P : Archaeology will be held to assess the significance of the deposits and to decide on a strategy for sampling them to provide sufficient data for a useful assessment or subsequent mitigation strategy.

4.1.8. All works will be carried out in accordance with the Code of Approved Practice as set out by the Institute for Archaeologists (IFA 2008).

4.2. FINDS

4.2.1. All identified finds, artefacts, industrial and faunal remains will be collected and retained. Certain classes of building material can sometimes be discarded after recording if an appropriate sample is retained. No finds will, however, be discarded without the prior approval of the archaeological advisor to the local authority.

4.2.2. Excavated material will be examined in order to retrieve information to assist in the analysis of the spatial distribution of artefacts.

4.2.3. The finds assemblage will be retained for deposition with the site archive in the Shropshire Museum Service.

4.2.4. Marking of finds will follow the requirements of the Shropshire Museum Service. Bulk finds will be bagged in clear self-sealing plastic bags marked with the same details.

4.2.5. All finds which constitute Treasure under the 1996 Treasure Act for England and Wales (amended 2003) will be reported to the coroner by the finder within 14 days of discovery.

4.2.6. Any human remains will be left *in situ*, covered and protected. If removal is essential it can only take place under appropriate government regulations.

Furthermore, if removal is essential, such removal will be in accordance with the Excavation and Post Excavation Treatment of Cremated and Inhumed Human Remains (MCKINLEY & ROBERTS 1993) and the Guidelines for the Standards for Recording Human Remains (BRICKLEY & MCKINLEY 2004) as set out by the IfA.

4.2.7. Should finds that require immediate conservation be encountered, they will be exposed, lifted, cleaned, conserved, marked, bagged and boxed in accordance with the guidelines set out in the United Kingdom Institute for Conservation “Conservation Guideline No. 2” (UKIC 1983). Appropriate guidance set out in the Museums and Galleries Commissions “Standards in the Museum Care of Archaeological Collections (MGC 1992)” and the current IFA guidelines (IFA 2001A) will also be followed. Packaging of all organic finds and metalwork will follow the UKIC/Rescue guidelines, ‘First Aid for Finds’ (LEIGH ET AL 1993). Any necessary conservation and treatment of metalwork will be arranged in conjunction with specialist conservators.

4.3. ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLING

4.3.1. Environmental sampling during the evaluation will target a representative range of contexts from each phase and examine the survival of material and key archaeological contexts. Should significant environmental deposits be encountered, they will be taken and processed in line with English Heritage guidelines (ENGLISH HERITAGE 2002) and our internal policy (ALLEN 2008). Provision will be made for the requirement of the following samples:

- ◆ Bulk samples of 30-60 litres, or 100% of the context, for process using a floatation tank for the recovery of charred plant remains from the 'flot' and artefacts such as small bones, mineralised plant remains, charcoal and hammer scale from the residues.
- ◆ Samples of 1-5 litres from waterlogged deposits for analysis of waterlogged plant remains. These may be taken as sub-samples from bulk samples.
- ◆ Samples of 5-15 litres from waterlogged deposits for analysis of insect remains and other macroscopic artefacts. These may be taken as sub-

samples from bulk samples.

- ◆ Bulk samples of 100 litres for coarse sieving on site for specific artefacts such as animal bone.
- ◆ Samples of 2 litres for mollusc analysis, with associated continuous column samples.
- ◆ Monolith samples which may be sub-sampled for diatom, spore or pollen analysis.
- ◆ Monolith samples for soil micromorphology.

4.3.2. All environmental samples will be assessed for potential through summary analysis by an environmental specialist.

4.3.3. Bulk samples will be processed as soon as possible or discarded with the agreement of the local authority archaeological advisor. Residues will be treated as part of the finds assemblage.

4.4.SCIENTIFIC DATING

4.4.1. Where appropriate, samples for scientific dating will be taken. Provision will be made for:

- ◆ Dendrochronological analysis from timbers.
- ◆ C14 dating from organic material, which may be taken as sub-samples from bulk or monolith samples.
- ◆ Archaeomagnetic dating from hearths or other suitable deposits.

