Denbigh:
Understanding Urban Character

Cadw

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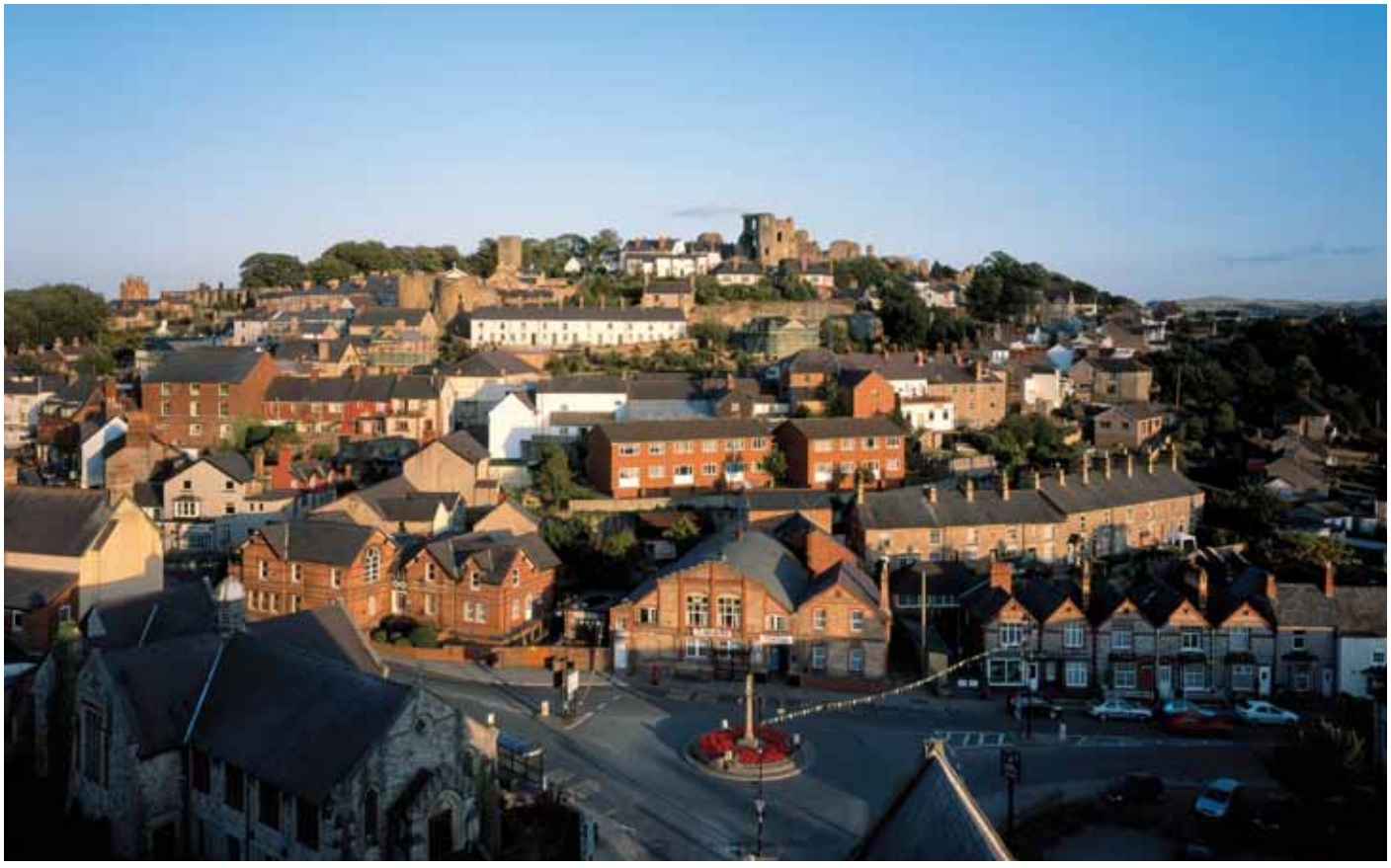
Introduction

Aims of the Study

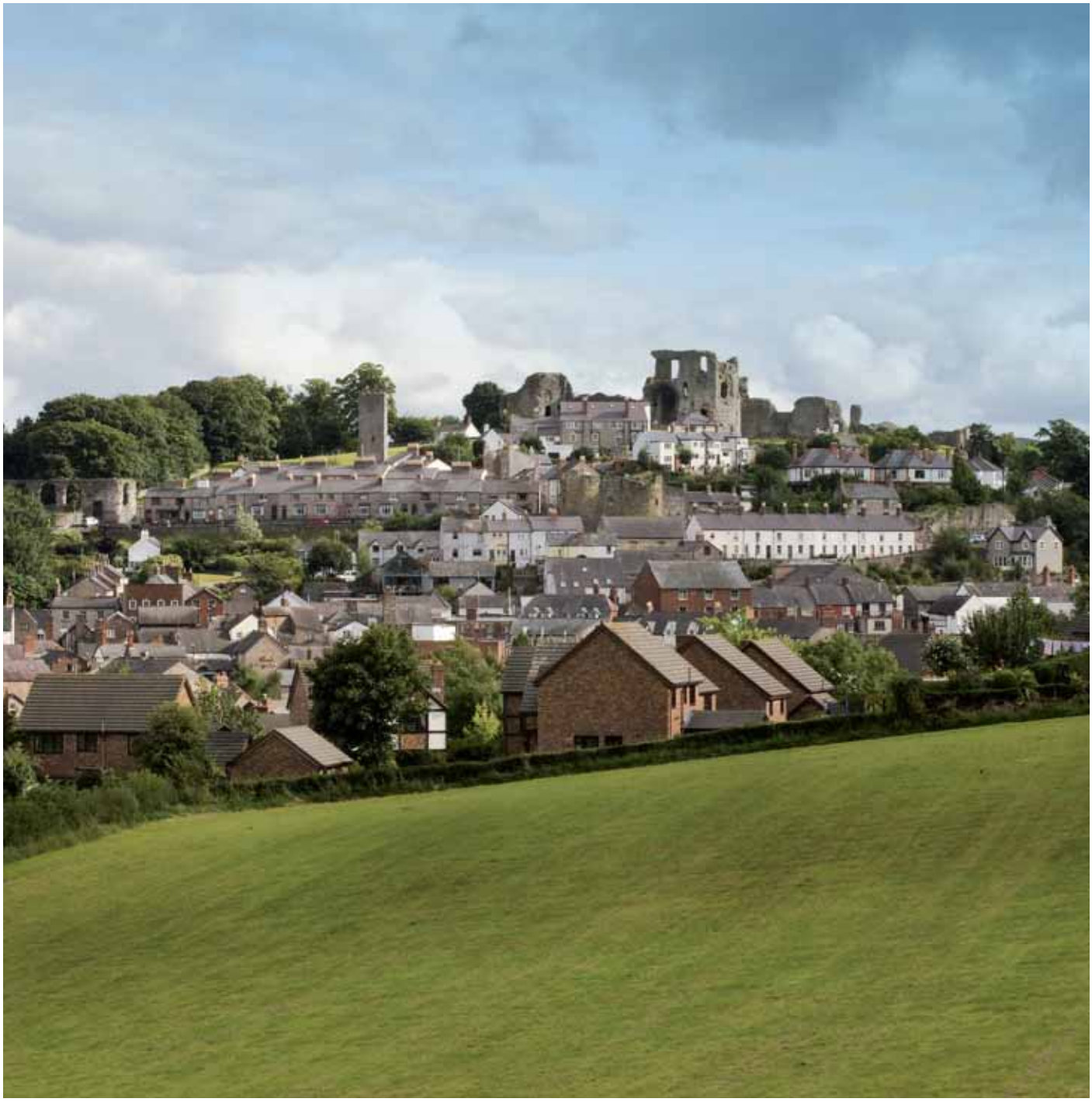
Urban characterization aims to describe and explain the historic character of towns to give a focus to local distinctiveness and to serve as a tool for the sustainable management of the historic environment. It seeks to inform and support positive conservation and regeneration programmes, help improve the quality of planning advice, and contribute to local interpretation and education strategies.

Urban characterization defines the distinctive historical character of individual towns, and identifies the variety of character within them, recognizing that this character is fundamental to local distinctiveness and pride of place, and is an asset in regeneration. It looks at how the history of a town is expressed in its plan and topography, in areas of archaeological potential, and in its architectural character. The survey is not just an audit of features, but a reconstruction of the themes and processes which have shaped the town.

Denbigh has had a Townscape Heritage Initiative since 2000, which has brought about the conservation and repair of many key buildings within the town; in association with it, the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales (RCAHMW) has carried out a programme of detailed survey of key buildings. Other schemes — notably Housing Renewal work — have also fostered sympathetic repair. The work of the Denbigh Civic Society, and Denbigh Open Doors in particular, has also helped to raise the profile of the historic environment within the town. This study aims to build on these existing initiatives and, by looking at the broad urban context, to provide a baseline for strategic planning as well as local management and interpretation within the town.



Denbigh's lively mix of buildings and its hillside setting make for a dramatic townscape.



Denbigh from the north (Crown Copyright: RCAHMW).

Historical Background

*The castle and town walls, as depicted by Samuel and Nathaniel Buck in 1742 (*North East View of Denbigh Castle, *The National Library of Wales).*

Origins

'A stoute castle, adjoining thereto, a town walled about'. [1]

It has long been agreed that the late thirteenth-century town of Denbigh lay entirely within the walls, and that it was superseded by a new town, which sprang up outside them, during the fifteenth century. This account of its history probably originated in the sixteenth century, when John Leland and William Camden both noted two distinct towns in Denbigh, observing that the town inside the walls was much decayed and diminished. This fact Camden blamed on the rebellion of 1468, and the burning of the town by Jasper Tudor, Earl of Pembroke. He noted that since then, 'either because the inhabitants disliked the situation of it…or else because it was not well served with water, they removed hence by degrees. In so much that the old town is now deserted, and a new one, much larger, sprung up at the foot of the hill'. [2]

Similarly, according to Leland, 'there have been divers rows of streets within the wallid town, of which the most be now downe in manner, and at this tyme there be scant eighty households. I had not yet lerned to certente how this wallid town decayed within, whether it were by fire, for lack of water…or for lack of good carryage into the town standing somewhat high of rocky ground. I cannot tell but the toune of Denbigh now occupied and adjoining to the old toune hath been wholly made of late tyme, and so much more to commoditie of carrayge and water by many wells in it and the increase of this was the decay of the other. At this present tyme, the new is three tymes as big as the old'. [3]

The idea of a lost old town appealed to a romantic sensibility. In 1859, John Sproule considered that the town 'was evidently a place of much more importance than it is at present'. [4] But more recently, close study of medieval records has suggested a rather different story: Denbigh probably comprised two towns virtually from the outset — the borough within the wall, and a somewhat separate settlement outside it. The extramural town was the commercial town, and as it prospered, so did it change and expand — to the extent that by the sixteenth century, the town within the walls had long been outstripped in importance.

But the town established at the end of the thirteenth century was not the first settlement here. Denbigh originated as part of the patrimony of the Welsh princes, comprising the land between the rivers Dee and Conwy, known as Perfeddwlad. This land was held by Llywelyn the

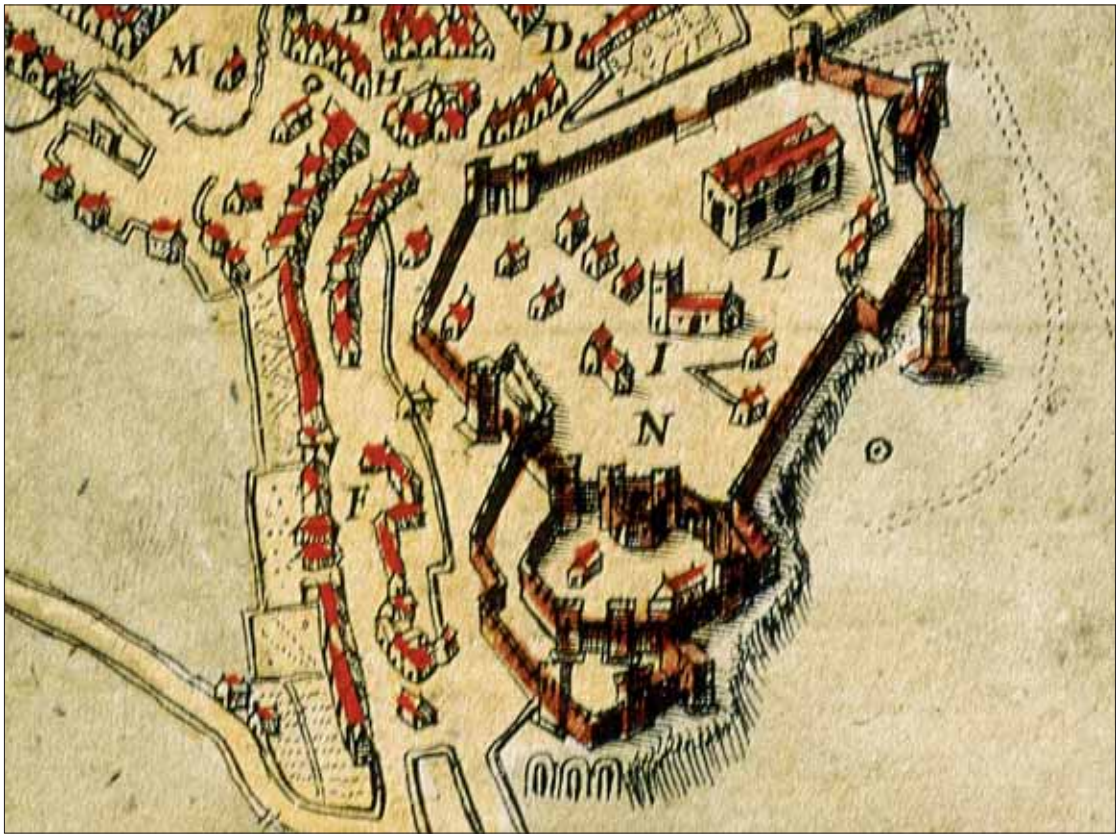
The sparsely populated area of the walled town contrasts with the densely developed town outside the walls (Crown Copyright: RCAHMW).

Great in 1230, and though it was ceded to the Crown in the 1240s, it was regained by Llywelyn ap Gruffydd in 1256: his tenure was formalized by a treaty in 1267. Seized by Edward I in 1277, some of this territory was given to Dafydd ap Gruffydd, brother of Llywelyn, but after their rebellion and defeat in 1282, Edward I granted a substantial part of it to Henry de Lacy, Earl of Lincoln. This land-grant formed the lordship of Denbigh, a reward for loyalty, and economic life-blood for the town. The king and de Lacy were in Denbigh together planning the fortifications in October 1282, but the development of castle and town rested largely with de Lacy. Under his tutelage, the castle and town walls were built, and were probably substantially complete by 1311. With de Lacy came a substantial immigrant English population, displacing Welsh landholders in a series of land transfers. [5]

Writing in the middle of the nineteenth century, John Williams wondered whether the town outside the walls was built by 'foreign traders' (the Welsh, in distinction to the English settlers within the walls) crowding for protection adjacent to the walls. [6] Although we now recognize the extramural settlement as almost certainly part of de Lacy's original town, settled with an English population, we do not know where any earlier Welsh stronghold and associated settlement may have lain. Some writers have assumed that the late thirteenth-century castle was built directly on the site of a predecessor: John Evans, writing in 1812, reported that Henry de Lacy was said to have 'erected a castle and converted a village near it into a walled town', [7] but there is also a tradition that an earlier fortification occupied a rocky outcrop to the rear of what is now Crown Square. There is no definite evidence for this, but it is possible that the disorderly pattern of plots in the High Street area — which is in marked contrast to the formal layouts more often associated with the castle-towns of the Edwardian conquest — represents the site of an earlier settlement.

Wherever the earlier Welsh settlement was, it was clearly a place of importance. Here Llywelyn the Great had a royal residence, a *llys*, in 1230, and here Dafydd ap Gruffydd had a hall, with a chamber and chapel and other appurtenances, capable of withstanding attack — for a while at least — in 1282. Its Welsh name — Dinbych — is derived from *dinas fechan*, meaning little fortress. [8]

There is good documentary evidence for the organization of the late thirteenth-century town



The walled town, as depicted by John Speed in 1610 (The National Library of Wales).

established by de Lacy. The first charter of 1285 listed sixty-three burgesses, each of whom held a single burgage within the town, but also curtilages outside it. Only forty-five burgesses were listed in a later charter (1290) which also refers to curtilages outside the town, as well as mentioning walls for the first time, and making it clear that there were already burgages spreading down the northern slopes beyond the walls. By this time, the extramural area had some 183 burgages, compared with only fifty-two inside the walls. A survey of 1334 refers to the *burgus* within the walls, and a *villa mercatoria*, making it explicit for the first time that there were effectively two components to the town, in one of which commercial activity was concentrated. The area within the walls was a mere 9.5 acres (3.8 hectares), compared with 57 acres (23.1 hectares) outside the walls. Financial accounts of 1372 record sums of 6s 3d from seventy-nine burgages within the walls, and 29s 11d from extramural burgages. If the standard payment was a penny a year, then the substantial sum of 29s 11d equates to as many as 359 burgages outside the walls. Whatever the precise figures, the sharp difference between the value of the area within the walls and the area outside them is the clearest indication of where the real heart of the town lay, even at this relatively early date. [9]

'Old things approaching to the resemblance of streets are to be met with in Tower Lane, Exchequer Hill and Castle Lane, irregular rows of cottages, in all some forty-six inhabitations' (John Williams, 1856). [10] The physical organization of the medieval town is rather less clear. Within the walls, up to seventy-nine burgages had once been accommodated. However, by the early seventeenth century, only a single street is shown informally on John Speed's map, corresponding to Tower Hill. Despite the picture painted by John Williams in 1856, there is no hard evidence of an obvious plot structure on the 1610 map, nor on the First Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1875. In 1914, the RCAHMW noted fourteenth-century fabric in The Old Castle Arms on Castle Hill, but other buildings within the walled town are mostly of nineteenth-century date. [11]

As we have seen, the documentary record shows that by far the greater number of holdings lay outside the town walls from the early fourteenth century. But where were they? The first record to give more precise information is a late fifteenth-century rental, which lists sixty-five burgages within the walls, and 276 burgages outside them. Of the 276 burgages, 147.5 were in High Street, forty in Sowter Lane (later Bridge

Street), thirty-five and a half in Park Lane, and thirty-four in Love Lane. The large number given for High Street suggests that the town already extended some way down what later became known as Vale Street by this date. [12]

Thus, by the late fifteenth century, Denbigh was established as a substantial town, notwithstanding damage wrought during Owain Glyndwr's rising in 1400, and by Jasper Tudor in 1468. We have to wait another one hundred years before a clear view of what the town looked like begins to emerge, but the outline of its general shape and form was already in place.

Town and Country

Under Henry de Lacy, Denbigh was the focal point of an extensive lordship, based on the earlier patrimony of the Welsh princes. The settlement enjoyed a strategic position in relation to the upland pastures on Denbigh Moors, which were already being exploited for pastoral farming under the Welsh princes. The lordship provided the resources to sustain the building programme for castle and town, and de Lacy's own substantial properties included a manor with two granges, a byre, a dovecote, a demesne and fishponds, as well as three parks. [13] De Lacy was stocking a deer park in 1284, and one is clearly indicated on John Speed's map of 1610, where he represents a sturdy wall behind the south-east side of Park Street. This land remained undeveloped until Howell's School settled there in 1858. The First Edition Ordnance Survey map also shows a substantial embankment on land to the east of the Goblin Tower, which might relate to an early park. The castle still commands a view over open countryside to the south.

With de Lacy came various other parties, the most important of whom were not simply allotted burgages within the town, but were also bestowed with rural holdings within the lordship. Plas Chambres and Plas Heaton were properties of families who came with de Lacy and rose to prominence in both the county and town. The Pigots also established themselves in Denbigh at the time of de Lacy. Their name is perpetuated in Plas Pigot, which apparently replaced an ancient house taken down in the early nineteenth century. Galch Hill, later the seat of a branch of the Myddleton family, was a property within de Lacy's original holding, and the Salusburys were established at Llewenni in the medieval period. Thus settlement was not confined to the town

A deer park on the edge of the town, as depicted by John Speed in 1610 (The National Library of Wales).

From some vantage points, Denbigh's rural setting is still very much apparent.

itself, but the holdings established in its hinterland provided the economic basis for the urban properties. In fact, many of the families occupying these rural seats in a much later period built substantial properties in the town as well. 'The vicinage of Denbigh is ornamented and enriched by many handsome seats and mansions possessed by opulent individuals', according to an account of 1828. [14]

The burgesses of the medieval town were provided with allocations of land outside its confines, and the broad divisions of the landscape — comprising unenclosed grazing to the west, common meadows to the north (at Denbigh Green), plough lands to the east, and the lord's hunting park to the south — formed a coherent economic unit. East of the town, there are possible traces of the open-field system surviving in a distinctive pattern of field boundaries beyond the built-up area, and in the occasional road-line within it.

When the town was established at the end of the thirteenth century there was already a church close to Denbigh — the church of St Marcella at Whitchurch — and although a church was built within the walled town (St Hilary's) it was never the parish church. The friary, though, was a new foundation linked with the establishment of the town, and sited just outside it. It was founded in the late thirteenth century, but there is no certain account of its origins and the tradition that a member of the Salusbury family founded it seems unsupported. The more likely founder is John de Sunimore. At the time of the Reformation, the friary owned only modest holdings of land, including property within the town in Love Lane, Pole Flatt, the street leading to the market (presumably Vale Street), and at Lenten Pool.

The Renaissance: Denbigh in the Late Sixteenth Century

'This fine town, being encompassed well nigh about with very fair parts, and standing at the entrance of an exceeding pleasant valley, aboundeth plentifully with all things that are necessary to the use of man… it is a great market town, famous and much frequented with wares and people from all parts of north Wales'. [15]

Following the Act of Union in 1536 Denbigh was established as one of four administrative capitals in Wales, an indication of its stature at that period, and a spur to further development. In 1563, a new chapter in the fortunes of the town was ushered in, when the castle and lordship of Denbigh were given to Robert Dudley, Earl of

The shire hall, originally built by the Earl of Leicester in 1572 (Crown Copyright: RCAHMW).

Leicester, as a gift from Queen Elizabeth I. For a time, Leicester was one of the most powerful men in the realm, and sought to aggrandize Denbigh as the seat of his lordship. Two major building projects survive as testimony to his ambitions: the shire hall, and Leicester's Church. The former was built in 1572, designed to serve as a new town hall with a council and justice chamber above a collonaded market hall. The original arrangement is still visible, notwithstanding later alterations. Work on the new church, which was probably intended as a cathedral (supplanting St Asaph), began in 1578. Leicester's interest in the town was short-lived, however, and he was deeply unpopular there: work on the church was suspended in 1588 and the building was never finished. [16]

There is one other significant civic building project which probably dates from this period:

the collonade on the block of properties on the north side of High Street (known as The Piazza or y Bylciau) is thought to be Elizabethan in origin (though much renewed). This is an interesting (and puzzling) feature of urban design, as it unifies buildings with independent building histories. The Tuscan columns bear a marked similarity to those of the shire hall, and it is possible that they form part of the same programme of town enhancement.

