



Former Davis Brooks soft drinks factory, Catherine Street / Coningsby Street, Hereford:
building survey

Huw Sherlock and P J Pikes
2001



archenfield archaeology ltd

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Cover Photograph: Coningsby House from the south-west taken December 2001



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Summary

In the summer of 2001 Archenfield Archaeology carried out a building survey of buildings on the former Davies Brooke soft drink factory site between Catherine Street and Coningsby Street, Hereford, in advance of demolition. During November and December a watching brief was maintained during excavation of trenches for new housing on the site.

The building survey revealed that the earliest structure standing on the site was a two-storey building in the south-east quadrant, lying east to west along Catherine Street (building 1), which appeared to have originally been an agricultural building of the earlier 18th century.

The area lies outside the medieval city walls and is of some local curiosity, as Catherine Street ('Cattelone') and Coningsby Street ('Hospetalestrete' or 'Hospetelaslone') are recorded in the 13th century. References to medieval extra-mural streets are extremely unusual in Hereford.

No evidence for medieval occupation was found during the monitoring of the construction trenching, supporting the suggestion from the records that the area was garden until the 18th century.

1.0 Introduction

NGR (SO) 35124 24026

Herefordshire Sites and Monuments Record - Event No 30347

Hereford City Museum Accession No HFDMG 2000-5

A planning application by South Shropshire Housing Association was received for permission to demolish existing structures on the site former soft drink factory and to construct new buildings and infrastructure (CE2000/0133/F). As this development proposal was believed to have significant archaeological implications a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording was one of the conditions attached the granting of the permission. Archenfield Archaeology was commissioned to undertake the required work in accordance with a brief issued by Herefordshire Archaeology. The fieldwork elements of this project were undertaken at various times during the summer of 2001 and the winter of 2001/2002.

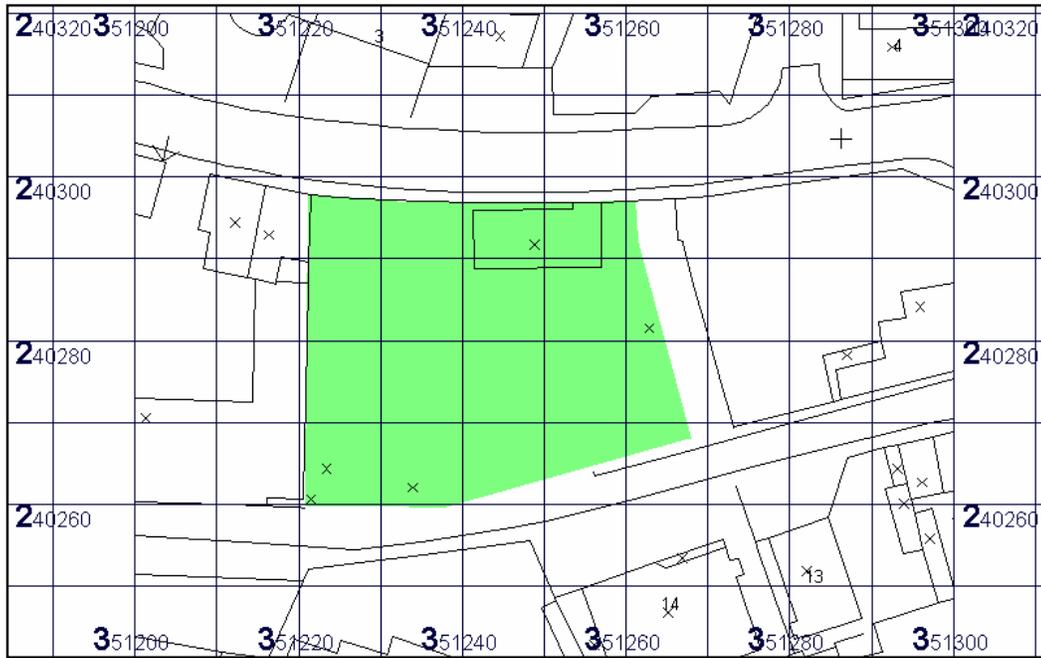
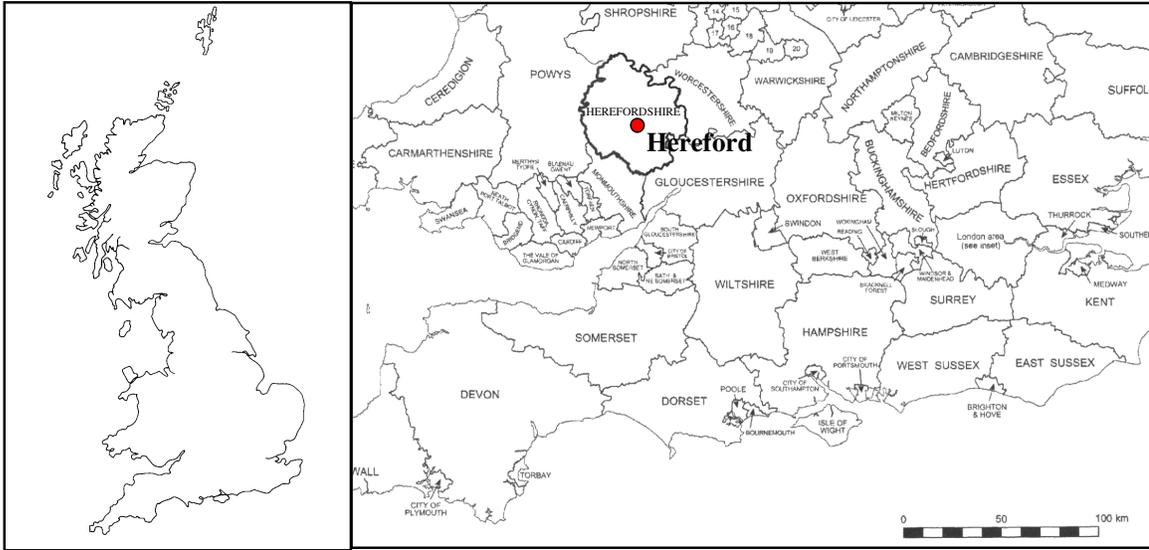


Figure 1: site location plan

2.0 Geological, historical and archaeological background

2.1 Geological background and land use

The geomorphology in the area consists of fluvioglacial gravels below a varying depth of topsoil. To the north of the site is the valley of the Eign Brook, an old course of the River Wye before the last period of glaciation. The Hereford gravels are an outwash fan from this glaciation, the terminal moraine of which lies just to the west of the city (Brandon and Hains, 1981).

In the 1850s Timothy Curley, the City Engineer, examined a profile in the grounds of Coningsby Hospital, 170 metres north-west of the site, and found peat below the topsoil with the gravels at a depth of 2 metres.¹

The centre of this area, bounded by Coningsby Street and Catherine Street, is currently mainly open space, mostly covered by slab and other hard standing and associated with a range of commercial activities. Much of this area was previously occupied by 19th century housing. This has now disappeared apart from on the east side of Monkmoor Street/Canal Road and the southern side of the west end of Coningsby Street. The Widemarsh Street and Commercial Road boundaries of the area are mainly formed by small shops, which for the most part date from the mid to late 18th century.

At the northern side of the site itself the gravels were present at a depth of approximately 2.5 metres below the surface at 52.66 OD whilst at the southern side the depth of soil above the gravels was approximately 1 metre. The discrepancy was due to the presence of cellaring on the northern side.

During the course of the field project, the site evolved from being a derelict industrial building group, through to a building site with new housing being built on it.

2.2 Historical background

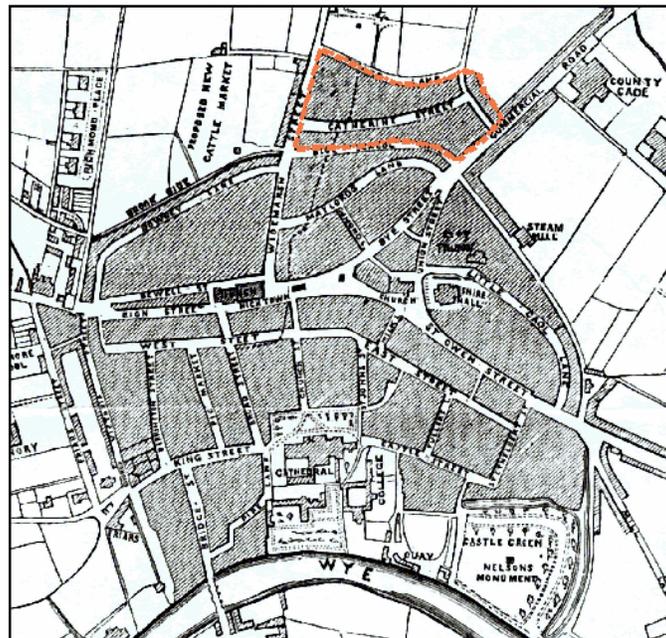


Figure 2: extract from Vale's plan of the City and Suburbs of Hereford 1854 showing the suburb centred on Catherine Street

¹ Section inset in Timothy Curley's Map and Geological Sections of the City of Hereford

In the mid 19th century the area was populated by craftsmen and labourers with their families¹. The census returns for 1841 record 53 occupied houses in Catherine Street (then *Catherine Lane*) containing a total of 212 inhabitants while Coningsby Street (then *Friar's Lane*) contained 25 occupied houses with 73 inhabitants. Monkmoor Street (then *Chapel Street*) contained 16 houses with 69 inhabitants. In addition, Catherine Lane and Friar's Lane each contained 5 uninhabited houses. The 1851 census figures are broadly similar with a slight decrease in the Catherine Street figures and a slight increase in the Coningsby Street (at this time *Albert Street*) and Monkmoor Street figures.²

These figures indicate that, north of the river, this was by far the most densely populated area outside the city ditch at the time. Only on the western side of the city, where Quakers' Lane ran parallel to Town Ditch Lane³, was there a similar concentration of houses in the 1840s. On all other sides of the city very little development had taken place. The present Newmarket Street was a footpath running beside the outside of the city ditch with the open Port Fields on its north side. Similarly the present Bath Street was a footpath between Bye Street Gate and St Owen's Gate with the Priory Port Fields to the east. The orchards and meadows of the Bartonsham extended to the south-east of the Castle Green beyond the present Mill Street.

The contrast between the Blackfriars/Blueschool Street extra-mural segment, with four inhabited streets⁴ and the others is striking, and is clearly seen on W. H. Vale's 1854 map (Figure 2). Taken together, the evidence suggests that, apart from the linear developments on each side of the main roads, this area formed the earliest sizeable suburb of Hereford.



Figure 3: extract from John Speede's inset plan of Hereford 1610. The red X marks the approximate position of the site.

