

DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT
OF SAINSBURY'S
SUPERMARKET SITE,
THE SMITHFIELD, BRIDGNORTH,
SHROPSHIRE

Hal Dalwood

Illustrations by Laura Templeton

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Worcestershire County Council

Historic Environment and Archaeology Service,
Worcestershire County Council,
Woodbury,
University of Worcester,
Henwick Grove,
Worcester WR2 6AJ



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Project 3079
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Desk-based assessment of Sainsbury's Supermarket site, The Smithfield, Bridgnorth, Shropshire

Hal Dalwood

Part 1 Project summary

A desk-based assessment for the historic environment was undertaken at The Smithfield, Bridgnorth, Shropshire (NGR SO 714 933). It was undertaken on behalf of Arthur Amos Associates, consultants to Sainsbury's Supermarkets Ltd, who have received outline planning permission for development. The project aimed to assess the archaeological potential of the site and to inform a mitigation strategy which will conform to the conditions of the outline planning permission.

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 study showed that important deposits relating to the medieval town defences survive in the southwest part of the application area, and close to Whitburn Street there is potential for the survival of deposits and buildings relating to medieval and post-medieval backplots. Archaeological, documentary and cartographic sources provide a good basis for understanding past land-use of the southwest part of the application site. This part of the application site has the greatest archaeological potential. There are clear potential impacts of the development, through construction of small retail units and groundworks for a new carpark. However it is argued that mitigation measures can be implemented to mitigate against damage to buried archaeological deposits.

Most of the application area lay outside the occupied area of the town before the 19th century, and consisted of land in horticultural and agricultural use. From the early 19th century there were a range of new land-uses (housing, a livestock market, and a ropewalk), and for the late 20th century commercial buildings and workshops were built in various areas. This part of the application site has low archaeological potential, and the most intensive development impacts are here: construction and extension of large retail units and construction of a new relief road. However it is suggested that construction is unlikely to have an adverse effect on buried archaeological deposits.

Part 2 Detailed report

1. Background

1.1 Reasons for the project

A desk-based assessment was undertaken at The Smithfield, Bridgnorth, Shropshire (NGR SO 714 933). It was undertaken on behalf of Arthur Amos Associates, consultants to Sainsbury's Supermarkets Ltd, who have received outline planning permission for development. The permitted scheme includes construction of a DIY warehouse and associated garden centre, extension to the existing Sainsbury's retail store, erection of four retail units, relocation of indoor market, and construction of carparking and a new relief road. Outline planning permission was granted by Bridgnorth District Council in April 2005 (Bridgnorth District Council application reference 04/0919). Arthur Amos Associates commissioned a desk-based assessment to inform the detailed development plans and to help ensure the implementation of an appropriate archaeological mitigation strategy.

This outline planning permission is subject to conditions which relate to archaeology, of which condition 24 concerns requirements in advance of development commencing:

24. Before development commences, (i) detailed plans and sections of the proposed ground works shall be submitted to the LPA to assess the degree of ground disturbance and establish the degree of provision to be made for further archaeological investigation, (ii) a programme of archaeological work based on the results of that assessment shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the LPA; and (iii) the approved programme shall be implemented in accordance with a brief prepared by Shropshire County Council's Historic Environment Officer, unless otherwise agreed by the LPA.

It is understood that detailed plans and sections are not available at the time of writing. However this desk-based assessment addresses the permitted development scheme and potential impacts on the historic environment (principally buried archaeological remains), using available information.

1.2 Project parameters

The project conforms to the *Standard and guidance for archaeological desk-based assessment* (IFA 1999), and Planning Policy Guidance Notes 15 '*Planning and the Historic Environment*', and 16 '*Archaeology and Planning*'.

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 was focused on the application site (Figs 1 and 2), although features of the historic environment were considered within 50m of the site.

2.2 Documentary search

A search was made of the Shropshire Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) and Shropshire Archives. The following sources are relevant to the study area.

Cartographic sources

Anon 1610; Dutton and Hamel 1777; Wood 1835; Foxall 1987 [Tithe Map 1840]; Ordnance Survey 1884, 1903, 1926, 1970, 1982, British Geological Survey 1990.

Aerial photographs

Modern aerial photographic coverage, Microsoft Virtual Earth <http://local.live.com/> (accessed 9 August 2007)

Documentary sources

Buteux 1996, Chandler 1993, Croom 1989, Eyton 1854, Gelling 1990, Hannaford and Phillpotts 1998, Mason 1957, Phillpotts 1995, Rowley 1986, Slater 1988 & 1990, Wanklyn 1993.

The following sources have also been cited in this assessment.

DoE 1990; IFA 1999

2.3 Other methods

A site visit was undertaken on 1st August 2007.

Consultation has been undertaken with the archaeological curator, Mike Watson (Shropshire County Council) to establish the key issues likely to be of importance in developing an archaeological mitigation strategy.

2.4 Results

Plans submitted as part of the 2005 planning application have been included as these provide the context for discussing the historic environment (Figs 2-4). Shropshire Archives contains a range of maps relating to the application site, including an early map of c 1610 (Anon 1610) and a series of maps that show the application area in detail from 1777 to 1982 (Figs 6-13). Sites and monuments recorded on the Shropshire Sites and Monuments Record are mapped on Figure 14; the data shown is been restricted to the application site and its immediate environs. The details of individual features of the historic environment are given in Appendix 1. SMR references have been used throughout this assessment.

Trench location and trench plans and sections relating to the most significant information have been reproduced from the 1998 evaluation report (Figs 15-17 reproduce plans from that report: Hannaford and Phillpotts 1998, figs 4-6). The present condition of the application site has changed since the published Ordnance Survey mapping used in the 2005 planning application, and present conditions are shown on Figure 18.

The standing buildings of all dates within the application area were photographed, together with buildings immediately adjacent to the boundary of the application area (Plates 1-28). The available archaeological and historical information was analysed and a general assessment of the character of buried archaeological deposits was made (Fig 18). This was considered against the available information on the development (Fig 3 and 4) and a number of mitigation issues were identified (Fig 20).

2.5 **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 site lies in the High Town part of Bridgnorth. This part of the town consists of relatively level ground, sloping to the south, on the top of a sandstone promontory on the west bank of the River Severn. The ground level of the study area is *c* 67m AOD.

The current character of the site is mostly surface carparking. There are some buildings within the application area, mostly mid- to late 20th century in date but including one late 19th century house: these are to be demolished.

3.2 **Geology and soils**

The underlying geology is Permian Bridgnorth Sandstone (British Geological Survey 1990). The soils are unclassified urban soils but lie within the area of well-drained typical brown sands of the Bridgnorth Association (Ragg *et al* 1984).

3.3 **Historic environment**

3.3.1 **Previous studies relating to the application area**

An archaeological assessment of Bridgnorth was undertaken as part of the Central Marches Historic Towns Survey (Buteux 1996). Earlier historical studies include Eyton (1859) and Mason (1957), and the morphology of the medieval town has been analysed by Slater (1988; 1990). A previous desk-based assessment of the application site area was undertaken by Shropshire Archaeology Service in 1995, in relation to the proposed Whitburn Street Relief Road (Phillpotts 1995). In 1998 an archaeological field evaluation was undertaken by Shropshire Archaeology Service, in relation to a proposed retail development in the southwest part of the application site (Hannaford and Phillpotts 1998). The fieldwork recorded the medieval town wall and ditch, as well as later deposits; subsequently the proposed development was not constructed. However, this fieldwork provided important information for the present desk-based assessment.

3.3.2 **Prehistoric and Roman**

There is no definitive evidence for prehistoric or Roman occupation of the site of the later town, although there is artefactual and inferential evidence (Buteux 1996, 4). The high and defensible promontory overlooks a crossing point of the River Severn, and an Iron Age coin and a number of Roman coins are recorded from the town (Shropshire SMR records). It has been suggested that the castle stands on the site of an Iron Age hillfort (Slater 1988).

The application area

The 1998 field evaluation of the southwest part of the application site produced no structural evidence or artefacts of prehistoric or Roman date (Hannaford and Phillpotts 1998). The area was probably agricultural fields at this period, at some distance from any early focus of settlement. It is possible that the application area contains field boundaries and artefact scatters dating from this period.

3.3.3 Early Medieval Settlement

Documentary and place-name evidence have been cited to support the hypothesis that Bridgnorth was the location of an Anglo-Saxon defended settlement (a burh) and a bridge over the Severn. The earliest reference is in 895 when a Danish army reached a place called *Cwatbrucge* or *Brycge*, where they built a fortress and overwintered; the Danish army passed through the same place in 910. Subsequently in 912 a defended settlement was founded by Aethelflaed at a place called *Bricge*. This established a Mercian strongpoint on the Severn which had become vulnerable to Danish sea-borne attacks. The location of the documented settlement has been debated in the past, and both Bridgnorth and Quatford have been suggested as the early site (Mason 1989; Croom 1992), but place-name analysis suggests that both the early bridge and the burh were at Bridgnorth (Gelling 1990, 58).

It is probable that the burh was established on the promontory site later occupied by the castle. Slater has suggested that Low Town was laid out as part of the defended Anglo-Saxon settlement on the east side of the river (Slater 1989, 9), and there is some topographic evidence that could be interpreted as defences (Buteux 1996, 5).

Bridgnorth is not mentioned by name in Domesday Book, and in 1086 it lay within the large manor of Morville (Phillpotts 1995, 4). It is probable that there was a rural settlement in the mid-11th century, focused on the site of St Leonard's Church (Phillpotts 1995, 4), that was later swallowed by the growth of the medieval town from the early 12th century.

The application area

The 1998 field evaluation of the southwest part of the application site produced no structural evidence or artefacts of earlier medieval date: the earliest deposits dated from the 13th century (Hannaford and Phillpotts 1998). The area is quite close to the suggested focus of pre-12th century occupation around St Leonard's Church, and was probably agricultural fields at this period. It has been suggested that Whitburn Street was a route which led to St Leonard's Church before the growth of the town (Croom 1992, 27). It is possible that the application area contains field boundaries dating from this period, although artefact scatters are less likely due to the rather low level of pottery use and discard before the 12th century.

3.3.4 The Medieval Town

The medieval town of Bridgnorth was established c 1100 by Robert de Bellesme, the son of Earl Roger of Shrewsbury during his revolt against Henry I. The earlier castle and borough at nearby Quatford was relocated to the defensive hilltop site (Slater 1988). The borough was undoubtedly originally small and probably occupied the castle bailey. The castle and borough were besieged and captured in 1102 by the royal forces, and subsequently the castle was held as a royal fortress (Buteux 1996, 2). The town grew rapidly due to its position on a principle routeway in the west midlands, which crossed the River Severn at one of the few medieval bridging points (Buteux 1996, 2). The royal castle reflected the importance of this strategic location, and the castle and town were besieged in 1155 and 1322 during civil conflicts (Mason 1957).

The town grew in the 12th century and was granted a royal charter in 1157, which confirmed the right to hold a weekly market and an annual fair. The town defences were constructed in the 13th century and the town sent two MPs to parliament in 1295 (Mason 1957). The defences were initially constructed of turf and timber between 1216 to 1233 on the north and west sides of the town, and in the 1260s the burgesses constructed stone walls around most of the circuit (Phillpotts 1995, 5). The walls were repaired on various occasions up to the early 15th century (Phillpotts 1995, 5). Stone gatehouses were added as part of the defensive circuit.

The earlier part of the medieval town was a wide market street (High Street), and subsequently new streets were laid out to the west of High Street (Buteux 1996, 8). The area

west of the High Street, including Whitburn Street, was probably laid out before *c* 1220, and the earliest documentary reference to a house on this street was in 1251 (Hannaford and Phillpotts 1998, 4-5). There are a number of references to tenements on Whitburn Street, in 1258-9 and 1322 (Hannaford and Phillpotts 1998, 5).

Three open fields occupied the area outside the town defences: Conduit Field, High Field and Hook Field (probably originally *Hok* or Oak Field), which are shown on a map of the town of *c* 1610 (Fig 5; Hannaford and Phillpotts 1998, 5-6).

In the early 14th century, Bridgnorth was paying the most tax of Shropshire towns (after Shrewsbury) and stood eighth in terms of tax payment in the west midlands counties (Slater 1988). This reflected the economic growth of Bridgnorth, based on river trade and long-distance overland trade, as well as the development of crafts and industries. The cloth industry was particularly important, together with tanning and brewing (Rowley 1986, 91). A wide range of occupations are documented associated with these industries, including dyers, mercers, glovers, and tailors; there are also records of fishermen, a cook, a cooper (barrel-maker), a potter, and a goldsmith (Slater 1988).

The application area

The application area partly lies within the known area of the medieval town. The location of the town defences were well-known in the 19th century and were recorded by the Ordnance Survey crossing the southern part of the application area in 1884 (Fig 9), which suggests parts of the structure were visible at the time. The defences formed a gentle curve between the Northgate, rebuilt in brick in 1740 but still standing (Fig 14: SMR 379; Plate 28) and the Whitburn Gate (Fig 14; SMR 380).

