

INTRODUCTION

The Nailsea Glassworks site has been the subject of a number of archaeological interventions. As far as can be determined, these have all been restricted to the main production site to the south of the High Street.

This section is intended to give summaries of these interventions, rather than detailed context-by-context descriptions. The intention is therefore to give general descriptions in each case, illustrated as appropriate where suitable illustrations exist. The excavated areas will be shown in relation to a modern (as at October 2002) site-centred OS plan, (Figure 2.1, below) and also to [an adaptation of] a drawing based on [tracings taken from] the Sturge 1870 plan of the glassworks (BRO 37959/22), (Figure 2.2). This plan has been chosen as it dates from late in the life of the glassworks, and is also accompanied by a schedule (Table 2.1, below) of the functions of buildings identified by number on the plan. It also shows the holding to the north of the High Street, which included glassworkers' housing and a mine. (The adaptation for later figures has been the addition of the national grid 100m squares to assist with positioning the features, and re-orientating the plan to grid north.)

Finally the relationship between all the known archaeological interventions will be summarised on both plan bases in order to show the proportion of the site which has been examined.

Reference is occasionally made to the BRO copy of the plan of the glassworks dated to the 1830s. This has been reproduced in the desk-top study, (Part 1 of the study.)

It should be noted that there are occasional references to Avon County Council and some of its departments. As part of local government restructuring in 1974, Avon County was created from an area comprising the southern part of Gloucestershire, the northern part of Somerset, including the City of Bath, and the City and County of Bristol. In 1996 the county was deconstructed in the formation of the present authorities of South Gloucestershire, North Somerset, Bath & North East Somerset, and Bristol. It is thought that the disappearance of some of the archives may date from this deconstruction. It has a parallel in ancient Rome, and elsewhere in antiquity, in that there was sometimes indecent haste to expunge the name of a deposed/despised ruler from the public record.

It has not been within the remit of this study to do any sorting or ordering of the archive, but this is an exercise that would be very worthwhile.

