

The Former Site of the Nuffield Press Hollow Way, Cowley, Oxfordshire



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Client: Wimpey Homes

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The Former site of the Nuffield Press, Hollow Way, Cowley

Historic Building Recording and Investigation

SUMMARY

In 1997, as part of a larger archaeological project, two buildings formerly owned by the Nuffield Press and Morris Motors Ltd were recorded in advance of their demolition and the site's redevelopment. The Drinkwater Building was a two story, late 19th century, building which had initially been constructed as a Laboratory for the Military College, but had latterly was put to a variety of uses by the occupants of the site including as the headquarters for the work's rescue service and an electricity substation. The 'A-shop' was constructed in 1914 and originally housed a munitions factory before being taken over first by Morris' expanding car manufacturing industry, then by Nuffield Press the printing firm who were founded by Morris to print 'The Morris Owner' magazine. Both buildings were demolished after the survey and re-developed into housing.

This report provides a description of the buildings together with their historical background, based on the photographic and drawn survey conducted by OA in 1997. It also provides an opportunity to apply archaeological recording techniques to 20th century industrial history, an area which has too often overlooked as unsuitable or inappropriate for archaeological study. Together with the documentary history, which although relatively recent was surprisingly scarce and the first hand accounts of Colin Judge, Ricky West and others who worked at the site from the 1950's onwards, this report presents a important insight into the social and industrial history of the Hollow Way site with detailed reference to the buildings in which it occurred.

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

1.1.1 The former site of the Nuffield Press was investigated by the Oxford Archaeology Unit in 1997 as part of a pre-construction evaluation for Wimpey Homes. A watching brief of the sub-surface remains and buildings survey of several of the standing structures on the site were carried out, the summarised results of which were published in Oxoniensia vol. 64. The buildings survey incorporated the rear wall of the 17th century Temple Cowley Manor House, which after the demolition of the rest of the manor house in 1957, had been incorporated into modern industrial buildings; the Drinkwater Building which was built in 1882 as a science laboratory for the Military College which occupied

the site and the A-shop or "tin shed", a large early 20th century industrial building which occupied the centre of the site.

1.2 Aims and objectives

1.2.1 The surviving wall of the manor house has previously been reported in some detail, however other structures on the site, although planned and sectioned prior to demolition have not been reported until now. The "A shop" in particular had a variety of functions closely linked to the industrial development of Morris Motors Ltd, and in particular the Nuffield press who occupied the building for much of the latter half of the 20th century. The history of the car manufacturing industry, is a subject of current importance given the recent decline and closure of many car plants factories. The history of the company at the Cowley plant is of great local significance too as for almost three quarters of a century Morris Motors and its successors have been a major employer in the area. BMW still manufactures the mini on the surviving part of the Cowley works just a kilometre away from the Hollow Way site, illustrating the social currency and relevance of understanding the heritage of car manufacture in Oxford. The aim of this report therefore is to create a permanent, detailed record of the Drinkwater and A-shop buildings as investigated in the 1997 survey, and to investigate their historical background in order to incorporate, it along with the work which has already been completed, into a permanent archive of the Hollow Way site.

1.3 Methodology

1.3.1 The history of the buildings has been traced using map regression and the numerous written histories of Morris Motors Ltd, which are held at the Centre for Oxfordshire Studies. In addition the records of the company have been traced through the Oxfordshire Record Office, in order to ascertain the functions of the buildings while they were under its ownership. Historic photographs have also been of assistance in tracking the changes to the structure of the buildings. The records for the Nuffield Press are limited, as it's archive was destroyed when the company moved from the site, however the "Jubilee History" written in 1985 by J. Sheppard has been used as a basis for the historical background to the company. It has also been possible to interview several individuals who were employed at the Hollow Way site and their personal memories of the plant have added greatly to the documented history particularly of the later years of the site's industrial use.

1.3.2 The survey on site comprised an extensive photographic and drawn record of both buildings, including photographs throughout the demolition of 'A shop'. However the staff member who recorded the buildings left the company before the building were formally reported on and so the descriptions in this report are largely based on the photographic archive. In addition several individuals involved with 'The Friends of Nuffield Place' a voluntary group who look after Lord Nuffield's former home visited

the site and took video footage of the buildings on the site before they were demolished and although it was not possible to get a copy of this footage, for this report it should be borne in mind for future work. The recording of the buildings has been broadly to RCHME level 2 standard.

2 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 The Hollow Way Site

2.1.1 The site on the corner of Hollow Way and Oxford Road (figure 1) has traditionally been noted as the site of the medieval Cowley manor (VCH 1957:76). The results of the pre construction evaluation in 1997 supported the documentary evidence that the site had been occupied since the 13th century but revealed no direct evidence for buildings prior to the 17th century (Muir 1999:19).

2.1.2 As Muir notes, the history of the manor house is complicated and has often been confused with that of the Church Cowley manorial buildings (1999:2). The Victoria County History details the manor's history from its origin as a Templar preceptory in the 13th century which may have been located on the Hollow Way site, and its reversion to secular use and then royal ownership in the early 14th century (1957:77-8).

2.1.3 In the 18th century the house was owned by the Phipps family and was bequeathed to Pembroke College by the Revd. James Phipps in 1778, although the manor house itself is not mentioned and the deeds have subsequently been lost. Documentary sources date the manor house, the majority of which was demolished in 1957, to pre - 1671, however the typological evidence recovered from the 1997 building survey of the surviving wall and historic photographs, did not aid further clarification of its date of construction.

2.1.4 During the late 19th and early 20th centuries the buildings on the site were altered in purpose several times and many new ones added as the map regression shows (figure 2). J. M. Sheppard records in detail the growth of the site during this time in her article "Nuffield Press: A jubilee history" (1985) and the following summary of events is based on this work.

2.1.5 The first recorded new building was the stone school house built in 1852 on the corner of Oxford Road and Hollow Way and appears on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1886. Next appears to have been the chapel which was designed by E.G. Brunton and was added to the east of the manor in 1870, which housed the Diocesan School of Cowley College at the time. Both these buildings are extant though much altered from their original state, and Grade II listed (see Appendix 1).

2.1.6 In 1885 the buildings, having been vacated by the College some years before, were purchased by the Oxford Military College Ltd, and were described to be in a "wretched state of repair" by a contemporary observer (Sheppard, 1985:15). In 1887 a new series

of buildings was designed by the renowned architect Thomas Graham Jackson famous for his prolific work in Oxford centre, in the form of a quadrangle with parade ground in the centre (figure 3). The first wing to be built was the east wing, which was completed in 1878. The south wing was commissioned in 1880, adjoining the old manor house along Oxford Road (referred to in previous OA reports as the Jackson building), although the school closed in 1896 before the envisaged quad could be completed.

- 2.1.7 At the turn of the 20th century, the new owners Alfred Breese Ltd brought a change of use to the Hollow Way site establishing a cycle factory in the buildings of the former college in 1899, using the manor house as a residential dwelling. After a period of disuse the buildings were bought by W G Morris to house his newly founded motor car factory in 1912, retaining the industrial use, with the schoolhouse being converted into offices and the manor house retaining its residential function.
- 2.1.8 By the end of 1914, there were several occupants on the site; the school chapel had been taken over by the Church of England and the buildings were shared by Morris Motors and Aslin Blinds Co. The blind manufacturers moved to new premises in 1916 leaving the Morris Motors as the sole occupant of the site. Morris Motors (and its successor companies see figure 4 for accession diagram) owned the site until 1995 and the buildings on it were used continuously as offices, and variously as part of the car manufacturing plant and the Nuffield Press printers.

2.2 **The Drinkwater Building**

- 2.2.1 In addition to the Jackson buildings, architect H.G.W Drinkwater was also commissioned in the late 19th century to build first a swimming bath then a new science laboratory, referred to henceforth as the Drinkwater building (marked D on figures 1 & 3). The laboratory was located to the west of the site and was built early in 1882 by Eastcourt of Gloucester (Sheppard 1985:17). According to Sheppard, the laboratory comprised a lecture room and several classrooms all with electricity, and was built in a style "intended to echo Jacksons's two wings, with (its) red brick piers and window aprons, rendered wall surfaces and rigid cornice between the ground and first floors".
- 2.2.2 Little is know of what use was made of the building after the college closed. Although it was purchased by Morris, there are no details of when this occurred or what use was made of the buildings. From around the 1950's, former workers remember the large upper room being used for the rehearsals of the Morris Motors Brass Band (Colin Judge pers.comm) but the building may have housed the band's rehearsals from their foundation in 1924.
- 2.2.3 On a plan of the buildings dated to c.1975 (figure 5) the building is marked as the 'Industrial Rescue Service Headquarters' and 'Substation'. The IRS was founded in the early years of the works and included a fire service, ambulance and police together with a rescue and recovery/ civil defence team (Ricky West pers. comm.). The rescue service

remained in action until the late 1980's when the Rover Group (who had taken over the site in 1986, figure 4) finally vacated the Temple Cowley premises and often collaborated with the municipal services responding to larger scale emergencies. When OA carried out the survey in 1997, there were many miscellaneous items of IRS origin in one of the rooms on the lower floor, indicating that the building had not been used after their departure.

2.2.4 There is also a later reference to the Drinkwater building being used as a powerhouse, presumably for the printworks, in 1985, though there is no comment on the other uses. (Sheppard 1895:17). At some undefined point a new substation was built onto the extension of 'A-shop', presumably superseding the one in the Drinkwater building.

2.3 The 'A Shop'

2.3.1 In 1914, Morris sought to expand the space available for his manufacturing concern by constructing a single storey, steel framed building in the area which had formerly been the Military College's parade ground in the centre of the site known as the 'A shop' or the 'tin shed'. There are varying opinions as to what motivated the construction, with some favouring the theory that Morris instigated the expansion to develop a successful assembly line mode of production in his factory, while others argue that in fact the shed was primarily constructed as a munitions factory, without the intervention of Morris, who only subsequently benefited from the extra space.