The town defences. The medieval defences were recorded in two evaluation trenches in 1998, which firmly established their character and alignment, as well as their construction history (Hannaford and Phillpotts 1998, 11-12, figs 5-6). Site plans are reproduced here as Figures 15-17). The earliest deposit in Trench A was a thin layer of grey brown sand containing C12th to C13th pottery which was cut by the defensive ditch. The rampart was constructed of dumps of buff and red clay. In Trench B, natural subsoil at 66.0mOD was cut by a large ditch. The alignment of the ditch clearly continued below No. 5 Whitburn Street, which shows clear evidence of subsidence (Plate 23; (Hannaford and Phillpotts 1998, 12). The berm separated the ditch from a substantial bank of red pebbly clay.

The recorded ditch and rampart were identified as the defences of turf and timber documented as constructed 1216-1233 (Hannaford and Phillpotts 1998, 5). The defences consisted of clay rampart, constructed from material dug from an external ditch. The ditch can be estimated as *c* 8m wide, separated by a berm (level area) *c* 3m to *c* 5m wide from the rampart, which was over 6.5m wide and stood *c* 2m high (Figs 15-17; Hannaford and Phillpotts 1998, 14). This would have been topped by a substantial timber palisade.

In both trenches, traces of medieval stone walls were recovered that revetted the clay rampart and rose above it (Hannaford and Phillpotts 1998, 11-12, figs 5-6). The evidence in Trench A was truncated, but in Trench B a mortared red sandstone wall was dug into the natural and stood 1.7m high and was *c* 1m wide, with evidence for a chamfered plinth course. This stone wall can probably be identified with the documented construction of stone defences in the 1260s (Hannaford and Phillpotts 1998, 5).

Whitburn Street tenement plots. The area to the south to the rampart, towards Whitburn Street, lay in the back plots of medieval buildings on the street frontage. No medieval buildings survive on Whitburn Street, but the earliest detailed complete survey of the area, the 1884 Ordnance Survey map, shows long narrow plots perpendicular to Whitburn Street. Such tenement plots are characteristic of medieval towns. The cartographic evidence allowed the confident identification of areas of medieval occupation north of Whitburn Street and west of High Street (Buteux 1996, 8-9: SMR 5644 and 5645). The medieval tenement plots

may have laid out to terminate at the defences, or may have been cut across by the construction of the defences. In any case, defences and tenement plots were probably laid out at a similar period: as there is little medieval occupation evidence from the area outside the defences.

Outside the defences. The majority of the application site lay outside the medieval defences, within a large open field, called Oak Field (Hannaford and Phillpotts 1998, 6). There is documentary evidence that there was suburban growth beyond the North Gate in the 13th century, but this was limited in extent (Hannaford and Phillpotts 1998, 6), and it is unlikely that medieval suburban occupation extended as far as the Northgate Garage

The 1998 evaluation examined the area outside and close to the defences (Fig 15: Trenches C and D). In Trench C, natural sandy subsoil as recorded at 66.5mOD, 0.7m below ground surface, cut by a series of undated cultivation furrows (Hannaford and Phillpotts 1998, 12, fig 7). In Trench D, the subsoil at 66.3mOD was overlain by a soil layer 0.35m thick, cut by a ditch that was 1.1m wide and 0.45m deep. The fill contained one sherd of 13th century pottery and a fragment of clay roof tile (Hannaford and Phillpotts 1998, 12-13, fig 7). This evidence suggests that the land outside the medieval defences was used for agriculture and horticulture in the medieval period, as it was in the earlier post-medieval period (see below).

Summary. The location of the stone town wall, rampart, external berm and ditch, has been established with certainty within the application site (Fig 19), and can be related to the documented earlier 13th century construction date. The historic land-use of other parts of the application area in the medieval period is summarised in Figure 19.

3.3.5 The Post-medieval Town

The 16th century was a period of economic decline in Bridgnorth, and in 1544 it was recorded that the cloth industry was 'very badly declined' and the town's economy had suffered (Chandler 1993, 392). The castle was still a significant royal possession, and between the late 15th and early 17th century, the Council of the Marches occasionally met at Bridgnorth (Mason 1957). The castle was an important royalist stronghold from the outbreak of the Civil War in 1642, until it was besieged and captured by Parliamentary forces in 1646. The siege lasted three months, during which the royalist garrison withdrew into the castle, and the parliamentarians occupied the town. St Leonard's Church blew up when the powder magazine stored in it was detonated. After 1646 the castle was slighted (Porter 1994, 134-5).

The post-medieval town was a manufacturing centre, and barge and boat building were important, together with cloth manufacture, tanning, gun-making, malting, stocking-weaving and lace-making (Mason 1957, 41). The prosperity of the town in the 17th to 19th century was based on the growing river trade which grew rapidly from the mid-17th century, based on coal and agricultural produce carried down river, and consumables carried up-river (Wanklyn 1993, 43). Bridgnorth was a distribution centre for goods brought by river, and a centre for the boat-builders and watermen. In the late 18th century and early 19th century, iron founding and manufacture, together with carpet-making, developed in the town (Mason 1957, 42). The river trade, and the economy of the town, declined after the canals opened up new routes from the Severn to the manufacturing centres of the midlands, and this was not reversed by the construction of the Severn Valley Railway, which reached Bridgnorth in 1862 (Mason 1957).

The application area

The application area partly lies within the known area of the medieval town.

The town defences. In 1544 Leland noted that Bridgnorth's town walls were in a poor state of repair: 'it used to be strongly walled but the walls are all in ruins' (Chandler 1993, 392). The siege in 1646 caused extensive damage, and the town defences were certainly slighted at the same time as the castle after the Civil War.

The 1998 evaluation showed that the town ditch was backfilled in the 17th century (Hannaford and Phillpotts 1998, 14). There was a considerable build up deposits broadly dated to the 17th century against the face of the stone town wall in Trench B, which partly collapsed or was damaged before the 18th century (Hannaford and Phillpotts 1998, 12, fig 6). None of this activity can be specifically associated with the Civil War, although it is likely that the stone town wall was at least partly demolished after the war. In the 18th century a sandstone wall was built on the same alignment as the town wall in Trench B (Hannaford and Phillpotts 1998, 12).

Immediately east of the application site stands a brick mid to late 19th century house. This building is identified as the gaoler's house (Hannaford and Phillpotts 1998, 9). This building is now derelict, which shows some signs of subsidence into the backfilled town ditch. The building had a garden on its west side, and the town lockups formed a range on the east side of the building, shown on the 1884 Ordnance Survey plan (Fig 9).

Whitburn Street tenement plots. A small part of the application site lies within tenement plots of houses on Whitburn Street. The Wood plan of 1835 and the Ordnance Survey maps of 1884, 1903 and 1926 (Figs 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11) show a similar picture of open back yard areas, defined by linear boundaries, almost certainly brick walls. Small buildings in the backyard areas are shown, which were earth closets and washhouses. Some buildings were more substantial and were probably mostly workshops or stores, although some were probably small houses built behind street frontage buildings. The later 20th Ordnance Survey maps show a similar picture, although gradually back plot areas were occupied by larger buildings (Figs 12 and 13).

The photographic survey showed that most of the boundary walls within the application area have been demolished in the late 20th century, although some remain (Plate 9). Elsewhere, the former position of boundary walls is obvious from the remains of demolished walls (Plate 19). The photographic survey of the southwest perimeter of the application area, and the passageway to Whitburn Street, showed that buildings in the backplots were of a range of dates and types (Plates 10-22).

Outside the defences. There is good documentary evidence for the ownership of land west of the North Gate and outside the town wall in the 17th and 18th century, when it was gardens and orchards (Hannaford and Phillpotts 1998, 7). This land was owned by the Whitmore family,, and a detailed estate plan of 1777 (Fig 6) shows a broadly similar picture to the map of c 1610 (Fig 5), indicating that the area outside the town walls was agricultural and horticultural land. The 1998 evaluation showed that the area immediately outside the town defences was agricultural land through the post-medieval period (Hannaford and Phillpotts 1998).

It was in the early 19th century that land-use changed in this area. The ropewalk (Fig 90) was established in the early 19th century (Hannaford and Phillpotts 1998, 9). The long walkway and a number of sheds and small buildings are shown on the Ordnance Survey maps of 1884 to 1926 (Fig 9-11). The Smithfield (cattle market) was established in the 19th century also in the western part of the application area, and Ordnance Survey plans show growth and modification to animal pens, and a large tank.

Houses were built on land behind Whitburn Street in the early 19th century. A block of houses shown on the Wood map of 1835 is shown in more detail as 'Whitburn Place' on the 1884 Ordnance Survey plan (Figs 7 and 9). Two terraces of two-storey, two-room deep houses faced each other over a narrow lane. The end building on the north row was larger, and was built after 1884 and before 1903, as it is depicted first on the Ordnance Survey map of that date (Fig 10). The majority of Whitburn Place was demolished between 1970 and 1982 (Figs 12 and 13). Three buildings survive as 31-32 Whitburn Place, immediately outside the application area (Plates 4-5), as does the larger late Victorian house that stood at the end of the terrace: the scar of the rest of the terrace is visible (Plates 6-7).

In the later 20th century there was further development of land in this area, and Ordnance Survey maps show a builder's yard, a warehouse, and a large garage on North Gate (Figs 12 and 13). Most of these buildings have been demolished in recent years, but some buildings remain (Plates 8, 26, 27).

Summary. The character of the land-use in the application area in the 16th to early 19th century showed strong continuity from the medieval period, although the town defences were infilled and partly slighted in the 17th century. There was development from the earlier 19th century as agricultural land was developed for a number of purposes. The historic land-use of other parts of the application area in the post-medieval period is summarised in Figure 19.

3.4 Statutory and other designations

The application site does not contain or lie close to a scheduled ancient monument or a listed building. Part of the application site lies within a Conservation Area (Fig 3).

4. Potential impacts

The plan of the permitted development shows the substantial changes involved in this development (Fig 4). The potential impacts are considered in terms of their impact on buried archaeological deposits, as this related to the planning condition (see Section 1.1).

The potential impact can be considered under five headings which relate to different areas of the application site (Figs 19-20).

a) Construction of four new retail units to the rear of No. 8 and No. 9 Whitburn Street.

These buildings will be constructed in backplot areas (Fig 19 and Fig 20: Area 1), which were laid out in the medieval period. It is likely that this area contains buried deposits of medieval and post-medieval date, relating to domestic life, and crafts and trades. The 1884 Ordnance Survey plan (Fig 9) indicates that other (demolished) buildings occupied parts of this area. This area certainly has potential for containing a sequence of structural deposits, artefacts, and environmental remains. The construction of modern buildings may have a detrimental effect on buried deposits.

b) Construction of new car park over line of town defences. It has been established by archaeological evaluation that the application area contains a part of medieval town defences, which are well preserved (Fig 19 and Fig 20: Area 2). The top of the stone town wall was recorded during the evaluation as level with the ground surface (Hannaford and Phillpotts 1998, 16), and this is shown in the section of Trench B (Fig 17). The top of the town wall has now been buried beneath tarmac. The structure of the medieval defences is currently preserved in good condition beneath the carpark, and it is desirable that the structure should continue to be preserved in this condition. This important medieval structure is potentially vulnerable to groundworks associated with the new carpark, such as removal and replacement of existing tarmac or new surface drainage.

c) Construction of new carpark. The general character of the area northwest of the town defences has been established as agricultural and horticultural land until the 19th century (Fig 19 and Fig 20: Area 3). The 1998 evaluation showed that there were medieval boundary features and agricultural soils in this area, with medieval deposits likely to be relatively deeply buried. Late 18th and 19th century cartographic sources show gardens and garden houses. In the 20th century the land was developed and a number of workshops and other buildings were constructed. Construction of a new carpark is not likely to have an adverse affect on significant buried archaeological deposits.

d) Construction of new DIY store, extension to Sainsbury's Supermarket, and new relief road. The general character of the northwest part of the application site has been established (Fig 19 and Fig 20: Area 5). Late 18th and 19th century cartographic sources show

closes and agricultural land. In the 19th century parts of the area were developed, for housing, a ropewalk, and a cattle market. In the mid- to late 20th century a number other buildings were constructed (a warehouse and workshops). This part of the application site has limited archaeological potential.

e) Demolition of a historic building. One building in the application area which will be demolished is a late 19th century house (Plates 6 and 7). The removal of this building will be part of the sequence of demolitions of the two rows of houses that formed Whitburn Place, resulting in the virtual total removal of this part of the historic environment (Fig 19 and Fig 20, Area 4). This building is not architecturally important in its own right.

5. Mitigation

In order to mitigate the impacts identified above, the following actions are recommended, subject to approval and amendment by Shropshire County Council's Historic Environment Officer. The recommendations for mitigation refer to specific parts of the application site (Fig 20, Areas 1-5):

1. New retail units. It is recommended that an archaeological field evaluation is undertaken prior to development. The results of this fieldwork will inform a more considered mitigation strategy, in order to either preserve significant archaeological deposits *in situ*, or through further excavation (preservation by record).

