The Nailsea Glassworks, Nailsea, North Somerset

A Summary of the known Archaeological Interventions 1975 - 2004

Andrew F Smith, BSc, MA, CEng, MIEE Avon Archaeological Unit, Bristol February, 2004

The cover photograph, © Cloud 9 High Level Photography, is an overhead view, looking approximately north-east, of the New House Cone base as excavated, and dates from 1987/1988. It is reproduced by courtesy of Mr M Thurstan, "Denmans", 5, West Street, South Petherton, Somerset, TA13 5DQ, the owner of Cloud 9 High Level Photography

CONTENTS

CONTENTS	11
LIST OF FIGURES	ii
Acknowledgements	ii
Note	iv
Copyright	iv
Picture Credits	
INTRODUCTION	
Table 2.1 - Schedule referring to the 1870 plan.	4
1. 1975 - 1982	6
2. 1983 - 1988	
3. 1991	
Table 2.2 - 1991 Test pit results	20
4. 1992	
5. 1994 - (1)	
6. 1994 - (2)	
7. 1995	
8. 1999	
9. 2001	
10. 2002	
11. 2003-4	
BIBLIOGRAPHY	
APPENDIX 1 - Samples from Weston-super-Mare Museum to English Heritage	
APPENDIX 2 – Scheduled Area details (courtesy of English Heritage)	
711 1 LIVDIX 2 Scheduled Area details (courtesy of Eligibil Heritage)	/ ¬
LIST OF FIGURES	
LIST OF FIGURES Figure 2.1: Site control Plan (Not to scale, but based on a 1:1500 OS original)	2
Figure 2.1: Site-centred Plan (Not to scale, but based on a 1:1500 OS original)	2 57050
Figure 2.1: Site-centred Plan (Not to scale, but based on a 1:1500 OS original) Figure 2.2: 1870 Plan of the Nailsea Glassworks Holding [BRO Sturge Deposit	57959
Figure 2.1: Site-centred Plan (Not to scale, but based on a 1:1500 OS original) Figure 2.2: 1870 Plan of the Nailsea Glassworks Holding [BRO Sturge Deposit (22)]	57959
Figure 2.1: Site-centred Plan (Not to scale, but based on a 1:1500 OS original) Figure 2.2: 1870 Plan of the Nailsea Glassworks Holding [BRO Sturge Deposit (22)] Figure 2.3: Composite plan and section of the gasholder	57959 3 8
Figure 2.1: Site-centred Plan (Not to scale, but based on a 1:1500 OS original) Figure 2.2: 1870 Plan of the Nailsea Glassworks Holding [BRO Sturge Deposit (22)] Figure 2.3: Composite plan and section of the gasholder Figure 2.4: 1983 Excavation plan (Building nos. refer to 1870 plan)	3 8 9
Figure 2.1: Site-centred Plan (Not to scale, but based on a 1:1500 OS original) Figure 2.2: 1870 Plan of the Nailsea Glassworks Holding [BRO Sturge Deposit (22)] Figure 2.3: Composite plan and section of the gasholder Figure 2.4: 1983 Excavation plan (Building nos. refer to 1870 plan) Figure 2.5: 1985 "The four main airways were revealed."	3 8 9 10
Figure 2.1: Site-centred Plan (Not to scale, but based on a 1:1500 OS original) Figure 2.2: 1870 Plan of the Nailsea Glassworks Holding [BRO Sturge Deposit (22)] Figure 2.3: Composite plan and section of the gasholder Figure 2.4: 1983 Excavation plan (Building nos. refer to 1870 plan) Figure 2.5: 1985 "The four main airways were revealed." Figure 2.6: Detail and general view of relieving arches A and B.	3 8 9 10 12
Figure 2.1: Site-centred Plan (Not to scale, but based on a 1:1500 OS original) Figure 2.2: 1870 Plan of the Nailsea Glassworks Holding [BRO Sturge Deposit (22)] Figure 2.3: Composite plan and section of the gasholder Figure 2.4: 1983 Excavation plan (Building nos. refer to 1870 plan) Figure 2.5: 1985 "The four main airways were revealed." Figure 2.6: Detail and general view of relieving arches A and B. Figure 2.7: Extract from "Details of Cone Foundations at Nailsea Glassworks"	3 8 9 10 12 13
Figure 2.1: Site-centred Plan (Not to scale, but based on a 1:1500 OS original) Figure 2.2: 1870 Plan of the Nailsea Glassworks Holding [BRO Sturge Deposit (22)] Figure 2.3: Composite plan and section of the gasholder Figure 2.4: 1983 Excavation plan (Building nos. refer to 1870 plan) Figure 2.5: 1985 "The four main airways were revealed." Figure 2.6: Detail and general view of relieving arches A and B. Figure 2.7: Extract from "Details of Cone Foundations at Nailsea Glassworks" Figure 2.8: The Nailsea Glassworks Cone Supports, revealed during demolition in	3 8 9 10 12 13 n 1905
