

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL
WATCHING BRIEF
AT
SALTWAY,
DROITWICH SPA,
WORCESTERSHIRE

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Illustrated by Carolyn Hunt

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An archaeological watching brief at Saltway, Droitwich Spa, Worcestershire

Tom Vaughan

Part 1 Project summary

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken of the sewage improvement works on Saltway, Droitwich Spa, Worcestershire (National Grid reference SO 90082 63465 to 90212 63424). It was undertaken on behalf of Severn Trent Water Plc with the aim to determine if any significant archaeological site was present and if so to indicate its location, date and nature.

Gravel, the fill of an old service trench or possibly natural, was only identified toward the western end of the site. It was directly overlain by 18th/19th century industrial dump deposits related to the adjacent salt works and spoil heaps. A number of brick structures were identified, and determined to be of late 18th/19th century date, although they could not be related directly to structures indicated on the 1885 Ordnance Survey map. A number of hollowed-timber brine pipes were identified at either end of the groundworks. They were determined to be of post-medieval/19th century date.

Part 2 Detailed report

1. Background

1.1 Reasons for the project

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken of the sewer improvements on Saltway, Droitwich Spa, Worcestershire (NGR: SO 90082 63465 to 90212 63424), on behalf of Severn Trent Water Plc. The site lies within a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM 30097) which Worcestershire County Council considers may be affected (WSM 00687). Consent was obtained from the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (10th February 2003).

1.2 Project parameters

The project conforms to the *Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (IFA 1999).

The project also conforms to a brief prepared by Worcestershire County Council Historic Environment and Archaeology Service (HEAS 2003a) and for which a project proposal (including detailed specification) was produced (HEAS 2003b).

1.3 Aims

The aims of the watching brief were to monitor all ground breaking activity, to record archaeological deposits and determine, if present, their extent, state of preservation, date, type, vulnerability and documentation.

2. Methods

2.1 Documentary search

Prior to fieldwork commencing a search was made of the Historic Environment Record (HER). In addition the following sources were also consulted:

Cartographic sources

- 17th century. Map of the borough of Wych. Tracing of the 17th century map of the town. CRO.
- 1786 Karver *et al*, Map of the town and borough of Droitwich drawn according to a perambulation of the same taken in the year 1786. CRO.
- 1840 Tithe map for St Peter's parish, Droitwich.
- 1885 Ordnance Survey, 1st edition, sheet XXII.14, 1:2,500 (25").
- 1903 Ordnance Survey, 2nd edition, sheet XXII.14, 1:2,500 (25").
- 1927 Ordnance Survey, 3rd edition, sheet XXII.14, 1:2,500 (25").
- 1938 Ordnance Survey, provisional edition, sheet XXII.14, 1:2,500 (25").
- 1954 Ordnance Survey, provisional edition, sheet SO96SW, 1:10,560 (6").

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- 1967, Ordnance Survey, sheet SO96SW, 1:10,650 (6").
 - 1970, Ordnance Survey, sheet SO9063-9163, 1:2,500.
 - 1991, Ordnance Survey, plan SO 9063, 1:2,500,
 - 1997, Ordnance Survey sheet 150, 1:50,000.

Aerial photographs

- As the site is within an urban area it was deemed unnecessary to refer to aerial photos.

Documentary sources

- Worcestershire County Records Office;
- Place-names (Mawer and Stenton 1927).
- County histories (VCH I and III).
- Domesday (Thorn and Thorn 1983).

Site archives (from earlier excavations, evaluations etc).

2.2 **Fieldwork**

2.2.1 **Fieldwork strategy**

A detailed specification has been prepared by the Service (HEAS 2003b).

Fieldwork was undertaken between 13th October and 27th November 2003.

Two sections of trench were observed. To the west a 101m long section, 3-3.40m wide, amounting to just over 343m² in area. And to the east a short section 9m long and 0.85-3.40m wide, amounting to almost 22m². Their location is indicated in Figure 2.

Observation of the excavated areas was undertaken during and after machine excavation. The trench was excavated to a maximum depth of 3.25m with a 360° tracked excavator, employing a toothless bucket. The sides were shored and exposed surfaces were sufficiently clean to observe well-differentiated archaeological deposits, though any less clear may have not been identified. Deposits were recorded according to standard Service practice (CAS 1995).

2.2.2 **Structural analysis**

All fieldwork records were checked and cross-referenced. Analysis was effected through a combination of structural, artefactual and ecofactual evidence, allied to the information derived from other sources.

2.3 **Artefacts**

2.3.1 **Artefact recovery policy**

The artefact recovery policy conformed to standard Service practice (CAS 1995; appendix 2). This in principal determines that all finds, of whatever date, must be collected. However, in

this case only a small sample of later material was collected from the spoil during machining. These comprised all of the finds recovered from the site.

2.3.2 **Method of analysis**

All hand retrieved finds were examined. They were identified, quantified and dated to period. A *terminus post quem* date was produced for each stratified context. The date was used for determining the broad date of phases defined for the site. All information was recorded on *pro forma* sheets.

Pottery fabrics are referenced to the fabric reference series maintained by the Service (Hurst 1994).

2.4 **Environment**

2.4.1 **Sampling policy**

The environmental sampling strategy conformed to standard Service practice (CAS 1995; appendix 4). In the evident no suitable deposits were identified, therefore no samples were taken.

2.5 **The methods in retrospect**

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

3. **Topographical and geological context**

The site comprises a *c* 100m long section of Saltway, the east-west aligned road which lies to the immediate north of the centre of Droitwich Spa, within the parish of St Peter's, in an area known as Hill End (Fig 1). The road, the B4090, is located within the floodplain of the River Salwarpe. It is roughly level, at a height of approximately 29.50-30m AOD, although with a gradual rise to the west. It is bounded by Vines Park to the north, St George's Square crossroads to the east, commercial buildings and the Market Hall carpark to the south. The canalised River Salwarpe lies adjacent to the north, flowing from east to west and eventually joining the River Severn 7km to the south-west, just north-west of Worcester. The site lies within the floodplain of the river, and is considered to be at risk of flooding (Worcestershire County Council Corporate GIS and Mapping Flood Data 2000).

Regarding the soils and geology, the study area lies within an unsurveyed urban area. However to the east the soils alongside the River Salwarpe are of the Compton soil series (813), with the soils to the north belong to the Whimple series (572). The Compton series comprises reddish pelo-alluvial gleyed mottled clays developed from river alluvium above permanently waterlogged grey clay. The Whimple series comprises stagnogleyic argillic brown earths developed in thin loamy or silty drift over reddish clayey parent material (Soil Survey of England and Wales 1986).

4. **Archaeological and historical context**

The study area lies within a protected Scheduled Ancient Monument area (SAM 30097). This comprises the basin of the River Salwarpe, presently Vines Park, plus adjacent plots to the south, north of the High Street.

Prehistoric

Recorded prehistoric activity is minimal in the immediate area, although flint tools have been recovered further afield (Buteux and Hurst 1996, 2), and a possible late Iron Age or early Roman brine tank has been recorded adjacent to the south (Williams et al 2002, 5-6).

Impney Farm to the east has been defined as an area of archaeological potential with material spanning the early Neolithic through to the post-medieval period. In addition peat deposits of Mesolithic date have been identified to the north of the farm, although no artefacts have been recovered in association (WSM 27908; pers comm Derek Hurst).

The earliest salt production in the area has been identified from the Middle Iron Age, at Bays Meadow to the north-west (WSM 21413), although it expanded in the Late Iron Age to cover large areas of the later town (Buteux and Hurst 1996, 9).

Roman

The Roman settlement of Salinae lies predominantly to the south-west of the study area (VCH I, 208-9). However excavations off Hanbury Street (WSM 00681) to the east have also identified Roman activity, in the form of a farm (Buteux and Hurst 1996, 2). A Roman Road lies under the present A38 and Queen Street, aligned NE/SW (WSM 03317), linking with the settlement at Worcester to the south-west. It was constructed in the mid 1st century AD, and the town is thought to have been developed at the same time (Buteux and Hurst 1996, 2). It is unclear if the road crossed a bridge or simply forded the river on the site of the present Chapel Bridge (WSM 00698). A further road aligned north-south lay to the north-west, joining with the main road north of the river (WSM 00694). The exact location of a further road is the subject of some debate; this connected Droitwich with the settlement at Alcester, 20km to the east-south-east. It may have linked with the main road on an east-west alignment, south of the town centre, or have run along the backs of the plots off the present Charles Henry Road, on a south-east alignment, thereby joining the main road adjacent to the present bridge and largely avoiding the river flood plain (WSM 30584; pers comm Derek Hurst).

A Roman fort lay to the north-east of the main settlement, along the Roman Road at Dodderhill, under the present school (WSM29108; SAM339a and b). A 1st century temporary camp or auxiliary fort has also been identified at Crutch Lane further to the north (WSM 10571).

The town was an important centre for the production of salt and many saltworks of the period have been identified west of Queen Street (WSM 04575, 31174 and 31184).

Early medieval

In this period the site was a detached part of Dodderhill/Wychbold manor (which lies to the north), a royal estate of the 7th-9th centuries which Offa visited regularly which indicates the importance of neighbouring Droitwich as a salt production centre. It lay in the Saxon Hundred of Clent and is first referred to in a document of 716 AD as *Wiccium Emptorium* (Mawer and Stenton 1927, 285-6).

Salt production continued throughout this period although it was briefly curtailed in the mid 7th century when substantial flooding contaminated the brine runs with fresh water, silt and clay (Buteux and Hurst 1996, 6).