2.3.2 As mentioned above, for the first four years after its construction, the 'A shop' was used to manufacture munitions during the First World War, only reverting to car manufacture in 1919. The initial buildings can be viewed in figure 5, an aerial photograph from 1920. The rapidly expanding business soon outgrew the 'A shop' and by the 1937 OS map the northern corridor extension had been built and much of the production shifted to the east of the site across the Hollow Way (figure 2).

2.3.3 Morris Motors Fire brigade, part of the IRS were housed in the east end of the station, along with the ambulance and police (in a separate building) as marked on the fire assembly points plan of c.1975 (figure 5) and according to Ricky West, an ex-fireman from the Hollow Way site, had been stationed there for as long as it had been in existence. The first records of the Morris Motor's Fire Service confirm its existence in 1925, but it is likely that it was formed in the early history of the company some years before this (Newbigging and Williams 1998:66). Unfortunately the sparse documentary record makes it impossible to determine whether the emergency areas were designed when 'A-shop' was constructed in 1914 or were added later. At some point in the latter history of the building the fire station was converted into offices, though it is uncertain when this happened.

2.3.4 In 1925, Morris established the Morris Oxford Press to produce "The Morris Owner" magazine, initially housing paper store in the deconsecrated chapel, which had fallen

out of use by 1922. The press was a huge success for Morris, requiring a three storey extension to its existing location by 1931 (see appendix 1). In 1950, the renamed Nuffield Press moved production out of the historic buildings on the site and into 'A shop', where it remained until the company relocated in 1995. The arrangement of the interior of the building, and the original college buildings is documented in the fire assembly points plan c.1975, but it can also be seen that apart from the emergency services, the northern part of 'A-shop' was marked as transport. It is uncertain what the full function of this area was but Colin Judge distinctly remembers spare car parts from the factory across the road being sold from there to the workers on Friday evenings during the 1950's and 1960's.

- 2.3.5 During the 1960's and 1970's the motor manufacturer gradually relocated and scaled down the units at the Hollow Way site, moving further east to their current location between the eastern bypass (A4142) and Watlington Road. The Nuffield Press, long since independent of the motor industry, was the last company to vacate the premises around Hollow Way in 1995 after which all the buildings stood derelict on the site until the time of the survey in 1997.

3 THE 1997 BUILDINGS SURVEY

3.1 Drinkwater Building - External description (*From the photographic record*)

- 3.1.1 The Drinkwater building was a two storey construction of red brick orientated east-west on the western edge of the site. The original building was L-shaped in plan with a later extension of unknown date (areas G/4, G/5, 1/4 and 1/5 on figure 6). This extension was a single storey brick lean-to, sympathetic to the rest of the building with similar window sills and surrounds indicating that it may have been added relatively soon after the building was constructed (plates 1 and 2; figure 6). The building itself was roofed in red tile, while its extension was roofed in grey slate.
- 3.1.2 The building has been described as echoing the style of two wings of college buildings which Jackson designed. Certainly the red brick piers and window surrounds, the rendered wall surfaces and cornice between the first and ground floors as identified by Sheppard (1985:17), are reminiscent of the extant Jackson buildings (recorded in appendix 1). These features can be clearly seen on the east-facing aspect of the building, illustrated in plate 1, and although in a state of disrepair at the time of the survey, were clearly not of the same quality as those observed in the Jackson buildings which is hardly surprising considering Drinkwater's remit was more concerned with speed and economy than monumentalism.
- 3.1.3 The cornice had weathered quite badly in exposed areas but was well preserved under the later extension (plate 3 b&w 4/26a). Likewise, plate 4 shows damage to the brickwork, which appears to have been most extensive on the south-east corner of the

building. The windows were mostly sash and wooden framed, the ground floor ones comprising eight lights, the first floor six (plates 1 and 5). The windows were mostly concentrated on the east facing wall where there were seven in total. Four further windows illuminated the ground floor rooms, two in each of the north and south walls respectively, while a single window illuminated the upper floor from the west (figure 6). Further light was provided to the upper floor of the building from three skylights, two positioned in the western facing roof, one located above the extension roof on the eastern side of the building.

- 3.1.4 The building also appears to have had three chimneys - one running down the south side of the rear wall (plate 6), one along the north side of the eastern wall (plate 1, visible above the extension), and one which is visible only from its stack on the southern side of roof (plate 1). The doors to both front and rear of the building were double, and appear to be mid to late 20th century in date. The blue doors at the front had glass panes and a glass window above, while the orange doors at the back were without apertures with three steps down to ground level on the outside. Also mounted on the rear wall above the doors was an alarm bell, presumably part of the fire alarm system. There was a further door in the north wall, in the corner of room G/5, however no photographic record exists for this door.

3.2 **Internal Description (from the photographic record)**

The Ground Floor

- 3.2.1 The ground floor of the Drinkwater building was divided into four rooms, a vestibule and stairs area (figure 6). The vestibule area (G/4) and its adjoining room (G/5) are an extension to the original building, with G/4 retaining the full height of the extension into the roof space for half its length (plate 7 - film 6/33, figure 6), while in G/5 a ceiling had been installed.
- 3.2.2 The northernmost rear room G/1, was linked to room G/5 by double doors one of which was bricked over when the building was extended. G/1 unlike G/5 was panelled, probably in wood, to a height of around 1.2m but otherwise the room was unremarkable. Several squares of possibly linoleum flooring remained in situ in the south east-corner, and electric strip light fittings remained suspended from the ceiling. Stored in this room however was a certain amount of paraphernalia including signs, notice boards, kettles and a stretcher (plates 8,9, 10) which appear to relate to the Morris Motors Ltd Industrial Civil Defence first aid station which was formerly housed in this building.
- 3.2.3 G/6 was also panelled in wood to a comparable height to room G/1, and featured two louvred openings in its east (plate 11 b&w 4/34) and north (Plate 12 b&w 4/35) internal walls as well as double external doors in the west wall. The panelling seems to have

been stripped from the west wall only and, as with the other ground floor rooms, the floor appears to have been of concrete.

- 3.2.4 G/3 was the stairs area, containing a spiral staircase, a metal banister with wooden handrail and substantial under-stair cupboard (Plates 13-16, b&w 6 10, 13-14). G/2 opened directly off it and the single window, which was barred on the outside, had revetments inside which were covered by a sheet of plastic to make it weather proof. The lower half of the walls appears to have been painted in a dark colour and was severely worn in patches. The ceiling, clearly visible in plate 17 (b&w 6/3) was composed of large square ceiling tiles which were clearly not contemporary with the construction date. The same tiles appear to provide the ceiling in all the ground floor rooms, but whether they are a replacement ceiling or merely a modern covering was not established during the survey.

The First floor

- 3.2.5 At the top of the spiral staircase was a small landing with a metal banister (Plate 18) off which were three further rooms. Room 1/1 was the largest of the three, comprising the western half of the roof space (figure 6). The wooden roof trusses were exposed (plates 19-22) and there were three pairs of gas light fittings probably dating to the very early 20th century in situ, alongside their electric replacements (plates 23-24). To the northern end of the room was a series of shallow stepped stages, creating a podium with moulded cornices (plate 19, figure 6, plate 25).
- 3.2.6 Room 1/4 had basic flooring and a skylight but its function was not clear, and as it was a relatively small space with only a half sized door, it was probably used primarily for storage. (plates 26 & 27). Room 1/5 does not appear to have been accessible during the building's later use, despite the presence of skylights, as it was divided from room 1/4 by a plaster board wall and there was no flooring (plate 28). Room 1/2 was also relatively small although it had a full height ceiling, with electric strip light fitting still in situ and two square sash windows (plate 29 and 30). The south western corner was of an unusual shape and there was a vent above the skirting, suggesting this was the location of the fireplace vented by the southern chimney (plate 31).

3.3 The 'A shop' External description (*From the photographic record*)

- 3.3.1 The 'A shop' was a steel-framed, metal clad and brick building which extended over 100,000 sq ft across the centre of the Hollow Way site. The building was constructed initially in three aisles, each with an A-framed roof, and was later extended to the north with the addition of a further aisle (figure 7). The aisles are numbered for the purposes of this description from 1 to 4, with the southernmost being 1 and the northern extension being 4. Plate 32 shows eastern side of the building (from the north east) with doors for access to each aisle and the security shed clearly visible.

- 3.3.2 Aisle 2 appears to have been the main entrance to the building, with four windows and a separate large glass frontage and door (Plate 33, 8a/12a), leading into the office area (room 4). The large double metal doors in the north wall of aisle 3 are likely to have been a goods entrance, given their size and proximity of the site entrance from Hollow Way (plate 32).
- 3.3.3 The southern side of the building comprised the same materials as the eastern wall with nine regularly spaced pane glass windows stretching 40m from the eastern corner (plate 34). Below the final window was a sliding, metal clad fire exit door, and beside it a door and large vent, which were both recessed into the wall (plate 35). To the left of this recess and apparently abutting the shed was the brick built boiler house and chimney vent (plate 36). The remainder of the wall was unremarkable, with a further set of double doors identical to those in the east wall of aisle 3, perhaps a further goods entrance, and a fire exit.
- 3.3.4 On the western wall original corrugated walls of the shed had been left exposed, there was no evidence of the metal cladding which covered the east and south walls (plate 37). The corrugated metal is clearly in a poor state of repair. There were several buildings abutting the shed mostly comprising brick built rest rooms and a large water (?) tank in between (plate 38). There are four windows of similar style to those along the southern wall in the end of aisle 1
- 3.3.5 Only limited photos survive of the extension to aisle four visible on the plan (figure 7) however it appears to have been brick built, with the southern extension being the substation for the factory. The aisle is of unusual shape widening significantly towards the western end.