Although Leicester's personal influence may have been short-lived, there is plenty of evidence to suggest that the mid- to late sixteenth century was a period of more general prosperity in the town. With a few important exceptions, most of the earliest buildings to survive in the town date from this period. Of these, two are particularly noteworthy: Plas Coch (30 High Street) and Grove House (y Gelli) on Vale Street. Plas Coch was probably the town house of Richard Clough

Y Bylciau: although many of the columns have been rebuilt, they date back to the late sixteenth century (Crown Copyright: RCAHMW).

Bryn y Ffynnon: a late sixteenth-century town house concealed behind a Georgian elevation (Crown Copyright: RCAHMW).

(d.1570), merchant adventurer and founder of the London Royal Exchange. Clough is known to have built Bach y Graig and Plas Clough between 1567 and 1568 and may have built this house around the same time. All three were built from brick imported from Flanders, and had strong stylistic similarities. Grove House (y Gelli) on Vale Street is also a Clough family house. It originated as the home of Hugh Clough, brother of Richard, and like the three houses built by Richard, was constructed from bricks imported from Antwerp. These two houses are amongst the first brick houses in Wales.

There is at least one other ambitious town house of this period: Bryn y Ffynnon has been dated by dendrochronology to 1581, and is a three-storey town house, entirely built of stone.

These are essentially Renaissance houses, ambitious in scale and design, and built by individuals of considerable means. But there is also evidence for a more generalized programme of building in this period, suggesting that it was a time of widespread prosperity and optimism.

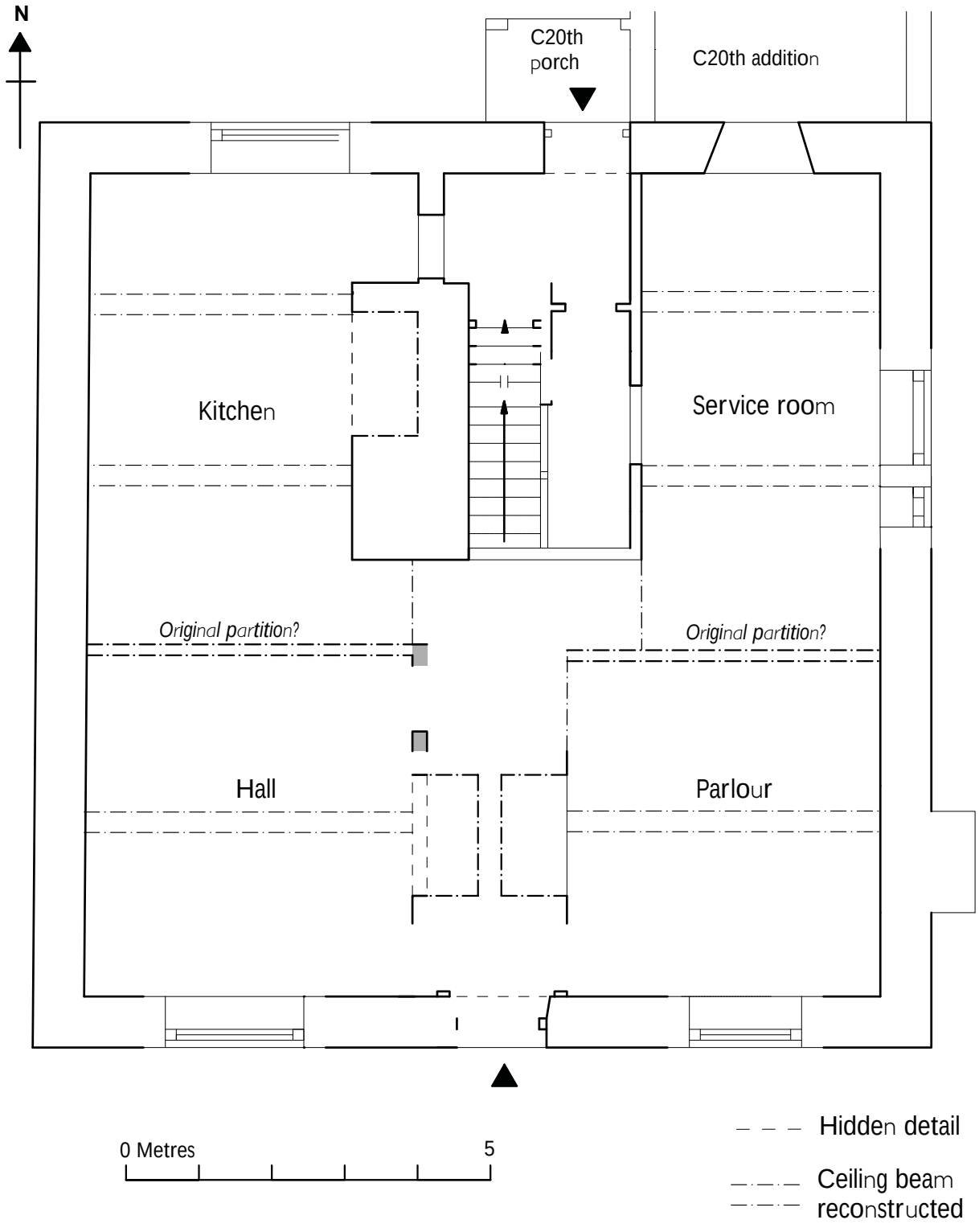
2 Hall Square is a late seventeenth-century house, re-fronted in the eighteenth century (Crown Copyright: RCAHMW).

'Large, populous and well-built': Eighteenth-Century Denbigh [17]

'The present town is neat and clean, and has many genteel houses and much good society in it'. [18]

Denbigh continued to flourish as a county and market town throughout the seventeenth century, and testimony to its prosperity is provided not only by several fine buildings of this period, but also in the extent of alteration to earlier buildings. Fine examples include 2 Hall Square, which is essentially a late seventeenth-century town house behind its eighteenth-century front, and Grove House (y Gelli) and its garden, which were remodelled in 1693 for Thomas Shaw, Receiver of Denbigh. Other ambitious town houses of the period include The Bull Hotel, and 24 Vale Street, both of which are examples of innovative planning in their adoption of a double-pile arrangement with internal chimneys.

24 Vale Street is a late seventeenth-century town house with an unusual double-depth plan (Crown Copyright: RCAHMW).



24 Vale Street, Denbigh

NPRN401968, SJ05396618.

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Grove Place is one of a series of eighteenth-century gentry houses on Vale Street (Crown Copyright: RCAHMW).

But it was during the eighteenth century that Denbigh's role as an important economic and social hub was consolidated, and a powerful legacy of this period is the series of gentry town houses, mainly (though not quite exclusively) on Vale Street. The owners of these houses probably had their main residence in the rural hinterland of the town. Examples include the Heatons of Plas Heaton, whose town house survives as 26–32 Vale Street, 42 Vale Street, the town house of the Mostyn family, 47 Vale Street, which may have been the home of the Griffith family of Garn, Henllan, and 52 Vale Street (Grove Place) which belonged to the Salusbury family.

Commerce

'Situated upon a rocke, the prety town of Denbigh, where is one of the greatest markettes within the marches of Wales'. [19]

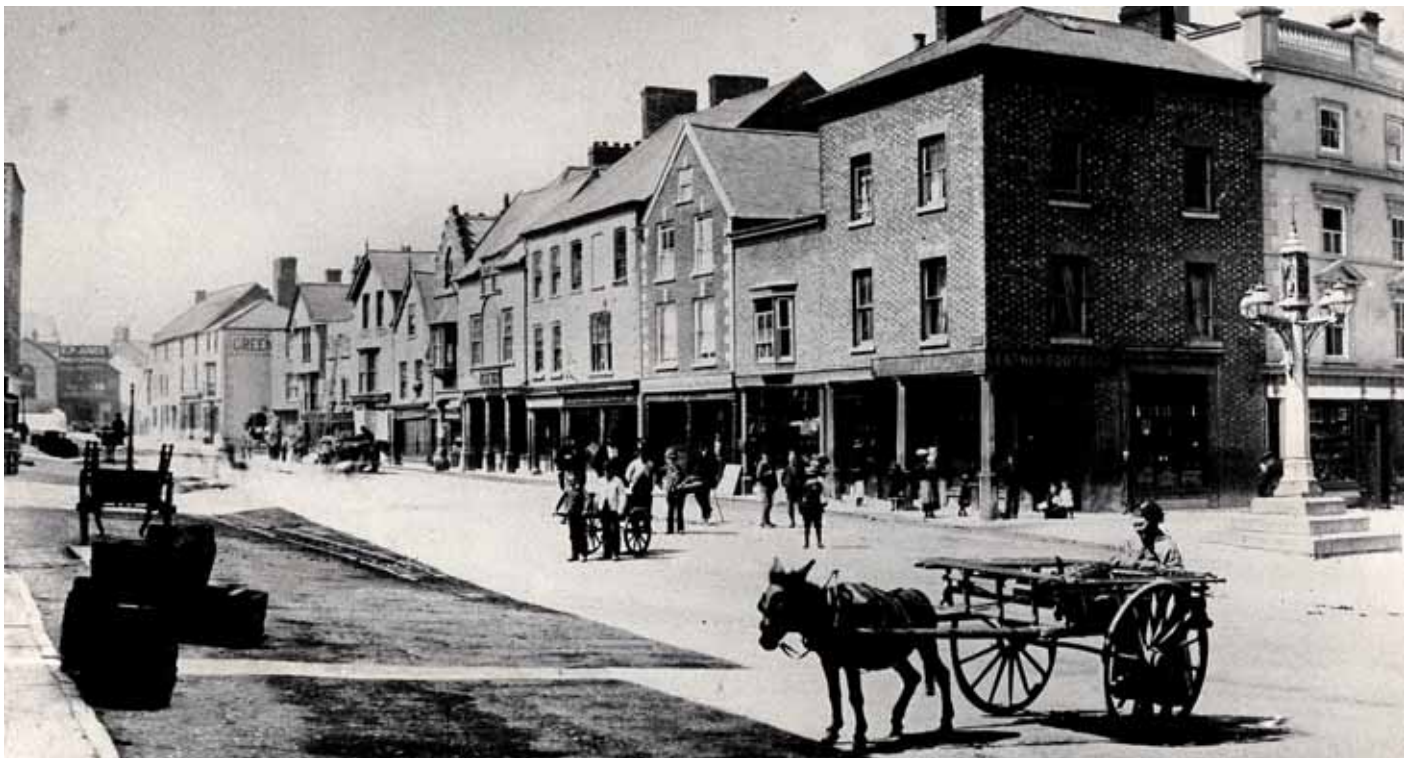
Denbigh seems to have thrived largely as a market town. In the early years its key role as a market centre was secured by specific measures: giving the burgesses privileges, requiring the population of the hinterland to trade there, charging stallage (a fee for market stalls), and levying tolls on trading activities (from which the burgesses themselves were exempt). A charter of 1379 established a gild merchant, reinforcing a commercial monopoly. [20]

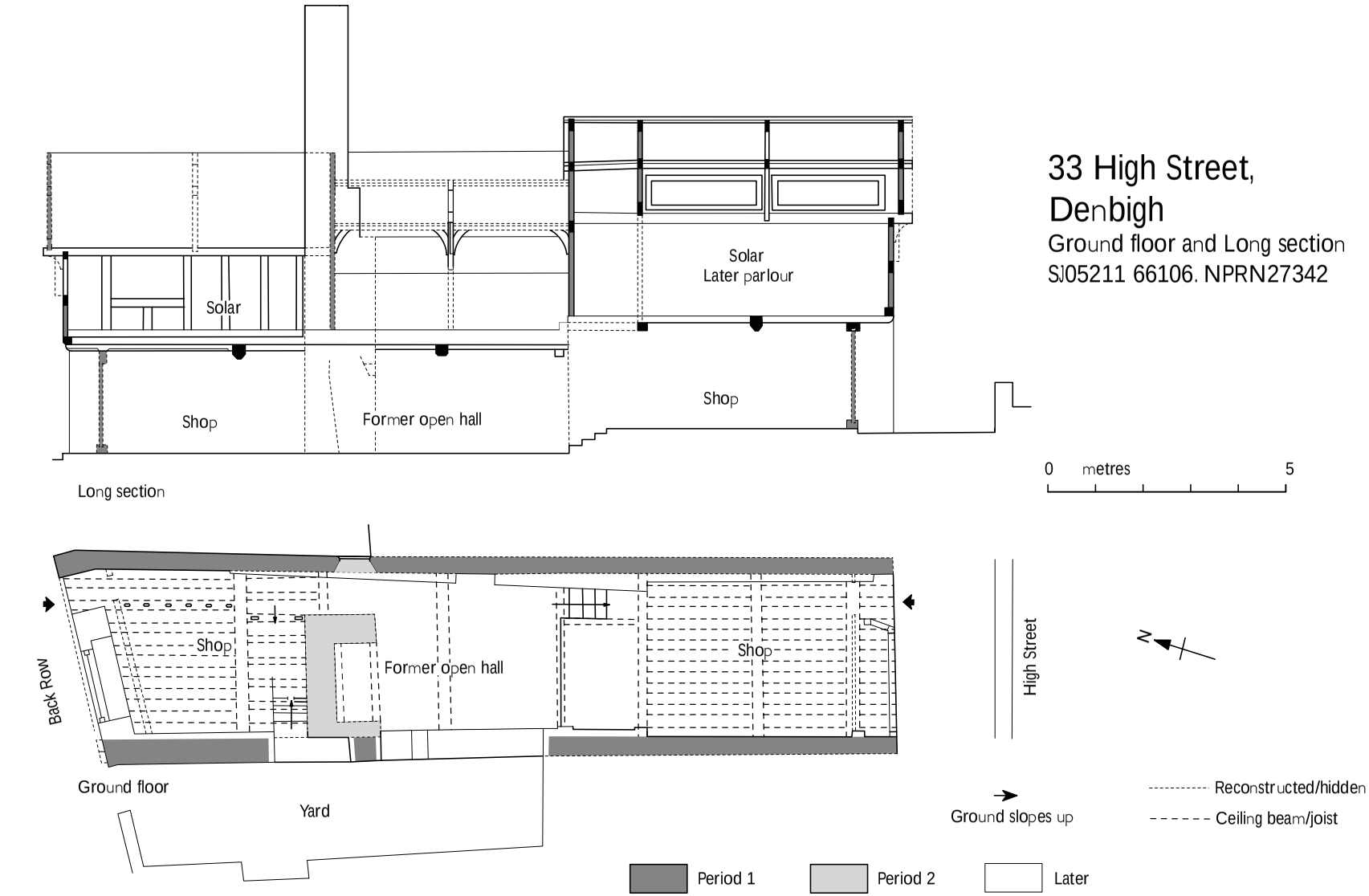
Where did all this trading activity take place? High Street marks the core of the original marketplace, but this was once more extensive, as the block of buildings running from the north of High Street to Back Row has all the hallmarks of an encroachment onto what was once open space. Add to this Crown Square and Hall Square (until the shire hall was built in 1567), and we have a sizeable main trading area. Even in the early sixteenth century (by which time some encroachment had probably already taken place) Leland described it as 'fayre and large,...pavid but of late years, the confluence to the market on Tewesday is exceeding great'. [21]

In the course of time (and perhaps from the outset), markets were also established elsewhere in the town. A horse fair was moved from High Street to the lower ward of the town 'about the place called the lower cross' (the foot of Vale Street) during the seventeenth century. [22]

Left: The emblem of the town of Denbigh on the town hall of 1915–16 (Crown Copyright: RCAHMW).

Below: The marketplace, about 1876 (Denbighshire Record Office).





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Traditionally, there was a beast market in Bridge Street, until The Smithfield was built on the west side of the town in 1895. Mount Pleasant was known as Swine Market in the nineteenth century.

Built in 1572, Leicester's shire hall was probably the first covered market building in the town. In 1848, a large market hall, designed by Thomas Fulljames, was built between Crown Square and Chapel Place. It was replaced in 1915–16 by the current town hall, and only a fragment of it — the original butter market — survives, reused first as a brewery, and now as part of the college. We do not know when the first covered shops were introduced to Denbigh, but there is some evidence for their existence by the early sixteenth century: 33 High Street (Siop Clwyd) has a storeyed front section which has been interpreted as a shop with a chamber above. Behind the shop and chamber was an open hall, with a parlour block (or perhaps even another shop) behind it again.

This is a very rare survival, and important evidence for the early development of purpose-built shops. Others have also been identified — for example, The Golden Lion, and Royle's Pharmacy, 22 High Street — and more may yet come to light. But it is only from the nineteenth century that a broad range of commercial buildings survives: the town boasts some very good commercial architecture, particularly of the mid- to late nineteenth century. Good examples include 13 Crown Square, 26 High Street (The Co-op) of about 1875, the fine block on the corner of Vale Street and Crown Square, which was designed by Richard Lloyd Williams as a delicatessen with warehouse in 1887, and the Post Office, which originally comprised a pair of shops with warehousing or manufacturing ranges to the rear, built in about 1890. There are many others.

Shops are still heavily concentrated in the original trading area of the town. With this strong continuity of function came pressure for change — modification of existing premises, or complete redevelopment. It is regrettable that this process has continued into recent times, with the consequent loss of some important early buildings.

An agricultural economy supported Denbigh's trades, based on the pastoral farming of the uplands. From this source arose many crafts, based

Opposite: 33 High Street is an important example of an early sixteenth-century shop (Crown Copyright: RCAHMW).

Left: Behind its Georgian façade, 22 High Street is a seventeenth-century shop (Crown Copyright: RCAHMW).

The curving façade of 13 Crown Square: a sophisticated commercial building of the nineteenth century (Crown Copyright: RCAHMW).

Flamboyant style and materials employed in a prominent late nineteenth-century commercial building (Crown Copyright: RCAHMW).

particularly on leather working, already much in evidence by the late fifteenth century. By 1783, Denbigh's 'manufactures in shoes and gloves are very considerable, and great quantities are annually sent to London, to the great warehouses of the capital, and for the purposes of exportation'.[23] Manufactories were concentrated to the north-west of the town, close to the brook whose line is marked by Barker's Well Lane. This stream was once an important element in the town's economy. It had fed the fish pool (or mill pool) at Lenten Pool, and was the source of water for a series of factories. The skinnery on Bridge Street, which shared a plot of land with Bryn y Ffynnon, was demolished when the church institute was built in 1915. Tanneries on the northern edge of the town have all been demolished, and there is now very little surviving evidence of this or any other industry in the town. A rare exception is 2 Chapel Street, which seems to have been built in the mid-nineteenth century as a warehouse and workshops. Other non-domestic buildings survive on Rosemary Lane, Crown Lane, and on Chapel Street/Abraham's Lane.

Above: This building on Chapel Street probably housed a warehouse and workshops (Crown Copyright: RCAHMW).

The buildings of Gwasg Gee represent an exceptionally well-preserved minor industrial complex (RCAHMW/© Denbighshire County Council).

There is of course one highly important industrial complex within the town: the Gwasg Gee printing works was established in premises on Chapel Street in 1808. The buildings represent an unusual example of a minor industrial building type, and the business played an important role in Welsh cultural life during the nineteenth century. The oldest independent press in Wales, its output included a ten-volume Welsh encyclopaedia, and Y Faner, a twice-weekly newspaper. Thomas Gee junior, who ran the business from 1845, was a seminal figure in Welsh cultural and political life.

But if Denbigh lacks direct evidence of manufacture, there is no shortage of indirect evidence. During the nineteenth century, the narrow streets of the old town filled up with small cottages: 'there are many cross and parallel lanes and alleys, with courts, yards and back lanes', said John Williams in 1856. [24] Even though many of these have been lost, many rows of small cottages still survive on Beacons Hill, Chapel Street, Post Office Lane, Love Lane, and Henllan Street. Built in small rows, their layout may respect the earlier plot structure of the town as individual owners developed their own piece of land.

The Nineteenth Century: Civic and Cultural Developments

'*The numerous first-class private residences, banks, hotels, retail establishments etc at once tell the visitor that Denbigh is one of the most important market towns in North Wales*'. [25]

If Denbigh was a prosperous commercial centre, its status as a flourishing county town was further enhanced by the establishment of a series of important institutions during the nineteenth century. The first of these was the Denbighshire Infirmary which was opened in 1813. Of much greater importance was the North Wales Asylum of 1842–48. Outside the town, it functioned

The extensive complex of buildings at the North Wales Asylum — effectively a small nineteenth-century estate and a major local employer (Crown Copyright: RCAHMW).

Opposite: Swan Lane Chapel — its scale and architectural ambition are testimony to the stature of the town in the late nineteenth century (Crown Copyright: RCAHMW).

Left: Denbigh retained its historical extent to the north until well into the twentieth century (Postcard of Denbigh in about 1906, Denbighshire Record Office).

almost as a type of estate, with its own farm. As a major employer (at its height it employed nearly a thousand staff), it had a significant impact on the economy and society of the town during the nineteenth century.

The town also boasts a good series of school buildings, charting different aspects of education during the nineteenth century. These include the British School of 1843–44 on Love Lane, the former Blue Coat School, Lenten Pool, of 1846–47, the former Roman Catholic Church and School, 1863, on Tan y Gwalia, and above all, Howell's School, begun in 1858–59.