Archaeological investigations along the basin of the Salwarpe have identified a consistent sequence of deposits, with a band of alluvium which seals Anglo-Saxon and earlier horizons, observed at 26.50m AOD at Gurneys Lane (WSM04099), 26.30m AOD at Upwich Pit (WSM 04575; Hurst 2002, 6) and potentially *c* 26.45m AOD at Droitwich Garage, St George's Square (WSM 32586; Vaughan and Darch 2003, 9).

Medieval

The Domesday Survey of 1086 recorded five mills in the estate of Dodderhill, which is a very high number, and gives an indication of the 'industrial' character and economic importance of the area (Thorn and Thorn 1983; pers comm Derek Hurst).

The earliest known name for Saltway is Frogg Lane, possibly because of its damp aspect, or related to the nearby Frogmill (also known as King's Mill or Town Mill; WSM 00690) which is mentioned in medieval records (VCH III, 80; Mawer and Stenton 1927, 288). 13th-15th century industrial debris deposits, interpreted to be the result of cultivation, have been recorded immediately adjacent to the south (Williams 2002, 6).

Post-medieval

Archaeological investigations have been undertaken immediately to the south of the present site. A brick structure identified at 27.70m AOD has been interpreted as part of a 19th century saltworks building (Marches Archaeology, 2002) and other less substantial saltworking remains of 18th-19th century date have also been defined (William 2002, 6-7).

Cartographic sources provide the best evidence for the character of the study area through the last three hundred or so years.

The earliest small-scale map of Droitwich is from the 17th century (Fig 3). It is largely pictographic and focuses on the centre of the town. It indicates Frogg Lane as a curving road, between Gosford Street (presently Queen Street) to the east, and a bridge over the River Salwarpe to the west. Along the frontage are 'zigzag' marks, indicating structures. There is no specific detail as to their character or layout, although the HER lists a great number of buildings from the early post-medieval period onwards surviving in this part of Droitwich (Appendix 2).

Karver's map of 1786 is the first comprehensive small-scale map of town and reveals full details of the site (Fig 4). Frog Lane is indicated as a short east-west aligned cul-de-sac leading from the Cross to the east, to a group of (industrial) buildings labelled '41' to the west. The river had been canalised, its course modified and renamed the Barge Canal by James Brindley in 1771.

The 1840 Tithe Map for the parish of St Peters does not have the detail of the 1786 map, nor does it appear to be spatially accurate. It indicates the street frontages to be built up, although without any further detail.

The 1885 1st edition Ordnance Survey (OS) reveals extensive alteration within this area of Droitwich (Fig 5). Frog lane has been renamed Post Office Lane. A bench mark height of 98 feet (29.87m) above ordnance datum is noted at the crossroads. Narrow linear plots off Queen Street and High Street have been formalised and buildings erected along the frontages. Many of the buildings north of Post Office Lane have been demolished, although Salt Works are still noted with adjacent spoil heaps (WSM 00687, 10585, 10586, 10587, 10589 and 10590). The Great Western Railway was opened to the north of the river in the mid 19th century and has been maintained down to the present day (WSM 10582).

The 1903 OS indicates little alteration, except the removal of one group of buildings to the north of Post Office Lane and the consolidation of two spoil heaps into one (Fig 6). By the 1927 the spoil heaps and most of the salt works buildings on either side of Post Office Lane had been removed and a formal garden with ambulatories and trees constructed to the north-east adjacent to a line of new lock-ups or garages in the plot off St George's Square. (Fig 7). The bench mark at the crossroads is given as 95 feet (28.95m) above ordnance datum. This difference from the 1st edition is probably the result of re-surveying rather than subsidence.

By 1938 the gardens now known as Vines Park had been established north of Post Office Lane and a small number of structures altered toward the east of the study area (Fig 8).

By 1964 the west end of Post Office Lane had been widened into a car park and the (disused) canal reduced in width. The 1970 map reveals the southern arm of the canal to have been infilled to extend Vines Park, but no other apparent changes. The height of the crossroads is now indicated as 29m AOD. By 1980 the car park had been enlarged and the number of paths to Vines park reduced. By 1991 major alterations had been undertaken. Saltway thoroughfare had been constructed on the line of former Post Office Lane. The market hall with associated car park and other commercial buildings had been erected south of the road, while to the north Droitwich Canal had been reopened.

5. Description

The trenches and features recorded are shown in Fig 2.

5.1 Artefactual analysis

All material was of late post-medieval/modern date and came from one stratified context [117] or was unstratified from the spoil [100]. Context [117] was a brick wall, the sample brick measured 9x4x3 inches and dated from the latter half of the 19th century onwards. Unstratified finds consisted of a single sherd of a Bristol stoneware jar (fabric 81.4) dating to the 19th century and one pan tile fragment of 18th century date. This tile was worn and had an unidentified black residue on one surface.

Context	Material	Total	Weight (g)
100	Modern pottery	1	111
100	Pan tile	1	305
117	Brick	1	3240

Table 1: Quantification of the assemblage

5.2 Phase 1 Natural deposits

A mixed gravel of small pebbles [114] was observed, and considered at the time to be the natural matrix (see below). It was only identified within a 9m long stretch at the west end of the trench, at a depth of 2.85m+ (*c* 27.05m AOD). It lay directly below deposits containing modern debris.

Elsewhere it may have been obscured by the high water table (at *c* 27.20m AOD), but otherwise was disturbed by modern deposits and structures, which lay to the full depth of the trench.

5.3 Phase 2 Post-medieval and modern deposits

Deposits containing post-medieval and modern debris and modern structures were noted to lie directly over gravel [114] toward the west end of the trench and to the full depth within the rest of the trench.

The existing tarmac road surface [101] was bedded on a levelling layer of gravel chips [102]. The deposits below comprised a sequence of dump layers. The majority were grey-black and contained mixed cinders, ash, slag and coal with varying proportions of building debris in the form of machine-made red bricks, tile and occasional concrete [103, 104, 105, 106, 112 and 124]. In addition a number of thin white mortar [108 and 111], clay [110 and 116] and fine sand [113 and 115] layers, were identified, primarily toward the west end of the trench.

A single black/grey band of silt [109] lay at a depth of *c* 2.40m (*c* 27.60m AOD) to the western end of the trench. It overlay deposits containing post-medieval debris.

Structures were noted in the form of walls, floor surfaces, manholes and service pipes. The majority was of obviously modern date, and thus not fully recorded. They comprised red machine-made 19th century brick, bedded in lime mortar or Portland cement [117, 118, 119, 120 and 121].

One wall [122] was noted to be constructed of handmade bricks in an swirling pinkish red/yellow fabric. It was aligned east-west, terminating to the west, where a substantial vertical timber post [123] was recorded. The bricks were noted to be in a very worn state.

6. Discussion

Access to, and visibility of, deposits allowed a high degree of confidence that the aims of the project have been achieved, even though the high water table occasionally hampered the investigations.

The short stretch of gravel observed at the western end of the trench probably represents a dump deposit, or the fill of a service trench, rather than the natural matrix. Unfortunately it was not possible to investigate the deposit fully due to the height of the watertable. The natural matrix as identified at Droitwich Garage adjacent comprised a mixed sandy clay with fine gravel at a depth of 25.85m AOD (Vaughan and Darch 2003, 9). This is in contrast to the gravel deposit here, which was at a much shallower depth (*c* 27.05m AOD). It is thus considered likely to be redeposited material, as this immediate area is known to have suffered subsidence due to the existence of a subterranean brine channel (Hurst 2002, 4).

The finds within the dump deposits were of 18th/19th century date, giving a *terminus post quem* of the 19th century. The deposits comprised predominantly industrial waste, most likely the debris from the industrial salt works attested in cartographic sources within the immediate area from the 18th century. The earliest maps indicate spoil heaps to the north. The dump deposits may have been deliberately laid within this area, rather the result of accidental spillage, as this area would have been under threat of seasonal flooding. Silt layer [109], at *c* 27.60m AOD attests to this.

The majority of the structures identified cannot be related to the cartographic evidence. All but one of the structures were determined to be of later 19th century date, however the maps show that the site was Frog Lane/Post Office Lane at this time which begs the question as to how structural remains can also exist here? This may be explained by the fact that the lane was probably substantially narrower than the present road, and these structures would have given onto the then narrower street frontage.

The single earlier structure is probably of 18th century date, and may relate to a building indicated slightly to the north on the 1885 map.

No earlier archaeological features, deposits or structures were identified predating the 18th/19th century.

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. The client is requested to consider the content of this section as being acceptable for such publication.

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken on behalf of Severn Trent Plc. at Saltway, Droitwich Spa, Worcester (NGR: SO 90082 63465 to 90212 63424; WSM 32985). The project involved the observation of trenching for a new sewer within the Scheduled Ancient Monument. Gravel, probably natural, was only identified at one point toward the western end of the site, at c 27.05m AOD. It was directly overlain by 18th/19th century industrial dump deposits related to the adjacent salt works and spoil heaps. A number of brick structures were identified, all were of brick and were determined to be of late 18th/19th century date, although they could not be related directly to structures indicated on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map. A number of hollowed-timber brine pipes were identified at either end of the groundworks. They were determined to be of post-medieval/19th century date.

No earlier archaeological features, deposits or artefacts were recorded predating the 18th/19th century.