4.5.RECORDING SYSTEM

1

4.5.2. The site code 'STL12' has been allocated by L - P : Archaeology. The site code will be used to label all sheets, plans and other drawings; all context and recording sheets; all photographs (but not negatives); all other elements of the documentary archive.

4.5.3. The recording system used will follow the Museum of London Archaeological

Site Manual (SPENCE 1994). Context sheets will include all relevant stratigraphic relationships and for complex stratigraphy a separate matrix diagram will be employed. This matrix will be fully checked during the course of the evaluation. If there is any doubt over recording techniques, the Museum of London Archaeological Site Manual will be used as a guide (SPENCE 1994).

- 4.5.4. A location plan (at an appropriate scale, usually OS 1:25,000) will be prepared showing the site in relation to the surrounding locality.
- 4.5.5. This will be supplemented by a detailed plan (at an appropriate scale, usually 1:200 or 1:100), which will show the location of the areas investigated.
- 4.5.6. Burials will be drawn at 1:10. Other detailed plans will be drawn at an appropriate scale, usually 1:50 or 1:20.
- 4.5.7. The extent of any visible archaeological deposits will be recorded in plan. Long sections showing layers and any cut features will be drawn at 1:50. Short sections will be drawn at 1:20.
- 4.5.8. Sections containing significant deposits, including half sections, will be drawn at an appropriate scale, usually 1:10 or 1:20. All sections will be related to the Ordnance Datum using spot heights and registers of sections and plans will be kept.
- 4.5.9. Upon completion of each significant feature at least one sample section will be drawn, including a profile of the top of natural deposits (extrapolated from cut features etc. if it has not been fully excavated). The stratigraphy will be recorded, even if no archaeological deposits have been identified.
- 4.5.10. An adequate photographic record will be made of any significant archaeological remains, including photographs of sections. This will include black and white prints and digital images, illustrating in both detail and general context the principal features. The photographic record will also include working shots to illustrate the general nature of the archaeological works. A register of all photographs taken will be kept on standardised forms.
- 4.5.11. A Harris Matrix stratification diagram will be compiled and fully checked during the course of the excavation.

4.6.COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- 4.6.1. On site staff will be allowed to answer questions from members of the public regarding the archaeology of the area and potential archaeology of the site as described in publicly available records.
- 4.6.2. Detailed inquiries from members of the public regarding the results of the works, or sensitive information, will be directed to the project manager.
- 4.6.3. Given the nature and scale of the works information boards, site tours and other community involvement activities are not considered appropriate.

5. Report

5.1.A formal report on the results of the archaeological evaluation will be prepared on completion of the fieldwork. The report will conform to Annex 2 of the Institute of Field Archaeologists Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation (IFA 2008) will include:

- ◆ A non-technical summary (abstract)
- ◆ Introductory statements and site background
- ◆ The aims and methods adopted in the course of the evaluation.
- ◆ A description of the nature, extent, date, condition and significance of all archaeological deposits recorded during the works, with specialist opinions and parallels from other sites if required.
- ◆ Illustrative material including maps, plans, sections, drawings and photographs as necessary.
- ◆ A catalogue of finds, including any specialist reports.
- ◆ A discussion and summary of the results, including a statement of significance.
- ◆ An index of the contents and location of the archive.
- ◆ Sources consulted.
- ◆ A copy of the OASIS record sheet.

5.2.Subject to any contractual requirements on confidentiality, copies of the report will be submitted to the Shropshire Historic Environment Record within six months of completion of the report.

5.3.If requested, a copy of any relevant spatial data, including feature distribution and phase plans where appropriate and registered to the National Grid, will also be sent to the Shropshire HER in ESRI Shapefile format.

