

DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT
OF
WHARF ROAD,
BIDDULPH,
STAFFORDSHIRE

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INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Project 3212
Report 1616

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Desk-based assessment of Wharf Road, Biddulph, Staffordshire

Tom Rogers

Part 1 Project summary

A desk-based assessment was undertaken on land at Wharf Road, Biddulph, Staffordshire (NGR 388257,357793). It was undertaken on behalf of Arthur Amos Associates, landscape design consultants to Sainsburys Ltd and Biddulph Developments (Nominees) Ltd, who intend to apply for the proposed mixed use development. This study will form a part of the application.

The aims of this assessment were to summarise the character and extent of any identified features of the historic environment, indicate their significance, the impact of the proposed development and identify mitigation measures, where appropriate.

The town now known as Biddulph is a settlement, which developed in the 19th century around coal mining and iron working as well as some textile manufacture. The original settlement of Biddulph was centred around the church of St Lawrence and Biddulph Grange on the northern edge of the present town. In the middle ages this lay in a remote area between forest and moorland owned largely by nearby Hulton Abbey. The area was divided up into four estates in the 12th century and the landscape remained largely agricultural with small scale mining until the late 18th century. The construction of a Turnpike Road from Tunstall to Bosley in 1770 opened up the area to some extent to the movement of heavy goods and through the first half of the 19th century landowners opened more areas to coal mining and ironworking. It was during this time that a hamlet to the south of Biddulph known as Bradley Green began to develop around a junction of the Turnpike Road. It appears that some encroachment onto what may have been common land had occurred in this area prior to the 1841 Act of Enclosure. After the completion of the Biddulph Valley Railway Line in 1860 and the development of the Biddulph Coal and Iron Works the population of the parish increased dramatically and the area around Bradley Green expanded to accommodate the influx of workers.

The area under consideration was at the core of the settlement as shown on the 1841 enclosure map at which time it was divided into small previously enclosed plots with a few buildings. Census returns show that the population of the town rose steadily up to 1860 and faster beyond. The first edition Ordnance Survey map of 1889 shows scattered buildings across the site including a Hall, known as the Oddfellows Hall, demolished in 1970, Yew Tree House and Cottage, both of which still stand and correspond roughly with buildings shown on the enclosure map, and The Royal Oak a pub formerly known as The Wheel, also still extant. A coal shaft and air shaft are shown immediately south of the site on the opposite side of Wharf Road.

Later editions of the Ordnance Survey maps show further development of the site and diverse uses of buildings and land including a police station, fire station, recreation ground, library store, bowling green and Labour Club. The Hall and many of the buildings fronting onto Station Road and High Street on the eastern side of the subject site were demolished in 1970 to make way for a New Town Centre rebuild, which was replaced again in 1985. The site now consists of a mixture of modern and older buildings.

A recent geotechnical report of the site shows that at least one mineshaft exists within its boundaries. Buildings are shown on the site of Yew Tree House on the 1889 Ordnance Survey map and they also roughly correspond with buildings on the 1841 Enclosure Map. The Royal Oak is also a Victorian building as is the building now used by Electro Hire and Supply. It is recommended that Yew Tree House and cottage, The Royal Oak and associated outbuildings, the building occupied by Electro Hire and Supply are examined by a buildings

archaeologist to establish their date and importance. It is also recommended that the mine shaft be the subject of archaeological investigation and that a watching brief be carried out on any groundworks within the subject site to ascertain the survival of further 19th century mine workings or earlier deposits.

Part 2 Detailed report

1. Background

1.1 Reasons for the project

A desk-based assessment was undertaken on land at Wharf Road, Biddulph, Staffordshire (NGR 388257,357793). It was undertaken on behalf of Arthur Amos Associates, for their client Sainsbury's Ltd and Biddulph Developments (Nominees) Ltd, and is intended to be submitted as part of a planning application for the proposed mixed use development.

1.2 Project parameters

The project conforms to the *Standard and guidance for archaeological desk-based assessment* (IFA 2001), Planning Policy Guidance Notes 15 '*Planning and the Historic Environment*', and 16 '*Archaeology and Planning*' and relevant EIA guidance and Legislation.

1.3 Aims

The aims of the desk-based assessment were to summarise the character and extent of any identified features of the historic environment, indicate their significance, the impact of the proposed development and identify mitigation measures, where appropriate.

2. Methods

2.1 Study area

The study area comprised the site (Fig 1), and any features of the historic environment within 500m. The site is bounded to the north west by Biddulph Bypass, to the east by Station Road and High Street and to the south by Wharf Road. It is currently divided into various holdings including Somerfield supermarket to the south east and four shops fronting onto High Street and Station Road. A small park area at the northern tip of the site, a car park, a Labour Club and bowling green and a row of four post war houses front onto Craigside, a road which crosses the site. Yew Tree House, part of which is 'Options' shop, Yew Tree Cottage, which is now derelict and Hollinshead Bus Depot are accessed from Wharf Road. In the centre of the site is a builders yard and a small works selling air conditioning.

2.2 Documentary search

Prior to fieldwork commencing, a search was made of the Staffordshire Historic Environment Record (HER), County Records Office and Local Studies Library (SRO). The following sources are relevant to the study area:

Cartographic sources

- Mainwaring Estate map, 1597, SRO: D (w) 1743/ADD/16
 - Enclosure Map (and award) of the parish of Biddulph, 1841, SRO: D(w) 1743/21
 - 1st edition Ordnance Survey, 1889, Staffordshire Sheet VII NW, 6":1 mile (1:10,560)
 - Ordnance Survey, 1900, Staffordshire Sheet VII NW, 6":1 mile (1:10,560)
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- Ordnance Survey, 1925, Staffordshire Sheet VII NW, 6":1 mile (1:10,560)
- Ordnance Survey, 1925, sheet SJ 8856, 25":1 mile (1:2,500)
- Ordnance Survey, 1953, sheet SJ 8857, 25":1 mile (1:2,500)
- Ordnance Survey, 1966, sheet SJ 8856, 25":1 mile (1:2,500)
- Ordnance Survey, 1984, sheet SJ 8856, 25":1 mile (1:2,500)

Documentary sources

- Fraser, M 1936 *The Staffordshire Domesday*
- Heathcote E (ed) 2007 *Gooin' dine th'grayn – A history of Biddulph High Street, Biddulph and District Genealogy and Historical Society*
- Horowitz, D 2005 *The Place names of Staffordshire*
- Kennedy J (ed) 1993 *Biddulph 'By the diggings' A local history*
- Ragg, J M, Beard, G R, George, H, Heaven, F W, Hollis, J M, Jones, R J A, Palmer, R C, Reeve, M J, Robson, J D, and Whitfield, W A D, 1984 *Soils and their use in midland and western England*, Soil Survey of England and Wales, **12**
- *Victoria County History of Staffordshire*, volumes I and II
- Wheelhouse, D J Biddulph, 1997 *The archive photographs*

The following sources have also been cited in this assessment.

- DoE, 1990 *Planning Policy Guidance Note 16: Archaeology and Planning (PPG 16)*, Department of the Environment
- DoE, 1995 *Planning Policy Guidance Note 15: Archaeology and the historic Environment (PPG 15)*, Department of the Environment
- IFA 2001 *Standard and guidance for archaeological desk-based assessment*, Institute of Field Archaeologists

2.3 **Other methods**

A site visit was undertaken on 21 March 2008.

Consultation has been undertaken with the Stephen Dean, Senior Archaeologist at Staffordshire County Council, to establish the key issues likely to be of importance in determining the planning application.

2.4 **Results**

The results are mapped on Figure 2 and the details of individual features of the historic environment are given in Appendix 1. Event records have been omitted where this would repeat information in other record types, and would not materially affect the assessment.

2.5 Impact assessment criteria

The criteria cited in Table 1 have been used.