8. **The archive**

The archive consists of:

- 27 Fieldwork progress records AS2
- 2 Photographic records AS3
- 58 Digital photographs
- 1 Drawing number catalogue AS4
- 1 Context number catalogue AS5
- 1 Levels record AS19
- 2 Abbreviated context records AS40
- 5 Scale drawings
- 1 Box of finds
- 1 Computer disk

The project archive is intended to be placed at:

Worcestershire County Museum

Hartlebury Castle

Hartlebury

Near Kidderminster

Worcestershire DY11 7XZ

Tel Hartlebury (01299) 250416

9. **Acknowledgements**

The Service would like to thank the following for their kind assistance in the successful conclusion of this project, Severn Trent Water Plc, John Sly (George Lawes), Dave Green,

Paul Swain, Julian Plumbley and Damian King (Charles Haswell and Partners Ltd) and Mike Glyde (Worcestershire County Council Planning Archaeologist).

10. **Personnel**

The fieldwork was led by Simon Griffin and Tom Vaughan. Fieldwork was also undertaken by Adam Mindykowski and Andrew Brown. The report was prepared by Tom Vaughan. The project manager responsible for the quality of the project was Simon Woodiwiss. Finds analysis was undertaken by Laura Griffin, environmental analysis by Liz Pearson, illustration by Laura Templeton and Carolyn Hunt.

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12. **Abbreviations**

HER	Historic Environment Record.
NMR	National Monuments Record.
WCRO	Worcestershire County Records Office.
WSM	Numbers prefixed with 'WSM' are the primary reference numbers used by the Worcestershire County Historic Environment Record.

Appendix 1 Trench description

Maximum dimensions: Length: 110m Width: 0.85-3.40m Depth: 3.25m

Orientation: west-north-west to east-south-east

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
100	Unstratified finds	Unstratified finds within the machine excavated spoil	N/a
101	Surface	Tarmac road surface.	0.00-0.30m
102	Levelling deposits	Gravel chips. Distinct bands: grey; orange; grey. Compact and cohesive. Well-defined boundary with [101] above and [105] below.	0.07-0.77m
103	Dump deposit	Black ash and cinders. Compact and moderately cohesive. Inc 19 th century debris. Well-defined boundary with [106] above. Slightly diffuse boundary with [104] and [105] below. Well-defined boundary with [116] below.	0.50-1.55m
104	Dump deposit	Light greyish brown fine ash and slag. Occasional large fragments of 19 th century furnace waste. Slightly diffuse boundary with [103] above and [105] below.	0.75-1.12m
105	Dump deposit	Black ash, cinders and coal. Compact and moderately cohesive. Occasional 19 th century brick debris. Slightly diffuse boundary with [104] above. Diffuse boundary with [106] below. Well-defined boundary with [114] below, [102] and [116] above.	0.77-2.80m
106	Dump deposit	Mixed ash, coal and 19 th /20 th century building debris. Compact and moderately cohesive. Well-defined boundary with [101], [102] and [107] above. Slightly diffuse boundary with [103] below. Well-defined boundary with [108] below.	0.05-2.40m
107	Topsoil	Dark greyish brown sandy loam. Uncompact, but moderately cohesive. On roadside verge. Well-defined boundary with [106] below.	0.00-0.10m
108	Dump deposit	Grey white mortar flecks and moderate	2.30-2.41m

		size lumps. Compact and cohesive. Well-defined boundary with [106] above and [109] below.	
109	Alluvial deposit	Black grey fine silt. Possible hydrocarbon contamination. Well-defined boundary with [108] above and [110] below.	2.39-2.55m
110	Dump deposit	Red clay. Very compact, cohesive. Very occasional charcoal fragments. Well-defined boundary with [109] above and [111] below.	2.52-2.65m
111	Dump deposit	Grey white mortar flecks and moderate size lumps. Compact and cohesive. Well-defined boundary with [110] and [112] above and [113] below.	2.52-2.76m
112	Dump deposit	Mixed grey and black/green slag. Very small and light aerated fragments. Compact and moderately cohesive. Well-defined boundary with [110] above, [111] and [113] below.	2.55-2.81m
113	Dump deposit	Mid grey fine grit sand with occasional iron debris and grey angular gravel chips. Compacted and moderately cohesive. Well defined boundary with [112] above and [114] below.	2.78-3.12m
114	Natural	Pebble gravel. Small rounded. Mixed off-white, grey, brown, and orange. Compact but not cohesive. Slightly diffuse boundary with [113] below.	2.80m +
115	Dump deposit	Red sand. Moderately compact and cohesive. Well-defined boundary with [102] above and [103] below.	0.73-0.84m
116	Dump deposit	Orange-brown silty clay. Occasional brick and tile debris. Well-defined boundary with [103] above and [105] below.	1.55-1.67m
117	Brick floor/surface	Hard red machine-made bricks, 22.5x10x7cm. Two courses laid flat in soft greyish brown mortar. Within north section. 28.5m long east-west in eastern half of trench. Overlies [105]. Sealed by [103].	0.99-1.20m
118	Wall foundation	Hard red machine-made bricks, 22.5x10x7cm. Three courses wide, bonded with hard coarse grey mortar. Aligned east-west, in east end of trench. Overlies [105]. Sealed by	1.80-2.50m

		[103]. No cut, dump deposits adjacent.	
119	Wall foundation	Hard red machine-made bricks, 22.5x10x7cm. Three courses wide, bonded with hard coarse grey mortar. Aligned north-south, in east end of trench. Overlies [105]. Sealed by [103]. No cut, dump deposits adjacent.	1.80-2.50m
120	Brick wall	Hard orange red machine-made bricks, 22-22.50x10x6.50-7.5cm. Two courses wide, bonded with hard light whitish grey lime mortar with charcoal flecks. Within south section. Length unknown. Curvi-linear, aligned <i>c</i> east-west, to west end of trench. No cut, dump deposits [106] adjacent.	1.10-3.05m
121	Brick floor/base	Red machine made bricks. Laid flat, in west end of trench. Obscured by water table. Sealed by [106].	3.15m +
122	Brick wall	Hard worn handmade bricks, 22x10.50x7cm, in pinkish red swirling yellow flecked fabric. Bonded with slightly gritty yellowish lime mortar. Width unknown. Within north section. Length unknown. Aligned east-west. Terminates to west, adjacent to [123]. To west end of trench. Sealed by [105].	1.50-3.06m +
123	Timber	Vertical timber. Worn/rounded top, square 0.16m section. Adjacent to [122]. Waterlogged. Diagonal support strut to west, 0.11m section. Sealed by [105].	2.28-3.06m +
124	Dump deposit	Mid grey mixed sand, ash, cinders and coal. Compact but not cohesive. Frequent 19 th century brick debris. Diffuse boundary with [106] above.	<i>c</i> 2.30-3m+
125	Brine pipes	Timber pipes. 1.7m & 2.30m long, diameter 0.35m. Chamfered, metal re-enforced joints. Aligned north-west to south-east at west end of trench. Sealed by	2.80-3.15m
126	Brine pipe	Timber pipe. 0.85m long, diameter 0.30m. Chamfered joint. Aligned east-west at east end of trench.	1.20-1.50m

Feature/deposit description:

Two sections of brine pipe [125] were observed at the western end of the trench adjacent to the access to the Market car park. They were roughly parallel, on north-west to south-east alignments, and comprised hollowed timbers with chamfered joints re-enforced with iron bands. A further hollowed timber pipe [126], was observed in the eastern trench off Queen Street, on an east-west alignment. They

were determined to be of post-medieval/19th century origin (pers comm Simon Woodiwiss) and were to be retained by Droitwich Museum.

Wall [122] was the earliest identified structure, comprising rough worn handmade bricks. It may be the building depicted slightly to the north on the 1885 OS map.

The wall foundations [118 and 119] comprised later 19th century bricks and are thought to be separate walls of the same structure toward the east end of the trench. They may be related to the brick floor [117], although there was no direct stratigraphic relationship. They do not relate to any structures recorded on the first edition Ordnance Survey map of 1885 or on any later maps, as Post office Lane had been formalised along the present route of Saltway by this time.

All other structures were determined to be of 19th century or later date, but do not appear to relate directly to the cartographic sources.

No archaeological features, deposits or artefacts were recovered.