2. The town wall. The structure of the town wall is vulnerable to any ground works associated with the new car park, including new surface drainage runs. It is desirable that the structure is preserved *in situ*. Mitigation against potential damage through groundworks could be effected through both careful engineering design of the carpark and drainage system and through rigorous control of construction associated with groundworks (e.g. through a very clear methods statement for the construction contractors, and archaeological monitoring of the groundworks).

3. The area close to the defences. The groundworks for the new carpark will probably not affect any important archaeological deposits, which probably include structural remains of 19th century buildings (terraced houses and the ropewalk).

4. Demolition of a historic building. The late 19th century building will be demolished. It would be appropriate to record the building photographically before demolition, as an effective mitigation measure against loss of part of the historic environment.

5. North-west part of the application area. The construction of new buildings and the relief road will probably not affect any important archaeological deposits.

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. Acknowledgements

The Service would like to thank the following for their kind assistance in the successful conclusion of this project: Nigel Dobson-Smyth (Arthur Amos Associates), Mike Watson and Penny Ward (Shropshire County Council).

8. Personnel

The assessment was undertaken by Hal Dalwood. The project manager responsible for the quality of the project was Hal Dalwood. Illustrations were prepared by Laura Templeton.

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Appendix 1 Features of the historic environment registered with the SMR (those within the site are indicated in bold). See Figure 14.

Reference number and status	Site name	Site type	Record type	Date
Events				
SMR 4900	Evaluation, Northgate St	Deposits relating to medieval town defences and later deposits	Event	Medieval; post-medieval
SMR 5464	Desk-based assessment, Relief Road		Event	Medieval; post-medieval
Monuments				
SMR 374	Bridgnorth Town defences	Town defences	Documentary, Buried remains	Medieval
SMR 379	Northgate and Burgess Hall	Town Gate	Standing building	Medieval, Post-medieval
SMR 380	Site of Whitburn Gate	Town Gate	Documentary	Medieval
SMR 5605	Halls Bridge, North Gate	Bridge	Documentary	Medieval
SMR 5622	Smithfield	Livestock market	Documentary	19 th century
SMR 5623	Ropewalk	Ropewalk	Documentary	19 th century
SMR 11371. Listed Building (Grade II)	No. 9 Whitburn Street.	House	Building	Mid to late 18 th century
SMR 11407 Listed Building (Grade II)	Nos 24-30 Whitburn Street	Terraced house	Building	17 th century to mid 18 th century
SMR 11562 Listed Building (Grade II)	3 and 4 High Street	Terraced house, shop	Building	Post-medieval

SMR 11563 Listed Building (Grade II)	5 and 6 High Street	Terraced house, office	Building	Post-medieval
SMR 11564. Listed Building (Grade II)	7 High Street (Northgate House).	Terraced house, office	Building	Post-medieval
SMR 11628. Listed building (Grade II)	Nos 21 and 22, Northgate.	Terraced house	Building	Post-medieval
SMR 11629 Listed building (Grade II)	Nos 23 and 24 Northgate (Bear Inn).	Terraced house	Building	Post-medieval
SMR 11630. Listed building (Grade II)	No 25 Northgate.	Terraced house, shop	Building	Post-medieval
SMR 11707. Listed building (Grade II)	3 Whitburn Street (King's Head Public House).	Hotel	Building	Post-medieval

Plates

Note on the plates

Plates 1-2 show the present Sainsbury's Supermarket and the adjacent large modern carpark. Plates 3-27 show the character of buildings, including modern structures, within the application site and lying immediately outside (to the south and east). The photographs are presented in a broadly southwest to northeast sequence.



Plate 1. Sainsbury's Supermarket, Bridgnorth. View from north-east.



Plate 2. Bridgnorth District Council carpark, north part of study area. View to north.



Plate 3. Junction of Whitburn Street (on right) and Old Smithfield (on left). View looking northeast. No. 34 Whitburn Street, on the corner is C19th.



Plate 4. 31 & 32 Whitburn Street, on southern edge of and outside study area. Two small houses, C19th, formerly part of a court called Whitburn Place. View from southwest.



Plate 5. 31 & 32 Whitburn Street, on southern edge of and outside study area. Two small houses, C19th, formerly part of a court called Whitburn Place. Eastern house has extension. View from west.



Plate 6. ‘Quilter’s Quest’, commercial premises on south side of the study area. This building is identified for demolition in the planning application. A three-bay, two-storey late 19th century house, this building originally stood at the end of Whitburn Place. View from northwest.



Plate 7. 'Quilter's Quest', commercial premises on south side of the study area. This building is identified for demolition in the planning application. A three-bay, two-storey late 19th century house, this building originally stood at the north-east end of Whitburn Place, and the scar of the adjacent terraced house is clear. View from southwest.



Plate 8. Modern building, currently shops. This building is identified for demolition in the planning application. View from northwest.



Plate 9. Property boundary, forming edge of application site at rear of Nos. 14-17 Whitburn Street. Brick wall with modern openings, C19th or earlier C20th.



Plate 10. Rear of Nos. 8 & 9 Whitburn Street and the public right of way between the properties, leading from Whitburn Street to the market area. This passageway is identified in the planning application for enhancement as pedestrian access to the carpark, with no demolition of extant buildings.



Plate 11. General view of Whitburn Street, north side, showing mix of building fabric.



Plate 12. No. 8 Whitburn Street ('Simply The Best'), and adjacent passageway. A 19th century three-bay, two-storey brick building, with cellar.



Plate 13. Rear of No. 8 Whitburn Street ('Simply The Best'). A modern brick two-storey extension. It is proposed that two small retail units will be built to the north of this building, with access from the passageway.



Plate 14. No. 9 Whitburn Street ('Lane and Fox' estate agents). A three-storey, two-bay brick building, 19th century.



Plate 15. Rear of No. 9 Whitburn Street (No. 9b, 'The Nutshell' clothes shop). Two separate C19th buildings, a two-bay, two-storey building (built as a house) and a small one-storey building adjacent (probably built as a workshop). These buildings are identified for retention in the planning application. It is proposed that two small retail units will be built to the north of this building, with access from the passageway. View to south.



Plate 16. Rear of No. 9 Whitburn Street (No. 9b, ‘The Nutshell’ clothes shop). Two separate C19th buildings, a two-bay, two-storey building (built as a house) and a small one-storey building adjacent (probably built as a workshop). These buildings are identified for retention in the planning application. It is proposed that two small retail units will be built to the north of this building, with access from the passageway. View to southeast.



Plate 17. Rear of Nos. 9 & 10 Whitburn Street. This view shows character of rear extensions of properties on Whitburn Street, including domestic accommodation and workshops (see Plate 18). View looking southwest.



Plate 18. Rear of No. 10 Whitburn Street. A one-storey C19th workshop, with modern window inserted. This view shows the absence of identifiable property boundaries defining rear plots, removed after 1982.



Plate 19. Rear of Nos. 7 & 8 Whitburn Street, view to south. This view shows evidence for property boundaries, formerly brick garden walls, demolished after 1982.



Plate 20. Store building, C20th, rear of No. 7 Whitburn Street.



Plate 21. Range of buildings at rear of No. 4 Whitburn Street. A range of brick buildings of late 19th century date, accessed from a passageway leading from Whitburn Street.



Plate 22. Range of buildings at rear of No. 3 Whitburn Street. These C19th buildings were probably built as stables or workshops, in rear yard of King's Head Inn, as shown on 1884 Ordnance Survey map (see Fig 9).



Plate 23. No. 5 Whitburn Street. A 19th century brick two-storey, three-bay house, now uninhabited and derelict. This house was originally accessed by a lane between Nos. 4 and 5 Whitburn Street (see Plate 21), which led to a garden in front of the house, shown on Ordnance Survey map of 1884 (see Fig 9). There is some evidence for subsidence on the north side of building, where it stands over the town ditch (see text).



Plate 24. Nos. 3-6 Northgate Mews. Row of 19th century houses (rear elevation).



Plate 25. Small C19th workshop building, rear yard of The Bear.



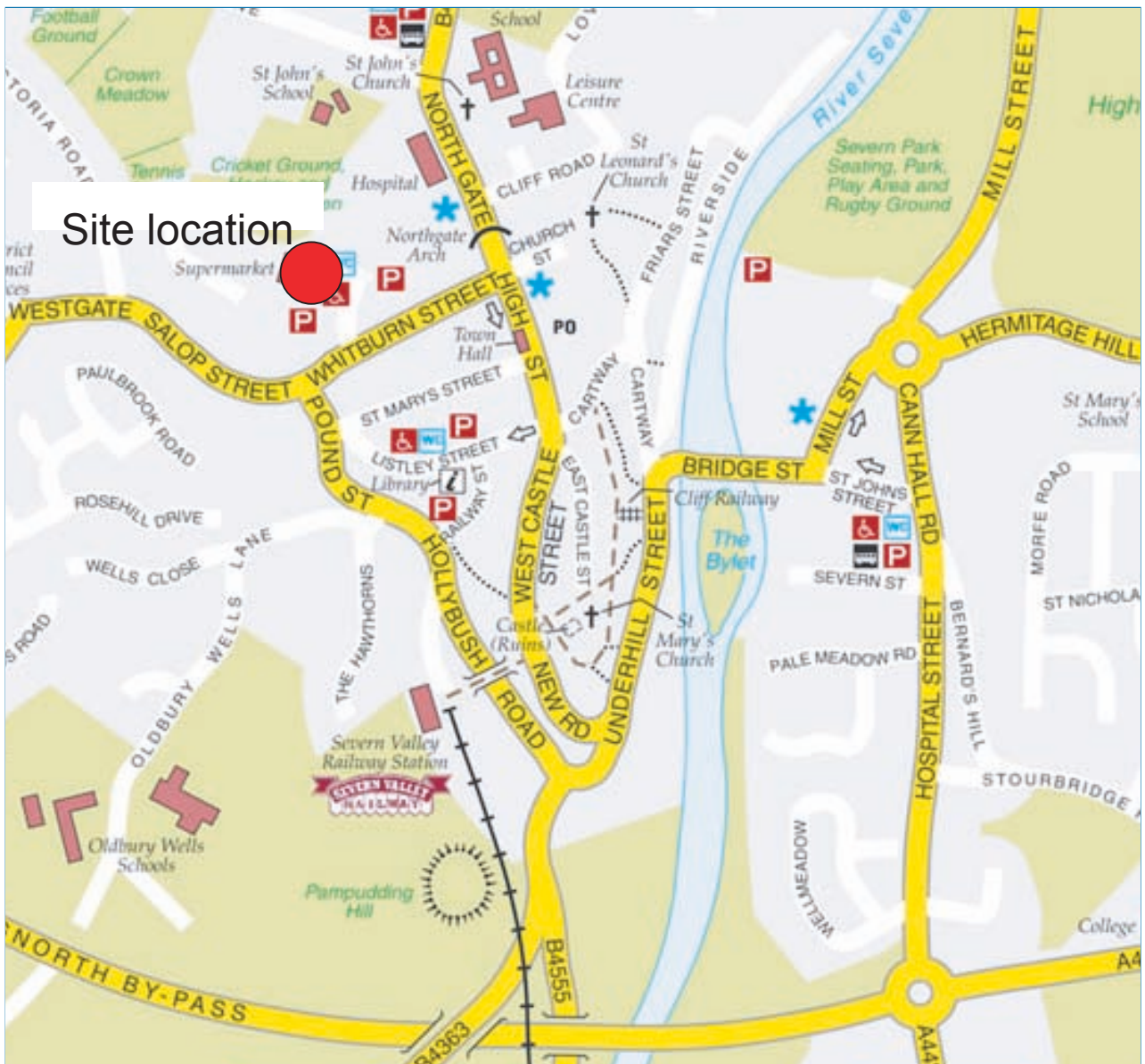
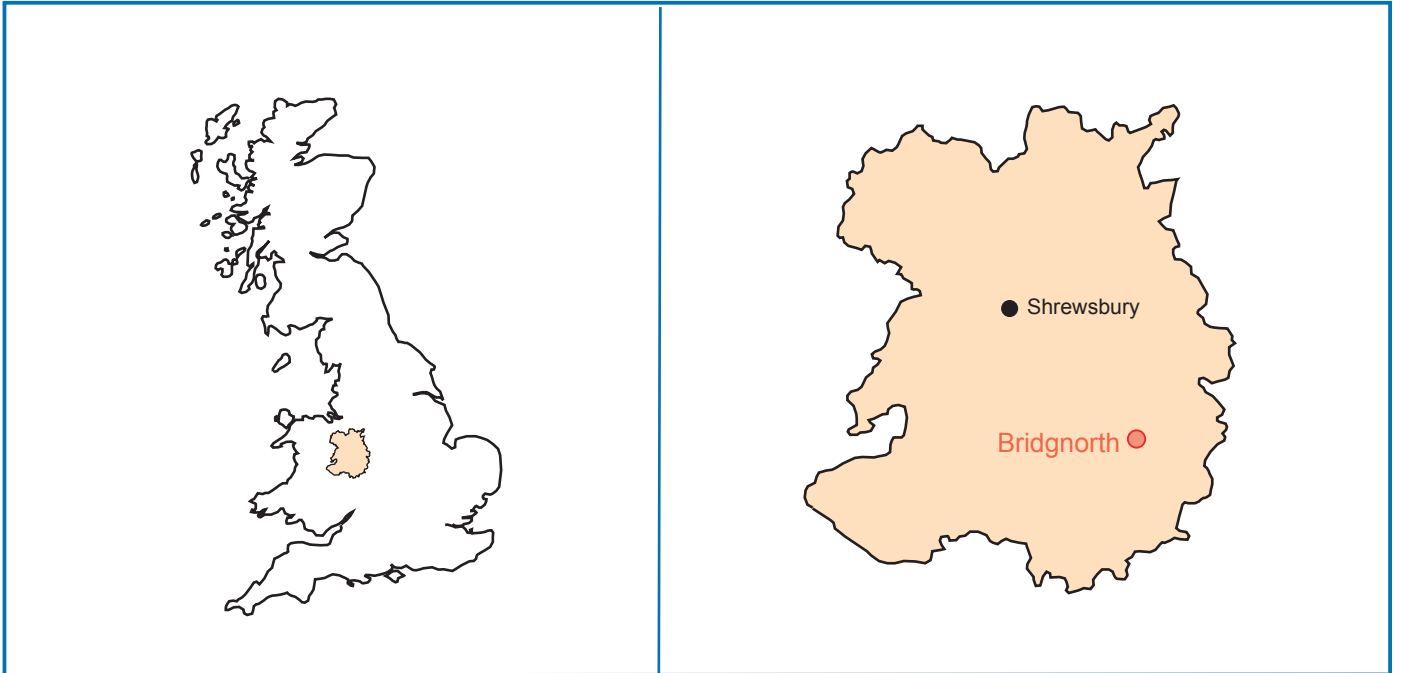
Plate 26. Modern garage buildings, part of Northgate Garage. These buildings are identified for demolition in the planning application.