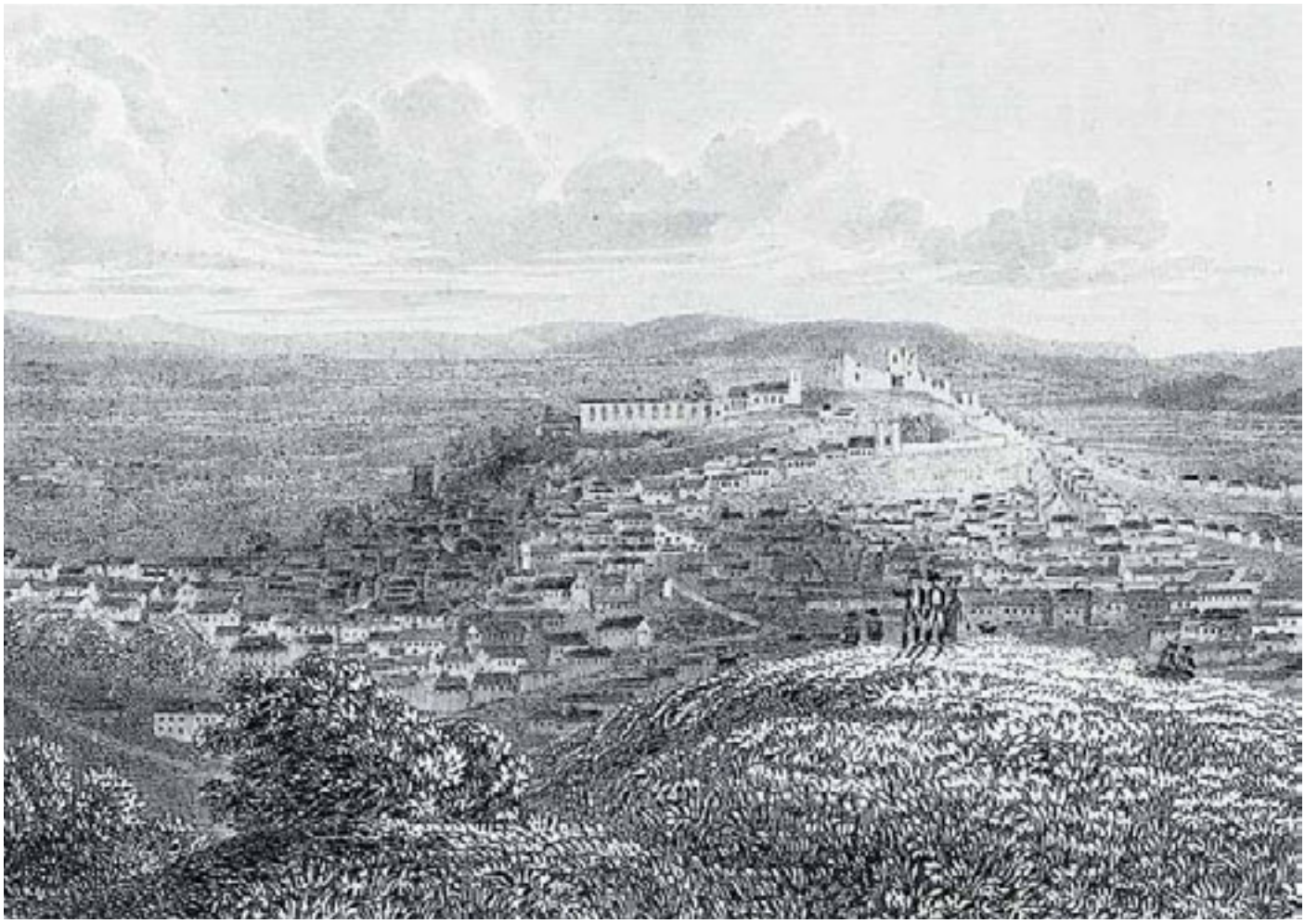
Chapels are another barometer of the cultural vitality of a town. Denbigh's streets are punctuated by fine examples, notable amongst which are Capel Mawr and Swan Lane Chapel. Both were first built in the early eighteenth century, and rebuilt in 1880.

Urban Growth: Into the Twentieth Century

A comparison of John Speed's map of 1610 with the tithe map of 1840 shows that the extent of the town remained almost constant between the early seventeenth century and the early nineteenth century. Within its confines there had, of course, been considerable change during the intervening two centuries — a lively process of building and rebuilding meant that the appearance of the town in 1840 would have been very different from that of 1610. To some extent, the concentration of development within the capacious limits that had already been laid down limited the impact of change in the nineteenth century. Even the arrival of the railway in 1858 did not immediately have a significant impact on the overall shape of the town. The Ordnance Survey map of 1875 shows limited development adjacent to it on the Ruthin and St Asaph roads; thereafter, small-scale building of terraced houses took place within existing plots close to the foot of Vale Street, with a few more substantial residences further out of town.

It was only during the twentieth century that the town dramatically burst its historical bounds. Beginning in the 1920s, the town spread first between Smithfield Road and Lon Llewelyn, along the Ruthin and St Asaph roads, before encroaching further onto former agricultural land to the east, south and west. After about 1970, it spread even further to the north and north-east, and the slopes immediately to the north of the town, which had hitherto remained open, were also engulfed in housing developments.

Historical Topography



*This view of Denbigh from the north captures the drama of its hillside setting (*Denbigh, *1823, drawn by Captain Batty, engraved by Edward Finden, The National Library of Wales).*

'Nothing, perhaps, could better show the altered condition of society than to contemplate, at the same time, the narrow limits marked by the boundary of those crumbling walls, and the cheerful street which now descends the hill in perfect security'. [26]

Crowned by its castle, Denbigh is a dramatic hill town, rare in Wales. The site presented some interesting challenges of topography, and is a dominant element moulding the townscape. The natural topography (enhanced in some areas by quarrying) introduces a series of sharp separations which tier the structure of the town. Chief amongst these is the steep slope beneath the town walls, the land falling away again below Love Lane to the west, and below Hall Square and Crown Square to the east, where it steps down again below Abraham's Lane. To the north-west, there is another steep break of slope dropping down to Barker's Well Lane, which marks the foot of a narrow valley. From numerous vantage points, this topography opens up the backlands of the town to the view, though the best distant views of the town are lost in the extensive housing developments to the north.

Another striking characteristic of modern Denbigh is its sheer physical extent. Unlike the other walled towns of north Wales, Denbigh had not been contained by its walls, and the area within them was just one component of the early town, which by the beginning of the seventeenth century extended from the densely built High Street area in a formal layout to the east, along Vale Street, and informally to the west, along Henllan Street. Its southerly extension along Love Lane was probably established very early — perhaps

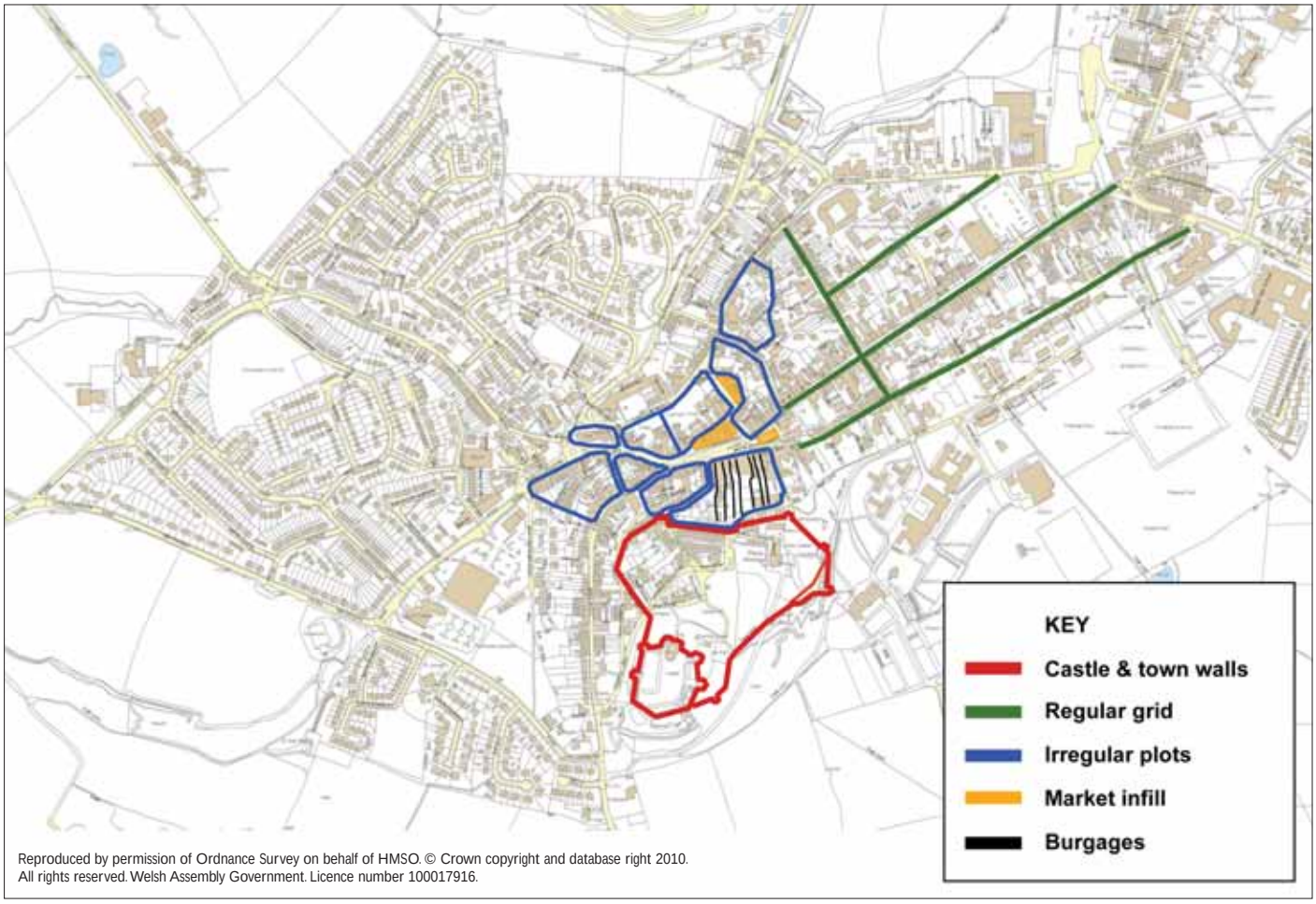
even soon after the castle was built. Certainly there were tenements here towards the end of the fifteenth century, and there is a fragment of a medieval house which may be fourteenth century in date.

Within the town there are also marked differences in the pattern of plots and streets. The upper part of the town (around High Street and from Chapel Street westwards as far as Lenten Pool) is crowded with an irregular pattern of streets and plots forming a cellular structure. Documents tell us that there were as many as 183 burgages by about 1305 in the town outside the walls. The characteristic lines of burgage plots are traceable only in a small stretch on the south side of High Street, though there were others to the north of Back Lane, obliterated in wholesale clearance where the car park now lies. By contrast, the parallel thoroughfares of Vale Street, Middle Lane and Park Street exhibit a more spacious and regular layout. Why should these areas have such different character? Could it be that late thirteenth-century burgages were fitted into an earlier plot structure in the upper part of town, but laid out on clear ground to the east? In other words, is the fragmented plot structure of the upper town a relic of the earlier, Welsh settlement?

The market was a vital part of medieval Denbigh. The town outside the walls was referred to as the *villa mercatoria* in a document of 1334, and the marketplace is a prominent feature of the modern townscape, betrayed by the width of High Street. [27] It was once a much wider space, and the block of buildings between High Street and Back Row mark an early encroachment onto it. The shire hall was probably also built on the marketplace, and we must imagine that Hall Square, Crown Square, and the area between the south side of High Street and the north of Back Row once formed a continuous open space.

Speed's map of 1610 provides no detail of the plot structure for the upper part of the town. In the area of Vale Street, it is clear in showing rows of houses lining the street, but a series of large gardens rather than narrow plots lie behind them. Speed represents similar large plots on the south-east of Park Street, most of which remained undeveloped until the late nineteenth

Above, left and below: Between High Street and Back Row, the buildings represent an encroachment onto what had originally been an open marketplace (Crown Copyright: RCAHMW).



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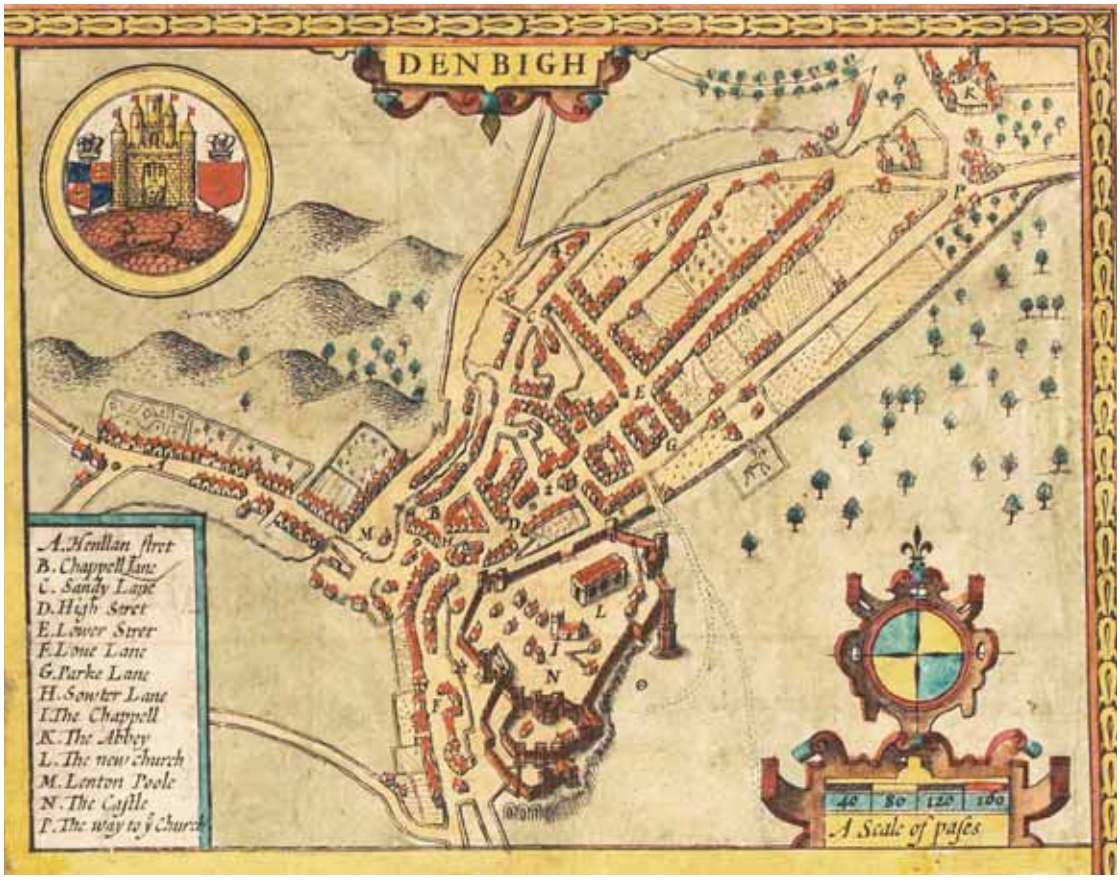
Above: Elements in the spatial structure of the historic town.



Right: Denbigh in 1610, as depicted by John Speed (The National Library of Wales).

or early twentieth century. Some of the boundaries between the gardens indicated by Speed in Vale Street can be traced to this day, and it is possible to identify principal houses still existing in many of these plots (albeit mostly of a later date). We do not know when this area was laid out: was it developed as part of the town outside the walls from the late thirteenth or early fourteenth century, or was it a product of a later campaign of town planning, perhaps in the sixteenth century? The regular layout with its grid of three parallel streets and a cross-lane (Post Office Lane/Peake's Lane) is characteristic of planned towns of the medieval period. In addition, the sheer number of burgages recorded in the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries make it likely that this area did form part of the medieval town, although the earliest building elements are early sixteenth century. Is it possible that the larger plot structure here corresponds to the curtilages allocated to the first burgesses, areas of ground which may not initially have been intended for building, but which were perhaps quickly developed as the town's population expanded?

If the upper part of the town has a cellular structure, containing some narrow burgages, and the Vale Street area is characterized by a grid with wider plots, there is a third element in the shape of the town, and that is a linear development pattern. Speed's map shows this clearly for Henllan Street and Love Lane, as well as the line of Factory Place — Chapel Place — Beacons Hill. Of these, only Love Lane was certainly part of the medieval development of the town.

In all parts of the town, the medieval pattern of development laid down a series of plots and a definite building frontage. Each plot constituted in effect an economic unit with a clear relationship between the frontage and its backland. Over time this relationship was eroded, not least as plots came to be exploited as units of development for additional building. The 1874 Ordnance Survey map shows the extent of building on the backlands, especially in the High Street area, but also in Chapel Lane, Post Office Lane, Love Lane and Henllan Street. Most of this development has now vanished, but the south side of High Street retains a good plot structure, with a mixture of buildings directly relating to the frontage property — for example, The Bull Hotel and the former post-office complex — and of developments independent of it — for example, the houses on the north side of Bull Lane, and perhaps 2–12 Broomhill. A good example of early burgage development is Royle's Pharmacy, 22 High Street, where encapsulated in later remodelling is an early seventeenth-century frontage shop and dwelling, with a contemporary detached kitchen or service unit across a small rear yard.

Elsewhere, examples of the earlier arrangement, in which backland development was subsidiary to the premises occupying the frontage, are now scarce. On Post Office Lane, the old stables and malthouse occupied the rear yard of The Hawk

Top: The complex of buildings serving The Bull Hotel, occupying the large plot of land behind it (Crown Copyright: RCAHMW).

Above: Cottages on Bull Lane may have been built at the end of plots running back from High Street (Crown Copyright: RCAHMW).

and Buckle Inn; here too was the old cockpit, until its removal to St Fagans: National History Museum, Cardiff. The buildings on the north side of Park Street probably represent development on the back of existing plots — a process which had already started in the early seventeenth century, according to Speed's map. In some areas, the building line has been brought forward in a process of encroachment onto the street. The constricted width of upper Vale Street is the result of this process: recording work by the RCAHMW has identified several examples of encroaching buildings, including The Kings Arms and 13–15 Vale Street.

The former stables and malthouse once associated with The Hawk and Buckle Inn.

The varied layout and plot structure across the town is an important aspect of its history and character which is vulnerable to erosion. Comprehensive clearance between Back Row and Factory Place has obliterated traces of the historical layout of the town, whilst developments along Park Street have eroded the original strongly defined and more open plot structure here. Where this plot structure survives, it should be rigorously protected.

Below: Lines of buildings constrained by the early plot structure on the south side of High Street (Crown Copyright: RCAHMW).

The Character of Building

Denbigh's overwhelming characteristic is of a great mix of buildings of different periods, types, styles and materials.

Chronology of Development

'It is true that there are many houses of great age still left by the ruthless hand of modern improvement, some of the lath and plaister era, some with fine black oak stair-cases, chimney pieces or wainscottings'. [28]

Denbigh exhibits an exceptional chronology of development, with a long sequence of building. Within the town (and excepting the castle and the tower of St Hilary's Church), there is one substantial building of possible medieval date: 7 Highgate is thought to be one of the earliest domestic structures in the town. The stone gable walls rising from a rock-cut plinth survive; the side walls have been rebuilt, but were probably originally timber framed. Other possible medieval elements are cellars which lie beneath The Plough Inn, nos 15–17 Portland Place (the undercroft of the chapel of St Anne), and perhaps 13–15 Vale Street. Others might yet be revealed, and a comprehensive survey of cellars could be instructive. In 1914, the RCAHMW inventory recorded a fourteenth-century doorway and a cruck-framed gable in Friesland Hall (later The Old Castle Arms and now Bryn Awelon), but there is little visible historic character here now. It is possible that the cruck-framed hall house to the rear of 13–15 Vale Street may also be pre-sixteenth century but it has not been dated.

With these important exceptions, it is only from the sixteenth century that buildings begin to survive in significant numbers. Few of them survive without substantial alteration, but one important example is 33 High Street which retains its early sixteenth-century structure virtually intact (dated by dendrochonology to 1533), and is one of only two buildings in the town that still displays its timber-work

This house on Highgate may be the earliest domestic structure in the town (Crown Copyright: RCAHMW).

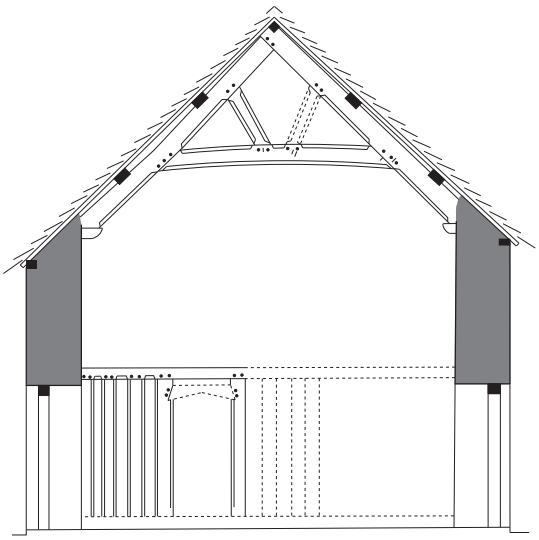
A cruck frame recorded at the back of The Old Castle Arms (Crown Copyright: RCAHMW, 1954).

33 High Street has been dated to 1533 (Crown Copyright: RCAHMW).

conspicuously. No. 1 Park Street also appears to be a coherent early sixteenth-century hall house, almost certainly originally timber framed. Bryn y Parc is another major building with origins in the sixteenth century, though a recent fire has destroyed many of its early elements. Others which originated in this period include The Eagles Inn, The Golden Lion, The Plough Inn, 27–31 Vale Street, and 94 Vale Street (The Hope and Anchor public house).

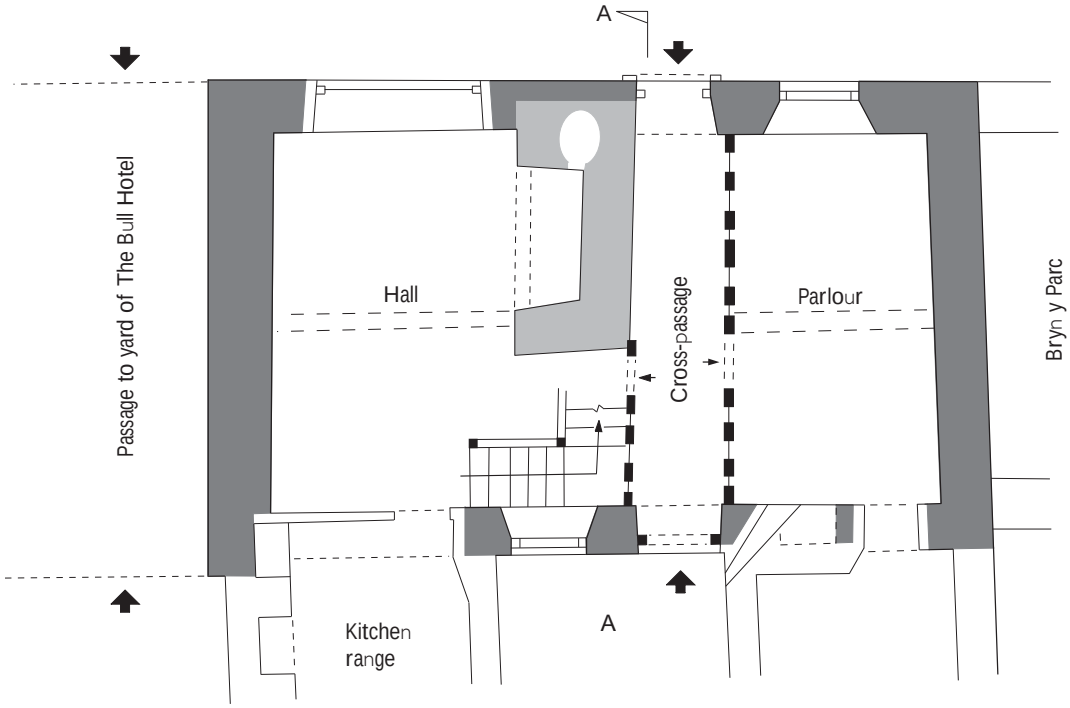
Although there are some important coherent survivals from the later sixteenth century, it is rare to have an intact sixteenth-century building that wasn't remodelled in the interests of amenity and practicality in a later period. Thus Bryn y Ffynnon is a storeyed stone house of about 1581, but was remodelled in the eighteenth century. Behind the façade, though, it represents a radical departure in building traditions, shifting away from the hall house in favour of a storeyed house with a compact

Opposite: 1 Park Street is a well-preserved sixteenth-century hall house (Crown Copyright: RCAHMW).