Appendix 2 Sites registered with the HER

HER ref.	OS grid ref.	Site name/description	Date
WSM 00261	SO 8999 6338	21, High Street. Dwelling.	16 th C.
WSM 00265	SO 8998 6336	2, High Street. Dwelling.	18 th C.
WSM 00266	SO 8999 6336	4-4a, High Street. Dwelling.	18 th C.
WSM 00267	SO 9000 6336	6, High Street. Dwelling.	18 th C.
WSM 00291	SO 9020 6354	Bromsgrove Road. Dwelling.	14 th C.
WSM 00604	SO 9020 6340	21, Queen Street. Dwelling.	17 th C.
WSM 00606	SO 9015 6365	St Augustine's Minister Church.	Early med. /Med.
WSM 00624	SO 9001 6335	10, High Street. Dwelling.	18 th C.
WSM 00625	SO 9002 6335	12, High Street. Dwelling.	18 th C.
WSM 00626	SO 9002 6334	14-16, High Street. Dwelling.	18 th C.
WSM 00627	SO 9003 6335	20, High Street. Dwelling.	18 th C.
WSM 00629	SO 9005 6335	26, High Street. Dwelling.	19 th C.
WSM 00630	SO 9006 6334	28, High Street. Dwelling.	16 th C.
WSM 00631	SO 9007 6334	30, High Street (Neptune's Pantry). Dwelling.	18 th C.
WSM 00632	SO 9008 6333	38, High Street. Dwelling.	19 th C.
WSM 00633	SO 9010 6334	40, High Street. Dwelling.	19 th C.
WSM 00634	SO 9012 6333	24, High Street. Dwelling.	17 th C.
WSM 00636	SO 8997 6341	Rear of 17, High Street. Dwelling.	16 th C.
WSM 00637	SO 8997 6338	Talbot Hotel, 19, High Street. Dwelling.	19 th C.
WSM 00638	SO 8999 6337	23, High Street. Dwelling.	16 th C.
WSM 00639	SO 9000 6337	Tenby House, 27, High Street. Dwelling.	18 th C.
WSM 00640	SO 9002 6336	31-35, High Street. Listed cruck house.	Med./post-med.
WSM 00641	SO 9004 6336	43, High Street. Dwelling.	19 th C.
WSM 00642	SO 9005 6336	45, High Street. Dwelling.	18 th C.
WSM 00643	SO 9008 6335	59, High Street. Dwelling.	19 th C.
WSM 00653	SO 9015 6335	5, Queen Street. Dwelling.	18 th C.
WSM 00654	SO 9017 6336	Royal Exchange, 9, Queen Street. Inn.	16 th C.
WSM 00656	SO 9011 6329	Thornbury House, 6, Worcester Road. Dwelling.	18 th C.
WSM 00657	SO 9032 6330	Coventry Hospital, The Holloway. Almshouse.	17 th C.
WSM 00659	SO 9034 6364	27, Bromsgrove Road. Cottage.	16 th C.
WSM 00665	SO 9032 6352	Findspot. Everton Garage, Woodfield Road, Hill End.	Romano- British
WSM 00674	SO 9006 6330	Old Smithy, Tower Hill. Building.	1795-1825.
WSM 00675	SO 9007 6330	Old Smithy, Tower Hill. Building.	17 th C.
WSM 00676	SO 9040 6380	Coin, Lowes Nursery, Dodderhill	Romano- British
WSM 00681	SO 9025 6339	Hanbury Street excavations: Roman farm, med. yard and ?market place.	Romano- British/med.
WSM 00682	SO 9022 6334	Old Brine Baths, Queen Street and Roman findspot.	19 th C.
WSM 00687	SO 9006 6338	Saltworks, Gurney's Lane.	19th C.
WSM 00689	SO 9013 6360	St Mary's Hospital, Vines Lane, Dodderhill.	Med.
WSM 00690	SO 9039 6344	Town Mill watermill and canal basin.	Med./post- med./mod.
WSM 00692	SO 9078 6375	Icehouse, Chateau Impney, Dodderhill	19 th C.
WSM 00694	SO 9027 6487	Roman Road: Droitwich-Greensforge /Elmsbridge Brk (south)	Roman
WSM 00696	SO 9015 6373	Hill Court, Crutch Lane, Dodderhill.	19 th C.
WSM 00698	SO 9027 6349	Chapel Bridge, Hill End.	Misc.

		?Ford – Roman/early med. Bridge – Med./post-med. Chapel – Med. ?Bridge – Roman/early med. Bridge – post-med/mod.	
WSM 02312	SO 9003 6334	22, High Street. Dwelling.	16 th C.
WSM 02313	SO 9011 6333	42, High Street. Dwelling.	19 th C.
WSM 02314	SO 9012 6332	44-46, High Street. Dwelling.	17 th C.
WSM 02316	SO 8997 6339	17, High Street. Dwelling.	19 th C.
WSM 02318	SO 9001 6337	Tenby House, 29, High Street. Dwelling.	18 th C.
WSM 02319	SO 9005 6337	47, High Street. Dwelling.	Post-med. /mod.
WSM 02320	SO 9016 6336	7, Queen Street. Dwelling.	18 th C.
WSM 02355	SO 9021 6332	Queen Street excavation.	Undated.
WSM 03317	SO 9072 6410	Roman Road (Worcester-Lickey).	Roman
WSM 03512	SO 9007 6340	Inn and cellar, Gurney's Lane.	Post-med.
WSM 03578	SO 9025 6334	Office and hotel, St George's Buildings (demolished).	?1900- 1940/?80
WSM 03874	SO 9023 6371	Watching brief School Tennis Courts, Church Road.	1901+
WSM 04093	SO 9004 6361	Inhumation, The Gardener's Arms, Vines Lane.	Late 1 st C. AD
WSM 04094	SO 9023 6335	Well, Royal George, Hanbury Street.	Post-med.
WSM 04096	SO 9011 6359	Excavation and bore-holes, 55-73, Vines Lane.	Post-med.
WSM 04097	SO 9012 6355	Findspot, 128-134, Vines Lane.	Med./post- med.
WSM 04098	SO 9076 6341	Findspot: pottery, Rugby Club.	Med.
WSM 04099	SO 9008 6339	Gurney's Lane. Occupation – Early med. Findspot – Med. Occupation – Post-med.	Misc.
WSM 04148	SO 8991 6340	Occupation, 19, High Street.	Med.
WSM 04167	SO 9008 6332	Excavation, 32-38, High Street. Findspot – Roman. Occupation – med. Building – Post-med.	Misc.
WSM 04574	SO 9015 6339	Occupation, rear of 13-23, Queen Street.	Undated.
WSM 04575	SO 9003 6351	Excavation, Upwich Pit, Vines Park. Activity – Late Iron Age, 100 BC–42 AD. Saltworks – Roman, 61-300 AD/early med./med./post-med. Canal – 1771-1960.	Misc.
WSM 04907	SO 9000 6335	8, High Street. Dwelling.	18 th C.
WSM 04908	SO 9004 6349	Gardener's Arms. Inn	19 th C.
WSM 04995	SO 9029 6340	Brine pipes, Hanbury Road. Saltworks.	Post-med.
WSM 06607	SO 9015 6374	Shrunken village, Dodderhill.	Med.
WSM 07313	SO 9003 6337	35, High Street. Occupation site – Med. Event – Post-med.	Misc.
WSM 10571	SO 9051 6388	Crutch Lane Roman fort. Temporary/Auxiliary fort?	?43-100AD
WSM 10582	SO 8951 6361	GWR Railway, Stoke Branch.	?1884+
WSM 10585	SO 8999 6356	Saltworks, River Salwarpe banks.	?19 th C.
WSM 10586	SO 9009 6344	Saltworks and heap, rear of High Street.	?19 th C.
WSM 10587	SO 9007 6357	Saltworks spoil heap.	19 th C.
WSM 10589	SO 9008 6351	Saltworks spoil heap.	?1884-?1925

WSM 10590	SO 9037 6349	Saltworks and spoil heap, Queen Street.	?1884-?1912
WSM 10591	SO 9028 6344	Saltworks and spoil heap, Hanbury Road.	?1884-?1912
WSM 10592	SO 9013 6352	Toll House, canal side.	?19 th C.
WSM 10596	SO 9024 6339	Royal Hotel, Hanbury Road (demolished).	?1836-?1900
WSM 10598	SO 9003 6310	Malthouse, Corbett Avenue.	?1884+
WSM 10599	SO 9022 6340	Queen Street junction. Event.	Roman/post-med.
WSM 10602	SO 9024 6362	Vicarage, St Augustine's (site).	1884-1925
WSM 10603	SO 9034 6357	Baptist Chapel, Bromsgrove Road.	1884-1925
WSM 10604	SO 9030 6320	Coventry Charity School (site)	1884-1925
WSM 10605	SO 9018 6334	Chapel, Queen Street (site).	1884-1925
WSM 10607	SO 9029 6324	Boys School, Holloway (site).	1884-1925
WSM 10608	SO 9015 6373	The Parsonage House.	?1500-1800
WSM 10610	SO 9007 6332	Excavation, 30-40, High Street.	Undated.
WSM 10612	SO 8999 6352	Saltworks, The Vines.	?1884-1912
WSM 10616	SO 9032 6337	Tollhouse, 2, Hanbury Road.	18 th C.
WSM 10617	SO 9030 6337	Holloway. Building.	1800+
WSM 10618	SO 9034 6336	Terraced house, Hanbury Road. Dwellings.	19 th C.
WSM 10625	SO 9027 6317	The Herriots, Worcester Road. Building.	Post-med.
WSM 17079	SO 9029 6350	Road block, Chapel Bridge. Tank trap.	1939+
WSM 17179	SO 9001 6337	Air raid shelter, Tenby House, High Street.	1940+
WSM 20660	SO 8698 6144	Canal.	1771-1930
WSM 20697	SO 9011 6331	Evaluation, Bullocks café. Findspot – Roman. Settlement – Med.	Misc.
WSM 20984	SO 9018 6345	Findspot – Med. 13 th century silver coin.	Med.
WSM 21389	SO 9023 6340	George Inn, Hanbury Street. House – Med./post-med. Inn – Post-med.	Med/post-med.
WSM 21390	SO 9039 6344	Town/Frog Mill. Corn mill – Med. Mill – Post-med.	Misc.
WSM 21392	SO 9106 6321	Droitwich Junction canal and lock.	1852-1939
WSM 21403	SO 9021 6339	Findspot, Queen Street road widening 1951.	Roman/med.
WSM 21404	SO 9029 6373	Excavations, Dodderhill. Auxiliary fort and ?annexe.	50-75 AD
WSM 21406	SO 9029 6367	Excavations, Dodderhill 1977. Event – Iron Age. Rubbish pit/cobbled road/ditch – Roman Event – Post-Roman. Ditch/gully – Med.	Misc.
WSM 21407	SO -	Excavations, Dodderhill 1984-5. Pit and posthole – Iron Age Auxiliary fort/gully/pit/grave – Roman Pit – Early med. Pit/gully/boundary ditch – Med. Kiln/vicarage – Post-med.	Misc.
WSM 21415	SO 8981 6362	Old course of River Salwarpe.	1540-1900
WSM 22045	SO 9020 6382	Magnetometer survey, Dodderhill fort. ?Ditch.	Roman
WSM 22958	SO 9030 6340	Tollhouse and gate, Hanbury Road.	Post-med.
WSM 22984	SO 9026 6308	Garden, Brines Bath Park/Droitwich Park.	1895+
WSM 23176	SO 9038 6371	Flint. 14, Church Road, Dodderhill.	Early-late Mesolithic
WSM 25593	SO 9010 6331	Evaluation. Worcester Road. Findspot – Roman	Misc.

