



# Soho Loop, Dudley Road, Birmingham

## Archaeological Evaluation Report

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## Soho Loop, Dudley Road, Birmingham

### *Archaeological Evaluation Report*

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## Summary

In May 2020 Oxford Archaeology was commissioned by the RPS Group, on behalf of Galliard Homes and Apsley House Capital, to undertake a trial-trench evaluation and building recording survey at the site of a proposed mixed residential development at Soho Loop, Dudley Road, Birmingham. The evaluation consisted of 5 trenches that were targeted on the outline of two industrial factories that were present on the site in the late 18th-20th centuries.

An earlier desk-based assessment (Driver 2005) identified the archaeological potential of the site which contained a late 18th to 19th century glassworks (Park Glassworks) and 19th century German silver works (Baker and Allen). A previous evaluation (AJ Archaeology 2018) at the site identified the buried remains of both factories, along with the surviving roadside façade associated with the Baker and Allen factory. This second phase of evaluation was designed to characterise and define areas of archaeological remains associated with the earlier glasshouse, to help develop a mitigation strategy for the site.

The evaluation demonstrated that below-ground structural remains and deposits associated with the glassworks have survived later disturbance. Towards the west of the glassworks, trenching identified up to 0.5m of stratified deposits, together with several building phases, including walls and floor surfaces within Trench 2. The glassmaking remains in other parts of the complex were less well preserved but were found still to survive underneath the floors of the silver works.

Other remains identified by the trenching comprised brick and iron floors, brick walls and furnace remains of the German Silver Works, which were demolished to floor slab level in the 1970s. Trench 1 also revealed the remains of housing and a potential Public House on the west side of Heath Street mapped on Pigott Smith's mid-19th century map of the glassworks. Structures within Trench 3 as well as the concrete floor 511 in Trench 5, are likely to be remnants of the early to mid-20th century Birmingham Tube Works and Rolling Mills, located just to the south of the silver works.

The façade which survives from the Barker and Allen works is good example of a very late 19th century factory, with its elaborate brick and terracotta detailing. This frontage reflects a period when considerable pride and importance were placed on the building's architecture, to convey its prominent commercial status.

The results of the evaluation complement the documentary evidence which shows that the site has been historically used for both glass and silver production. Based on these results, the site is considered to have high potential to preserve the remains of one of the earliest Glasshouses in the city. The site has considerable potential to significantly contribute to our

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understanding of both early glass production and the development of this industry within Birmingham.

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The project was managed for Oxford Archaeology by Carl Champness. The fieldwork was directed by John Carne, who was supported by Ines Glover. Survey and digitising was carried out by Matt Bradley. Thanks are also extended to the teams of OA staff that cleaned and packaged the finds under the supervision of Leigh Allen, processed the environmental remains under the supervision of Rebecca Nicholson, and prepared the archive under the supervision of Nicola Scott.



## 1 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Scope of work

- 1.1.1 Oxford Archaeology (OA) was commissioned by the RPS Group, to undertake an archaeological evaluation and building recording survey (Historic England Level 2) at Soho Loop, Dudley Road, Birmingham, in respect of a proposed residential-led mixed use development. An earlier desk-based assessment (Driver 2005) identified the archaeological potential of the site, which contained a late 18th to 19th century glassworks (Park Glassworks) and 19<sup>th</sup> century German silver works (Baker and Allen). A previous evaluation (AJ Archaeology 2018) targeted on the mapped footprint of the building identified the buried remains of both factories, along with the surviving facade associated with the Baker and Allen factory. This second phase of evaluation was designed to further characterise and define areas of archaeological remains associated with the earlier glassworks to help develop a mitigation strategy for the site.
- 1.1.2 The work was undertaken in response to conditions 16, 17 and 18 of Planning Permission 2018/10294/PA. The Local Planning Authority did not set a brief for the work however, discussions between Nick Cooke (RPS Group) and Chris Patrick (Conservation Officer Birmingham City Council) established the scope of works required to meet these conditions; this document outlines the results of the most recent evaluation and building recording survey at the site.
- 1.1.3 All work was undertaken in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluation (2014) and local and national planning policies.

### 1.2 Location, topography and geology

- 1.2.1 The site is located on the Dudley Road, approximately 1 mile north-east of Birmingham City centre. It is bounded to the east by Heath Street South, to the west by Birmingham Canal Old Line and to the south by the Birmingham New Line Canal. The site is centred on NGR SP04988760 (Fig. 1).
- 1.2.2 The site occupies a relatively level plateau which slightly rises from west (141.55m AOD) to east (c. 141.95m AOD).
- 1.2.3 The area of proposed development is currently unoccupied. It previously consisted of industrial units and a car parking area which have been demolished. A wall forming the north-eastern boundary of the site, which originally formed the front wall of the Barker and Allen German silver works building (erected in 1896), survives.
- 1.2.4 The geology of the area is mapped as Wildmoor Sandstone Member – Sandstone, sedimentary bedrock formed approximately 247 to 252 million years ago in the Triassic Period (BGS viewer 2020).

### 1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 The archaeological and historical background of the site has been described in detail in a Desk-Based Assessment (Driver, 2005), and is only briefly summarised below.

- 1.3.2 The site appears to have been agricultural land until the late 18th century when the first Birmingham Canal was constructed along its eastern edge. This led to a local glassmaker, Isaac Hawker, closing his factory in the city and establishing a new glassworks at the site.
- 1.3.3 In 1788 a 'shed' type glasshouse was built by Isaac Hawker and was the first canal-side glasshouse. In c. 1810 Park Glasshouse was sold to Biddle & Lloyd who produced stained and coloured glass. It was sold again in 1843 to Lloyd & Summerfield, who owned it until it closed in the 1870s. The glasshouse was demolished in 1880. The site remained vacant until the Barker & Allen German Silver Works was built in 1896. Most of the works have now been demolished, leaving only a narrow range of brick buildings fronting onto Dudley Road, at the north-eastern boundary of the site.
- 1.3.4 The Barker and Allen factory comprised a rolling mill to produce wire and sheets of various metals including German Silver (a metal alloy). Ingots produced in the casting shop were passed to the ingot-planing shop where the slabs were smoothed and then on to the rolling mills. Wire was also produced by passing large ingots through the rolling mill to produce long strips which were cut with a slitting machine. Power for the mills was provided by a condensing steam engine.
- 1.3.5 The German Silver Works wall is of brick construction and includes numerous decorative details such as rustication, gauged brick over shallow arched openings, a pediment over the main pedestrian doorway and lettering over the main vehicular entrance. The new works are shown on the OS map of 1904 with a frontage along Dudley Road but it is important to note that this does not extend westwards as far as Heath Street South. By the 1918 OS map the building fronting Dudley Road had been extended westwards to the junction with Heath Street South. This corresponds with evidence noted on site to suggest that the western part of the surviving wall was a later addition.
- 1.3.6 The map of 1904 shows that the German Silver Works had been subsequently extended to the south and southwest of the original build. Two small buildings had also been laid out adjoining the southern boundary of this factory complex. By 1918 the extent of the German Silver Works had expanded further, as a result of the amalgamation of several smaller buildings. The Ordnance Survey 1904 and 1918 maps each show a covered passage in the frontage range leading through to an irregular rear yard.
- 1.3.7 The Ordnance Survey map dated 1972 shows that a factory, labelled 'Works' occupied the entire glassworks site. By 1979 the site had been mostly cleared of buildings, leaving only those buildings still extant to the east of Heath Street South and to the south of the historic glassworks.

## 1.4 Previous archaeological investigations

- 1.4.1 In 2014 an evaluation was conducted (AJ Archaeology, 2018), which established the survival of below-ground structures and deposits associated with the glassworks. Towards the northern end of the glasswork's interior up to 0.5m of stratified deposits were recorded, together with several building phases which included floor surfaces.

The evaluation also identified two undated pits that were possibly associated with the glassworks.

- 1.4.2 The evaluation also recorded brick and concrete floors, brick walls and concrete machine bases of the German Silver Works, which had been demolished to floor level in the 1970s.

## 2 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

### 2.1 Aims

2.1.1 The evaluation aims and objectives were as follows:

- i. To determine or confirm the general nature of any remains present;
- ii. To determine the extent, depth and phasing of structural remains associated with the glasshouse and silver works;
- iii. To establish whether deposits associated with the industrial processes conducted on the site survive.

3.1.2 The specific aims of the building recording were:

- iv. To produce a drawn, descriptive, written and photographic record of the standing wall at Level 2 as defined by Historic England;
- v. The recording will cover decorative and structural details, as well as providing an overall record of the character of the wall;
- vi. Any recording on the south side of the wall will particularly focus on evidence such as scars from the former buildings which adjoined this side;
- vii. The recording will aim to provide an analysis of the walls design, setting, construction, alteration, history and the evidence it holds relating to the use of the factory.

### 2.2 Methodology

2.2.1 The archaeological investigation of the site involved a two-stage process: Trench evaluation and building recording of the surviving factory façade. The methodology of each stage is outlined below.

#### *Evaluation trenching methodology*

2.2.2 The evaluation comprised the excavation of five trenches measuring 30m x 5m, agreed by Birmingham City Council and laid out as shown on Figure 2. The trenching strategy was designed to complement and cover areas of the site that were not investigated previously as part of the first evaluation, with the aim to identify and better define the remains of the Glasshouse.

2.2.3 Within each trench the modern overburden was removed by tracked excavator equipped with a toothless ditching bucket working under archaeological supervision to expose the first archaeological horizon or the subsoil, whichever was first encountered. Machine-dug sondages were then excavated in each trench to test the full sequence of archaeological deposits. In some trenches this required the use of a breaker attachment to attempt to penetrate reinforced concrete floors and machine bases.

2.2.4 The machined surface was cleaned by hand excavation and all features of archaeological, or possible archaeological interest were tested by hand-excavation. All recording was as outlined within the approved WSI (OA 2020).

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### ***Building recording methodology***

- 2.2.5 The archaeological investigations included the recording of the main façade of the former Barker & Allen works which was left as a free-standing structure some years ago, fronting onto Dudley Road, after the demolition of the main factory buildings. The recording has been undertaken to Level 2 as defined by Historic England in *Understanding Historic Buildings: a Guide to Good Recording Practice* (2016). It has included photographic and descriptive recording as well as the creation of scaled photographic montages of each face of the wall using photogrammetry. Photogrammetry (also sometimes known as ‘structure from motion’) is a long established technique which has recently become far easier and more accessible through new computer software which automatically stitches together large numbers of overlapping digital photographs to create a seamless flat-on scaled image.

## **3 RESULTS OF THE EVALUATION**

### **3.1 Introduction and presentation of results**

3.1.1 The results of the evaluation are presented below and include a stratigraphic description of the trenches that contained archaeological remains. The full details of all trenches with dimensions and depths of all deposits can be found in Appendix A. Finds data and spot dates are tabulated in Appendix B.

### **3.2 General soils and ground conditions**

3.2.1 The soil sequence was different in every trench. The natural geology of sandstone was overlain by structural remains including wall foundations, floor surfaces and levelling or demolition deposits, and sealed by modern hard-standing and concrete. The majority of these structural remains were encountered at quite shallow depths between 0.20m and 0.5m below the modern surface. Various levels of modern and historical truncation of the natural geology were recorded across the evaluating relating to the various factories that occupied the site.

3.2.2 Ground conditions throughout the evaluation were generally good, and the site remained dry throughout. Archaeological features and structures, where present, were easy to identify against the underlying natural geology.

### **3.3 General distribution of archaeological deposits**

3.3.1 The earliest archaeological remains identified during the evaluation were within Trench 2 associated with the glass works. Late remains associated with the silver works were recorded within Trenches 2, 4 and 5, represented by brick walls foundations, internal structures with brick floors, and metal tiled yard surfaces. Later structures associated with the early to mid-20th century Birmingham Tube Works and Rolling Mills present to the south of site were identified within Trenches 3 and 5. Remains of domestic structures were also identified within Trench 1, associated with housing and a potential public house west of Heath Street South.

### **3.4 Trench 1 (Figs. 3-4; Plates 1-3)**

3.4.1 Trench 1 was located to the west of Heath Street South, away from the footprints of the factories. The trench was aligned northsouth and measured 15m by 5m; it was shortened in length due to live services being present at the northern end of the trench (Fig. 3).

3.4.2 A geotechnical pit in the centre of the trench had truncated any archaeological layers that were present and revealed the natural geology 103 of mid yellow/orange clayey sand at a depth of 0.90m, which is seen in Section 100 being cut by possible pit 117 and the construction cut for brick wall 107 (Fig 4.). The wall and pit were overlain by modern overburden deposits of made ground (100, 101 and 119).

3.4.3 Three structures were revealed in this trench; Structure 120 comprised of two parallel running E-W aligned walls (109 and 111) in the centre of the trench. Structure 127 consisted of E-W aligned outer wall 107 and brick floor surface 104 at the northern end of the trench. Structure 128 consisted of wall 114 at the southern end of the

trench, which is both E-W and N-S aligned, this was probably an outer wall to a building with a remnant internal structure or floors that had been almost completely truncated.

- 3.4.4 These structures coincide with housing depicted on the west side of Heath Street South that was first present in Pigott Smith's mid-19<sup>th</sup> century map of the glassworks. The public House of the Birmingham Arms occupied the corner plot between Heath Street and Dudley Road, and is mapped on the site from 1887.

