

NGR: SK 0575 0085

**A report on a programme
of archaeological works**

Marches Archaeology

**20-24 Pinfold Street
Darlaston
West Midlands**

**A report on a
programme of archaeological work**

September 2003

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of archaeological works**

Marches Archaeology Series 302

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**20-24 Pinfold Street
Darlaston
West Midlands**

NGR: SO 9763 9643

**A report on a
programme of archaeological work**

Report by

Adrian F. Nash

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**20-24 Pinfold Street
Darlaston
West Midlands**

**A report on a
programme of archaeological work**

Summary

P. G. Blakemore, the client, has applied for permission to redevelop 20-24 Pinfold Street, which had been abandoned for some time. The borough archaeologist required a programme of archaeological work to be carried out before the redevelopment of the site was undertaken.

Stage 1 of the programme consisted of documentary research to determine the archaeological potential of the site. The assessment located cartographic evidence dating the settlement on Pinfold Street to the eighteenth century. It is believed by local historians that the site was occupied by the Black Horse public house at this time. In 1831-2 the people of Pinfold Street suffered a cholera epidemic caused by the use of dirty water from a factory irrigation ditch. The ditch called the Quakers Gutter was located somewhere to the rear of the site. The site is first shown on a plan of the town dating to 1838. The plan shows buildings on the street frontage without rear extensions and some outbuildings. On the 1886 and 1889 Ordnance Survey plans the site has changed significantly with new buildings built to the rear of those on the street frontage. Along the street frontage 21-24 may have been rebuilt. Kelly's Directory for 1892 records that 19 was occupied a boot maker, no. 20 was the Black Horse Public house, nos. 21-22 was occupied by a grocer, pawnbroker and a wine and spirit merchant. There was no record for nos 23 and 24, presumably these were private houses. The shop at no. 21-22 and was said to be the first place in Darlaston to have electricity. The 1918 Ordnance Survey plan shows that the layout along the street frontage had changed little from 1889, with only one building being demolished. Some changes have occurred at the rear of the properties and three large buildings have replaced those shown on the earlier Ordnance Survey map. The 1938 map shows that the site had not changed significantly, the only changes are to the outbuildings associated with the three large buildings.

Stage 2 consisted of an evaluation of two trenches in the backlands. A site visit had determined that cellars along the street frontage would have removed any evidence for early settlement. The trenches revealed no evidence for early settlement but there was evidence for considerable backfilling of part of the site during the early 19th century. The area covered by backfilling does not fit the characteristics for the Quakers Gutter but it must have some industrial purpose. Maybe this was a shallow open working or drift mine for extracting coal, which was common in this area from the 16th century.

Planning permission has been granted by the local planning authority for permission to redevelop land at 20-24 Pinfold Street (Fig. 1). The site is situated at NGR: SO 9763 9643. The site is within the southern end of the historic core of Darlaston. The properties within and either side of the development area have narrow frontages with long plots running back from the main road. Such properties ('burgage tenements') often indicate early medieval settlement.

The Local Planning Authority's Archaeology Advisor advised that further information was required to assess the archaeological implications of the development. It was recommended that Stage 1 of the archaeological work should consist of a desk-based assessment. The results of the desk-based assessment would help to determine the archaeological trial trenching that would take place as stage 2 of the programme of archaeology. The brief allowed for around 50m length of trenches 1.5m in width.

The Local Planning Authority's Archaeology Advisor produced a 'Brief for the archaeological work. P. G. Blakemore (the client), commissioned Marches Archaeology to provide the archaeological services. A Project Proposal was submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority's Archaeology Advisor.

2 Scope and aims of the project

The purpose of Desk-based Assessment is defined by the Institute of Field Archaeologists as:-

"to gain information about the known or potential archaeological resource within a given area or site, including its presence or absence, character and extent, date, integrity, state of preservation and relative quality, in order to make an assessment of its worth in the appropriate context leading to the formation of a strategy to ensure the recording, preservation or management of the resource or for further investigation where the character of the resource is not sufficiently defined, or the formulation of a proposal for further archaeological investigation within a programme of research".

An archaeological evaluation aims to "gain information about the archaeological resource within a given area or site (including presence or absence, character, extent, date, integrity, state of preservation and quality) in order to make an assessment of its merit in the appropriate context, leading to one or more of the following: the formulation of a strategy to ensure the recording, preservation or management of the resource; the formulation of a strategy to initiate a threat to the archaeological resource; the formulation of a proposal for further archaeological investigation within a programme of research" (Institute of Field Archaeologists Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations).

3 Methodology

3.1 The desk-based assessment

A site visit was made during the clearing of the site by the demolition contractors to locate any easily identifiable archaeology. The Black Country Sites and Monuments Record was consulted. Primary and secondary sources were consulted. The following sources were also considered, as appropriate and subject to availability:

Ordnance Survey maps; Tithe maps; Estate maps and other historical maps;
Previous published and unpublished archaeological reports and archive work;
Written non-archaeological sources; Air photographs; Geological maps;
Borehole and other engineering data.

3.2 The evaluation

The site visit determined that a trench located along the frontage of the site would be unlikely to reveal any significant archaeological remains due to cellaring (Plate 2). The borough archaeologist was consulted and it was agreed that two trial trenches (10m x 1.5m) would be excavated in the backlands. Trench 1 was located across the proposed site of the new buildings, whilst trench 2 was situated near to borehole MR5.

The recording system includes written, drawn and photographic data. Context numbers were allocated and context record sheets completed. Plans were drawn showing the location of the trenches with detail plans of archaeological features drawn at 1:20, sections were drawn at 1:10 or 1:20. The photographic record consists of black and white negative and colour transparency film.

3.3 Office work

On completion of fieldwork a site archive was prepared. The written, drawn and photographic data was catalogued and cross-referenced and a summary produced. The artefactual data was processed, catalogued and cross-referenced.

4 Archaeological and historical background

4.1 Darlaston

Darlaston is now within the region defined as the West Midlands, but before that the town was part of South Staffordshire. The Darlaston that is located one mile from Wednesbury, three miles from Walsall and five miles from Wolverhampton is not the only Darlaston in the county; another Darlaston is situated near to Stone in North Staffordshire.

There are no records in the Sites and Monuments Record for prehistoric or Roman activity within Darlaston. The name Darlaston is perhaps of Anglo-Saxon origin, meaning Deorlaf's homestead (Deorlavestun). It has been suggested that both Darlastons owe their name to the same family's ownership of the villages (Shaw, 1801, 89; Hackwood, 1887, 5).

The Domesday book and 10th century sources contain references to a Darlaston but it is thought they refer to the one near Stone (Shaw, 1801, 89). The limited evidence for a Darlaston at this time suggests that the village was a manor of Sedgley (Shaw, 1801; SMR 5825-BL1871). Even in the 19th century traditional town appointments were awarded by the Sedgley Manor Court (Timmins, 1993, 78)

The earliest document to mention the South Staffordshire Darlaston are pipe rolls from the reign of Henry II, dated 1167 (Hackwood, 1887, 15). The roll mentions the transgressions or breaking of forest law recorded by the visiting Forest Justice in 1166 (Hackwood, 1887, 15). The roll names a William of the Manor of Darlaston; it is suggested that this is the Black Country Darlaston as the names of the other transgressors or law breakers are from the towns and villages of the surrounding area (*op cit*).

A manor is attested at Darlaston from Henry III's reign when it was held by William de Darlaston (SMR 13149 - BL5042; Shaw 1801, 89). The manor was held by the de Darlaston family until they died out early in Henry VI reign. The manor then passed to various families before Henry VI acknowledged Humfrey, Earl of Stafford, as lord of the manor (Shaw, 1801, 91). The manor house is believed to have been located near to the present Campbell Place and became known as the Great Croft (SMR 13149 - BL5042).

It is believed that a chapel was built at Darlaston in the 12th century, which was later built over by the church dedicated to Saint Lawrence (SMR 1507-BL1548). The earliest mention of a priest was in 1310, but the list of rectors dates back only to 1406 where a John Costenought was named parish priest (Timmins, 1981, 14). In 1563 the church at Darlaston in the Diocese of Tamworth was a rectory with no annexed chapels (*ibid.*).

In the 18th century the church was 27 yards long and 11 yards wide with a tower at the west end that was 18 yards high (Shaw, 1801, 92). Originally the tower was built in timber but was replaced in 1606 by a stone tower. The tower's construction was funded by a Dr Thomas Pye, a once famous son of Darlaston, known for his writings which have been lost (Shaw 1801, 92, Hackwood, 1887, 53). In 1721, the north side of the church was pulled down and the church was enlarged and rebuilt in brick. A school was built in the churchyard in 1793 (SMR 1507-BL1548). The present parish church of Saint Lawrence was built in 1871-2 by A. P. Brevitt.

Prior to industrial expansion Darlaston was likely to have been a small village, with its own manor, a church, several farms and a few straggling cottages (Hawkwood, 1887, 46). The hearth tax return of 1563 records that there were 42 households in Darlaston, which suggests a population of around 250. The 1665 hearth tax return shows Darlaston as consisting of 145 households which suggests a population of around 870. This is a threefold increase in population since 1563, which was larger than the proportion for Staffordshire as a whole, possibly suggesting an early beginning of industrial expansion. The reason for Darlaston's early industrialisation is its position on an outcrop of the thirty foot thick coal seam (SMR 5825 - BL1871). The earliest cartographic evidence for mining activity in and around Darlaston is shown on a map of 1750. The plan, held by Birmingham Archives Department, was created by the Offley family's mining agent and shows 18 pits, some in work and some not (*Anon*, 1984; Timmins, 1993, 79-80). The map is likely to show an area to the west of the modern town.

Despite Darlaston's industrial expansion the rural economy was still an important factor. Shaw noted that the land surrounding Darlaston was mostly used for arable and pasture at the end of the 18th century. A plan dated to 1781 of the Earl Gower Estate names the various fields owned by that family, it does not show any built up areas or sites of industry. At an unknown date a windmill (SMR 2639-BL1742) was constructed to support the rural

economy. The windmill is apparently shown on a map of 1682 (SMR 2639-BL1742), though this map has not been seen. The windmill does appear on the plan of Darlaston by Joseph Welch, dated 1838. All that remains today of the windmill is the miller's house which is now 3 and 5 Dorset Road. The windmill itself was knocked down in the late 1880s (Timmins, 1981, 17).

Shaw records that in 1800 the people of Darlaston included gun-lock makers, nailers, set makers, chape forgers and makers, stirrup makers, buckle-ring forgers and miners (1801, 92). The population of Darlaston continued to increase with the 1811 census indicating that there were 916 houses inhabited by 1001 families and a population of 4,881 (SMR 5825 - BL1871). In 1831 the population had increased to 6,647 (Hawkwood, 1887, 148).