- ¹ Mrs Jane Marstone in Albert Street, listed in the Clergy, Gentry etc section of the 1851 Lascelles' directory, is an exception within this otherwise proletarian community.
- ² Among the trades the census records are those of nailers, joiners, carpenters, sawyers, plasterers, bricklayers, skimmers, and cabinet makers. Other occupations recorded in mid-century directories include castrator and town crier.
- ³ Now Friar Street and Victoria Street respectively.
- ⁴ Blue School Lane, Chapel Street, Friars Lane and Catherine Lane.

The circumstances that led to this anomaly are obscure but some evidence exists which may suggest some of the reasons why the area developed its slightly unusual characteristics.

The eastern end of Catherine Street appears to have originated as a back lane behind the 11th century burgage plots which originally extended along the north-west side of what are now High Town, Commercial Street and Commercial Road (Hillaby, 1983). The areas to the north of this lane, comprising all the area under discussion, would probably then have been open fields. Sometime in the early 12th century the city acquired a new defensive bank and ditch¹ which cut through this lane, leaving Catherine Street isolated from the western end of the lane, which is represented by Maylord Street.

The Dominican Order of Friars was founded by the Spaniard Dominic de Guzman to counter the heretics of southern France from which they derived the name Friars Preachers. Although their habit was actually white, they wore a black cloak and hood when outside their monasteries, which gave them the name Black Friars (Medmer, 1979, p12). The Black Friars, who at the time of the dissolution occupied the area to the north of Coningsby Street, are first recorded in Hereford in the mid 13th century.

A 1250 bull of Innocent IV actually prohibited the settlement of the friars in Hereford (Capes, 1908, p85). Heated disputes followed and in 1253 Innocent ordered the Bishop of Worcester to excommunicate everyone who had taken part in the outrage on the new building of the friars in Hereford (*ibid.* p104). The position of the friars was not secure, for in 1255 they were warned by Pope Alexander IV not to insist on settling in Hereford, when the prohibition of Innocent IV was confirmed. In 1260 a bull of Alexander IV finally reversed the Hereford prohibition and the Dean and Chapter were warned not to interfere with the friars (*ibid.* p112). Some citizens appear to have made their own arrangements with the friars. The late 13th century 'Red Book' of the bishop of Hereford records that Margeria Kayes who rented a house and garden of the bishop's in Bye Street (Commercial Road) was sub-letting to the friars (Bannister, 1929, p4). The local clergy's dispute with the Dominicans was a symptom of a relationship that was very different from that they enjoyed with the Franciscans (the Grey Friars or Friars Minors) in Hereford. Bishop Swinfield seems to have preferred the hospitality of the Greyfriars in Hereford to his own palace.²

In 1319 the Dominicans relocated to a site outside Widemarsh Gate where the ruins of the monastery still stand (Marshall, 1920). In 1322 they entered into an agreement with the Dean and Chapter of Hereford to rent '*terris et tenementis*' which had formerly been held by Reginald Faber in the Widemarsh suburb. This is described as extending from Frog Lane '*Froggelone*' to the Smallpurse brook.³

If the local clergy were less than warm towards the Dominicans, the friars were not lacking in powerful allies. The dedication was in the presence of Edward III, his son the Black Prince, and three archbishops. Over 30 friars were living there at its peak (Midmer, 1979).

Immediately to the north of the Blackfriars was a small building and chapel of the Knights Hospitallers of St John of Jerusalem. According to Leland "*In Wydemere-*

¹ The precise date of the construction of this defensive ditch is not known. There is no mention of it during the Anarchy. It was certainly in place or being constructed by 1155 at the latest: Earl Roger of Hereford granted land outside St Owen's Gate – *extra portam apud sanctum Audoenum* - to St Guthlac's Priory on 5th September sometime between 1148 and 1155 (Walker, 1964, p21).

² Swinfield dined with the Hereford Greyfriars on Palm Sunday 1289. As the friars were mendicants he paid for the food himself. The meal did not include meat as it was Lent: the wine, however, does not seem to have been stinted. *Roll of the Household expenses of Richard de Swinfield*, edited by Rev John Webb.

³ '*terris et tenementis que Reginaldus Faber quondam tenuit de eisdem in capite in suburbio Herefordie, et extendunt se a vico qui vocatur Froggelone usque Smalpors*' (Capes, 1908, p199).

street, or the suburb without the North-Gate, there was a hospital of St John, sometime an house of the Templars.” Duncumb (1804, p404) suggested that its endowment appeared to have included all the land in this suburb between the city walls and the Eign Brook (here called the Smallpurse). There must have been other holders of land in the area such as the Dean and Chapter - see above. However, this was presumably the core of the medieval Hospitallers' fee, which, like the other fees in the city - the bishop's, the Dean and Chapter's etc - possessed a discrete legal identity for centuries. In 1659, Walter Road, gent, of Burcott Row, Hereford, was 'bailiff of the liberty of St John of Jerusalem'.¹ It was presumably the presence of the hospitallers which led to the earliest name for what became Coningsby Street – *Hospetalestrete* – in the 13th century (Tonkin, 1966, p 243).

Once established, the friars set about expanding their property. In both 1331² and 1342³ more land is recorded as being added to their holding. A major cause of disagreement between the friars and other parties was to arise when they attempted to close 'Frog Lane'. They appear to have first tried to do this in 1325⁴ with more actions appearing in 1334⁵ and 1351.⁶ The result appears to have been local outrage and a commission of oyer and terminer was issued “on complaint of the Prior of the Friars Preachers of Hereford whereas the king lately granted to him and the friars of that place a lane called Froggelone in the suburb of the city, 31 perches long and 28 feet broad, to enclose it for the enlargement of their manse, and they had accordingly enclosed the same and held it for some time, John, bishop of Hereford, and ...[several others]...broke the close aforesaid, to the damage of the prior and friars of 200 marks and against the king's peace”.⁷

After this the enclosure appears to have become permanent and in 1359 the friars were released from their rent to the king (Edward III) of 20 shillings *per annum* for the lease of the lane for 200 years in exchange for celebrating his father's anniversary.⁸ The Blackfriars site remained a dominant topographical feature for many years and features prominently on both John Speede's 1610 map of Hereford (figure 3) and on a slightly later map drawn by an unknown Frenchman (*Blackfriars, Les Moines Noir*) sometime before 1645.⁹

In the 14th century therefore, the area now centred on Catherine Street had characteristics unlike those of the other lands outside the city walls. It lay immediately outside the city ditch, between Widemarsh Gate and Bye Gate with the land of the Black Friars cutting it off from the open fields to the north. This may have encouraged an early creation of the permanent garden plots, sometimes with houses and sometimes not, which occasionally appear in the records.

In 1429 the mayor, John Mey, granted to two chaplains a tenement “*in Seynt Thomas strete between the way leading to Smalpors* (the Tan Brook) *extending from the highway to the lane called Catteslone*”¹⁰ (the name Cats Lane was used for Catherine Street into the mid 19th century¹¹).

1 Transcript of Hereford Law Days in Herefordshire Record Office
2 Patent Rolls 7th February 1331
3 Patent Rolls 20th August 1342
4 Inquisitions Ad Quod Damnum of the reign of Edward II CLXXXI, 3 , 19
5 Inquisitions Ad Quod Damnum of the reign of Edward III CCXXX, 14 , 8
6 Patent Rolls 29th February 1351
7 Patent Rolls 24th May 1351
8 Patent Rolls 4th March 1359
9 Plan published in Nield's *Hereford City* (1903)
10 Ancient deeds relating to Herefordshire Vol I Deeds in the Public Record Office VI, C.4890. 1st August 1429.
11 Although St Peter's tithe map of 1843 (figure 8) shows the eastern end of Catherine Street as *Catherine Lane*, All Saint's tithe map of 1841 shows the western end as *Cats Lane*.



Figure 4: extract from Isaac Taylor's 1757 plan of Hereford

The will of a local hosier, Thomas Andrews, dated 1436, left a “*curtilage or parcel of garden*” outside “*the Byestrete gate between the highway and le Tonnedyche* (town ditch) *and Catteslane*” to his son William. An adjoining parcel of garden was left to another son, John.¹ This seems to imply that this area, approximately that presently occupied by Franklin Barnes House on the Blueschool Street Commercial Road Corner and the former Blueschool did not contain buildings at this time.

A lease of 1503² refers to a messuage and house with a garden lying without Widemarsh Gate in Hereford, between “*Froglone*” and “*Katlone*.”

The use of this area as gardens may, in turn, have encouraged gradual housing development and, as D. Lewis indicated in 1998, John Speede’s map (figure 3) seems to show development running east from Widemarsh Street at a point between the gate and the Blackfriars precinct. Apart from a street south of the river, running east from St Martin’s Church, this is the only location where Speede shows extra-mural housing other than ribbon development along the roads approaching the city gates.



Figure 5: extract from Brayley's 1806 plan of Hereford

¹ Herefordshire County Records AE25/1
² Herefordshire County Records AD2/11/74

Buck's engraving, "North East Prospect of the City of Hereford" (1732) shows buildings along Coningsby Street; and John Taylor's 1757 map of Hereford (figure 4) also shows buildings in Coningsby Street with somewhat fewer in Catherine Street. Both Catherine Street and Coningsby Street are marked as *Cats Lane* on Taylor's map, although this may have been an error.¹

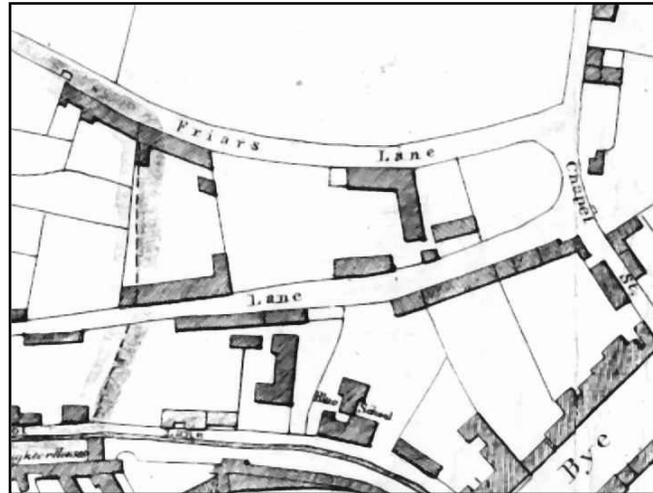


Figure 6: extract from Wood's 1836 plan of Hereford

After the Dissolution the land immediately north of Coningsby Street, which had formed part of the Blackfriars' property, seems to have reverted to agricultural use.² A drawing of the late 18th century³ shows hay-ricks on the site later occupied by the Hereford Girl's High School.⁴ In 1804 a public house, the Cock at Tupsley, was advertised for sale "with or without a large Barn, in a lane called *Cat's lane, in Hereford*".⁵