5.4.L -P : Archaeology shall retain full copyright of any report under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 with all rights reserved; excepting that it hereby provides an exclusive licence to the client in all matters directly relating to the project

as described in this document. Any document produced to meet planning requirements can be copied for planning purposes by the Local Planning Authority. Any information deposited in the Sites and Monuments Record or Historic Environment Record can be freely copied without reference to the originator for research or planning purposes.

6. Archive

- 6.1. The site code will be used to mark all plans, drawings, context and recording sheets, photographs and other site material during excavation.
- 6.2. The site archive will be so organised as to be compatible with current requirements of the Shropshire Museum Service. Individual descriptions of all archaeological strata and features excavated or exposed will be entered onto *pro-forma* recording sheets. Relevant context, sample and photograph registers and environmental sample sheets will also be used.
- 6.3. On completion of finds analysis, the landowner will be asked to sign a Deed of Transfer transferring title of the finds to the Shropshire Museum Service.
- 6.4. The integrity of the site archive will be maintained. All finds and records will properly be curated (subject to the Deed of Transfer) by the Shropshire Museum Service and be available for public consultation. Appropriate guidance set out in the MGC “Standards in the Museum Care of Archaeological Collections” (MGC 1992), and the “Selection, Retention and Disposal of Archaeological Collections” (SMA 1993) will be followed in all circumstances.
- 6.5. The minimum acceptable standard for the archival report is defined in the “Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment. PPN 3: Archaeological Excavation.” (ENGLISH HERITAGE 2008). It will include all materials recovered (or the comprehensive record of such materials) and all written, drawn and photographic records relating directly to the investigations undertaken. It will be quantified, ordered, indexed and internally consistent. It will also contain a site matrix, a site summary and brief written observations on the artefactual and environmental data.
- 6.6. United Kingdom Institute for Conservation guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long-term storage (WALKER 1990) will be followed. With consent of the landowner, arrangements for the curation of the site archive will be agreed with the appropriate museum.
- 6.7. Pursuant to these agreements the archive will be presented to the appropriate museum within six months of the completion of the fieldwork (unless alternative

arrangements have been agreed in writing with the Local Planning Authority or English Heritage). In addition, written confirmation from the client will be provided for the transfer of ownership.

6.8. The project will be registered and regularly updated as part of the OASIS project.

6.9. The Shropshire Museum Service shall be granted licence for the use of the archive for educational purposes, including academic research, as long as such use is non-profit making and conforms to the Copyright and Related Rights regulation 2003.

7. Access and Safety

- 7.1. Reasonable access to the site will be arranged for the Local Planning Authority and their archaeological advisor who may wish to make site inspections to ensure that the archaeological investigations are progressing satisfactorily.
- 7.2. The archaeological advisor should be given notice of at least one working week prior to the commencement date of site works.
- 7.3. Before any site work commences, a full Risk Assessment Document will be produced setting out the site specific health and safety policies that will be enforced in order to reduce to an absolute minimum any risks to health and safety.
- 7.4. All relevant health and safety regulations will be followed. Barriers, hoardings and warning notices will be installed as appropriate. Safety helmets and visibility jackets will be used by all personnel as necessary.
- 7.5. No personnel will work in deep unsupported excavations. The installation of temporary support work and other attendance will be provided as required.

8. Staffing and Timetable

- 8.1.1. The project manager is Matthew Williams of L – P : Archaeology.
- 8.1.2. Matthew will be responsible for the overall coherency of the team and for the management of the archaeological evaluation. Additional field officers, when required on site, will be under his direction and will be responsible for particular tasks that he assigns to them.
- 8.1.3. The fieldwork is timetabled to commence on the 30th July.