During the 18th century and in the early part of the 19th century the manufacturing of locks for guns was amongst the most important trade in Darlaston. The trade in the mid-18th century was booming with more than 300 gunlock filers and more than 50 gunlock forgers (SMR 5825-BL1871). However, the trade does seem to have been lucrative as most manufacturers had another trade (*Anon*, 1984). The trade, which had started during the 18th century, reached its height during the Napoleonic Wars but fell into decline once the war had ended. In 1839 there were 600 workers in Darlaston producing around 7000 locks per week. The trade died out in the 1870s with the increase of machine produced locks (*Anon*, 1984).

In the early 19th century most of Darlaston was owned by Samuel Mills, who had made his money in the iron industry. When he retired in the 1840s he sold his business to the Lloyd family for a quarter of a million pounds. The firm was renamed the Darlaston Iron and Steel Company. By 1860 the town was known for the manufacture of nuts and bolts with eight large manufactures and many smaller concerns (SMR 5825 - BL1871). During the 1880s the great depression bankrupted the Darlaston Iron and Steel Company leaving 2000 people out of work (Timmins, 1981, 8). The trade depression caused a decline in the town's population which fell from 14,399 in 1871 to 13,653 in 1881 (SMR 5825 - BL1871).

It was in the 1880s that Darlaston was designated as an urban district and it was in this period that the town was transformed. In 1884 the first tramways were established connecting Bullstake to Moxley (*anon*, 1984). Darlaston's own fire brigade was established in 1886 with a fire station being built in 1896 (Timmins, 1981, 7). The town hall was built in 1887 (SMR 8932- BL2097) and a library in 1891 (Timmins, 1981, 11). In 1896 a market was established in the town, previously the populace had used either the markets in Wolverhampton or Walsall (Timmins, 1981, 26). The town's population at the beginning of the 20th century was 15,752.

The urban district of Darlaston was incorporated into Walsall borough in 1966.

4.2 *The site*

Pinfold Street is to the south-west of Darlaston town centre and just south of the street is the parish boundary with Wednesbury. The street name is derived from a place where a village official called the pinder impounded stray animals (Timmins, 1993, 78). The animals were held until the owner came, paid a fine and collected his property. As Darlaston was part of the parish of Sedgley, it was the Sedgley Manor Court that appointed Darlaston's pinder. The office of pinder survived until the 1850s by which time the title was only honorary (*ibid.*)

W. Yates map of 1798 shows Darlaston with its network of roads and the canal that bypassed the town to the west and north (Fig. 2). The roads shown are Catherine's Cross, Dangerfield Lane and Pinfold Street. The map shows the town but does not indicate the road system but it does show built up areas. Outside the main town are settlements on Catherine's Cross (SMR 13132 - BL5024), partially on Dangerfield Lane and on both sides of Pinfold Street. The level of detail is not accurate enough to provide specific information about the site.

The earliest detailed map of Darlaston dates to 1838 (Fig. 3). The map shows Pinfold Street stretching between Bullstake and Catherine's Cross. Only Great Croft Street, Garibaldi Street and Pinfold Alley are shown as the tributary streets. Pinfold Street was largely built up on its street frontages, the only areas still undeveloped were on the north side of the road, marked 179 and 261 either side of Garibaldi Street, and plot 256. The land at the back of the plots fronting Pinfold Street is shown as open fields. Comparisons with the later Ordnance Survey evidence reveals that the layout of the street particularly on the north side changed considerably. What is now 20-24 Pinfold Street is marked 241, 242 and 244, and has buildings shown on the street frontage. The buildings on the street frontages do not have any extensions encroaching into the backlands and there are no buildings to the rear of 242. Both plots 241 and 244 have buildings in the backlands. 241 has a series of three buildings in a row possibly suggesting domestic outhouses. The buildings to the rear of 244 appear to be isolated structures. It is known that on the site was a public house, The Black Horse Inn, said to be the oldest building in Darlaston as it dated to the 18th century (Timmins, 1993, 80). It likely that these were buildings associated with inn.

The plan shows a series of crosses to the south-west of the site in plot 143. What the crosses represent is uncertain, it could just indicate that the field is divided by the parish boundary but they could indicate the location of known ditch called by the locals as the 'Quakers Gutter'. The ditch took its name from the Lloyds, a renowned quaker family who were iron masters and bankers. The family owned the Old Park Works factory that the ditch carried water from (Timmins, 1981, 3). The factory was located in Kings Hill and the ditch ran from there to Bullstake and then onto a boggy area beyond Catherines Cross. The ditch passed behind the houses on the south side of Pinfold Street. The householders used the ditch as a open sewer, which in 1831-2 caused an outbreak of cholera. The epidemic almost exclusively affected the people of Pinfold Street: there were 223 cases with 68 deaths (Timmins, 1993, 81-82). The local authorities response was to have the ditch cleaned out, deepened, partially culverted and diverted to empty in the canal at Porkett's Bridge (Timmins, 1993, 82).

The 1841 tithe map of Darlaston does not illustrate the town in any detail. The plan shows the area of the town as a single apportionment referred to as 710 (Table 1). The map is

No.	LANDOWNER	OCCUPIER	NAME & DESCRIPTION OF LAND, PREMISES	STATE OF CULTIVATION
273	George Bailey	John Wilkes	Pinfold Street	Garden
274	George Bailey	John Wilkes	Pinfold Street	Garden
275	George Jones	Himself	Catherines Cross	Garden
276	Charles Adams Esq	James Undrewood	Pinfold Street	Arable
277	Charles Adams Esq	Himself	Pinfold Street	Ley
278	George Bayley	Himself	Pinfold Street	Road
279	George Bayley	John Tees and another	Pinfold Street	Garden
280	George Bayley	John Tees and another	Pinfold Street	Garden
281	George Bayley	Himself	Pinfold Street	Garden
282	George Bayley	Himself	Pinfold Street	Garden
283	George Bayley	Himself	Pinfold Street	Garden
284	George Bayley	Himself	Pinfold Street	Garden
285	George Bayley	Himself	Pinfold Street	Garden
286	Charles Adams Esq	Himself	Pinfold Street	Garden
287	Merry Perry	Joseph Cockam Goodall	Pinfold Street	Garden
288	(Buildings and unchanged Gardens)	“	Pinfold Street	Private Yards
289		“	Pinfold Street	Private Yards
290		“	Pinfold Street	Private Yards
291		“	Pinfold Street	Buildings
292	Mcer Dorsett	James Jones	Pinfold Street	Grass
293	The Duke of Sutherland	Samuel Smith Junior	Pinfold Street	Grass
294	Samuel Smith Junior	Himself	Pinfold Street	Buildings
300	Samuel Smith Junior	Himself	No mans piece	Arable
301	Samuel Smith Junior	Himself	No mans piece	Arable
308	Samuel Smith Junior	Himself	Windmill Field	Ley
710	The town buildings			

Table 1 A sample of the 1841 Tithe Apportionment

detailed enough to make out the various roads including Garibaldi Street, Great Croft Street and Bullstake. With the road locations and with reference to the fields which appear on the 1838 plan of Darlaston (Fig. 3) the site can be roughly pinpointed. To the south of the site is a thin linear feature filled blue that is in the same location as the crosses on the earlier map. The illustrators elsewhere on the tithe map have used blue ink to fill areas of water. It is

probable that this represents part of the 'Quakers Gutter', the rest of the ditch being beyond the parish boundary.

In the 19th century George Granville Leveson-Gower, the Duke of Sutherland, owned land in Darlaston including a plot in Pinfold Street¹. The earliest dated estate plan is from 1856 and shows Bullstake and some parcels of land with an apportionment number (Fig. 5). A table of land users drawn on the plan indicates that 293 was in Pinfold Street and was held by S. Smith Junior. A later map shows the same land but by this time the land is shown as being sold to Mr Smith (Fig. 6). It would seem that the numbers indicated on the plan by the Duke of Sutherland refer to the apportionment numbers used in the 1841 tithe. In 1841 Mr Smith is recorded as occupier of 293 whilst The Duke of Sutherland was the owner.

In 1886 the Birmingham Corporation Gas Works and Mains produced a plan of Darlaston showing the road system, the pipe line and some principal buildings (Fig. 7). The pipe line is shown as running down the centre of the road system. None of the buildings on the site were shown but opposite the site was a Wesley chapel and school (SMR 13133 - BL5025). The chapel was enlarged in 1835 and a Sunday school was erected next door in 1840, which eventually opened as full time school (Timmins, 1993, 79). Both buildings are shown on the later Ordnance Survey maps but now have been demolished and replaced by flats called Wesley Fold.

The site is shown in detail on the 1886 Ordnance Survey map 25" to 1 mile (Fig. 8). The slightly later 6" to 1 mile series published in 1889 only shows part of the site (Fig. 9). Comparisons with these maps and the 1838 map (Fig. 4) reveal that the site, particularly in the backlands, has been significantly developed. All the maps show development on the frontages of the plots though the small scale of the 1838 map makes it difficult to determine what has survived and what has changed. It does appear that the buildings on plots 21-24 have changed and may well have been rebuilt. The backlands in 20, the Black Horse Public House appeared to have been divided with outhouses forming a possible courtyard. The rear of 21 appears has an extension running as far as the outbuildings of 20. The area to the west of the extension has trees shown along boundary and so may have been a garden rather than a yard. (Fig. 9). Along the north-east side of the limit of the site there appears to be an access route from Pinfold Street. The access route leads to a complex of buildings that appear to be built with open areas to the east and west of the site (Figs. 8 and 9); the 1889 map shows the area as divided, maybe suggesting that they are gardens (Fig. 9). The strange layout of the complex makes it difficult to determine the actual purpose of the buildings; they could be workshops. Also, the access road leads to a series of buildings on the north-east side of the site right next to the plot boundary. It could be that the complex of buildings were 17 and 18 Pinfold Street as the building next to the site access route today is numbered 16. Number 19 may have been the building next to the access route and the entrance to the courtyard at the rear of the public house (Fig. 9). Unfortunately, it is very difficult to determine the numbering system in Pinfold Street as some of the houses are numbered 24 a and b, whilst others are now using a different numbering system.

The Kelly's Directory for 1892 records that 20 Pinfold Street that the Black Horse public house and was being run by a Thomas Newton, who also a band screw maker based in Foster Street (Anon, 1892, 131). The Black Horse pub was said to have been the local horse racing

¹The Dukes of Sutherland also held the title of Marquis of Stafford.

fraternity's headquarters and once had a framed spoof newspaper cutting over the bar. The cutting recorded a race at Darlaston in 1861 but the horses were all famous winners from different eras (Timmins, 1993, 80).