Figure 2.1: Site-centred Plan (Not to scale, but based on a 1:1500 OS original) Figure 2.2: 1870 Plan of the Nailsea Glassworks Holding [BRO Sturge Deposit (22)] Figure 2.3: Composite plan and section of the gasholder Figure 2.4: 1983 Excavation plan (Building nos. refer to 1870 plan) Figure 2.5: 1985 "The four main airways were revealed." Figure 2.6: Detail and general view of relieving arches A and B. Figure 2.7: Extract from "Details of Cone Foundations at Nailsea Glassworks" Figure 2.8: The Nailsea Glassworks Cone Supports, revealed during demolition in (NDLHS)	3 8 9 10 12 13 n 1905
Figure 2.1: Site-centred Plan (Not to scale, but based on a 1:1500 OS original) Figure 2.2: 1870 Plan of the Nailsea Glassworks Holding [BRO Sturge Deposit (22)] Figure 2.3: Composite plan and section of the gasholder Figure 2.4: 1983 Excavation plan (Building nos. refer to 1870 plan) Figure 2.5: 1985 "The four main airways were revealed." Figure 2.6: Detail and general view of relieving arches A and B. Figure 2.7: Extract from "Details of Cone Foundations at Nailsea Glassworks" Figure 2.8: The Nailsea Glassworks Cone Supports, revealed during demolition in (NDLHS) Figure 2.9: 1987 Key Plan (probably by B Bentham) [Legend re-typed]	3 8 9 10 12 13 n 1905 14 15
Figure 2.1: Site-centred Plan (Not to scale, but based on a 1:1500 OS original) Figure 2.2: 1870 Plan of the Nailsea Glassworks Holding [BRO Sturge Deposit (22)] Figure 2.3: Composite plan and section of the gasholder Figure 2.4: 1983 Excavation plan (Building nos. refer to 1870 plan) Figure 2.5: 1985 "The four main airways were revealed." Figure 2.6: Detail and general view of relieving arches A and B. Figure 2.7: Extract from "Details of Cone Foundations at Nailsea Glassworks" Figure 2.8: The Nailsea Glassworks Cone Supports, revealed during demolition in (NDLHS) Figure 2.9: 1987 Key Plan (probably by B Bentham) [Legend re-typed] Figure 2.10: 1987 Suggested Phasing Plan (probably by B Bentham)	3 8 9 10 12 13 n 1905 14 15 16
Figure 2.1: Site-centred Plan (Not to scale, but based on a 1:1500 OS original) Figure 2.2: 1870 Plan of the Nailsea Glassworks Holding [BRO Sturge Deposit (22)] Figure 2.3: Composite plan and section of the gasholder Figure 2.4: 1983 Excavation plan (Building nos. refer to 1870 plan) Figure 2.5: 1985 "The four main airways were revealed." Figure 2.6: Detail and general view of relieving arches A and B. Figure 2.7: Extract from "Details of Cone Foundations at Nailsea Glassworks" Figure 2.8: The Nailsea Glassworks Cone Supports, revealed during demolition in (NDLHS) Figure 2.9: 1987 Key Plan (probably by B Bentham) [Legend re-typed] Figure 2.10: 1987 Suggested Phasing Plan (probably by B Bentham) Figure 2.11: 1989 Plan of the New House Cone, as excavated (B Bentham)	3 8 9 10 12 13 n 1905 14 15 16 17
Figure 2.1: Site-centred Plan (Not to scale, but based on a 1:1500 OS original) Figure 2.2: 1870 Plan of the Nailsea Glassworks Holding [BRO Sturge Deposit (22)] Figure 2.3: Composite plan and section of the gasholder Figure 2.4: 1983 Excavation plan (Building nos. refer to 1870 plan) Figure 2.5: 1985 "The four main airways were revealed." Figure 2.6: Detail and general view of relieving arches A and B. Figure 2.7: Extract from "Details of Cone Foundations at Nailsea Glassworks" Figure 2.8: The Nailsea Glassworks Cone Supports, revealed during demolition in (NDLHS) Figure 2.9: 1987 Key Plan (probably by B Bentham) [Legend re-typed] Figure 2.10: 1987 Suggested Phasing Plan (probably by B Bentham) Figure 2.11: 1989 Plan of the New House Cone, as excavated (B Bentham) Figure 2.12: Area excavations to 1988 on the site-centred map	3 8 9 10 12 13 n 1905 14 15 16 17 18