Plate 27. The Northgate Garage, North Gate. A C20th brick building, identified for demolition in the planning application: the new relief road will run through here (see Fig 4).



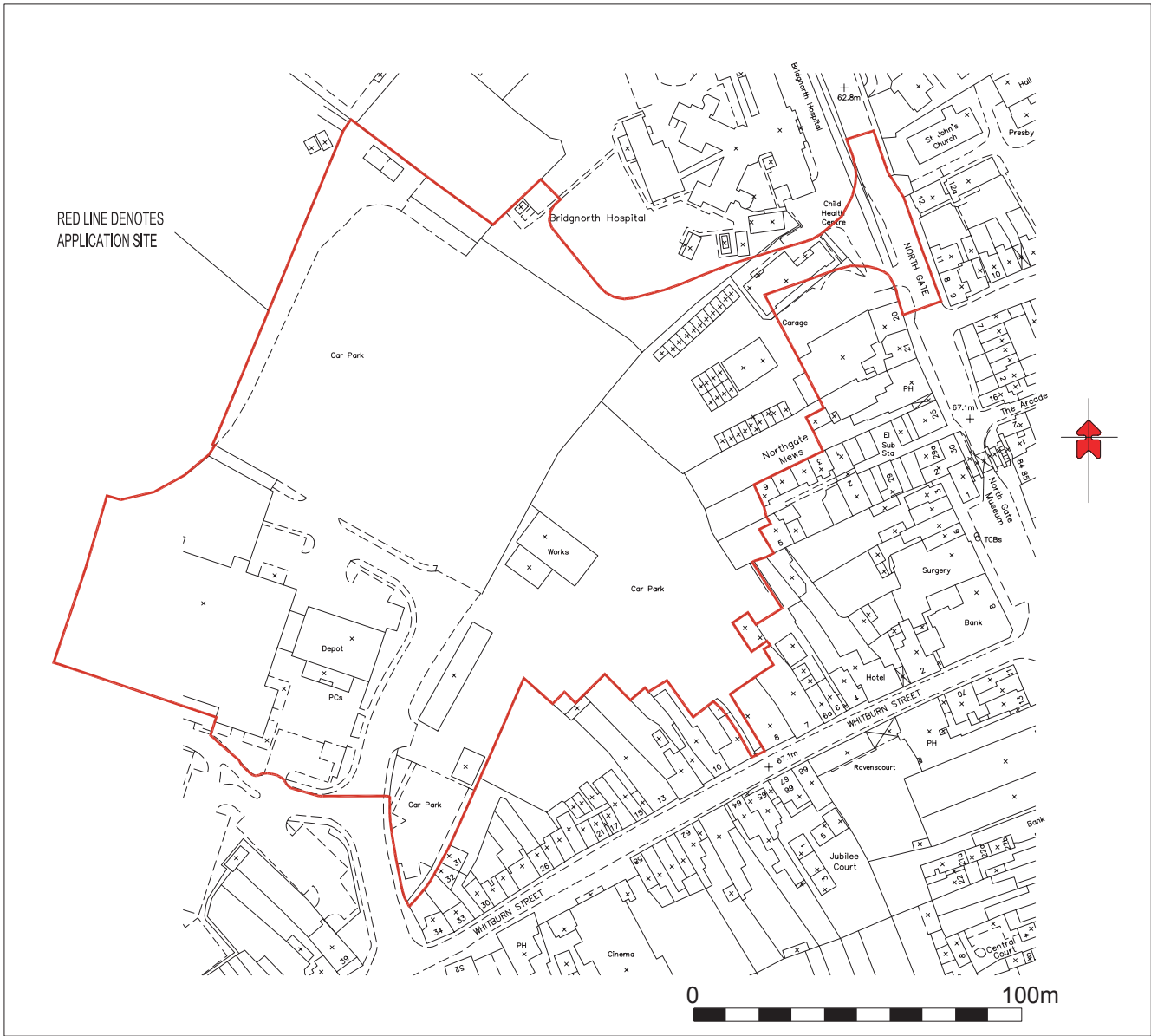
Plate 28. The North Gate, view to south.



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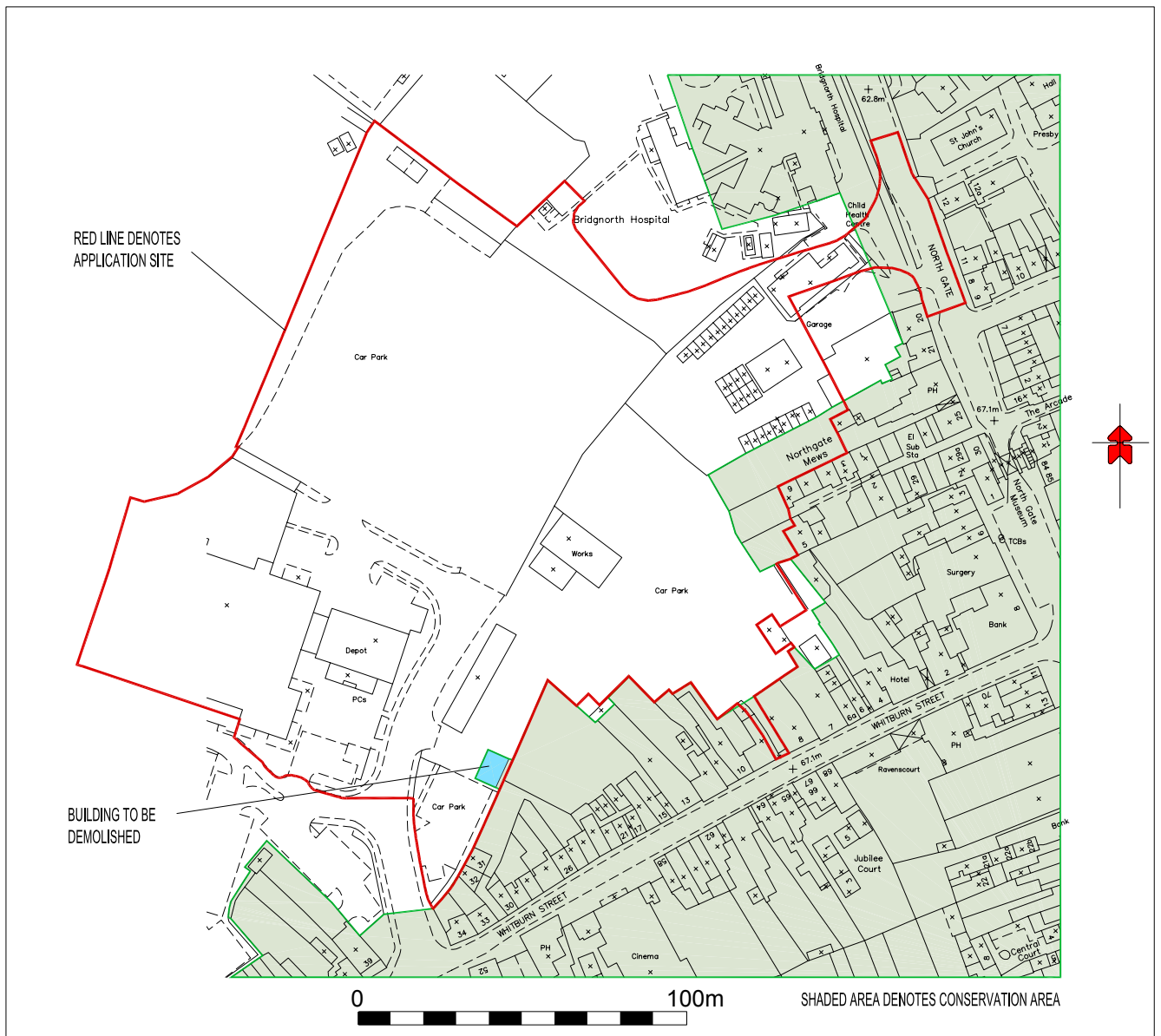
Location of the site.

Figure 1



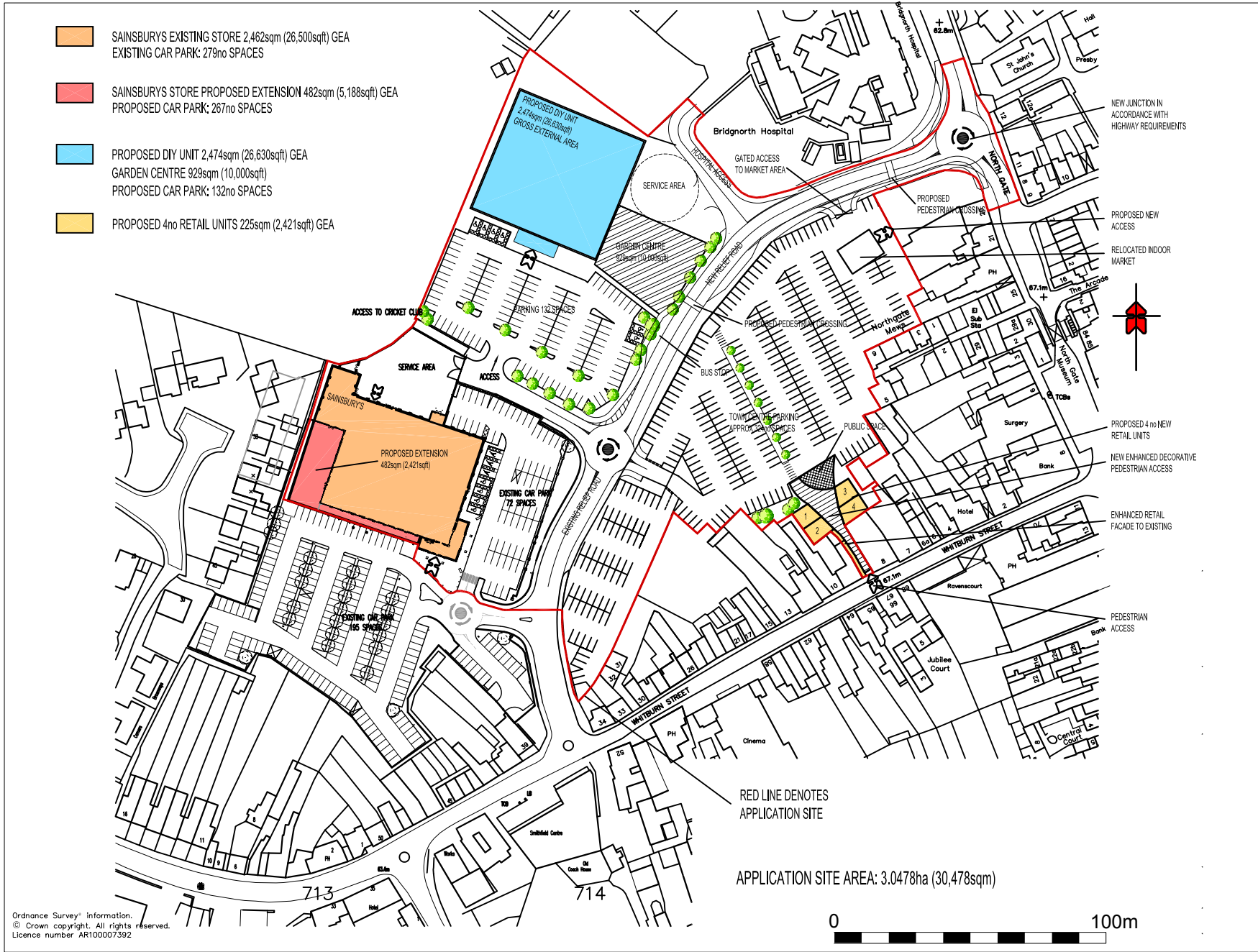
Sainsbury's, Bridgnorth: application site boundary