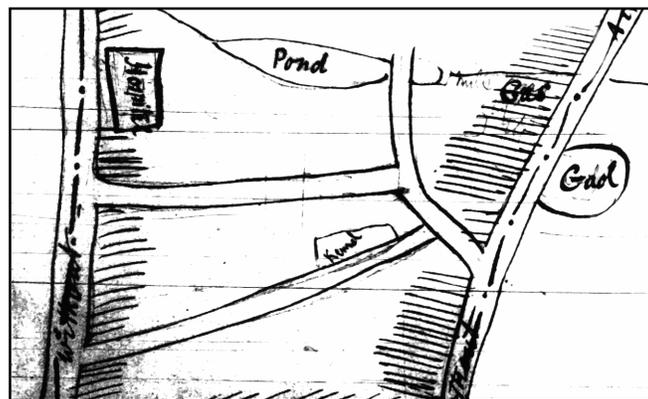


Figure 7: extract from a plan showing Hereford district number 3 for the 1841 census. The Catherine Street frontage of the site is marked 'Kennel'

The area to the east of the school, marked as '*Friars Meadow*' on John Wood's 1836 map (figure 6) and *Blackfriars Garden* on a map by Jones and Sons' in 1866, was open land until 1913 when it was sold off at auction in several lots.⁶

¹ Taylor has mistakenly named the Blackfriars Priory precinct and buildings as "White Fryers" (see Figure 4 above).
² The Hereford Blackfriars were dissolved on August 25th, 1538 (Shoemith and Morris 1988), and by the early 17th century the site had passed into the hands of Sir Thomas Coningsby.
³ Drawings by S Fisher published in Nield's *Hereford City* (1903)
⁴ Now a primary school
⁵ Hereford Journal, Wednesday, 30th May 1804
⁶ Sales details preserved in Hereford City Library – Pilley Collection

Although the bids were disappointing, several of the lots were sold to a local builder¹ and much of the area was in use as a building supplies yard until the recent past.

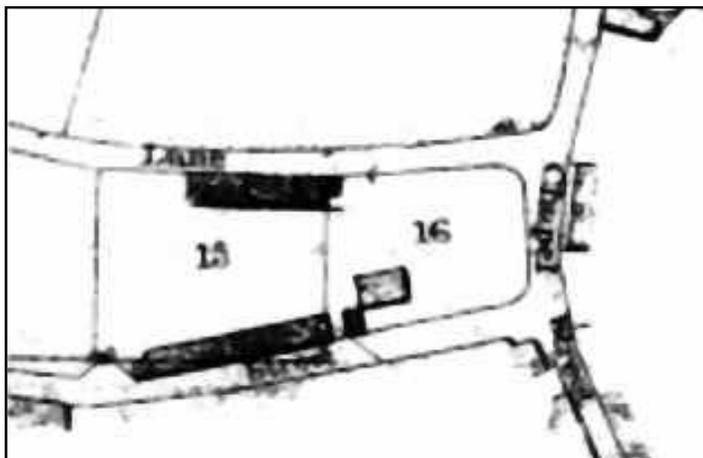


Figure 8: extract from the tithe map of St Peter's Parish, 1843

The precise use of the property is obscure until the later 19th century, although a rough plan accompanying the 1841 census for this part of Hereford shows the Catherine Street frontage marked as 'Kennel' (see figure 7).² Kelly's 1885 Directory has the entry – '*Davies & Co, lemonade, soda water & aërated & tonic beverages manufacturers, Coningsby St & Catherine St*'. The first edition OS 1/500 map, dated 1886 (figure 10), marks the site as '*Aerated Water Works*'. The company had at this time, recently moved from a site in Eign Street.

Mass production of soda water was made possible in the mid 19th century by the Tyler, Haywood & Co's soda machine which could fill 300 dozen bottles a day (pers. comm. Dr John van Laun).

The 1901 census recorded the inhabitants of number 26 Coningsby Street (Coningsby House) as George Davies, a 64-year-old *Ariated Water Manufacturer*, his wife Mary and their 32-year-old daughter.

¹ Hereford Times, June 14th, 1913

² This was Hereford district number 3. Plans to show the enumerators the various districts form part of the microfilm copies of the census issued by the Public Record Office.

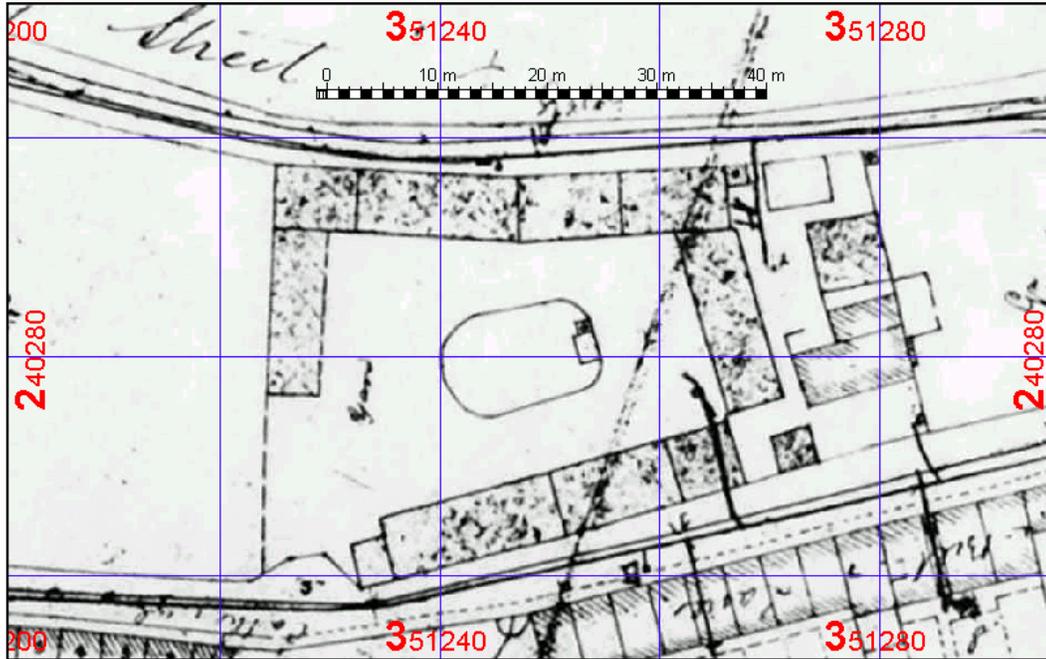


Figure 9: extract from Timothy Curley's 1850s plan

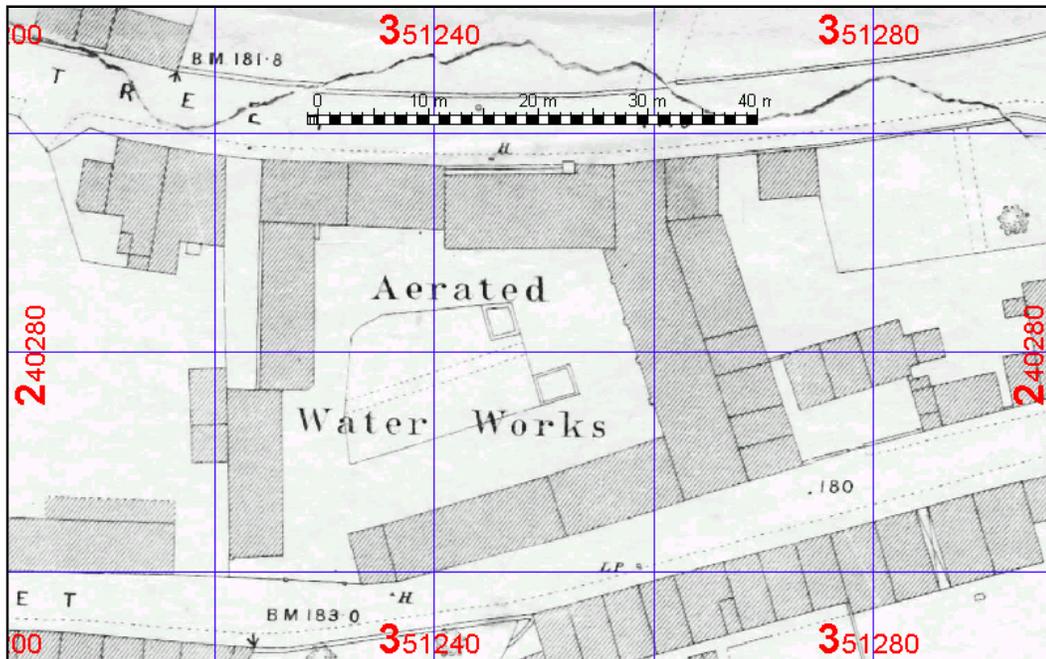


Figure 10: extract from the 1886 OS 1st edition plan



Figure 11: extract from 1929, OS 1:2500 Herefordshire Sheet XXXIII



Figure 12: the preaching cross of Blackfriars in the 1790s. On the right are hay-ricks in the field on the north side of Coningsby Street.



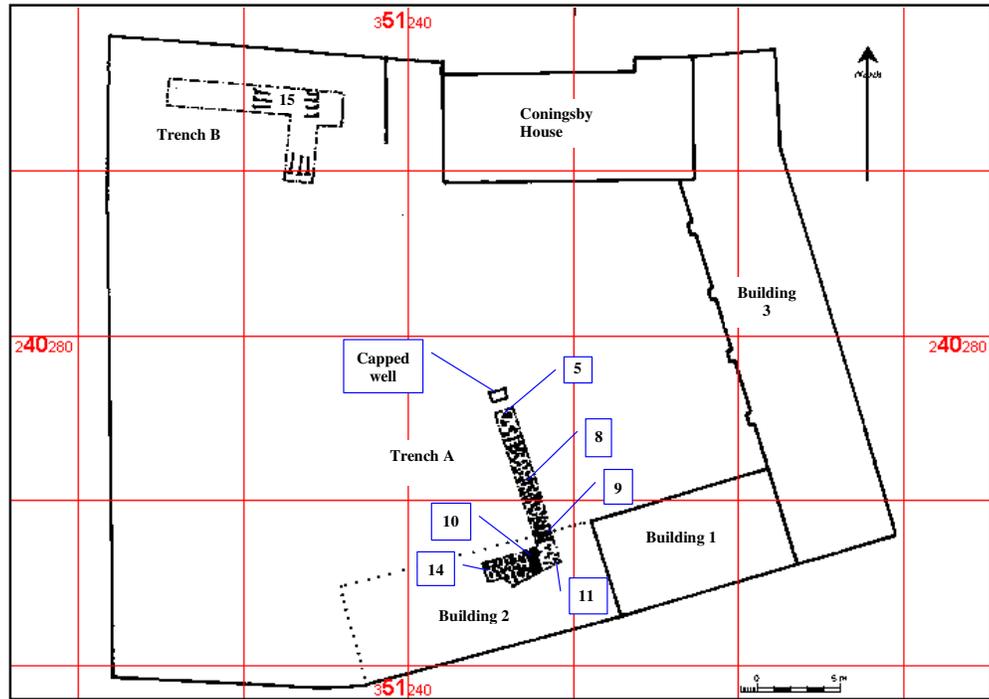
Figure 13: the ruins of the Blackfriars from the east in the 1790s. Again the setting is basically rural.