Figure 2.1: Site-centred Plan (Not to scale, but based on a 1:1500 OS original) Figure 2.2: 1870 Plan of the Nailsea Glassworks Holding [BRO Sturge Deposit (22)] Figure 2.3: Composite plan and section of the gasholder Figure 2.4: 1983 Excavation plan (Building nos. refer to 1870 plan) Figure 2.5: 1985 "The four main airways were revealed." Figure 2.6: Detail and general view of relieving arches A and B. Figure 2.7: Extract from "Details of Cone Foundations at Nailsea Glassworks" Figure 2.8: The Nailsea Glassworks Cone Supports, revealed during demolition in (NDLHS) Figure 2.9: 1987 Key Plan (probably by B Bentham) [Legend re-typed] Figure 2.10: 1987 Suggested Phasing Plan (probably by B Bentham) Figure 2.11: 1989 Plan of the New House Cone, as excavated (B Bentham) Figure 2.12: Area excavations to 1988 on the site-centred map Figure 2.13: Area excavated to 1988 superimposed on 1870 plan	3 8 9 10 12 13 n 1905 14 15 16 17 18 19
Figure 2.1: Site-centred Plan (Not to scale, but based on a 1:1500 OS original) Figure 2.2: 1870 Plan of the Nailsea Glassworks Holding [BRO Sturge Deposit (22)] Figure 2.3: Composite plan and section of the gasholder Figure 2.4: 1983 Excavation plan (Building nos. refer to 1870 plan) Figure 2.5: 1985 "The four main airways were revealed." Figure 2.6: Detail and general view of relieving arches A and B. Figure 2.7: Extract from "Details of Cone Foundations at Nailsea Glassworks" Figure 2.8: The Nailsea Glassworks Cone Supports, revealed during demolition in (NDLHS) Figure 2.9: 1987 Key Plan (probably by B Bentham) [Legend re-typed] Figure 2.10: 1987 Suggested Phasing Plan (probably by B Bentham) Figure 2.11: 1989 Plan of the New House Cone, as excavated (B Bentham) Figure 2.12: Area excavations to 1988 on the site-centred map Figure 2.13: Area excavated to 1988 superimposed on 1870 plan Figure 2.14: 1991 Test Pit locations on site-centred map	3 8 9 10 12 13 n 1905 14 15 16 17 18 19 21
Figure 2.1: Site-centred Plan (Not to scale, but based on a 1:1500 OS original) Figure 2.2: 1870 Plan of the Nailsea Glassworks Holding [BRO Sturge Deposit (22)] Figure 2.3: Composite plan and section of the gasholder Figure 2.4: 1983 Excavation plan (Building nos. refer to 1870 plan) Figure 2.5: 1985 "The four main airways were revealed." Figure 2.6: Detail and general view of relieving arches A and B. Figure 2.7: Extract from "Details of Cone Foundations at Nailsea Glassworks" Figure 2.8: The Nailsea Glassworks Cone Supports, revealed during demolition in (NDLHS) Figure 2.9: 1987 Key Plan (probably by B Bentham) [Legend re-typed] Figure 2.10: 1987 Suggested Phasing Plan (probably by B Bentham) Figure 2.11: 1989 Plan of the New House Cone, as excavated (B Bentham) Figure 2.12: Area excavations to 1988 on the site-centred map Figure 2.13: Area excavated to 1988 superimposed on 1870 plan Figure 2.15: 1991 Test Pit locations on site-centred map Figure 2.15: 1991 Test Pit locations superimposed on 1870 plan	3 8 9 10 12 13 n 1905 14 15 16 17 18 19 21 22
Figure 2.1: Site-centred Plan (Not to scale, but based on a 1:1500 OS original) Figure 2.2: 1870 Plan of the Nailsea Glassworks Holding [BRO Sturge Deposit (22)] Figure 2.3: Composite plan and section of the gasholder Figure 2.4: 1983 Excavation plan (Building nos. refer to 1870 plan) Figure 2.5: 1985 "The four main airways were revealed." Figure 2.6: Detail and general view of relieving arches A and B. Figure 2.7: Extract from "Details of Cone Foundations at Nailsea Glassworks" Figure 2.8: The Nailsea Glassworks Cone Supports, revealed during demolition in (NDLHS) Figure 2.9: 1987 Key Plan (probably by B Bentham) [Legend re-typed] Figure 2.10: 1987 Suggested Phasing Plan (probably by B Bentham) Figure 2.11: 1989 Plan of the New House Cone, as excavated (B Bentham) Figure 2.12: Area excavations to 1988 on the site-centred map Figure 2.13: Area excavated to 1988 superimposed on 1870 plan Figure 2.14: 1991 Test Pit locations on site-centred map Figure 2.15: 1991 Test Pit locations superimposed on 1870 plan Figure 2.16: 1992, Figure 3 from Mumford, showing areas A, B & C, amended	3 8 9 10 12 13 n 1905 14 15 16 17 18 19 21 22 24