		Drain – Med.	
WSM 27132	SO 9015 6365	Watching brief, St Augustine’s Church.	Post Roman
WSM 27753	SO 9010 6331	Excavation, Worcester Road. Findspot – Early Mesolithic/Late Bronze Age Ground surface – Roman Cess pit/beam slot/conduit – Med.	Misc.
WSM 27908	SO 9098 6341	Area of Archaeological Potential, Impney Farm, Dodderhill.	Early Neolithic /post-med.
WSM 28772	SO 9097 6343	Evaluation and survey, Impney Park Event – Mesolithic Ditch – Early Iron Age-Roman Event – Med. Building – Post-med. Buried soil – 19 th C.	Misc.
WSM 28863	SO 9078 6396	Deer park, garden and building, Impney Park.	19 th C.
WSM 28914	SO 9033 6362	Adjacent 27, Bromsgrove Road.	Undated
SAM 339a	SO 9008 6365	Dodderhill Roman Fort	Roman
SAM 339b	SO 9020 6357	Dodderhill Roman Fort	Roman
WSM 29058	SO 8991 6354	Archaeological assessment of Droitwich (Buteux and Hurst 1996)	N/a
WSM 29108	SO 9018 6373	Occupation, Dodderhill school.	Roman & Post-med.
WSM 29805	SO 9015 6366	Evaluation. St Augustine’s Church.	Post-med.
WSM 29829	SO 9034 6340	Salvage recording, Droitwich Garage, Hanbury Road.	1901+
WSM 30035	SO 9017 6375	Watching brief, Dodderhill school. Event – Mesolithic Activity – Roman Linear feature – Early med. Rubbish pit – Med. Garden – Post-med.	Misc.
WSM 30036	SO 9019 6380	Watching brief, Dodderhill school. Pit – Late Iron Age/Roman Buried soil – Med.	Misc.
WSM 30093	SO 8981 6297	Environmental Audit: archaeology, conservation and listed buildings	Misc.
WSM 30584	SO 9255 6287	Roman Road (Alcester-Droitwich). (route disputed).	Roman
WSM 30490	SO 9058 6373	Area of Archaeological Interest, east of Roman Road.	Undated
WSM 30815	SO 9052 6395	Spittal Close. Hospital placename.	Med.
WSM 31174	SO 9006 6344	Evaluation, The Saltway. Saltworks – Roman Ground surface – med. Road/buried soil – Post-med. Saltworks – Post-med./mod.	Misc.
WSM 31184	SO 9006 6344	Assessment of land off The Saltway. Saltworks – Early Iron Age-Roman Occupation area – Med. Saltworks – Post-med.	Misc.
WSM 31683	SO 9009 6339	Evaluation. The Saltway.	Undated
WSM 31926	SO 9028 6369	Watching Brief, Dodderhill school.	Mod.
WSM 32586	SO 9021 6346	Evaluation. St George’s Square.	Early med.



Plate 1: South section - road surface [101] and levelling material [102]



Plate 2: Brine pipe [125] after removal



Plate 3: South section - wall [120]



Plate 4: Trench in progress - existing sewer pipe and wall [120] - view east



Plate 5: North section - wall [122] and timber post [123]



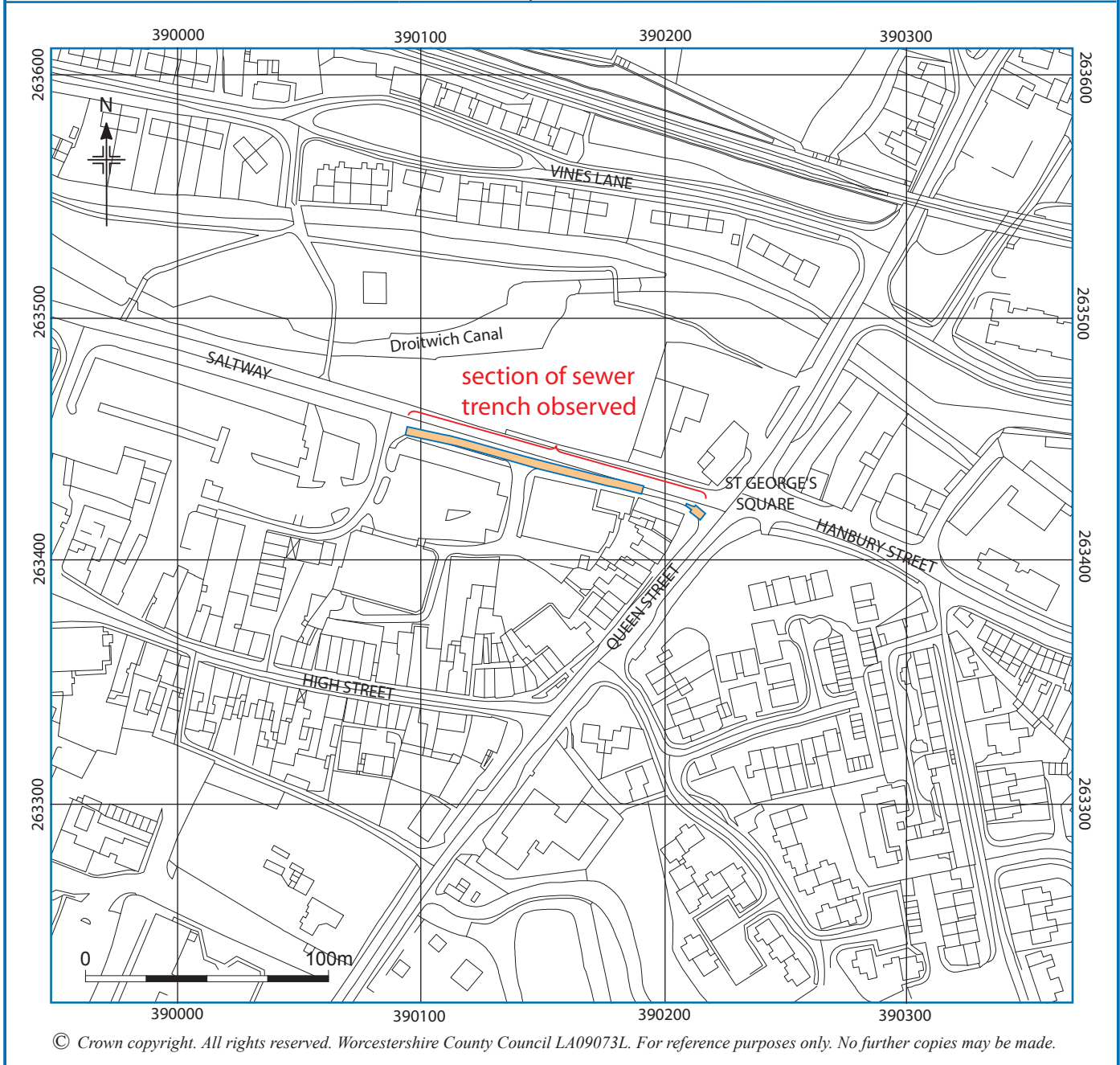
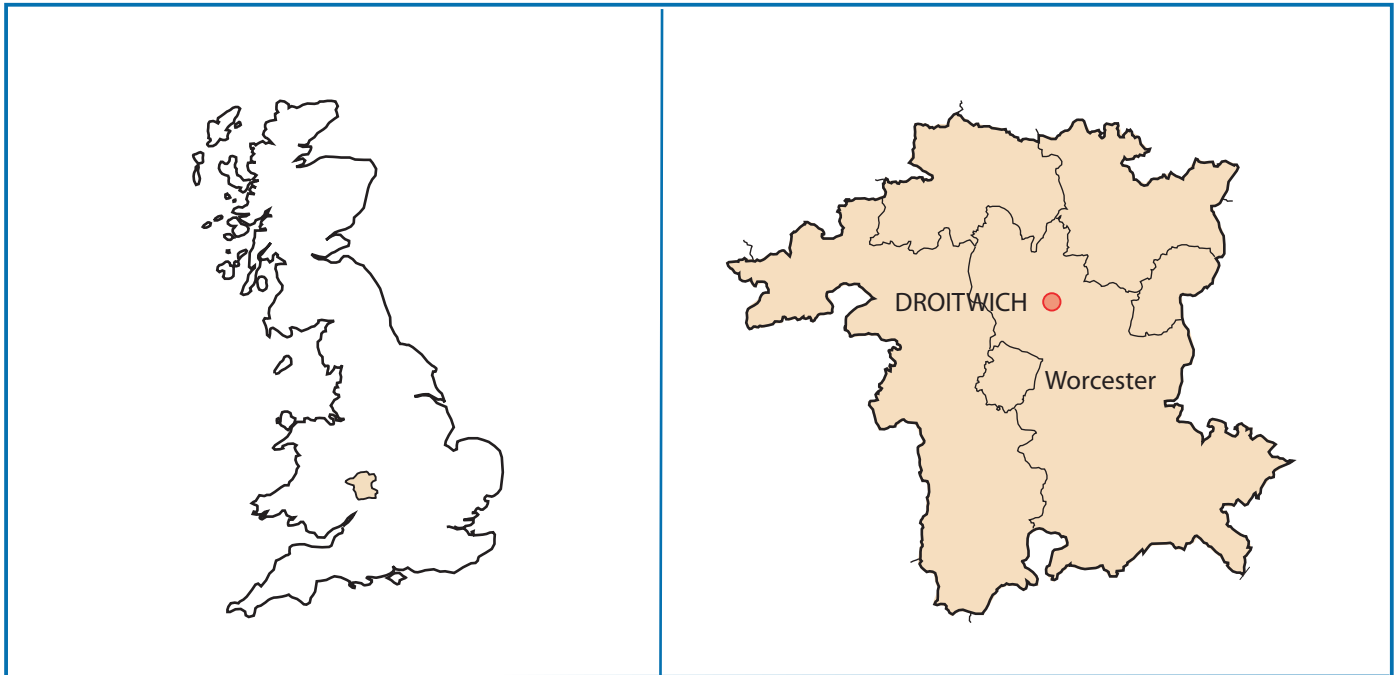
Plate 6: South section - brick surface [117] and general stratigraphy - mid trench