Ceiling beam
Detail over
Period 1
Period 2
Later
N

Cross-section A-A



Ground floor

0 10 Metres

1 Park Street, Denbigh

Ground floor and Cross section
SJ 0534 6607. NPRN 27620

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The Bull Hotel is an amalgamation of two seventeenth-century houses (Crown Copyright: RCAHMW, 1954).

Below: Eighteenth-century terraced houses on Chapel Street (Crown Copyright: RCAHMW).

Opposite: 29 High Street — a purpose-built shop and house of the seventeenth century (Crown Copyright: RCAHMW).

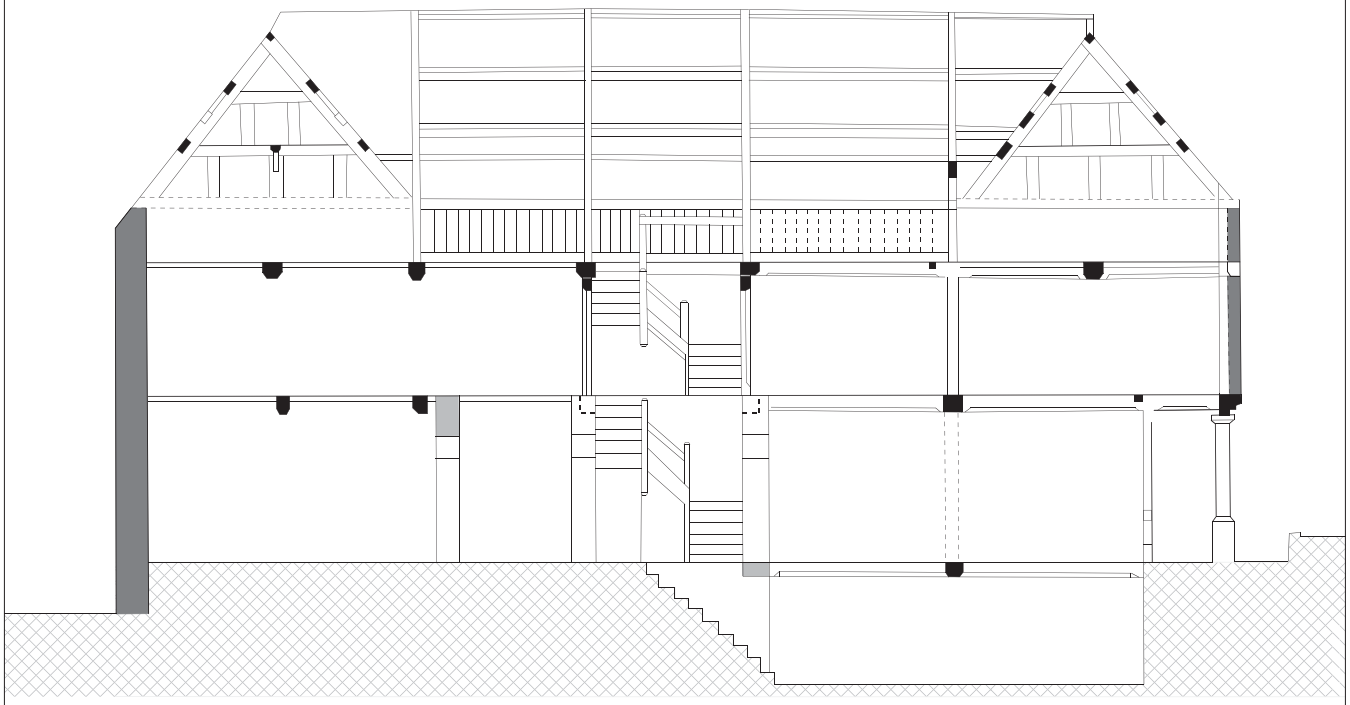
plan. Together with Plas Coch, it is a good example of a consciously urban domestic building type in the town. In a sense it forms the foundation for the Georgian town house which came to dominate high-status domestic building within the town.

There are greater numbers of buildings with seventeenth-century origins, but again few of these have survived unscathed. Examples include 24 Vale Street and The Bull Hotel, 2 Hall Square (albeit with an eighteenth-century façade), and 29 High Street (The Forum), which was probably built as a house and shop combined; it was originally timber framed, but later re-fronted in brick.

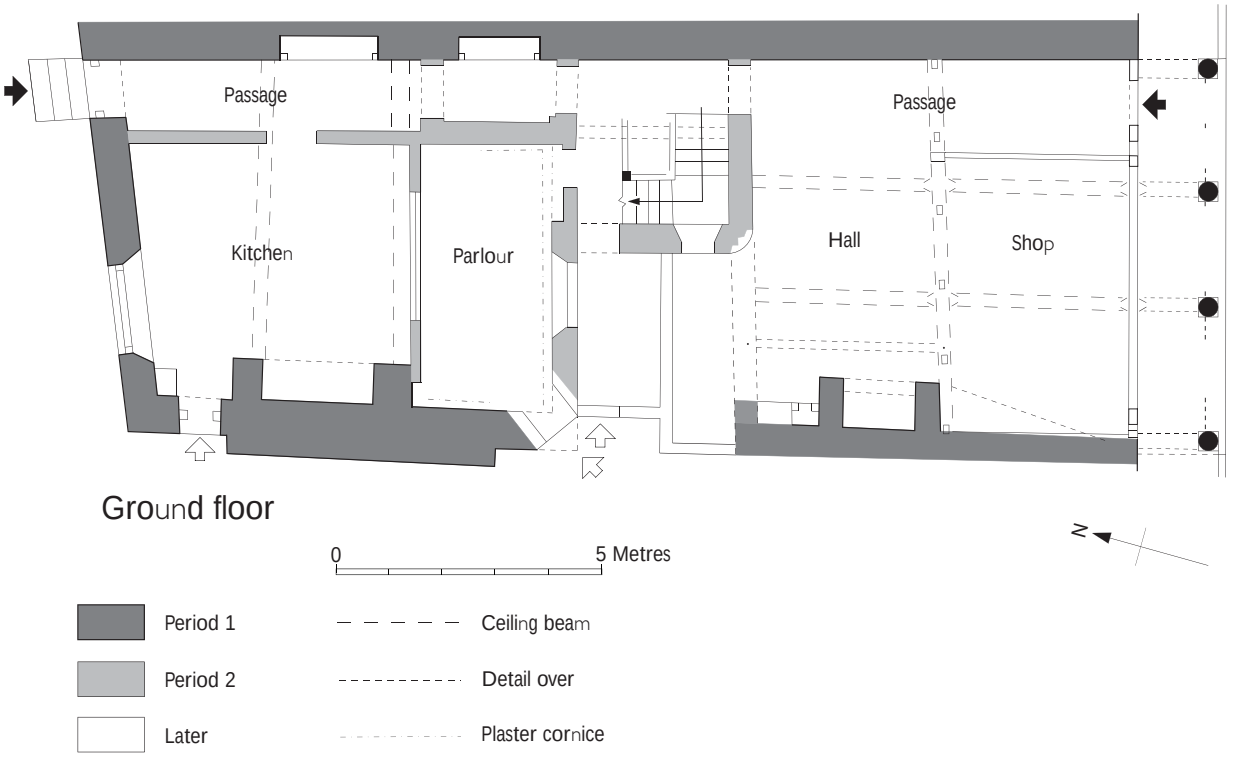
More buildings have survived from the eighteenth century. Most of these are the substantial houses of the gentry, though there are some buildings of lower status, for example the terraced cottages of 15–23 Chapel Street.

In Denbigh as elsewhere, there was a great deal of building activity throughout the nineteenth century. It is from this period that it becomes possible to assemble a more detailed picture of the whole social structure of the town, as houses of all grades were built and have survived. In addition, the nineteenth century was the great age of commercial and religious building, and Denbigh boasts fine examples of both.

Twentieth-century interventions in the town took the form of extensive clearance, and some



Long section



Ground floor

29 High Street, Denbigh

Ground floor and Long section
SJ 0522 6609. NPRN 27338

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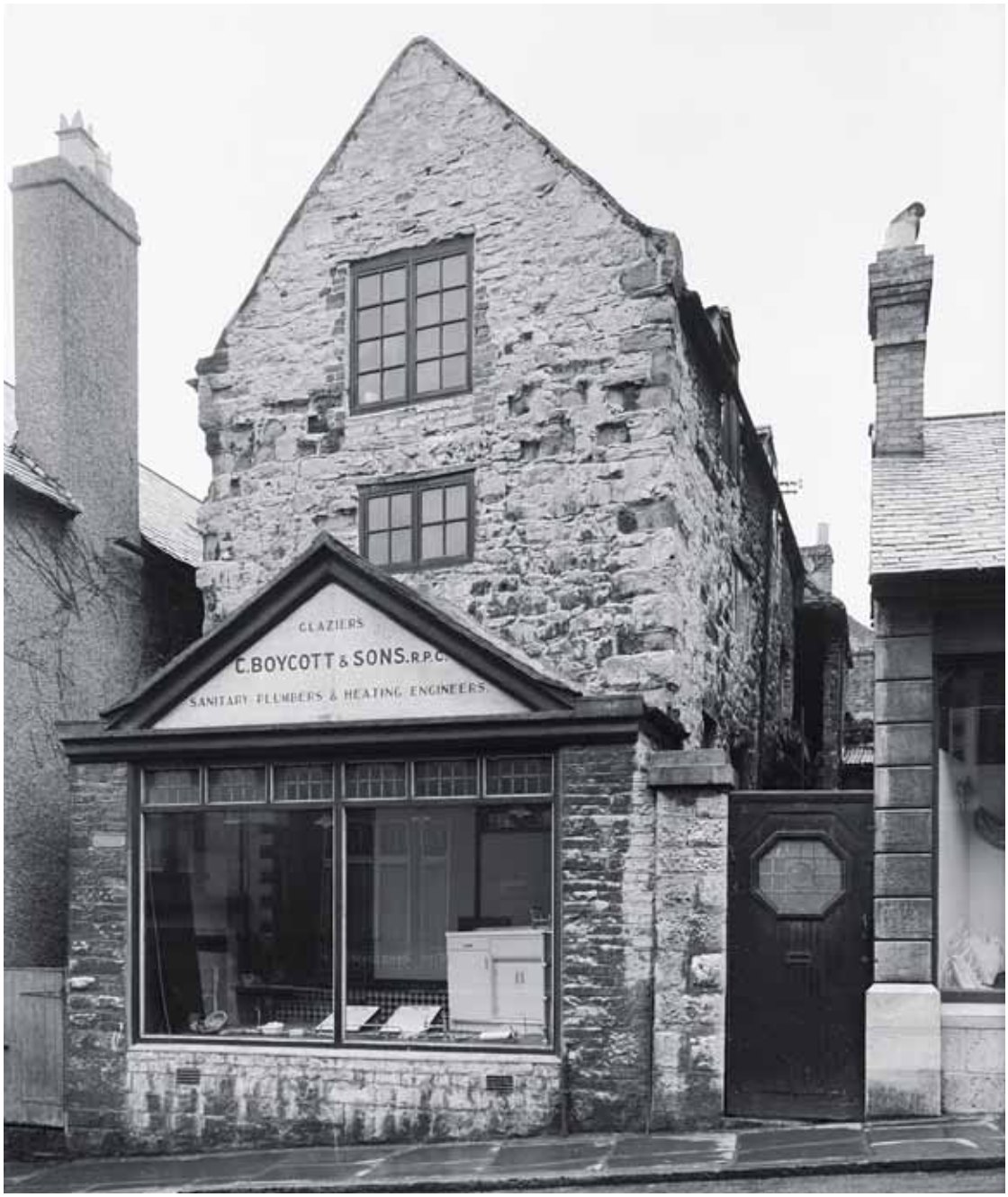


This stone-built town house which formerly stood at the top end of Vale Street is amongst historic buildings lost during the twentieth century (Crown Copyright: RCAHMW, 1954).

rebuilding. Significant losses have been the timber-framed buildings at 32–34, and 39–41 High Street, and the stone-built 10 Vale Street. Many smaller buildings have also been lost from the townscape — the cottages that crowded in behind Mount Pleasant, along Abraham's Lane, and on Henllan Street. But the process of replacement is not new — small cottages on Bull Lane were replaced at the turn of the nineteenth century by substantial villas. From the 1920s onwards, there was also a more-or-less continuous process of urban expansion throughout the century, in a series of public and private housing estates to the north-west and east of the historic town.

Detailed survey work such as that carried out by RCAHMW has brought to light a good deal of the history hidden behind the façades of many Denbigh buildings. It is likely that there is yet more awaiting discovery, and in the core of the town there remain many suggestions that buildings are older than they may at first appear: clues are the position of chimneys, the steepness of a roof, and the irregularity of a façade. There remains considerable scope for more detailed research and recording.

The varied building pattern on High Street included substantial timber-framed structures demolished in the twentieth century (Crown Copyright: RCAHMW, 1954).

Left: 33 High Street combines timber and stone in its construction, and is one of only two buildings in the town to display timber framing (Crown Copyright: RCAHMW).

Building Materials

No single building material dominates the character of Denbigh: brick, stone and render all contribute to the mix, and timber framing also played an important part in local building traditions.

7 Highgate — probably the earliest surviving domestic building in the town — seems to have been built using a mix of stone and timber framing, a theme which continued. Although there are only two buildings which still display timber framing externally (33 High Street and 2 Love Lane), there is a growing body of evidence to show that timber-framed building was once widespread within the town. It seems clear however, that stone was also widely used from an early date and sometimes the two materials were combined in the same building. Examples are 22 High Street (where there is a second, stone-built house beyond the frontage building), and The Bull Hotel, at the core of which is a seventeenth-century building with a timber-framed upper storey on a stone ground floor — possibly the last example of the use of timber framing in the town. Several of the buildings within the island block between High Street and Back Row are timber framed but with stone side walls. Nos 32–34 High Street (demolished in 1978) also had a wholly timber-framed front, but side and rear walls of stone.

Whether combined with stone or used alone, there is plenty of evidence to suggest that timber framing once dominated the Denbigh scene, and a detailed survey by RCAHMW has identified a number of buildings where an earlier timber frame was later clad or rebuilt in stone or brick. Timber framing often incorporated elements of conspicuous display, most notably where the upper floor was jettied (The Golden Lion and 32–34 High Street), or where close-studding was used (originally in The Golden Lion, and, in the seventeenth century, at The Bull Hotel).

Stone came to dominate building in Denbigh because of its ready availability. Limestone came from a series of small quarries within the confines

The Graig quarry (Denbigh: From the Stone Quarries), *drawn by W. Simpson (1823–1899) and engraved by R. Anderson (The National Library of Wales).*

Fine render detail on The Crown Hotel (above left) and (above right) 24 High Street (Crown Copyright: RCAHMW).

of the town as well as from the much larger quarry on The Graig. The lower slopes were also a local source of sandstone, favoured for dressings in some buildings — for example, it was used extensively for the quoins of eighteenth-century brick houses. Some of the early buildings in the town are wholly or partially built of stone (for example, The Eagles Inn). Before the later nineteenth century, stone was occasionally left exposed, but was more often limewashed or rendered: many buildings which now display bare rubble-stone walls would once have been treated in this way. During the nineteenth century, the use of render acquired an architectural vocabulary of its own, leading to some high-quality detailing. In the early twentieth century a coarse pebble-dash render also became fashionable, and continues to contribute to the varied character of the town.

With the Gothic Revival came a taste for the robust expression of materials, encouraging the use of exposed stone. This is seen to good effect

Contrasting stonework styles on Bull Lane (Crown Copyright: RCAHMW).

Far left: Stone and coarse render give variety to buildings on Chapel Street (Crown Copyright: RCAHMW).

Left: Fine stonework on the chapel house, Factory Place (Crown Copyright: RCAHMW).

in the paired late nineteenth-century villas on Bull Lane, and the milder 78–80 Vale Street. Variety in the handling and finish of stone is an important aspect of character within the town: the quality of finish is a significant indicator of the status of the building. Thus a fine ashlar finish is used on ambitious commercial buildings such as the former Co-operative stores on High Street. Elsewhere, coursed and squared stonework contrasts with rougher rubble.

Plas Coch and Grove House (y Gelli) introduced another ingredient of urban building: the use of brick. They were amongst the very earliest brick buildings in Wales, and used imported materials.

Left: The former county court on Vale Street is distinguished by robust high-quality stonework (Crown Copyright: RCAHMW).

Above and above right: Good quality brickwork on nineteenth-century façades (Crown Copyright: RCAHMW).

Right: Brick and terracotta on Chapel Street (Crown Copyright: RCAHMW).

Far right: Terracotta detail, Crown Square (Crown Copyright: RCAHMW).

The use of brick spread steadily thereafter, but never wholly supplanted stone until the twentieth century. In the eighteenth century especially, it was a high-status material favoured by the gentry for their town houses. The early bricks were imported, but by the late eighteenth century they were manufactured closer to hand — there were brick fields in The Green (between Townsend and Trefnant), in the area of the Colomendy estate by the 1860s, and to the south of the town at Fron-dyffryn by the 1870s.[29] Greater variety was then introduced when transport was made easier following the arrival of the railway in 1858. Late nineteenth-century building in the town exploits glazed brick terracotta and polychromy to striking

effect. Brick was often used for the whole main façade (giving an indication of its perceived higher status), or used simply for dressings with limestone.

A mix of materials lends particular character to the town: it reflects the use of different materials at different times, but also the relative status enjoyed by different materials at different times. This is clearly seen in the contrasts between front and side or rear walls, where sometimes stone has pre-eminence, sometimes brick.

Slate is the ubiquitous roofing material of the town (though some thatched buildings survived into the twentieth century, notably the cockpit at the rear of The Hawk and Buckle Inn). There are subtle variations in the use of slate which add character to the town's roofscapes — differences in the size and thickness of the slates, and in the technique of laying, with a few examples of graded slate roofs.

Limestone rubble walls and a brick façade on Chapel Street (Crown Copyright: RCAHMW).

Below: Limestone rubble with brick dressings off Portland Place (Crown Copyright: RCAHMW).

Gentry houses dominate the townscape on Vale Street (Crown Copyright: RCAHMW).

Urban Building Types

After castle and church, the earliest buildings to survive in the town are for the most part high-status houses, and this was generally the case through to the nineteenth century. Denbigh boasts a particularly good collection of eighteenth-. and early nineteenth-century town houses of gentry status. These are mostly on Vale Street, but Bryn Disgwylfa on Beacons Hill, and Tan y Graig in Chapel Street, are other examples.

With a few exceptions, it is only from the early nineteenth century that lower status dwellings survive in significant numbers. Small urban cottages dominate Chapel Place, Beacons Hill, Chapel Street and Post Office Lane.

Although there are important variations in the status and concomitant architectural quality of these buildings, all of them broadly belong to an identifiably urban tradition of building. Denbigh provides important evidence for the early development of an urban vernacular, and of specialist building types, such as dwellings combined with shops. The gentry houses of the eighteenth century, and the rows of workers' cottages of the nineteenth century, are distinctively urban. But although there clearly were characteristically urban forms of building from an early date, there were nevertheless buildings within the town which had a notably more vernacular character — the cockpit was not the only building to have a thatched roof. In some parts of the town,

Far right: The Golden Lion was probably originally built as a pair of shops in the early sixteenth century (Crown Copyright: RCAHMW).

the shift from rural to urban building traditions may have come relatively late: John Williams described Love Lane as being 'in a state of transition from the primitive simplicity of thatched cottages to improved, modern and substantial house property'. [30] Lenten Pool retained a rural aspect until at least the late nineteenth century.

Perhaps the most obviously urban building type within the town is the shop combined with a dwelling. Of these, the earliest is probably 33 High Street, but 13–15 Vale Street also seems to have been laid out to accommodate shops fronting onto the street, with a hall range behind. Another important example is The Golden Lion, whose main range was once two independent units, perhaps early sixteenth-century shops fronting onto the market area, with a cross-wing

Reminders of other trading capitals: Flemish Renaissance style on Crown Square (far left) and Venetian style on High Street (left) (Crown Copyright: RCAHMW).

Far left: Shop-front detail, Vale Street (Crown Copyright: RCAHMW).

Left: Shop-front detail, High Street (Crown Copyright: RCAHMW).

accommodating a hall house. The property on the corner of Crown Square and Back Lane is also thought to have accommodated a shop in front, with living accommodation to the rear and first floor, and storage above. At 27–31 Vale Street, a sixteenth-century first-floor hall has survived in the rear range — an unusual arrangement suggesting perhaps that the ground floor was in use for something other than domestic accommodation.

Good examples of later commercial architecture have already been identified. These introduced new styles (Venetian Gothic, Flemish, etc) and new forms (most notably the almost continuous glazing of the upper floors of 26 High Street) together with some striking detail. The Constitutional Club represents another interesting example, combining a row of purpose-designed shops in its lower storey with the club accommodated above.

Urban Development Patterns

If there are distinctive urban building types, there are also distinctive patterns of development. In the crowded centre of the town the plots were generally long and narrow, necessitating a form of building in which the gable end represented the main frontage, with the building line running back along the plot. Good examples of this are to be seen on the north side of High Street especially, where the limited space afforded by encroachment onto the marketplace encouraged some ingenious planning. We have already seen how limited plot size encouraged some innovative planning at an early date — for example at Bryn y Ffynnon, The Bull Hotel, and 24 Vale Street.

Where space allowed, a more traditional approach could still be adopted, and examples of the conventional linear hall and cross-wing layout are at 1 Park Street and The Kings Arms, Vale Street. There are clearly some instances of plot amalgamation allowing for a more spacious layout again. Nos 32–34 High Street was perhaps a row of shops occupying three adjacent plots developed as a single building. On the larger plots of Vale Street a more spacious layout was also possible.

At Bryn y Parc on Park Street expansion of a prosperous urban property proceeded by means of successive buildings running back from the relatively narrow frontage. These led to a remarkable ensemble of early buildings including a timber-framed and stone range parallel to the street comprising hall and unheated parlour, with a narrow timber-framed wing to the rear. In the seventeenth century this wing was linked by a kitchen block to a second hall range of late sixteenth-century date, running parallel to the frontage.

Almost everywhere, development was contained within an existing plot structure, and each plot could develop independently of its neighbours, contributing to the great variety of age, type and

The plot structure and crowded development patterns of the town are clearly visible from the air (Crown Copyright: RCAHMW).

Varied development patterns in Vale Street (Crown Copyright: RCAHMW).

