

Figure 3.1 Radford. A return to a street architecture after demolition of 1960s deck access flats.



the scale of urban grain prior to a faceless development in the 1960s. After the demolition of the unwanted development it is possible, using the information from the ordnance survey to restore the site to something resembling its former richness of street patterning (Figures 3.1 and 3.2). Even the most perfunctory site analysis would include an investigation of those structures of historic or architectural interest. If the site has an ancient history the study may include a detailed archaeological investigation. More simply, it may identify those buildings, trees and other structures which have been listed for protection, including sites of scientific or ecological interest. The analysis of the site and its history would conclude with a study of more recent pressures on the urban structure, which would include an analysis of recent planning

documents in order to determine those policies which currently affect development on the site. It may also be relevant to identify those ideas and suggestions for development which, for one reason or another, have not been implemented. An understanding of the reasons for inactivity in the area may provide the key for choosing a successful form of development in keeping with its history and function. As a part of this study of contemporary pressures on the site an analysis should be made of all recent planning applications which completes the picture of the site and its potential for development.

Great works of urban design develop over many generations. The Piazza del Popolo as a major entrance to Rome, dates from AD 272 when the Porta del Popolo, gateway to the square, was built