SOURCES CONSULTED

STATUTORY AND GUIDANCE

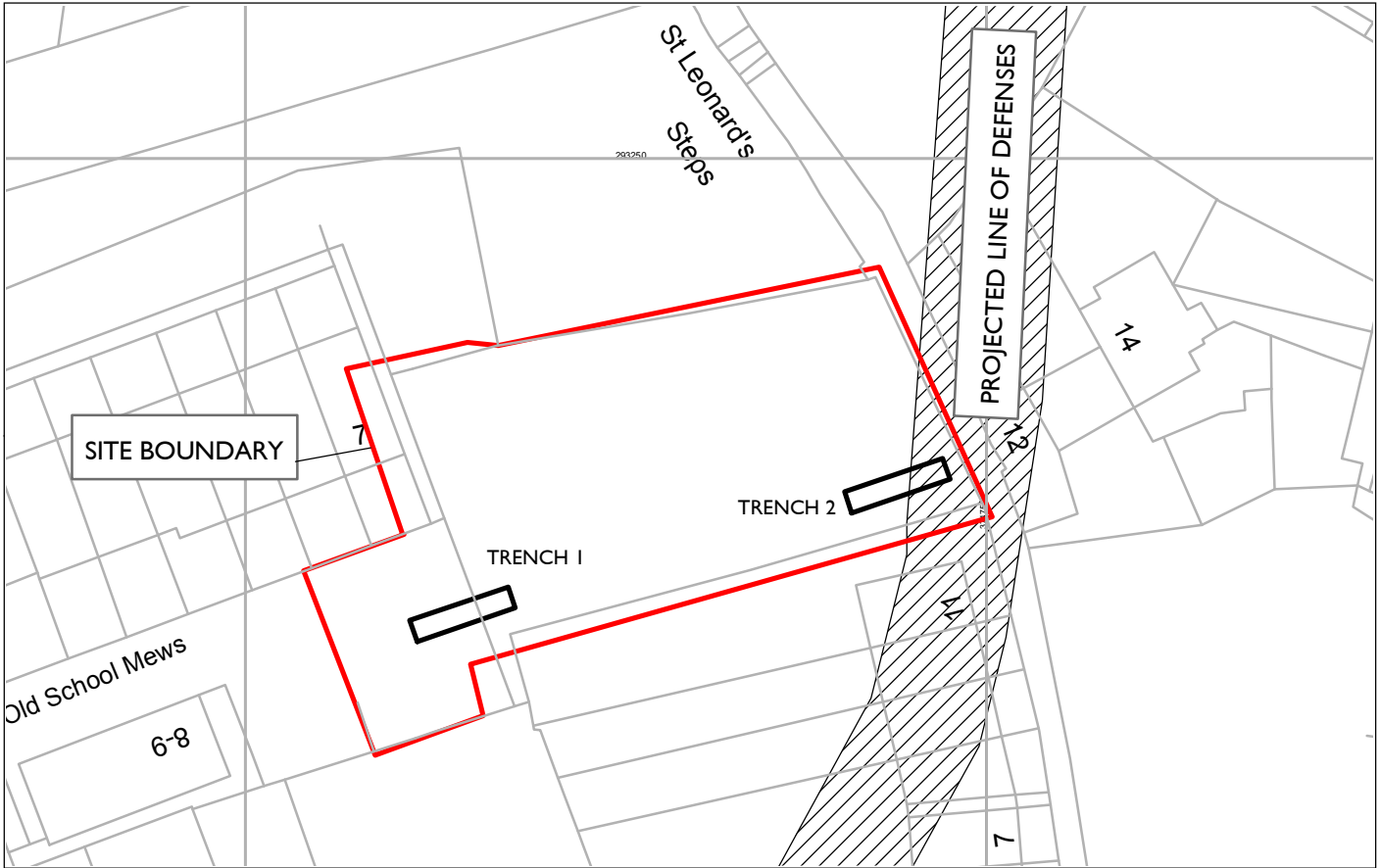