Table 1: Significance Criteria for Cultural Heritage Issues

<p>Severe Adverse: Loss of integrity of nationally important archaeology/cultural heritage including Scheduled Ancient Monuments, Grade I/II* registered parks and gardens and registered battlefields. Demolition of a Grade I/II* Listed Building. Dramatic adverse change in the setting or visual amenity of the feature/site.</p>
<p>Major Adverse: Land take resulting in the degradation of a cultural heritage site of national importance and/or extensive change to the setting or visual amenity of such a site e.g. intrusion into the setting of a Scheduled Ancient Monument. Loss of integrity of sites of archaeological interest of regional value, or Grade II registered parks and gardens, e.g. a dramatic change in the setting or visual amenity of a regionally important site such as a Conservation Area. Widespread adverse effects on the setting or structure of a Grade I/II* Listed Building. Demolition of a Grade II Listed Building.</p>
<p>Moderate Adverse: Land take resulting in the degradation of a cultural heritage site of regional importance and/or extensive change to the setting or visual amenity of such a site. Extensive change to the setting or structure of a Grade II Listed Building. Demolition of a locally listed or other historically important building. Encroachment upon a Conservation Area, historic parkland or other historic landscapes where the quality of the setting or its amenity would be noticeably impaired. Slight change to the setting or structure of a Grade I/II* listed building. Removal of a historically important hedgerow (after the Hedgerows Regulations).</p>
<p>Minor Adverse: Loss of integrity of an area where archaeological features/areas of local importance have been identified. Slight change to the setting or structure of a Grade II Listed Building. Limited encroachment upon a Conservation Area or historic parkland or other historic landscape where intrusive views are created or slight effects upon its integrity would result.</p>
<p>Not Significant: Landscape or ecological planting on an area where locally important archaeological features have been identified but impacts are thought to have no long term effect on the resource. Removal of common hedgerows and limited damage to important hedgerows where no replacement proposed.</p>
<p>Minor Beneficial: Perceptible improvement in the setting or structure of a Grade II listed building, Conservation Area or Grade II historic parkland. Improved management of locally/regionally important archaeological site.</p>
<p>Moderate Beneficial: Perceptible improvement in the setting or structure of a Grade I/II* listed building, Conservation Area or Grade I/II* historic parkland. Improved management of nationally important archaeological site.</p>

2.6 The methods in retrospect

The methods adopted allow a high degree of confidence that the aims of the assessment have been achieved.

3. **Archaeological and historical context**

3.1 **Topography**

The town of Biddulph lies in rolling heath upland about eight miles north of Stoke on Trent at the north west edge of Staffordshire. It is on the edge of the conurbation comprising Stoke on Trent, Newcastle under Lyme and the pottery towns but is still separated from it by a stretch of countryside. The town lies in an undulating valley between ridges of Millstone Grit, prominent to the west at Mow Cop and to the east at Biddulph Moor. The River Trent, Staffordshire's main river, rises to the south east of the parish of Biddulph on Biddulph Moor (VCH II, 285).

3.2 **Geology and soils**

Biddulph lies in an eroded syncline of Carboniferous strata with Westphalian coal measures at the base, overlain by Pleistocene glacial tills, while the underlying Millstone Grit outcrops on high ridges to the west at Mow Cop and to the east at Biddulph Moor. Biddulph lies on the Pennine coalfield, the largest of the four Staffordshire coalfields (VCH II, 70).

3.3 **Historic environment**

3.3.1 **Prehistoric and Roman**

A perforated axe/hammer from Biddulph (MST 371), probably Bronze Age in date, is in Hanley Museum. Although the exact location where it was found is unknown, it bears the label Churchyard.

North Staffordshire in the Roman period consisted largely of heath and woodland and was only sparsely settled. A Roman road ran from Derby to Chesterton to the north west of Newcastle under Lyme where a minor Roman fort was excavated between 1969 and 1971. There are no Roman monuments or features recorded in the immediate vicinity of the subject site.

3.3.2 **Late Saxon and Medieval**

In the Saxon period, the land around Biddulph was an isolated area between the forest of Lyme and the Staffordshire moorlands (Kennedy 1993, 16). The prevalence of place names with the suffix '-ley' (such as Bradley and Knypersley) suggests that this was still a wooded area with settlements within clearings. The name Biddulph derives from Old English '*delf*' a digging (equivalent to the modern *delve*) and means therefore 'by diggings' referring probably to mines or quarries which existed in the area at this early period (Horowitz 2005, 119).

The Domesday Book entry for Biddulph is as follows:

'In Biddulph there is one hide with its dependencies. Griffin held it. There is land for III ploughs' (Fraser 1936, 19).

In Kennedy (1993, 20) it is suggested that the entry implies that although Griffin had previously held the land, it was now uninhabited perhaps following William the Conqueror's devastating campaigns following Earl Edwin's unsuccessful revolt at Stafford in 1069.

From 1189 Biddulph was divided into four manors; Biddulph, Knypersley, Overton and Lower Biddulph and excepting Biddulph, the names of the manors were adopted by the new owners as their surname, in the Norman tradition (Kennedy 1993, 21). The manors are illustrated on a map of the Mainwaring Estate, of 1597. The area was sparsely populated and

relatively isolated, landowners preferring to establish religious houses in marginal areas than to inhabit them. The main settlement within the parish of Biddulph at this time was the establishment some two miles to the north of the present town of Biddulph, which is now occupied by Biddulph Grange and the church of St Lawrence. This was a grange held by Hulton Abbey which held tithes in the parish from 1291.

There is some evidence of the settlement of Biddulph from the later medieval period. The site of a timber-framed building (MST 6519) lies just north of the subject site. It was recorded in 1994 as a timber structure incorporated into a later brick terraced house but has since disappeared. A late 15th century cruck frame timber house, called Whitehouse Cottage (MST 9960) survives some 400m north west of the site. It is thought to be the oldest inhabited building in the Staffordshire moorlands and is a listed building (1915/07/031). Building recording was undertaken of a timber framed building (EST 805) on Station Road, which was demolished ahead of the construction of the inner bypass of the town.

3.3.3 **Post-medieval and Industrial**

Prior to the 18th century there are few references to mining or quarrying in the area but enough to show that the activity was being carried out on a small scale. Some mines were rented in the parish in the 14th century and there are records of coal mining on the Knypersley Biddulph and Mainwaring (the south west portion of the parish) estates from the 17th century (Kennedy 1993, 61). It appears however that the area was still largely agricultural in character with mining being carried out on a small scale.

The first major artery of communication to reach Biddulph was the Turnpike Road between Tunstall to the south west (one of the six pottery towns) and Bosley in south Cheshire, some 5 miles to the north east, improving a previously existing road and including what is now the High Street of Biddulph and the eastern boundary of the subject site. This was built in 1770 with the support of local landowners with an interest in the movement of heavy goods such as sand, coal and iron.

Throughout the 19th century, increased demand for coal from growing urban populations and steam powered industry allowed landowners to open further pits and coal output increased steadily into the middle decades of the century. In 1810 the Knypersley estate was bought by James Bateman of Salford, for his son John. It was this family and their successor Robert Heath that drove much of the industry in the area. John's son James Bateman created the famous gardens now open to the public at Biddulph Grange.

In the census of 1801 the population of the parish of Biddulph was recorded as 1,180 people. The town now known as Biddulph was then a hamlet called Bradley Green, Biddulph referring to the more established settlement to the north, centred on the church of St Lawrence and Biddulph Grange.

In 1841 there were 310 people in the Bradley Green area, living in 66 houses. (Heathcote 2007, 3) By 1851 the population of the parish was 2,683 and census returns show that the number of coalminers in Bradley Green had increased from 175 to 307 in the previous ten years. There were now 98 inhabited houses in the village of 481 people (Kennedy 1993, 186).

The Falls Colliery (MST 13111), which lay to the north west of the town, ran from the early years of the 19th century until about 1850. In 1772 coal was being delivered to Astbury Limeworks by a John Ford who was working a seam from a farm he owned on the western side of Tunstall Road (MST 13111). The land was bought in 1838 and developed into the Bradley Green Colliery which was worked out by 1894.

In 1857 Robert Heath an industrialist from Burslem arrived in Biddulph and acquired and began to develop Childerplay Colliery, which became the Biddulph Valley Coal and Iron Works (Heathcote 2007, 3) exploiting the ironstone seams which lie within the coal

measures. It was at this time that the Biddulph Valley railway line was under construction and its completion allowed the works to flourish on a larger scale than had to date been seen in the area.