At 21 and 22 Pinfold Street the Directory noted that a William Winn occupied these properties and 2 Church Street. It noted that Mr Winn was a grocer, pawnbroker and an agent for W.A Gilbey wine and spirit merchants (*Anon*, 1892, 132). The 1880 Kelly's Directory also notes Mr Winn but there is no entry for the Black Horse. William Winn's shop was famous in Darlaston at the end of the 19th century as it was the first shop to be lit by electricity. People travelled from around the district to see the wonder of Mr Winn's lights that were run by electricity from a generator. Mr Winn, the shrewd businessmen let people know when the lights were being lit and set up special offers, allegedly his trade boomed for several weeks (Timmins, 1993, 80).

The 1892 Directory also noted that a no. 19 Pinfold Street was occupied by a Mr John Welch, a boot maker (*Anon*, 1892, 132). Presumably nos. 23 and 24 Pinfold Street were private residences as no mention of them was made in the trade directories.

The 1918 Ordnance Survey plan shows that the layout along the street frontage has changed little from 1889 (Fig. 10). Only one building had clearly been demolished, next to the entrance way to the courtyard. The building appears to have been demolished to create a separate entrance way (Fig. 10). The courtyard to the rear of the demolished building and at the back of the inn had been divided and two new buildings had been erected on south-east part of it. A building at the corner of the complex that formed the courtyard, next to the access way, had also been demolished and replaced by another building though the new building was not as large as the previous building.

The buildings in the north-west corner of the site, probably nos. 23 and 24, had the outbuildings at the rear of the properties demolished and either had extensions erected on to the existing houses or the plots had been demolished and rebuilt.

The complex of buildings in the southern half of the site shown on the 1886 map (Fig. 8) appear to have been mostly demolished and replaced by three large buildings. Some of the outbuildings to the east of new buildings may have survived but most had been demolished. Three of the buildings along the north-east boundary of the site are unchanged though the fourth building in the series shown on the 1889 map (Fig. 9) has been demolished.

The 1938 Ordnance Survey map showed that the site along the street frontage and the buildings around the courtyard had not changed in the 20 years since the previous publication of the survey. The three buildings situated along the north-east boundary of the site are gone; as had most of the outbuildings built on the east side of one of the three large buildings. In recent times the site of the three large buildings was used by J. B. Engineering Company who were general machinists and machine part manufacturers. Their address stated that they were situated at Unit 3 Pinfold Street.

A photograph from 1969 shows the Black Horse public house and the shops next door (Plate 1). By 1993 these buildings had been vacated and left to decay. A local historian noted that prior to being abandoned Mr Witts shop at 21-22 Pinfold Street was an Indian restaurant (Timmins, 1993, 80). A survey of the site was undertaken in 1998 by A. D. Horner Ltd. The survey shows only part of the site but it does show that the nos. 24a and 24b, next door

to the site had already been demolished, as had the buildings next to the access route that once enveloped the courtyard. The buildings and the courtyard boundary wall had also been removed (Fig. 12).

5 The borehole survey

In June 1999 Ground Investigation and Piling Ltd undertook a ground investigation of the site in Pinfold Street (McHugh, 1999). The fieldwork consisted of percussion boreholes (BH), mini-rig boreholes (MR) and rotary open drillholes (RO). The survey included 24a and 24b, which is beyond the site boundary, where 4 out of the 5 mini-rig boreholes were taken. One of the rotary boreholes was situated between where 24b once stood and the public footpath along the road. On the site the location of the boreholes was effected by access due to the standing buildings (Fig. 13). Only RO4 and BH1 were situated along the frontage. BH2 was located near to the public house, while MR5 was situated to the pubs rear. BH3, BH4, RO3 and RO2 were located in the open area in the south-west corner of the site where a new structure was proposed.

The rotary open drillholes bored down to a depth of 30m. RO2 found a natural mudstone at 4m below the ground level, overlying the natural was an ash fill. RO3 found the natural mudstone at 4m below the ground level. Overlying this was a clay but the survey does not state if this was redeposited or whether it was natural. RO4 located the natural mudstone at 3.5m and the survey describes that overlying the natural was a clay fill.

A summary of the results of the remaining boreholes is presented in Table 2.

Table 2 A summary of the results from the Borehole Survey

BH1	BH2	BH3	BH4	MR5
<p>Made Ground: brown silty sand with brick, tile, mortar and clay.</p> <p>From 2.1m b.g.l was a stiff greyish brown friable very silty clay.</p> <p>From 4.2m below ground level Grey, grey brown and brown very silty mudstone.</p> <p>Limit of drilling 5.75m.</p>	<p>Made Ground: Dark brown silty sand, with ash brick burnt shale, clinker quartz gravel and clay pockets. Increasing ash content.</p> <p>From 2.2m pockets of soft brown silty very sandy clay.</p> <p>From 3.35m was a firm stiff friable grey and grey brown silted clay.</p> <p>From 4.2m b. g. l. was a grey, grey brown and brown silted mudstone. At 5.7 medium grey in colour.</p> <p>Limit of Drilling 5.85m</p>	<p>Made Ground: Dark brown silty sand with clinker/ slag, brick and occasional metal</p> <p>Made Ground: from 0.6m b.g.l. was a soft and in parts firm brown and dark brown silty sandy clay. Content of ash and brick, occasional quartz gravel and pockets of sand</p> <p>From 2m was Stiff friable orange brown, brown and grey brown silty clay becoming mudstone</p> <p>From 4.2m was a grey brown very silted mudstone</p> <p>Limit of drilling 5.75m</p>	<p>Made Ground: Concrete on brick paviments</p> <p>Made ground: from 0.25m was a loose dark brown and black slightly clayey silty sand with ash and brick. Occ. burnt shale and clay pockets</p> <p>From 3.45 was a firm stiff friable grey brown silty clay</p> <p>From 4.2m was a grey very silted mudstone</p> <p>Limit of drilling 6.1m</p>	<p>Made Ground: concrete</p> <p>From 0.1m b.g.l. Made Ground: Brown silted sand with gravel. Content of ash brick and occ. burnt shale</p> <p>From 1m. Made ground: loose grey and grey brown ash with brick and shale.</p> <p>From 3m b.g.l Made Ground : Medium dense brown and dark grey brown sand with gravel sized ash brick and mudstone mixed with pockets of friable grey clay.</p> <p>From 4m. Made Ground: Loose grey brown and black sand with fragments of mudstone. with depth mixed pockets of friable grey clay</p> <p>From 4.6m was a stiff friable grey and grey brown silty clay occasional mudstone and siltstone bands</p> <p>At 7.75m was a thin laminae of black disseminated coal</p> <p>Limit of drilling 10.45m</p>

6 The evaluation

During the documentary research stage of the project a site visit was made on the 12th August 2003 to determine the character of the site. The site had been mostly cleared in preparation for the new development. The buildings shown on the maps had been demolished and the cellars had been excavated removing most of the brick work that formed the cellar walls (Plate 2). The area on the west side of the site, in the area that would have been the properties backlands, had clearly been abandoned for some time as the area had become overgrown with trees and bushes.

The borough archaeologist was informed about the cellarage and it was agreed that it was unlikely that there would be any surviving below ground-archaeological deposits in that area. It was therefore agreed that two trenches should be excavated in the backlands of the site. The first trench was positioned to investigate the area where a proposed building was to be situated (Fig. 13). The second trench was to investigate the area around borehole MR5 which was shown to have a peculiar depth of made ground (Fig. 13). The documentary research had found reference to a irrigation ditch called by locals in the 1830s ‘the Quakers Gutter’ The ditch ran along the back of the buildings forming the site at the time but where exactly the ditch was situated was not clear. It was thought that anomaly indicated by MR5 could be associated with this ditch.

6.1 Trench 1 (Figs. 14 and 15)

The trench was orientated north-west to south-east and was 10m long by 1.5m wide. The trench was excavated down to the natural, which was a yellow brown and grey brown silted clay which had isolated patches of black coal [107]. The natural layer was fairly level for half the trench but then the natural sloped downwards towards the north-west. Cutting the natural were two features. The first was located near the southeast limit of excavation and was a steep sided sub-rectangular feature [110]. The feature was filled with a similar material to the natural but there was an inclusion of brick fragments. The feature was only partially excavated due to its location.

The second feature was a located near the north section, where the trench sloped downwards. The 1.34m long feature was partially obscured by the section. The cut [109] was not a uniform shape as the west end of the feature was curved, whilst the south side was straight before it cut back towards the section. The cut then continued in line with the section for a further 0.5m before cutting back at roughly 90° towards the section. The cut was shallow with a flat bottom. The feature was filled with a mixed yellow brown and brown clay [108] that contained sherds of modern pottery and fragments of clay pipe.

Overlying the natural was a yellow brown gravel with a lense of black ash [106]. Above this was a yellow brown gravel with an inclusion of gravel sized pieces of mortar and brick (105). The layer of landfill started gradually and became deeper as the natural sloped downwards. On top of [105] was a dark brown and black slightly clayed silt with fragments of ash and shale pockets. Within the layer were sherds of 18th century pottery.

Cutting [102] was a cut [104] for the foundation for a brick building [103]. The surviving foundation was six bricks high and had been constructed from brick that were 0.22 long x

0.12 wide x 0.08 high. The structure was covered over by a mixed red brown silty sand with a high content of bricks and modern metal objects [101].

6.2 Trench 2 (Figs. 16 and 17)

The second trench was also supposed to have been 10m long by 1.5m wide but the finding of a brick cellar [203] caused the trench to be extended towards the north-west. The cellar consisted of a two thick brick structure with a brick arch roof [203] (Fig. 16). The bricks, which had ten courses exposed, had been rendered suggesting that the cellar had been used to store water. The cellar had been backfilled with bricks and rubbish.

The rest of the trench was excavated to depth of 3.5m below the existing ground level. The trench reached this depth by battering back the sides to stop the trench sides falling in. The depth of the trench made it difficult to record the section. The limit of excavation was reached before the natural was located, but to go any deeper would have required a larger machine and more serious earth moving.

The trench only found deposits from made ground and no cut was found. The lenses that formed the made ground sloped inwards from the north-west [202]. The lenses consisted of brick rubble, ashes, gravels, sands, and clays (Fig. 17). The pottery from the earliest layers included pottery that had transfer printed decoration that suggests a post-1790 date.

The tipping lines clearly showed that the cellar [203] had been constructed by excavating the land fill as no tipping lines were seen running from the south-east, so the feature must have gone beyond the limit of excavation.

Over the site was a spread of demolition rubble consisting of bricks, ash and other modern deposits [204].