These are copies of two of a series of drawings by S Fisher in the 1790s. Jonathan Nield of Great Russell Street, London, published them in 1903. They are taken from a copy of the volume – 'HEREFORD CITY, after a collection of old drawings by S Fisher in the British Museum' - in the Walter Pilley Collection in Hereford City Library. We are grateful for the library's permission to use them.

2.3 Archaeological background

The site was the subject of a desk-based assessment and an evaluation excavation in December 1999 (Sherlock and Pikes, 2000a).

The fieldwork element of this project entailed the excavation of two trenches. One of these, Trench A, was on the Catherine Street side of the site at right angles to the street; the other, Trench B, was on the Coningsby Street side, and ran parallel



to the street.

Figure 14: the 1999 excavation

Otherwise, little archaeological work has been undertaken in this part of Hereford. The only archaeological project to have taken place in the core of the area was the monitoring of the excavation of foundation trenches on the present Kwik-Fit Services premises to the south-west of the present site (Lewis, 1998). Here observation revealed a cobbled surface, a brick archway and other features, underlying 0.5 metres of tarmac and modern overburden. Natural gravels were encountered at approximately 1.7 metres below ground surface. This site lay across the position of several cottages which formed part of a terrace which was standing in 1836 when it is shown on a map of Hereford by John Wood (see figure 6). Some of the evidence presumably derived from this terrace. Apart from two small fragments of medieval pottery no archaeological remains dating from earlier than the 18th century were found.

While no medieval remains have been observed within the Catherine Street/Coningsby Street block itself, the areas surrounding have produced considerable evidence of medieval activity.

To the north, several excavations have taken place in the precinct of the former Blackfriars Priory. Much of the evidence from these projects, undertaken between

1958¹ and 1991, is summarised in a report - “*Blackfriars Precinct Desk-Top Evaluation*” (Shoemith, 1994).

Canal Road, which is an extension of Monkmoor Street to the north, takes its name from the 19th century canal, the basin of which stood at its northern end. Two excavations in the 1990s were carried out within properties on the western side of this street. An excavation of 1991² found evidence to suggest that Canal Road dates from the medieval period when an original metalled surface was re-laid at least twice (Taylor, 1991). A ditch at the western end of the site may represent an earlier eastern boundary of the precinct. This was later back-filled and masonry structures here may represent buildings belonging to the friary. At the eastern end of the site, a metalled surface was interpreted as an earlier alignment of Canal Road. If this is the case, it may be physical evidence of the enclosure of a street here in the same way as *Froggelone* was in the 14th century. (Frog Lane itself seems to have run eastwards from Widemarsh Street.)

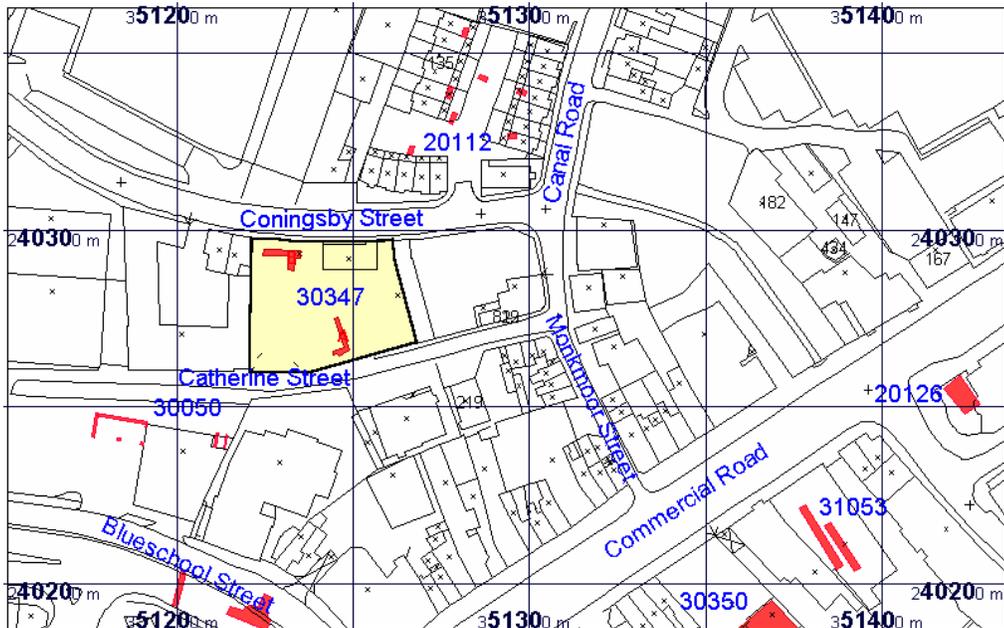


Figure 15: archaeological projects in the immediate area

SMR No	Site	Report
406	Bastion 10a	Shoemith, 1982
20112	Blackfriars Evaluation	Thomas, 1990
20126	The Cinema Site	Thomas, 2002
30050	Kwik-Fit Services	Lewis, 1998
31053	Wetherspoons	Sherlock and Pikes, forthcoming
30350	The Litten Tree	Sherlock and Pikes, 2000c

Considering the wealth of medieval evidence from the above site, it might have been expected that the adjacent property, on the corner of Coningsby Street and Canal Road, would have been equally interesting. However, excavations here were disappointing.³ Only two features on this site were interpreted as possibly being medieval (Thomas, 1990). Of these, a deep feature towards the south-east corner of the site, which was not fully excavated, may have represented the boundary ditch of the expanded friary precinct.

¹ Butler, L A S, 1960 - Excavations at the Black Friars, Hereford, 1958. *Trans. Woolhope Nat. Field Club*, XXXVI, part III. Other individual reports are listed in the bibliography
² Herefordshire Sites and Monuments Record Number 20073
³ Herefordshire Sites and Monuments Record Number 20112

One of the reasons for the lack of medieval evidence may have been due to the use of the property as a bottle dump by Davies Brook in the early 20th century. Of the seven small trenches excavated, four were located over bottle pits.

To the west of Canal Road was Monkmoor Mill. Originally the property of the Bishop of Hereford, this had been granted to St Guthlac's Priory sometime between 1195 and 1198 (Barrow, 1992, p152). Excavations here in 1988, in advance of the construction of a Safeways supermarket, uncovered evidence of the mill and its dam¹ (Shoesmith and Morriss, 1988a). An exercise in preservation with further investigation followed this (Shoesmith, 1989). Here, what may have been a metalled surface lay directly on the natural gravels and immediately on the water-table (Thomas, 2002, p62). The relative level of the archaeology to the water-table demonstrates again that the valley of the Eign Brook to the north and east of Hereford was marshy and prone to flooding until recent times.

To the south-east of the mill, on the opposite side of Commercial Road, is the presumed site of St Guthlac's Priory itself. This area has been extensively investigated. The history of the priory is summarised in Ron Shoesmith's paper, *St Guthlac's Priory*, in the 1984 *Transactions of the Woolhope Naturalists' Field Club*, the best introduction to the subject, while additional information is to be found in his 1996 desk based survey of Hereford County Hospital.²

There has also been more recent archaeological work undertaken in the area of the priory. Boucher (1998a) reviewed the archaeological evidence to that date and discussed the deposits relating to the Eign Brook. This was followed by extensive trial trenching for the new Hereford Hospital in 1998 (Boucher 1998b).

Along the south-eastern frontage of Commercial Road there have been several recent excavations. The limit of medieval development here was dictated by the presence of marshy ground around the Eign Brook, which ran to the north-east of St Guthlac's Priory (Sherlock and Pikes, 2000b)³. Medieval occupation along this frontage has been found on several properties (Boucher, 2000; Sherlock and Pikes, forthcoming⁴ and 2000c⁵; Vyce 2001).

Moving west, the line of the old city wall along Blueschool Street has been the subject of excavations mainly associated with the construction of Hereford's Inner Relief Road in the 1960s (Shoesmith, 1982). A salvage excavation in 1986 took place on the site of the gravel rampart behind this length of wall (Shoesmith and Thomas, 1986) while a series of trenches in front of the wall failed to find evidence earlier than the 19th century and may well have been cut into the city ditch (Vyce, 1998). A large area just inside this length of the wall was investigated in 1984 before the Maylords Orchard Shopping precinct was built (Shoesmith, 1985).

To the west of the site, Widemarsh Street is medieval. The history and archaeology of this street was summarised by Richard Stone in the 1997 *Transactions of the Woolhope Naturalists' Field Club*.

The street was already known by its present name in the 13th century '*in vico de Widimarisco*' (Tonkin, 1966, p248). There remains a problem with its southern end, which does not align with the 11th century and earlier north gate of Hereford. Various solutions have been suggested one of which is that, before any defences were constructed, Widemarsh Street originally led directly to the Palace Ford (at Hereford) and for some reason the early medieval gate was built to the west of

¹ Herefordshire Sites and Monuments Record Number 8230
² '*County Hospital, Hereford - An archaeological desk based survey.*' Hereford Archaeological Series 293.
³ Herefordshire Sites and Monuments Record Number 30346
⁴ Herefordshire Sites and Monuments Record Number 30348
⁵ Herefordshire Sites and Monuments Record Number 30350

this alignment. This was originally mooted by Alfred Watkins in 1920 and this theory was briefly examined by Richard Stone in 1997 (p97).

The archaeological evidence for the date of Widemarsh Street is not clear. Few of the excavations on properties along the street have produced evidence to suggest an early post-Norman Conquest date (Stone, 1997, p97).

3.0 Project aims and objectives

The aims of the project were: -

- To monitor all groundwork undertaken by the contractor.
- To make a record of the extent and depth of all such groundwork.
- To make a record of any archaeological features or deposits exposed.
- To make a photographic record and drawn survey of significant items of standing fabric that had not already been recorded and would be destroyed or severely damaged by the development.
- To record the presence of archaeological material within the trenches and in the spoil removed during excavation, and to retrieve any potential dating evidence.
- To make a record of all finds and any environmental material recovered.
- To ensure that if any environmental evidence was preserved, that a sufficient sample be retained to allow for further analysis.
- To ensure that the location of the area excavated was accurately recorded on a suitably scaled plan.
- To record negative evidence and to consider its implications.

4.0 Methodology

4.1 Field methodology

The following methodology was employed: -

The buildings and their setting were assessed and analysed by suitably qualified employees of Archenfield Archaeology.

Suitably qualified archaeologists monitored all activity that involved disturbance of the ground surface.