Figure 2.1: Site-centred Plan (Not to scale, but based on a 1:1500 OS original) Figure 2.2: 1870 Plan of the Nailsea Glassworks Holding [BRO Sturge Deposit (22)] Figure 2.3: Composite plan and section of the gasholder Figure 2.4: 1983 Excavation plan (Building nos. refer to 1870 plan) Figure 2.5: 1985 "The four main airways were revealed." Figure 2.6: Detail and general view of relieving arches A and B. Figure 2.7: Extract from "Details of Cone Foundations at Nailsea Glassworks" Figure 2.8: The Nailsea Glassworks Cone Supports, revealed during demolition in (NDLHS) Figure 2.9: 1987 Key Plan (probably by B Bentham) [Legend re-typed] Figure 2.10: 1987 Suggested Phasing Plan (probably by B Bentham) Figure 2.11: 1989 Plan of the New House Cone, as excavated (B Bentham) Figure 2.12: Area excavations to 1988 on the site-centred map Figure 2.13: Area excavated to 1988 superimposed on 1870 plan Figure 2.15: 1991 Test Pit locations on site-centred map Figure 2.16: 1992, Figure 3 from Mumford, showing areas A, B & C, amended Figure 2.17: 1992, Photograph 2 (Mumford), showing relationship between areas A	3 8 9 10 12 13 n 1905 14 15 16 17 18 19 21 22 24 & B 25
Figure 2.1: Site-centred Plan (Not to scale, but based on a 1:1500 OS original) Figure 2.2: 1870 Plan of the Nailsea Glassworks Holding [BRO Sturge Deposit (22)] Figure 2.3: Composite plan and section of the gasholder Figure 2.4: 1983 Excavation plan (Building nos. refer to 1870 plan) Figure 2.5: 1985 "The four main airways were revealed." Figure 2.6: Detail and general view of relieving arches A and B. Figure 2.7: Extract from "Details of Cone Foundations at Nailsea Glassworks" Figure 2.8: The Nailsea Glassworks Cone Supports, revealed during demolition in (NDLHS) Figure 2.9: 1987 Key Plan (probably by B Bentham) [Legend re-typed] Figure 2.10: 1987 Suggested Phasing Plan (probably by B Bentham) Figure 2.11: 1989 Plan of the New House Cone, as excavated (B Bentham) Figure 2.12: Area excavations to 1988 on the site-centred map Figure 2.13: Area excavated to 1988 superimposed on 1870 plan Figure 2.15: 1991 Test Pit locations on site-centred map Figure 2.16: 1992, Figure 3 from Mumford, showing areas A, B & C, amended Figure 2.17: 1992, Photograph 2 (Mumford), showing relationship between areas A Figure 2.18: 1992, Figure 2 from Mumford, showing area D	3 8 9 10 12 13 n 1905 14 15 16 17 18 19 21 22 24 & B 25 27
Figure 2.1: Site-centred Plan (Not to scale, but based on a 1:1500 OS original) Figure 2.2: 1870 Plan of the Nailsea Glassworks Holding [BRO Sturge Deposit (22)] Figure 2.3: Composite plan and section of the gasholder Figure 2.4: 1983 Excavation plan (Building nos. refer to 1870 plan) Figure 2.5: 1985 "The four main airways were revealed." Figure 2.6: Detail and general view of relieving arches A and B. Figure 2.7: Extract from "Details of Cone Foundations at Nailsea Glassworks" Figure 2.8: The Nailsea Glassworks Cone Supports, revealed during demolition in (NDLHS) Figure 2.9: 1987 Key Plan (probably by B Bentham) [Legend re-typed] Figure 2.10: 1987 Suggested Phasing Plan (probably by B Bentham) Figure 2.11: 1989 Plan of the New House Cone, as excavated (B Bentham) Figure 2.12: Area excavations to 1988 on the site-centred map Figure 2.13: Area excavated to 1988 superimposed on 1870 plan Figure 2.15: 1991 Test Pit locations on site-centred map Figure 2.16: 1992, Figure 3 from Mumford, showing areas A, B & C, amended Figure 2.17: 1992, Photograph 2 (Mumford), showing relationship between areas A	3 8 9 10 12 13 n 1905 14 15 16 17 18 19 21 22 24 & B 25