7 Discussion and conclusion

The documentary research found that the earliest evidence for the occupation of the site dates from the 18th century, though this does not rule out that settlement on the site had occurred earlier. The local historian, Timmins, believes that the site was occupied by the Black Horse public house (1993). The evaluation has revealed that at around this time some form of excavation had occurred at the back of the site. It has not been proven what was being extracted though it may well have been coal. The borehole MR5 adjacent to trench 2 (Fig. 13) found a thin laminae of coal at 7.75m below the ground surface. It seems possible that coal could have been located at a higher level as outcrops of the Thick Coal seem are found in Darlaston (Taylor, 1981, 69). It had been common practice in the area since the 16th century to excavate the coal by open cast mining and the excavation of shallow pits (Taylor, 1981, 73). The practice was still in use during the 19th century though it was not as common by then as shaft mining (*Ibid.* 86). It is likely the coal was extracted and the shallow pit was then backfilled early in the 19th century. It is not possible to rule out that this was an earlier pit that had been left open and then only later backfilled. Mines that have been abandoned without being backfilled are shown on the later Ordnance Survey plans, the area around the south of Pinfold Street and to the west of Catherine's Cross show numerous examples.

In the 1830s a ditch was constructed somewhere to the rear of the site, it is possible that the shallow pit may have been still open at this time and the Quakers Gutter was further to the south. The other possibility is that the pit was back filled and Gutter cut across it. It is likely the ditch was farther to the south of the site which is now occupied by factory units.

The earliest map evidence dates to 1838 and shows the site having buildings along the street frontage and there are only a few outbuildings. The plan does not show any industrial activity on the site. The series of crosses to the rear may be the Quakers Gutter but it is equally likely to represent the parish boundary dissecting the field. The 1841 tithe map does show a strip in blue in a similar area. It is possible that the illustrator does not show the full extent of the blue feature as it was beyond the parish boundary.

By the end of 1880s the site has seen significant changes with new building on the street frontage and extensions and outbuildings being added. An entrance way from Pinfold Street allowed access to a complex of buildings at the rear of the site. The complex of buildings at the rear and extensions and outhouses of the buildings occupying the street frontage had been built over the landfill that could have been a shallow pit mine. The purpose of the complex at this time is not understood, the Kelly's Directory shows that no. 19, which is not clear where it situated but may have been on the street frontage, was a bookmaker, no. 20 was the public house, and 21-22 was a shop. 23 and 24 were presumably private houses.

By 1918 the buildings on the street frontage had seen some changes with buildings being demolished and areas being redesignated into new plots. The complex of buildings at the rear of the site had been demolished and replaced by three large buildings: presumably for some industrial purpose. Little changed by 1938 with only some of the outbuildings within the presumed industrial complex having been demolished.

The on site evaluation identified deep landfill deposits which are of negligible archaeological interest. Any deposits that may have been along the street frontage were previously removed by the cellaring. The exact location of the Quakers Gutter cannot be proven. We do know that it somewhere to the rear of the properties along Pinfold Street but these areas have now been built over by industrial complexes

8 Sources consulted

Abbreviations used

SMR : Black Country Sites and Monuments Record

WLHC: Walsall Local History Centre

CRO: County Record Office, Stafford, Staffordshire.

WSL: William Salt Library, Stafford, Staffordshire.

8.1 Cartographic sources

Yates' map of Staffordshire, 1798

Earl Gowers Estate, 1781 (CRO D593/H/3/77c)

A plan of Darlaston by Joseph Welch, dated 1838 (WLHC)

Tithe Map, 1841 (CRO D1149/3/3)

A plan of land owned by the Duke of Sutherland, c.1856 (CRO D593/H/3/80)

A later 19th century plan of land owned by the Duke of Sutherland (CRO D593/H/3/80)

Birmingham Corporation Gas Works and Mains, 1886, 24" to 1 mile (CRO Z/M 26)
Ordnance Survey, 1886, sheet LXIII 13, 25 inch to the mile (CRO D615/M/2/7; WLHC)
Ordnance Survey, 1889, sheet LXIII 13, 6 inch to the mile (CRO)
Ordnance Survey, 1918, sheet LXIII 13, 25 inch to the mile (CRO)
Ordnance Survey, 1938, sheet LXIII 13, 25 inch to the mile (CRO)

8.2 *Photographs consulted*

WLHC: Indexes of photographs relating to Darlaston,

Darlaston, Pinfold Street, corner of King Street. (WLHC 1937/2)
[site may be in the background]

The Black Horse Inn, Pinfold Street, Darlaston, dated 1969 (WLHC 2048/2)

8.3 *Primary records consulted*

Black Country Sites and Monuments Record
Indexes in the County Record Office
Indexes in the Walsall Local History Centre
Indexes of the William Salt Library, Stafford

8.4 *Publications consulted*

Anon, 1984, *Darlaston Community History Project*, Unpublished (WLHC)
Anon, 1880, *Kelly's Directory of Staffordshire*, High Holburn: London (WSL)
Anon, 1892, *Kelly's Directory of Staffordshire*, High Holburn: London (WSL)
Davies, R, 1989, 'Darlaston (a Brief History)' in *the Blackcountrymen*, vol 22, no 4 pp55-57 (WSL)
Hackwood, F. W., 1887, *A History of Darlaston*, Horton Brothers: Wednesbury (WSL; WLHC)
McHugh, A., 1999, *Ground Investigation at Pinfold Street, Darlaston*, unpublished report by Ground Investigation and Piling Limited: Dudley
Taylor, A. J. 1981 (reprinted), *The Staffordshire Coal Industry*, Staffordshire County Library: Stafford
Timmins, M., 1981, *Darlaston Town Trail* (WSL; WLHC)
Timmins, M., 1993, *Street names of Darlaston and Bentley*, Walsall MBC: Walsall (WLHC)
Shaw, S., 1801, *The History and Antiquities of Staffordshire, Vol II, Part I*, Nichols and son: London (WSL; WLHC)

9 **The archive**

The archive is currently held by Marches Archaeology awaiting transfer to an approved repository. It is intended to deposit the archive with the Walsall Local History Centre.

The site archive consists of:

2 trench record sheets
2 levels sheets
3 sheets of site drawings
3 photographic index sheets
1 film black and white photographic negatives

2 film colour photographic slides

All finds were discarded

1 computer disk [IBM - database files Lotus Approach 97, matrix Bonn v.4.0]
This report