The Biddulph Valley Railway Line (MST 13081) opened in 1860. It was a branch of the North Staffordshire Railway, a company operating in and around Stoke on Trent and the potteries. The Biddulph branch was promoted by amongst others the Bateman family and the Mayor of Congleton and was principally constructed as a goods line for minerals, although a passenger service ran between 1864 and 1927 (MST 13081). Heath brought workers in from outside the area and James Bateman released land around Bradley Green for new houses to accommodate them. By 1901 the population of Biddulph parish stood at 6,247 (VCH I, 324).

From the early 19th century there was also a textile industry in the town, initially cotton spinning, later to be replaced by fustian cutting, which continued into the 1930s. The growth of textiles in the area was driven partly by the fast flowing streams in the area and also by the availability of labour, largely women whose husbands were mining. Reliance Mill (MST 13116) a fustian cutting mill built just before the First World War survives on Whalley Street some 100m to the north east of the site.

The village of Bradley Green is shown clearly on the Enclosure Map for Biddulph Parish of 1841 (Fig 3). The hamlet is centred on the distinctive fork of Station Road and Congleton Road and the junction to Wharf Road from the High Street. The eastern part of the subject site is divided into two large plots (246, 247 and 249) and a series of much smaller parcels in the angle of what is now Wharf Road and High Street. The details of the enclosure award are set out in Appendix 3.

The plots are described on the map as ‘Old Inclosures’ referring to piecemeal enclosures that had already taken place at the time of the Enclosure Act. Plot 249 is described as houses, (two are depicted on the map) and gardens and plot 246 is described as a croft although no buildings are shown. Many of the plots are leased from the Mainwaring estate and some are described as ‘Part of Boon’s Intake’. Two plots are described as ‘Incroachment’ implying unofficial settlement on waste land. To the west of the plots marked on the Enclosure map are four buildings. The southernmost of these is in approximately the same position as Yew Tree House with roughly the same orientation. Two other buildings can be identified on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map but are no longer standing.

The 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of the area (Fig 4) was surveyed in 1873-8 and published in 1889. This shows the village of Bradley Green, much changed from the Enclosure Map of 1841. Instead of scattered houses, within plots of land, rows of terraced houses now line the core of the town and there are two chapels (Primitive and Wesleyan Methodist), two public houses, a police station and a school. Various brick fields are depicted around the town and collieries and shafts are shown between the town and the railway to the west of the town including a shaft and air shaft immediately south of the subject site in the area that is now Somerfield. The town is now longer, reaching far down what is now the High Street and a row of detached houses is shown on John Street running parallel and to the east.

The subject site is shown with a scatter of buildings. A large building, later labelled as ‘Hall’ is shown on the corner of High Street and Wharf Road. Two slightly smaller detached buildings are shown immediately to the north (later shown as a short terrace) and a row of houses occupies the frontage onto Station Road. The part of the plot which lies to the west, north of Wharf Road is occupied by six further buildings, one of which is identifiable from later maps as Yew Tree House and another as Yew Tree Cottage, both of which are still standing. A row of houses is also shown aligned approximately SSE-NNW in the centre of the site.

Yew Tree House (Plate 1) is currently a slate roofed rendered complex of buildings with an external staircase and outhouses to the rear. Superficially it appears that the wing to the east

with a gable end is older with 'Options' shop as a later addition, which would fit with the map evidence. Attached to 'Options' is a small octagonal brick building (Plate 2) which may have been a small shop or booth. Yew Tree Cottage is an L-shaped house with a slate roof, clad in yellow render.

The Hall shown on the corner of Wharf Road and the High Street was built around the 1860s to replace one on the site of the Primitive Methodist Chapel which stands on the eastern side of Station Road, opposite the northern end of the subject site (MST 51777). Originally known as the Oddfellows Hall it was the meeting place of the Loyal Knypersley Lodge of Oddfellows, a friendly society formed in 1795 (Heathcoate 2007, 168). In 1896 it was sold to the newly formed Urban District Council and a wide range of activities took place there until 1970, when it was demolished to make way for the town centre rebuild (see below).

3.3.4 Twentieth Century

The picture is little changed on the 1900 edition of the Ordnance Survey map (Fig 5). One of the buildings fronting onto the High Street is now marked as a public house (The Royal Oak) and the planting of an arc of trees to the south west of the site encloses an area later labelled tennis court.

According to Heathcoate (2007, 149) The Royal Oak was previously known as 'The Wheel Inn', being formerly a wheelwright's yard. Thomas Doorbar, born in 1807 the son of a wheelwright was described in 1851 as a joiner and beerhouse keeper and in 1861 as a publican and wheelwright. He was listed in the 1861 directory as Thomas Durbar of 'The Wheel'. In the 1871 census the pub is recorded as 'The Royal Oak'.

The 1925 Ordnance Survey 25" map (Fig 6) is the earliest available detailed map of the site where the scale allows individual houses and gardens to be distinguished. The rows of terrace along High Street and Station Road are still evident, with outhouses to the rear. Behind are various scattered buildings, possibly other houses or workshops and the northern part of the site is defined as a rectangular recreation ground. A bowling green and Labour Club is shown to the south of the site and to the west of further scattered buildings, including Yew Tree House and Cottage is a tennis ground partly enclosed by the line of trees mentioned above.

The 6" edition of 1946 (Fig 7) shows that houses have been built to the north west of the town, including to the west of the recreation ground. The northern end of the recreation ground is now occupied by a building.

The building on the recreation ground, now shown as 'Playground', is marked as a fire station on the 1954, 25" sheet. A road labelled 'Craigsid' is now crossing the site joining what was formerly a lane to the west of the recreation ground and the entrance to the bowling green and east of this just off Wharf Road is a library and public lavatories. Four houses (76-82 Craigsid; Plate 5), which still stand, are shown off Craigsid to the west of the playground. The southern part of Yew Tree House is marked as a Police Station.

There are marked changes to the site between the survey of 1967 and that of 1984. In this period most of the buildings fronting onto the High Street were demolished with the exception of the Royal Oak Pub and Number 13, now occupied by Brammers shoe shop (plate 9). The clearance took place in 1970 and included the former Oddfellows Hall and all the buildings as far as the Royal Oak. They were replaced by a supermarket (initially Key Markets) and four shops. These buildings were themselves replaced in 1985 with the current buildings now occupied by Somerfield and four shops (Plate 7). The playground to the north of the plot was replaced by a car park and small leisure garden (Plate 10). The small former library store was also removed. The building now known as Brammers appears modern in construction although it is possible that some of the original fabric remains within.

In 2003 the Biddulph Bypass was constructed to the west of the High Street. This road now forms the western boundary of the subject site.

3.4 **Statutory and other designations**

Research has demonstrated that no statutory designations are applicable to the proposed development site.

4. **Potential impacts**

The presence of a Neolithic Stone Axe from a graveyard in Biddulph suggests that there was prehistoric activity in the area and there is a slight potential for the survival of prehistoric archaeological deposits within the site.

The site lies within the historic core of Bradley Green, the hamlet which later became the town of Biddulph. Several structures are shown within the site on the 1841 Enclosure Map and it is possible that deposits of or related to these may survive on the subject site. Destruction of these deposits would have a **minor adverse** effect on the archaeological resource.

A mine shaft has been identified on the site through geotechnical survey. No workings are shown on the 1841 Enclosure map, or referred to in the award so it is likely that these workings date from the middle years of the 19th century. Such a feature may be classified as being of local importance and therefore destruction without record would have a **minor adverse** impact on the archaeological resource.

Five buildings stand within the site of 19th century date or older.

The core of Yew Tree House is shown on the 1st edition OS and is probably the same as a building shown on the Enclosure map of 1841. Demolition of this building would have a **moderate adverse** impact on the historic landscape.

The Royal Oak Pub, Yew Tree Cottage, the building occupied by Electro Hire and Supply, and possibly Brammers probably date from the 19th century. Demolition of these buildings would have a **minor adverse** affect on the historic landscape.

5. **Mitigation**

In order to mitigate the impacts identified above, the following actions are recommended.