Figure 2



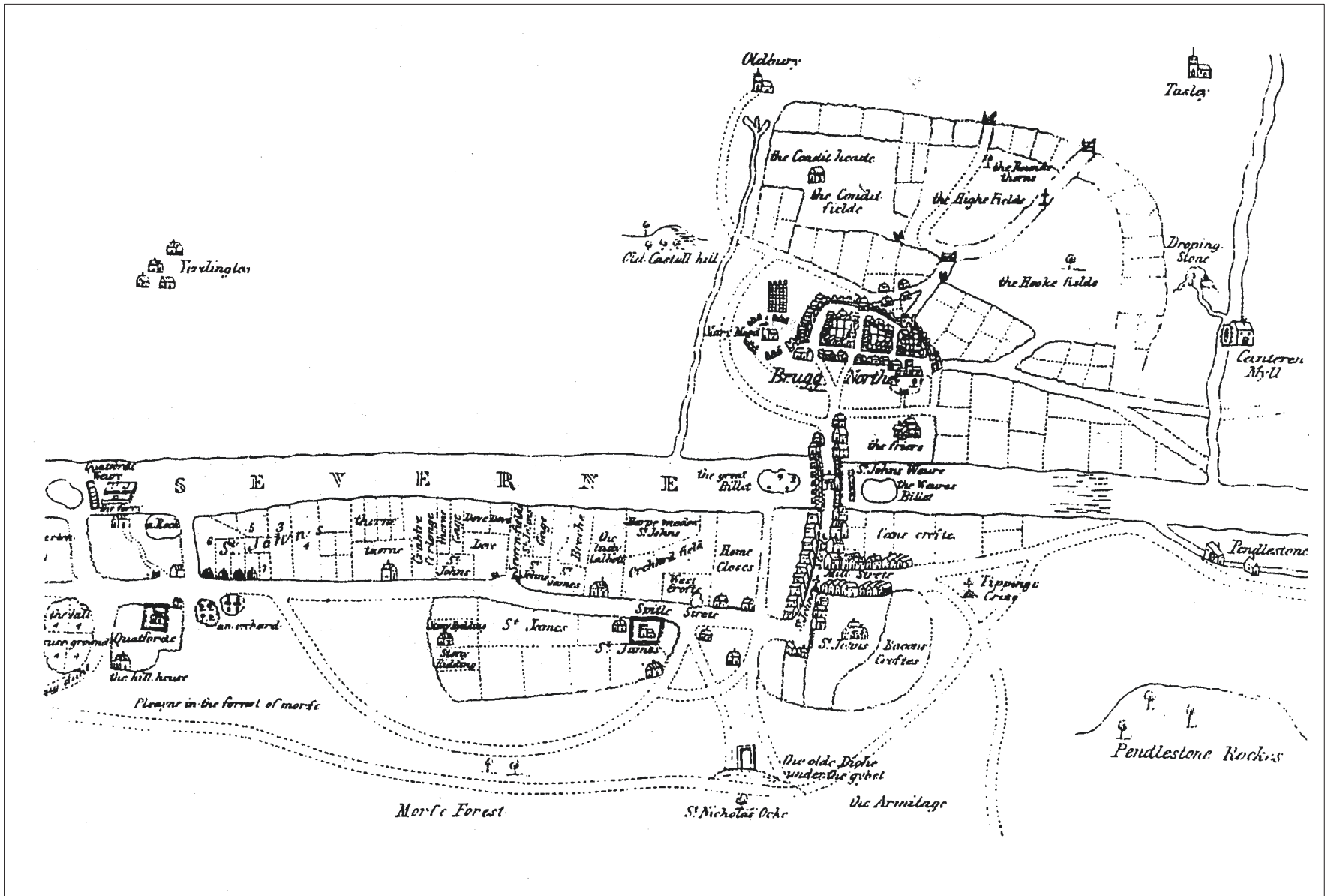
Sainsbury's, Bridgnorth: conservation area (including building to be demolished)

Figure 3



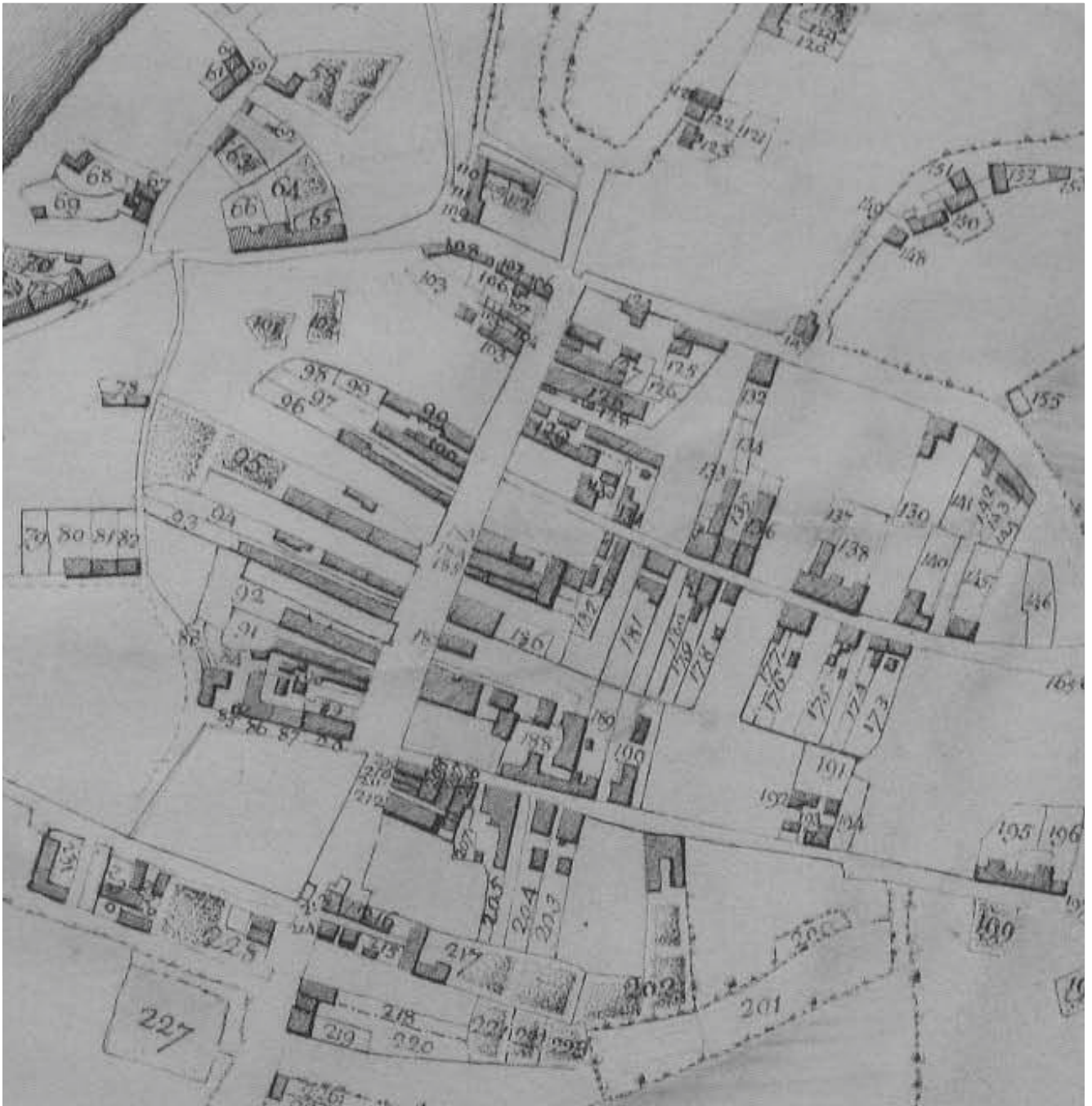
Sainsbury's Bridgnorth: proposed site plan

Figure 4



Bridgnorth c. 1610. Manuscript plan (Shropshire Archives ref 4001/P/1/89)

Figure 5



*Part of estate plan of Bridgnorth, 1777. W Dutton and J Hamel,
A plan of houses and lands in the township of Bridgnorth (Map V),
in A Book of Plans of Several Estates belonging to Thomas Whitmore Esq
(Shropshire Archives ref 3628/1).
North is to bottom of page.*

Figure 6



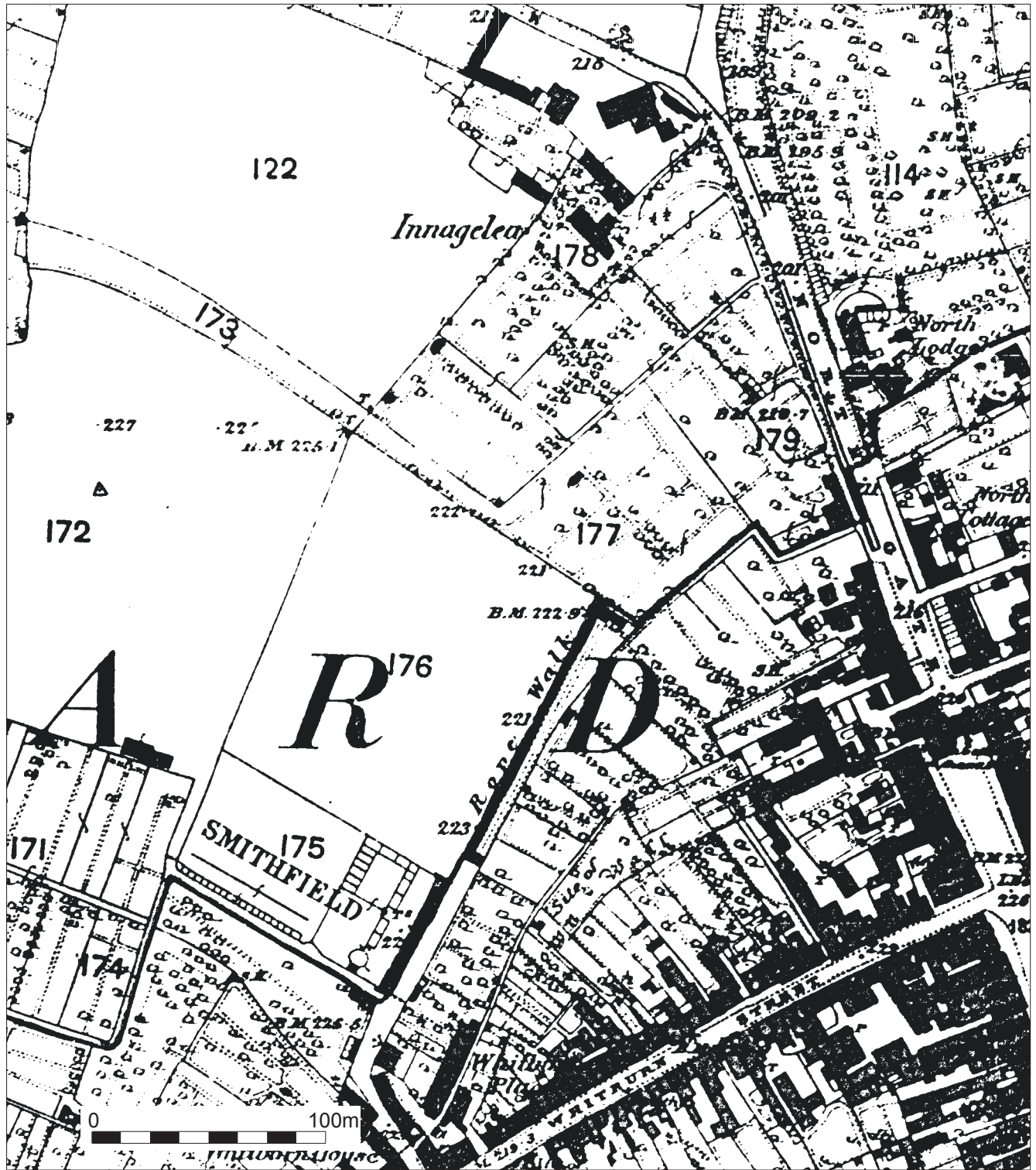
Extract from Wood's map of Bridgnorth, 1835 (Shropshire Archives 4001/P/1/8).