The Marches Archaeology site code was PSD03a

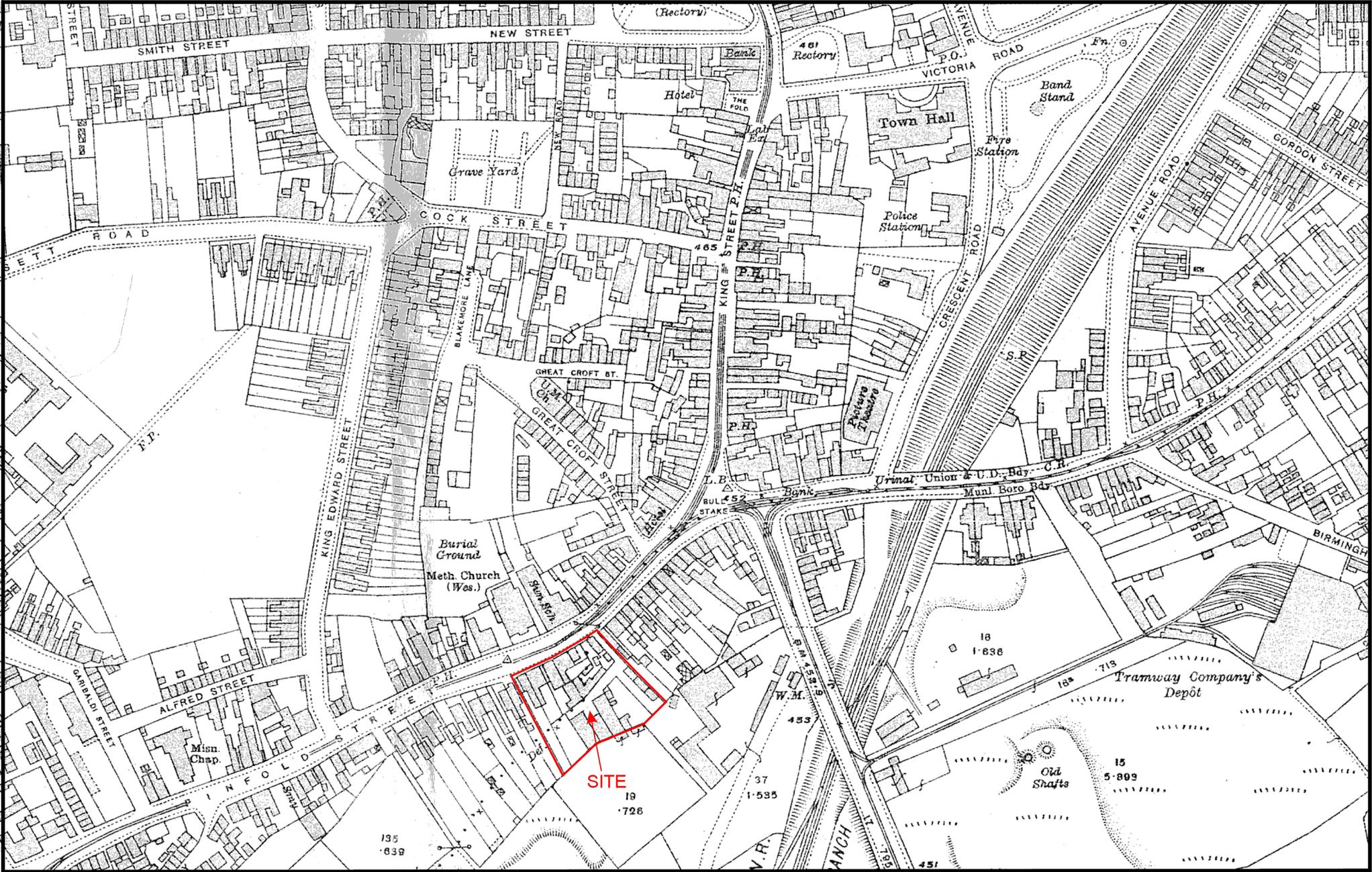


Fig. 10 25" Ordnance Survey, sheet LXIII. 13, 1918

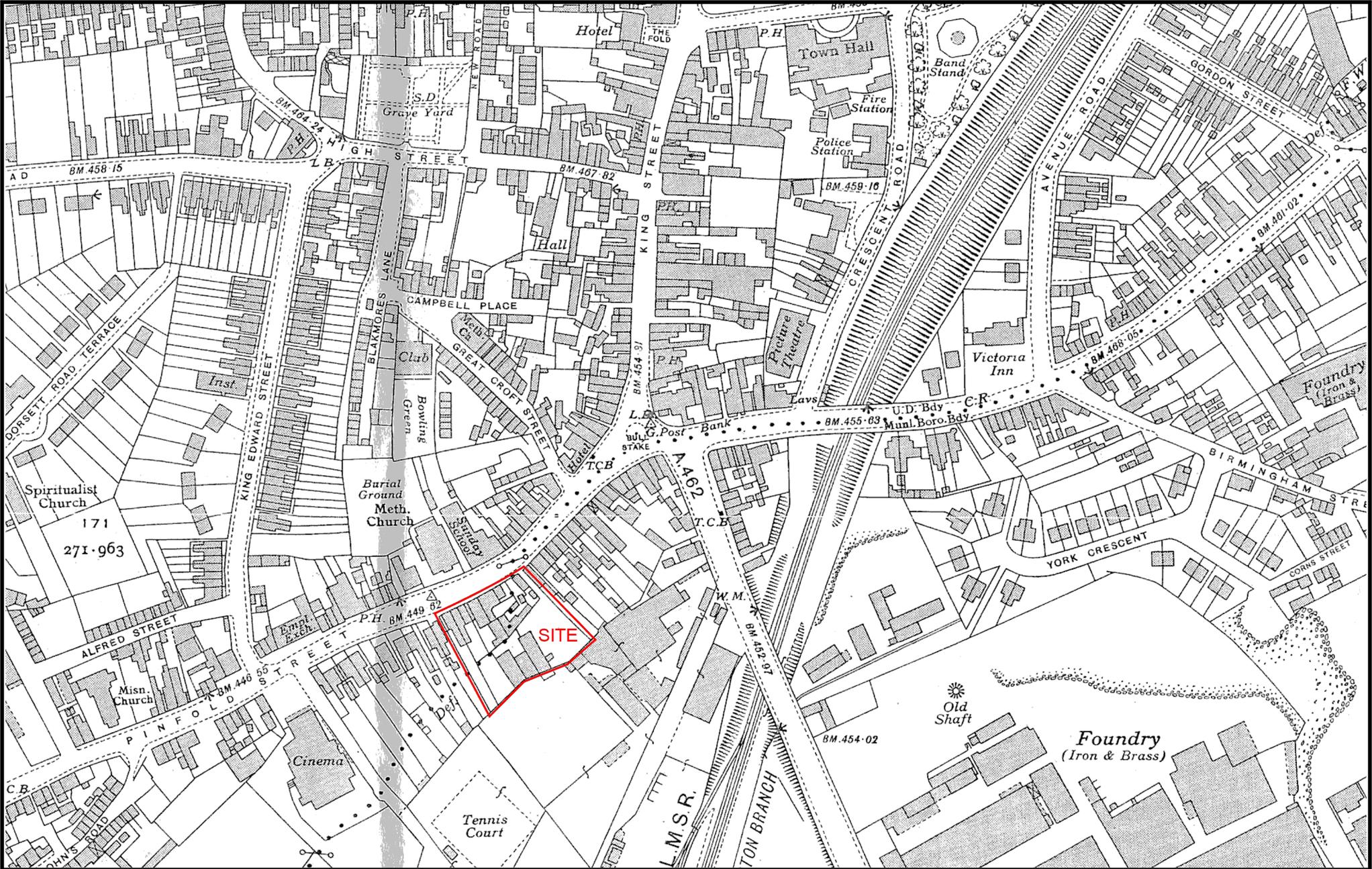
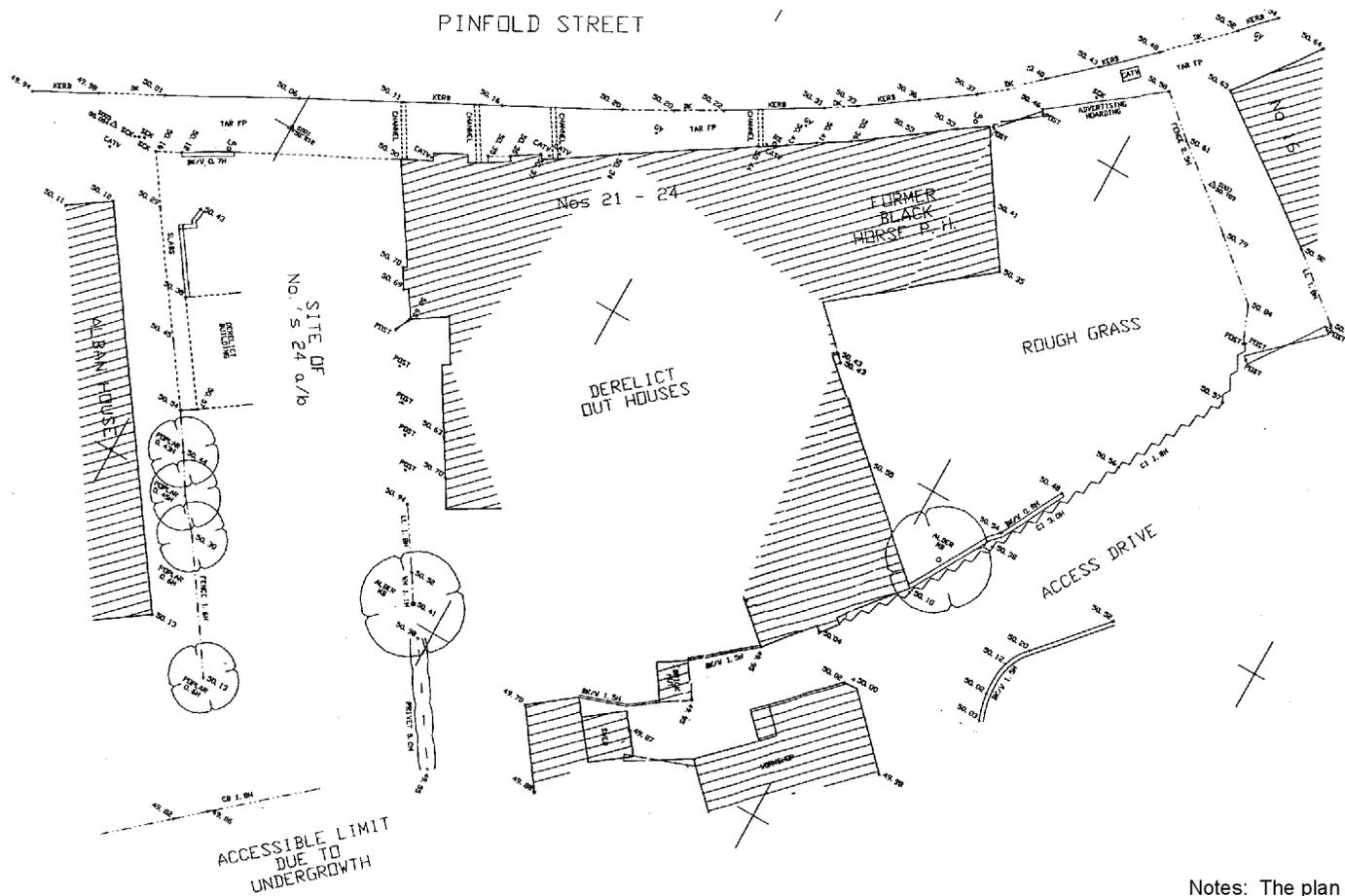


Fig. 11 25" Ordnance Survey, sheet LXIII. 13, 1938



Notes: The plan is based on survey by A. D. Horners Ltd. The original scale was 1:200, This plan has been reduced by 50%.

Fig. 12 A survey of the site, 1998



Fig. 2 An enlarged detail of W. Yates Improved Map of the County of Staffordshire, 1798