High-status houses built in pairs, Vale Street (Crown Copyright: RCAHMW).

style of building within the town. In general, the high-status houses are single buildings, but there are exceptions — for example, the paired houses at 38–40, 53–55 and 57–59 Vale Street. In the nineteenth century, the town developed with typically small terraces, in which small numbers of dwellings were fitted into existing plots. Love Lane and Post Office Lane provide good examples of this pattern. Even the longer terraces (such as those on Beacons Hill) were assembled from smaller units of development strung together. There are some good surviving examples of building behind frontage plots at Edgar's Terrace, Beacons Hill, and Graig Terrace, Chapel Street. This development pattern is important evidence for the plot structure that was inherited from earlier generations of the town. The integrity of these small terraces is a valuable aspect of the character of the town, but can be easily eroded by piecemeal change.

Boundary walls are an important binding agent for the plot structure of the town, and in many areas are a prominent aspect of the townscape. They may also incorporate significant historical fabric.

Character Areas

The walled town and castle (Crown Copyright: RCAHMW).

1. Castle and Walled Town

Historical Background

The castle and walled town were established immediately following the defeat of Llywelyn and Dafydd ap Gruffydd in 1282, when the lordship of Denbigh was granted by Edward I to Henry de Lacy, Earl of Lincoln. Although it is known that there was an existing settlement at Denbigh — seat of Llywelyn the Great, and later of Dafydd ap Gruffydd — its precise location is unknown. Under the tutelage of de Lacy, the town walls were substantially complete by 1290, though a further salient was built in about 1295. The castle was also built in several phases, but completed by 1311. The town within the walls contained sixty-three burgages by 1285, but had been superceded in importance by the town outside the walls by the early sixteenth century. The Earl of Leicester chose Denbigh as the site for his new cathedral church, but it was never completed. During the Civil War, the walled

town served as the outer bailey of the castle in the siege of 1646.

Little of the layout of the walled medieval town has survived, with Castle Hill probably the only remnant of an original street line. So far had the walled town decayed by the nineteenth century that not even an inherited street pattern constrained development beyond Castle Hill, and new roads were created for small-scale house building. The formality of this process is indicated by the unified character of the terraced rows. This was perhaps in contrast to their predecessors: 'the numerous new but humble habitations which crowd the castle precincts, not certainly to its ornament'. [31] This earlier building activity did not fundamentally disturb the open character of the area, which was a favoured location for recreation from the late eighteenth century at least.

Archaeological Potential

As the site of the English late thirteenth-century walled town, the area has high potential to yield important information about the layout of the walled borough, and the burgages with associated buildings within it. The area could also mark the site of the Welsh settlement which preceded the later medieval town, and there may be buried structures and deposits from the pre-conquest period.

The Character of Building

The former Friesland Hall, later The Old Castle Arms, was recorded as having a fourteenth-century doorway and cruck frame in 1914. As Bryn Awelon, the building has little visible historical character, but nonetheless represents the site of one of the very few medieval domestic

Inside the walled town (Crown Copyright: RCAHMW).

The Old Castle Arms, and the church of St Hilary before its partial demolition, about 1911 (Denbighshire Record Office).

52–54 Castle Hill — the unusual design of this early nineteenth-century terrace may be a response to its location close to the castle.

Within the walled town, long nineteenth-century terraces follow the contours (Crown Copyright: RCAHMW).

Below: Limestone and brick in late nineteenth-century housing.

buildings to survive in the town, and the only remnant of this type within the walled town. Here too is the tower of St Hilary's Church, all that survives of the garrison chapel established in the late thirteenth century (the rest of the church was demolished in 1923), and the ruins of Lord Leicester's late sixteenth-century cathedral church. Other building here is largely nineteenth century in date, though the steep roof of 45 Castle Hill hints at earlier origins. The castellated 52–54 Castle Hill is an unusually picturesque group: 'a very recent erection, which offsets the departed gothick grandeur of the castle'. [32] Elsewhere development is divided between small terraced rows, and the longer planned rows of Leicester Terrace and St Hilary's Terrace. Unlike building elsewhere in the historic town, these longer rows run along rather than across the contour, and are a striking feature of the view of the town from the north. Limestone combined with brick are the dominant building materials.

2. High Street (including Portland Place, Back Row, Crown Lane, Chapel Street and the top of Vale Street)

Historical Background

This area constitutes part at least of the town outside the walls which was in existence by about 1295–1305. In 1334 it was described as the *villa mercatoria*, and was the real focus of commerce for the medieval town. Here was the main marketplace, and here too, a plot structure which looks convincingly medieval — burgages with the characteristic long linear form survive to the south of High Street at least. Others to the north of Back Row were lost when this area was cleared for a car park. Possible medieval cellars have been recorded beneath several buildings in this area (The Plough Inn, Nos 15–17 Portland Place, and 13–15 Vale Street).

At the end of the fifteenth century, there were 147.5 burgages on High Street, a number greater than its existing extent could have contained. It seems probable that at least the top part of Vale Street may at one time have effectively been a continuation of High Street.

Although High Street provides a firm axis for development, the plot structure elsewhere is markedly irregular, threaded by a series of often curvilinear lanes and alleys, such as Mount Pleasant, Panton Hall, Bull Lane, Crown Lane and Chapel Street. This bears scant relationship to the

The collonaded block of buildings on the south side of High Street is a distinctive and unusual feature of the townscape (Crown Copyright: RCAHMW).

regular grid patterns employed in other late thirteenth-century castle towns. It is possible that it represents a layout inherited by de Lacy in 1282: it is known that there was an important Welsh settlement at Denbigh, but its extent and precise whereabouts remains to be determined. Tradition has it that the higher ground to the rear of Crown Square marked the site of the Welsh princes' stronghold, though there is no archaeological evidence to support this.

By the early sixteenth century, the open marketplace had been partially built over — the block on the north side of High Street has all the hallmarks of an encroachment. Hall Square was probably also open until the Earl of Leicester established the shire hall here in 1572. It may have been under his auspices that The Piazza/y Bylciau were established, an attempt to impose some unity on disparate buildings along High Street and a remarkable feature of the townscape.

Archaeological Potential

As part of the medieval town from its earliest period, there is the potential for information on layout and building associated with it, together with evidence relating to trade, industry and the domestic economy, to be derived from any archaeological intervention. Several possible medieval cellars have already come to light, and a comprehensive survey might yield more. Detailed building surveys have already contributed greatly to our understanding of the town from the sixteenth century, and further opportunities for the investigation of standing fabric should be seized: there is clearly still the potential for early fabric and detail to survive behind later façades. This area may also mark the site of a pre-conquest settlement, and there may be buried structures and deposits relating to this earlier period.

The Character of Building

As the main commercial hub of the town, this area boasts a high percentage of its earliest surviving buildings, but also a high rate of change, with individual buildings demonstrating complex sequences of alteration, as well as buildings from all the key periods in the town's growth. Here is the earliest standing fragment of domestic building within the town — 7 Highgate may date to the fourteenth century — and there are several significant sixteenth- and seventeenth-century survivors, as well as fine examples of nineteenth-century commercial building.

The long history of intensive use has resulted in a great variety in building, as individual plots of land

The exceptionally tall façade of The Old Vaults is a twentieth-century reconstruction of a seventeenth- or eighteenth-century original (Crown Copyright: RCAHMW).

have each had their own development history. There is a concomitant variety in building materials, from timber framing through to brick and stone, and a variety of finishes from fine quality ashlar to smooth renders and pebble-dash.

The area is characteristically densely built up, with tall buildings on narrow frontages. The backlands are also exploited in many cases, often with buildings still directly related to the frontage property.

Most of the property in the area is commercial, with a fine range of buildings — from rare surviving examples of sixteenth-century shops to late nineteenth-century commercial architecture.

Away from the main commercial centre of the town, Chapel Street is characterized by a mix of semi-industrial buildings (most notably Gwasg Gee printing works), and smaller terraced housing.

*Park Street, where St David's Church and the infirmary were amongst the first buildings to encroach on former parkland to the south of the town (*Denbigh, North Wales, *engraved by Newman and Co., The National Library of Wales).*

*Below: Vale Street, as depicted in 1847 (*Denbigh, *engraved by J. Harwood, The National Library of Wales).*

3. Vale Street (including Park Street, Middle Lane, Post Office Lane, Peake's Lane)

Historical Background

There is no certain account of the origins of this part of the town, but the grid layout represented by Vale Street (formerly called Lower Street), with Middle Lane and Park Lane, is clearly shown on John Speed's map of the town in 1610. There are also several buildings with sixteenth- or even fifteenth-century origins, not only at the top of Vale Street, but also towards the lower end (The Hope and Anchor public house). It has sometimes been suggested that this area represents an early sixteenth-century planned expansion, but it could also be part of the medieval planned layout.

The layout of this area is in marked contrast to the top of the town around High Street. Not only do the streets constitute a regular grid, but below the axis represented by Post Office Lane and Peake's Lane, a series of spacious rectangular plots can still be discerned. These are shown on Speed's map. This plot structure was amenable to the establishment of a series of substantial gentry houses, the earliest of which — Grove House (y Gelli) — is sixteenth century in origin, but most of which are eighteenth century. In the nineteenth century, this was seen as 'the retired and professional quarter'. [33]

The arrival of the railway in 1858 and the siting of the station at the foot of Vale Street probably prompted a somewhat different pattern of development in the later nineteenth century. In the lower part of Vale Street, development takes the form of short blocks of terraced housing fitted to existing plots. These probably represent nineteenth-century redevelopment as Speed's map shows the street as fully developed in 1610.

The top of Park Street was clearly well integrated into the historic town. John Speed's map shows dense development above Mellings Lane, and there are two sixteenth-century buildings here — at least one of which was a property of considerable status. Below Peake's Lane, Park Street had more of the complexion of a back lane, with only sporadic development. Middle

Grove House (y Gelli) was built in 1574, but its fine façade dates from a remodelling in 1693 (Crown Copyright: RCAMHW).

Below: Large houses are characteristic of Vale Street (Crown Copyright: RCAHMW).

Bottom: Varied building patterns on Vale Street (Crown Copyright: RCAHMW).

Lane, too, resembled a back lane beginning to be developed. By the mid- to late nineteenth century, however, there had been little extension to the built-up area on each of these lanes. Now, Middle Lane still has the character of a back lane and the footprint of building is not very different from that of the seventeenth century, though the buildings themselves are all of nineteenth-century date. Park Street developed rather differently, with more substantial nineteenth-century houses, built to enjoy its relative quiet and spacious aspect. It has also proved an attractive location for twentieth-century development. Howell's School and St David's Church represented the first significant encroachment onto former parkland to the south, a process which continued into the twentieth century with development along St David's Lane.

Archaeological Potential

The area lies within the footprint of the medieval town, as mapped by Speed in 1610. There is therefore the potential for information about the layout and land use of the early town, including its extent and dating, to be derived from any archaeological intervention. Detailed building surveys have already contributed greatly to our understanding of the town from the sixteenth century, and further opportunities for the investigation of standing fabric should be seized: there is clearly still the potential for early fabric and detail to survive behind later façades.

Above: A former town house on Vale Street (Crown Copyright: RCAHMW).

Plas Heaton was the main residence of the Heaton family in the eighteenth century (Crown Copyright: RCAHMW).

The Character of Building

Below Chapel Street and Mellings Lane, the middle section of Vale Street is dominated by gentry town houses of the eighteenth century — a striking example of the establishment of a distinct residential quarter. Most are brick and built in a domestic Georgian style, but a notable exception is the palace-like former Heaton family town house, with its bold pedimented front in coursed and squared limestone.

The lower section of Vale Street is rather different in character, with a mixture of single houses of some ambition but below gentry status, and terraces built in short rows accommodating the existing plot structure. Much of this development is nineteenth century in date, but probably replacing earlier buildings such as the one that survives at The Hope and Anchor public house. Each plot developed independently of its neighbours, lending considerable variety to the townscape — expressed in houses of different scale, using a wide palette of materials.

On the north-east side of Vale Street, the demolition of Salusbury Place in about 1953 created a redevelopment opportunity which was unfortunately taken up by retail development and served only to detract from the residential character of the street. Clearance of the site of the railway station has opened up another opportunity, the result of which is also likely to dilute this otherwise strong character.

Middle Lane and the top of Park Street are characterized by smaller houses in a mix of materials. Park Street also houses not only two sixteenth-century properties, but a series of fairly substantial nineteenth-century houses with possible earlier origins, probably reflecting its central position close to the main market. Further down Park Street, behind prominent boundary walls, is a series of larger nineteenth-century houses and twentieth-century developments.

Post Office Lane marks the line of a road which existed by 1610 and which possibly formed part of the early grid layout here. Set back from it to the south-west is a vernacular

Above: Variety of materials and scale on Vale Street (Crown Copyright: RCAHMW).

Left and below: Small cottages on Post Office Lane.

farmhouse, 'Berllan', a rare exception to the urban character of building within the town, whilst to the north-east are several buildings which were once associated with The Hawk and Buckle Inn on Vale Street. Otherwise, the street is dominated by small terraced rows, built as a series of independent developments on existing plots at different times throughout the nineteenth century, and with a notable variety in both size and architectural character.

Interwar housing extends the original building line at the top of Love Lane.

4. Love Lane

Historical Background

The first reference to Love Lane comes in a rental document of the late fifteenth century, and it seems likely that it formed part of the early development of the town outside the walls. It is strongly linear, but with marked breaks of slope both above and below the street line — that below the street interrupting a series of strongly defined plot boundaries shown on the First Edition Ordnance Survey map running through to Meadow Lane. Meadow Lane was a simple footpath until the early twentieth century, when a small series of houses was built along its eastern side. Building on Love Lane was once denser than it is now — the 1875 Ordnance Survey map shows rows of houses at right-angles to the main axis of development; ruinous traces of some of these remain. There was also a row of cottages behind Mount Pleasant, but these were replaced in the later twentieth century. Most of the buildings in this area are nineteenth century in date, often the result of rebuilding. In 1856 John Williams describes its transition from 'the primitive simplicity of thatched cottages to improved modern and substantial house property'. [34]

Love Lane was a favoured location for some important urban buildings in the early nineteenth century — the British School (1843–44) and the former gaol (about 1843).

Towards the top of Love Lane, a small old quarry and the town's waterworks are shown on the 1875 Ordnance Survey map, and in the twentieth century during the interwar period a small series of houses was built on a previously open plot of land.

Archaeological Potential

The area lies within the footprint of the medieval town, as mapped by Speed in 1610. There is therefore the potential for information about the layout and land use (including domestic and industrial activity) of the early town to be derived from any archaeological intervention.

Far left: Visual variety on Love Lane.

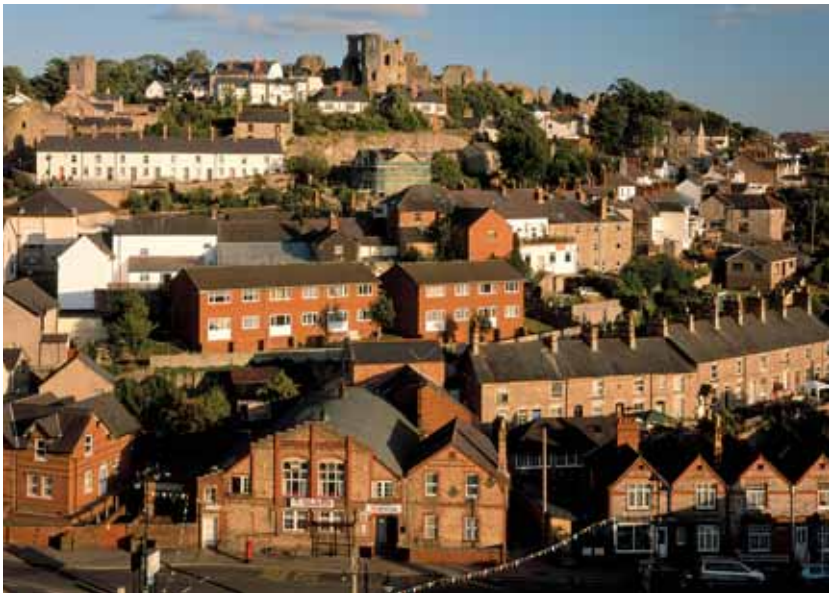
Left: Possible eighteenth-century buildings on Love Lane.

A rare example of exposed timber framing alongside later buildings in a mix of materials on Love Lane (Crown Copyright: RCAHMW).

Below: Distinctive townscape around Love Lane.

The Character of Building

Notwithstanding its early origins, the buildings here mostly comprise small mid- to late nineteenth-century cottages built in short rows at different dates, resulting in considerable variety of scale, materials and detail. One important exception is no. 2 Love Lane, which is one of only two buildings in the town to display timber framing. Nos 11–15, with their steep roofs, could be survivals from the eighteenth century. The late nineteenth-century buildings on Love Lane are generally brick, with a brighter facing; earlier buildings employ a mix of exposed limestone rubble and coarse render.



*The rural character of Lenten Pool as depicted in 1810 by Moses Griffith (*Denbigh Castle, *The National Library of Wales).*

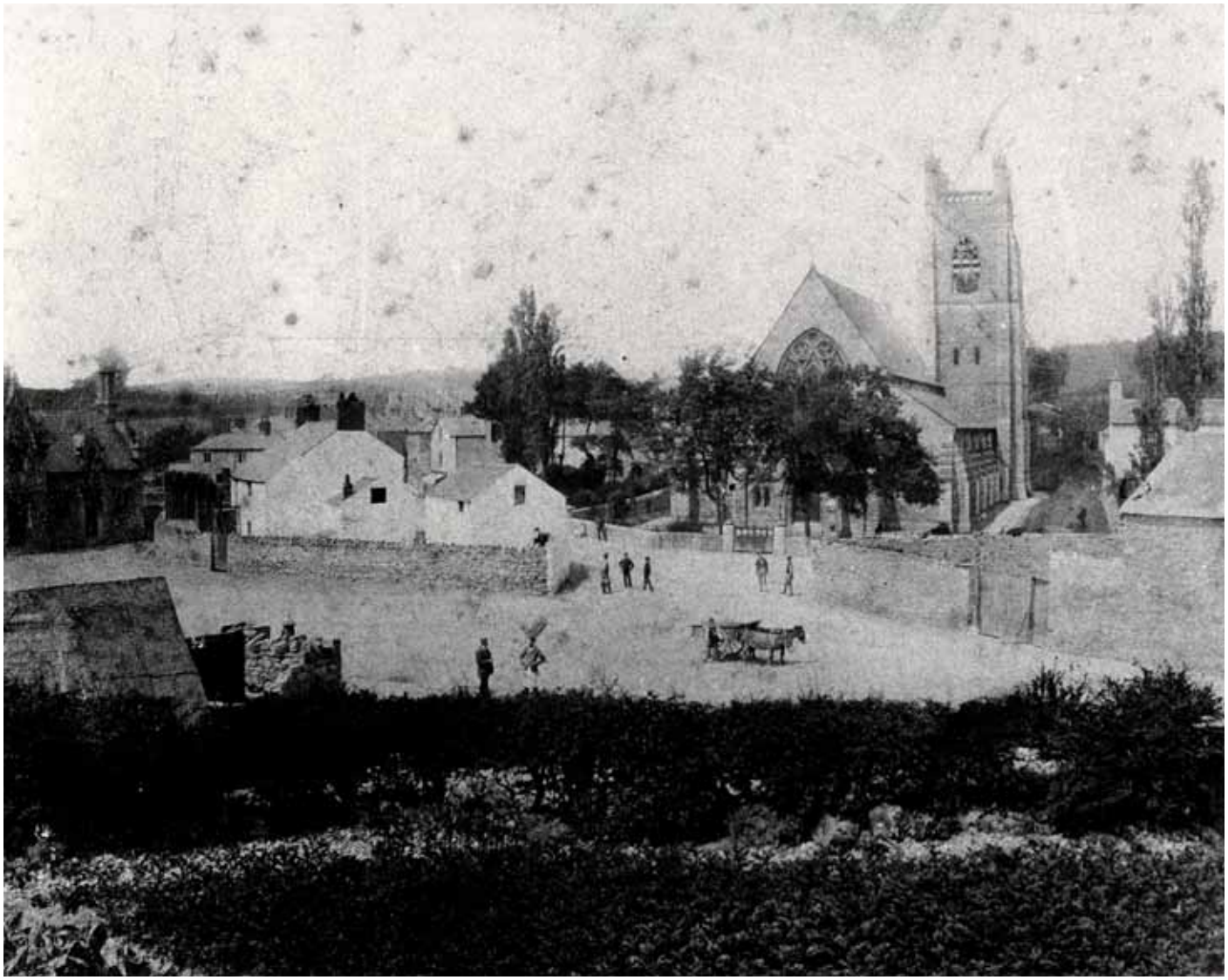
5. Lenten Pool and Bridge Street

Historical Background

The area lies within the confines of the early town as mapped by Speed in 1610. He shows the block of buildings on the north of Bridge Street, sporadic development apparently related to a watercourse to the south, and extensive development where the church of St Mary is now. On Speed's map the Henllan brook comes down from the north-west and meanders through open land between Love Lane and Lenten Pool — any pool here had already been lost by this time (1610). John Williams remarked in 1856 that the pool 'has now nearly disappeared except in case of great floods, when it again swells into a lake, covering the entire street, and inundating the surrounding houses'. [35] Although there had been some industrial development by the time of the First Edition Ordnance Survey in 1875 (the skinnery adjacent to Bryn y Ffynnon) and some development around Panton Hall, the area remained very much edge-of-town until the end of the nineteenth century with scattered houses at Holland Place (the first documentary reference to a house here is in 1710) and Maes Hyfryd. John Williams referred to 'those little thatched cabins standing on the brink of this pool', and early photographs suggest a more rural vernacular character to the area. [36]

Bridge Street and its environs housed the swine and sheep markets in the nineteenth century. But later in the century radical change was initiated with the establishment of the Smithfield in 1895 and the creation of a road (Smithfield Road) connecting through to Lon Llewelyn. In this period, small cottage rows were built behind Holland Place and at Maes Hyfryd. In about 1930 The Hand public house was also rebuilt. These changes marked the gradual urbanization of the area. The open space was retained, but as a road junction.

There is a distinctive plot pattern north of Bridge Street and at Panton Place, similar to that of the High Street area, in which buildings are contained in cellular plots, ringed by roads and pathways. This is shown on Speed's map, and is a clear survival either from the town founded at the end of the thirteenth century, or even its predecessor.



Lenten Pool about 1885. The area retained a semi-rural character until the twentieth century (Denbighshire Record Office).

Archaeological Potential

The area lies within the footprint of the medieval town, as mapped by Speed in 1610. There is therefore the potential for information about the layout and land use of the early town to be derived from any archaeological intervention.

The Character of Building

The area is dominated by late nineteenth- and twentieth-century building, as it shifted from being on the margins of the town to an integral part of the urban landscape. However there are some important early survivals in this area — Bryn y Ffynnon is a truly urban house of the late sixteenth century, and Bryn Celyn and Bron Haul are also high-status houses of this period. The rebuilding of The Hand in the 1930s marked a decisive shift from vernacular to urban character.