An assessment of the archaeological significance of finds, structures and deposits was made and appropriate action taken.

Structures and stratigraphic sequences observed were recorded on scaled drawings and the position of all work disturbing the ground, and any archaeological features, was located on them.

The presence of artefacts was recorded with a description of their type, quantity and original location. The spoil was scanned for significant finds but none were observed.

All descriptions of structures and deposits, photographic records and drawing numbers were recorded on the relevant data capture documents in accordance with Archenfield Archaeology's standard site recording procedures.

Significant features were, where possible, photographed next to an appropriate scale rule, and a board displaying a unique context number. Each photographic exposure was recorded in the photographic log.

Staff carrying out the monitoring of the groundwork followed the guidelines laid down in the Archenfield Archaeology Health and Safety Policy.

Archenfield Archaeology conforms to the Institute of Field Archaeologists' Code of Conduct and code of Approved Practice for the Regulation of Contractual arrangements in Field Archaeology. All projects are, where applicable, carried out in accordance with IFA Standards and Guidance or Draft Standards and Guidance.

4.2 Processing methodology

As few stratified finds were recovered, and these were from relatively recent contexts, finds analysis was undertaken by Archenfield Archaeology personnel. Field drawings were reproduced in inked versions and scanned. All data were entered into a Microsoft ©Access relational database.

5.0 Results

5.1 Standing Structures

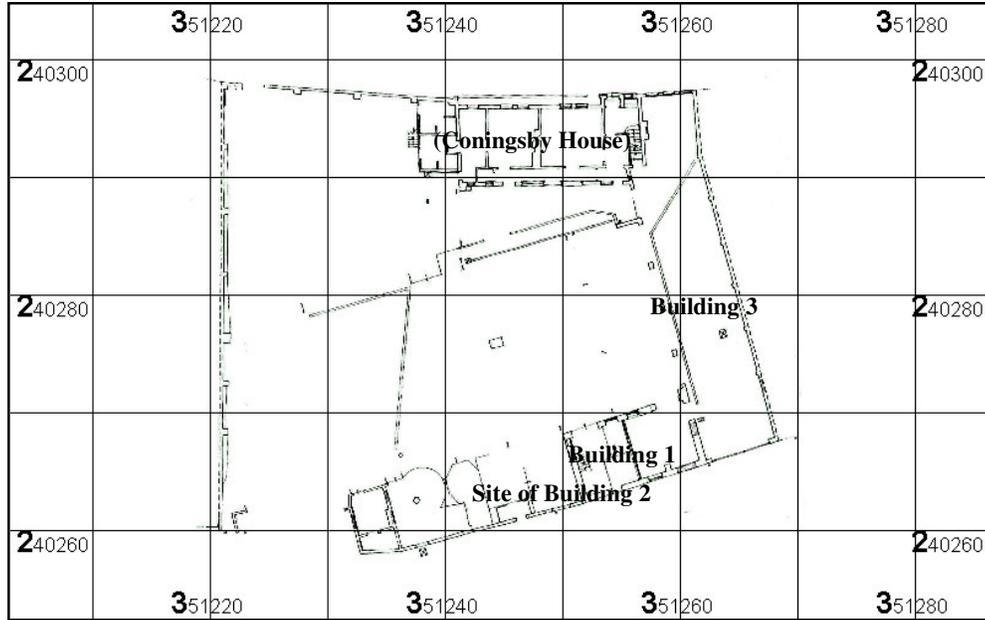


Figure 16: ground plan before start of project



Plate 1: buildings 1 and 2 from the south-west. The sole remaining wall of building 2 is to the left of the picture.

Four buildings on the site were examined and recorded. Building 1 a barn/stable and the oldest standing structure on site, the remains of building 2 (west of building 1), building 3 (The East Range that runs in a north-south direction and is situated on the east side of the complex), and Coningsby House. Each building is dealt with separately within this report. Coningsby house has only been briefly described as no structural alterations are to be made as part of this project.

Building 1 - the barn/stable

This two storey building fronts onto Catherine Street, and seems to be the oldest building on the site. It is rectangular in shape with its longer axis running east-west. A projecting brick string-course or storeyband on all the external faces indicates that the structures to the east and west are of a later date. The building is set on a projecting shallow stone plinth and above this, the external fabric is predominately red brick, irregularly bonded. On the internal elevations, rubble coursed stone walling rises up to the underside of the first floor beams, although due to major structural alterations within this building much of the stone walling has been replaced. Internally above the floor joists, the building is composed of brick.

The Roof

The roof is gabled and the southern half is covered with hand made ceramic roof tiles, while the north roof pitch is covered with corrugated asbestos sheeting. The roof contains two full tie-beam and collar trusses with struts and the building is divided into three bays. The double tier purlins are trenched into the principal rafters and there is an inserted third purlin on the central bay on the northern roof pitch. Both of these trusses were originally open and have carpenters marks, although they are different in design. The east truss has a half moon type and the west truss has a chiselled type. The east truss still has evidence of barge boarding above the collar.

The wall plates on both north and south elevations have centrally placed scarf joints of a face-halved type, which are double pegged.

The External Elevations

North Elevation (figures 22 and 23)

On the ground floor there are two large openings situated to the east and the west. The eastern opening has evidence that it was original, as the projecting string-course, seen also on the other external elevations, purposely steps up above the arch for the opening. A column of modern breezeblocks was added to help support a steel girder now acting as a lintel. The western opening, which is the same width as the eastern opening, has possibly lost the string-course and the arch over the entrance. There however, were no visible construction breaks within the brickwork surrounding this opening to prove that this was original. This entrance now has a concrete lintel. Between the two ground floor entrances is a surviving original segmental headed window which has now been blocked. To the west of this, where the brickwork has been replaced with modern-type bricks, a door has been inserted and this also has been blocked. At the eastern end of this elevation an external chimney stack has been added. The top of the stack has been chopped back within the roof of building 3 that runs off in a northern direction. There is no evidence for a fireplace for the stack within this building, although the remains of metal piping in the east face of the stack indicates that it was probably used for an external heater.

A patch of replaced brickwork on the upper face of the corner of the wall between the west elevation and this elevation indicates that a building with a gable roof once abutted this building and ran off in a westerly direction.

Within the upper storey are two small squared windows, one is situated toward the east and the other is approximately central. Both retain their wooden frames and have evidence of hooks on the external faces of the frame, indicating that they were once shuttered. As these two windows have flat heads, they are therefore different in design from the other complete original segmental headed doors and windows found in this building. A third window was looked for on the western section of wall but no evidence was found. The internal and external brickwork is heavily painted and therefore did not reveal any construction breaks, although the internal brickwork around the windows was crude and heavily chopped, indicating that these were probably inserted at some stage of the development of this building.

South Elevation (figures 24 and 25)

This elevation also shows signs of many structural alterations. At the bottom of the wall is a shallow stone plinth, which forms part of its foundations. The ground floor has two windows. The large eastern blocked window with a segmental head has been inserted, as it cuts through the string-course. The smaller centrally-positioned window has a flat head composed of cement and is now boarded up. A doorway to the west has also been inserted, as construction breaks of modern brick are seen either side of the doorway. Before the door was inserted this was a square shaped opening positioned directly on top of the stone plinth (plate 2). Repair work under the eaves to the west of this façade is indicative of a building (building 2) that ran off in a westerly direction.

There are two windows on the first floor, the larger central one, with its segmental head, is most likely original, although now the window has been partially blocked at the top and has been adapted from segmental to flat headed. The smaller, square window east of this has been inserted.



Plate 2: building 1 from the south

East Elevation (figures 20 and 21)

The shallow stone plinth can be seen running along the bottom of the wall, although a doorway interrupts it. This odd shaped opening provides ground floor access to the adjoining structure running east. A concrete lintel forms the head, and above this the brickwork has been replaced and the string-course is missing within this section of wall. Just south of this opening is a blocked segmental headed window. Just above the window head are the remains of the string-course. To the far north is an inserted external stack, and a construction break in the wall shows the original edge of building 1.

Abutting this elevation is building 3, a later phase two-storey building, which includes an upper level that housed the water supply for the factory. Steel girders on top of stone corbels support the first floor.

At the first floor level, on the east elevation, is a centrally placed segmental headed window with a wooden frame that appears to be original. This provides further evidence that this building was originally detached from the buildings that now surround it. Slightly north of the window, a doorway giving access to both buildings at first floor level has been inserted as it is surrounded by construction breaks. The top of this elevation is obscured by a plaster ceiling in building 3.

West Elevation (figures 18 and 19)

The shallow plinth can be seen running along the bottom of the wall. An inserted fireplace, now blocked, cuts this plinth but there is no evidence for a chimney stack. A construction break on the north-west corner shows repair work, although this only occurs from the top of the stone plinth to half way up the wall. The string-

course is visible on this elevation but this too has been cut by an inserted opening. Directly over this there is another blocked opening.

A lean-to type construction with a single pitch roof abuts this façade, and joists supporting the corrugated asbestos roof have been inserted perpendicularly to this wall.

Just above this roof is a centrally placed segmental-headed blocked window, which seems to fit in with the original design and mirrors the one on the east elevation.

Brickwork repairs around the gable area correspond to a ridge-board, purlins and wall plates, indicating that there was a pitched roof at some earlier phase of construction. However, the blocked first floor segmental window and the projecting string-course all point to the fact that building 1 was at one time free standing.

The Interior

The building has two storeys. The ground floor is divided into two halves by an inserted brick wall that runs north-south. The internal faces of the walls have at some stage been plastered and where this is evident it is in a very poor state of repair.

The ceilings in both rooms are un-plastered, and the first-storey floor joists and undersides of the floorboards are exposed. The main floor beams supporting the upstairs floor joists in the western room have chamfered edges with run-out stops and have mortises for an earlier floor that has now completely gone. Corresponding repair work on the internal east and west walls where the original floor joists were once recessed can be seen. The main floor beam in the eastern room has been replaced with two modern timbers.

The eastern ground floor room has two entrances. One is a wide opening in the north elevation that leads into the courtyard and the other an irregularly shaped opening in the east elevation leading to the ground floor of the adjoining two-storey building 3. The internal walls are a mixture of stone and brick. A pillar of modern breezeblock helps to support the lintel on the west side of the northern opening. Another similar pillar, against the south wall bears two modern parallel timbers that support the floor above. An inserted, centrally placed, window in the south wall has internal splayed edges, while to the east is a brick-blocked window.

Another window in the north wall of the western room has been blocked with a single skin of bricks to create an alcove. The south wall, up to ceiling height and parts of the southern section of the east wall are constructed of stone. The floor has been covered by concrete, although in the western half of the building two-panel blue-stable pavements are visible.