### 3.5 Trench 2 (Fig 5-6; Plates 4-6)

- 3.5.1 Trench 2 was targeted at the edge of the glasshouse and was located outside of the footprint of the silver works. The trench was aligned northeast-southwest and measured 25m by 5m; the orientation and length were altered slightly due to asbestos being present along its original path (Fig 5.).
- 3.5.2 The earliest deposit was redeposited natural 204 which is cut by possible pit 239, as well as the construction cuts for the glassworks group structures 259 and 264. Natural geology 252, was revealed within Sondages 200 and 201, at depths between 0.60m to 1m, and is present as a bright yellowish red clayey sand. This was overlain by levelling and demolition deposits 254-256 and wall/floor foundations.
- 3.5.3 There were at least five separate structures present in this trench. The earliest group structures were N-S aligned walls 211 and 210, as well as their respective construction cuts and fills, wall 253 present in Sondage 201 (Fig. 6). Wall 210 was truncated by wall 209. The position of these walls corresponds with the mapped location of the glassworks structure. Structures 208 and 209 are equally sized, rectangular wall sections both aligned E-W. Wall fragments 215 and 246 have been truncated by the later structure consisting of walls 207, 214, 219 and 249. Walls 210, 211 and 253 as well as wall fragments 213, 215 and 246 all coincide with the glassworks structure in the historic mid-19<sup>th</sup> century map. Wall sections 208 and 209 are possibly from a later phase of construction.
- 3.5.4 The later structure was made up of E-W aligned walls 207, 219 and 249, N-S aligned wall 214, and the associated brick, metal tile and concrete floor surfaces 212, 213, 217, 218, 220, 221 and 223. Wall 207 was the outer wall of the building, with the others being internal structures. Sondage 200 was excavated to the east of wall 207 and revealed that it was 13 courses deep (Fig 6.). The structure at the N-E end of the trench consisted of NW-SE and E-W aligned wall corner 225 and brick floor 226. These are the latest structures present within the trench and are most likely remnant wall foundations and working surfaces of the German Silver Works (GSW).

### 3.6 Trench 3 (Figs. 7-8; Plates 7-9)

- 3.6.1 Trench 3 was located to the southwest of the footprint of both the glassworks and silver works. The trench was aligned northsouth and measured 30m by 5m (Fig 7.).
- 3.6.2 The earliest feature was undated pit 325, seen in Sondage 300 (Fig 8.), which cut redeposited natural 303. The natural geology was revealed in Sondage 300 at the southern end of the trench at 0.70m and was present as a moderately bright orange red clayey sand. This was overlain by redeposited natural 303, and subsequent levelling and demolition deposits 301 and 302.

- 3.6.3 Structure 321 was a brick-built chambered structure with a central built arch, most likely associated with an industrial process. The associated construction cut (318) for this structure cut the redeposited natural 303. The structure was overlain by demolition deposit 317, and levelling deposit 302. The brick structures were stained green, as a result of heating and chemical processes. The feature was undated but most likely associated with GSW or adjacent Tube works.
- 3.6.4 Structure 308 was a brick-built, N-S and E-W aligned, right-angle wall with associated construction cut and fill. It is unclear whether or not this structure was part of the same phase of construction as 321, as there are a series of E-W aligned walls (309, 311 and 318) in the centre of the trench that truncate the earlier wall. These structures also truncated the demolition deposit 317 and were overlain by levelling deposit 302; they were most likely part of the late 19<sup>th</sup> – early 20<sup>th</sup> century Tube Works and Rolling Mills.
- 3.6.5 Modern truncations with concrete pads 304, 305 316 and 322 were identified within the trench.

### **3.7 Trench 4 (Figs. 9 and 10; Plates 10-12)**

- 3.7.1 Trench 4 was targeted at the south west corner of the silver works. The trench was aligned northwest-southeast and measured 30m by 5m (Fig 9.).
- 3.7.2 Natural geology was not revealed in either of the two sondages dug within the trench. Sondage 400 (Fig 10.) revealed levelling and demolition deposits (426, 430, 431 and 432) abutting the structure 406 to a depth of almost 2m. Sondage 401 went through a layer of truncated material (404) to reveal a concrete floor surface (427-429) which was likely an earlier phase of the GSW.
- 3.7.3 There were two main structures revealed in this trench. The structure at the north-west end consisted of N-S aligned outer walls 406 and 413, as well as internal walls 407, 408 and 410, and potential rebuild 409. The structure at the south-east end consisted of heavily truncated, WSW-ENE aligned outer walls 415 and 416, with an internal brick-built working surface 417. The walls in both structures coincide with the glassworks structure in the historic mid-19<sup>th</sup> century map.
- 3.7.4 A potential truncated yard surface 412 was located between the two structures, which contained metal tiles 0.3m by 0.30m inlaid into concrete.
- 3.7.5 Both the structures and the surface 412 were overlain by the modern layer of crushed brick material 402.

### **3.8 Trench 5 (Figs. 11-12; Plates 13-15)**

- 3.8.1 Trench 5 was targeted at the south east corner of the silver works. The trench was aligned north-south and measured 30m by 5m (Fig 11.).
- 3.8.2 The earliest feature present in the trench was E-W aligned brick wall 516 and associated brick floor 518 was revealed within sondage 501. This structure was most likely part of an early phase of the silver works, and was overlain by redeposited natural 515, levelling deposit 514 and the floor surfaces of the later phase of the silver

works 506, 507 and 509. Natural geology was not revealed in either of the two sondages dug in this trench.

- 3.8.3 The structure revealed at the northern end of the trench, consisted of E-W aligned walls 508 and 510 and associated metal tile and concrete floor surfaces 506, 507 and 509. This structure coincides with the footprint for the silver works. A modern concrete floor (513) truncates 507 and overlies levelling deposit 514.
- 3.8.4 A floor surface (511) on a different elevation was identified in the centre of the trench and likely associated with the Tube Works and Rolling Mill.
- 3.8.5 At the southern end of the trench there is a later, deep concrete-built structure (503) with associated modern made ground (502). The remains of a concrete machine base or workshop was found to survive within Trench 5. Sondage 500 (Fig 12.) revealed that the concrete is over 1.4m in thickness and its cut extended to over 2m in depth.
- 3.8.6 At the northern end of the trench, a layer of modern crush material (501) overlies the structures 508, 510 and 513. The latest deposit is a layer of modern demolition rubble (500), that was present across the entire trench.

### 3.9 Finds summary

- 3.9.1 Four bricks weighing 9.364kg were recovered from three structures within Trenches 2, 3 and 4. The bricks all date to the 19th or 20th centuries. No evidence of glass or glass marking residues were recovered from the evaluation.
- 3.9.2 The table below summarizes the finds:

Context	Dimensions	Description	Date
253	Length: 232mm; Width: 101mm; Thickness: 58-60mm.	Complete, unfrogged, orange-brown brick in a dense sandy fabric	19th to early 20th century
308	Length: 210mm+; Width: 111mm; Thickness: 75mm.	Fresh, near-complete, light yellow firebrick, with one header-end just missing. The upper surface has a very shallow rectangular frog containing an impressed maker's mark 'GIBBONS (DUDLEY) Ltd/ No 1 FIRECLAY'. This company was established in 1834 and closed in 1987. The company name changed to this form (with 'Dudley' in	c 1925-1960?

		brackets and 'Ltd') in 1925 (Grace's Guide 2016).	
417 (Brick 1)	Length: 225mm; Width: 110mm; Thickness: 53mm	Complete, unfroged, engineer's-type paving brick in a very hard dark grey fabric.	c 1880-1950?
417 (Brick 2)	Length: 225mm; Width: 110mm; Thickness: 25-27mm.	Complete, unfroged, engineer's-type paving brick or tile in same hard dark grey fabric as Brick 1 (417) above.	c 1880-1950?

## 4 RECORDING OF SURVIVING BARKER & ALLEN FACTORY WALL

### 4.1 Description of wall (Figures 13 and 14; Plates 16-54)

#### *North elevation (Figure 13)*

- 4.1.1 The north side of the wall formed the main public face of the works, fronting onto Dudley Road and this is reflected in its decorative nature. The elevation can be divided into two distinct elements each with different construction and detailing: the main eastern part is c.58.5m long while the western part is 25.5m long. This western part is believed to have been an early extension to the factory, with historic map evidence suggesting it was constructed at some point between 1904 and 1918.
- 4.1.2 The **eastern part of the north elevation** has a wide vehicular doorway at its western end together with a pedestrian doorway adjacent to the east and then there are a further 13 regular arched openings continuing eastwards towards the corner of the site where it meets the canal. Twelve of these arches would have been windows and one was a doorway, while the upper halves of the five easternmost openings have been truncated by the lowering of the top of the wall. Boards have been inserted to block almost all of these openings.
- 4.1.3 This principal part of the elevation is constructed from a deep red brick, laid in English bond and every fourth course is formed from a special brick with a stepped or halved face to create long continuous recessed bands across the elevation. This creates a form of rustication. At the base of the elevation there is a simple plinth with a shoulder while at the top there is dentil-work formed from a course of special dentil bricks and above this there is a further course with a thin recessed band.
- 4.1.4 The large vehicular doorway is c.2.9m wide and has a shallow, basket arch with smooth-faced terracotta blocks on which are written BARKER & ALLEN (Fig. 14).
- 4.1.5 The pedestrian doorway immediately to the east is richly decorated with a brick pediment which incorporates egg-and-dart moulding as well as two courses of special ogee bricks and the date 1896 at the centre. The pediment rests on a brick entablature with further egg-and-dart and ogee detailing and below this there are two squat fluted pilasters which flank a gauged-brick, semi-circular arch. This arch has a fluted keystone and there is ogee detailing to its inner edges which continues down in the jambs of the opening. The squat fluted pilasters rest on decorative corbels. The lower half of this former doorway has been crudely infilled with brickwork although below this the doorstep is still visible.
- 4.1.6 The main window openings to the eastern part of the elevation also have shallow basket arches with gauged brickwork over and a continuous brick hood. They have large stone sills and ovolo detailing to the jambs. As referred to above the upper halves of the easternmost five openings have been lost, including the arches, by the lowering of the height of the wall, possibly due to structural concerns in this area. The detailing of the lower halves of the arches matches that of the surviving openings and it is safe to assume that these arches would all have been identical. The wall top now slopes down very sharply between the fifth and sixth opening from the east.

- 4.1.7 The eighth archway from the east was clearly originally a doorway but the lower half has been crudely infilled. Above the fourth and fifth windows from the east there is a large patch of rebuilt brickwork which is clearly formed from reused bricks although some attempt has been made to match the previous detailing.
- 4.1.8 There is a simple door at the very eastern end at junction with canal with a stone lintel over. Also in this area some relatively modern strengthening has been added in the form of steel supports.
- 4.1.9 One other minor feature of note is that there are regular individual bricks which appear to have been reset, approximately midway between some of the arches. There are assumed to have been putlogs holes which would have been used to secure scaffolding either during the original construction or during later phases of repairs or maintenance. There also appear to be some further similar holes further down the elevation but directly beneath the holes mentioned above. These are less clear but are again suggestive of putlogs.
- 4.1.10 The **western part of the north elevation** has nine shallow-arched windows (although the two westernmost have been truncated) and it is largely clad in flat-faced terracotta blocks. The windows are more closely spaced than those in the eastern part of the elevation, with relatively narrow piers between them and this gives the character of an arcade. This is enhanced by the piers being rusticated; the recessed bands in the rustication align with those in the older eastern part of the elevation. Again, there is a continuous moulded hood above each of the arches and above this there is a course of dentil bricks with simple cornice.
- 4.1.11 Each of the openings has a large stone sill but immediately below most of the sills there is further glazing down to street level, incorporating a decorative cast-iron ventilation grille and security railings immediately in front. These lower windows presumably helped illuminate a basement or lower area within the building which no longer survives.
- 4.1.12 The westernmost opening is wider than the others and below this there are two windows which must have illuminated a basement to the south. Only the lintels and uppermost part of these two windows are visible above pavement level and presumably there must formerly have been a light well here.
- 4.1.13 The junction between the eastern and western parts of the elevation is marked by a full height vertical recess within which are fragmentary rusty traces of a metal lining which is mostly likely to have been a gutter downpipe. This recess appears inserted rather than carefully incorporated into the original construction and it seems most likely that it was added when the western extension was constructed at some point between 1904 and 1918. The wall on the eastern side of this downpipe appears truncated and the strong suggestion is that the original wall would have continued further to the west. This supports the evidence of the 1904 map referred to above which shows a structure on the western side of the vehicular archway but not continuing up to the corner with Heath Street South and therefore not the structure which survives today. Presumably this structure on the west side of the arch was demolished between 1904 and 1918 when the new building with the terracotta façade was erected.