3.4 **Internal description**

- 3.4.1 The layout of the interior of 'A-shop' is planned in some detail on the c.1975 fire evacuation plan (figure 5), which incorporates the different departments and even some of the larger machines. It is clear from the survey plan there were several changes to the layout of the factory before the premises were vacated in the 1990's. The biggest of these is the conversion of the fire station into offices (room 4) and the addition of a worker's restroom and toilets in the western end of aisle 1, however the majority of the internal divisions of the factory area had remained unchanged from their positions in the 1970's. In the description below rooms are referred to by number as illustrated on figure 7.
- 3.4.2 Plate 39 shows the eastern end of area 1 (aisle 1) with the breeze block built, white-washed modern extension of the office / reception area (1.1) to the left of the frame. The internal arrangement of the offices are shown in plate 40. The divisions between the individual offices appear to have been constructed from pre-constructed wood and plasterboard panels, with wooded window frames and doors. This is a very similar

- internal construction to room 4 (aisle 2) which adjoined area 1.1 via a double door (plate 41). To the west end of area 1 was a brick built room housing the oil tank (1.2.3), and also several office units (1.3.1, 1.2.4 and 1.3.2) which appear to have been of wooden construction with the upper portion of their walls consisting mostly of glass to allow in the light (plate 42 10/19a). To the north it appears that room one was not divided from area 5. The floor was of bare concrete, with no obvious evidence of floor mountings for the lithographic machinery which was housed in this area during the 1970's.
- 3.4.3 No photographic record exists for the western half of aisle 1 (area 2) but from the plan it appears to have contained a row of offices along the west wall with a staff room/kitchen and toilet units in the north east corner. Other divisions around the staff room area are marked on the plan as a former office system although it is not clear what form of evidence remained for this at the time of survey and how much of the internal dividing walls remained.
- 3.4.4 Aisle 2 was principally divided into three areas; the office /reception area already mentioned above (area 4), a large open workspace devoid of internal divisions (area 5, Plate 43) and a further work space with a further wooden framed office unit (similar in appearance to offices 1.3.1 and 1.3.2), and two storage units with large metal double doors at the western end (area 6, plate 44) which appear to have been brick built.
- 3.4.5 Area 5, as well as being undivided internally, also opened to the north and south onto areas 9 and 1 respectively. There was some evidence from the floor markings observed during the survey that this area had formerly been partitioned, a fact which is supported by the layout in the 1970's plan. Likewise, though area 6 was divided along some of its length from area 9, plate 45 shows that there were large openings in the partition perhaps suggesting a continuity of production between the two areas which required a substantial amount of access. The almost identical layout to the 1970's plan suggests that these two areas were likely to have remained in use as the bindery until the plant ceased production.
- 3.4.6 Unlike the other aisles, aisle 3 was divided internally along an east-west axis for much of its length (areas 9 and 10). The eastern end (area 7) was not divided along this axis, retaining a squarer plan. The areas contained one office 7.2.2 and a brick L-shaped partition along the northern wall (plate 46). Along the southern wall was a brick shed and corrugated iron boiler house, and in situ beside the eastern doors was a battery rack and a wash basin.
- 3.4.7 Leading directly off area 7 was a smaller room (area 8) in which floor to ceiling wooden shelving running along the south and the majority of the west walls (plate 47 16/14). A set of double swing doors led from this room into area 9, which was divided from area 10 to the north by a full-height apparently wooden wall with two sets of double doors

leading between the two (plate 48 16/33a). To the west, the row of offices recorded in area 6, continued along the length of area 9 (1.1.6).

- 3.4.8 Area 10 was not partitioned at the time of the survey, but there was evidence that it had been previously according to the surveyor. At the west end of the area, the outside wall was dominated by the large rolled metal door and in the northern internal partition remained external windows, a relic from when the wall provided the northern boundary of the building (Plate 49 18/8a). For the majority of the northern partition between area 10 and area 13, however, the original exterior wall had been replaced with metal sheeting, while the wall dividing area 12 from area 10 appeared to be of wooden construction.
- 3.4.9 Aisle four differed in construction from the other aisles, particularly in that the walls were entirely constructed using brick and that to the north of the aisle, the area was flat roofed (plates 50 and 51 20/14a, 22/7a). At the west end of the aisle were several offices and along the north and south walls were two sets of metal shelving units in situ.
- 3.4.10 To the east of area 13, was room 12, connected via a single door. A second set of double doors had been blocked with plywood sometime prior to the vacation of the site (plate 52 20/30a). Along the south wall was a collection of assorted office debris, boxes, desks and chairs, which was not in situ with the exception of a single shelving unit beside the door.
- 3.4.11 Room 11 had at one point had a large door in the eastern wall, but had been subsequently bricked up and a smaller one inserted (plate 53 20/21a). Likewise the two original windows to the left of the door have been covered by corrugated metal facing on the outside. The only other access to the room was via a double door connecting it with area 7, which had been fire damaged at the time of the survey.
- 3.4.12 During the demolition of 'A-shop' it was possible to note the maker's plates on some of the steel girders (plate 54) and to view the cross-sections of the walls as they were demolished, providing additional information about the building.

4 CONCLUSION

- 4.1.1 The Drinkwater Building and 'A-shop' represent two very different phases of construction on the Hollow Way site. The Drinkwater building originated as a science laboratory for the Military college, but retained its original function for only a few years before becoming redundant. Although its function in the early days of Morris Motor's occupation of the site is unclear, parts of the building were subsequently reused in various ways to provide space for organisations such as the brass band and the Industrial Rescue Services. The building though not of great architectural significance, was a valuable part of the social heritage of Morris Motors, as the location of such ancillary but employee-based organisations which for more than a century were a vital

- and prestigious part of large-scale heavy industry in this country, but which simply do not exist as part of the modern industry which has replaced it.
- 4.1.2 The 'A-shop' was custom built as a manufacturing unit in the early 20th century and although its form is anything but unique it too had an associative value as part of the history of Morris Motor's and latterly Nuffield Press. Although this type of building can seem numerous and modern and consequently of little heritage value, it is worth highlighting that in fact some of these buildings are nearing 100 years old and stand not only as representative of a time when the British transport industry, which was the foremost in the world, was in its infancy but also as a testament to how quickly the industry has metamorphosed and latterly declined to a fraction of its previous size and economic importance.
- 4.1.3 Also key to note is the fact that the details of the use of former industrial buildings are often difficult to ascertain, particularly in terms of the use of the space within them. Many companies do not keep records for longer than the legally prescribed minimum, and the nature of modern business is such that few people work for the same company for life and thus it is seldom possible to source documentary evidence about either external or internal the changes to the buildings. Given this lack of documentary and first-hand sources of information, it can reasonably be argued that the methods of archaeological building survey are the most appropriate tools available to understand the evolution of these buildings.
- 4.1.4 Some would still argue that buildings of this nature are not worthy of either protection or academic study. While it would be both unnecessary and unfeasible to monumentalise all buildings such as 'A-shop', a project such as this shows how much can be added to the documented history of manufacture on a site. It is true that even for a company as seminal to their type of industry as Morris Motors was to car manufacture, many details of the history and development remain unknown or unclear. Perhaps therefore sites such as that at Hollow Way present us with a privileged opportunity to record archaeologically a hugely important part of Britain's 20th century industrial and social history, supported by the first-hand accounts of those who made it.

Rebecca Briscoe

9th December 2005

APPENDIX I BIBLIOGRAPHY

PUBLISHED SOURCES

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- Newbigging, C, & Shatford, S. 1998, *The changing faces of Cowley Works*, Witney, Robert Boyd
- Muir, J, Newell, K and Kinchin-Smith, R, 1999, Nuffield Press, Temple Cowley, in *Oxoniensia LXIV*, pp297-300
- Sheppard, J. M, 1985, *Nuffield Press: A Jubilee History*

UNPUBLISHED SOURCES

- Muir, J, and Newell, K, 1999, *Excavations and building survey on the site of Temple Cowley Manor House*, Temple Cowley, Oxford, OAU Report.

MAPS AND PLANS

- 1853 Enclosure Map of Temple Cowley
- 1886 1st edition OS Map
- 1900 2nd edition OS map
- 1921 25" OS map
- 1937 OS map 1:25000
- 1962 OS map 1:25000
- 1970 OS map 1:25000
- 1995 OS map 1:25000

APPENDIX II SUMMARY OF SITE DETAILS

Site name: The Drinkwater building and 'A-shop'

Site code: OXNUFF BS

Grid reference: SP 548 046

Date and duration of project: Survey undertaken in 1997 immediately prior to and during demolition of the buildings. Written report compiled from the archive in December 2005.

Location of archive: The archive is currently held at OA, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES. It will be deposited with an appropriate agreed body.

Contents of Archive:

3 sheets A1 permatrace:

- 'A-shop' Ground floor plan (sketch with annotations)
- 'A-shop' East Facing Sketched Sections
- 'A-shop' East Facing Sketched Sections (continued)
- Incomplete 'A-shop' Ground floor plan for publication

1 sheet of A3 permatrace

- Drinkwater Building Ground and Second Floor Plan

1 Fire Evacuation Plan c.1975

3 35 mm colour slide films (35 mm)

10 35 mm black and white film contact sheets (35 mm)

10 black and white photographic negatives (35 mm)

A copy of Muir and Newell's report

A copy of this report

APPENDIX IV HISTORIC PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE HOLLOW WAY SITE



Early Morris Production in 'A-shop'



The Nuffield Press inside 'A-shop" c.1970/80 (most probably looking westwards down area 9)



The Nuffield Press inside 'A-shop" c.1970/80



Plate 49: The western end of the area 10/ area 13 partition, detailing the formerly external windows



Plate 50: The western elevation of aisle 4 (from the west)



Plate 51: The roof of the northernmost part of aisle 4 (from the east)



Plate 52: Area 12, from the east



Plate 53: The east wall of room 11, detailing the formerly external doors and windows (from west)



Plate 54: Maker's plate on a steel girder, inscription reads "A & J MAIN & Co LIMITED, STRUCTURAL ENGINEERS, GLASGOW LONDON CALCUTTA"

APPENDIX IV HISTORIC PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE HOLLOW WAY SITE