The western ground floor room is accessed via an opening at the westernmost end of the north wall, once much wider but now reduced by inserted brickwork. From this opening a step up leads to the courtyard. East of this opening is an inserted door that is now blocked. Another inserted door in the south wall leads directly onto Catherine Street. Stairs against the west wall gives access to the first floor. This west wall is composed of stone and brick with many construction breaks. A fireplace with a stone surround was uncovered beneath plaster that covered a large section of this wall. There were no chamfers on the stones to suggest a date. This fireplace is directly opposite to the fireplace on the external west elevation. Just north of this was a blocked cupboard with the remains of wooden shelving. The south and the west wall are of stone up to ceiling height, as in the eastern room.

Two entrances access the first floor room. The first is from an inserted stairway in the west end of the building and the second is from a doorway in the east wall on the first floor.

This upper floor has a total of six windows. Two small windows are in the north wall, one to the east and one approximately central. There are also two windows in the south wall. A smaller one to the east has been inserted and has a wooden frame with evidence of brick repair on its western side. The other is a centrally located window. This appears to have a construction break on its eastern side but this could not be seen on the external face. A fifth window, in the middle of the east wall and now boarded up, is almost certainly part of the original build. A similar blocked window in the west wall at the first floor level mirrors the east window.

There is extensive use of timbers in the east and west gable walls. Horizontal timbers have been used in place of bricks, possibly to reduce costs and to disperse stress on the bricks from the heavy weight of the trusses and purlins.

There are several patches of inserted brickwork within the east elevation that seem mainly to be related to inserted pipe-work. A U-shaped feature in the lower south corner seems to be part of the original build, but its use is uncertain.

The ceiling is open to the roof and the trusses and purlins are exposed, but modern plywood boarding obscures the common rafters. The floorboards are of tongue and groove and are nailed to the joists beneath.

Building 2.

This building extends west from building 1 and is of a lean-to type with a roof covering of corrugated asbestos. On Curley's 1850s plan (figure 9) it is shown as two buildings with another smaller and shorter building at the extreme west end and, less clearly, it also appears on the tithe map (figure 8). Building 2 is now represented by one surviving wall on Catherine Street and the mark of a roofline on the western gable of building 1. This surviving south wall is a mixture of old and new brickwork with inserted openings. The wall plates and timbers in the roof show signs that they have been re-used as they contain empty mortices and unused peg holes. During the evaluation excavations by Archenfield Archaeology (Sherlock and Pikes, 2000a) the footings of the north elevation were uncovered (context 9) that ran in an east west direction. The full length was not determined but it is assumed that this is the footing of the building seen on Curley's plan. The footing of a second wall (context 10) was also found within the trial trench. This ran in a north-south direction within building 2. Flooring uncovered during the excavation seemed to indicate that this wall was an internal wall.

The east wall of the small building at the western end of the complex shares its wall with what was once the west wall of building 2. The elevation contains a fireplace at the ground floor level and a blocked window to the north. On the upper level is a smaller fireplace that is positioned directly over the lower one. A series of empty holes just below this fireplace indicates redundant joist holes for a first floor. An external chimney-stack survives, but has been chopped back within the roof space of the small end building.

Much of this end building has been replaced with modern brickwork.

Building 3 - the eastern range

At the northern end of this eastern range the building seen on Curley's plan was chopped back in 1888 to accommodate Coningsby House. The north elevation could possibly be the original front of the building while the south wall was taken out in order to permit access into the factory from Coningsby House at both

ground and first floor level. The purlins in the roof did not seem to have reached the eastern wall of Coningsby House and overhang into the room from the east wall of building 3 by 1.3 metres at this point. Here a makeshift truss has been constructed to help support the purlins, but due to the missing south elevation extra weight has been put on the east wall and cracking is apparent.

The central section of this range is made up of a lean-to type construction, housing upper floor offices or works rooms with a run of windows in the west elevation looking directly on to the factory floor.

This upper floor is supported by brick pillars to the west and by stone corbels set into the east wall.

The southern end of this range, again as seen on Curley's plan, shows this as a single building east of building 1. The north wall has been lost with remodelling at some stage, presumably when Coningsby House was built in 1883, as the central section of the east range had been built by 1886 and is shown on the OS plan of that year (figure 10). A blocked doorway at the ground floor level was seen in the east wall. This wall has now become a party wall for the stables that belonging to the Nell Gwynne public house, to the east of the site. On the first floor level a central blocked window was also seen on the east elevation and, as Curley's plan shows, this was at one time an external wall.

The south elevation fronting Catherine Street of this range has been replaced with modern brickwork although there is still evidence of the original edges of earlier brickwork. An upper storey has been added to house the water supply to the factory. This southern end of the East Range was last used as the factory canteen.

Coningsby House

Coningsby House, designed in 1888¹, is situated at the north end of the complex, the north façade set back slightly from Coningsby Street. It is rectangular in shape with the longer axis being orientated east-west. It is of two storeys with attic and cellar and the fabric of the building is largely local red brick in Flemish bond.



Plate 3: Coningsby House from the north-west (1989)

The Roof

The gabled roof is covered in slate and is symmetrical about the ridge. Two dormer windows in the middle section of the northern roof pitch have finials and the frames are made of wood. The attic comprises four bays with a small window in each gable end. The trusses within the attic were covered by plaster boarding when the attic was used as offices and were therefore not looked at in great detail.

The Chimneys

There are three brick chimney-stacks. One is situated at the east external wall on the northern pitch of the roof and the largest slightly west of centre rises through the middle of the roof. A later inserted external stack is on the south-west corner of the building.

The External Elevations

(See also original architect's drawings of 1888 - Appendix, figures 32-35).

The North Elevation

This façade faces onto Coningsby Street and contains many interesting architectural details typical of this period of construction in Hereford.

The ground floor has a brick porch at the eastern end of this elevation and is built on a projecting brick plinth. It has a narrow window and a door both with flat sandstone heads that are chamfered. Beneath the window and cut into the brick plinth is a cellar light, also

¹

Architect's plan and elevation in Hereford Record Office – BO38/4/82a and b

with a flat stone head. To the west of the porch is a cellar flap with a metal covering still *in situ*.

To the west of this porch are five equally sized windows with brick segmental heads and projecting stone sills. The projecting keystones of these windows are also formed of brick.

There are also five equally sized sash windows irregularly spaced on the first floor each having flat, wedged heads with projecting brick keystones. Level with the tops of these windows is a string-course in white brick. There is also a white two-band string-course that cuts above and below the stone sills of the first floor windows.

Within the roof, set into the north pitch, are two small dormer windows constructed of timber with finials, both have slate roofs.

A foundation stone is also situated on this façade with an attached pediment over and inscribed with the words 'Coningsby House'.

The South Elevation

The south elevation is at the rear of the house. The ground floor has three large casement windows to the east and two small sash windows to the west. These windows all have segmental heads with a triple arch of bricks and they projecting stone sills. The eastern window has been modified to form half a window and a door. The rear door is positioned west of centre to this elevation and shows signs that it once had some form of porch.

There are four first floor sash windows, three are equal in size while the western one is somewhat smaller. This window and the similar sized ones directly beneath are positioned for the toilets in the house (and originally for the pantry area). A later phased chimney stack is situated on the south-west corner of the building and due to the extra weight the building had to hold, this corner has suffered structural damage, especially to the window heads where cracking is evident.

The East Elevation

Building 3 (the east range) abuts this elevation and runs off in an eastly direction. On the externally placed chimney-stack is a fireplace at ground floor level and a construction break at the first floor level is for an internal fireplace in the east bedroom. Also there is a recessed feature within the brickwork on the first floor south of the chimney-stack but its purpose is unknown. The east gable wall rises above the east range and an upper window that mirrors the west elevation helps light the attic space to Coningsby House.

The West Elevation

A modern ground floor toilet block with offices above was constructed of breezeblocks and abutted this elevation. During demolition work it was knocked down revealing an original window that had been turned into a door at the ground floor level. An inserted doorway at the first floor level and a centrally placed gable window were also revealed. Also seen was the scarring of a double-pitched roofline of a building that stood here before the toilet block was added.

The Interior

An internal building description of Coningsby House is not included in this report, as the building will not undergo any major structural alteration as part of the planned development. The original architect's drawings dated 1888¹ are kept at the Herefordshire Records Office, Harold Street Hereford and are included in this

¹ Hereford Record Office – BO38/4/82a and b

report (Appendix, figures 32-35). A new archaeological ground floor plan, with all the later alterations to date, was produced for comparison.

The buildings - Conclusions

The earliest structure still standing on the site is the two-storey building in the south-east quadrant lying east to west along Catherine Street (building 1).

All the elevations of this building have a projecting string-course which is a clear sign that they were not hidden by adjoining buildings. This interpretation is supported by the fact that the east and west gable walls have windows set in the upper floor. Any adjoining buildings would have made these windows useless.

The building as surviving in Summer 2001, has features which suggest that it was originally agricultural with a single upper floor window on the south wall and upper windows on the east and west gable ends. The two smaller squared windows on the first floor of the north elevation could possibly be inserted, as they are of a different type to the entire original segmental headed ones. The ground floor entrances are complicated due to all the insertions and re-buildings, but it seems that there was a wide opening on the north elevation towards the east end with possibly another at the west end. The only windows on the ground floor seem to be on the east and north elevations.

Both Taylor's map of 1757 (figure 4) and H. Price's Plan of the City of Hereford of 1802 show a building on the Catherine Street frontage with the rest of the site being occupied by gardens. In 1836 John Wood's (figure 6) map shows additional buildings occupying the north-east corner of the site, but this early structure is the only building on the Catherine Street frontage at that time.

This building therefore appears to date from the 18th century. A rough plan of 1841 (figure 7), showing the boundaries of the census district, marks the Catherine Street frontage of the site as 'kennels'. The detailed plan of this area drawn by Timothy Curley in the 1850s (figure 9) shows buildings on all four sides of an open courtyard but gives no indication of their use. The census returns of 1871 has the note for the north side of the east end of Catherine Street "*The space between 27 and 33 occupied by Coach Houses and Stabling*". The building was certainly in use as a stable in 1883 as it is marked as such on the block plan on the architect's drawings (figure 32). It was possibly built as an outbuilding of some sort. The later building extending west from this, as shown on the 1886 OS plan, Curley's plan and, less clearly, on the tithe map, is now represented by one surviving wall on Catherine Street and the mark of a roof line on the western gable of building 1. However during the excavations prior to and during demolition work, parts of the north wall and an internal wall were uncovered along with the stratigraphy of the flooring to the building.

The buildings described within this report apart from Coningsby House, together with others on the north and west of the site have now been demolished but formed part of the late 19th century soft drinks factory. Kelly's Directory 1885 has the entry – "*Davies & Co, lemonade, soda water & aërated & tonic beverages manufacturers, Coningsby St & Catherine St*". The first edition OS 1/500 map dated 1886 (figure 10) marks the site as "*Aerated Water Works*". The company had at this time, recently moved from a site in Eign Street.