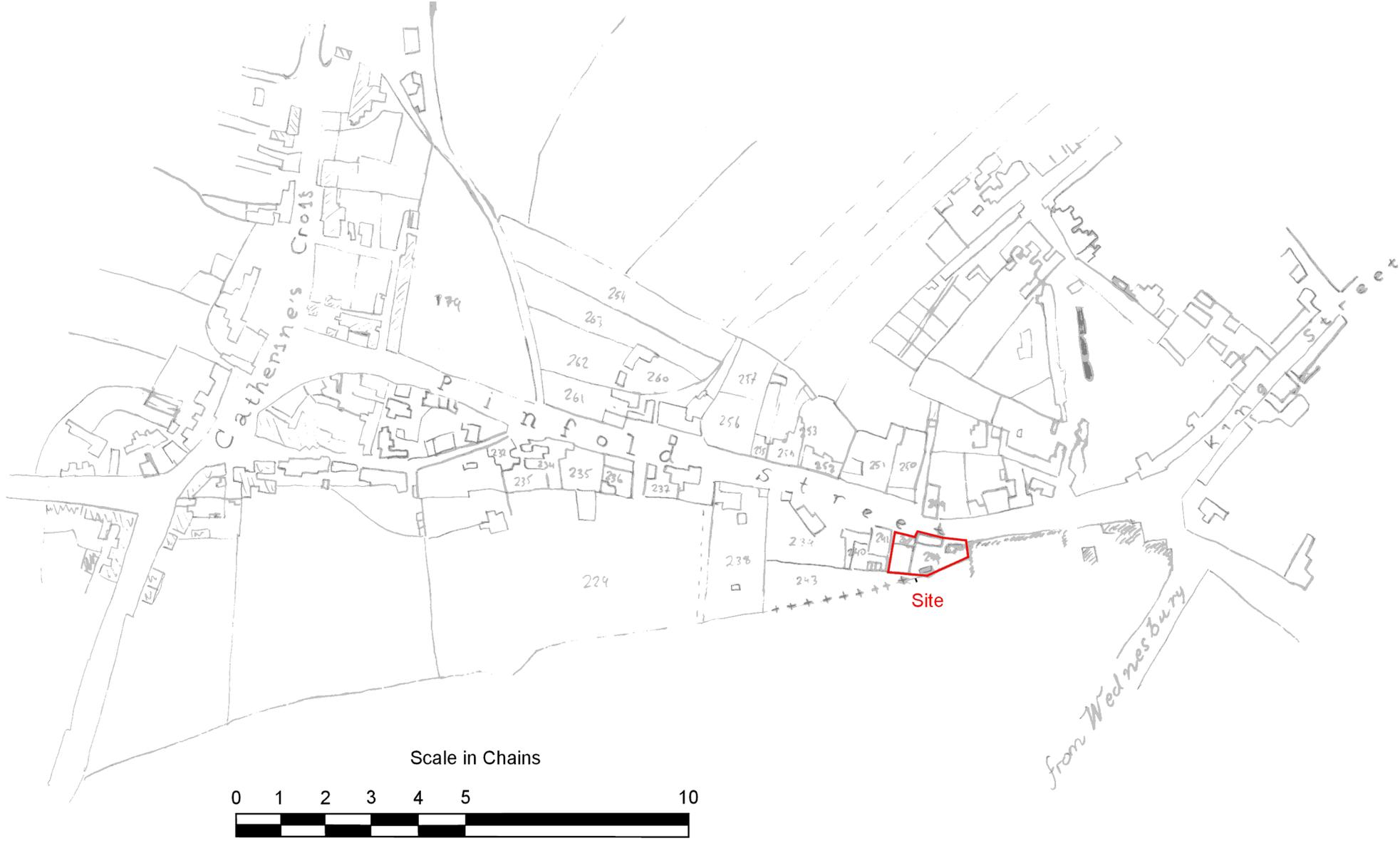


Fig. 3 A traced copy of a plan of Darlaston by Joseph Welch, dated 1838

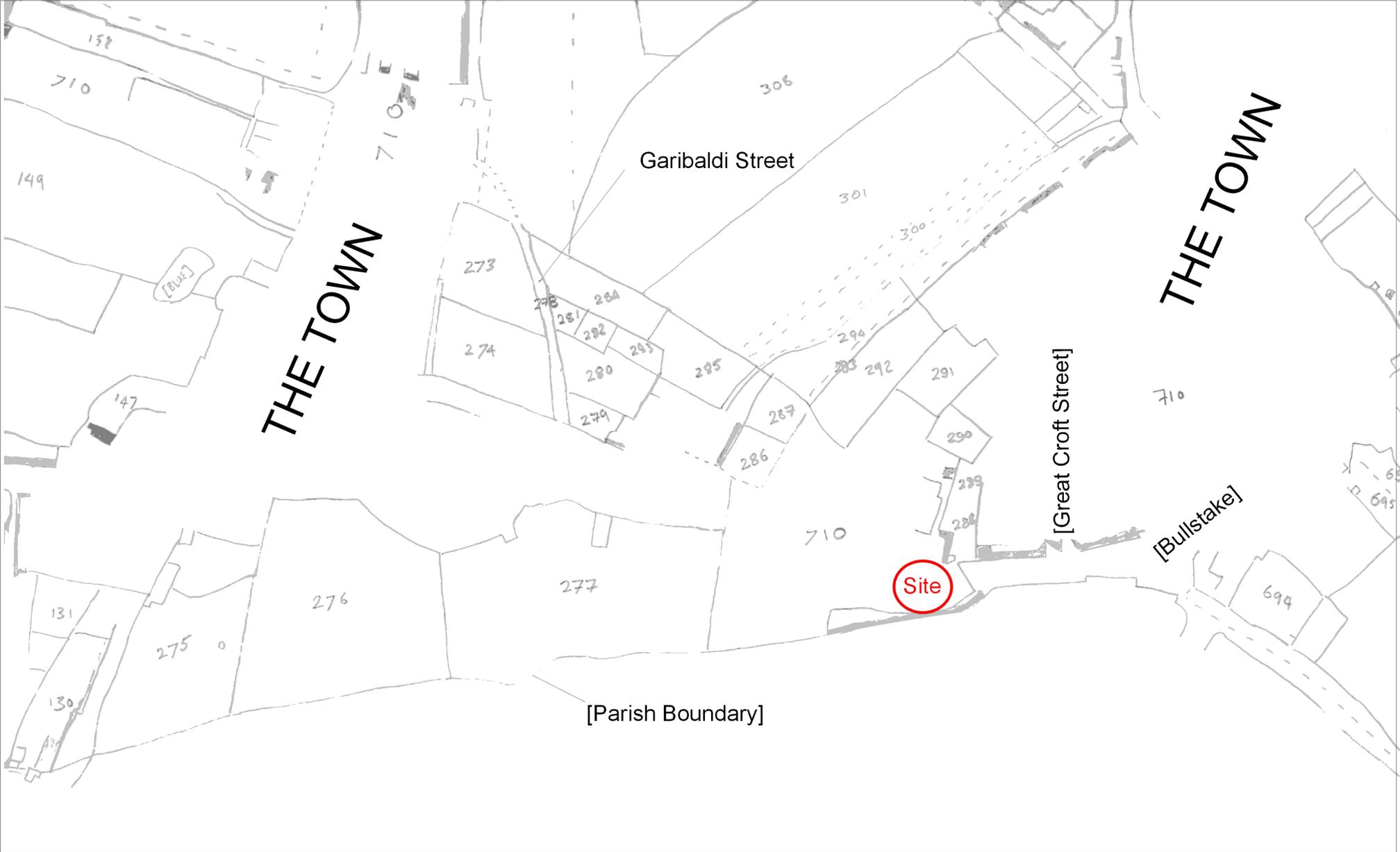


Fig. 4 A traced copy of the 1841 tithe map

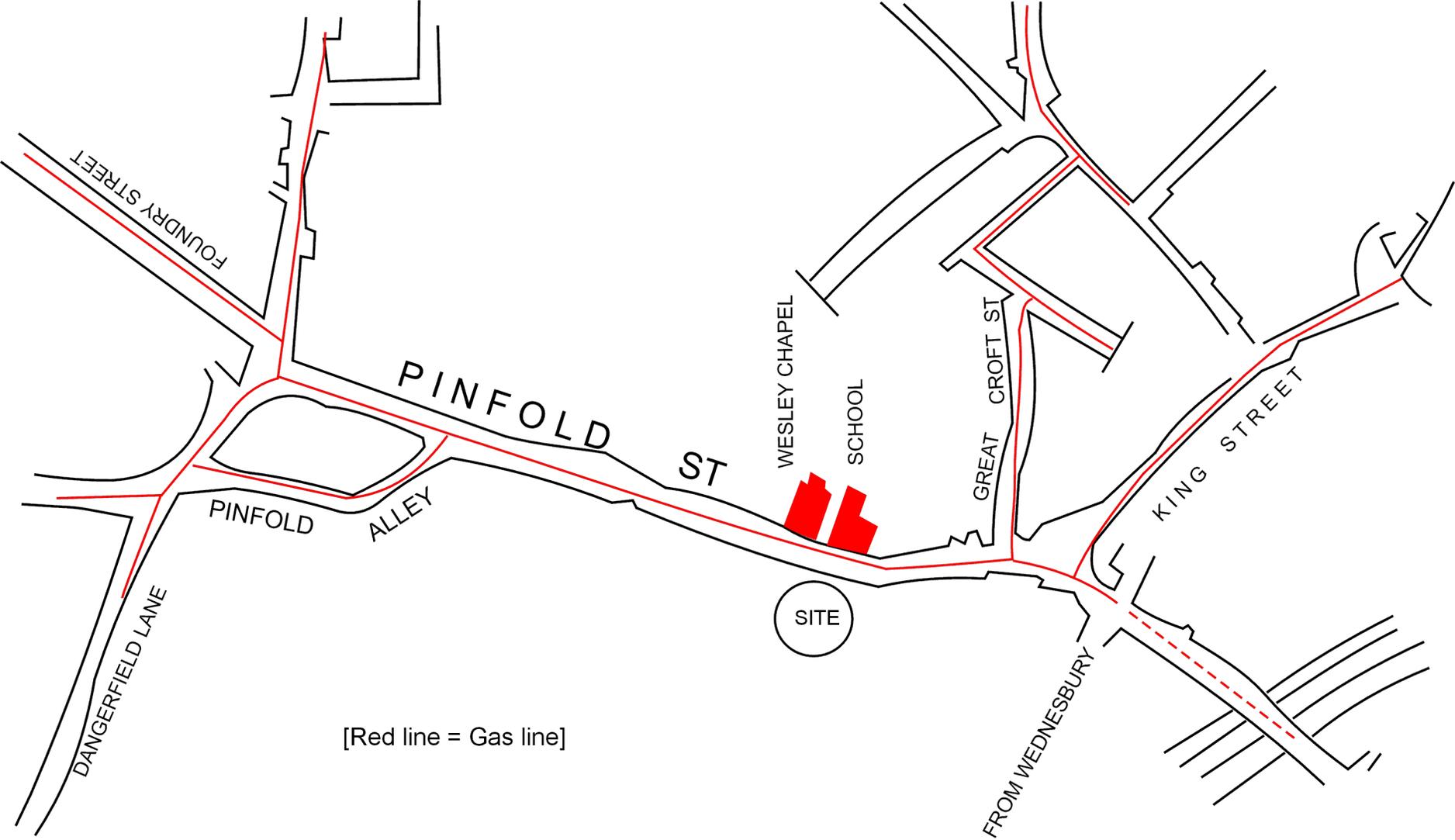


Fig. 7 A traced copy of the 24" to 1 mile, Birmingham Corporation Gas Works and Mains, 1886