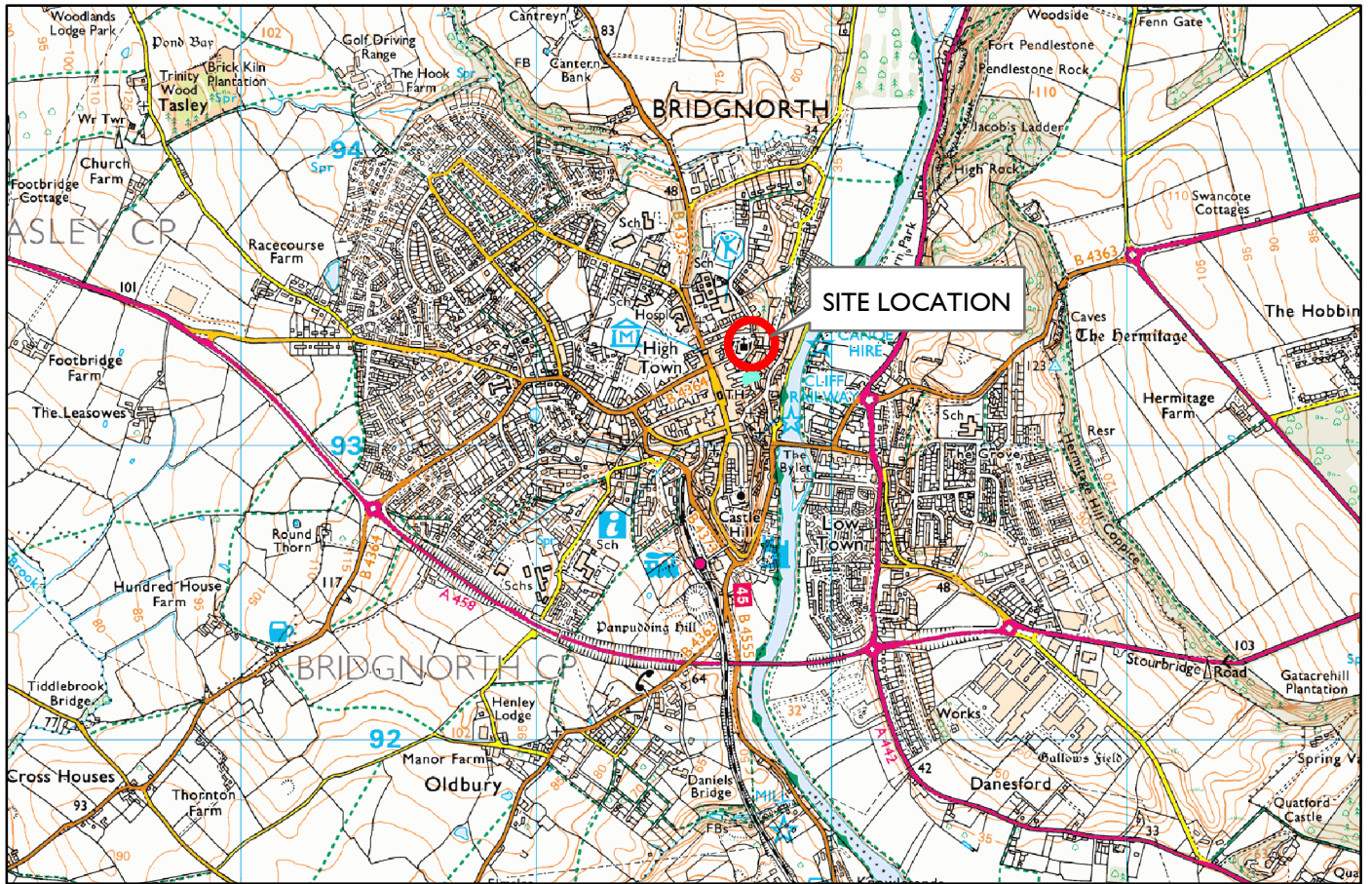
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ELECTRONIC