It is suggested that prior to development taking place within this area, that the following buildings are subject to examination and recording by a qualified buildings archaeologist:

- Yew Tree House which appears on the 1889 Ordnance Survey map and appears to correspond with a structure depicted on the 1841 Enclosure Map;
- Yew Tree Cottage which is shown on the 1889 Ordnance Survey map, the building now occupied by Electro Hire and Supply, which is the last remaining of a row of houses or workshops shown on the 1889 Ordnance Survey Map;

Furthermore it is suggested that the mine shaft recorded during geotechnical works should be the subject of archaeological evaluation or excavation to determine its age and form and that all groundworks within the vicinity of the mine shaft be subject to watching brief to determine the presence of further unrecorded mine workings or earlier deposits.

The scope and specification of mitigation works will be agreed with Stephen Dean (Senior Archaeologist, Staffordshire County Council).

Any site investigation works or watching briefs required, would be concluded by production of an archaeological report (and appropriate publication) to be deposited for public consultation with the HER and a project archive to be deposited at a local museum.

6. Residual effects

Implementation of the mitigation proposed above should ensure that there are no residual effects on the historic environment and archaeological resource from the proposed development. Mitigation should ensure that adverse impacts are restricted in scope to *not significant*.

The historic environment is a non-renewable resource and therefore cannot be directly replaced. However mitigation through recording and investigation also produces an important research dividend that can be used for the better understanding of the county's history and contribute to local and regional research agendas.

7. Publication summary

The Service has a professional obligation to publish the results of archaeological projects within a reasonable period of time. To this end, the Service intends to use this summary as the basis for publication through local or regional journals. Arthur Amos Associates is requested to consider the content of this section as being acceptable for such publication.

A desk-based assessment was undertaken on land at Wharf Road, Biddulph, Staffordshire (NGR 388257,357793) on behalf of Arthur Amos Associates.

The town now known as Biddulph is a settlement which developed in the 19th century around coal mining and iron working as well as some textile manufacture. The original settlement of Biddulph was centred around the church of St Lawrence and Biddulph Grange on the northern edge of the present town. In the middle ages this lay in a remote area between forest and moorland owned largely by nearby Hulton Abbey. The area was divided up into four estates in the 12th century and the landscape remained largely agricultural with small scale mining until the late 18th century. The construction of a Turnpike Road from Tunstall to Bosley in 1770 opened up the area to some extent to the movement of heavy goods and through the first half of the 19th century landowners opened more areas to coal mining and ironworking. It was during this time that a hamlet to the south of Biddulph known as Bradley Green began to develop around a junction of the Turnpike Road. It appears that some encroachment onto what may have been common land had occurred in this area prior to the 1841 Act of Enclosure. After the completion of the Biddulph Valley Railway Line in 1860 and the development of the Biddulph Coal and Iron Works the population of the parish increased dramatically and the area around Bradley Green expanded to accommodate the influx of workers.

The area under consideration was at the core of the settlement as shown on the 1841 enclosure map at which time it was divided into small previously enclosed plots with a few buildings. Census returns show that the population of the town rose steadily up to 1860 and faster beyond. The 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1889 shows scattered buildings across the site including a Hall, known as the Oddfellows Hall, demolished in 1970, Yew Tree House and Cottage, both of which still stand and correspond roughly with buildings shown on the enclosure map, and The Royal Oak a pub formerly known as The Wheel, also still extant. A coal shaft and air shaft are shown immediately south of the site on the opposite side of Wharf Road.

Later editions of the Ordnance Survey maps show further development of the site and diverse uses of buildings and land including a police station, fire station, recreation ground, library store, bowling green and Labour Club. The Hall and many of the buildings fronting onto Station Road and High Street on the eastern side of the subject site were demolished in 1970

to make way for a New Town Centre rebuild, which was replaced again in 1985. The site now consists of a mixture of modern and older buildings.

A recent geotechnical report of the site shows that at least one mineshaft exists within its boundaries. Buildings are shown on the site of Yew Tree House on the 1889 Ordnance Map and they also roughly correspond with buildings on the 1841 Enclosure Map. The Royal Oak is also a Victorian building as is the building now used by Electro Hire and Supply. It is recommended that Yew Tree House and Cottage, The building occupied by Electro Hire and Supply are examined by a buildings archaeologist to establish their date and importance. It is also recommended that the mine shaft be the subject of archaeological investigation and that a watching brief be carried out on any groundworks within the subject site to ascertain the survival of further 19th century mine workings or earlier deposits.

8. **Acknowledgements**

The Service would like to thank the following for their kind assistance in the successful conclusion of this project; Rae Lockett and Dave Pugh (Arthur Amos Associates); Stephen Dean (Senior Archaeologist, Staffordshire County Council), Suzy Blake (Historic Environment Officer, Staffordshire County Council), and the staff at Staffordshire Record Office.

9. **Personnel**

The assessment was undertaken by Tom Rogers. The project manager responsible for the quality of the project was Hal Dalwood. Illustrations were prepared by Sarah Phear.

Appendix 1 Features of the historic environment registered with the HER

Reference number and status	Site name	Grid reference	Record type	Date	Description
00371 - MST371	Axe-hammer findspot, Biddulph	SJ 885,575	Find Spot	Bronze Age	A perforated axe-hammer found within the churchyard at Biddulph
03809 - MST6519	Bradley Green Barn, Biddulph	SJ8828,5790	Monument	Post-medieval	The site of a timber framed building incorporated into a brick terraced house
13506 - MST9960	Whitehouse Cottage, Biddulph	SJ8786,5806	Building	Medieval to post medieval	A listed timber framed building of late 15 th Century date.
51664 - MST13081	Biddulph Valley Railway Line	SJ 8821,5792	Monument	Victorian to Post-War	The course of a branch of the North Staffordshire railway line opened in 1860.
51693 - MST13110	Sand Pits, Biddulph park	SJ 8842,5848	Monument	Victorian to Post-War	Sand extraction pits across what is now playing fields of Biddulph Park.
51694 - MST13111	The Falls Colliery, Falls Farm, Gillow Heath	SJ 8789,5825	Monument	Industrial to Victorian	An 18 th Century Colliery.
51695 - MST 13112	Brickfield, Station Road, Gillow Heath	SJ 8818, 5813	Monument	Industrial to Edwardian	A 19 th Century Brickfield marked on the 1888 1 st edition OS map.
51696 - MST13113	Brook Mills, Chapel Street, Bradley Green	SJ 8833,5818	Monument	Victorian to Post War	A 19 th Century Fustian Mill reused in the 20 th Century
51697 - MST 13114	Gas Works, Station Road, Bradley Green	SJ 8839,5817	Monument	Victorian	Gas works supplying the Bradley Green area in the late 19 th and 20 th Centuries
51698 - MST 13115	Albion Mill, Station Road, Biddulph	SJ 8831,5809	Building	Victorian	The largest fustian mill in Biddulph. Still extant.
51699 - MST 13116	Reliance Mill, Whalley Street, Biddulph	SJ 8841,57932	Building	Edwardian	One of a group of mills built just before WW1.

51700 – MST 13117	Sawpit, Rupert Street, Bradley Green	SJ 8846,5796	Monument	Edwardian to post 1914	A saw pit marked on the 1905 OS map
51703 – MST 13120	Brick Field, Albert Street, Bradley Green	SJ 8845,5778	Monument	Victorian	A late 19 th Century brick field identified on the 1 st edition OS map.
51704 – MST 13121	Brick field Colliery Way, Bradley Green	SJ 8808,5756	Monument	Victorian	A late 19 th Century brick field identified on the 1 st edition OS map.