Plate 7: Trench in progress - general stratigraphy - east end - east view

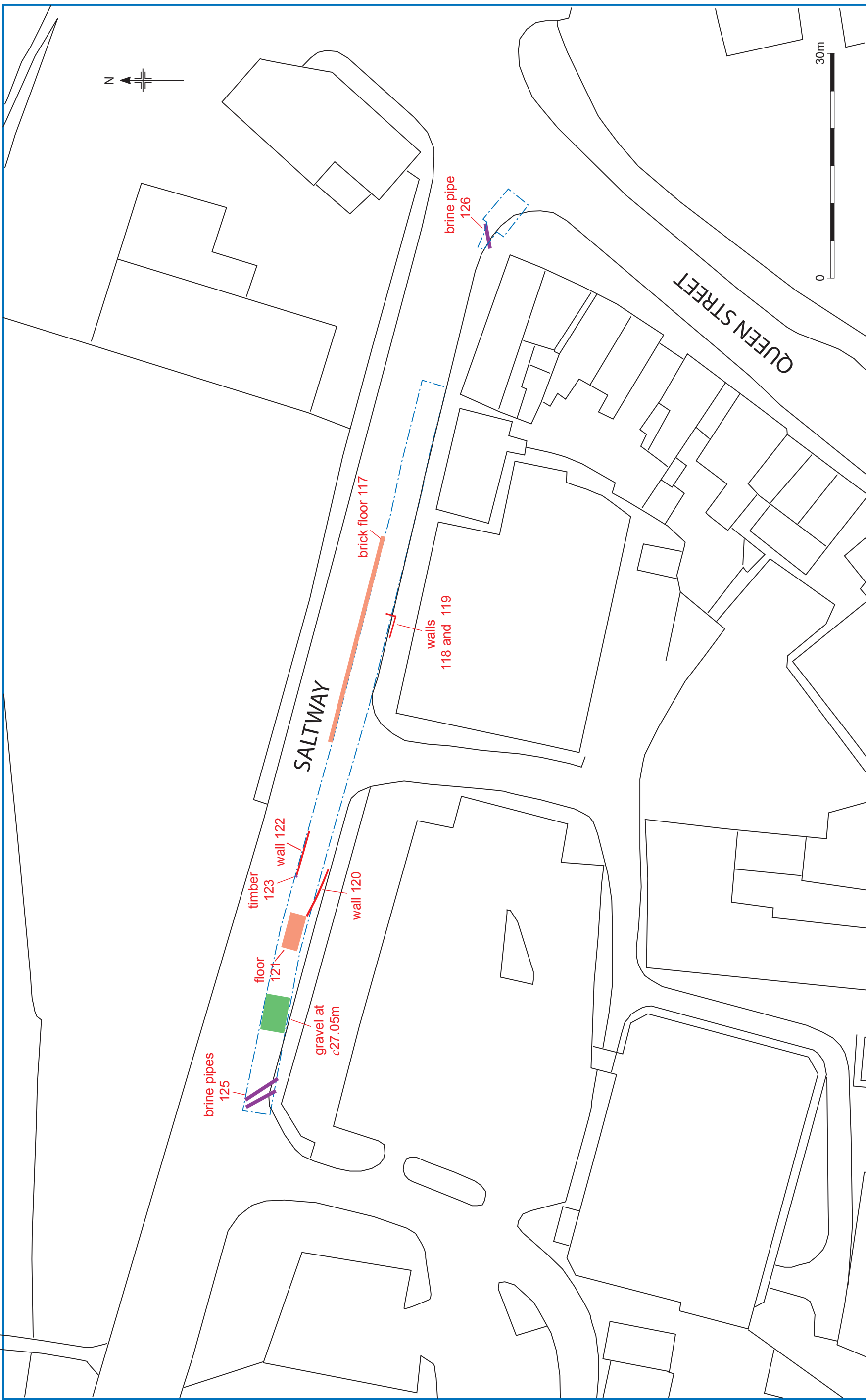


Plate 8: Brine pipe [126] in-situ - view north-east



Location of the site.

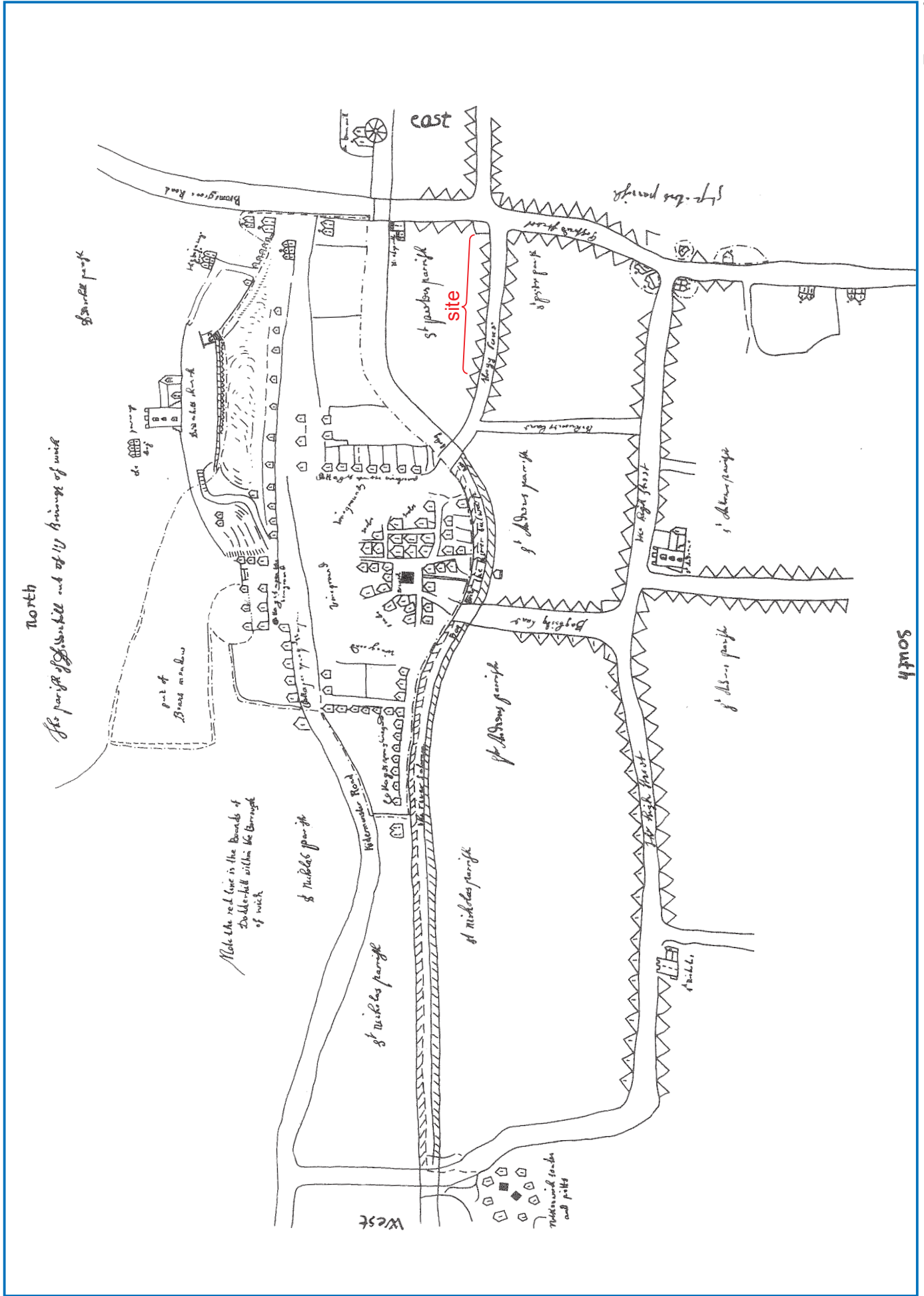
Figure 1



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Location of archaeological features observed.

Figure 2



North

St Andrew's parish

part of Brass manor

Note the red line is the bounds of Double-hill within the borough of wych

St Nicholas parish

St Nicholas parish

St Nicholas parish

St Andrew's parish

St James parish

St Peter's parish

St John's parish

St Andrew's parish

St Andrew's parish

West

walled town and park

Wych

17th century Borough of Wych map (WRO, BA 8060).