www.heritagegateway.org.uk. Accessed 20/07/2012

FIGURES

FIGURE I // A4 portrait template



TOP: SITE LOCATION 1:25000 @ a4

BOTTOM: TRENCH LOCATIONS 1:500 @ A4



PROJECT // I387M - 63A High St Bridgnorth

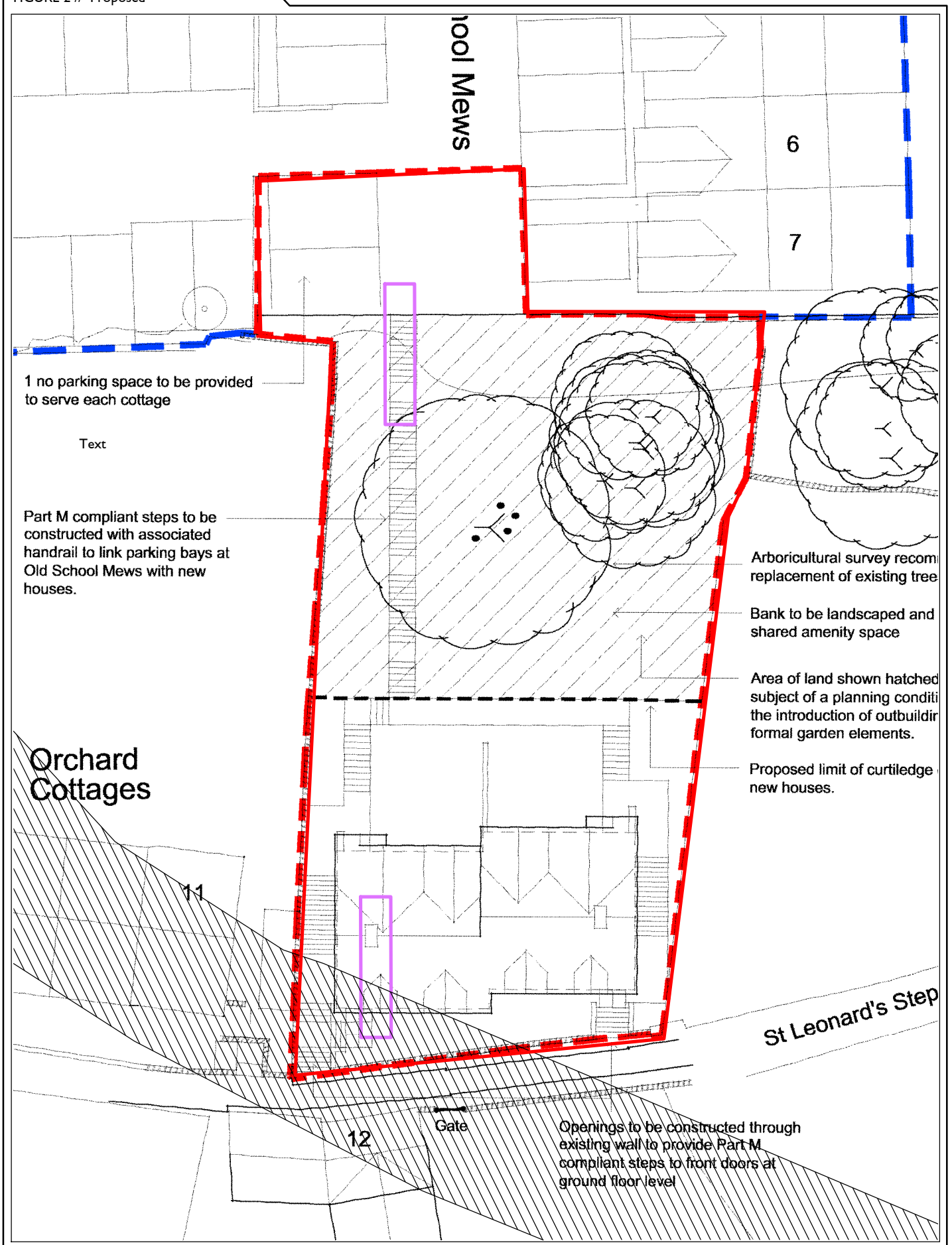
DESCRIPTION // Site location and proposed trenches




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FIGURE 2 // Proposed



-  projected town defenses
-  proposed trenches
-  site boundary

0 5m



PROJECT // I387M- 63A High Street Bridgnorth

DESCRIPTION // Proposed development and trench locations

Development plans provided by Hightown Homes Ltd

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