### *South elevation*

- 4.1.14 The south side of the wall would have been within the now demolished factory buildings and this is reflected in its much plainer character compared to the north side. The main brickwork is again laid in English bond but there is none of the decorative detailing or rustication bands.
- 4.1.15 The south side of the wide arch above the former vehicular gateway is formed by three courses of blue header bricks and the opening itself has been infilled with brickwork suggestive of a mid-20<sup>th</sup> century date. There are large stone blocks to each side of the former opening, just beneath the arch springs, together with cast-iron pintles at the top of these blocks which would have supported the tops of a pair of gates. There are no corresponding lower blocks or pintles and it may be that the base of the gate pier was fixed to the ground.
- 4.1.16 To either side of the gateway are the truncated stubs from former north to south walls which would have flanked the passage through the building. The brickwork of the eastern stub is keyed into the main elevation and this wall is probably primary but the western stub appears later and probably dates to the 1904-18 extension.
- 4.1.17 The pedestrian doorway immediately to the east has a fanlight and two courses of headers forming the semi-circular arch above. The six-panel door survives in-situ, although the lower two panels have been largely lost, and the lack of any paint suggests that it has not been used for many decades. A short distance to the east of this door is the stub from another primary wall suggesting that the doorway opened into a separate room or hallway rather than directly into the open factory. This entrance hall would presumably have been plastered but there is no clear surviving trace of this; the brickwork now visible was not intended to be visible.
- 4.1.18 To the east of this wall stub there is a line of five windows which presumably illuminated an open-plan factory space and at the eastern end of this is another stub from a former wall. The cast-iron windows survive to these five openings, each with 32 lights although each has lost a central casement. The cast-iron glazing bars have a simple ogee profile and traces of the glazing itself survives. On this side the openings have simple brick sills and the overall form of these windows is typical for a late 19<sup>th</sup>-century factory.
- 4.1.19 Padstones survive within the wall between the western four arches in this area, together with patches of infilled brickwork immediately above and clearly these stones would have supported the ends of roof trusses. There is not a corresponding pad between the eastern arches but that is due to this part of the wall having been rebuilt.
- 4.1.20 To the east of this was the former doorway noted on the north side of the wall. A pair of doors survive here, each with six glazing lights above panels formed by vertical boarding. Above the door there are six lights within the arch with cast-iron glazing bars. The underside of this opening is formed with glazed brickwork which was intended to be visible.
- 4.1.21 It appears that this doorway would have opened into another open-plan factory space illuminated by seven windows along the north wall. Two of these survive to full height and the cast-iron glazing bars match those discussed earlier but the other five

openings have been truncated by the lowering of the wall. However, the lower parts of the glazing bars also survive here. Padstones and infilled brickwork from the former roof trusses are again visible in this area where the wall survives to full height.

- 4.1.22 In the secondary western part of the elevation, added between 1904 and 1918 there are full height brick piers between each window and towards the top of each of these there are padstones which would have supported the ends of roof trusses. The truncated end of an RSJ (I-profile) survives within one of the piers but in the other five there are patches of infilled brickwork immediately above the padstones where the trusses would have entered the wall.
- 4.1.23 The window arches between the piers are formed from smooth-faced terracotta and the main windows themselves have 32 lights with cast-iron glazing bars. These appear virtually identical to the windows in the eastern part of the elevation. Each would have had a pivoting casement but these have all been lost. The window at the western end is larger and was 8-lights wide as opposed to the others which are six lights wide.
- 4.1.24 Each of the main windows has a large stone sill and below each of these there is another window with cast-iron bars and narrow lights which must have illuminated a basement or sunken area within the building but they're now largely abutted by the ground level within the former building. Clearly this ground level was built up after the use of the basement ceased and car park bays are now marked here. There are also some painted signs on the adjacent piers stating 'visitors only' which appears to relate to the car parking.
- 4.1.25 Areas of paint on the wall suggest that there was a separate room (office) at the western corner of this block illuminated by the larger window.

### *East wall*

- 4.1.26 The current recording principally covered the surviving north wall of the former works but part of the east wall adjacent to the canal also survives so some photographs of this were also taken. On the west side only the northern end of the wall survives above ground and this area is relatively featureless other than a series of joist sockets towards the top of the wall and what appears to have been a window below this.
- 4.1.27 The east side of the wall is much taller because here it faces onto the canal which is at a lower level than the ground floor within the building. Here it is a tall retaining wall with bricks laid in English bond and a blocked former window. The uppermost part of this elevation is rendered and has some partially surviving lettering which would be visible to passers-by crossing the bridge over the canal. The lettering only partially survives and is very faded but the words '\_\_\_METAL WIREMILLS' is visible.

## 5 DISCUSSION

### 5.1 Reliability of field investigation

- 5.1.1 The evaluation and building recording were successfully completed and were able to identify and help define the remains of the glasshouse and silver works. Evidence of complex building remains, including wall foundations, floor surfaces and industrial activity was identified within the trenches, and indicated high potential for surviving remains associated with these structures.
- 5.1.2 Areas of modern truncation from the later factories were identified, particularly in Trench 5. The remains of the glasshouse structures were identified preserved to the southwest and underneath the floor surfaces of the GSW within Trench 2.
- 5.1.3 The recording of the Façade of the Barker and Allen works recorded elaborate brick and terracotta details. A detailed photographic and descriptive records was made of the important character and features of the factory frontage.

### 5.2 Evaluation Objectives and Results

- 5.2.1 The evaluation was able to compliment and expand the findings of the previous site evaluation, which indicated that the Glassworks remains were preserved at shallow depth of 0.50m across the site. The most recent phase of trenching was able to demonstrate that the remains correspond well to the mapped footprint of the Glasshouse, with very little remains found outside of the mapped extent.

### 5.3 The Park House Glassworks

- 5.3.1 Remains of the glasshouse were confirmed in Trench 2, whilst the rest of trenches were located outside of the footprint of the glassworks. Structures 210, 213, 215 and 246 coincides with the mapped layout of the glasshouse structure. It was truncated by 208 and 209, which itself could be associated with the glassworks. Remnant of a wall footing in sondage 201 is likely to be part of the glassworks foundation and the bricks recovered from the structure are consistent with the recorded date of the establishment of the factory at the site. At least two different phases of structures associated with the glass works were identified within the trench.
- 5.3.2 Any remnants of the glassworks that might have been present in the areas of Trench 4 and 5 would most likely have been partially truncated due to the depth of construction associated with the GSW structures and later works. Sondage 500, within Trench 5, revealed a wall and floor surface underlying the GSW working surface 507, however, this was undated and likely to relate to an earlier phase of the GSW rather than the glasshouse.

### 5.4 The German Silver Works

- 5.4.1 Foundation walls, and metal tiled yard surfaces of the Silver Works were present in Trenches 2, 4 and 5, and these corresponded with the outline of the GS works shown in Figure 2. Concrete and brick floors belonging to the German Silver Works were also identified in Trenches 2 and 4. The other surviving remains of the German Silver Works comprise the brick footings of internal structures and floors present in Trench 4. In

Trenches 1, 3 and 5 brick and concrete floors post-dating the glassworks were also identified.

## 5.5 Other later structures

- 5.5.1 Structures 120, 127 and 128 located in Trench 1 coincide with housing on the west side of Heath Street mapped on the first edition OS maps. From 1887, this location was also just south of the location of the Birmingham Arms Public House, which was present at the corner of Heath Street and Dudley Road. It is possible that the walls and floors identified to the north of the trench could relate to this structure.
- 5.5.2 Structures 327, 328 and 329 in Trench 3, as well as the concrete floor 511 in Trench 5, are likely to be remnants of the early to mid 20<sup>th</sup> century Birmingham Tube Works and Rolling Mills, located just to the south of the GSW.

## 6 CONCLUSIONS AND SIGNIFICANCE

### 6.1 Buried Archaeological remains

- 6.1.1 The evaluation confirmed that complex below ground archaeological remains survive at the site to a depth of 0.5m. The site functioned for nearly 100 years and has the potential to help elucidate changes caused by the adaptation of new glass technologies and changing industries over this period.
- 6.1.2 The Park Glasshouse is significant as one of Birmingham's earliest glassworks and has the potential to contribute to our understanding of the development of glassmaking in Birmingham, which was a nationally significant industry. The below-ground remains of the Park Glasshouse have a significance since they belong to the 'shed' rather than the 'cone' type glassworks; a type of glassworks which has been less intensively studied.
- 6.1.3 Trench 2 confirmed that better preserved remains are present outside of the footprint of German Silver works and below its floor surfaces. The slight eastwards 'shift' of the glassworks in the early-mid 19th century may mean that the remains of the early glassworks may be comparatively well-preserved outside the footprint of the GSW.

### 6.2 The Barker and Allen elevation

- 6.2.1 The façade which survives from the Barker and Allen works is good example of a very late 19th century factory where there is considerable pride and importance placed on the building's architecture.
- 6.2.2 The public face of the factory was carefully designed and detailed to act as a form of advertising for the works and it would have been part of a fine collection of contemporary buildings in Birmingham with similarly attractive exteriors.
- 6.2.3 Elaborate brick and terracotta detailing was very popular in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, particularly for public buildings or prominent commercial structures and many such structures were built in Birmingham. These include the Bell Edison Building and the Red Palace on Constitution Hill, each of which were constructed in 1896 the same year as the Barker & Allen works.

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## APPENDIX A TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench 1						
General description					Orientation	N-S
Trench revealing 3 structures, an E-W running brick wall with an associated brick floor at the northern end of the trench, two parallel E-W brick walls forming a structure in the middle of the trench, and a corner N-S, E-W brick wall at the southern end. A previously excavated geotechnical pit was located in the middle of the trench. Trench shortened to 15 meters due to live services at northern end. Consists of multiple layers of demolition deposits overlying redeposited natural and natural geology of sandy clay.					Length (m)	15
					Width (m)	5
					Avg. depth (m)	0.9
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Findings	Date
100	Layer	-	0.3	Demolition rubble	-	-
101	Layer	-	0.15	Crushed brick	-	-
102	Layer	-	0.25	Disturbed natural	-	-
103	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
104	Str	-	3.5	Brick Surface	-	-
105	Cut	0.4	0.3	Construction cut for 107	-	-
106	Fill	0.4	0.3	Fill of 105	-	-
107	Str	0.5	0.26	E-W Brick wall	-	-
108	Str	2	0.05	Concrete surface	-	-
109	Str	0.23	0.56	E-W Brick wall	-	-
110	Fill	1.1	-	Internal wall deposit	-	-
111	Str	0.23	0.33	E-W Brick wall	-	-
112	Cut	0.55	-	Construction cut for 114	-	-
113	Fill	0.55	-	Fill of 112	-	-
114	Str	0.45	0.11	Brick wall corner	-	-
115	Str	1.5	0.06	Tarmac	-	-
116	Cut	0.45	0.32	Pit cut	-	-
117	Fill	0.45	0.32	Fill of 116	-	-
118	Layer	0.72	0.1	Levelling deposit	-	-
119	Layer	7	0.32	Demolition deposit	-	-
120	Group	-	-	Consists of: 109, 110, 111, 121, 122, 123, 124	-	-
121	Cut	0.12	-	Construction cut for 109	-	-
122	Fill	0.12	-	Fill of 121	-	-
123	Cut	0.22	-	Construction cut for 111	-	-
124	Fill	0.22	-	Fill of 123	-	-
125	Cut	1.6	-	Unexcavated Pit	-	-
126	Layer	1.1	0.18	Demolition deposit	-	-
127	Group	-	-	Consists of: 105, 106, 107		
128	Group	-	-	Consists of: 112, 113, 114		

Trench 2						
General description					Orientation	NE-SW
Trench revealed multiple structures comprising E-W and N-S aligned walls and brick, metal tile and concrete floors. Orientation and length of trench was altered due to asbestos present in original area. Consists of modern construction material, overlying multiple layers of demolition and levelling deposits, redeposited natural and natural geology of sandy clay.					Length (m)	25
					Width (m)	5
					Avg. depth (m)	0.5
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
200	Layer	-	0.13	Tarmac	-	-
201	Layer	-	0.15	Crushed brick	-	-
202	Layer	-	0.14	Modern concrete	-	-
203	Layer	-	0.18	Made ground	-	-
204	Layer	-	0.45	Levelling deposit	-	-
205	Str	0.6	-	Concrete pad		
206	Str	1.1	-	Concrete pad		
207	Str	0.36	1.1	N-S Brick Wall		
208	Str	0.23	-	E-W Brick Wall		
209	Str	0.23	-	E-W Brick Wall		
210	Str	0.34	-	N-S Brick Wall		
211	Str	0.36	-	N-S Brick Wall		
212	Str	1.1	-	Concrete floor		
213	Str	0.6	-	Brick floor surface		
214	Str	0.34	-	E-W Brick Wall		
215	Str	0.22	-	N-S Brick Wall		
216	Str	1.1	-	Concrete floor		
217	Str	2.4	-	Brick floor		
218	Str	1.1	-	Concrete floor		
219	Str	0.32	-	N-S Brick Wall		
220	Str	0.8	-	Brick floor		
221	Str	5.5	-	Concrete floor		
222	Str	0.7	-	Manhole cover		
223	Str	5	0.05	Metal floor tiles		
224	Str	0.7	0.05	Manhole cover		
225	Str	0.34	-	Brick wall corner		
226	Str	1.5	-	Brick floor		
227	Cut	0.1	-	Construction cut for 210		
228	Fill	0.1	-	Fill of 227		
229	Cut	0.08	-	Construction cut for 208		
230	Fill	0.08	-	Fill of 229		
231	Fill	1.4	-	Internal wall deposit		
232	Cut	0.1	-	Construction cut for 211		
233	Fill	0.1	-	Fill of 232		
234	Cut	0.12	-	Construction cut for 209		
0235	Fill	0.12	-	Fill of 234		
236	Fill	1.1	-	Internal wall deposit		
237	Cut	0.24	1.05	Construction cut for 207		

238	Fill	0.24	1.05	Fill of 237		
239	Cut	1.8	-	Unexcavated pit		
240	Cut	0.6	-	Borehole		
241	Layer	3.5	0.52	Demolition Deposit		
242	Layer	0.6	-	Deposit abutting 215		
243	Layer	0.55	-	Deposit abutting 215		
244	Cut	0.7	-	Drainage trench		
245	Cut	0.8	-	Truncation		
246	Str	0.34	-	N-S Brick Wall		
247	Layer	0.5	0.41	Demolition deposit		
248	Str	0.48	0.05	Patch of metal floor tiles		
249	Str	0.34	-	N-S Brick Wall		
250	Cut	1.5	-	Truncation		
251	Cut	1.2	-	Truncation		
252	Layer	-	-	Natural		
253	Str	0.22	0.08	N-S Brick Wall	Brick	19th to early 20th century
254	Layer	0.9	0.12	Levelling deposit		
255	Layer	1	0.15	Demolition deposit		
256	layer	0.9	0.22	Demolition deposit		
257	Cut	0.65	0.42	Construction cut for 253		
258	Fill	0.65	0.42	Fill of 257		
259	Group	-	-	Consists of: 210, 211, 227, 228, 232, 233		
260	Group	-	-	Consists of: 208, 229, 230, 231		
261	Group	-	-	Consists of: 209, 234, 235, 236		
262	Group	-	-	Consists of: 207, 212, 214, 218, 219, 220, 221, 223 237, 238, 249		
263	Group	-	-	Consists of: 225, 226		
264	Group	-	-	Consists of: 253, 257, 258		