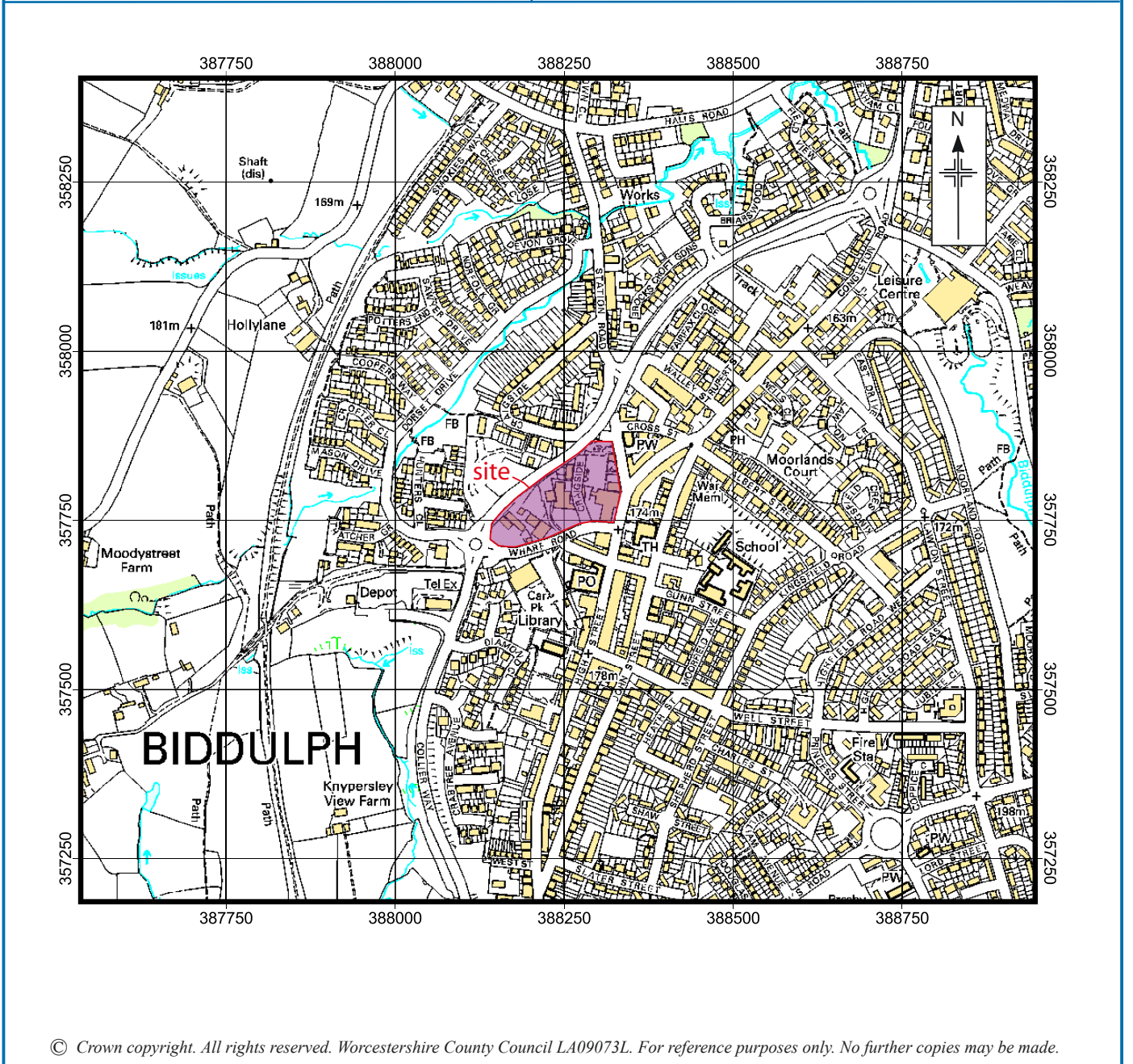
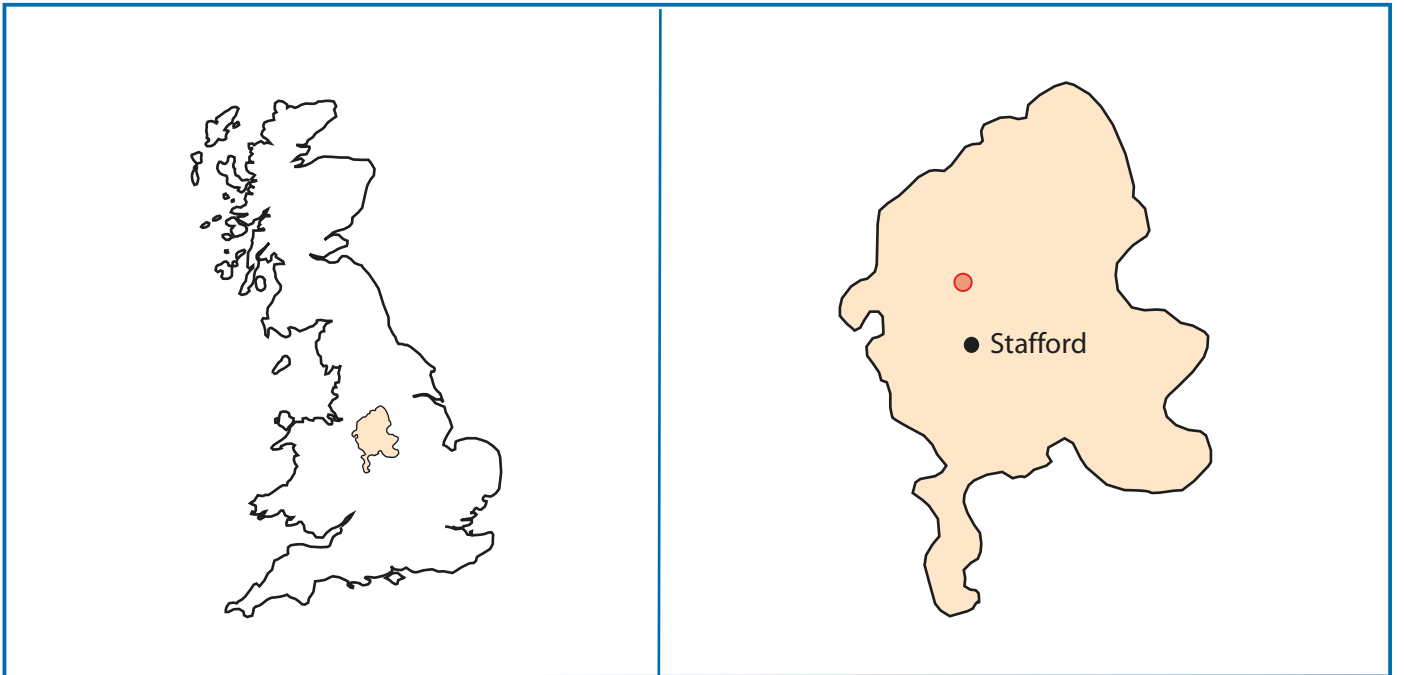
Appendix 2 Additional features of the historic environment (those within the site are indicated in bold)

Reference number and status	Site name	Approximate grid reference	Source	Date	Description
HEF 1	Yew Tree House	SJ 88188,57780	Enclosure map of Biddulph 1841	Pre 1841	18 th /19 th century House
HEF2	Mine shaft	SJ 88162,57803	Sainsburys Biddulph proposed exploratory holes location plan, James Securities	Unknown	Mine shaft uncovered during geotechnical works
HEF 3	Mine shaft	SJ 88206,57720	1889 Ordnance Survey map	Pre 1889	Mine shaft shown south of Wharf Road on 1889 OS
HEF 4	Air shaft	SJ 88068,57709	1889 Ordnance Survey map	Pre 1889	Air shaft shown south of Wharf Road on 1889 OS

Appendix 3 Details of land terrier relating to the 1841 Enclosure map

Plot	Purchaser/ Occupier	Description of land	Situation	Quantities			Purchase money		
				A	R	P	L	S	D
249	Sarah Walley	Houses Gardens and Land	Bradley Green	-	2	4	58	-	-
247	William Chadwick	Intake	Bradley Green	-	1	16	18	16	-
245	Mitchell, John, Benjamin Wright and Isaac Yates	Incroachment laid to homestead and part of Stoniers Meadow	Bradley Green	-	1	31			
241	Holland, Ralph	Part of Boon's intake	Bradley Green	-	1	16			
243	Sawton, Charles	Part of Boon's Intake	Bradley Green	-	1	12			
244	Sawton, John, heirs or devises of	Part of Boon's Intake	Bradley Green	-	-	12			
239	Salt, Joseph, the heirs or devises of	Part of Boon's Intake	Bradley Green	-	-	19			
246	Simon Mountford	Intake and croft	Bradley Green	-	2	19	37	10	-
242	William Chadwick	Plot of land	Bradley Green	-	-	3	1	16	-
248	William Chadwick	Incroachment	Bradley Green	-	-	4	2	4	-