Figure 3

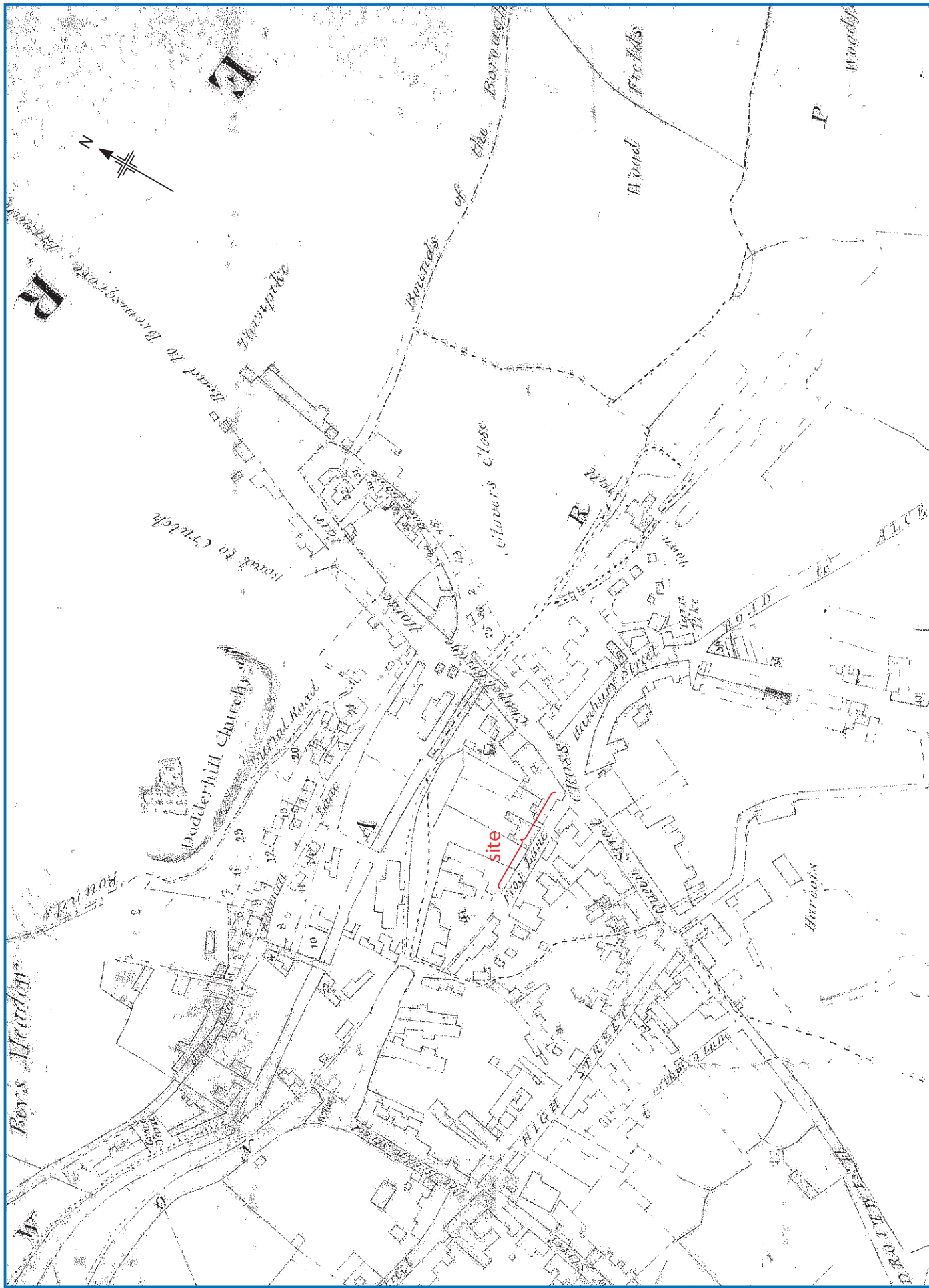


Figure 4

Extract from Karver's map of Droitwich, 1786.

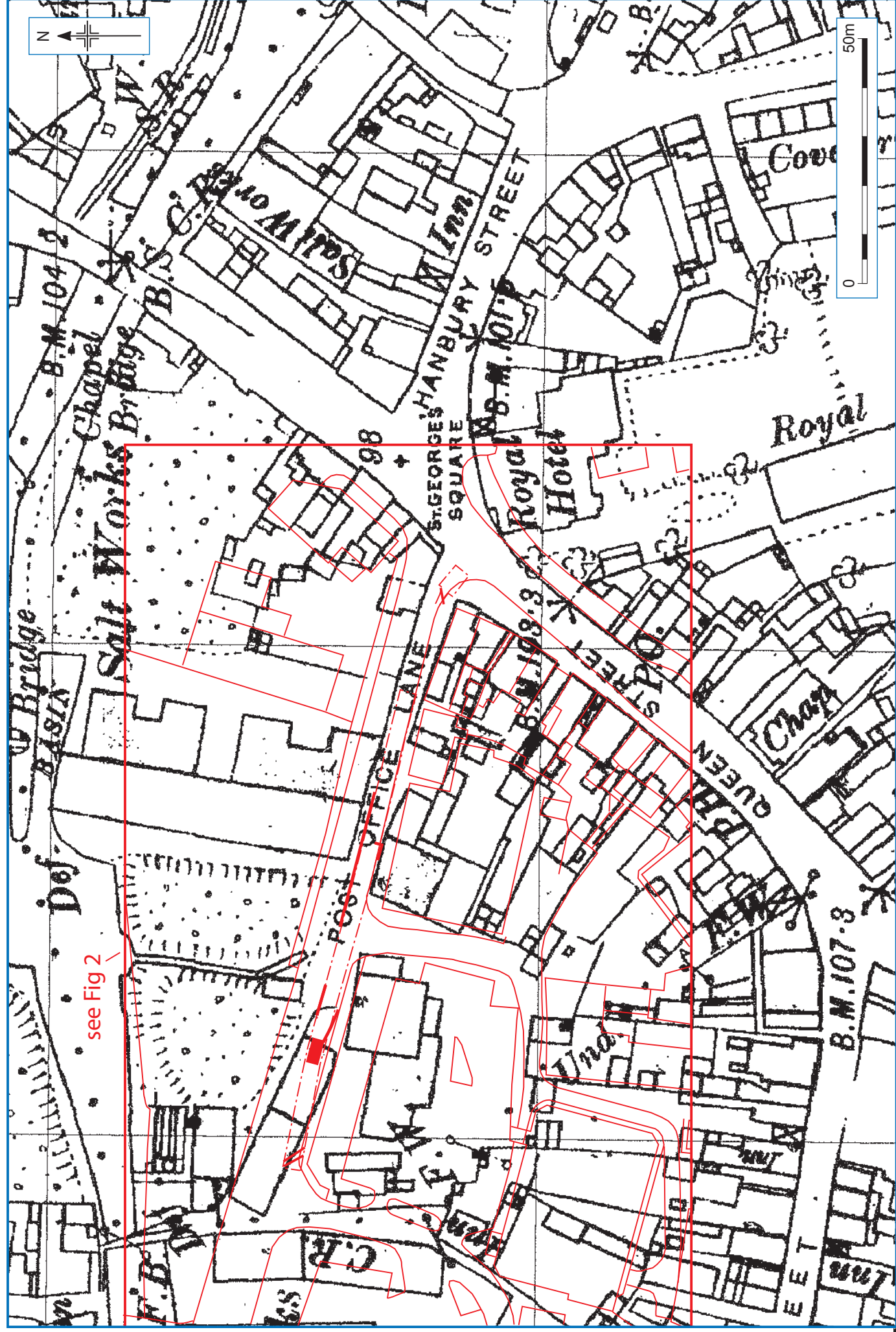


Figure 5

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 Extract from 1st edition Ordnance Survey (Worcestershire Sheet XXXII.14, 1885) with modern map (Fig 2) superimposed.