6. Factory Place, Chapel Place, Beacons Hill and Barker's Well Lane

Historical Background

The linear street running from Panton Place to Grove Road is shown on Speed's map of 1610, by which time it was already extensively developed, especially in the area that is now Factory Place and Chapel Place. No streets in this area were mentioned in the late fifteenth-century rental which names other streets in the town, so the area may have lain outside the medieval extent of the town. Speed also clearly shows the line now taken by Water Street, and another division between parcels of land which

Above: Terraced houses in Chapel Place (Crown Copyright: RCAHMW).

Cottages on Barker's Well Lane.

may correspond to the gap below Gwylfa Terrace. Building here now largely comprises rows of nineteenth-century cottages, with one eighteenth-century gentry house, but only one building where there is a clear suggestion of earlier origins (6 Beacons Hill).

Barker's Well Lane closely follows the line of a small brook, which was an important source of water for the town, for both industrial and domestic use: 'the insignificant and nameless rivulet which turned millions of hides, but is now nearly closed in — an important bit of sanitary improvement'. [37] It is clearly shown on Speed's map, along with building along the north-west side of the stream. Barker's Well Lane was a narrow lane in the nineteenth century, with intermittent small-scale development of cottages, many of which survive. There was a tannery towards the junction with Graig Road. The road was widened in the mid- to late twentieth century, associated with the expansion of the town to the west.

Archaeological Potential

Factory Place, Chapel Place and Beacons Hill mark the outer limit of the historical town as shown on Speed's map of 1610. It is uncertain when the area was first developed, and there is therefore the potential for information about the sequence of settlement on this northern edge of the town to be derived from any archaeological intervention. As the chief industrial artery of the town, there is also scope for further information relating to early industrial developments.

The Character of Building

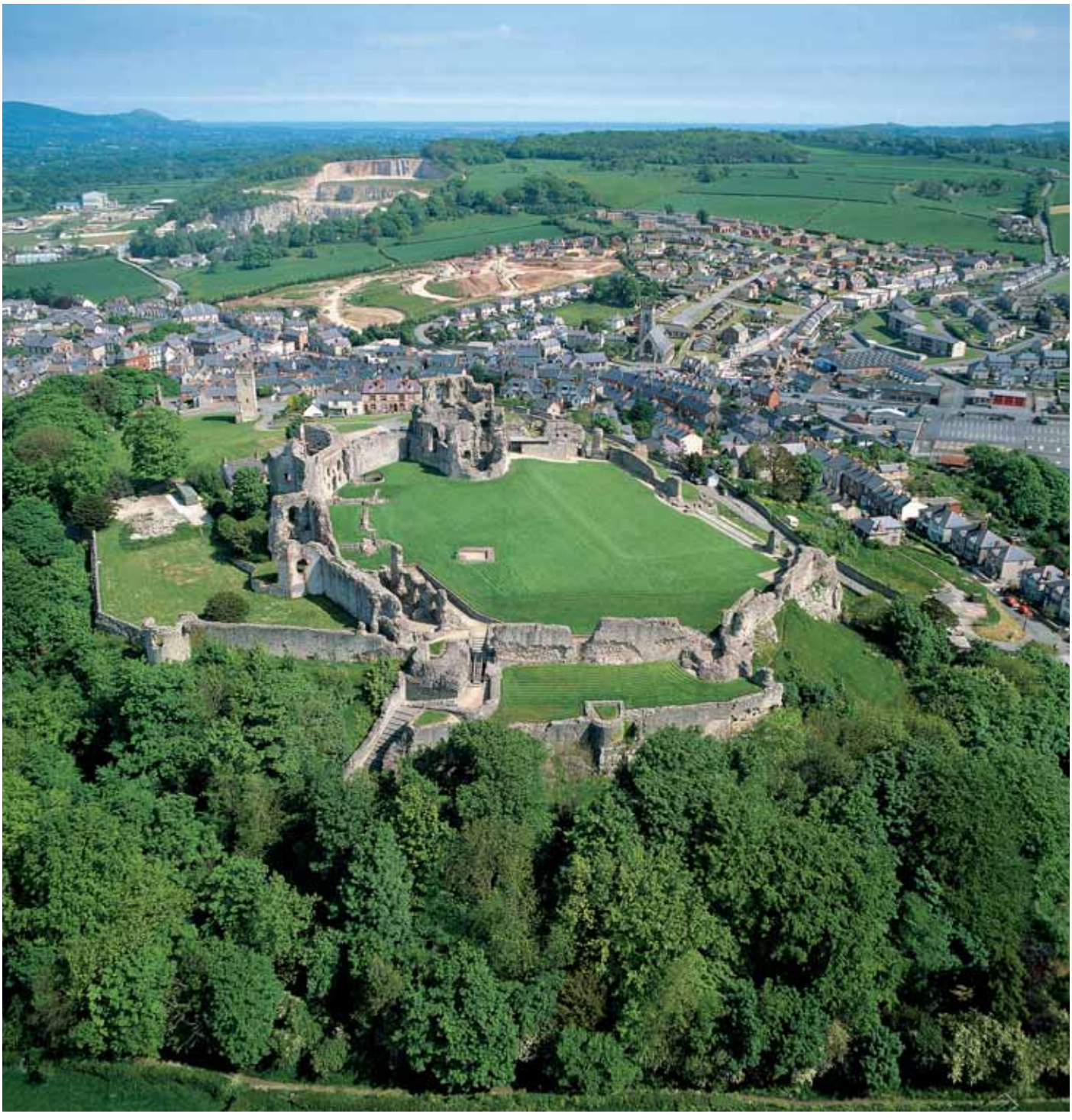
The area is strongly residential and dominated by terraces of nineteenth-century cottages, fitted to an existing plot structure as a series of independent developments. Materials are variously brick and stone, with some twentieth-century renders. Development on Barker's Well Lane is more sporadic and small-scale, with a more vernacular character.

Nineteenth-century cottages on Beacons Hill.

7. Henllan Street

Historical Background

The north side of Henllan Street was shown as continuously developed as far as Gwaenynog Road by Speed in 1610. He also indicated some development on the south side. The more detailed picture afforded by the First Edition Ordnance Survey in 1875 suggests a decidedly suburban development pattern — a strongly linear character characterized by relatively short roadside plots in an area which was otherwise strongly agricultural. Beyond the frontage, distinctive long narrow fields may have been a relic of the open-field system associated with the town. In a series of developments between about 1920 and 1990, this former agricultural land was given over to extensive public and private housing estates.



Housing encroaching onto former agricultural land to the north of the town in the 1980s.

Archaeological Potential

Although probably not forming part of the original urban settlement, the area lies within the extent of the early town, as mapped by Speed in 1610. There is therefore the potential for information about buildings and land use associated with the early town to be derived from any archaeological intervention.

The Character of Building

No early buildings have been recorded in this area, and although much of what now survives clearly dates to the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, there is some potential for eighteenth-century or earlier buildings to survive — for example, nos 20–24 Henllan Street. Many of the small dwellings which formerly lined the street were replaced in the early twentieth century. There are also some surviving urban-edge building types, including some farm buildings.

Above: Some of the buildings on Henllan Street may be eighteenth century or earlier in origin.

Twentieth-century redevelopment on Henllan Street.

A farm building betrays the urban-edge context of Henllan Street.

*The Friary in 1786 (*Denbeigh Castle, Denbeighshire, *engraved by Sparrow, published by S. Hooper, The National Library of Wales).*

8. Ruthin Road

Historical Background

The bottom of Vale Street marked the limit of the town depicted on Speed's map of 1610. Beyond it, he shows the late thirteenth-century friary complex, together with a mysterious group of buildings enclosed in a curvilinear plot with a watercourse running through it, and a group of buildings at the head of the road to Whitchurch. The latter probably represents the earlier Plas Pigot — 'an ancient house taken down a few years ago', according to John Williams in 1856.[38] The present house was built in 1815 — a decidedly non-urban villa. The curvilinear plot is visible as an orchard on the First Edition Ordnance Survey of 1875 — its boundaries survive as the hard boundary and abrupt change of level at the rear of Abbey Road and Vale Road. This edge of the town was also chosen for the infirmary, which was built in 1813. To the north was farmland, where Bryn Tirion represents a surviving vernacular house, and where the redeveloped property — Alafowlia — is a reminder of the former agricultural character of the area.

The railway cut through in 1858, but did not immediately result in urban expansion. There was limited development along the roads to Ruthin and St Asaph, where the town gas works had been established in 1845. Sporadic development along this axis in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries included the school and a series of urban villas on the Ruthin Road, and speculative housing on both roads from the interwar period. Development remained largely linear, with only limited development behind the main streets (most notably around Vale Road). Then, after 1938, the release of farmland for development to private and public housing estates, and the building of an industrial estate to the west of the road to St Asaph, pushed the limits of the town much further to the north-west and south-east.

There were open fields in this area, associated with the medieval town. Any traces of them have been obliterated by development to the west of the A525, but a distinctive linear field pattern beyond it may reflect early boundaries.

Archaeological Potential

On the margins of the historical town, this area contained not only an important medieval ecclesiastical institution, but also an early house of some importance which may have been the nucleus of a small estate. Here too were the open fields associated with the medieval town. There is the potential for information relating to early land use in this area to be derived from any archaeological intervention, including the form and dating of field systems and land divisions, as well as specific evidence relating to the form, development and dissolution of the friary.

The Character of Building

Closest to the road junction at the foot of Vale Street, the main roads are lined with short rows of terraced houses mainly of late nineteenth-century date, with some small streets behind them. There are clear distinctions in status, expressed in degrees of architectural elaboration. Houses on the Ruthin Road are larger, and have a more decorative finish (using polychrome brickwork), than houses on the St Asaph road. Late nineteenth-century housing along the Ruthin Road includes a series of substantial suburban villas, but it is interwar speculative housing which dominates the immediate streetscape, and larger-scale housing estates on the former farmland behind.

9. West Denbigh

Historical Background

The area was beyond the limits of the historical town until the end of the nineteenth century, when the cattle market was built here in 1895, and a new road from Lenten Pool to Lon Llewelyn was created where there had been only a small field path previously. This opened up former agricultural land to residential development, and the area to the north of Lon Llewelyn, as well as a small block of land to its south, was gradually developed in a series of public housing estates from the 1920s to the 1950s, with small-scale private building thereafter. In the late twentieth century the market was again moved and replaced by a supermarket, and council offices were also built here.

Archaeological Potential

Predictable archaeological potential largely relates to the land use and landscape surrounding the early town, including evidence of the form and dating of earlier field systems and land divisions.

The Character of Building

The area is dominated by a series of housing estates, their different styles reflecting different periods of building.

Twentieth-century public housing in west Denbigh.

Statement of Significance

Denbigh is a place of contrasts. There are virtually two towns here — the town within the walls, and the town outside them. Both are medieval in origin, but one went on to enjoy a dynamic and prosperous history whilst the other was left behind. Virtual abandonment of the town within the walls erased the visible traces of the original settlement. By contrast, the prosperity of the town outside the walls resulted in a process of continual redevelopment that just as effectively almost obscured its origins. So, whereas the historic nature of Denbigh is immediately apparent, not only in its castle and town walls but also in the visible chronology of its building stock, the full depth of its history is not easily perceived. It invites, and repays, closer investigation.

Denbigh enjoys one of the most striking settings of any Welsh town. From the dramatic apex of its rocky hill, crowned by the remains of its medieval castle and skeletal cathedral, the townscape cascades in dense confusion. With the exception of the market square in front of the shire hall, this is not a town of grand urban gestures. There are no unified terraces of houses to make architectural statements. Instead, Denbigh provides a townscape of small-scale units of development, built both with the contours and across them. Contrasts of form, scale and materials create a mosaic of visual impressions that compete for attention, and provide an environment that is stimulating and undeniably attractive. Commercial architecture of all periods dominates the High Street, where tight development patterns reflect economic pressures on valuable space. Chapels punctuate the townscape, defying the physical constraints of space with their architectural ambition. The mansions of Vale Street in their generous plots contrast with the small artisan cottages crowded onto narrow lanes. Almost everywhere each plot of land displays a distinctly separate history from its neighbours, and this results in a townscape of unusual variety.

It is this rich diversity that provides the defining aspect of Denbigh's character. Through an acknowledgement and understanding of it, we can gain access not only to the exceptional chronology of the town's development but also its complex social and cultural history. The Townscape Heritage Initiative and Housing Renewal Schemes have already assisted in sustaining the fabric of both gentry houses and terraced cottages, and this breadth is an essential component of good conservation management. But, ultimately, more is needed. The urban fabric is not just the sum of its buildings but also about the pattern of land use, the plot structure and the spatial organization. It is the combination of all of these elements in a unique topographical setting that provides the touchstone for understanding and sustaining Denbigh's distinctive character.

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Appendix 1

The Royal Commission on Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales: Survey and Archive in Denbigh

The National Monuments Record for Wales holds the archives for the built heritage in Wales, including survey drawings, photographic surveys, aerial photographs, maps, reports, and historical archive material. The sites and buildings in Denbigh which are included in this publication are listed below. Further information is available through the RCAHMW's free online database, Coflein — www.coflein.gov.uk.

Alternatively, you can contact RCAHMW's enquiry service:
Library and Enquiries Service
RCAHMW
Crown Building
Plas Crug
Aberystwyth
Email nmr.wales@rcahmw.gov
Tel 01970 621200

Denbigh Town (NPRN 33082)
Denbigh Castle (NPRN 95209)
Denbigh High Cross (NPRN 23548)
Carmelite Friary (NPRN 93291)
St Hilary's Church (NPRN 94724)
Leicester's Church (NPRN 93307)
Henllan Welsh Baptist Chapel (NPRN 7567)

Back Row
The Eagles Inn, Back Row (NPRN 26773)
The Golden Lion (NPRN 26774)

Bridge Street
Bryn y Ffynnon, 24 (NPRN 26824)

Crown Square
'She' (shop) (NPRN 309833)
The Crown Hotel (NPRN 27090)

Hall Square
Shire Hall (NPRN 23423)
2 (NPRN 27284)
The Bull Hotel (NPRN 26894)

Henllan Place
Bryn Celyn 1 (NPRN 27724)
Bron Haul (NPRN 26831)

High Street
21 (NPRN 27331)
Royle's Pharmacy, 22 (NPRN 27332)
The Forum, 29 (NPRN 27338)
Siop Clwyd, 33 (NPRN 27342)
32 and 34 (NPRN 27341)
39 and 41 (NPRN 27344)

Lenten Pool
Lenten Pool Primary School (NPRN 23382)

Love Lane
2 (NPRN 27474)

Park Street
1 (NPRN 27620)
Bryn y Parc (NPRN 26889)

Portland Place
9 (NPRN 308407)
The Plough Inn (NPRN 308406)

Vale Street
13–15 (NPRN 308407)
The Kings Arms, 18 (NPRN 307352)
24 (NPRN 40198)
27–31 (NPRN 35513)
Mostyn House, 42 (NPRN 35519)
47 (NPRN 35523)
52 (NPRN 23372)
The Hawk and Buckle Inn (NPRN 35524)
The malt house and cockpit to the rear of The Hawk and Buckle Inn (NPRN 308480 & 32680)
Grove House (y Gelli) (NPRN 401142)
Grove House (y Gelli) summerhouse and dovecote (NPRN 402092)

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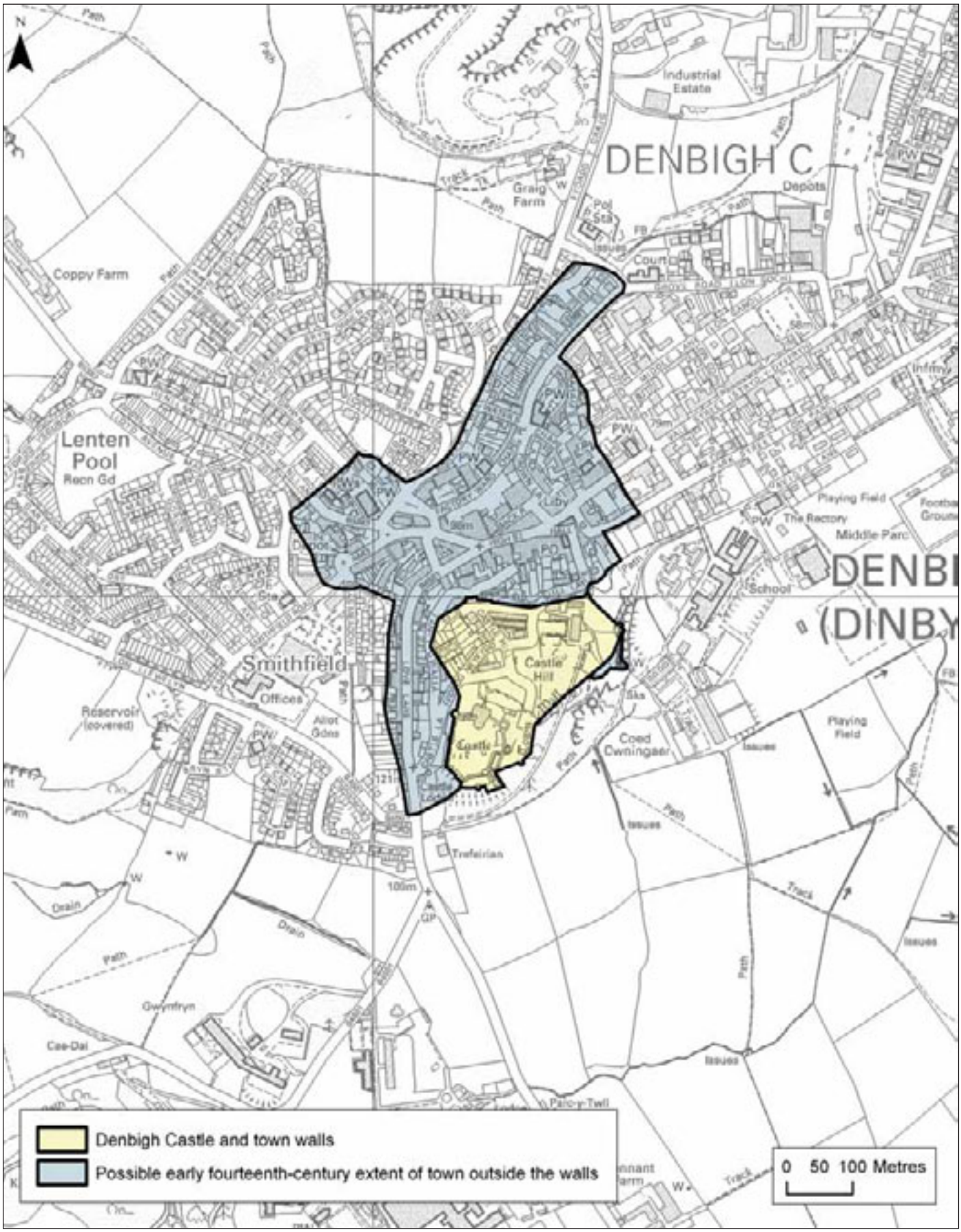
32. Richard Newcome, *An Account of the Castle and Town of Denbigh* (Denbigh, 1829).
33. John Williams, *Ancient and Modern Denbigh* (Denbigh, 1856).
34. John Williams, *Ancient and Modern Denbigh* (Denbigh, 1856).
35. John Williams, *Ancient and Modern Denbigh* (Denbigh, 1856).
36. John Williams, *Ancient and Modern Denbigh* (Denbigh, 1856).
37. John Williams, *Ancient and Modern Denbigh* (Denbigh, 1856).
38. John Williams, *Ancient and Modern Denbigh* (Denbigh, 1856).

1 Denbigh: The Medieval Town



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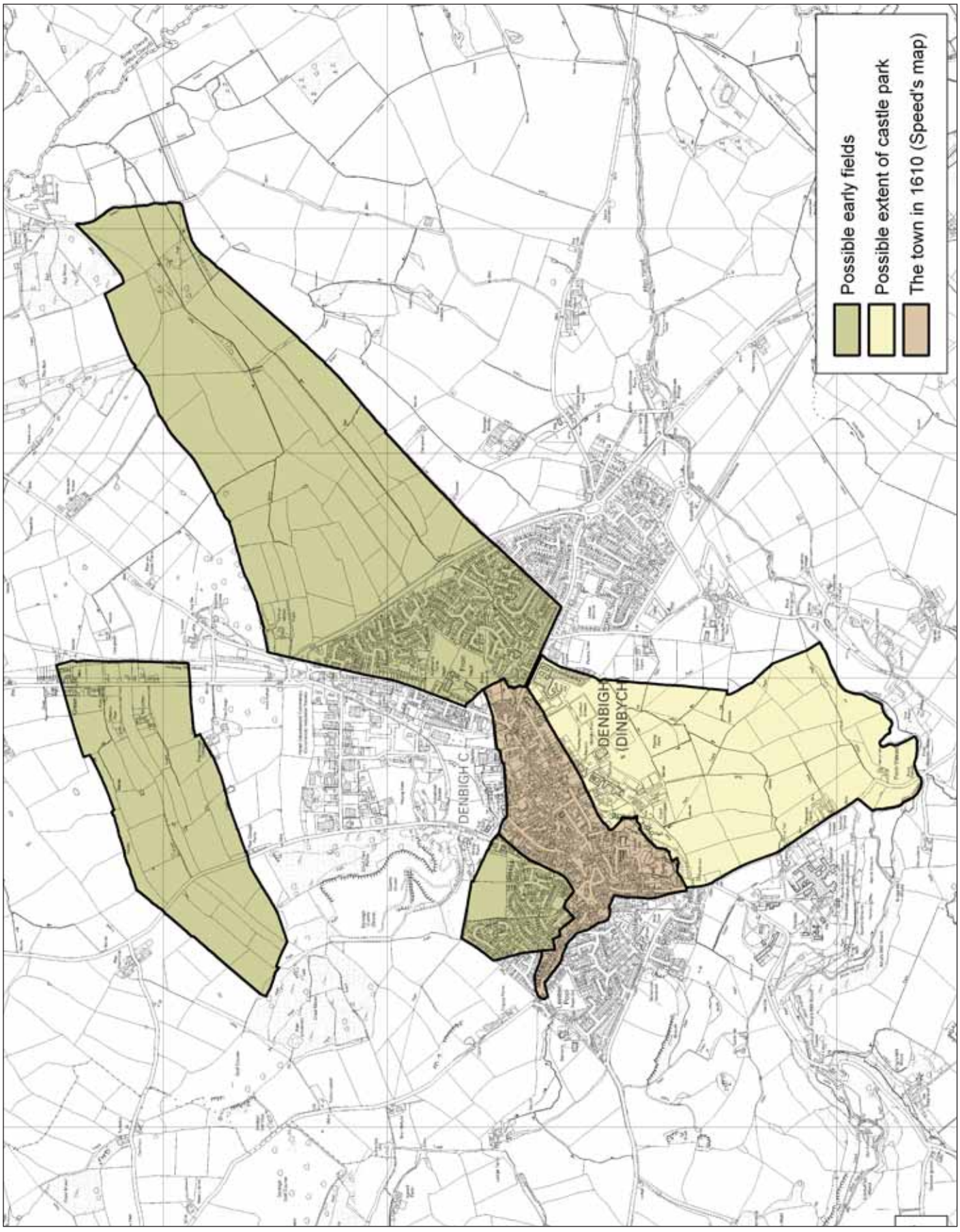
2 Denbigh: Medieval Town and Landscape