Figure 7



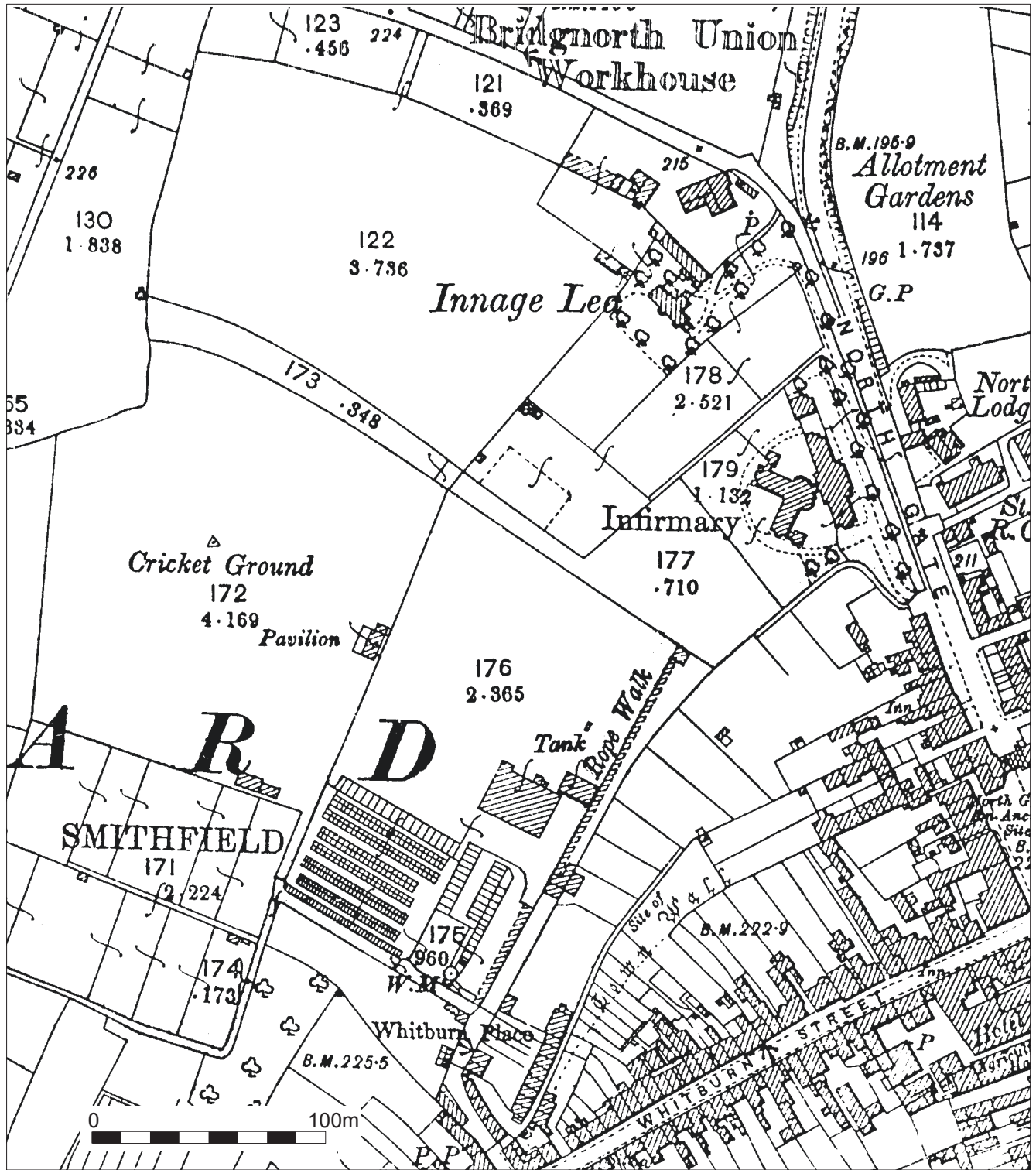
*Bridgnorth, St Leonard's Parish, 1840.
 Title map, redrawn by H D G Foxall 1987
 (Shropshire Archives)*

Figure 8



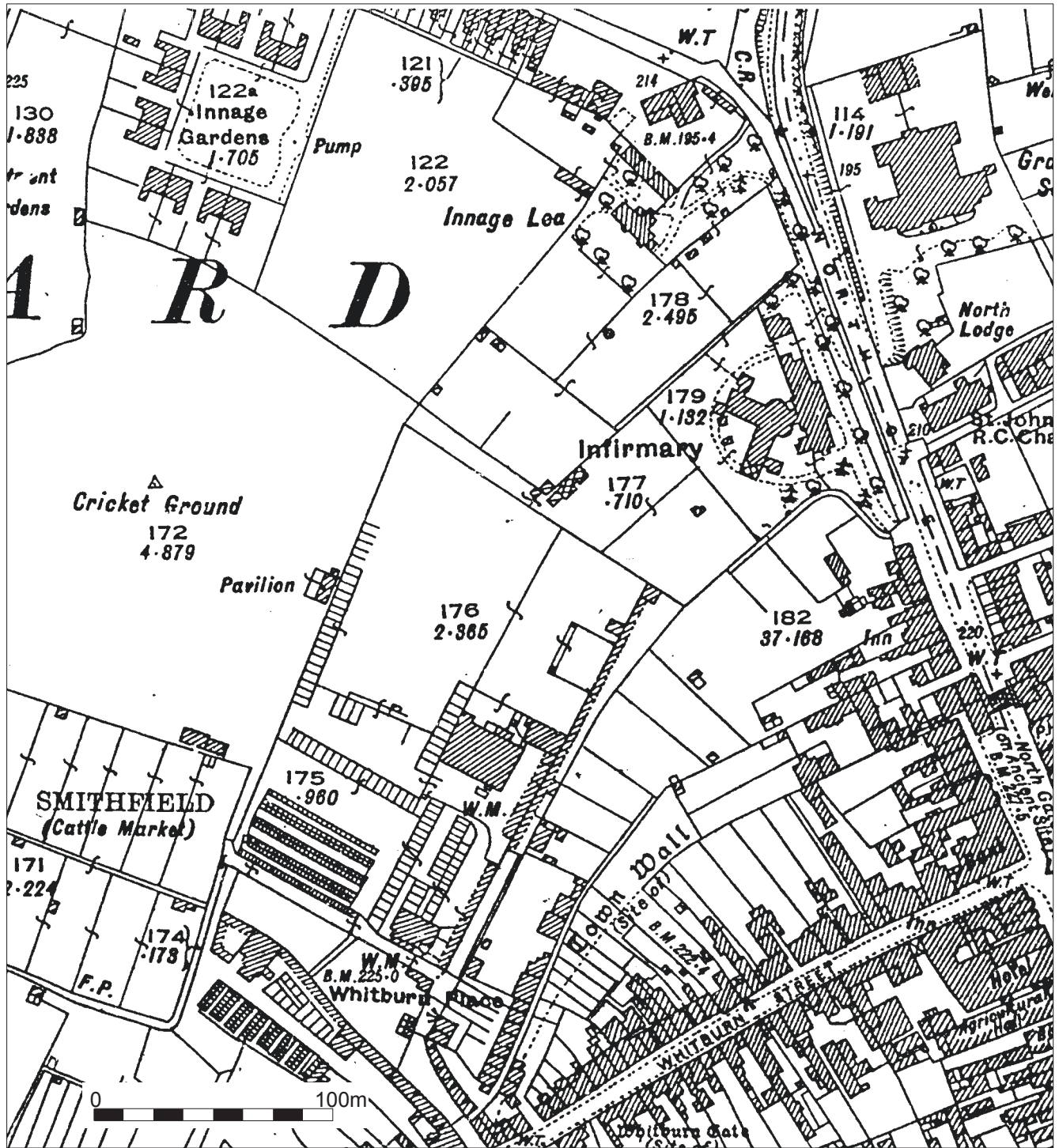
Extract from Ordnance Survey County Series First Edition 1:2500,
Shropshire LVIII.8 (1884)

Figure 9



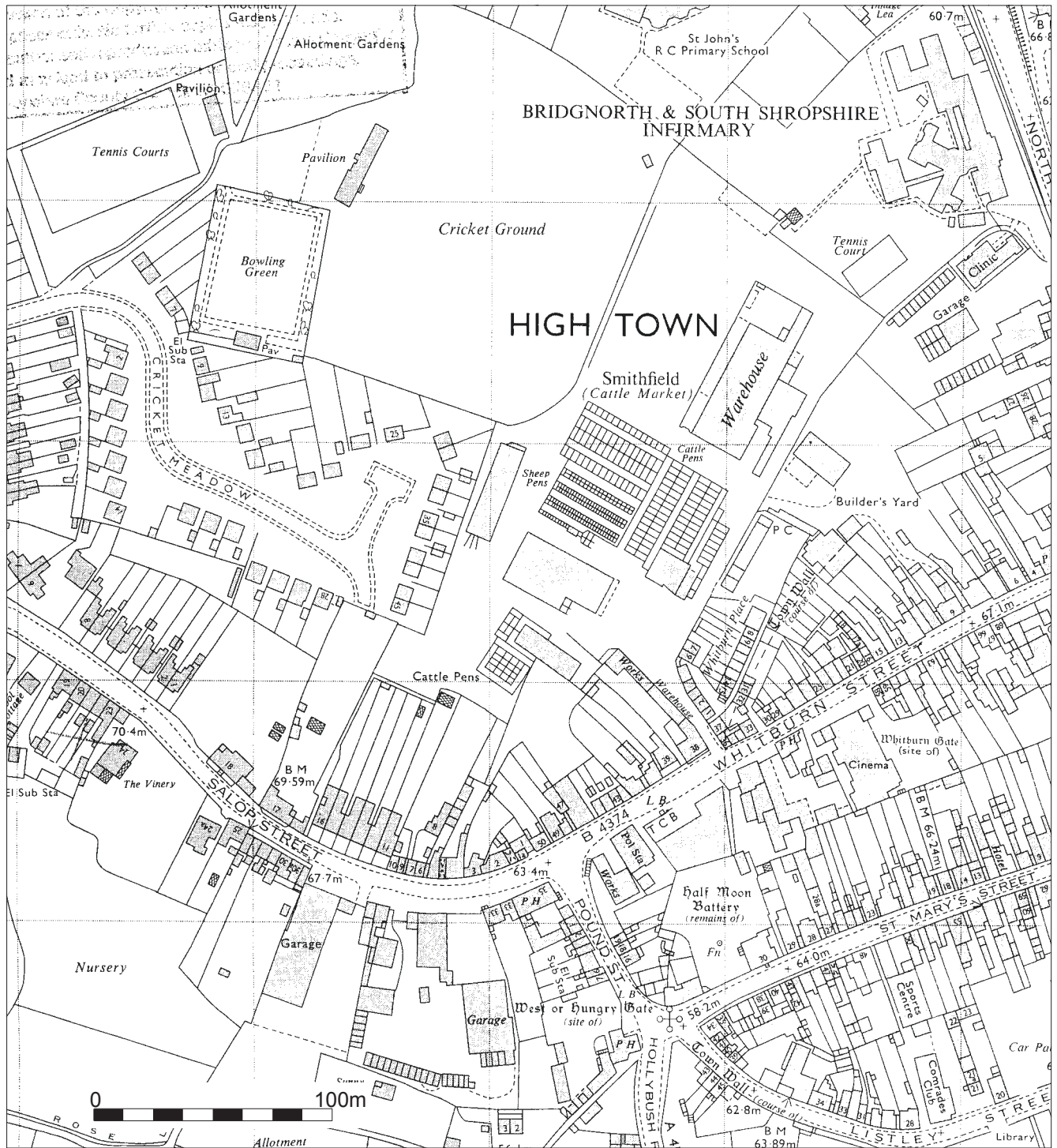
Extract from Ordnance Survey County Series Second Edition 1:2500,
Shropshire LVIII.8 (1903)

Figure 10



Extract from Ordnance Survey County Series Third Edition 1:2500,
 Shropshire LVIII.8 (1926)