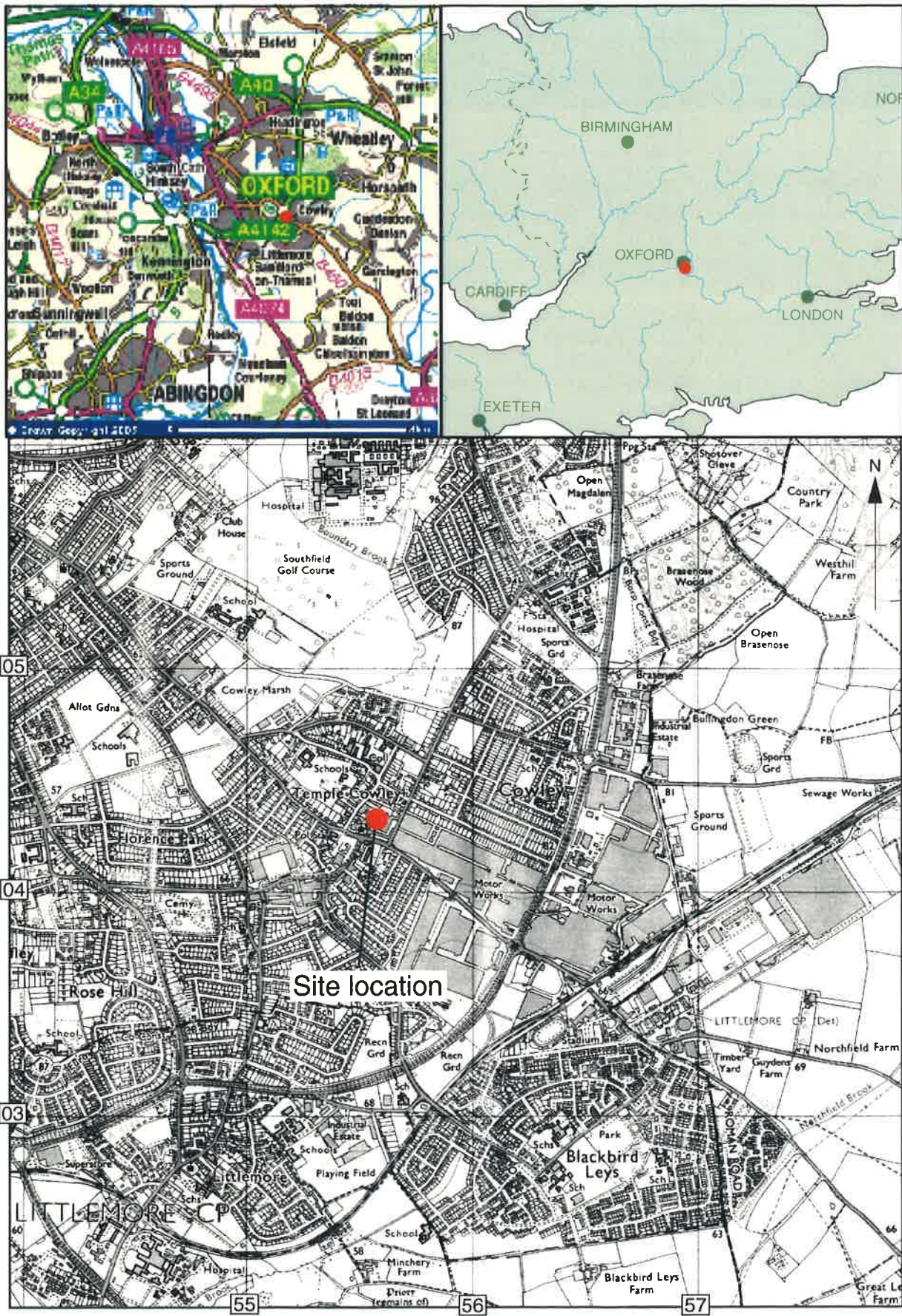
Early Morris Production in 'A-shop'



The Nuffield Press inside 'A-shop' c.1970/80 (most probably looking westwards down area 9)



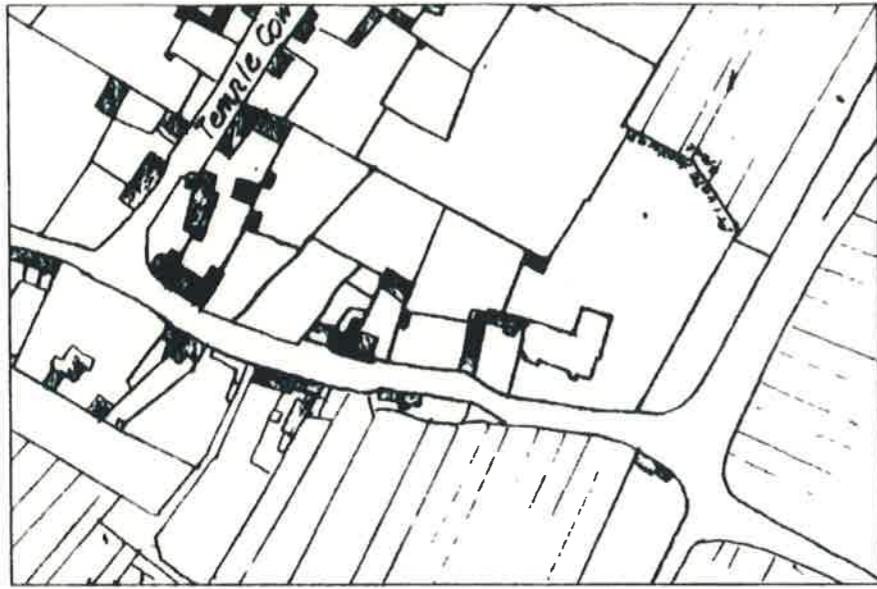
The Nuffield Press inside 'A-shop" c.1970/80



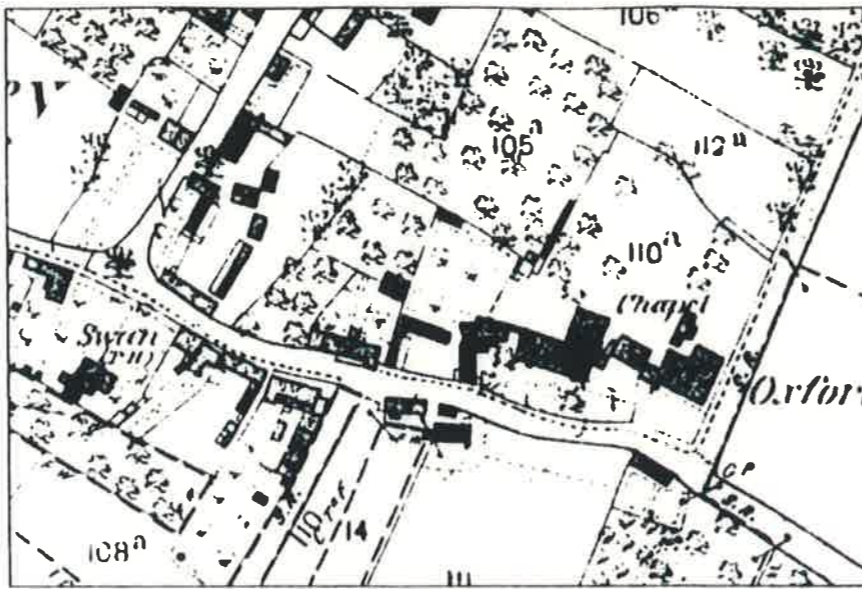
Scale 1:25,000

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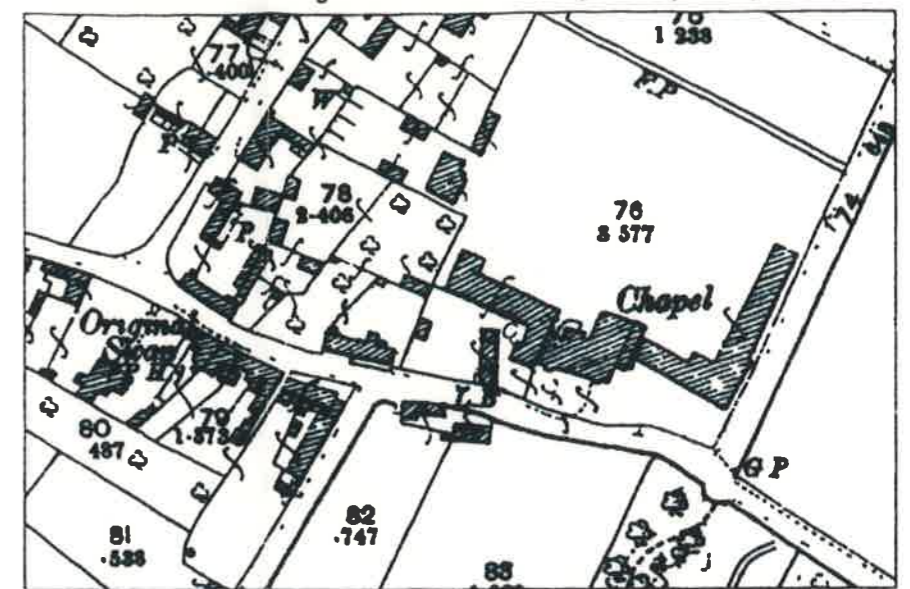
Figure 1: Site location



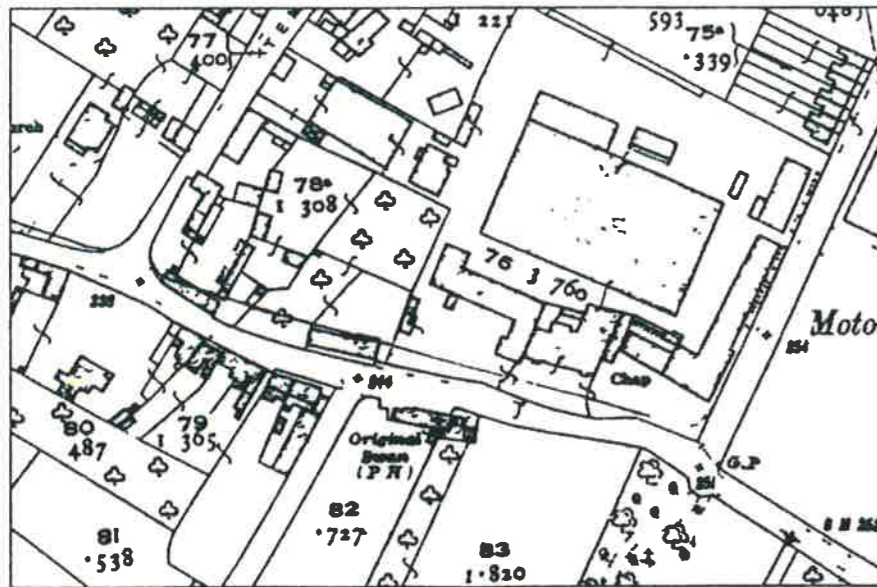
1853 - Enclosure Map of Temple Cowley (from a traced extract)