Trench 3						
<b>General description</b>					<b>Orientation</b>	N-S
Trench revealing 3 structures in the centre, made up of E-W aligned walls and an earlier pit at the southern end, as well as several truncations due to more recent construction activity. Consists of modern construction material overlying made ground, redeposited natural and natural geology of sandy clay.					<b>Length (m)</b>	30
					<b>Width (m)</b>	5
					<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	1.2
<b>Context No.</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Width (m)</b>	<b>Depth (m)</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Finds</b>	<b>Date</b>
300	Layer	-	0.12	Modern concrete	-	-
301	Layer	-	0.18	Crushed brick	-	-
302	Layer	-	0.23	Made Ground	-	-

303	Layer	-	0.44	Redeposited natural	-	-
304	Str	2	-	Concrete pad	-	-
305	Str	1.1	-	Concrete pad	-	-
306	Cut	0.16	-	Construction cut for 308		
307	Fill	0.16	-	Fill of 306		
308	Str	1.2	-	Brick wall corner	Brick	c 1925-1960?
309	Str	0.11	-	E-W Brick Wall		
310	Layer	0.4	-	Deposit abutting 311		
311	Str	0.45	-	E-W Brick Wall		
312	Cut	0.3	-	Construction cut for 314		
313	Fill	0.3	-	Fill of 312		
314	Str	1	-	Concrete culvert		
315	Str	1.8	-	Manhole Cover		
316	Str	0.6	-	Concrete pad		
317	Layer	2	-	Demolition deposit		
318	Str	1.6	-	E-W Brick Wall		
319	Cut	0.18	0.56	Construction cut for 321		
320	Fill	0.18	0.56	Fill of 319		
321	Str	3.5	0.61	Brick built structure		
322	Str	0.5	-	Concrete Pad		
323	Str	0.25	-	Concrete Drain		
324	Fill	2.1	0.65	Fill of 325		
325	Cut	2.1	0.65	Pit cut		
326	Layer	-	-	Natural		
327	Group	-	-	Consists of: 306, 307, 308		
328	Group	-	-	Consists of: 319, 320, 321		
329	Group	-	-	Consists of: 311, 312, 313, 314 and 318.		

Trench 4						
<b>General description</b>					<b>Orientation</b>	E-W
Trench revealing two main structures made up of E-W and N-S aligned walls, as well as several associated brick, metal tile and concrete floors. Consists of modern construction material overlying multiple layers of demolition and levelling deposits. Natural geology was not revealed.					<b>Length (m)</b>	30
					<b>Width (m)</b>	5
					<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	-
<b>Context No.</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Width (m)</b>	<b>Depth (m)</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Finds</b>	<b>Date</b>
400	Layer	-	0.21	Demolition rubble	-	-
401	Layer	-	0.14	Modern concrete	-	-
402	Layer	-	0.12	Compressed type 1	-	-
403	Cut	1	-	Truncation	-	-
404	Cut	5	0.26	Truncation		
405	Cut	2.4	-	Truncation		
406	Str	0.22	1.6	N-S Brick wall		
407	Str	1.5	-	Rectangular brick structure		
408	Str	0.22	-	N-S Brick wall		

409	Str	0.2	-	Brick wall corner		
410	Str	1.6	-	Rectangular brick structure		
411	Str	0.7	0.08	Remnant brick floor		
412	Str	5	0.18	Metal tiles inlaid in concrete		
413	Str	0.6	-	Manhole cover		
414	Str	0.22	-	Brick wall corner		
415	Str	0.34	-	E-W Brick wall		
416	Str	0.56	-	E-W Brick wall		
417	Str	5	-	Brick floor	Brick	c 1880-1950?
418	Layer	1.5	-	Make-up for 417		
419	Str	1.2	-	Concrete floor		
420	Str	2.2	-	Concrete floor		
421	Group	-	-	Structure: 406, 408, 411		
422	Layer	2	-	Concreted deposit overlying 412		
423	Fill	1.2	-	Interior deposit of 407		
424	Layer	2	-	Demolition deposit		
425	Fill	1.3	-	Interior deposit of 410		
426	Layer	6	1.2	Demolition deposit		
427	Str	1	-	Concrete floor		
428	Str	0.5	-	Stone surface		
429	Str	3	-	Concrete floor		
430	Layer	0.6	0.08	Construction deposit		
431	Layer	3	0.56	Made ground		
432	Layer	3	0.84	Levelling deposit		
433	Group	-	-	Consists of: 415, 416, 417, 418		

Trench 5						
<b>General description</b>					<b>Orientation</b>	N-S
Trench revealing 1 main structure at the northern end made up of E-W aligned walls as well as concrete and metal tile floor surfaces and a relatively modern concrete structure at the southern end. Consists of multiple levels of demolition and levelling deposits overlying concrete and other structures. Natural geology was not revealed at 3m in depth.					<b>Length (m)</b>	30
					<b>Width (m)</b>	5
					<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	-
<b>Context No.</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Width (m)</b>	<b>Depth (m)</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Finds</b>	<b>Date</b>
500	Layer	-	0.4	Demolition rubble	-	-
501	Layer	-	0.12	Compressed type 1	-	-
502	Layer	6	1	Modern made ground	-	-
503	Str	-	1.4	Modern concrete	-	-
504	Str	3.2	0.28	Modern metal surface		
505	Cut	2	0.3	Truncation		
506	Str	5	-	Concrete floor		
507	Str	5	-	Metal tiles inlaid into 506		

508	Str	0.34	-	E-W Brick wall		
509	Str	5	-	Concrete floor		
510	Str	0.6	0.7	E-W Brick wall		
511	Str	4	-	Concrete floor		
512	Str	0.8	-	Manhole cover		
513	Str	1.6	-	Concrete floor		
514	Layer	1.5	0.08	Levelling deposit for 513		
515	Layer	1.5	0.24	Redeposited natural		
516	Str	0.34	-	E-W Brick wall		
517	Str	0.5	0.06	Stone slab overlying 518		
518	Str	0.54	-	Brick floor		
519	Group	-	-	Consists of: 506, 507, 508, 509, 510, 513		
520	Group	-	-	Consists of: 516, 517, 518		

## APPENDIX B FINDS REPORTS

### B.1 Ceramic building material

*By John Cotter*

#### *Description*

- B.1.1 Four bricks weighing 9.364kg were recovered from three contexts. These have not been separately catalogued but are fully described below. The bricks all date to the 19th or 20th centuries.
- B.1.2 **Context (253)** Spot-date: 19th to early 20th century. Description: 1 piece (2.5kg). Complete, unfrosted, orange-brown brick in a dense sandy fabric. Length: 232mm; Width: 101mm; Thickness: 58-60mm. Possibly machine made? Very neatly made. A slight horizontal stacking mark/band occurs on one of the long (stretcher) sides. Upper surface slightly worn; lower surface fairly rough and shows traces of white mortar. The slight wear on the top, and its relative thinness, suggest it may be a paving brick.
- B.1.3 **Context (308)** Spot-date: c 1925-1960? Description: 1 piece (2.4kg). Fresh, near-complete, light yellow firebrick, with one header-end just missing. Length: 210mm+; Width: 111mm; Thickness: 75mm. Machine made. Granular fabric. The upper surface has a very shallow rectangular frog containing an impressed maker's mark 'GIBBONS (DUDLEY) Ltd/ No 1 FIRECLAY'. This company was established in 1834 and closed in 1987. The company name changed to this form (with 'Dudley' in brackets and 'Ltd') in 1925 (Grace's Guide 2016).
- B.1.4 **Context (417)** (Brick 1) Spot-date: c 1880-1950? Description: 1 piece (3kg). Complete, unfrosted, engineer's-type paving brick in a very hard dark grey fabric. Where chipped the brick has a dark red-brown core. Length: 225mm; Width: 110mm; Thickness: 53mm. Machine made. Upper surface slightly smoothed/worn from use and shows a thin layer of darker grey staining to a depth of 4mm – possibly from oil or grime? The sides are a lighter grey tone. Sides and underside partly covered with a thick application of fine grey cement.
- B.1.5 **Context (417)** (Brick 2) Spot-date: c 1880-1950? Description: 1 piece (1.464kg). Complete, unfrosted, engineer's-type paving brick or tile in same hard dark grey fabric as Brick 1 (417) above. Length: 225mm; Width: 110mm; Thickness: 25-27mm. Machine made. Plain. Upper surface smooth. Rougher underside with traces of the same of fine grey cement as above.

**APPENDIX C****SITE SUMMARY DETAILS**

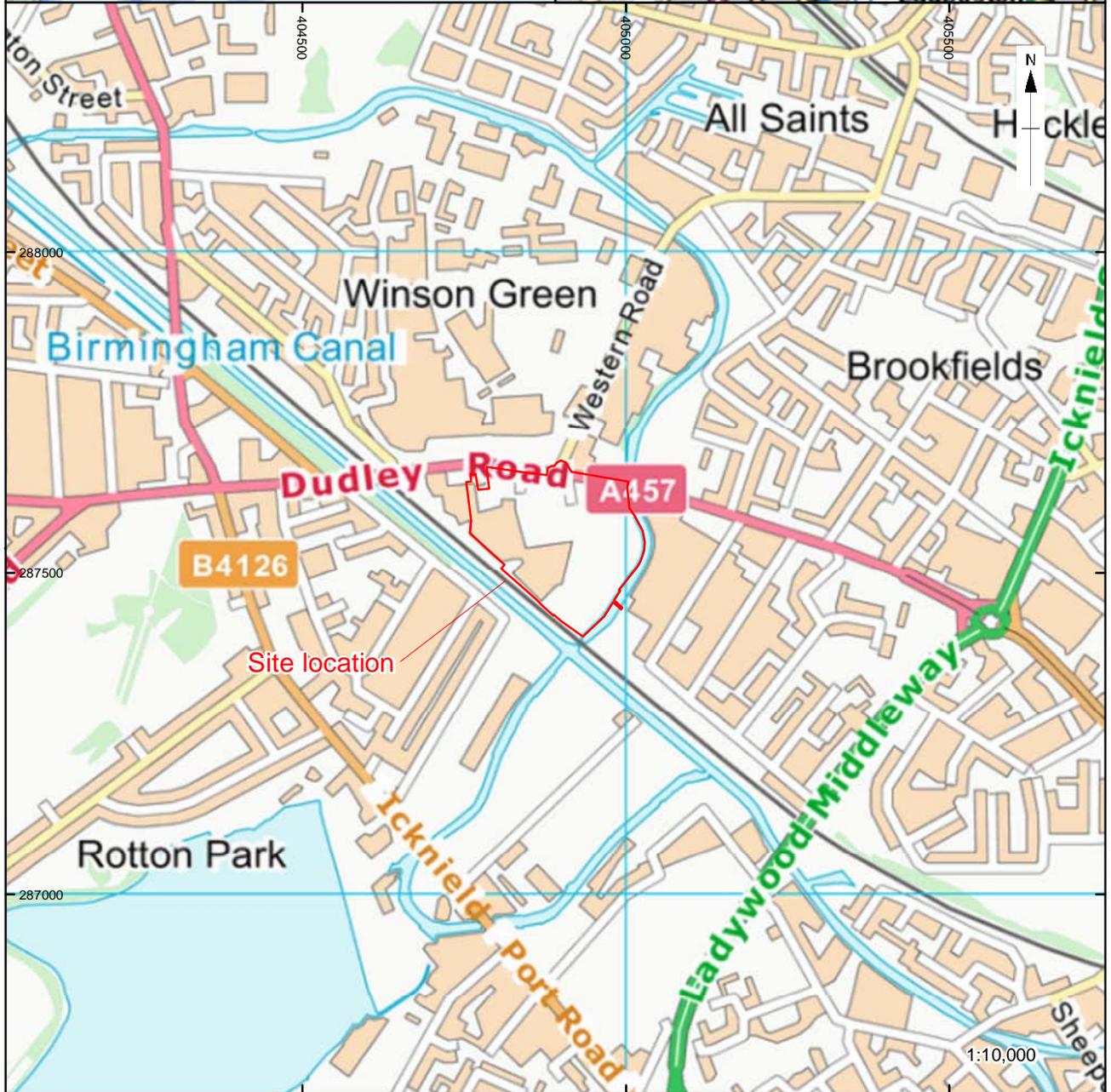
<b>Site name:</b>	Soho Loop, Dudley Road, Birmingham
<b>Site code:</b>	BISOL20
<b>Grid Reference</b>	SP 0498 8760
<b>Type:</b>	Evaluation and building recording
<b>Date and duration:</b>	May 2020
<b>Area of Site</b>	-
<b>Location of archive:</b>	The archive is currently held at OA, Janus House, and will be deposited with Birmingham Museum Service in due course, under the following accession number: 2020.11.
<b>Summary of Results:</b>	<p>In May 2020 Oxford Archaeology was commissioned by the RPS Group, on behalf of Galliard Homes and Apsley House Capital, to undertake a trial-trench evaluation and building recording survey at the site of a proposed mixed residential development at Soho Loop, Dudley Road, Birmingham. The evaluation consisted of 5 trenches that were targeted on the outline of two industrial factories that were present on the site in the late 18th-20th centuries.</p> <p>An earlier desk-based assessment (Driver 2005) identified the archaeological potential of the site which contained a late 18th to 19th century glassworks (Park Glassworks) and 19th century German silver works (Baker and Allen). A previous evaluation (AJ Archaeology 2018) at the site identified the buried remains of both factories, along with the surviving roadside façade associated with the Baker and Allen factory. This second phase of evaluation was designed to characterise and define areas of archaeological remains associated with the earlier glasshouse, to help develop a mitigation strategy for the site.</p> <p>The evaluation demonstrated that below-ground structural remains and deposits associated with the glassworks have survived later disturbance. Towards the west of the glassworks, trenching identified up to 0.5m of stratified deposits, together with several building phases, including walls and floor surfaces within Trench 2. The glassmaking remains in other parts of the complex were less well preserved but were found still to survive underneath the floors of the silver works.</p> <p>Other remains identified by the trenching comprised brick and iron floors, brick walls and furnace remains of the German Silver Works, which were demolished to floor slab level in the 1970s. Trench 1 also revealed the remains of housing and a potential Public House on the west side of Heath Street mapped on Pigott Smith's mid-19th century map of the glassworks. Structures within Trench 3 as well as the concrete floor 511 in Trench 5, are likely to be remnants of the early to mid-20th century Birmingham Tube</p>

Works and Rolling Mills, located just to the south of the silver works.