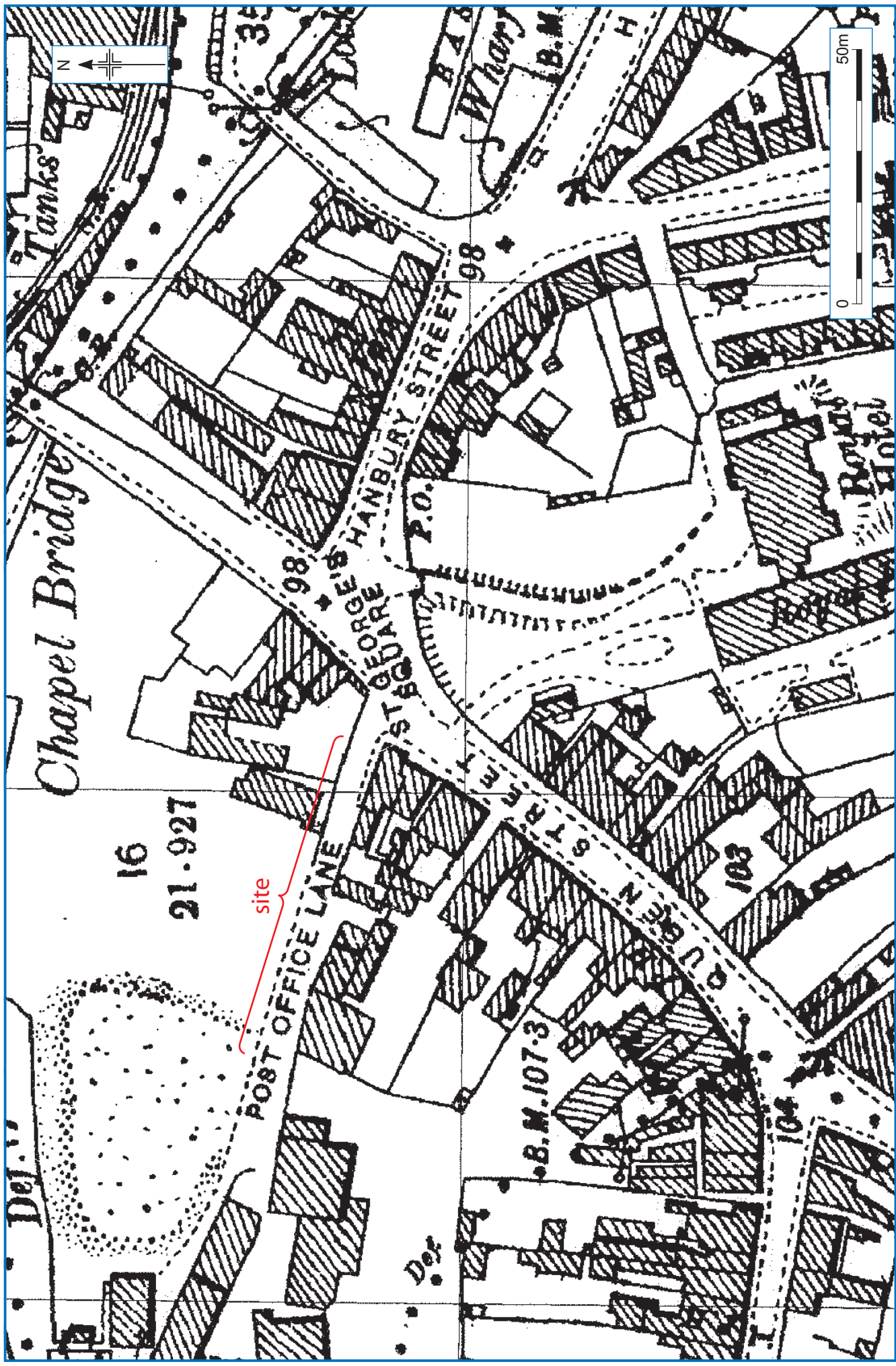
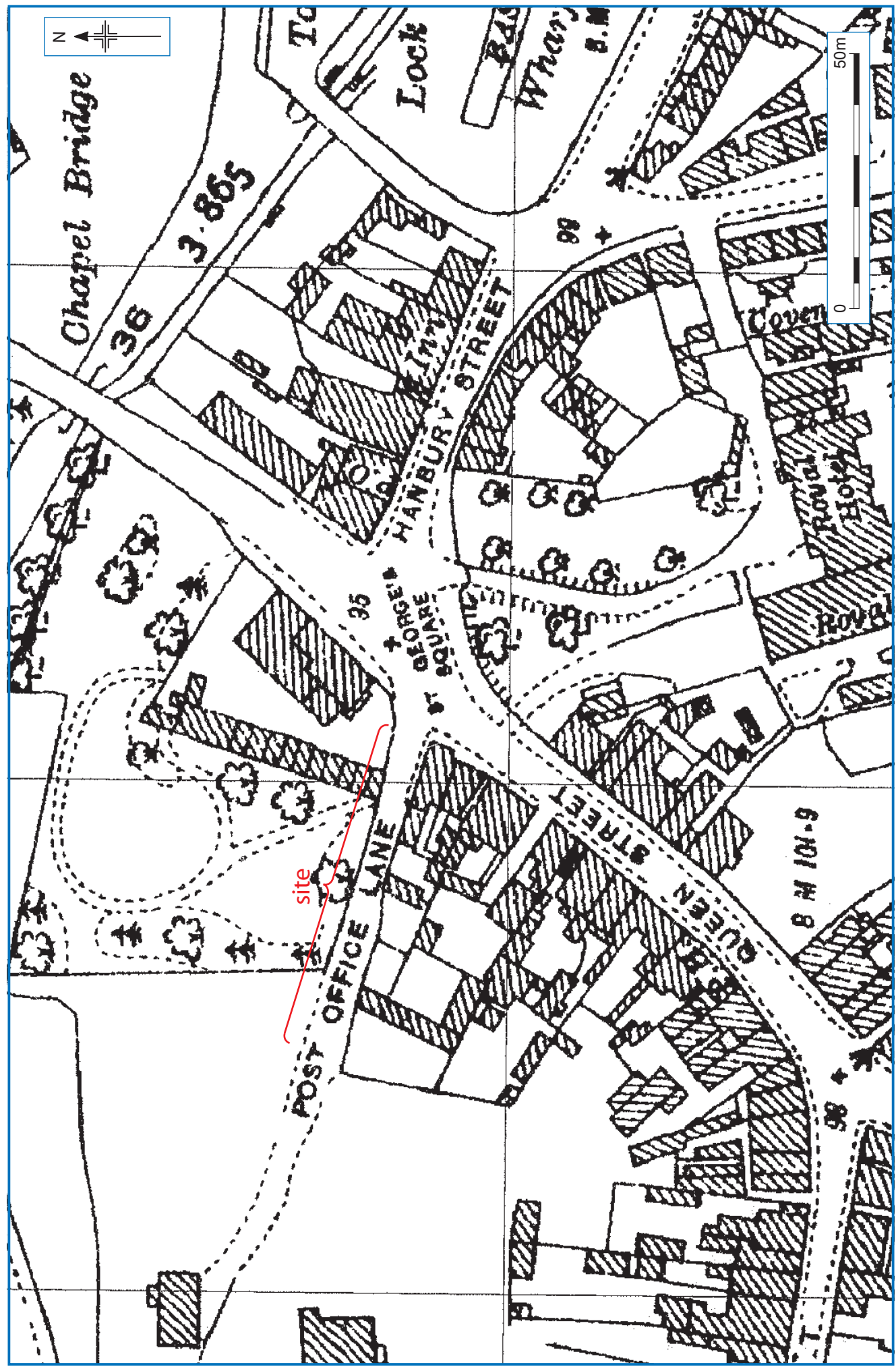


Figure 6

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Extract from 2nd edition Ordnance Survey (1903).



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Extract from 3rd edition Ordnance Survey (1927).

Figure 7

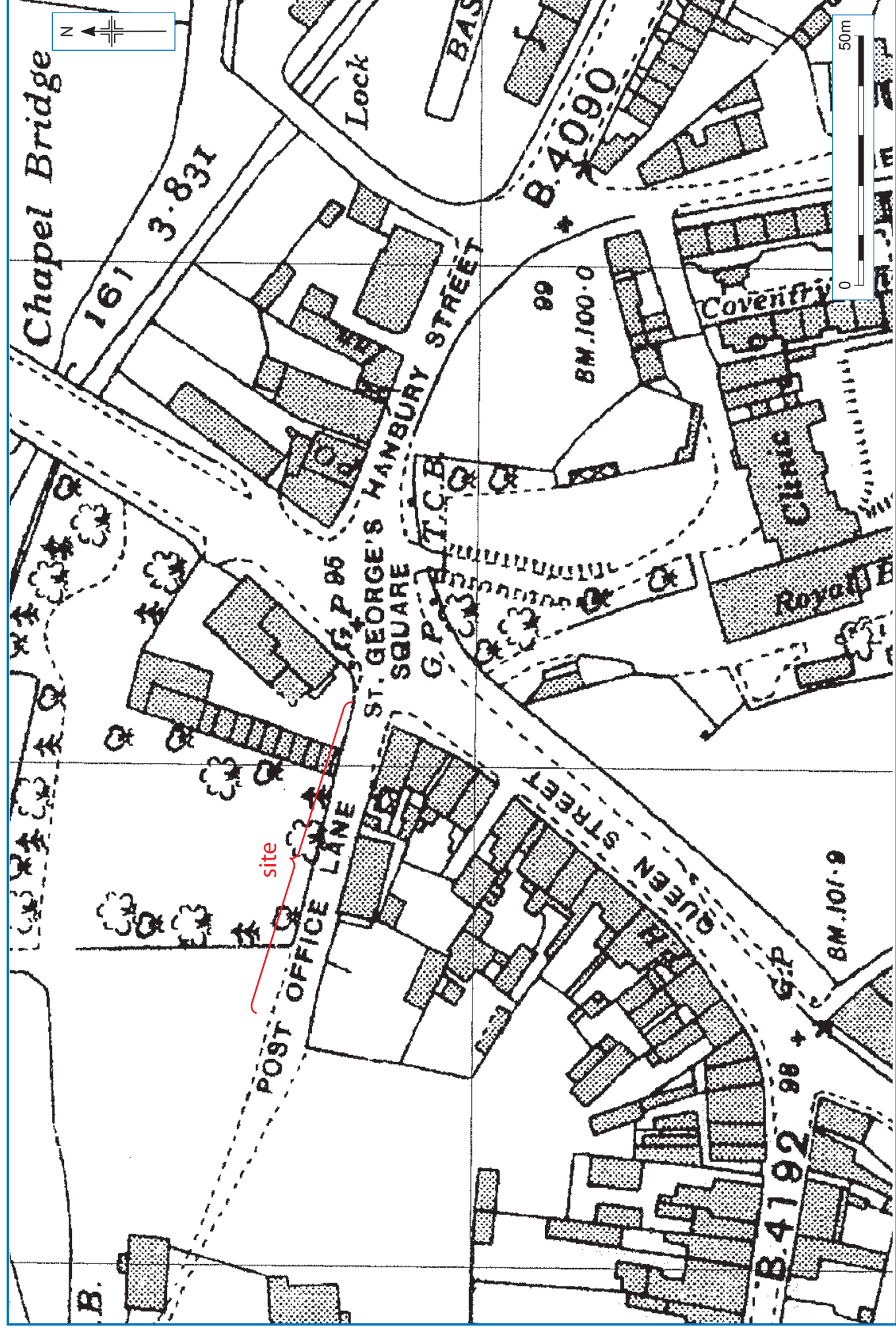


Figure 8

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 Extract from 4th edition Ordnance Survey (1938).