The following is largely taken verbatim from the report.[32]

"Structural remains relating to the Old House glass cone, ... comprised the masonry foundations of the cone wall and the remnants of one of the main tunnels that provided access and air supply to the furnace at the centre of the cone."

The foundation wall "which formerly supported the superstructure of the Old House Cone", had a "pronounced inward batter", with an overall diameter of approximately 21.5m. The masonry was built in a shallow foundation trench in the natural sandy substrata .... and formed of roughly coursed sandstone rubble bonded with pale lime-based mortar. The footings were slightly wider around the exterior face .... at a level of 31.6 m O.D." (See Figure 2.48 above.) The wider foundation was not found on the interior, and did not seem to be of uniform width. (Context 1000 from archive.) No relieving foundation arches, such as were found in the New House Cone, were noted.

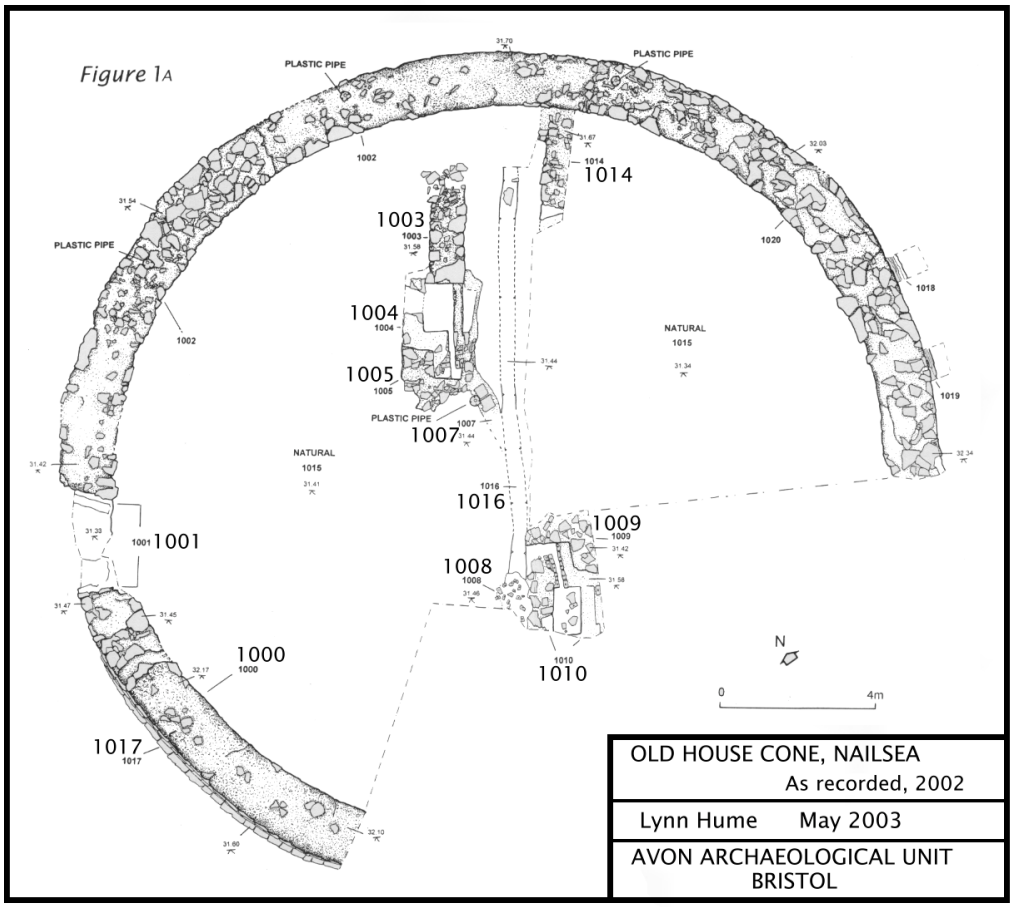

Figure 2.49: 2002 - Recording of Old House Cone, Nailsea – Figure 1A from 2002 report.

"The probable position of an entrance or airway (1001, **figure 1a** [Figure 2.49]) was indicated by a dark lime-based mortar with the impression of dressed stone on the north-western side of the cone." Unfortunately this cannot be proved. However, the levels at the north-eastern end of the main airway had been reduced to 31.7m AOD and there was no sign of the airway cutting the cone foundation wall there, and 1001 lay lower at 31.33m. Additionally the top of the foundation wall at the opposite side was over 32m. and showed no sign of a breach nor, apparently, did the "natural" inside the cone which was also higher. On the relevant context sheet in the archive it is judged to be a later insert, with no function suggested. It is not known

[32] AAU, May 2003

what normal practice might have been, but with the New House Cone as a model, the airways there were at approximately 90º to each other centred on the centre of the cone. Examination of the drawing shows that this configuration would not have applied here. Incidentally, the cone foundation as drawn is slightly ovoid, whereas one of the GPS based plots in the archive at 1:150 scale approximates much more closely to a circle.