The façade which survives from the Barker and Allen works is good example of a very late 19th century factory, with its elaborate brick and terracotta detailing. This frontage reflects a period when considerable pride and importance were placed on the building's architecture, to convey its prominent commercial status.

The results of the evaluation complement the documentary evidence which shows that the site has been historically used for both glass and silver production. Based on these results, the site is considered to have high potential to preserve the remains of one of the earliest Glasshouses in the city. The site has considerable potential to significantly contribute to our understanding of both early glass production and the development of this industry within Birmingham.





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Figure 1: Site location

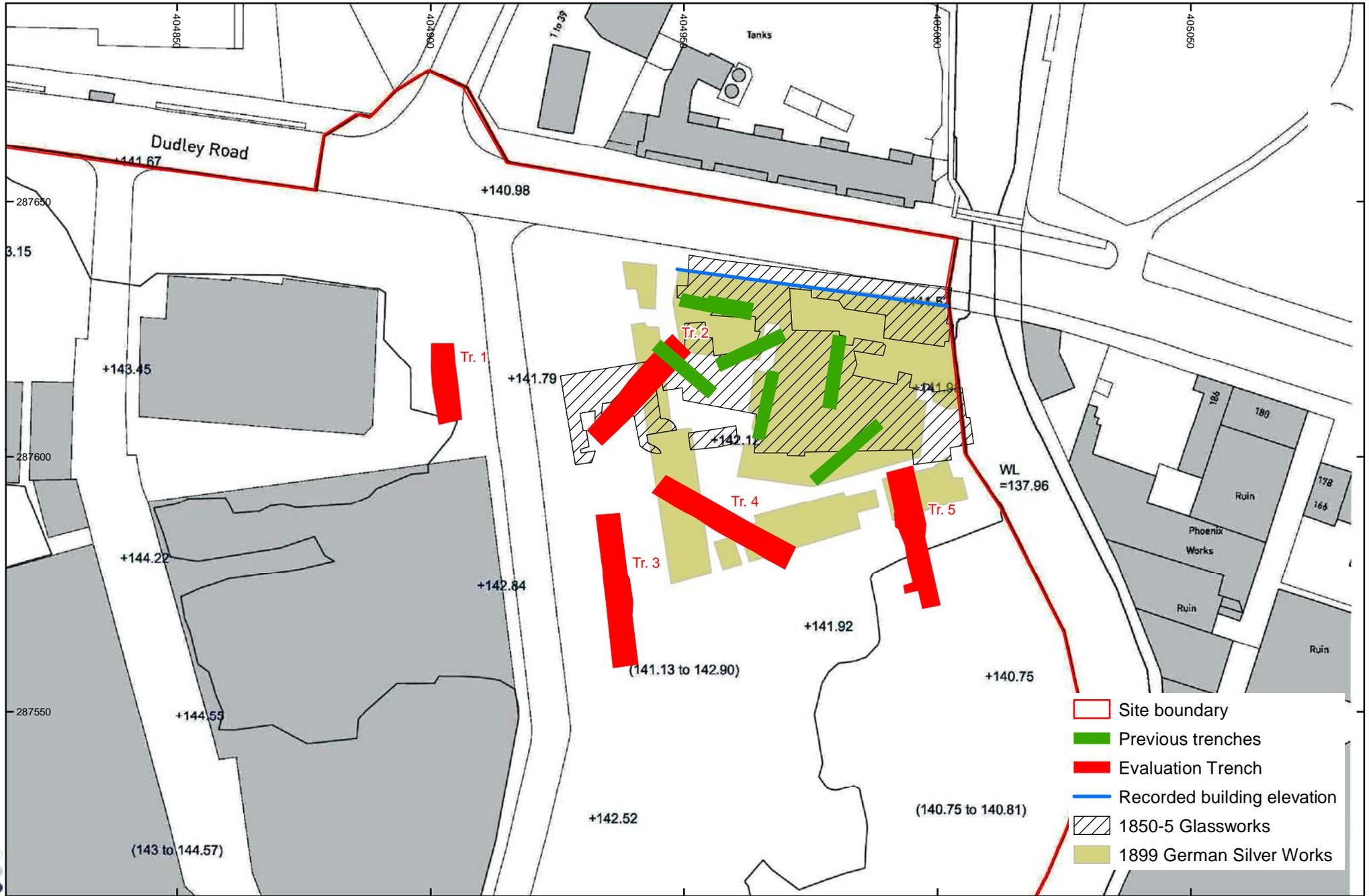
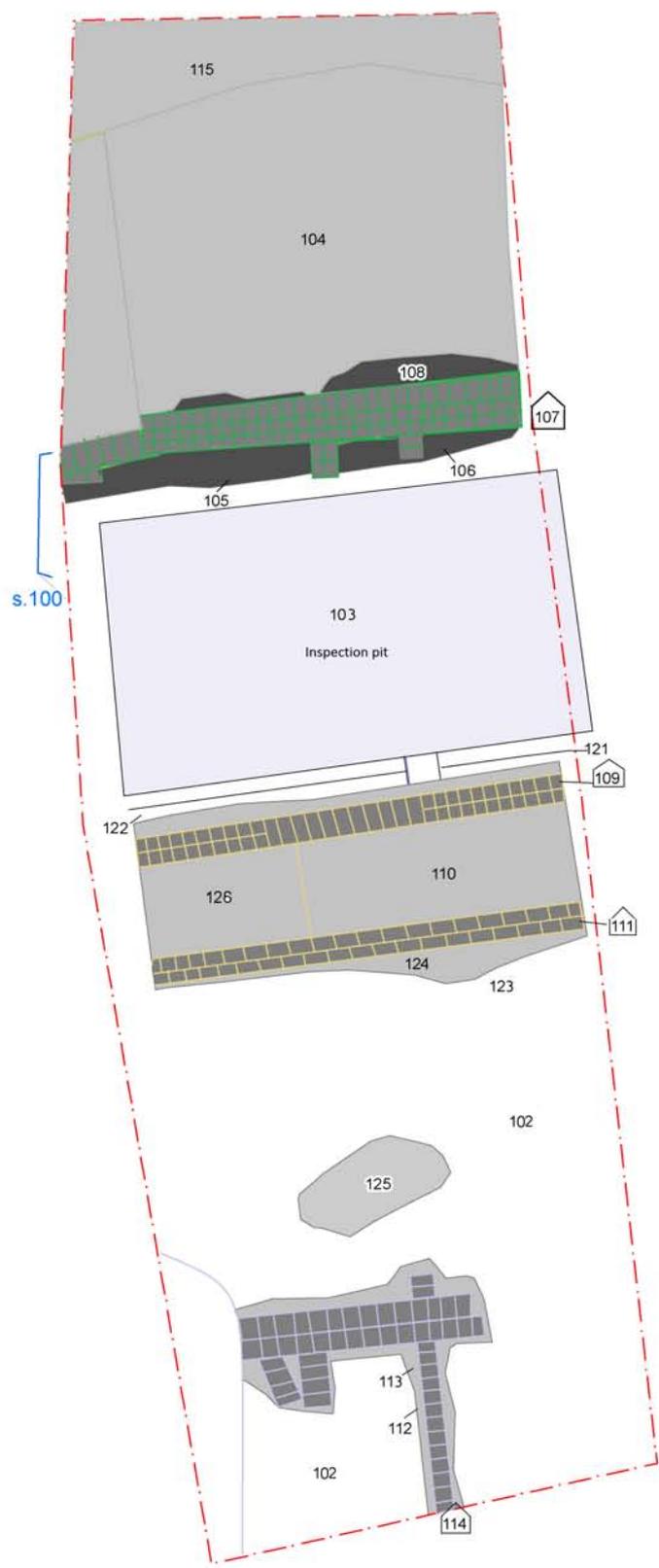


Figure 2: Trench locations



-  Evaluation Trench
-  Sondage
-  Structures
-  Poss. Glasshouse
-  Glasshouse
-  Silver works
-  Modern