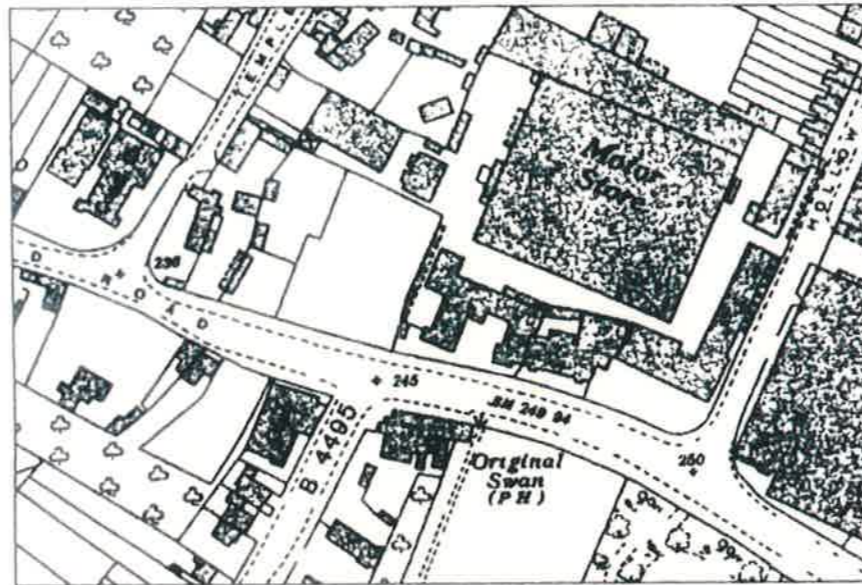
1886 - First Edition Ordnance Survey 25"



1900 - Second Edition Ordnance Survey 25"



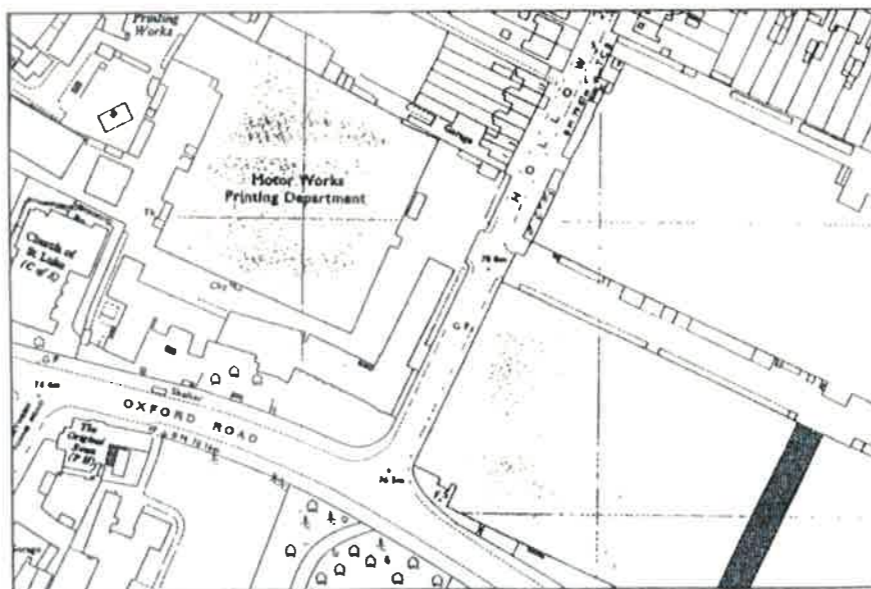
1921 Ordnance Survey 25"