"Two similar rectangular brick and stone built structures (Features 1004 ["North"] and 1010 ["South"]) were located approximately centrally inside the foundation wall. Both structures were bonded with ash flecked lime-based mortar and positioned along [and either side of] the central line of the cone structure. Each ... appeared to have originally contained a squared central void or chamber connected to a brick-lined drain or channel (1016). The same brick structure [1010, the southernmost] was located and recorded during the 1995 Excavation (Parry & Hume, 1995, context 363). The function of the ... structures was not determined with any certainty although it was suggested to represent either a furnace box or possibly an access point into the main airway ..."

Figure 2.50: Old House Cone South furnace box?

Figure 2.51: Old House Cone North furnace box?

From the context sheets both features, shown above in Figures 2.50 and 2.51 from the east and south-east respectively, were virtually identical in size and construction. The southernmost had a "main fill of black cinder/?fuel waste (sampled)" under "brick and sandstone demolition rubble", and was ">250mm deep". The other feature again contained demolition material some of which appeared to adhere to the internal surface in one corner, with a water-filled void of unknown depth below.

The location of the cone is uncertain with respect to the OS national grid (there are two GPS plots in the archive that give (a) slightly different grid references from each other, and (b) both place the cone too far north and east. This, combined with a doubt about the accuracy of the final drawing, Figure 2.49 referred to above (as it was combined from several individual sector

drawings), has meant that it has not been possible to determine the exact relationship between the results of this intervention and that of 1995. However after some examination it does appear that the structure described here as the "South furnace box?" is in fact the base of the chamber revealed in 1995 and discussed in that section. The concern was the possibility of there having been two or more phases of construction. The presence of the residue here does reinforce the "furnace feeder " hypothesis for this part of the structure. However, the function of the narrow virtually right-angled connection to the channel in the airway (obviously part of the design, because it appears on both sides) is not yet understood, nor is the fact that the bottom of these features appear to be lower than the airway floor, no trace of which seems to have been found at this time. [See further discussion in Part 3.]

"The remains of two parallel rubble walls (**figure 1a**; Features 1014/1009 and 1003/1005) appeared to be bonded with Structures 1004 and 1010 and possibly represented a continuation of the side-walls of the under-floor airway initially recorded during the 1995 excavations (Parry & Hume, *Ibid*., **figure 2a,** Contexts 306, 307 and 308)."

"An area of disturbance (1008), containing brick fragments loosely bonded in lime-based mortar, was located immediately adjacent to Structure 1010 (**figure 1a**). The deposit was not fully excavated but appeared to represent the disturbed remnants of a replaceable brick or refractory lining, the type which would have been originally attached to the inner face of the airway walls..." [c.f. Figure 2.31 above.]

"The location and dimensions of a narrow duct (1007), aligned north to south and capped with sandstone slabs laid within a grey lime-based mortar bed, appeared to represent a continuation of a duct which ran along the eastern side of Airway 364 and recorded during the 1995 excavation (Parry & Hume, *Ibid.*; context 379). The close association between the duct (1007/379) and the airway (364 [1995]) suggested that the former acted as a flue which served the central area of the cone." [This interpretation has already been queried above, pps. 42, 46.]

"The function of a second narrow northeast to southwest aligned gully (1016) was not ascertained." It appears to be a continuation of contexts 357 and 359 from 1995 which were not interpreted in that report. It appears from the drawing that 1016 cuts 1007, which would support the interpretation of 1007 above, because 379[1995] was on the opposite side of 1016-359-357 from 1007. In 1995, 379 abutted the south-eastern airway wall. The recorded level of 32.01m AOD (1995) some 12.5m south-west from the centre of the cone and that of 31.44m AOD (2002) about 2.7m to the north-east, might indicate a drainage function. However, there was no recorded breach in the cone foundation wall (31.70m AOD on an extension to the line of 1016), or indications of a soak-away pit, to support this as an interpretation.

In summary, "The archaeological monitoring enabled the location and recording of a large part of the foundations that supported the 18th century Old House Glass Cone prior to their destruction."

"In combination with the evidence recorded during the 1995 excavation (Parry & Hume, 1995) the work enabled" [virtually] "the total footprint of the furnace cone" [with the exception of approximately a 40^{o} sector to the south-east] "to be defined and recorded archaeologically. Unfortunately, the construction of the former petrol station had either severely truncated or totally destroyed the glass working structures and features originally sited within and located on the north side of the Old House cone. In the area of the latter what remained consisted of an extensive deposit of mixed rubble, mortar and industrial waste that was revealed in some of the foundations for the new store but which provided no new evidence concerning the layout or function of the buildings and structures originally present."