Figure 3: Trench 1

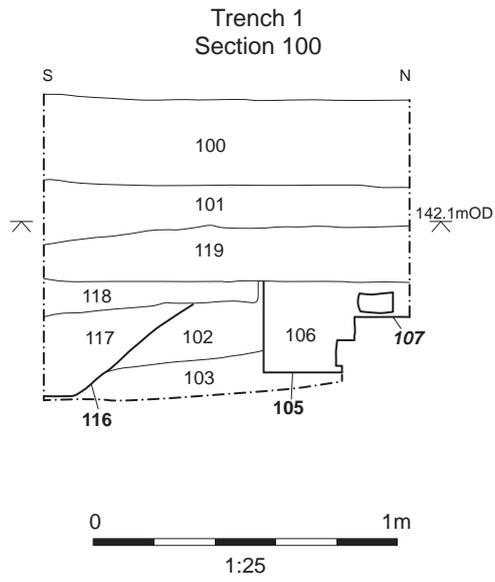


Figure 4: Section - Trench 1

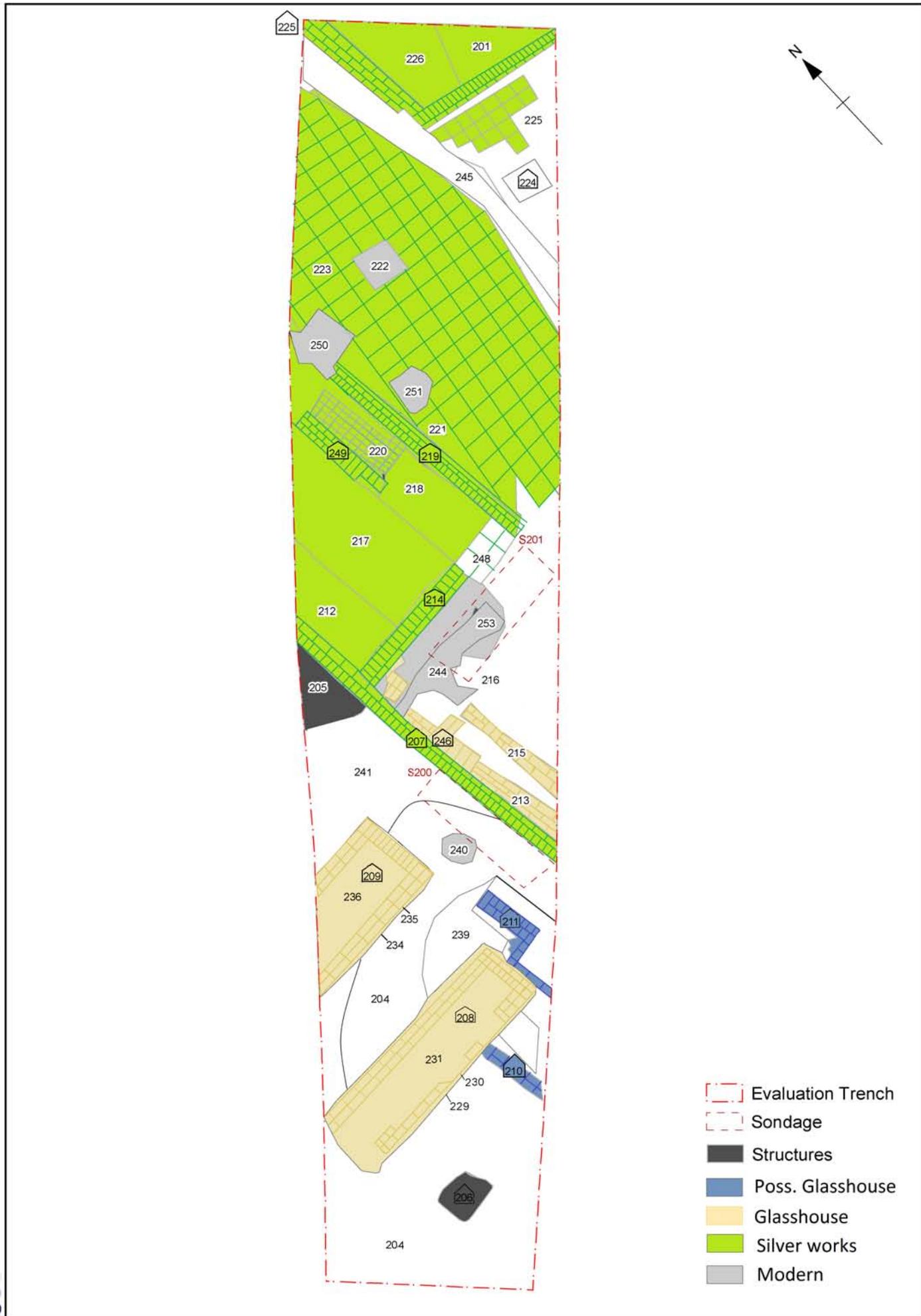


Figure 5: Trench 2

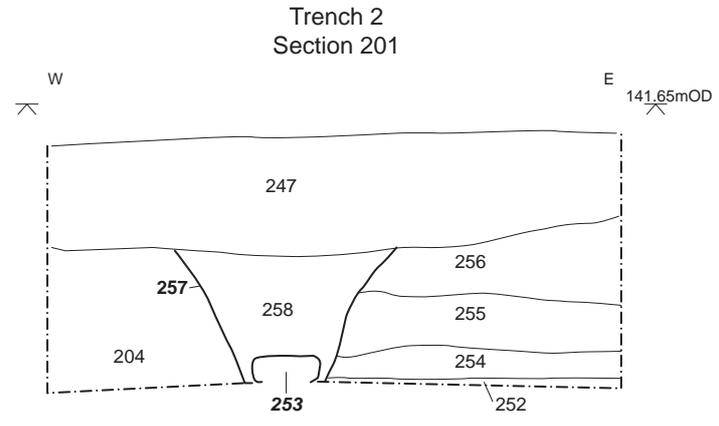
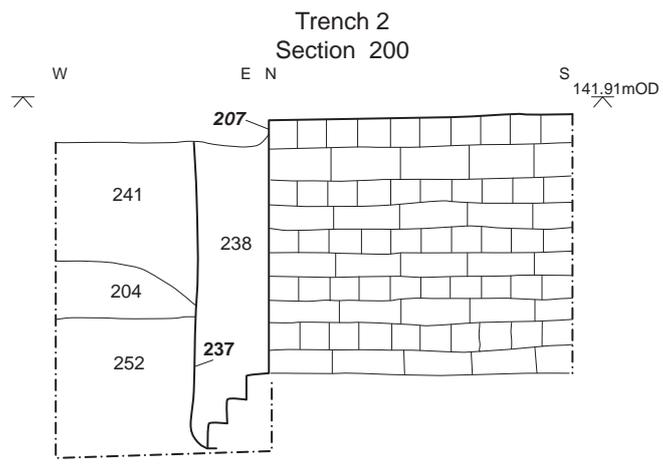
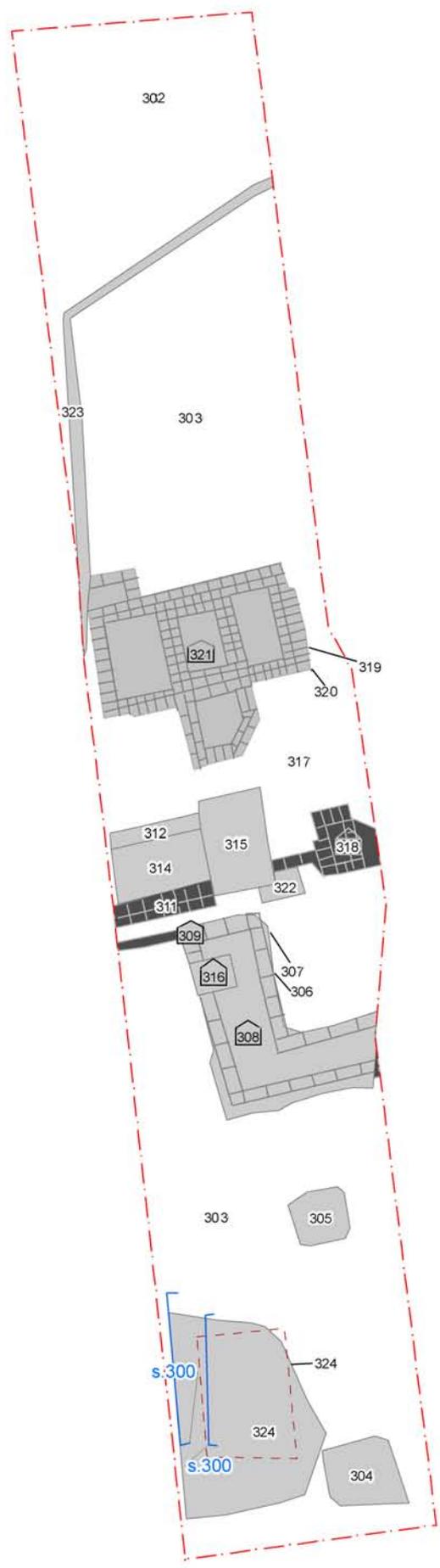


Figure 6: Sections - Trench 2



- Section
- - - Evaluation Trench
- - - Sondage
- Feature
- Structures

Figure 7: Trench 3

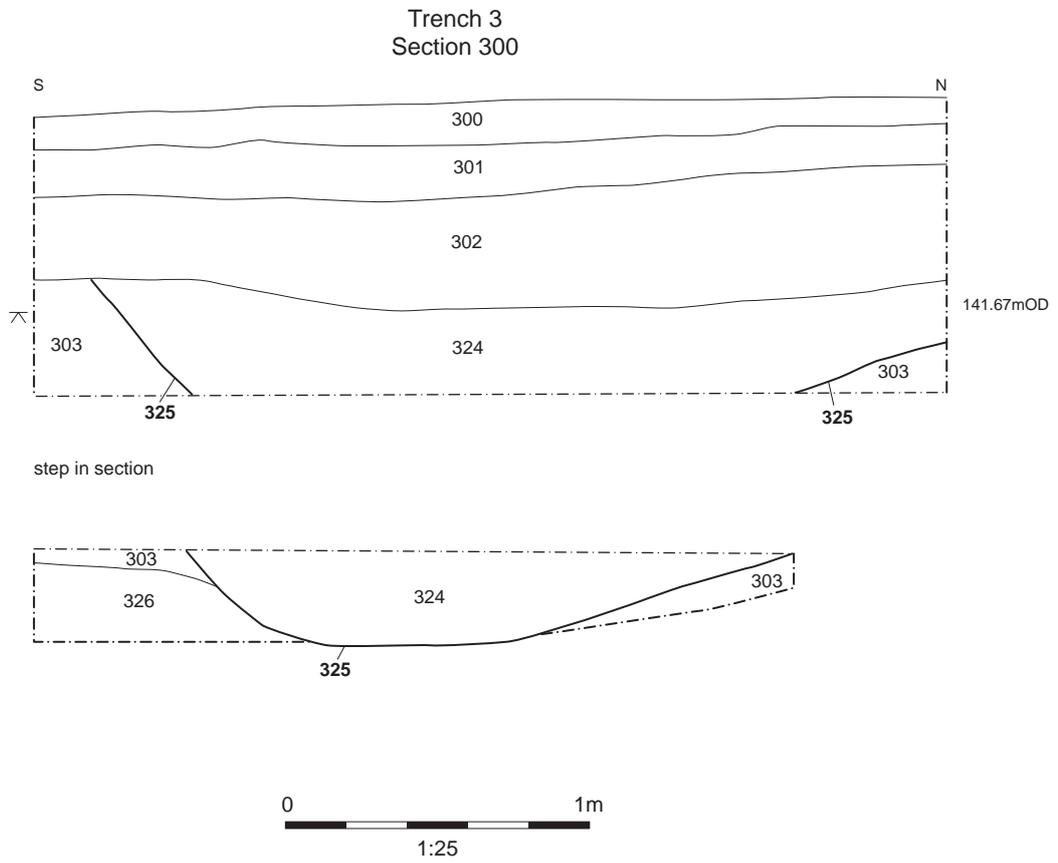


Figure 8: Section - Trench 3



Figure 9: Trench 4

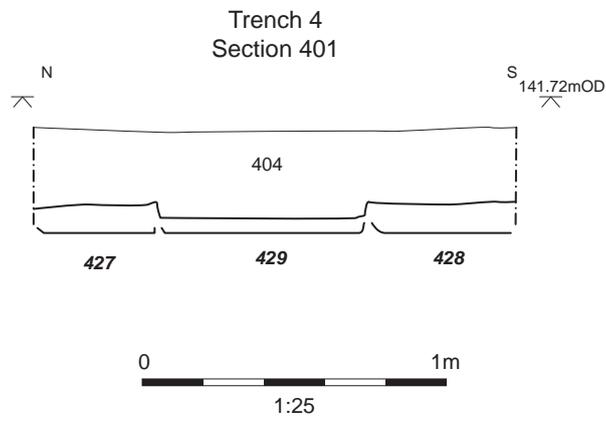
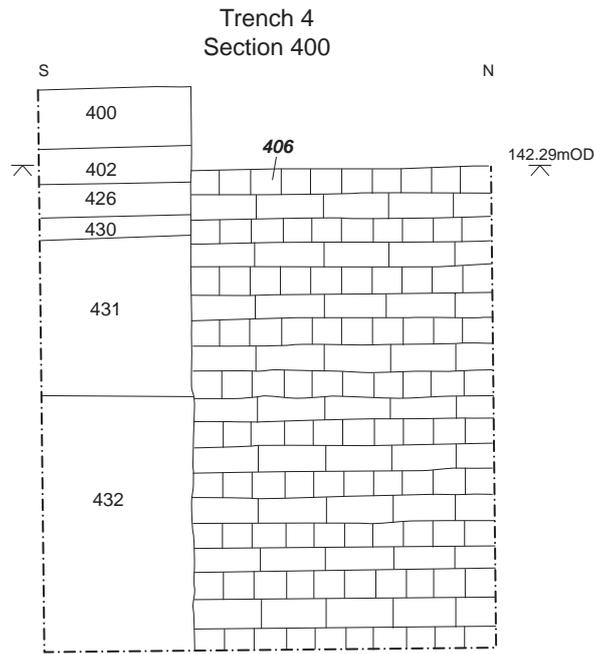
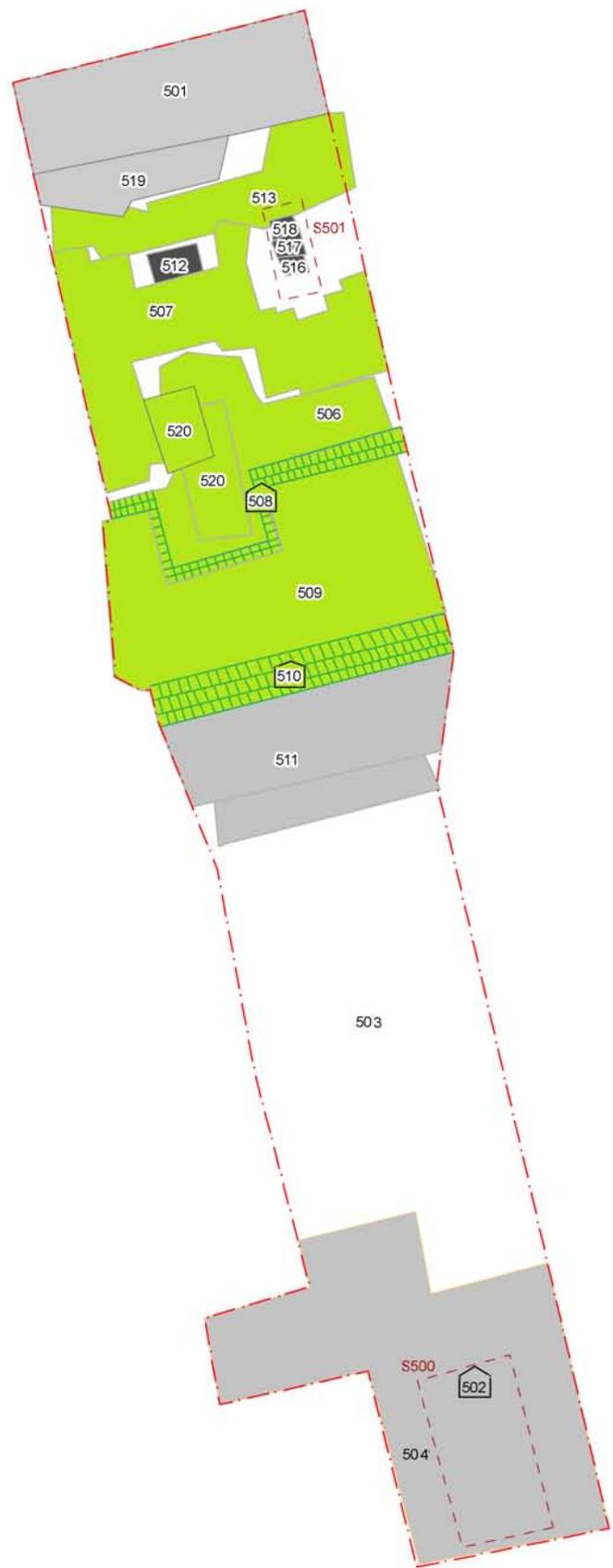


Figure 10: Sections - Trench 4



-  Evaluation Trench
-  Sondage
-  Structures
-  Poss. Glasshouse
-  Glasshouse
-  Silver works
-  Modern