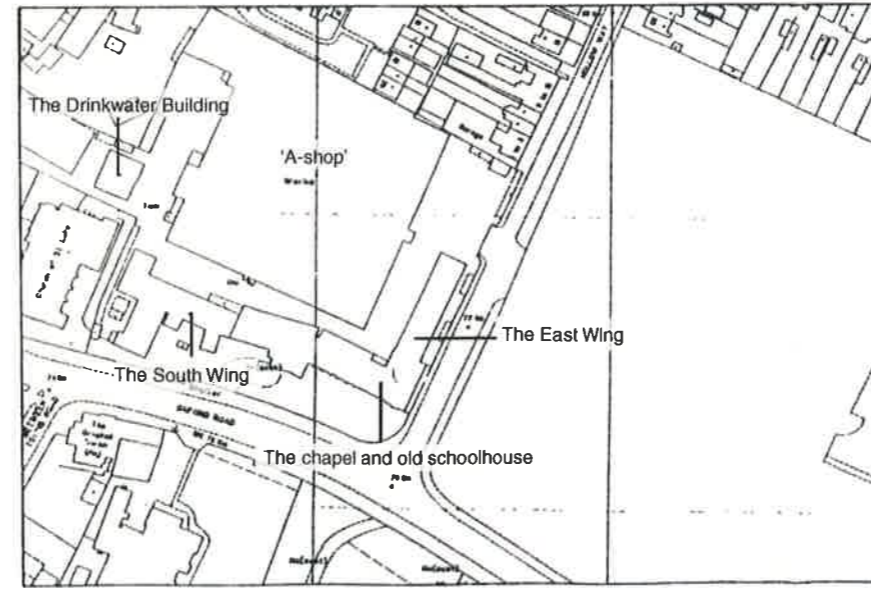
1937 - Ordnance Survey, 1:25000



1962 - Ordnance Survey, 1:25000



1970 - Ordnance Survey, 1:25000



1995 - Ordnance Survey, 1:25000

Figure 2: Map Regression



The Drinkwater Building

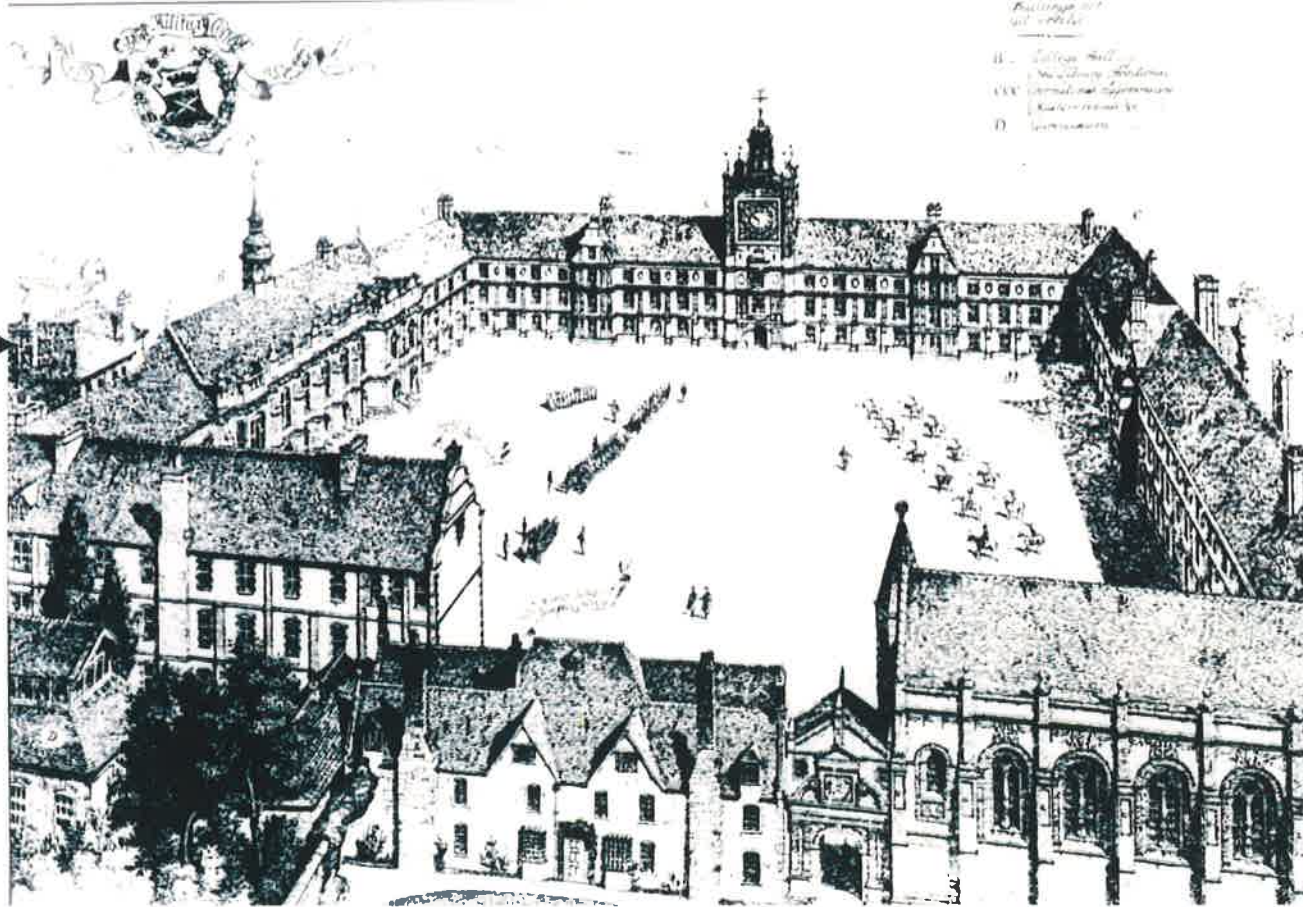


Figure 3 : T.G Jackson's Drawing of the proposed Military College Quadrangle

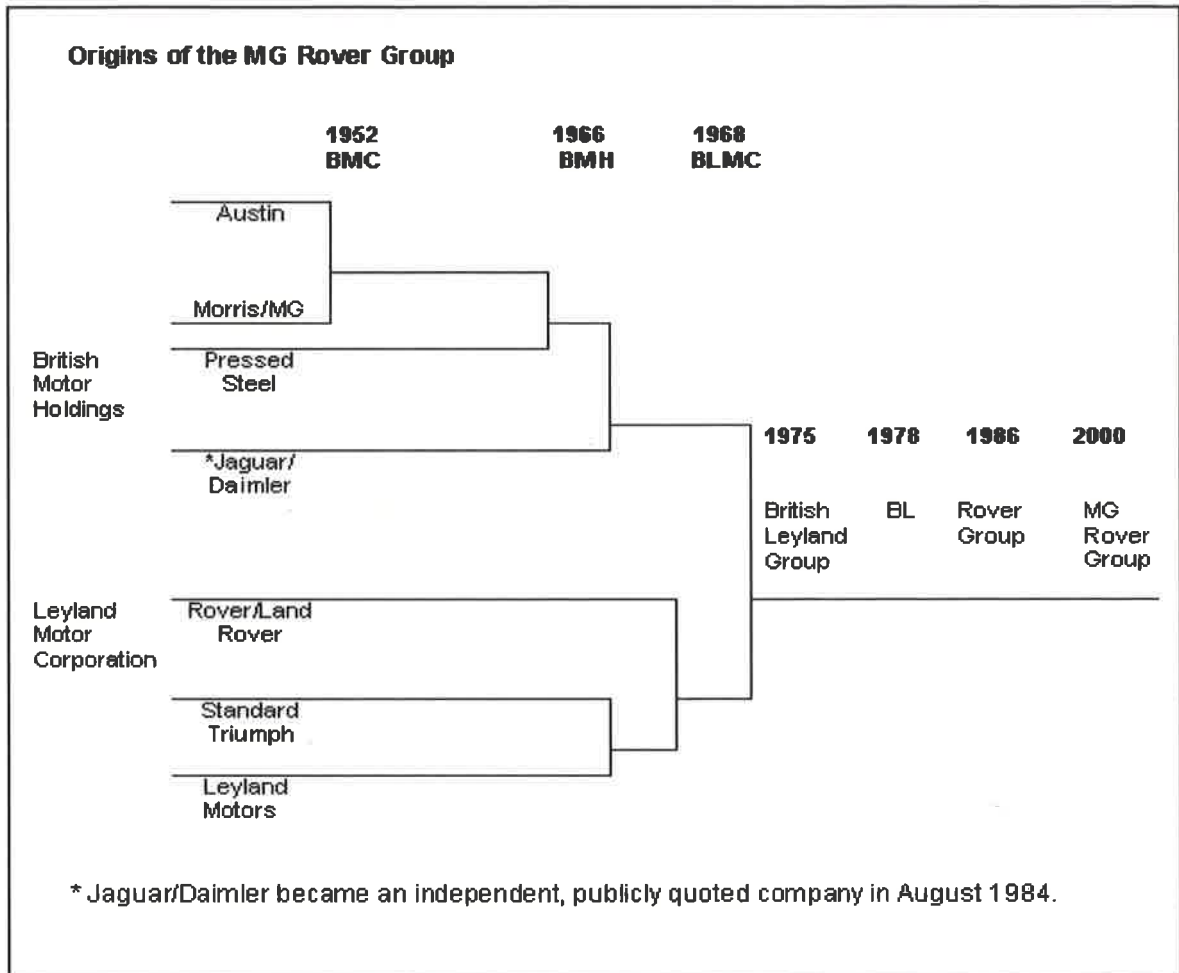


Figure 4: Morris Motors Succession Diagram

sourced from

<http://www.xpower-mg.com/History%20of%20the%20MG-Rover%20Group.htm> - mg group heirachy

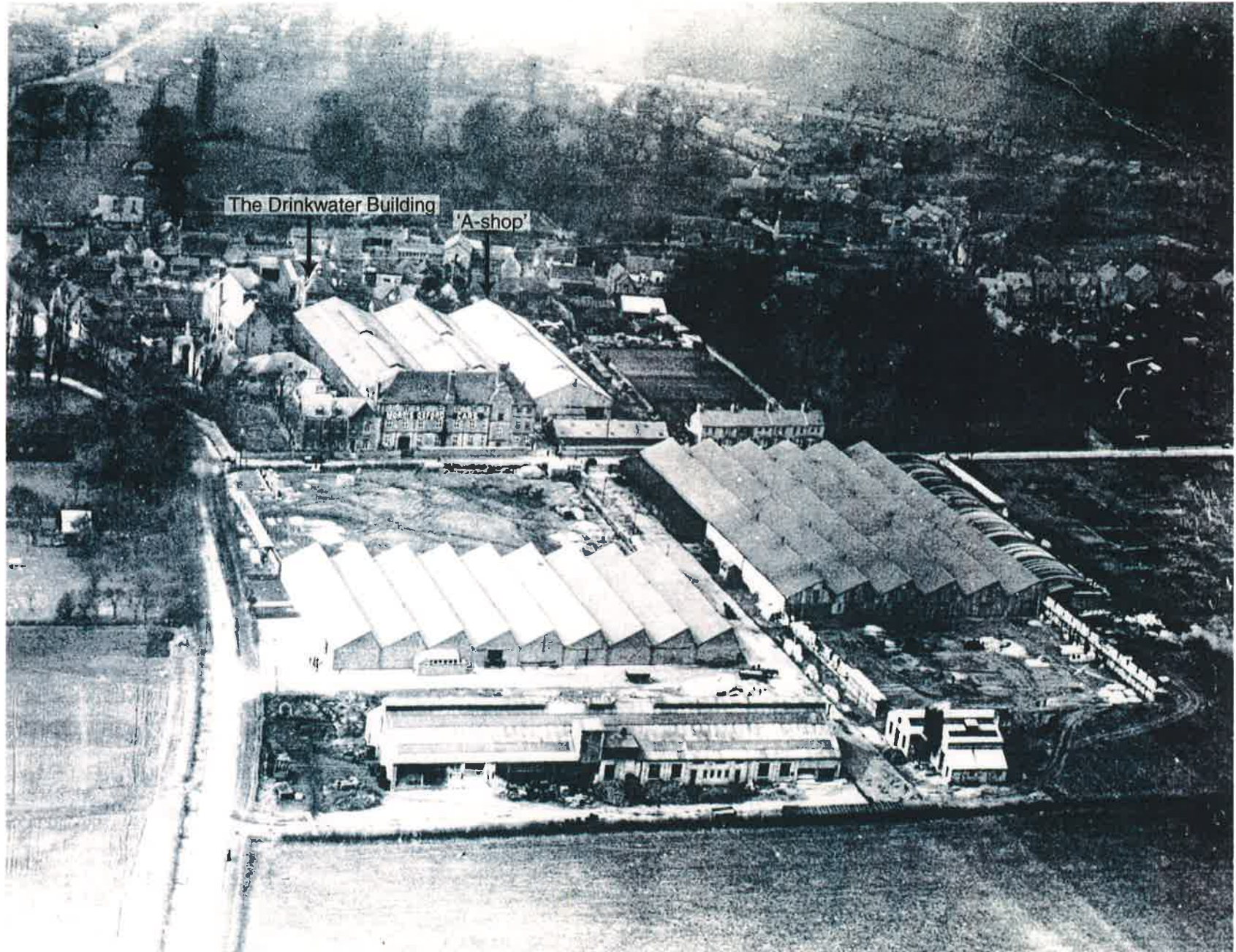


Figure 5: Aerial photo of the Morris Motors Factory c. 1920 (looking west)