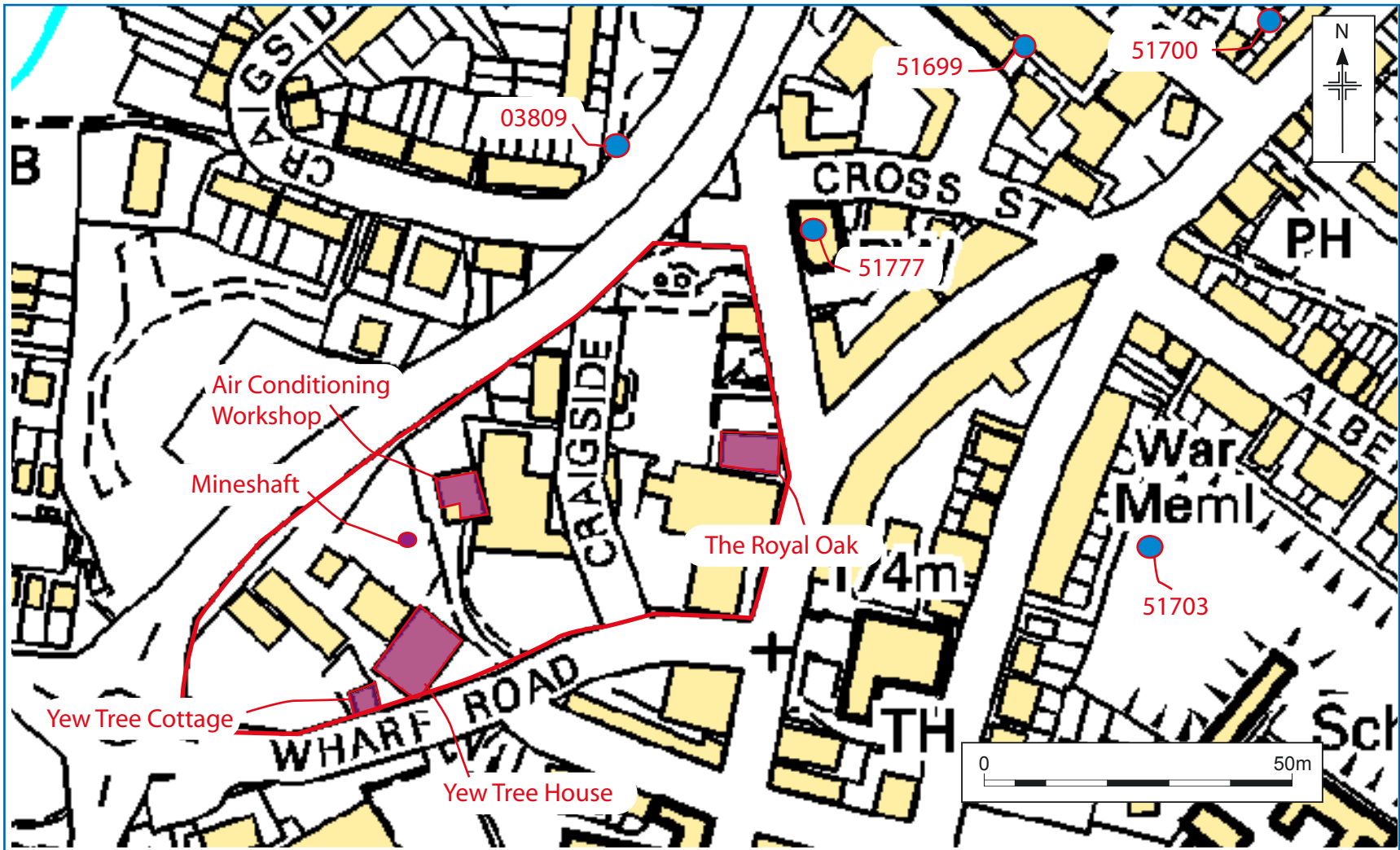
Figures



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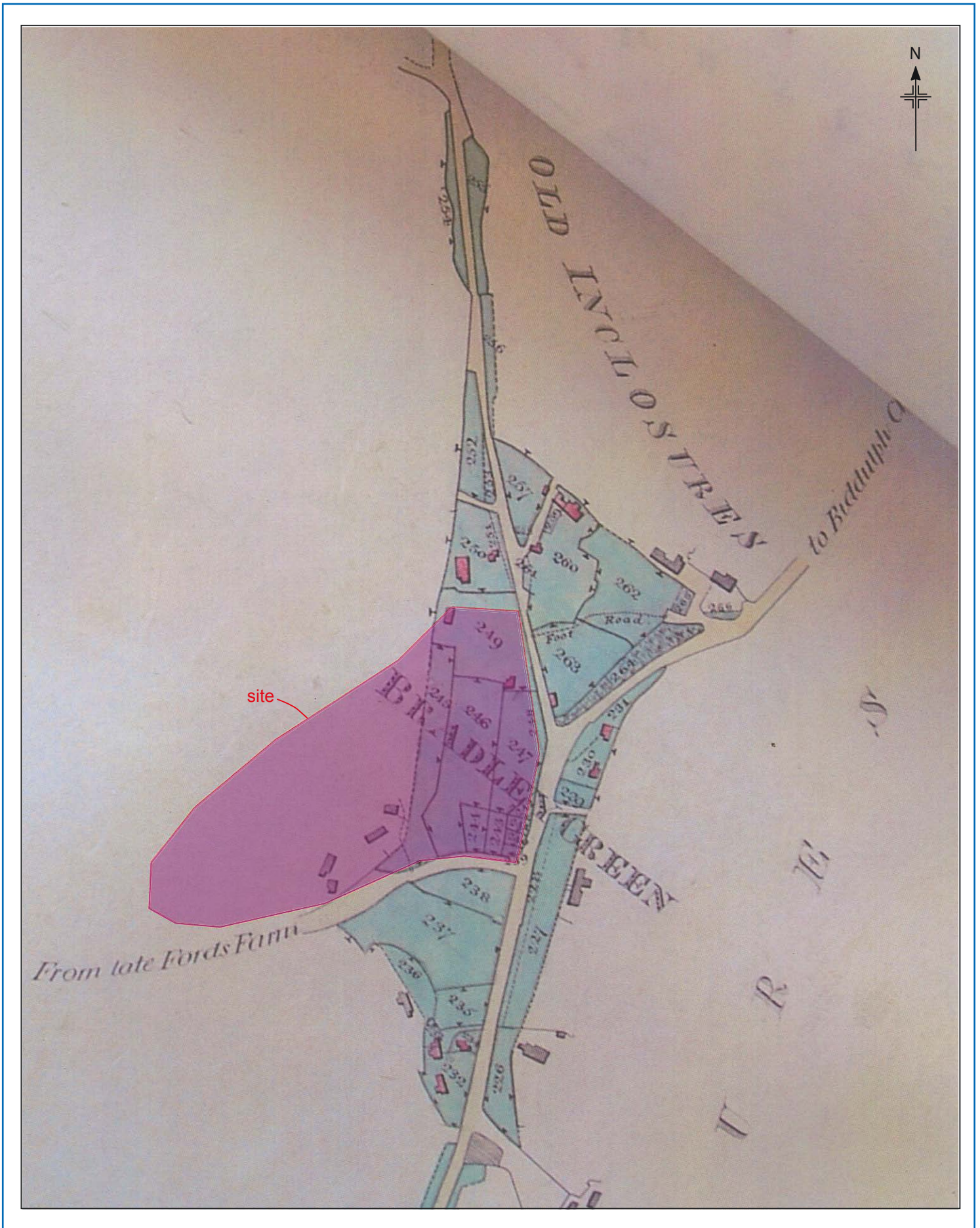
Location of the site