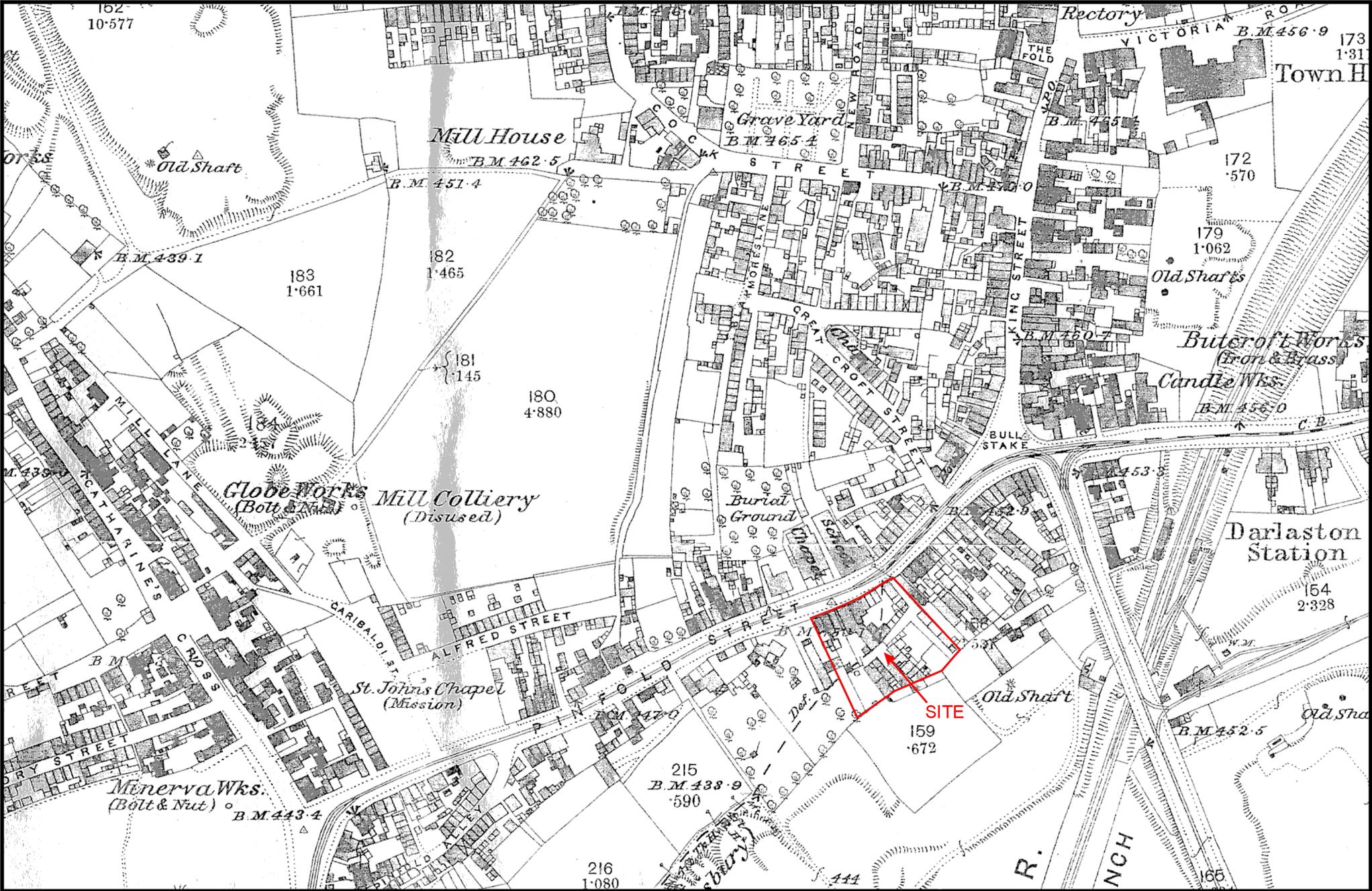


Fig. 8 25" Ordnance Survey, sheet LXIII. 13, 1886

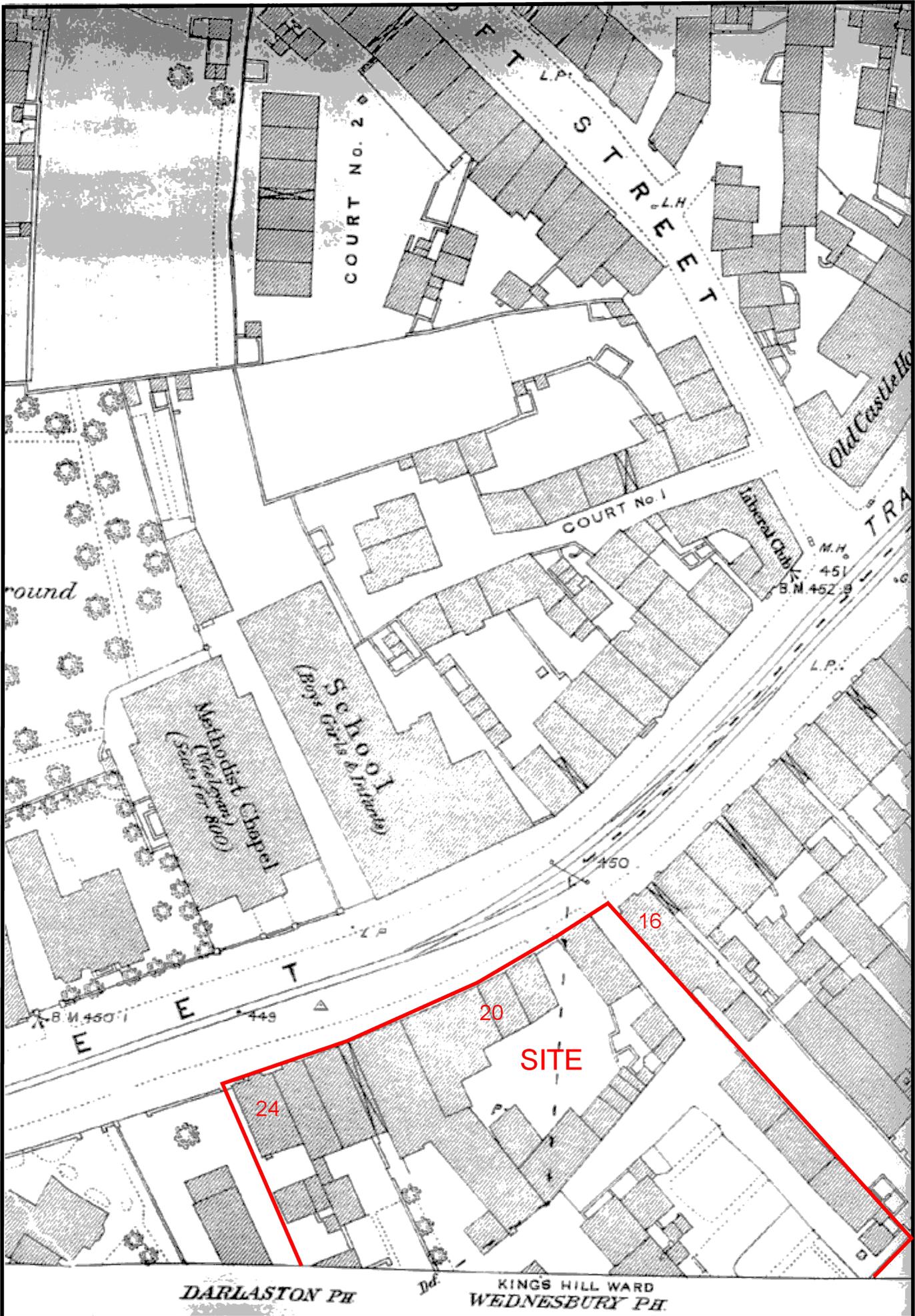


Fig. 9 6" Ordnance Survey, sheet LXIII. 13. 13, 1889

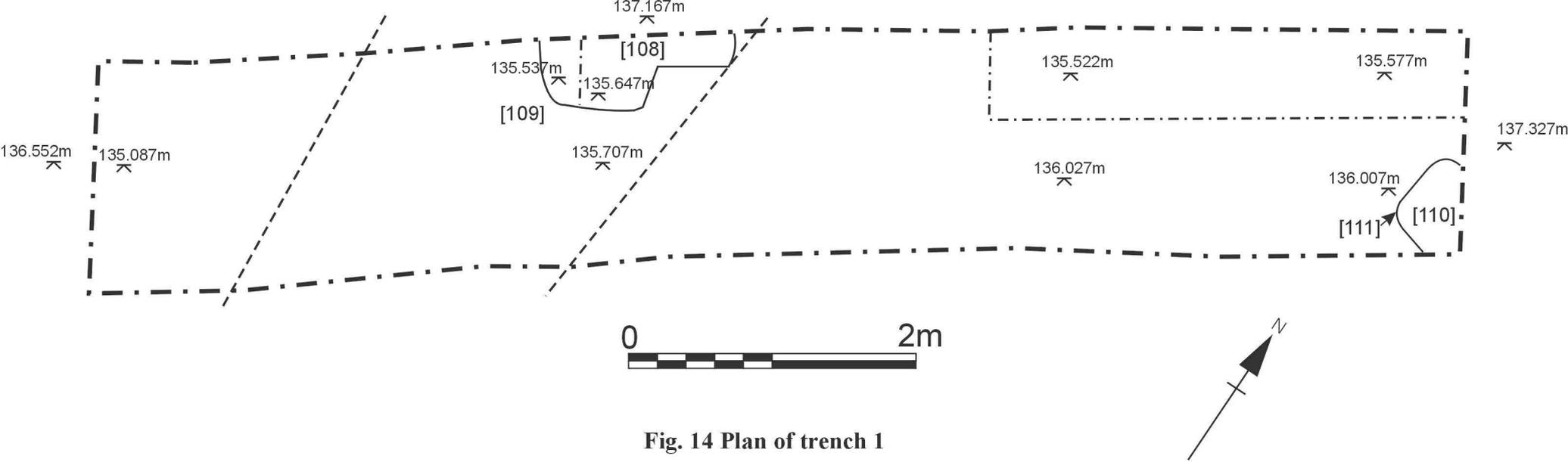


Fig. 14 Plan of trench 1

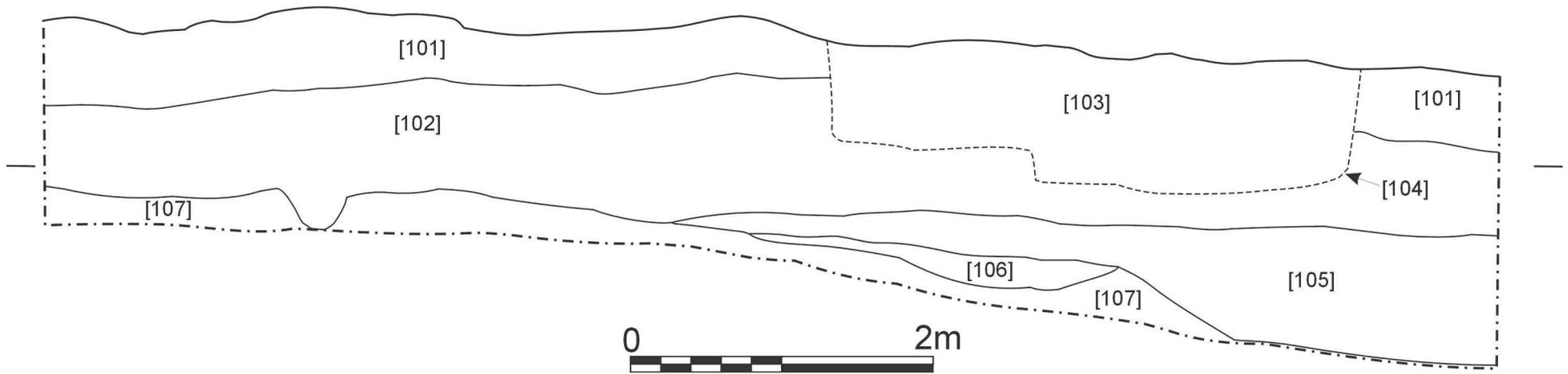


Fig. 15 South section of trench 1

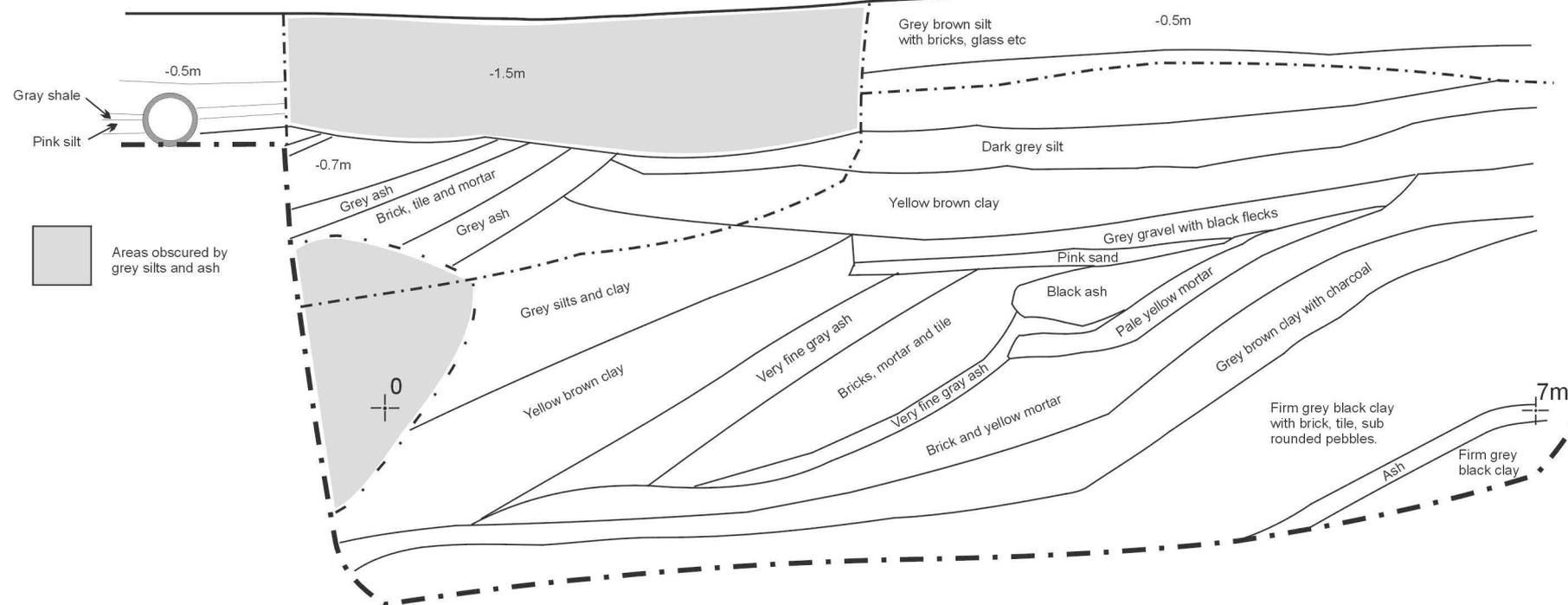


Fig. 17 A measured sketch of the south section of trench 2

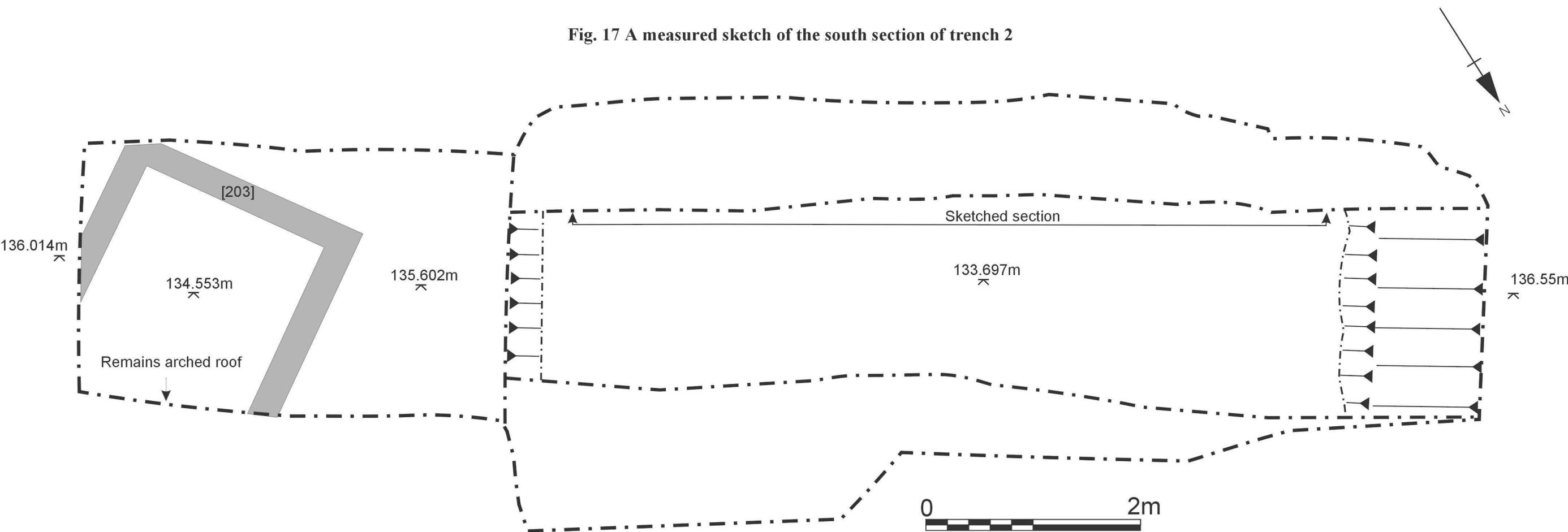


Fig. 16 Plan of trench 2

Note: 293 is recorded as being occupied by S. Smith Junior, Pinfold Street on the 1856 plan. The later plan records that the land was sold to Mr Smith