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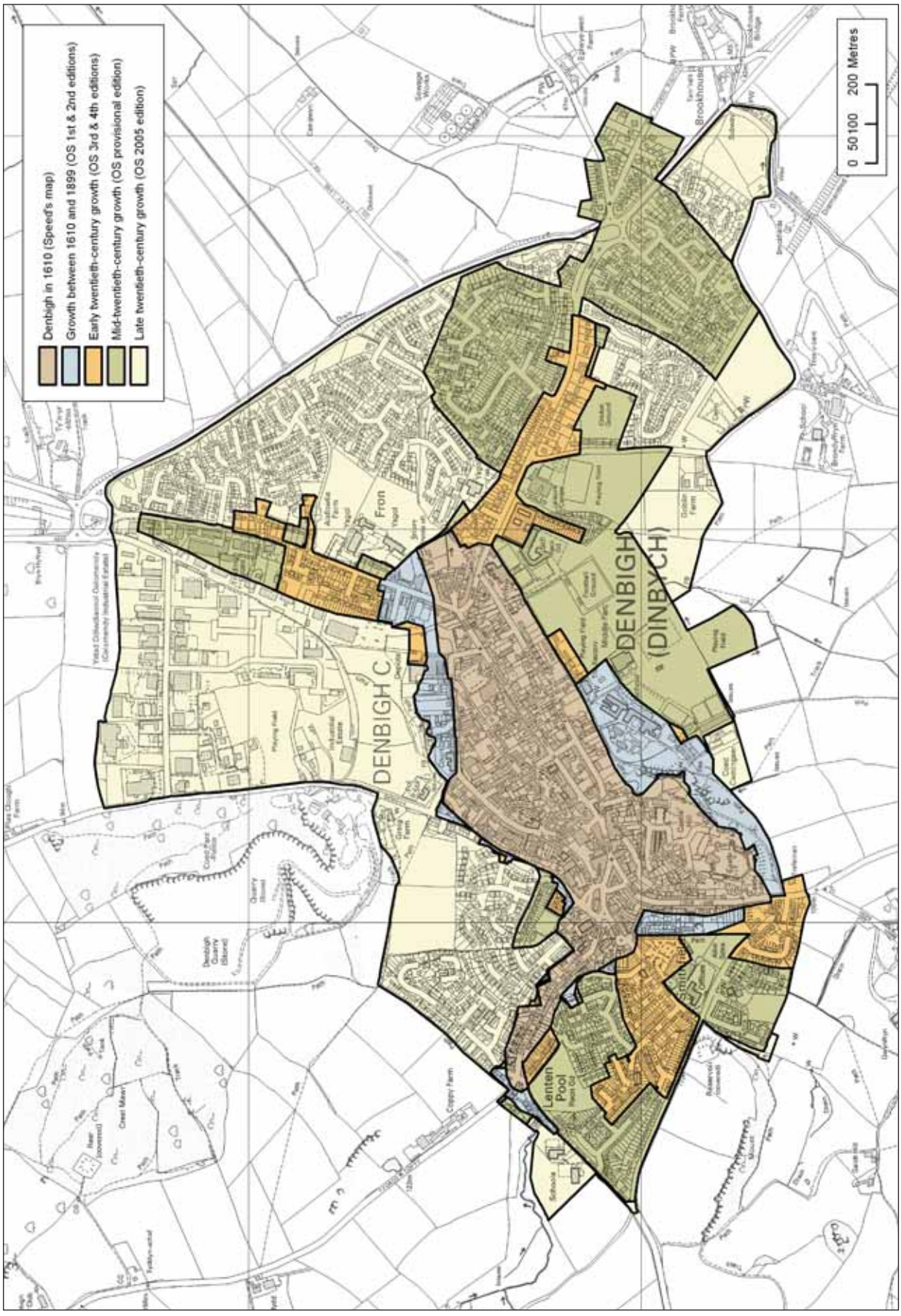
3 The Growth of Denbigh



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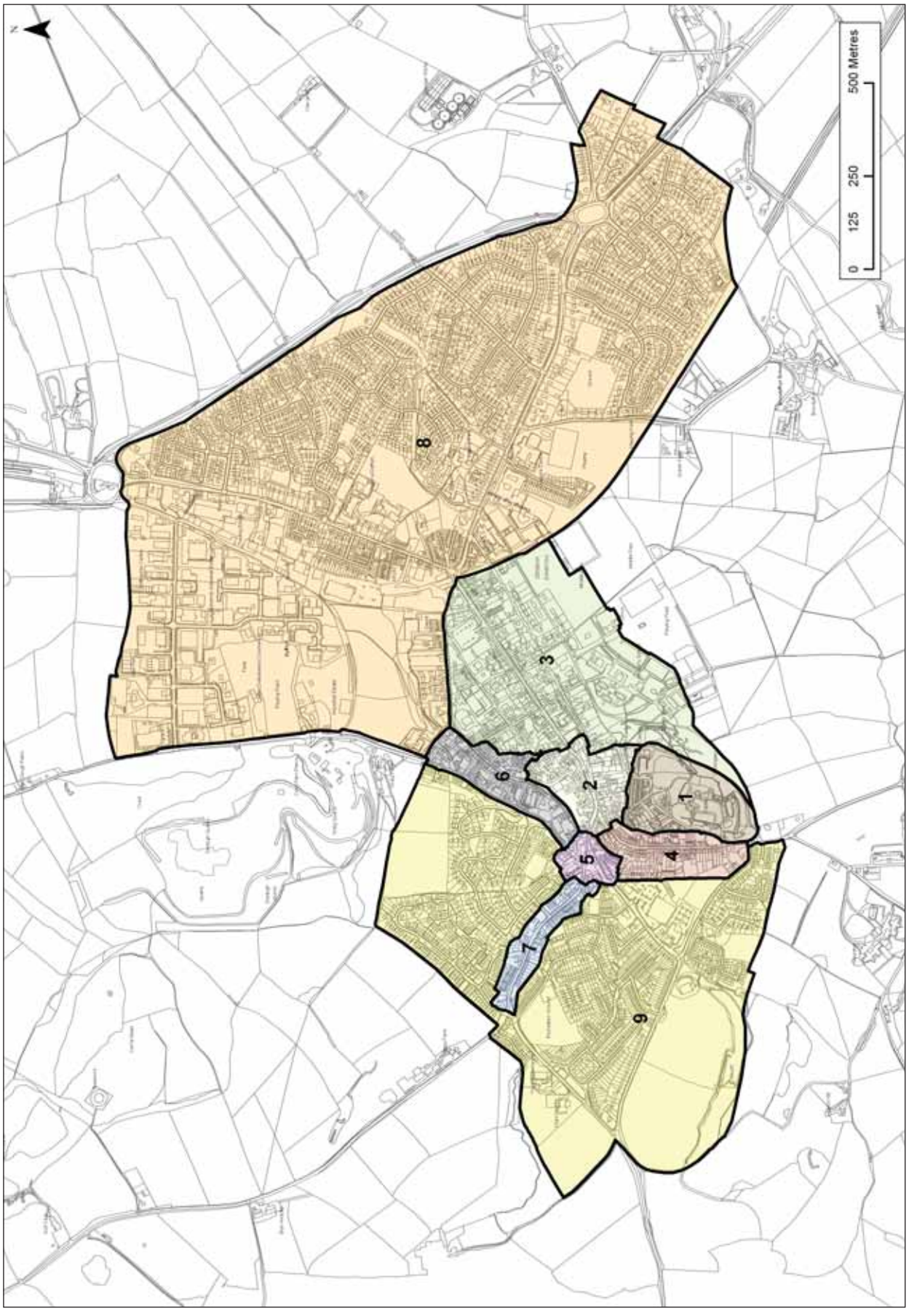
4 All Character Areas



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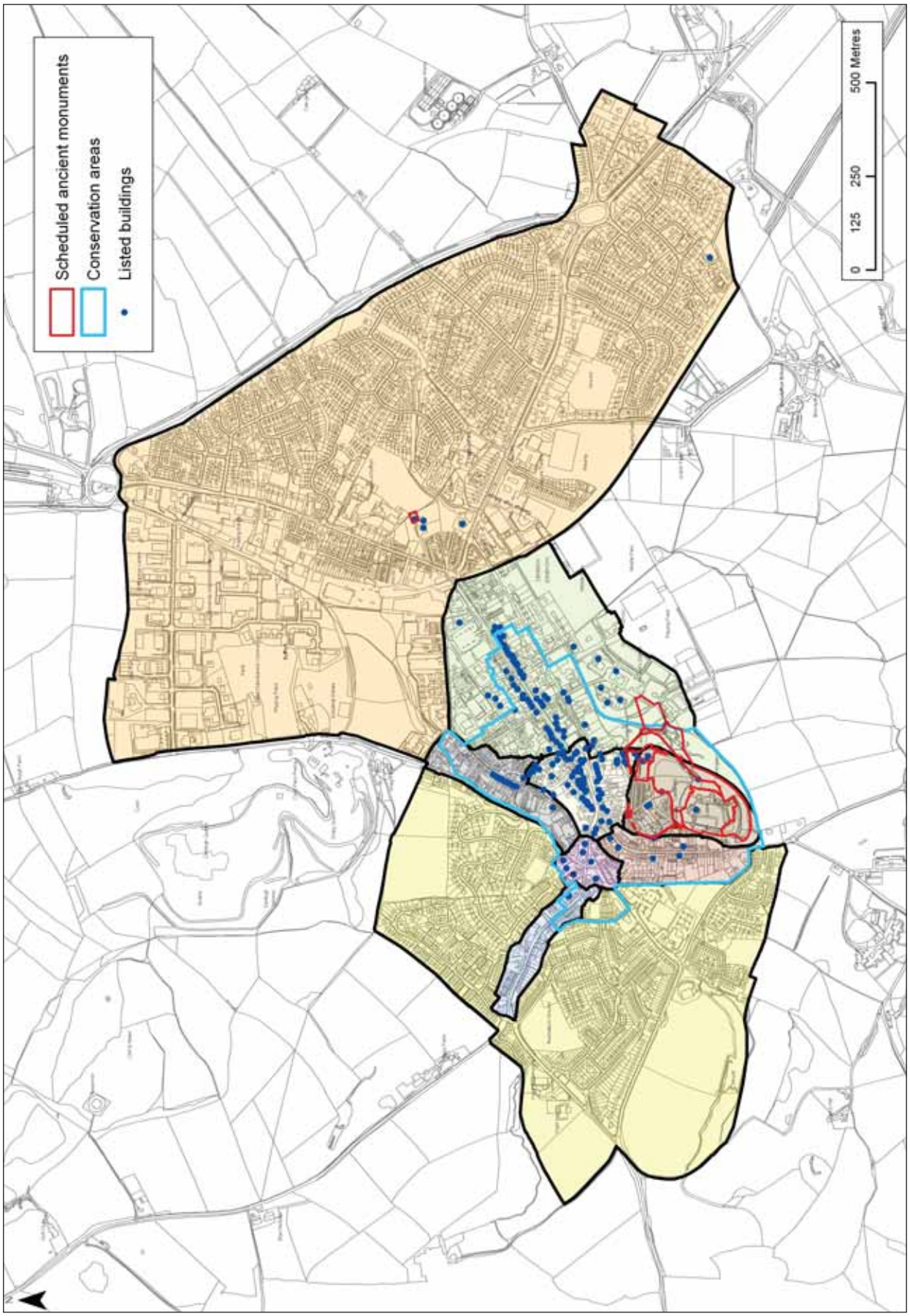
5 Character Areas: Scheduled Ancient Monuments, Listed Buildings and Conservation Area



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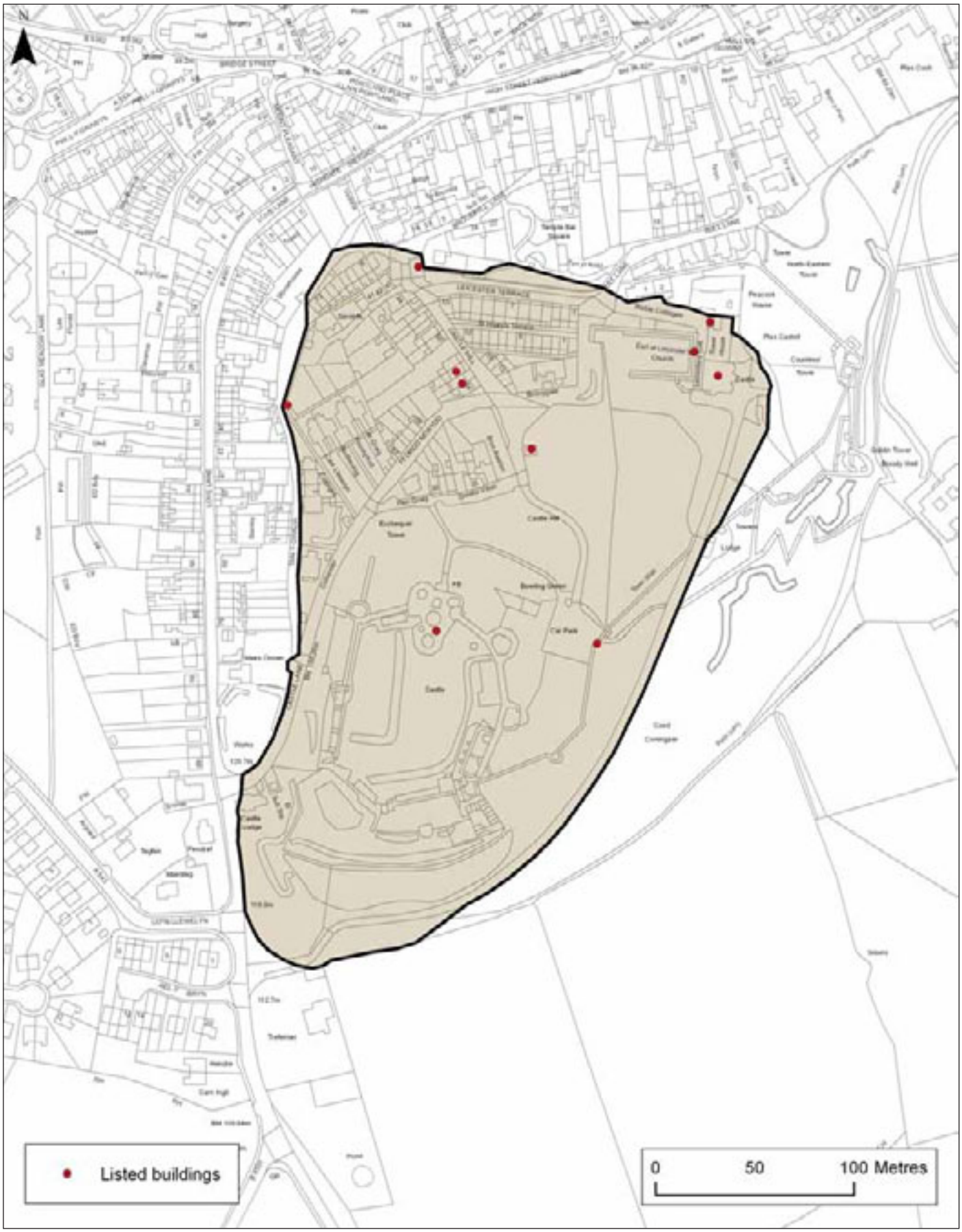
6 Castle and Walled Town (1)



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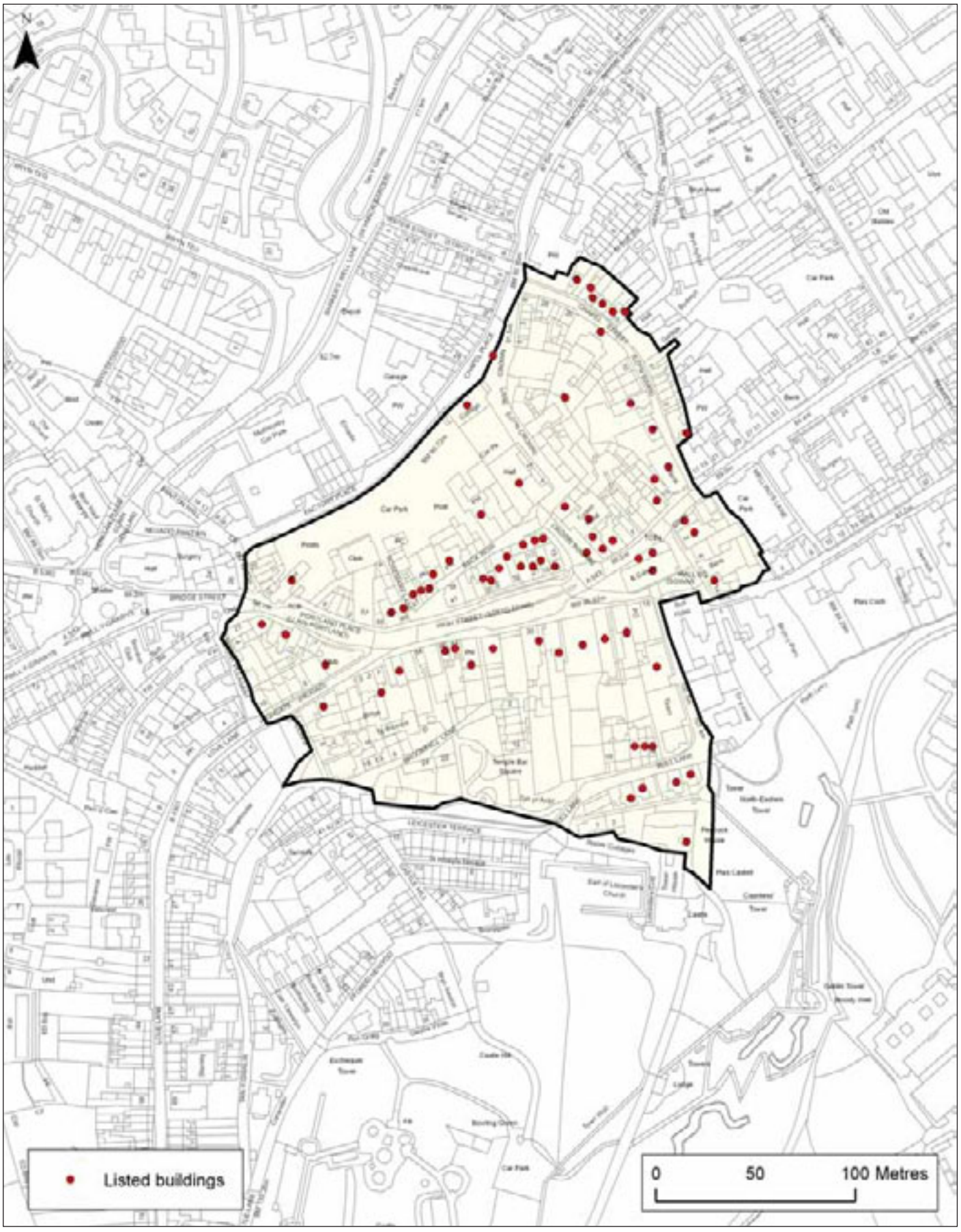
7 High Street (including Portland Place, Back Row, Crown Lane, Chapel Street and top of Vale Street) (2)



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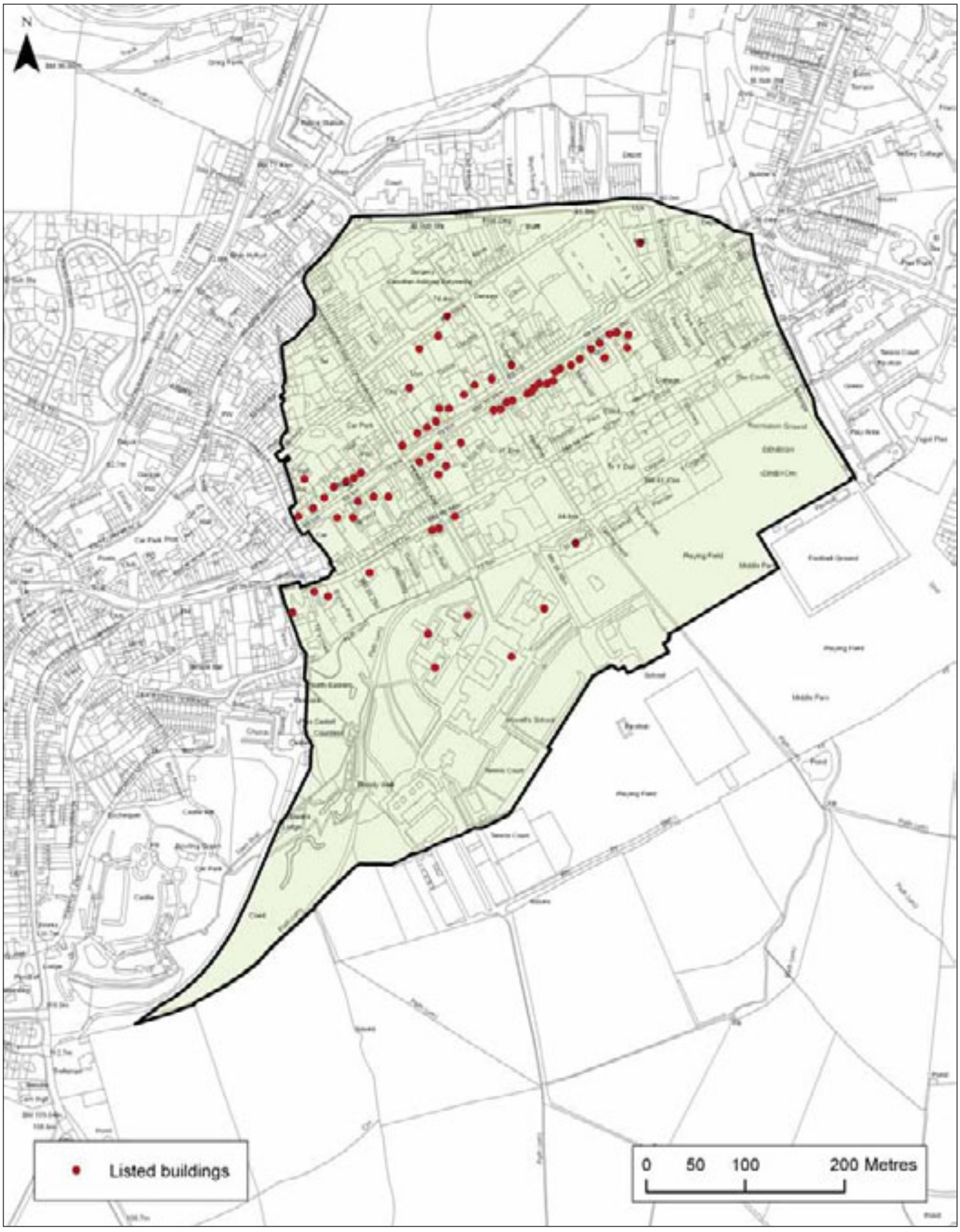
8 Vale Street (including Park Street, Middle Lane, Post Office Lane and Peake's Lane) (3)