Figure 11



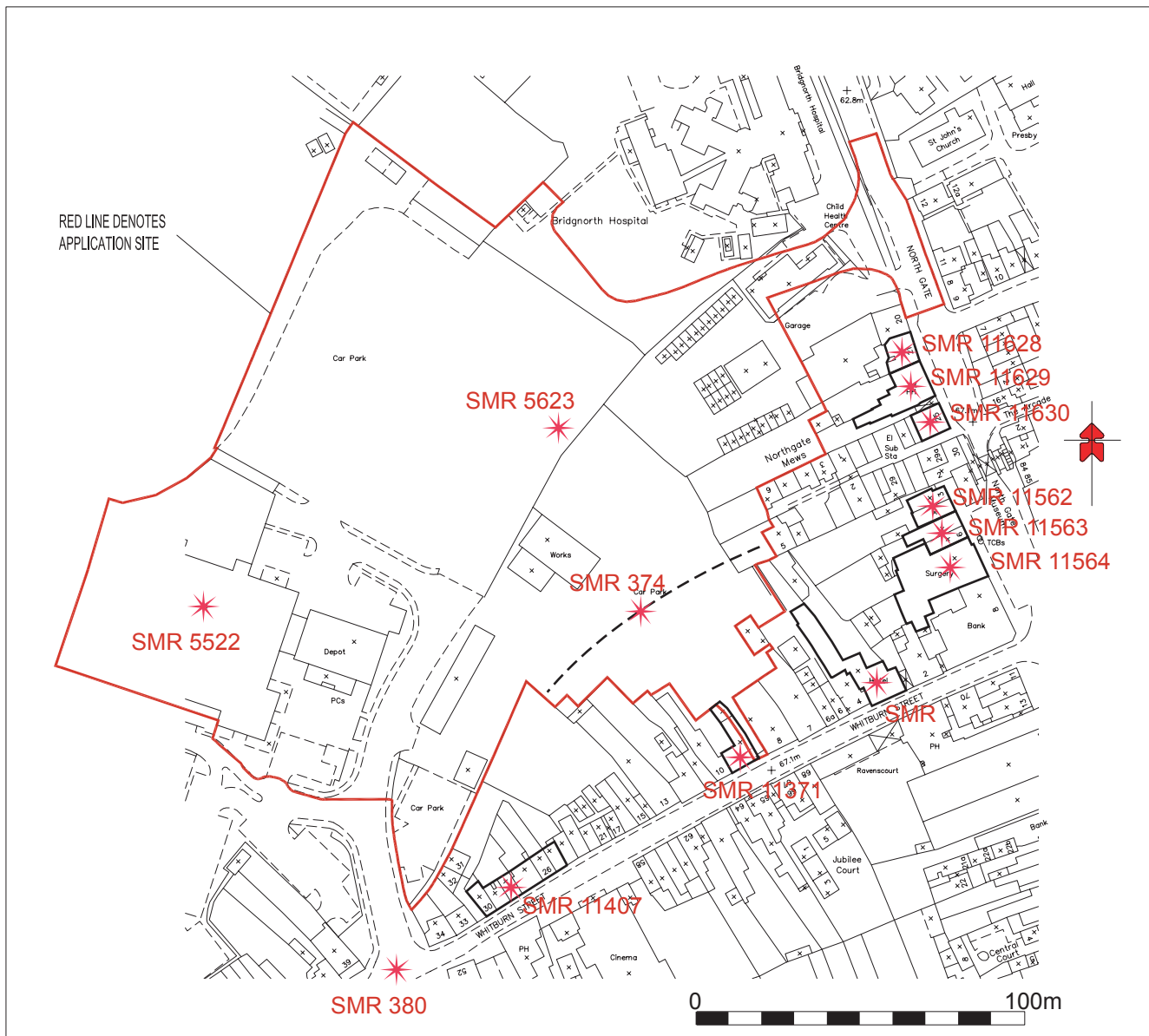
Extract from Ordnance Survey 1:2500 map SO 7193 (1970)

Figure 12



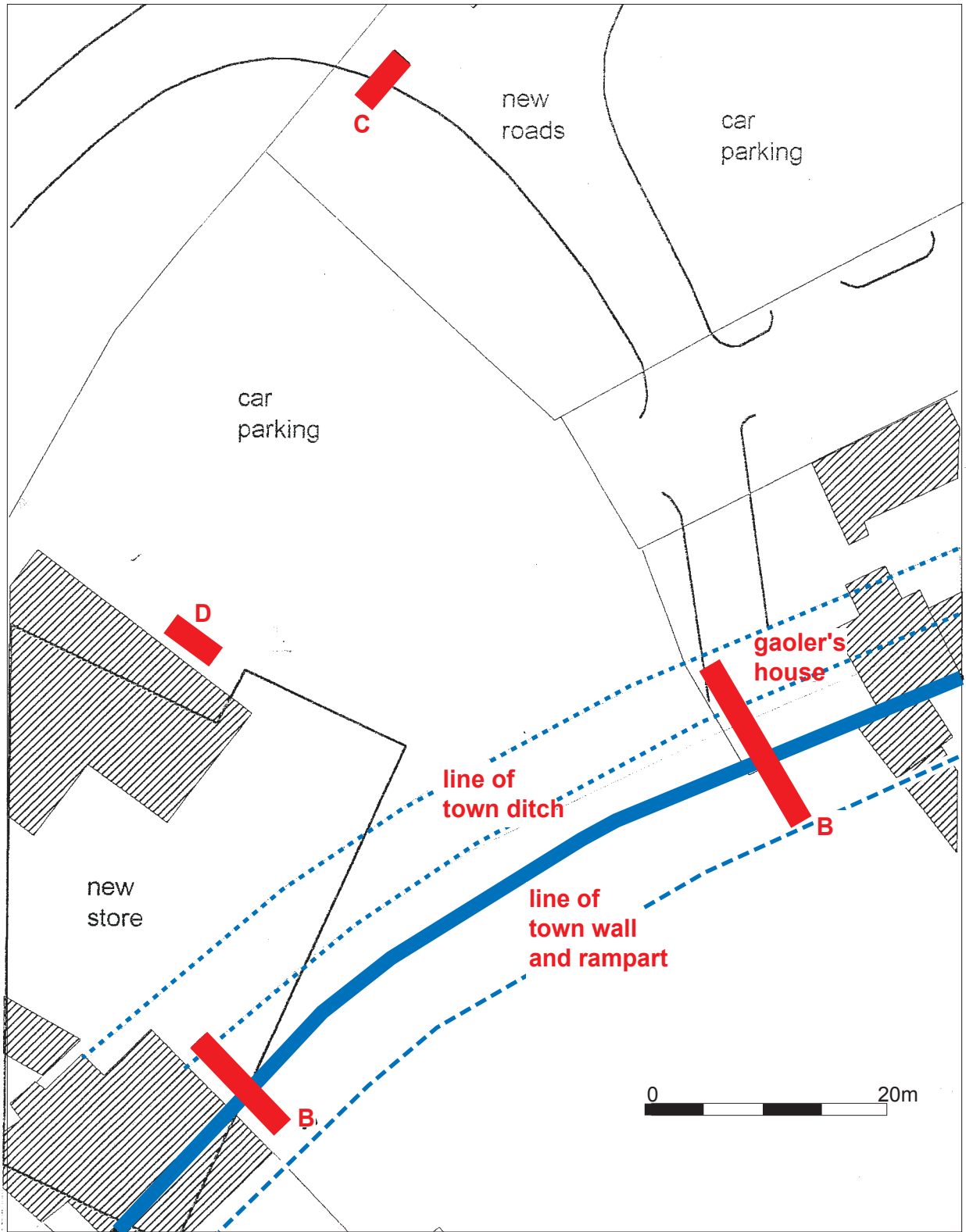
Extract from Ordnance Survey 1:2500 map SO 7193 (1982)

Figure 13



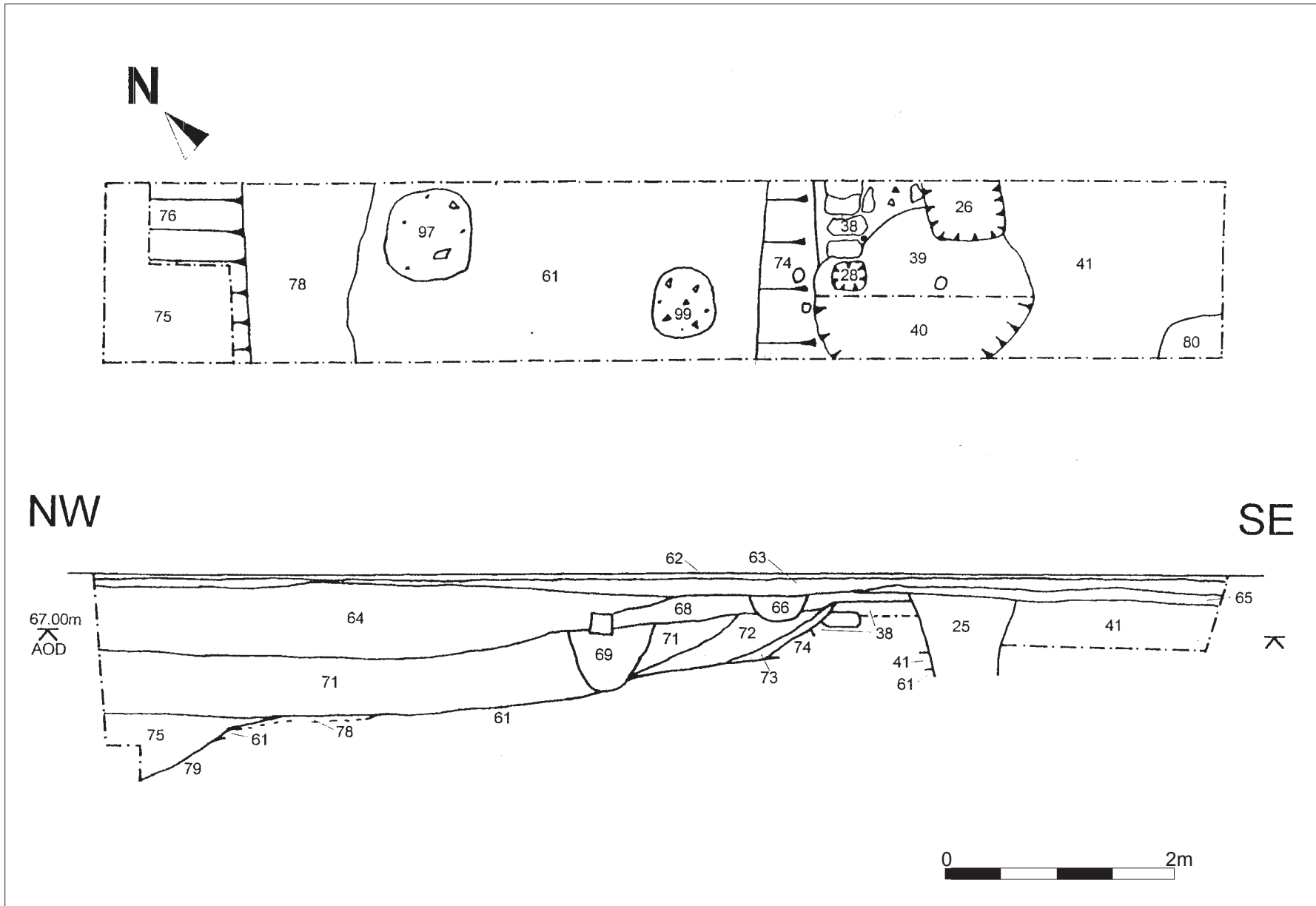
Monuments and events recorded by Shropshire Sites and Monuments Record within and in immediate vicinity of the application area

Figure 14



Trench location plan, 1998 evaluation
 (Hannaford and Phillpotts 1998, fig 4)

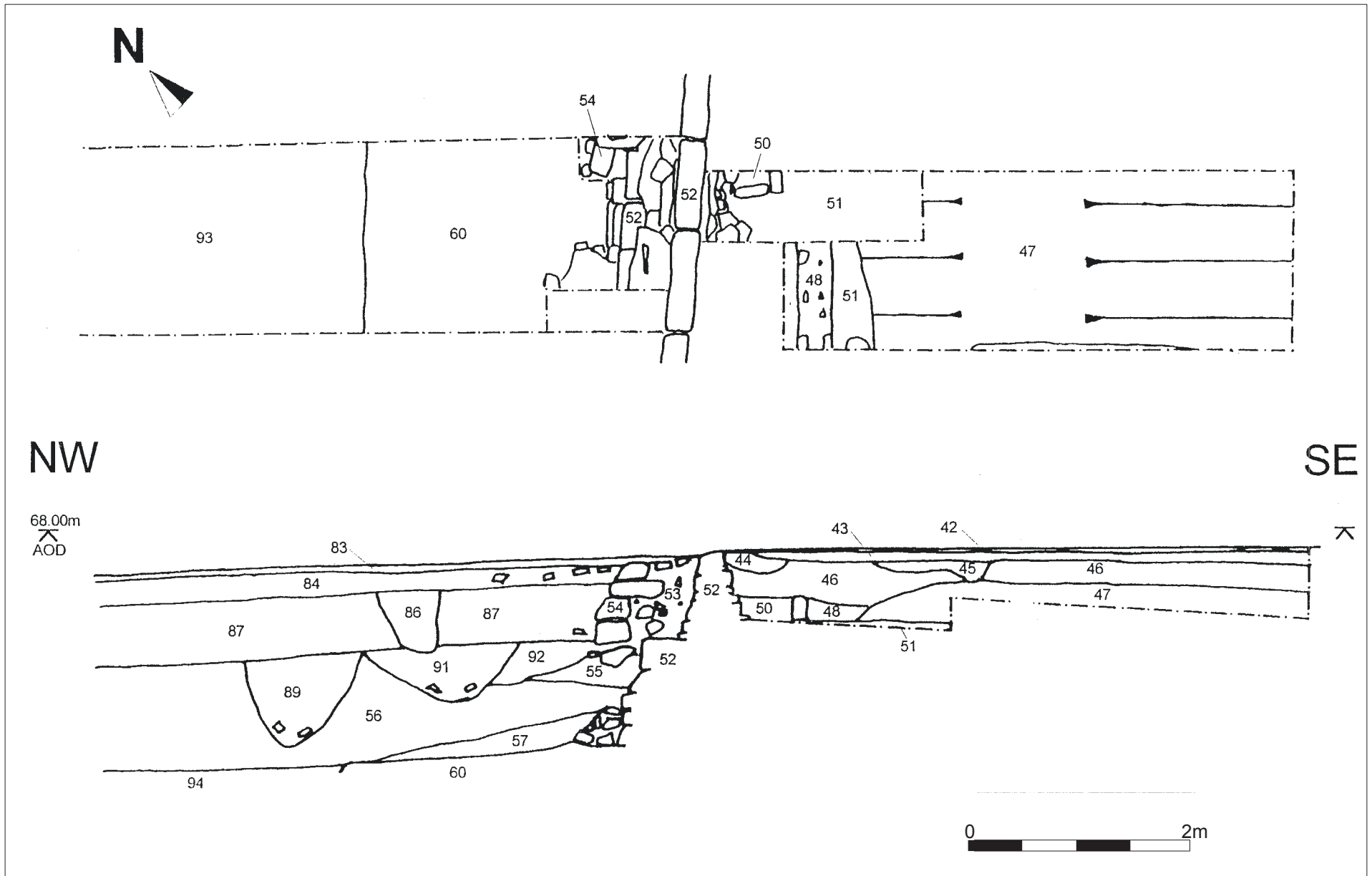
Figure 15



Trench A plan and section, 1998 evaluation

(Hannafor and Phillpotts 1998, fig 5)