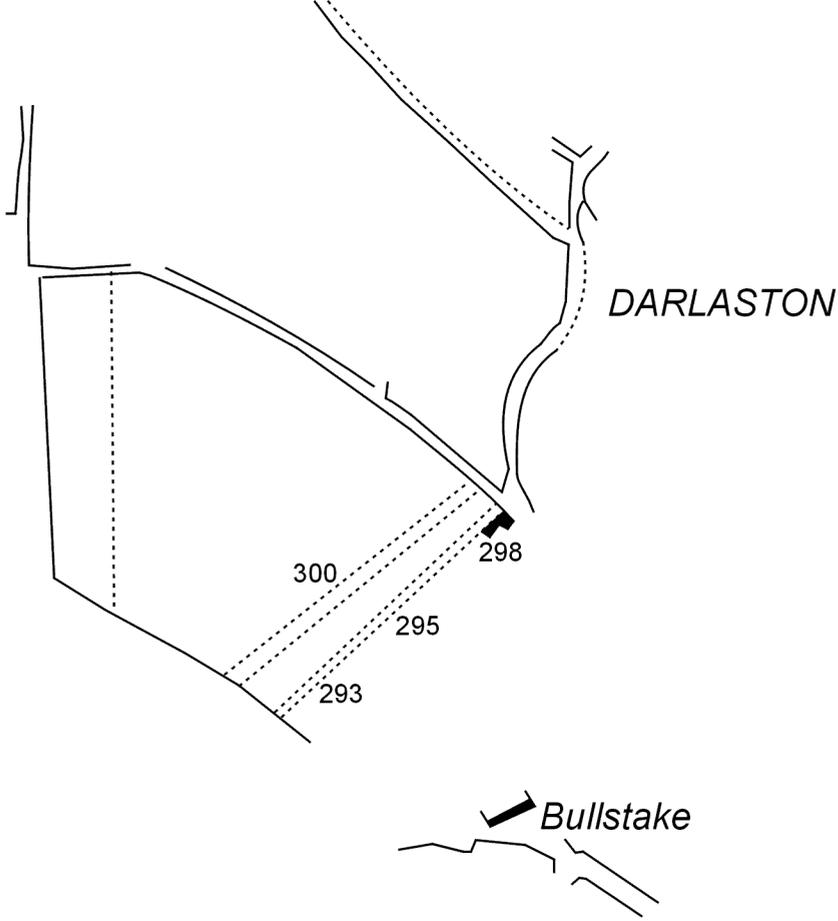


Fig 5 A traced copy of a plan showing land owned by the Sutherland family, c.1856

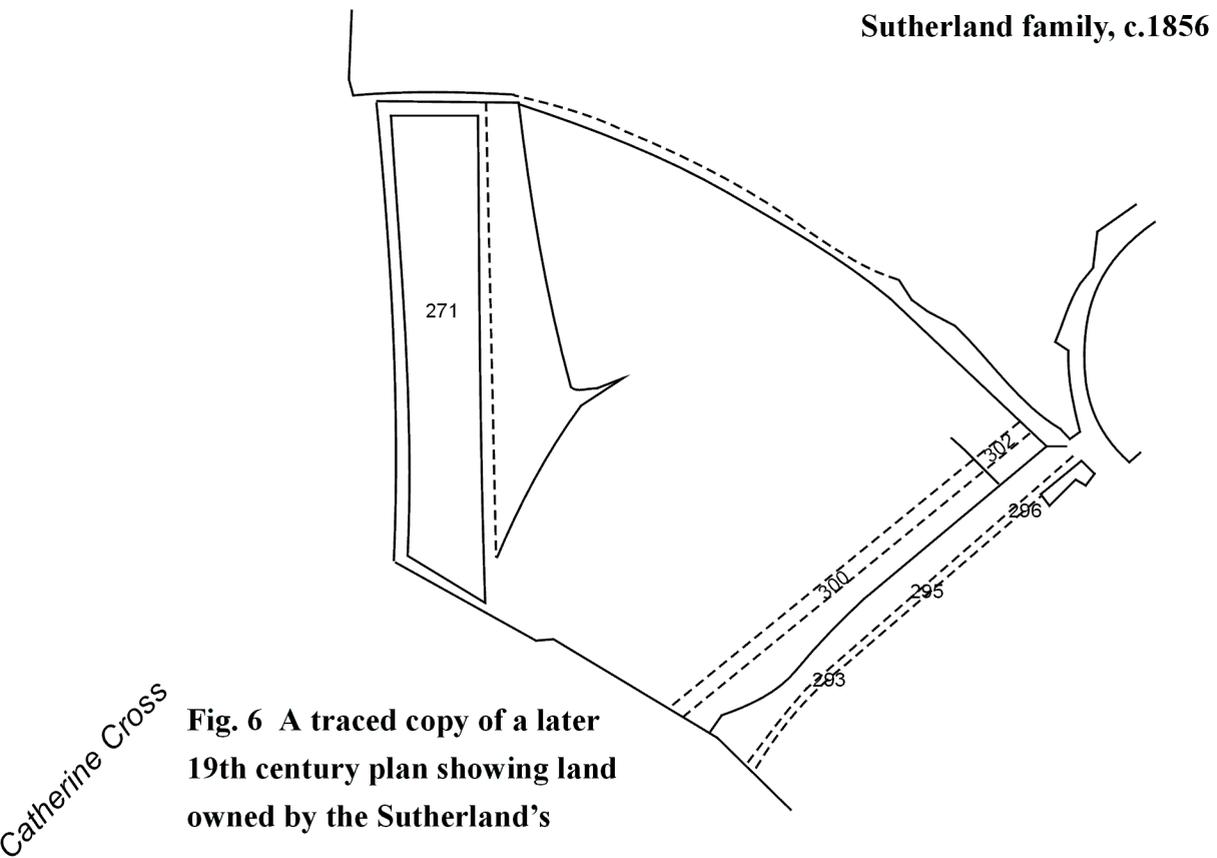


Fig. 6 A traced copy of a later 19th century plan showing land owned by the Sutherland's

Note: The plan is $\frac{3}{4}$ actual size

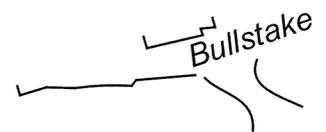




Plate 1 A photocopy of a photograph of The Black Horse Inn, Pinfold Street, Darlaston, dated 1969 (WLHC 2048/2)



Plate 2 A view of the cellars during the site demolition on 12 August 2003