Figure11: Trench 5

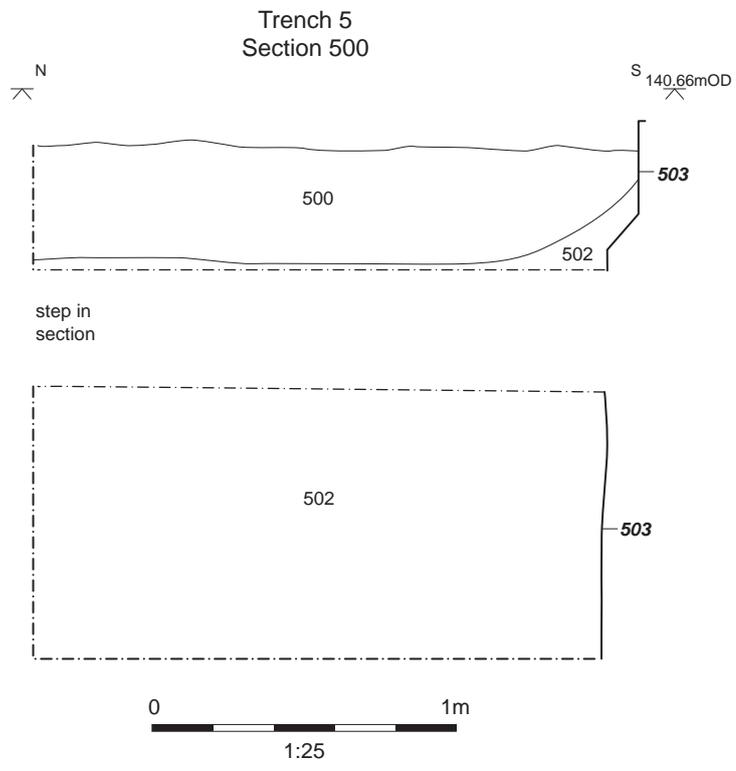


Figure 12: Section - Trench 5

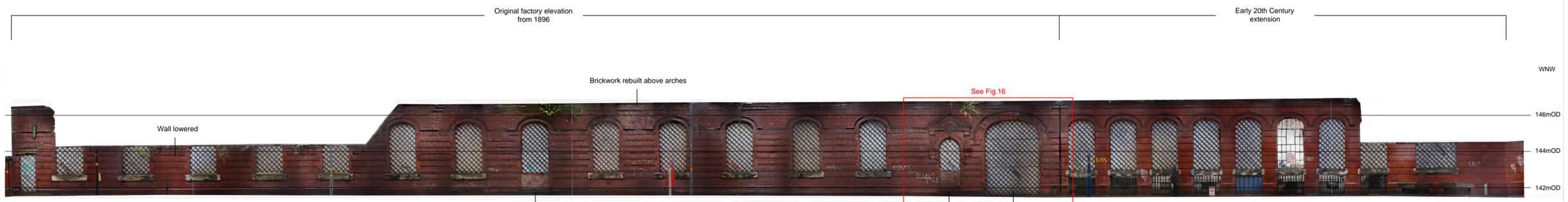
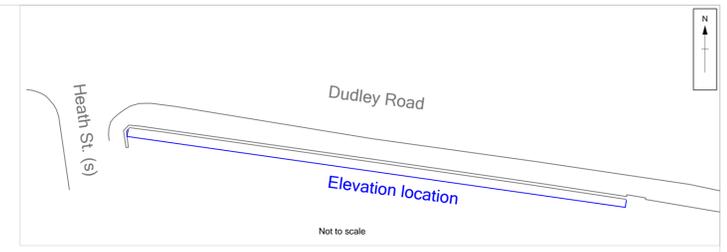


Figure 13: North and South facing ortho images of factory elevation facing Dudley Road

CHECKED BY: JCT1906/20



CHECKED BY: JG\*19/06/20



Figure 14: Pediment over the doorway



Plate 1: Trench 1 looking south (2x1m scales)



Plate 2: Trench 1 close-up section of structures 104 and 107



Plate 3: Trench 1 looking north



Plate 4: Trench 2 looking south (2x 1m scale)



Plate 5: Trench 2, structures 212, 214, 217, 218 and 249 (2x 1m scale)



Plate 6: Trench 2, structures 208, 209, 210 and 211 (2x 1m scale)



Plate 7: Trench 3 looking south



Plate 8: Trench 3, structure 321 (0.5m scale)



Plate 9: Trench 3, Structure 321 (0.5m scale)



Plate 10: Trench 4 looking east (2m scale)



Plate 11: Trench 4, structure 410 (2x 1m scales)



Plate 12: Trench 4, Sondage 400



Plate 13: Trench 5 looking south (2x 1m scales)



Plate 14: Trench 5 looking (2x 1m scales)



Plate 15: Trench 5, Sondage 500 (1m scale)