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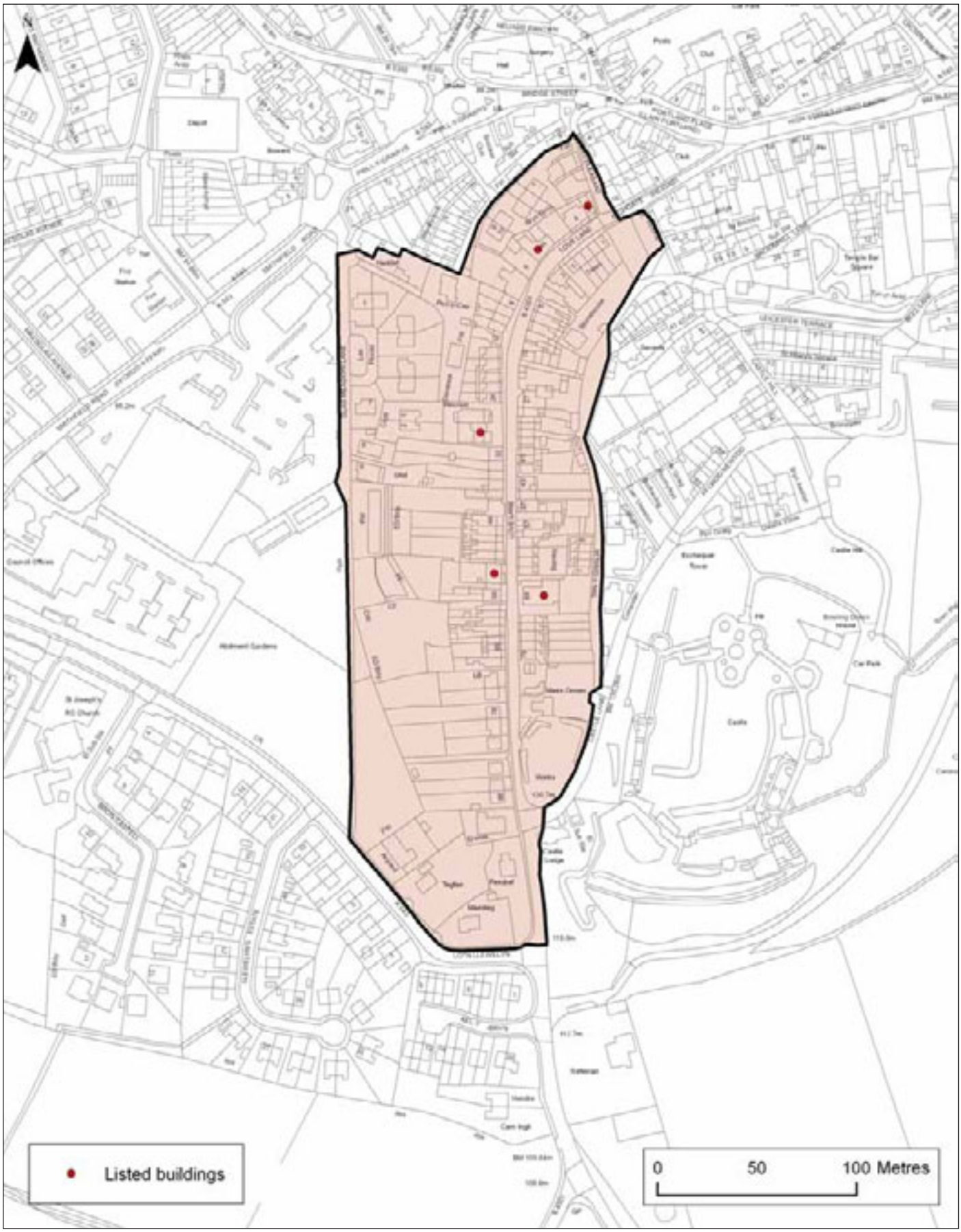
9 Love Lane (4)



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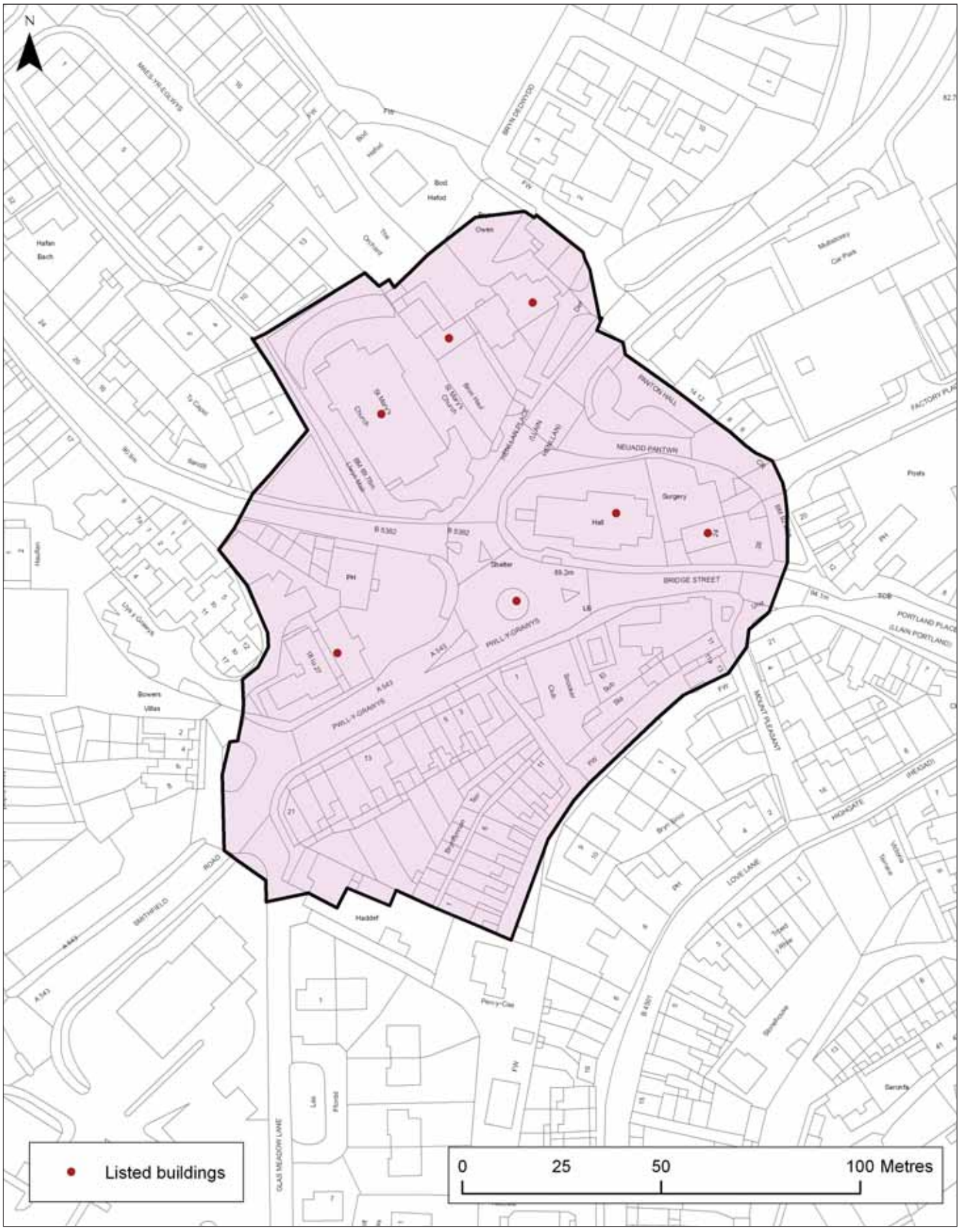
10 Lenten Pool and Bridge Street (5)



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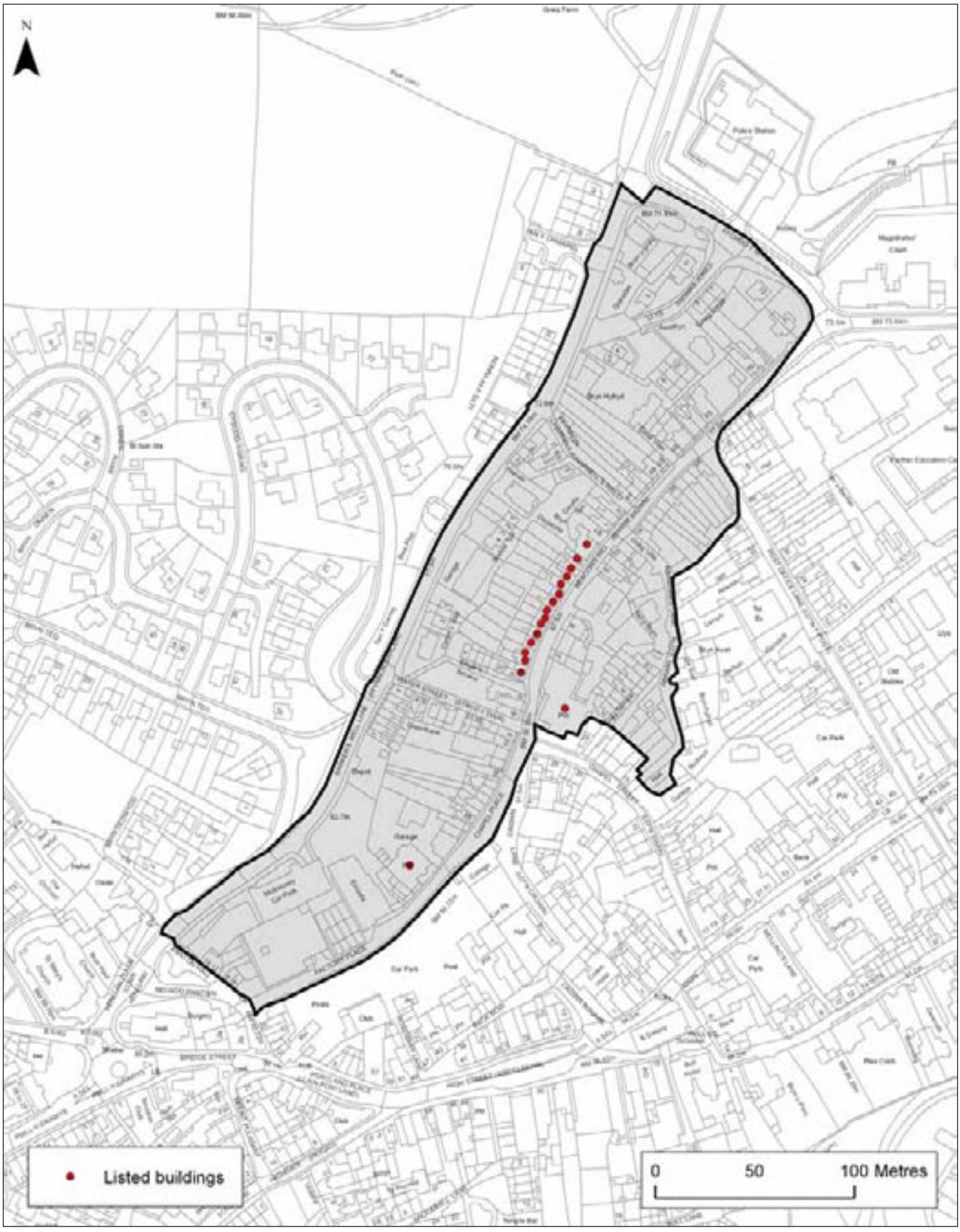
11 Factory Place, Chapel Place, Beacons Hill and Barker's Well Lane (6)



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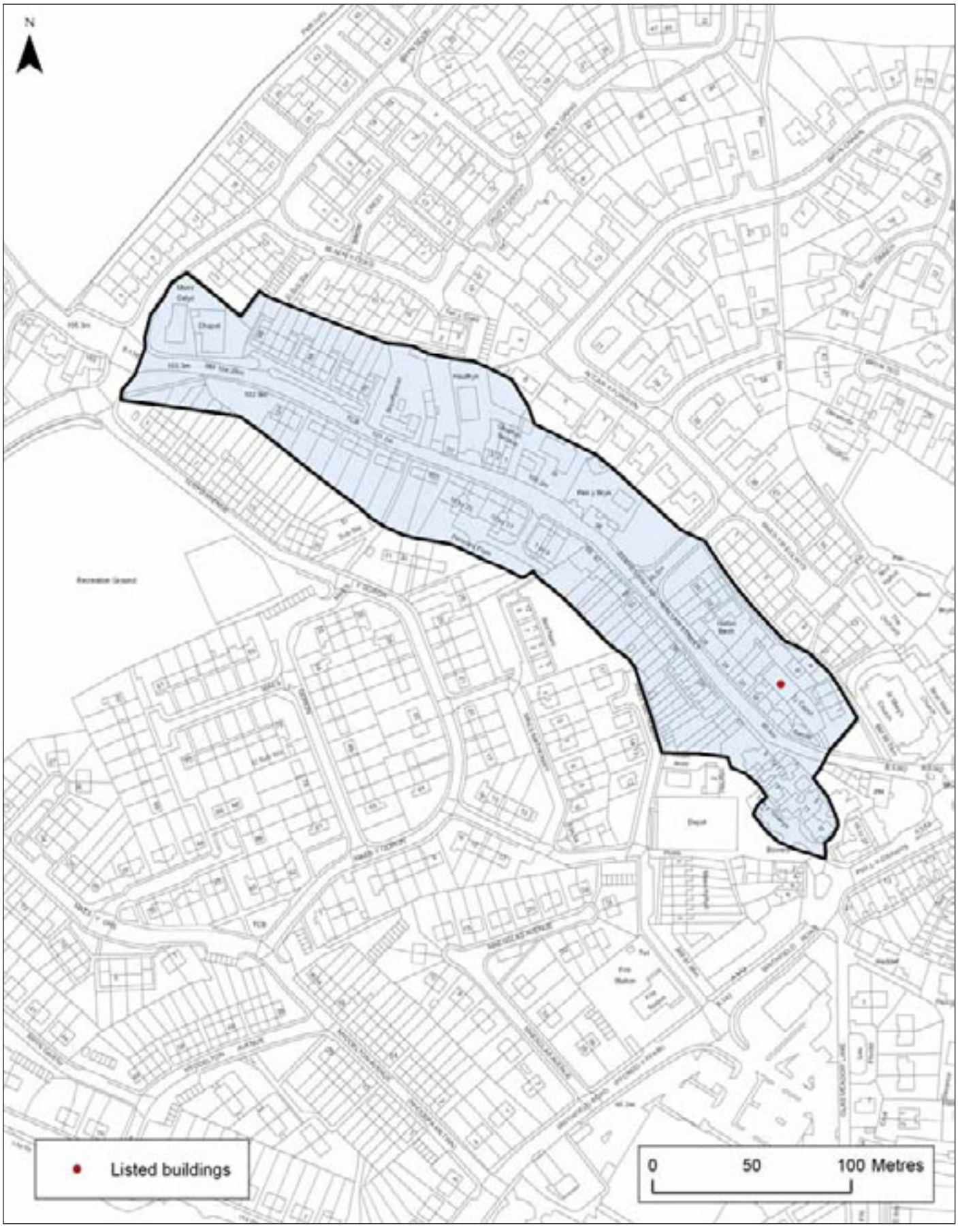
12 Henllan Street (7)



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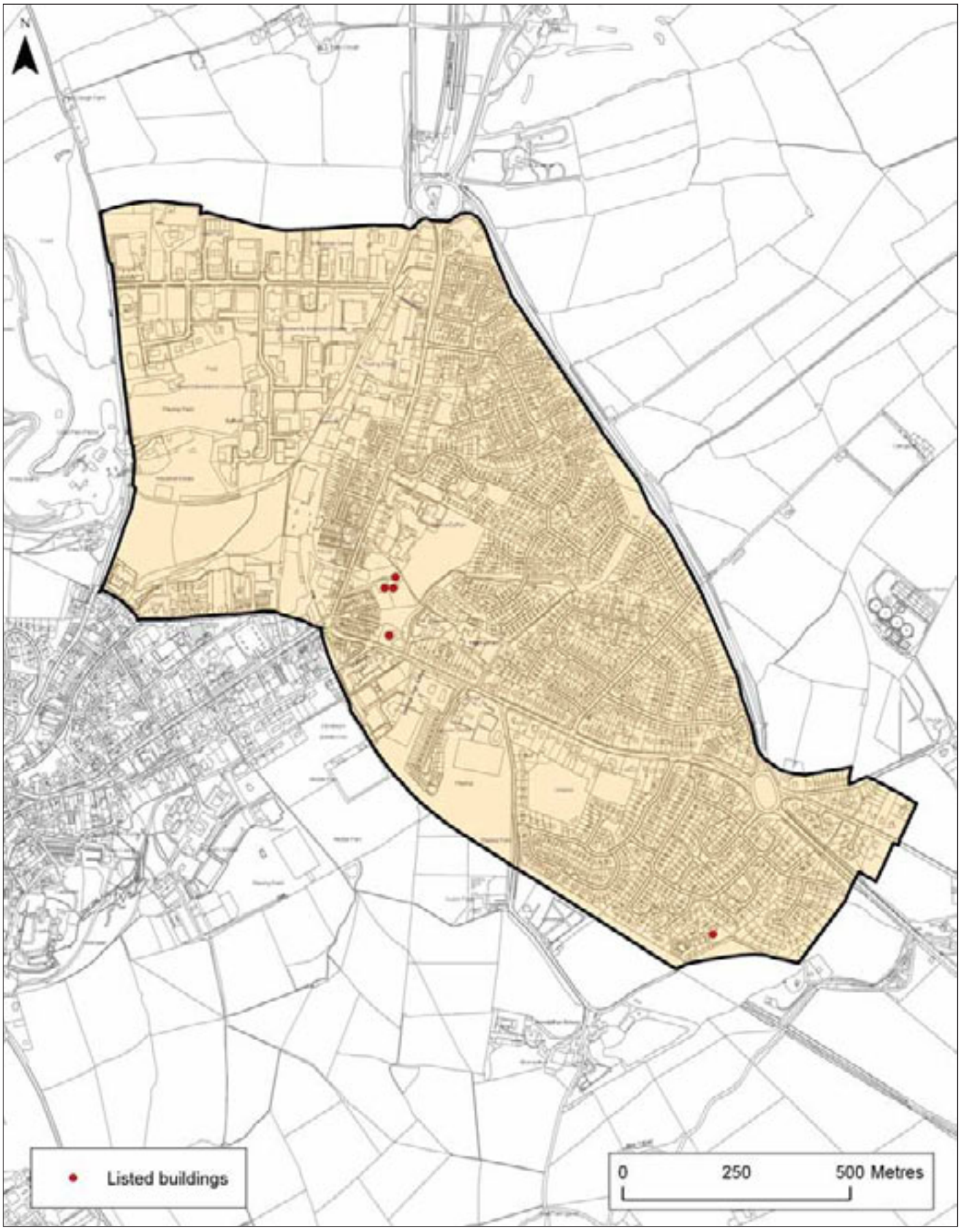
13 Ruthin Road (8)



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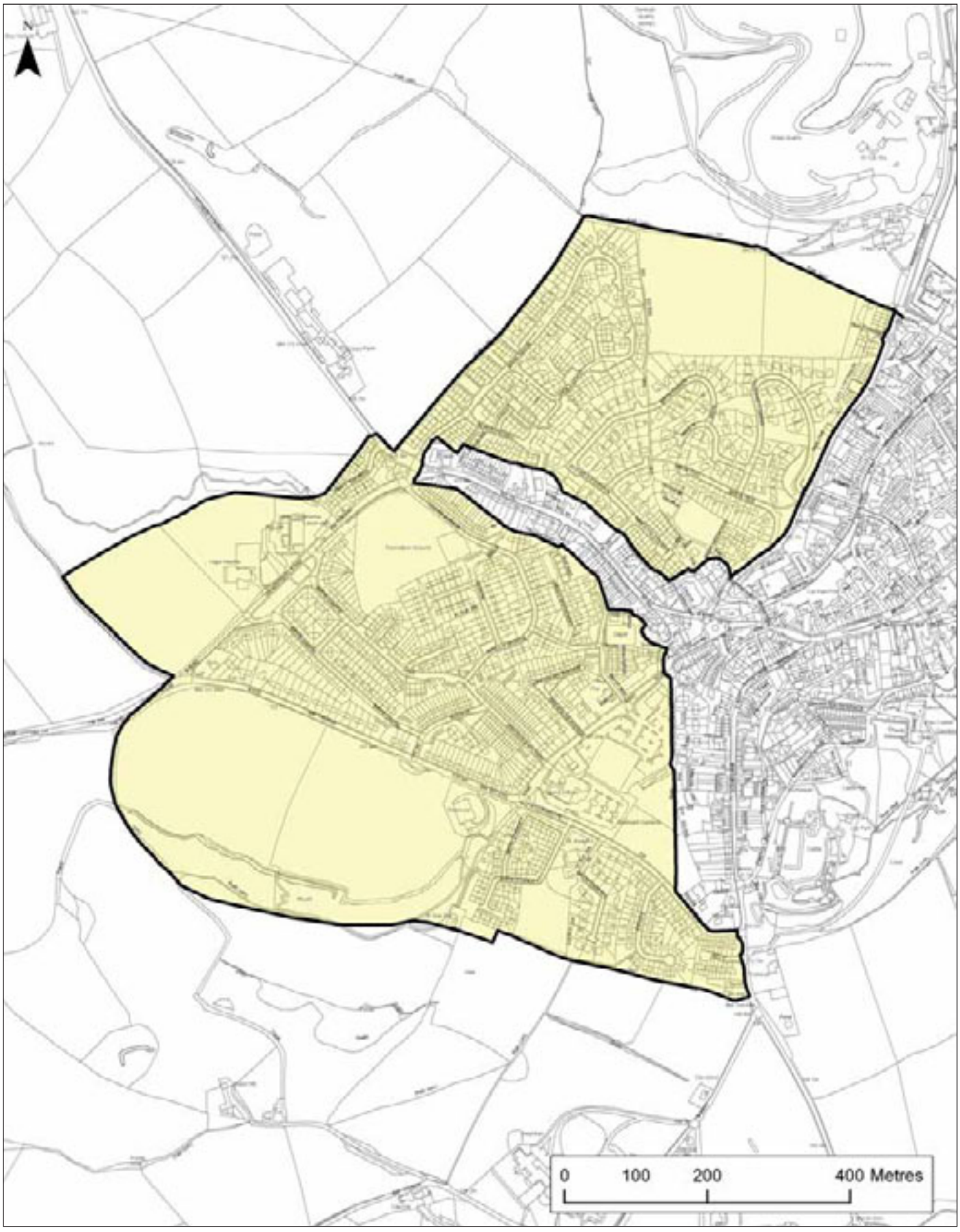

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