Figure 2.21: 1994 Trench 1 and Test pit, adapted from Figure 4, Parry	30
Figure 2.22: 1994 Trench 2, adapted from Figure 5, Parry	31
Figure 2.23: 1994 evaluation on site-centred map	32
Figure 2.24: 1994 evaluation superimposed on 1870 plan	33
Figure 2.25: Schematic Plan of Rooms 1 - 3, detailing blocked openings (from Figure 3	in
original report)	35
Figure 2.26: 1994 Standing Buildings Recording on site-centred map	37
Figure 2.27: 1994 Standing Buildings Recording superimposed on 1870 plan	38
Figure 2.28: Exterior of pot arch building {15}/{16}, from west.	39
Figure 2.29: Remains of pot arches $\{15\}/\{16\}$ - interior view looking east.	39
Figure 2.30: 1995 Figure 4 (amended, with OS National Grid added.)	40
Figure 2.31: Old House Cone airway (1995 Report - Figure 6)	43
Figure 2.32: Old House Cone - Suggested structural phasing (1995 Report - Figure	7,
amended)	44
Figure 2.33: General view of 1995 excavation: Old House Cone area.	45
Figure 2.34: Possible furnace feeder chamber (1995 Report - Photograph 10 Context 363)). 45
Figure 2.35: Main Airway looking NE	47
Figure 2.36: Stone lined "tank "	47
Figure 2.37: 1995 excavation on site-centred map	48
Figure 2.38: 1995 excavation superimposed on 1870 plan	49
Figure 2.39: 1999 investigations on site-centred map	51
Figure 2.40: 1999 investigations superimposed on 1870 plan	52
Figure 2.41: 2001 investigations on site-centred map.	55
Figure 2.42: 2001 investigations superimposed on the 1870 plan.	56
Figure 2.43: Foundation Pit No 50 from ESE.	57
Figure 2.44: Superstore foundation pit plan superimposed on 1830s plan	58
Figure 2.45: Superstore foundation pit plan superimposed on 1870 plan	58
Figure 2.46: Northern chamber.	59
Figure 2 47: Southern chamber	59
Figure 2.48: New House Cone, showing foundation extension - western sector	60
Figure 2.49: 2002 - Recording of Old House Cone, Nailsea – Figure 1A from 2002 report	
Figure 2.50: Old House Cone South furnace box?	62
Figure 2.51: Old House Cone North furnace box?	62
Figure 2.52: Old House Cone composite 1995 + 2002 - Figure 2A from 2002 report	64
Figure 2.53: Old House Cone - Final destruction, 2002	65
Figure 2.54: 2002 salvage/watching brief recording on site-centred map.	65
Figure 2.55: 2002 salvage/watching brief recording superimposed on 1870 plan.	66
Figure 2.56: Summary of interventions on the site-centred map	67
Figure 2.57: Summary of interventions superimposed on 1870 plan	68
Figure 2.58: Scheduled areas in relation to the summary of interventions on the site-centr	
map	74
Figure 2.59: Scheduled areas in relation to the summary of interventions superimposed	
1870 plan	75

Acknowledgements

In general these are all covered in the main Introduction to the Study, but the assistance of Dr David Crossley and Dr Justine Bailey in the selection and identification of the samples from the North Somerset Museum is gratefully acknowledged, as is the assistance and facilities afforded by Nick Goff and Jane Hill at the Museum.

Note

Whereas Avon Archaeological Unit have taken all care to produce a comprehensive summary of the known and recorded archaeological evidence, no responsibility can be accepted for any omissions of fact or opinion, however caused.

Copyright

Please see the Copyright statement in the main Introduction to the Study.

The site centred plan (Figure 2.1) that has been taken as the modern basis, and all subsequent plans based on that (e.g. Figures 2.12, 2.14, etc) are reproduced by permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright Reserved.

Licence number AL 100005802

Picture Credits

The cover photograph, © Cloud 9 High Level Photography, is reproduced by courtesy of Mr M Thurstan, "Denmans", 5, West Street, South Petherton, Somerset, TA13 5DQ, the owner of Cloud 9 High Level Photography.

All other figures and photographs are by the author or derived from material held in the archive or in the North Somerset SMR, unless credited to the contrary in the text or adjacent to the Figure(s)/photograph(s) in question.