Figure 1



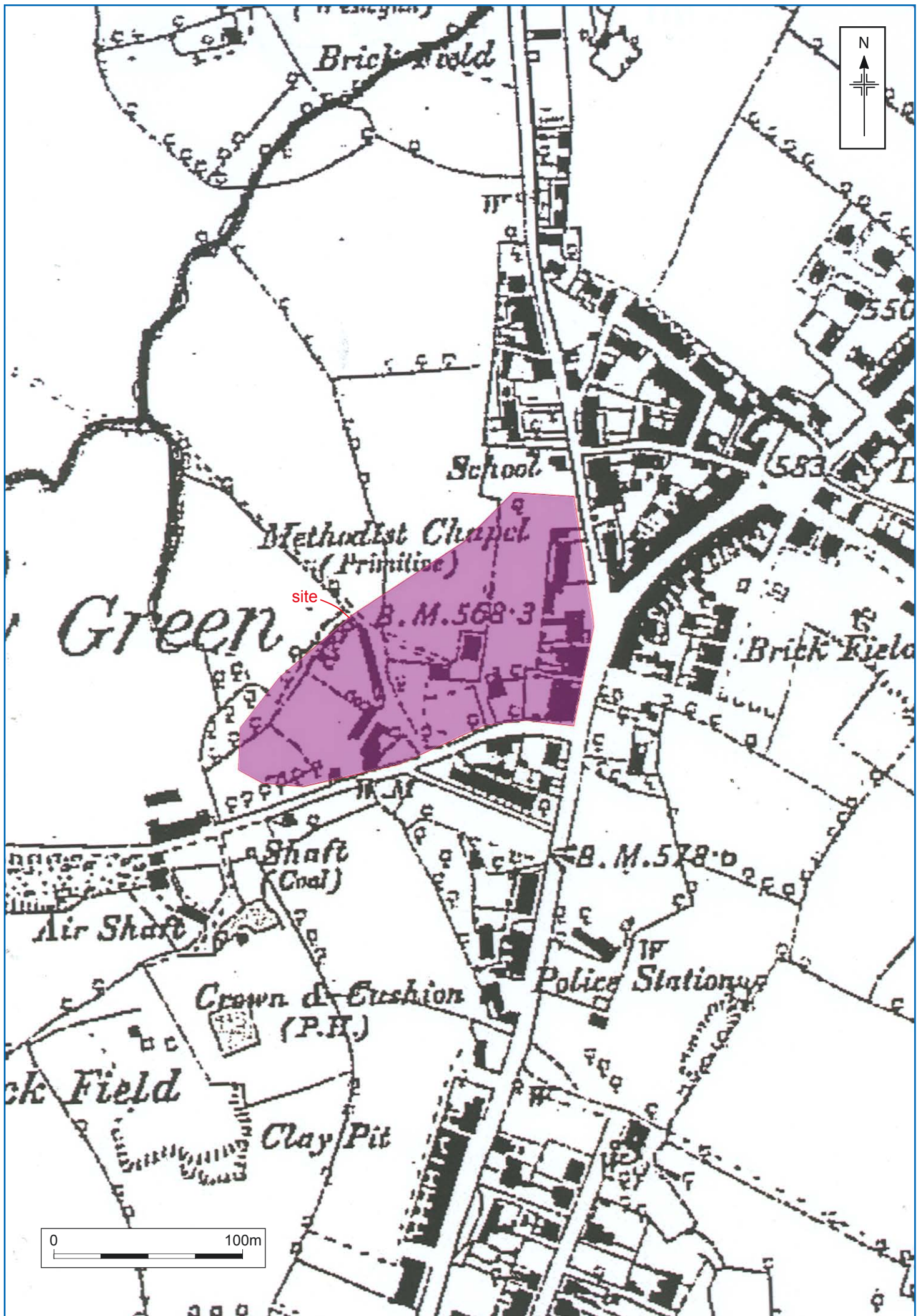
Sites of interest in the vicinity of the subject site

Figure 2



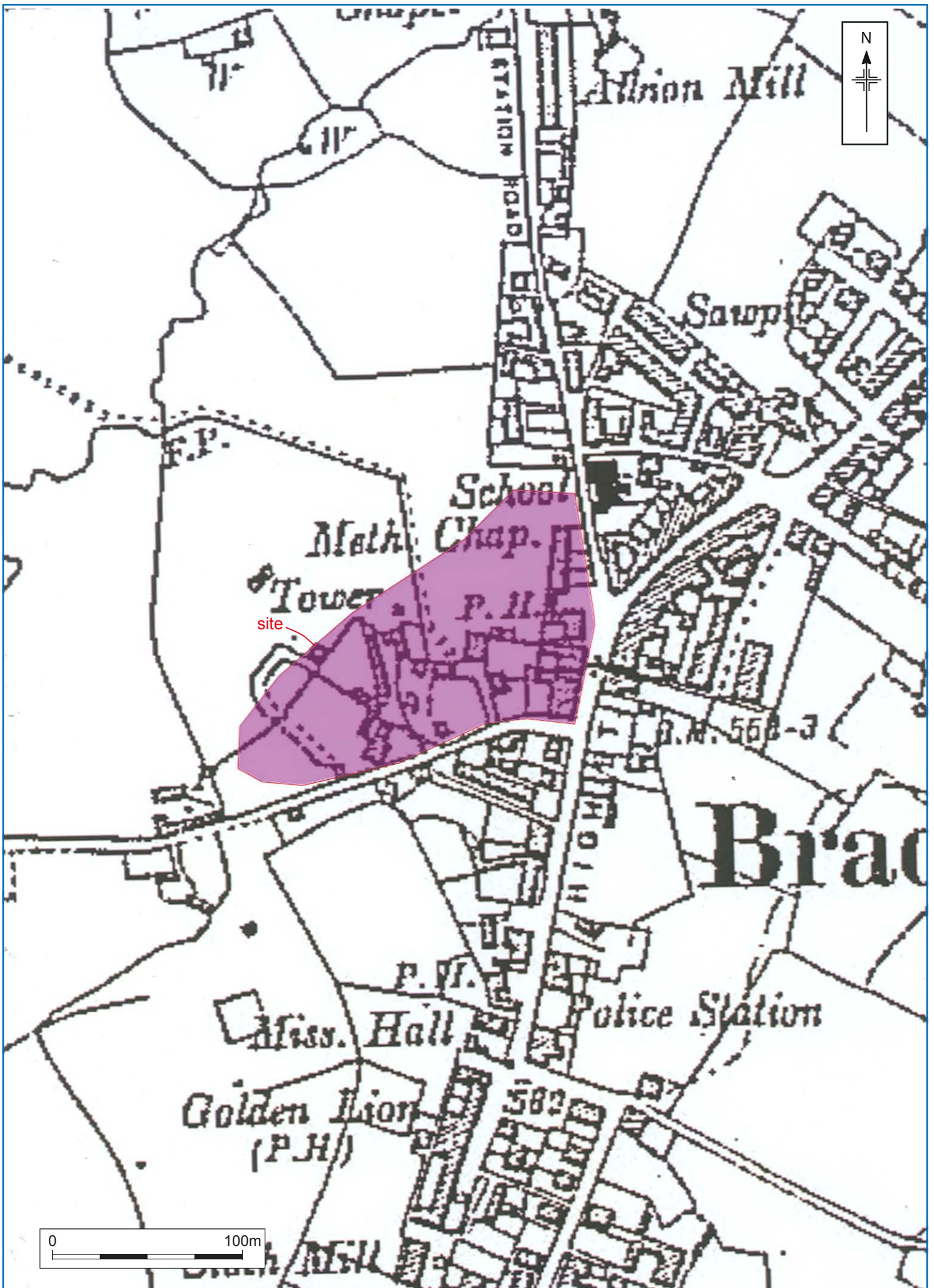
1841 Enclosure Map for the Parish of Biddulph