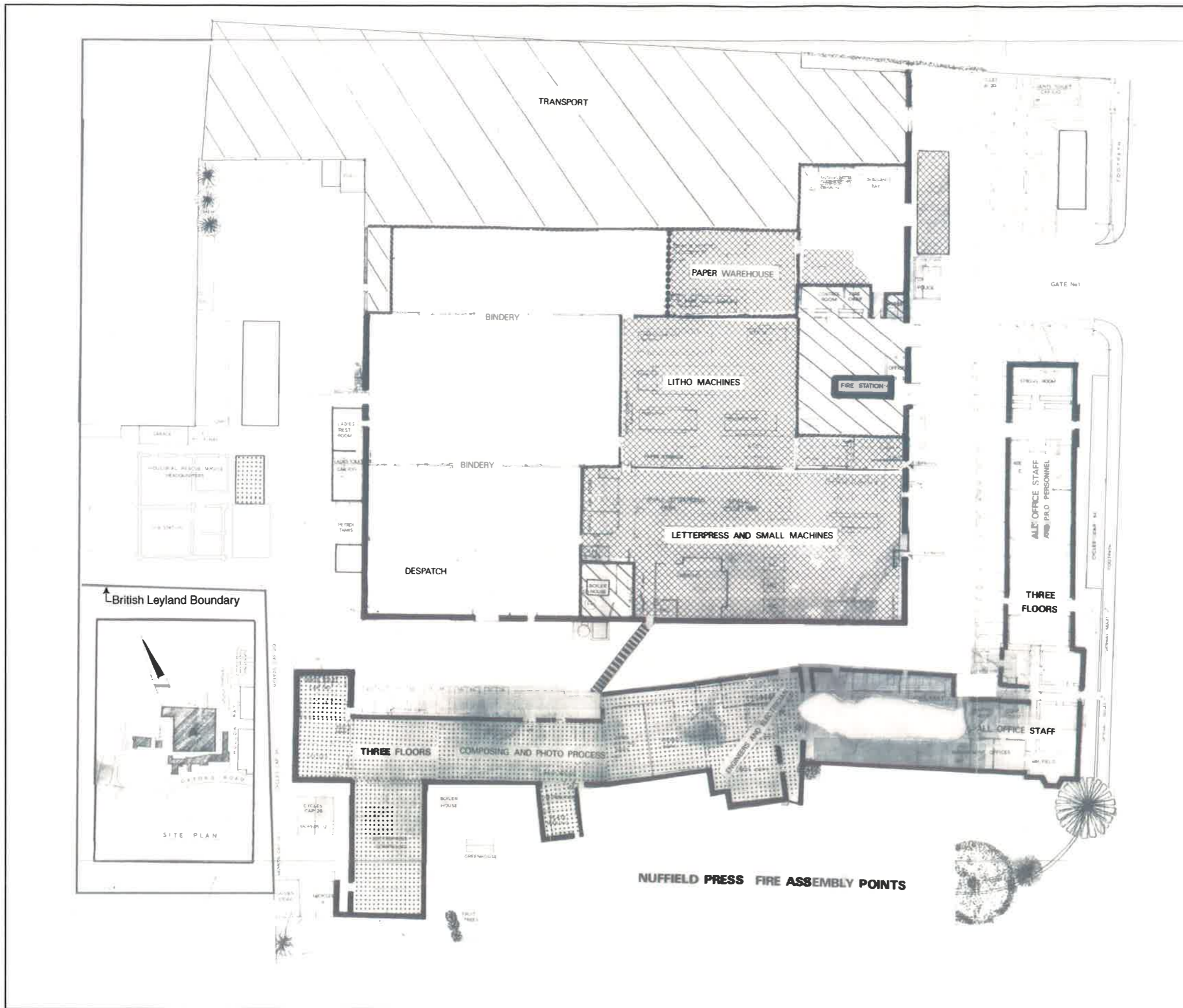


Figure 6: Fire Escape Plan for Nuffield Press c.1975

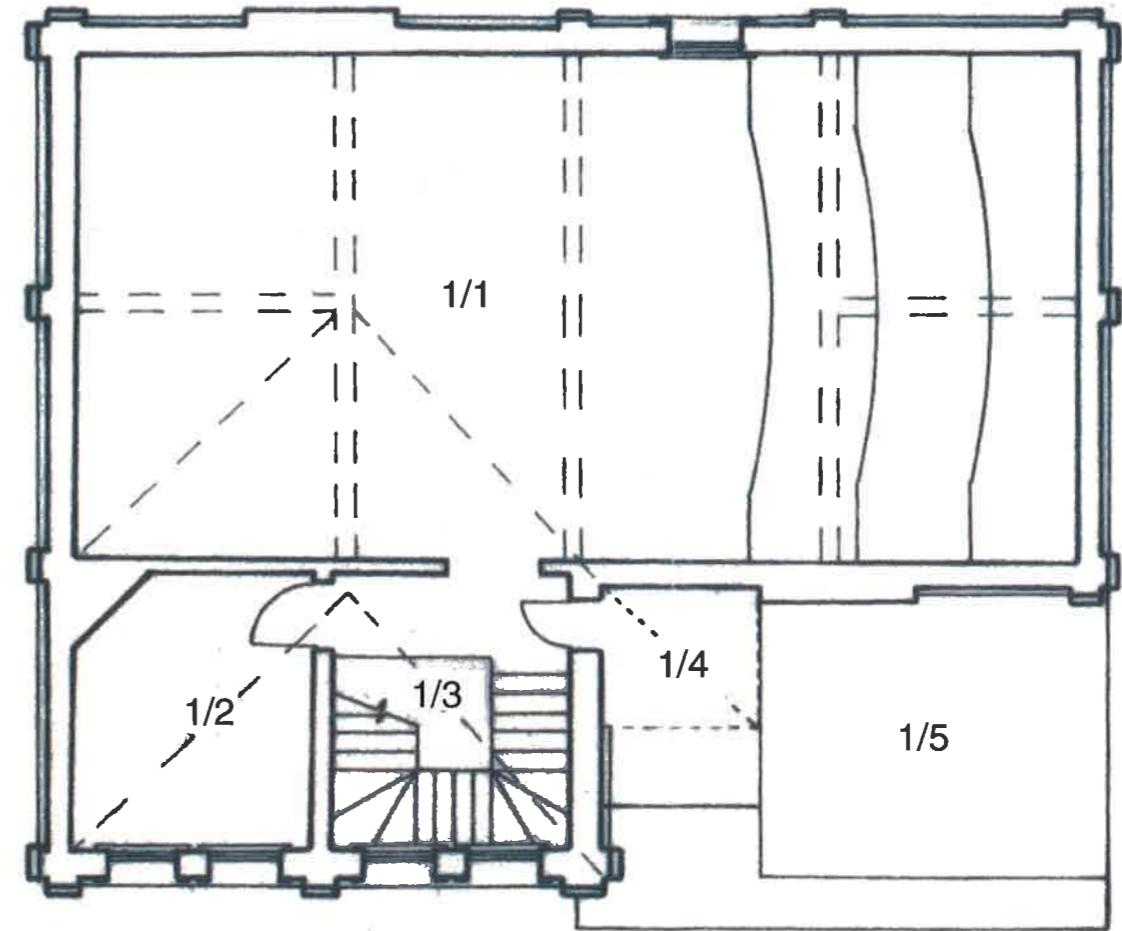
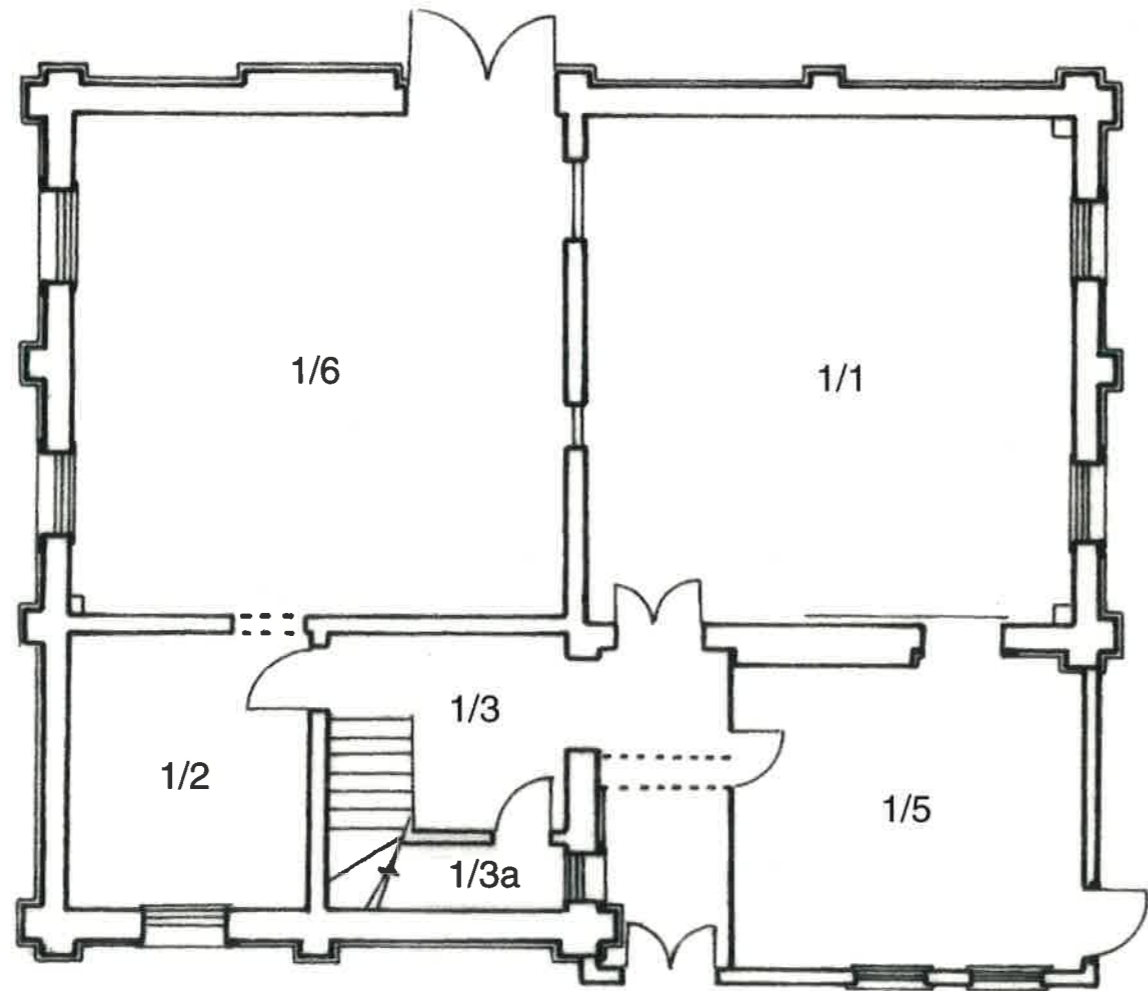
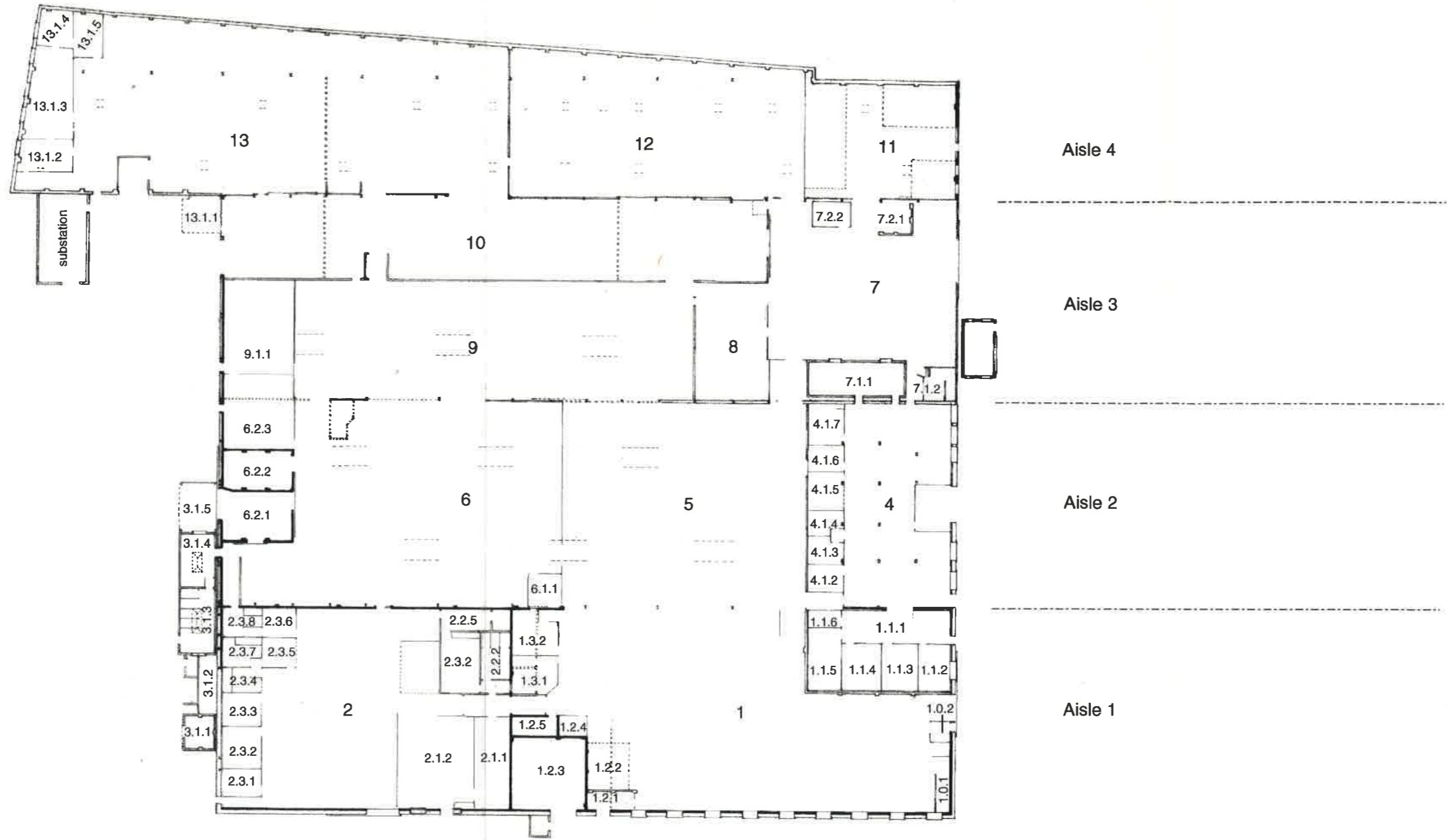