Plate 16: General view of central part of north side of wall



Plate 17: North side of wall to east of gateway



Plate 18: Archway and doorway, north side of wall



Plate 19: Brick and terracotta detailing to pediment over doorway

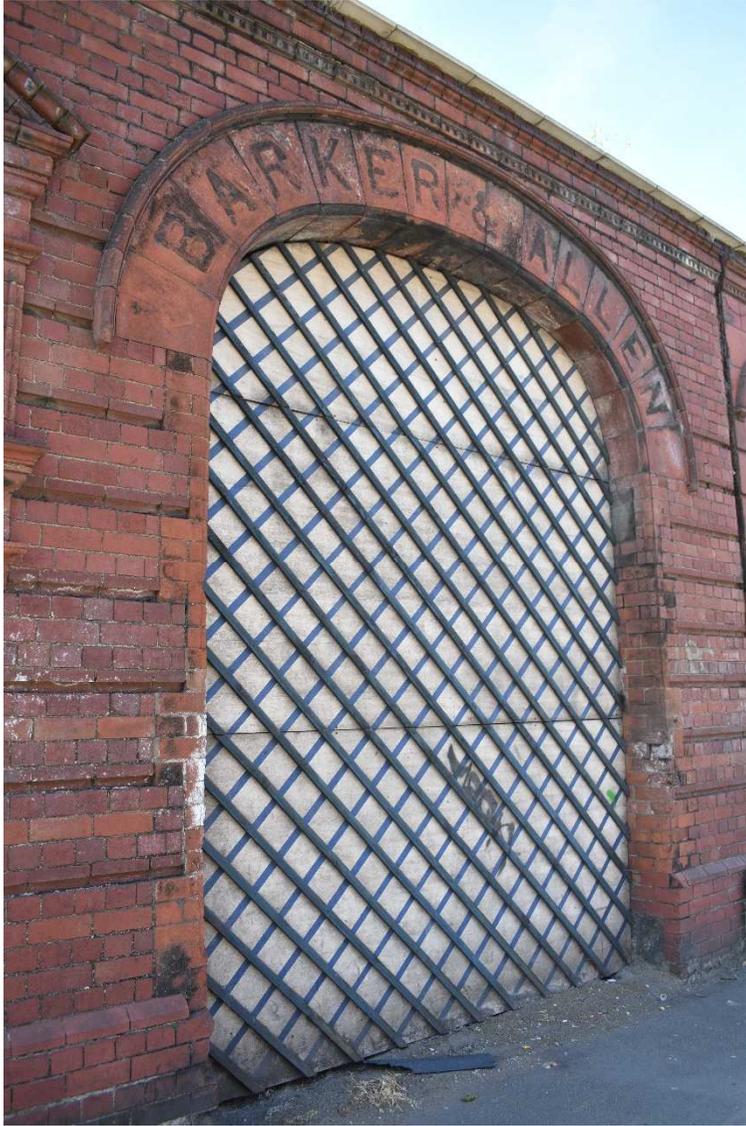


Plate 20: North side of main archway



Plate 21: Terracotta corbel to doorway



Plate 22: Bays in north side of wall, rebuilt brickwork over windows

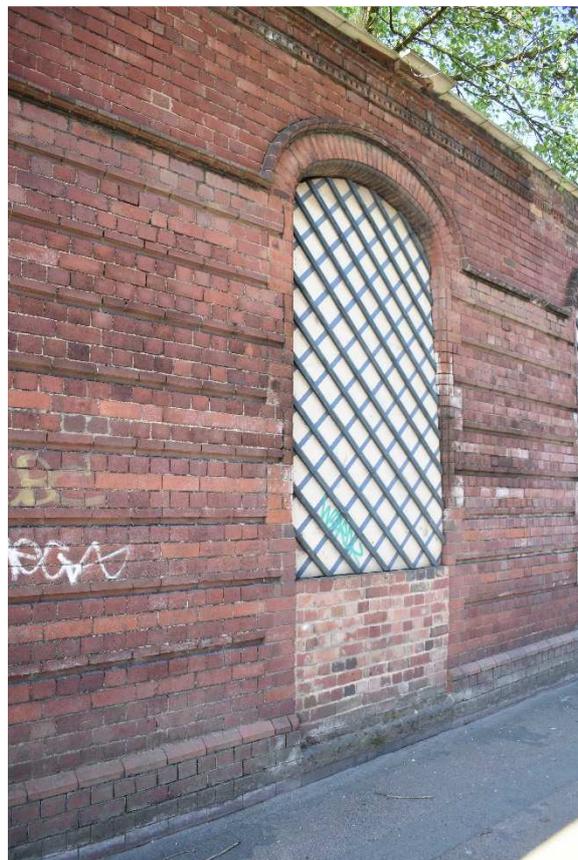


Plate 23: Blocked former doorway in eastern part of wall

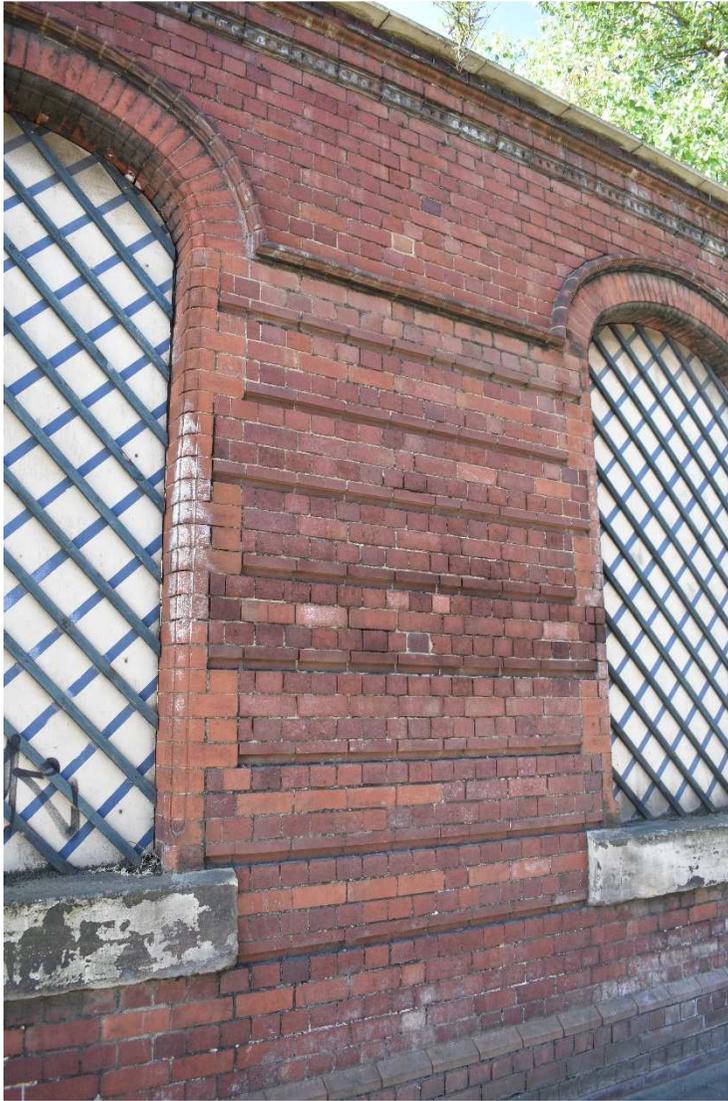


Plate 24: Brickwork detailing in north side of wall

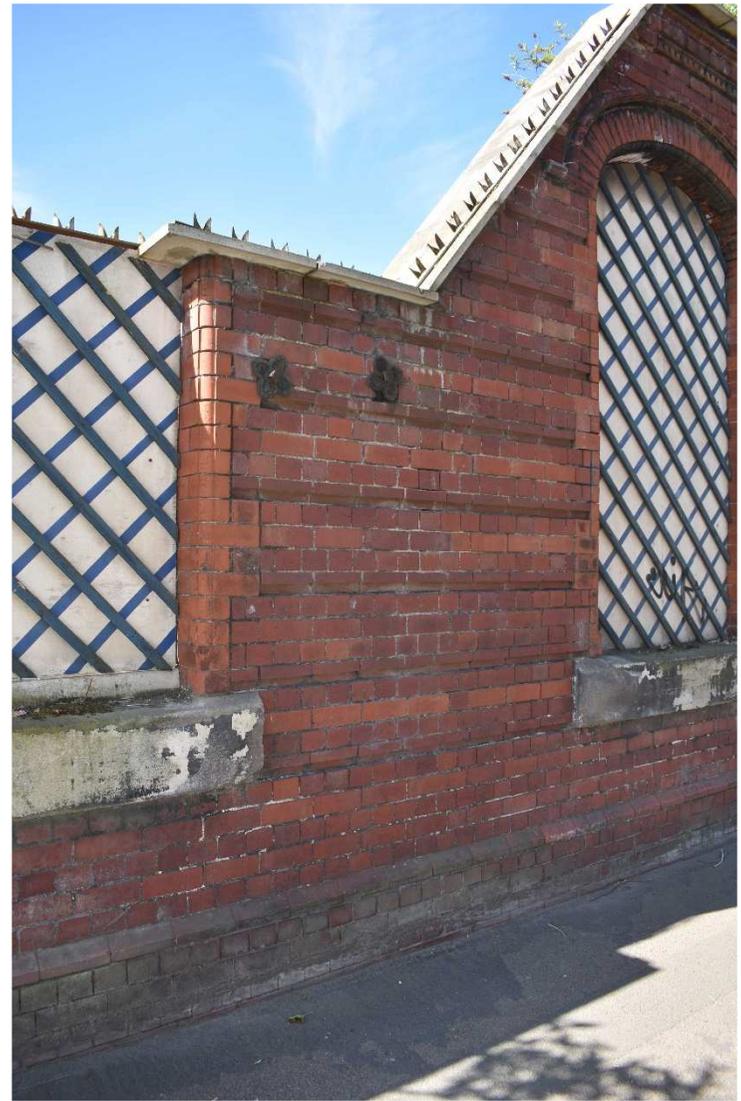


Plate 25: Step in wall coping in eastern part of wall



Plate 26: East end of north side of wall



Plate 27: General view of wall from north-east



Plate 28: Western part of north side of wall



Plate 29: Junction between phases on north side of wall



Plate 30: Junction between phases on north side of wall

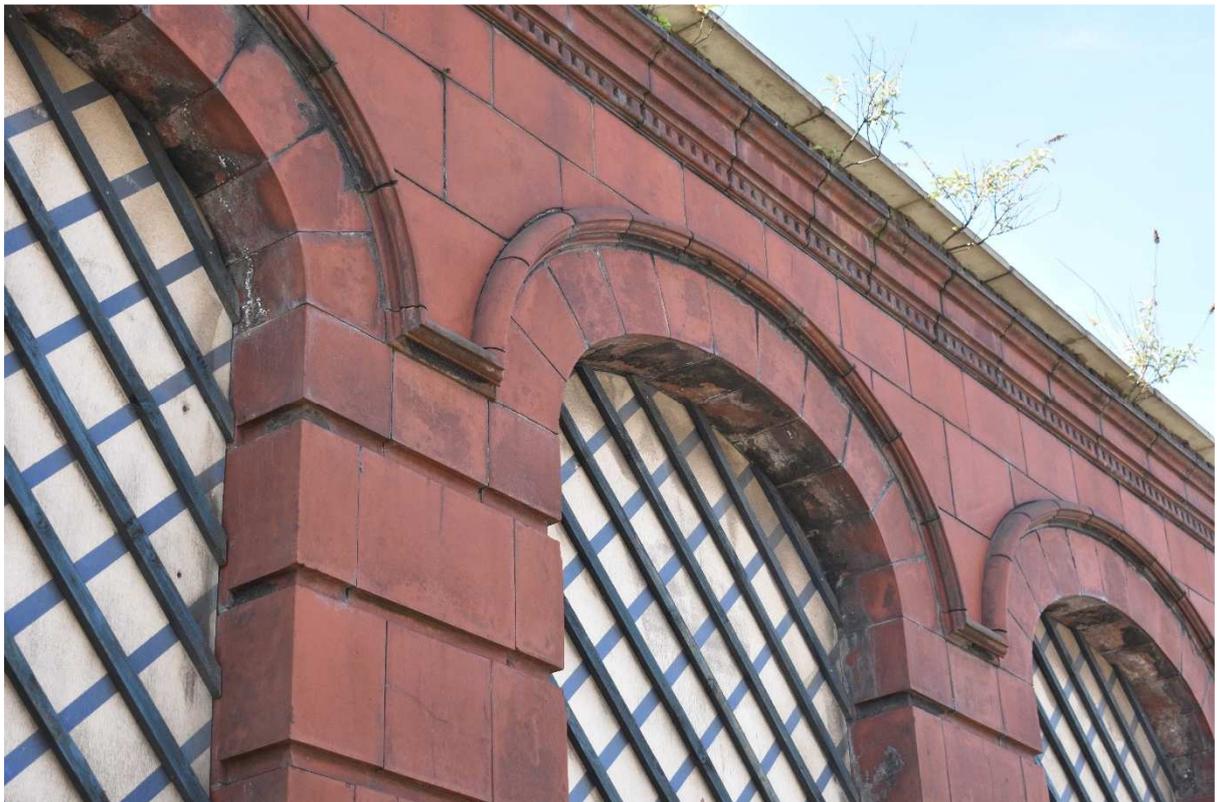


Plate 31: Brickwork detail in early 20th-century extension to factory



Plate 32: North side of former basement window



Plate 33: Typical bays in western extension



Plate 34: South side of wall, western part



Plate 35: South side of wall looking to north-west



Plate 36: South side of blocked archway



Plate 37: Pintle from former gateway

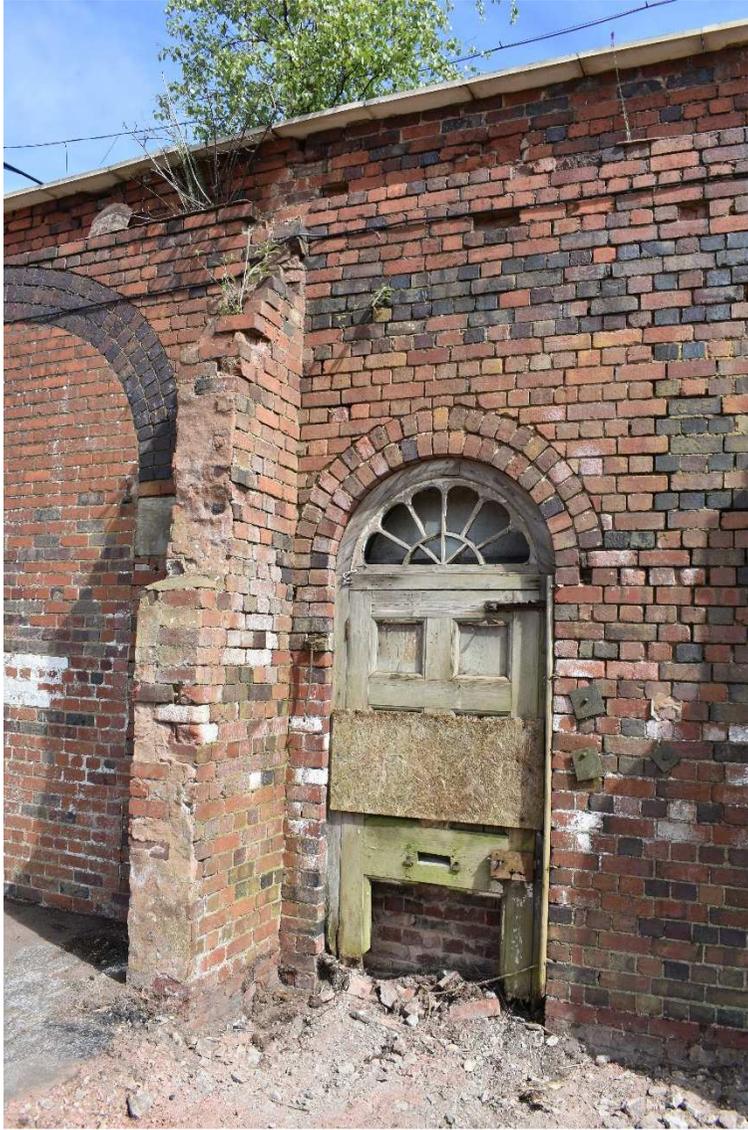


Plate 38: south side of pedestrian doorway



Plate 39: Central section of south side



Plate 40: Eastern part of south side of wall



Plate 41: Former doorway in eastern part of wall



Plate 42: General view of wall looking north-west

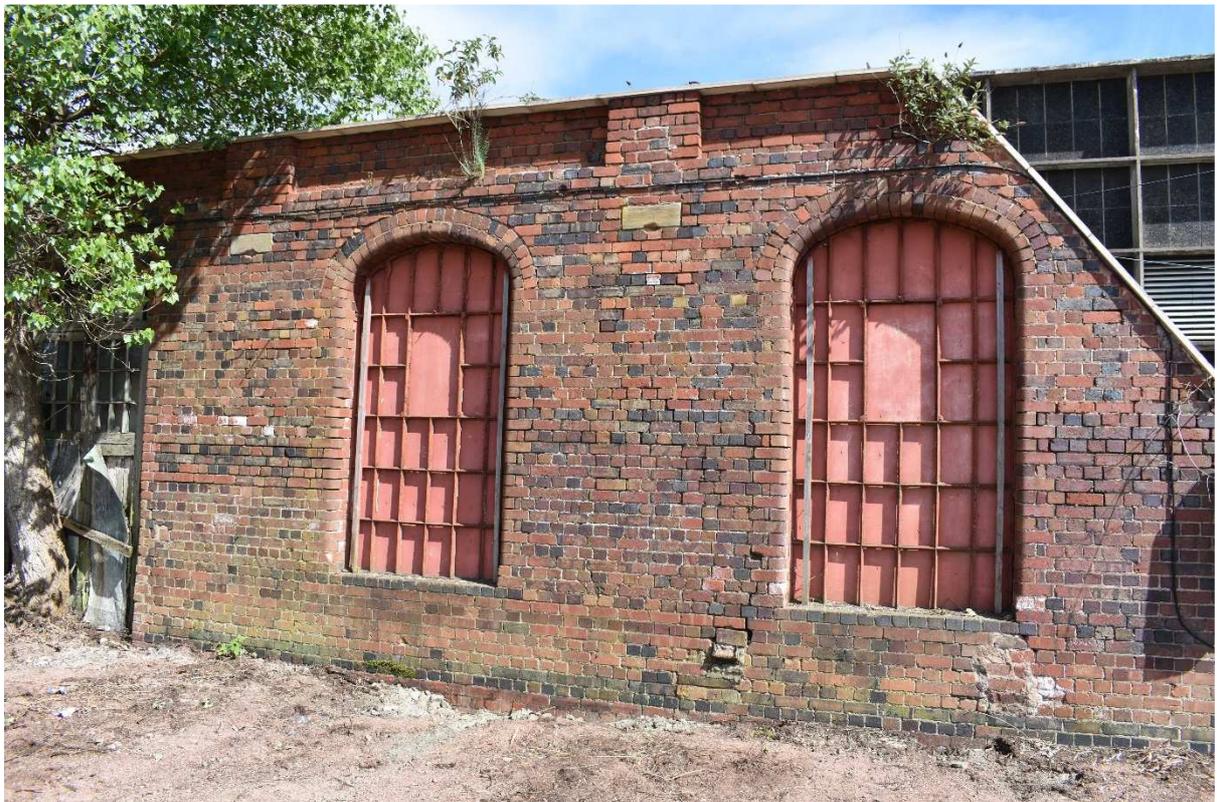


Plate 43: Typical bays in east half of wall



Plate 44: Eastern end of south face of wall



Plate 45: Typical window detail in eastern part of wall



Plate 46: North-eastern corner of site



Plate 47: Western section of south face of wall



Plate 48: Typical window detail in south face of wall



Plate 49: Window in south face of western part of wall

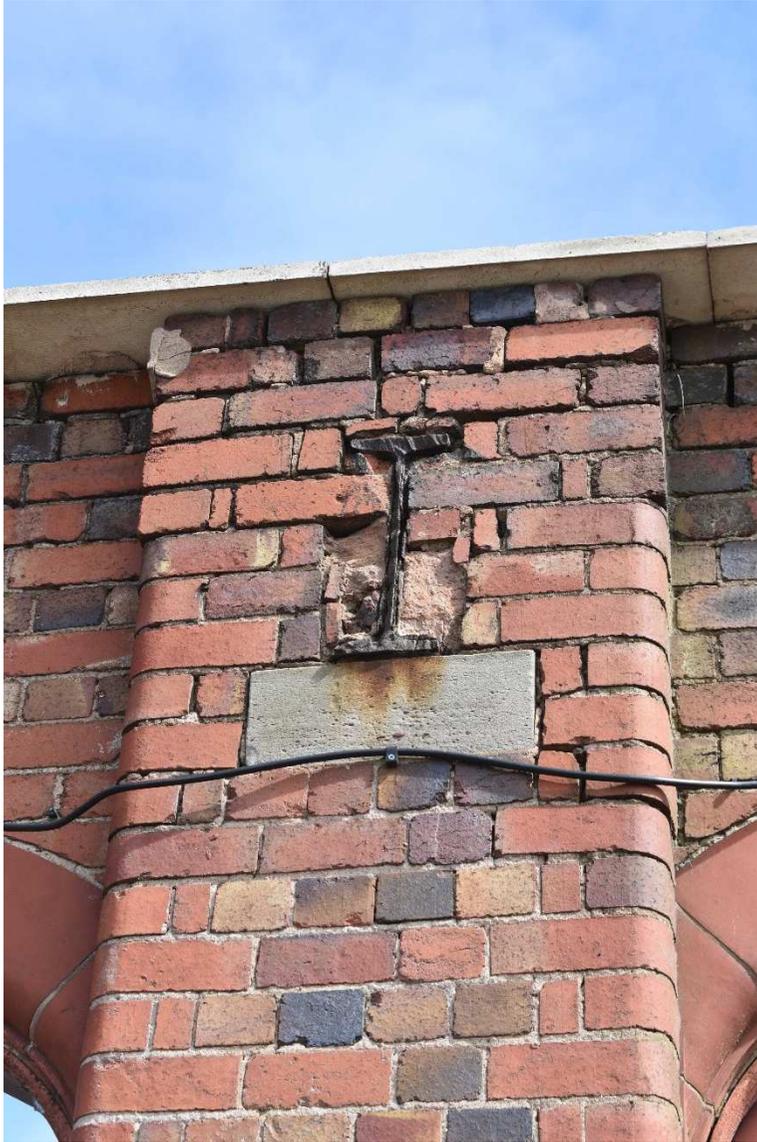


Plate 50: Truncated roof truss (early 20<sup>th</sup>-century extension)



Plate 51: infilled socket from former truss end



Plate 52: South side of former basement window



Plate 53: Wall on east side of site facing canal



Plate 54: Wall on east side of site facing canal



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