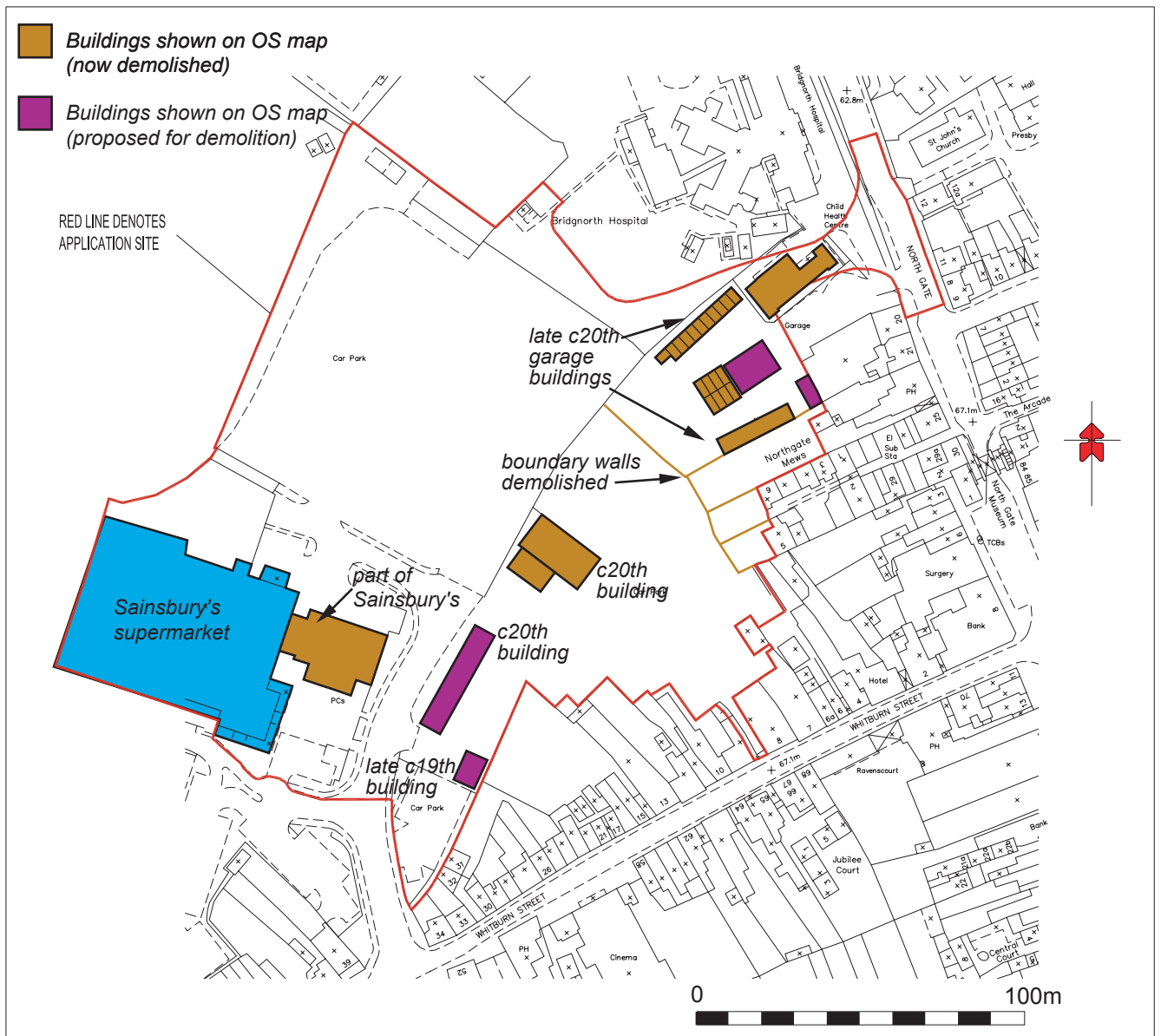
Figure 16



(Hannafor and Phillpotts 1998, fig 6)

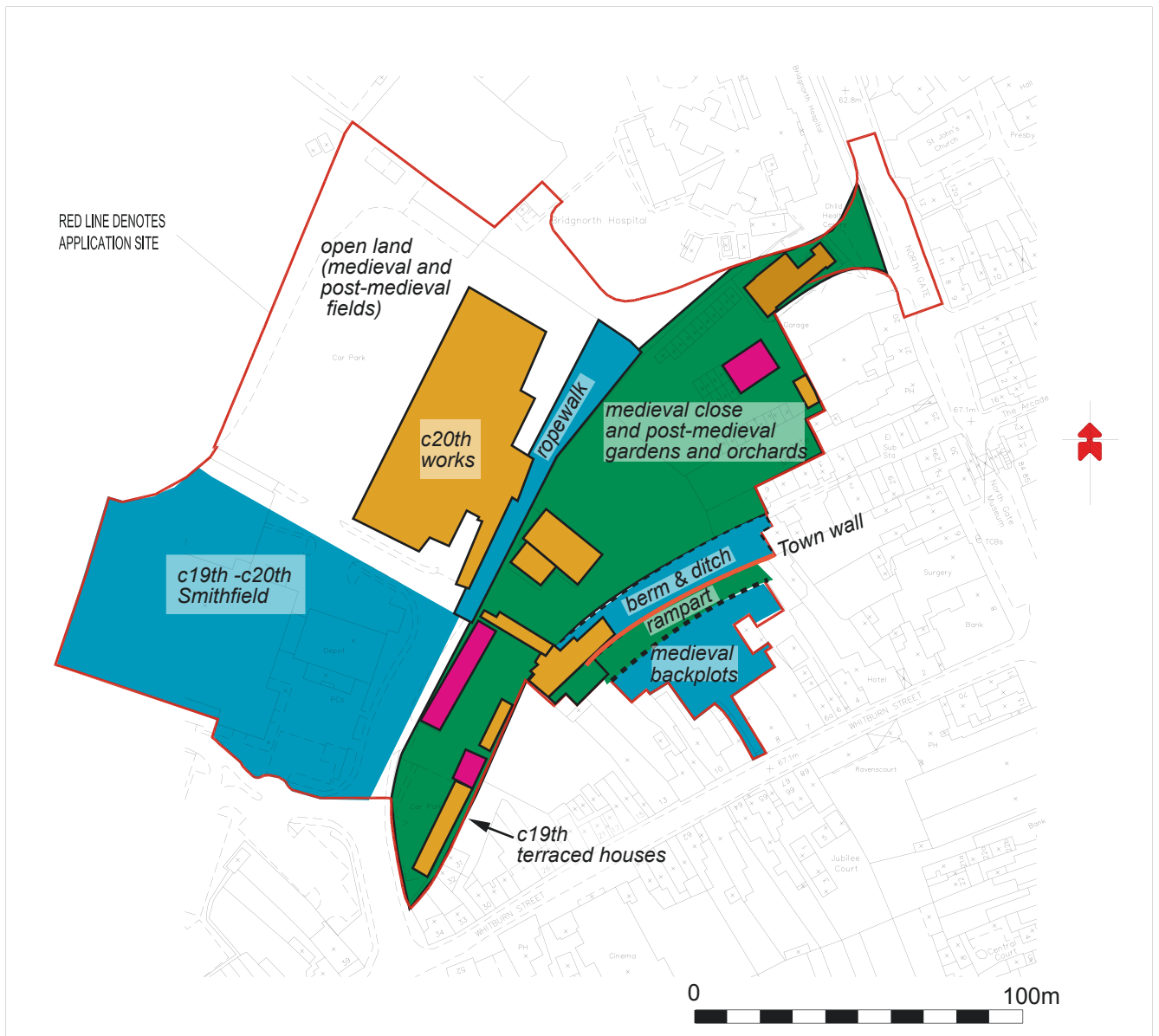
Trench B plan and section, 1998 evaluation

Figure 17



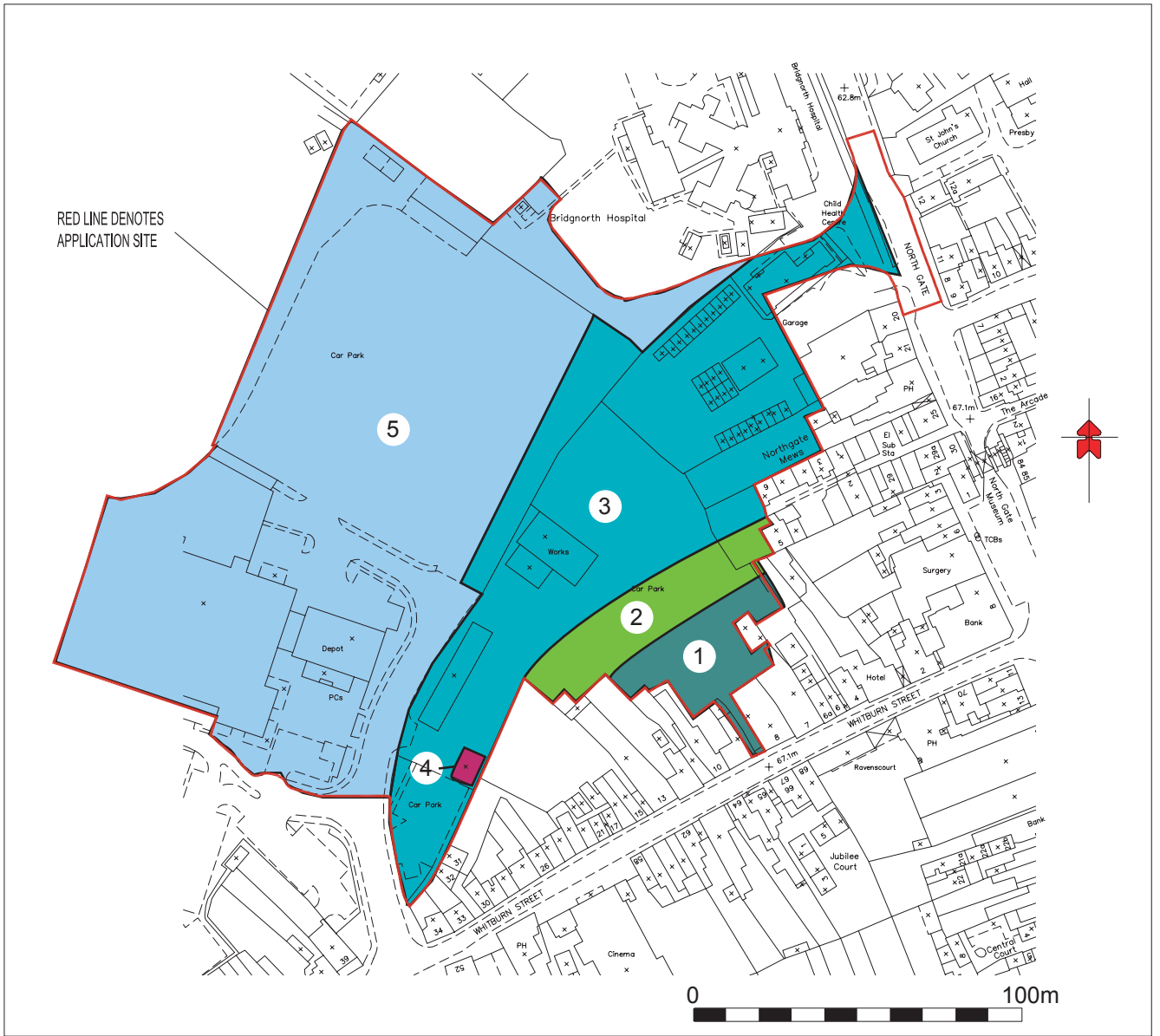
Present condition of application site (site visit, July 2007)

Figure 18



Assessment of the character of buried archaeological deposits

Figure 19



Archaeological mitigation issues (see Section 5)

Figure 20