Figure 3



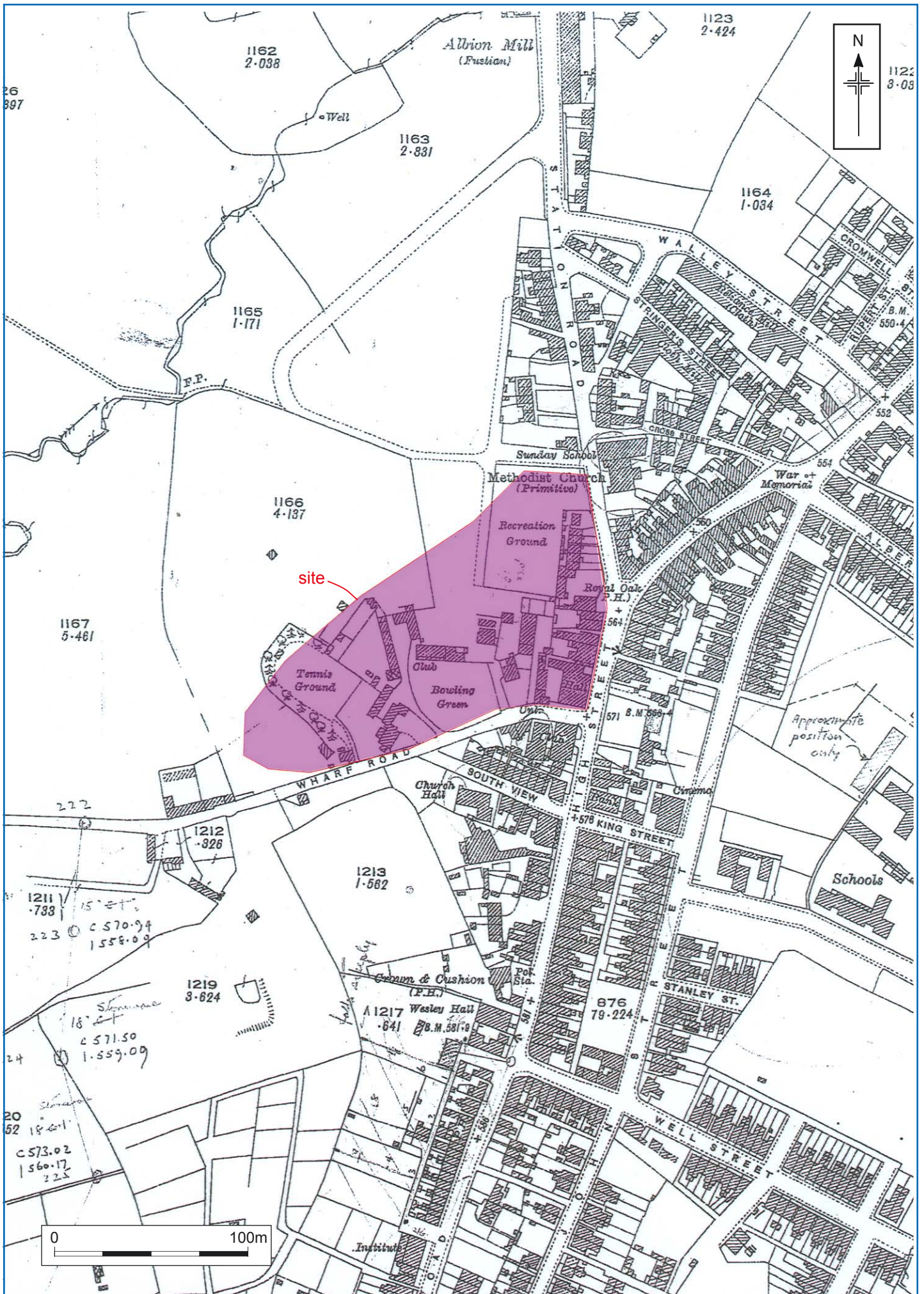
1889 OS 6" Staffordshire Sheet VII NW

Figure 4



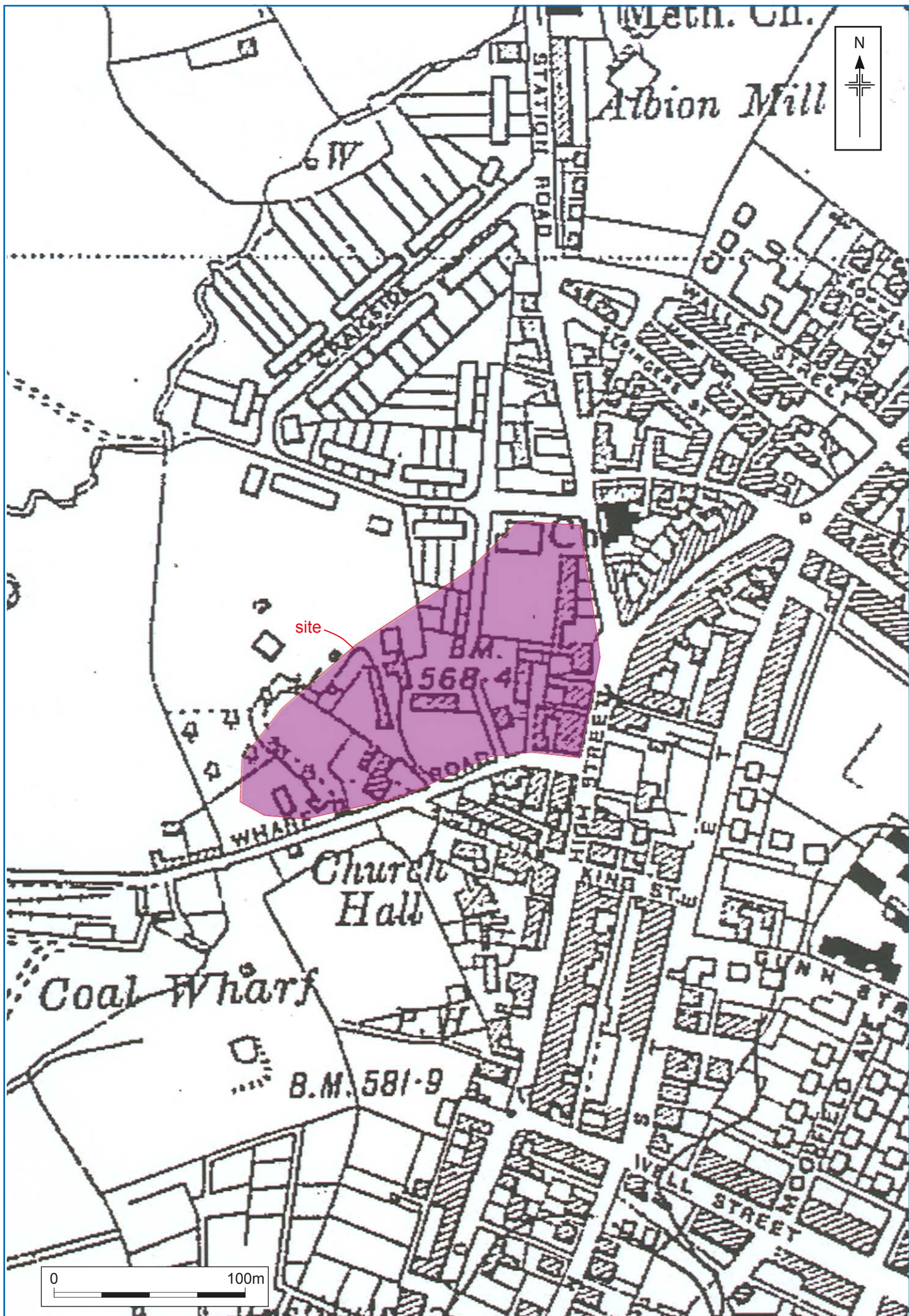
1900 OS 6" Staffordshire Sheet VII NW

Figure 5



1925 OS SJ 8856 1:2500

Figure 6



1946 OS 6" Staffordshire Sheet VII NW (provisional edition)

Figure 7

Plates



Plate 1, Yew Tree House and 'Options' shop from the south-west



Plate 2, Octagonal building on west side of 'Options' shop



Plate 3, Yew Tree Cottage from the south-east



Plate 4, The Labour Club from the south



Plate 5, 76-82, Craigside



Plate 6, Workshop in the centre of site occupied by Electro Hire and Supply



Plate 7, Modern row of shops at south-east corner of site



Plate 8, The Royal Oak Pub from the east



Plate 9, 'Brammers' shop from the north east



Plate 10, The site from the northern tip looking south