Figure 7: Plan of the Drinkwater building



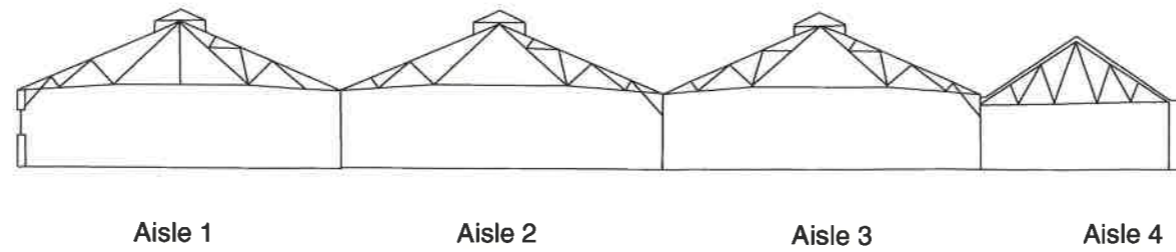
Aisle 4

Aisle 3

Aisle 2

Aisle 1

East Wall Section



Aisle 1

Aisle 2

Aisle 3

Aisle 4



Figure 8: Plan of 'A-shop' and East Wall Section

**APPENDIX III PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE LISTED BUILDINGS STILL EXTANT
ON THE HOLLOW WAY SITE, 6TH DECEMBER 2005**



Photograph 1 - The East Wing 1878 (from the south)



Photograph 2 The School House, 1852, and Chapel, 1857 (from the south west)



Photograph 3 - The South Wing (1880)



Photograph 4 - The First Expansion of Nuffield Press Buildings in South Wing (from the south-east)



Plate 1: The Drinkwater Building (from the east)



Plate 2: The Extension to the Drinkwater Building (from the east)



Plate 3: Eastern wall cornice detail



Plate 4: South Elevation showing the damage to brick work and the south chimney (from the south-east)



Plate 5: Detailed view of the ground floor windows



Plate 6: The western chimney (from the west)



Plate 7: G/4 looking south-east (note formerly external window in right hand wall)



Plate 8: G/1, east wall with door leading into G/5



Plate 9: G/1, north wall



Plate 10: G1, south wall, note medical stretcher in centre of floor

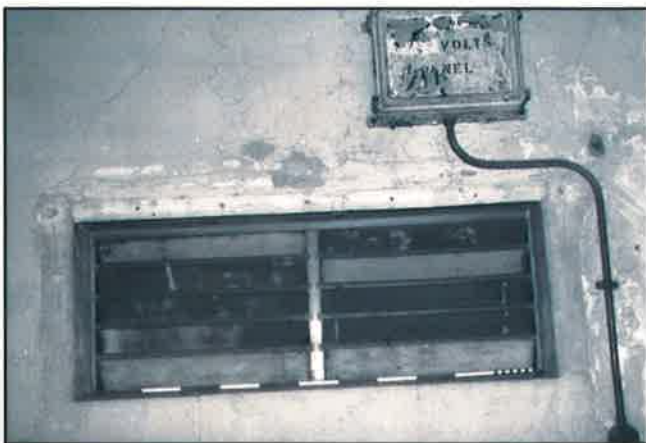


Plate 11: G/6, louvred opening in east wall



Plate 12: G/6, louvred opening in north wall



Plate 13: G/3, the stair area looking north



Plate 14: G/3, the south wall entrance to G/2



Plate 15: G/3, the stairs looking south-east



Plate 16: G/3a, the understairs cupboard



Plate 17: G/2 from the west



Plate 18: 1/3, the landing area looking west



Plate 19: Room 1/1 from the south, showing roof bams and wooden podium



Plate 20: The South-western aspect of room 1/1 (from the north-east)

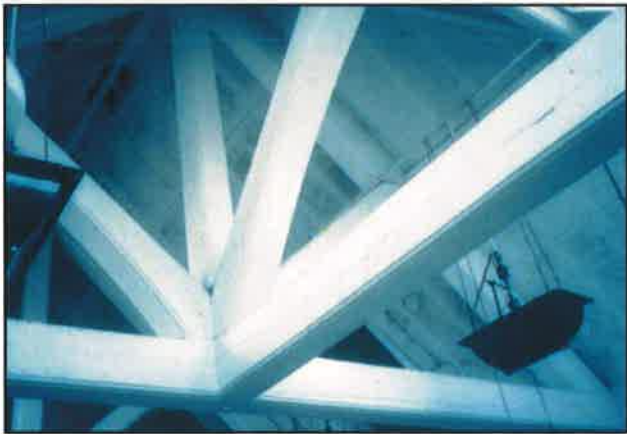


Plate 21: The Beam structure in room 1/1

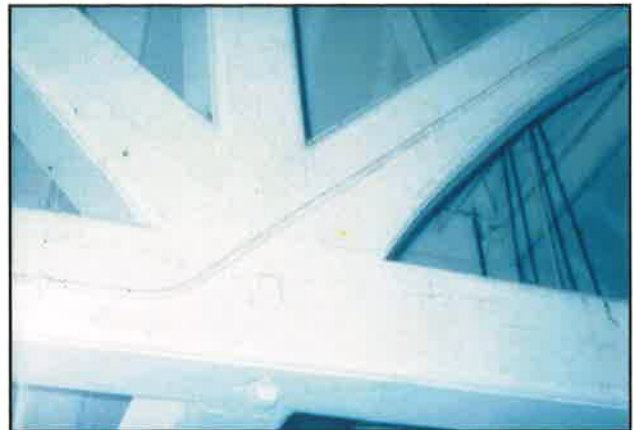


Plate 22: Close angle shot of the beams in room 1/1



Plate 23: Early 20th century gas fittings

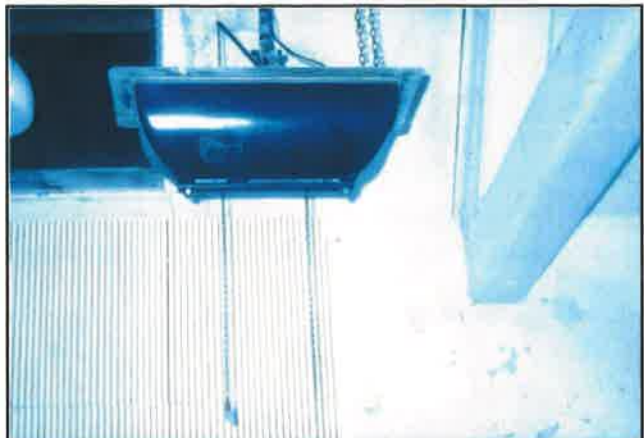


Plate 24: Early 20th century gas fittings



Plate25: Detail of skirting above the podium (room 1/1)



Plate 26: 1/4 looking south, showing half-door and exposed roof beams



Plate 27: 1/4 looking north



Plate 28: 1/5 looking south, showing exposed floor beams and skylights



Plate 29: 1/2 looking west



Plate 30: 1/2, east facing windows



Plate 31: 1/2, chimney in south-west corner



Plate 32: A-shop', aisles 1-3 from the north-east



Plate 33: Aisle 3, the office area (from the north-east)



Plate 34: South Elevation showing the windows of room 1 (from the south-east)



Plate 35: South elevation - chimney, boiler house and external doors (from the south)



Plate 36: South elevation, chimney (from the south)



Plate 37: West elevation (from the south west)



Plate 38: Western half of the south elevation (from the south west)



Plate 39: Area 1 looking east



Plate 40: The office area, room 1.1, with double doors the office area 4 on the right of the picture



Plate 41: Area 4, office/ reception area



Plate 42: offices 1.3.1 and 1.3.2 from the south-east



Plate 43: Area 5 looking west, note apex roof and open plan through room 1 (to left) and 9 (to right)



Plate 44: Area 6 looking south-west, with 6.2.2 in the background



Plate 45: Structural break in the north wall of area 6 (from the south-west)



Plate 46: Area 7, north wall, showing office unit and brick partition (from the south-west)



Plate 47: Room 8, north wall showing shelving units down west wall (from south)



Plate 48: Area 9 from the east, showing office units at the west end and the partition wall to north



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