Plate 4: Coningsby House from the south-west (December 2001)

Designed in 1888 in Hereford as a domicile for Messrs Davies & Co. Coningsby House first appears on the 1886 OS map (figure 10) on land used by the family soft drinks business. It appears to have been constructed between two previously existing factory buildings used by Messrs Davies & Co. but was integrated into the factory in a way that would seem strange to later industrialists. From the ground floor, direct access to the east range of the factory was gained by means of a doorway on the south-east corner of the house situated beneath the stairs. This doorway also served as access to the cellar. There are two doorways on the first floor leading into the factory. Both of these are situated at the eastern end of the corridor. One takes you into the factory in a southern direction and the other leads you in at an eastern direction. Latterly much of the building, including the attic rooms, (originally servants quarters) has been converted into office space, although structurally the building has altered little from the original architects plans (figures 32-35). The company relocated in the 1990s and the site and buildings were sold.

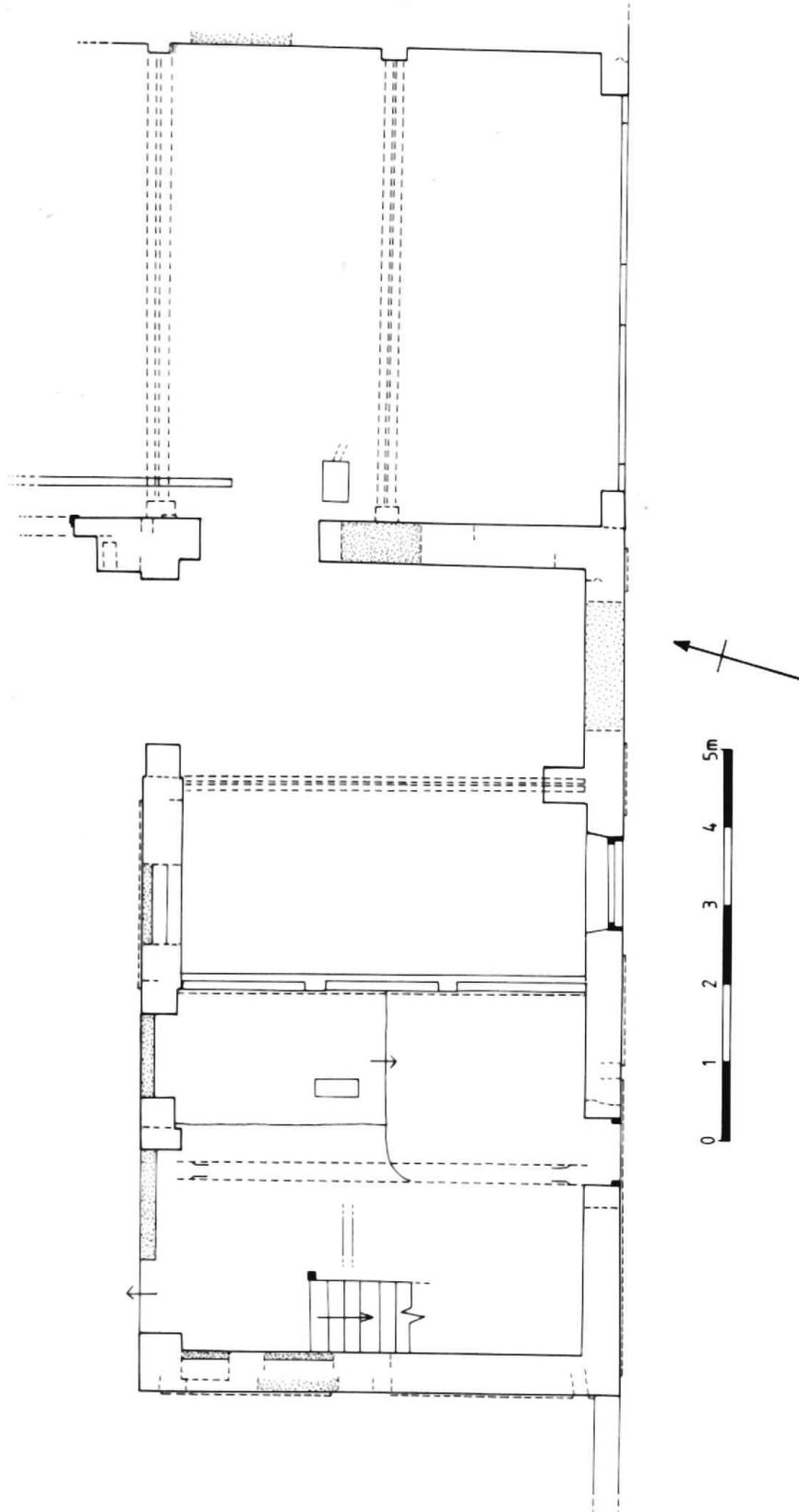


Figure 17: building 1 - ground plan

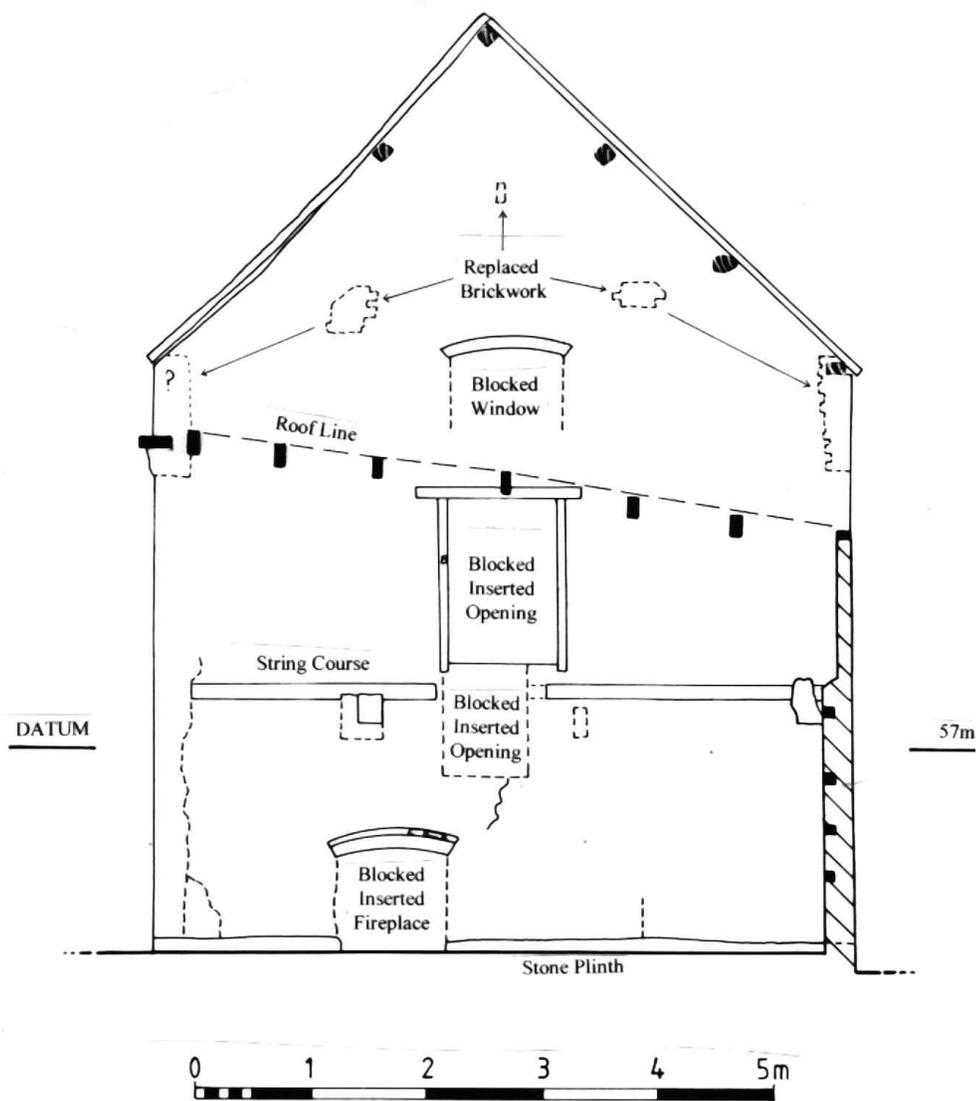


Figure 18: building 1 - west external elevation

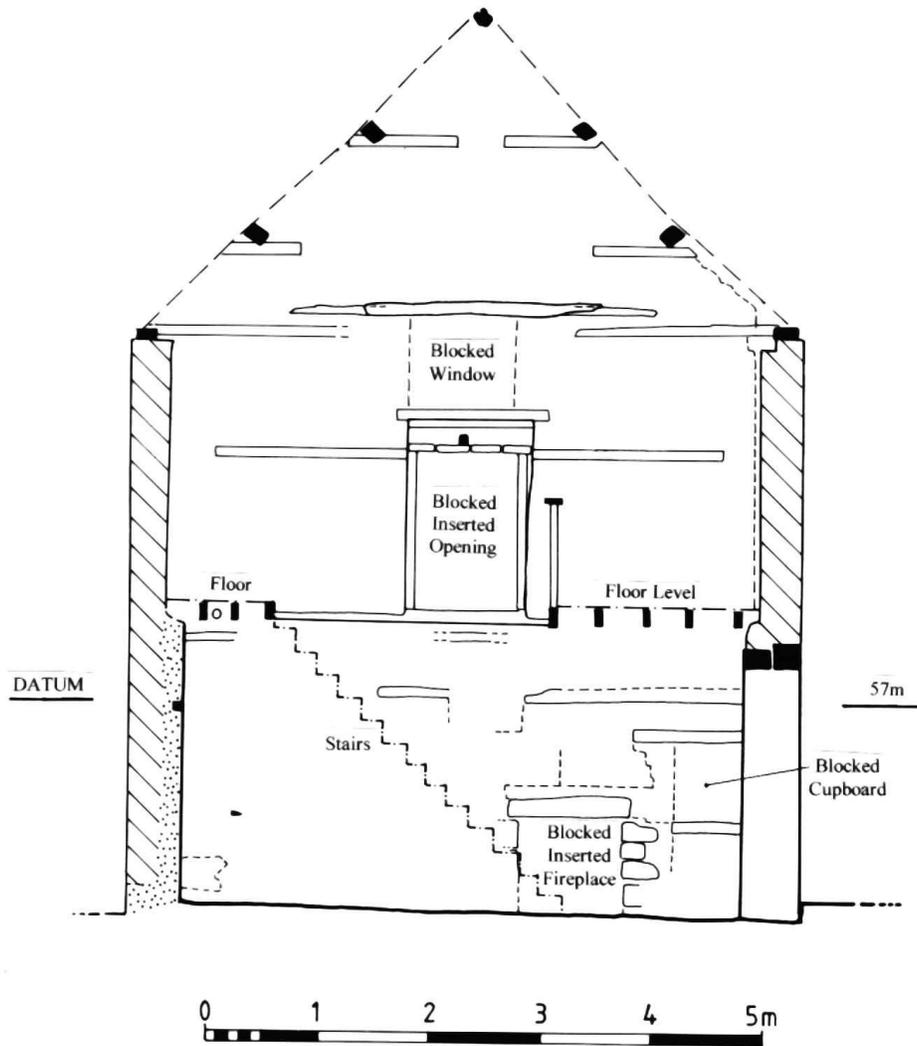


Figure 19: building 1 - west internal elevation

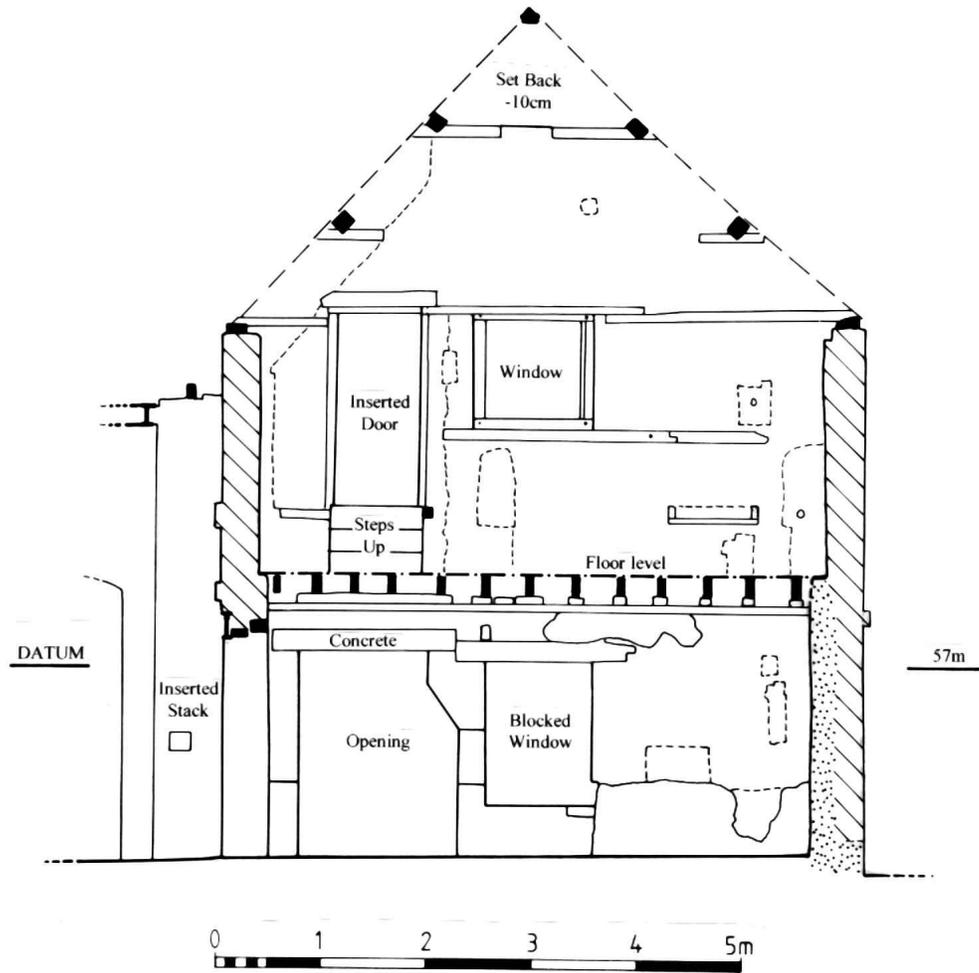


Figure 20: building 1 - east internal elevation

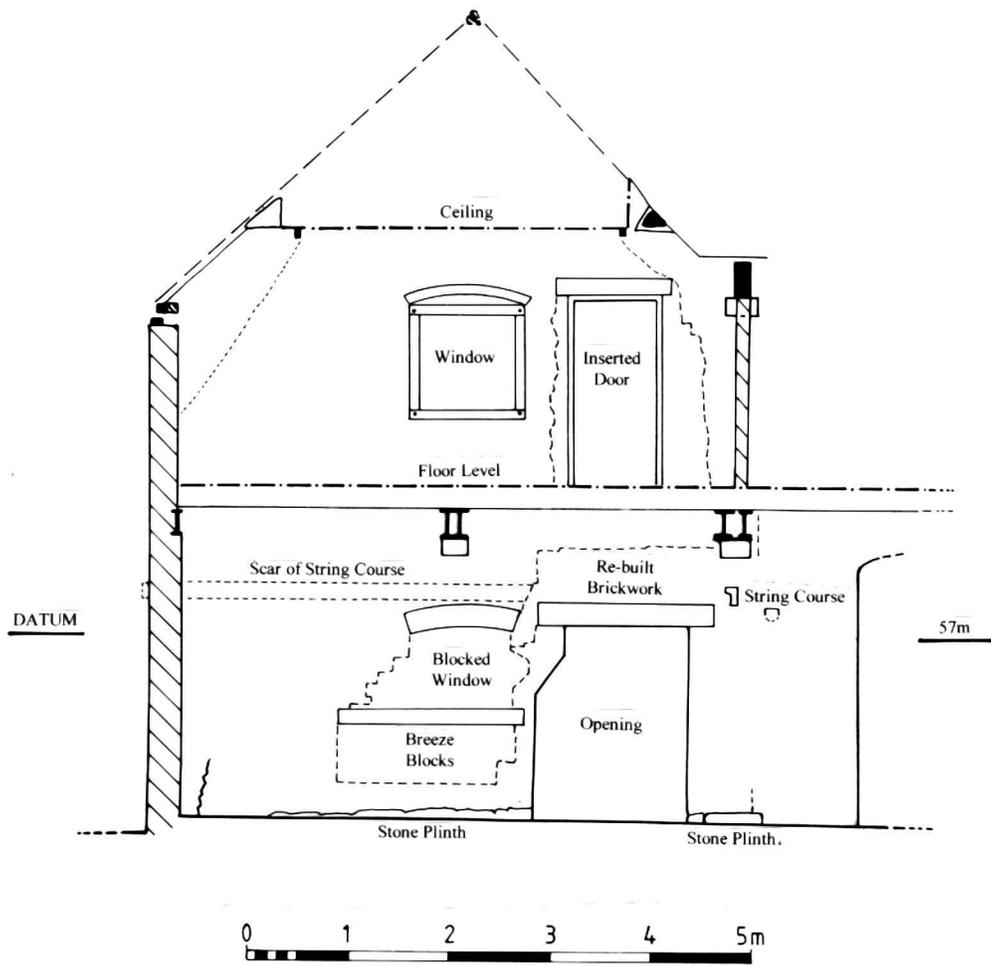


Figure 21: building 1 - east external elevation

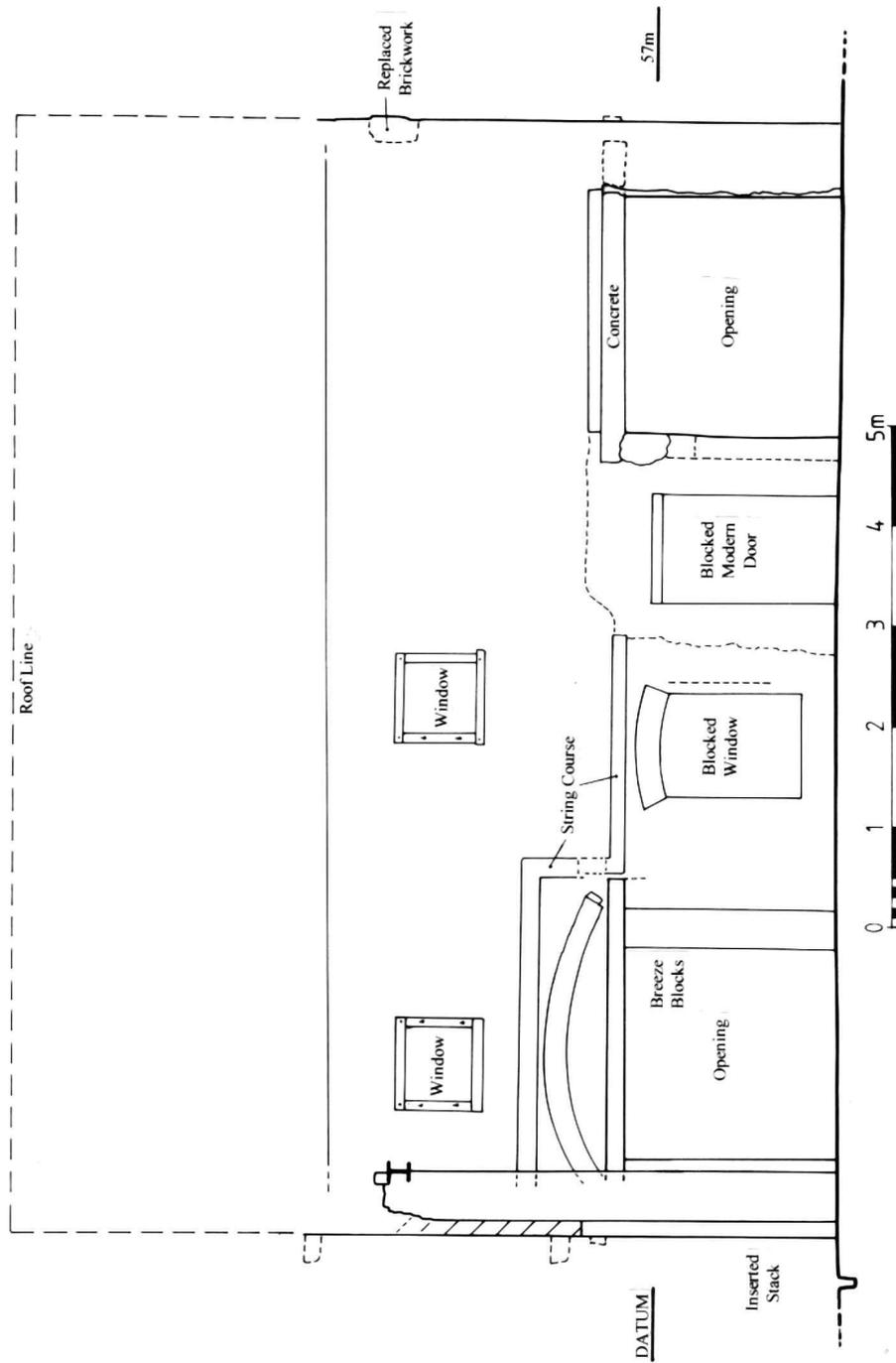


Figure 22: building 1 - north external elevation

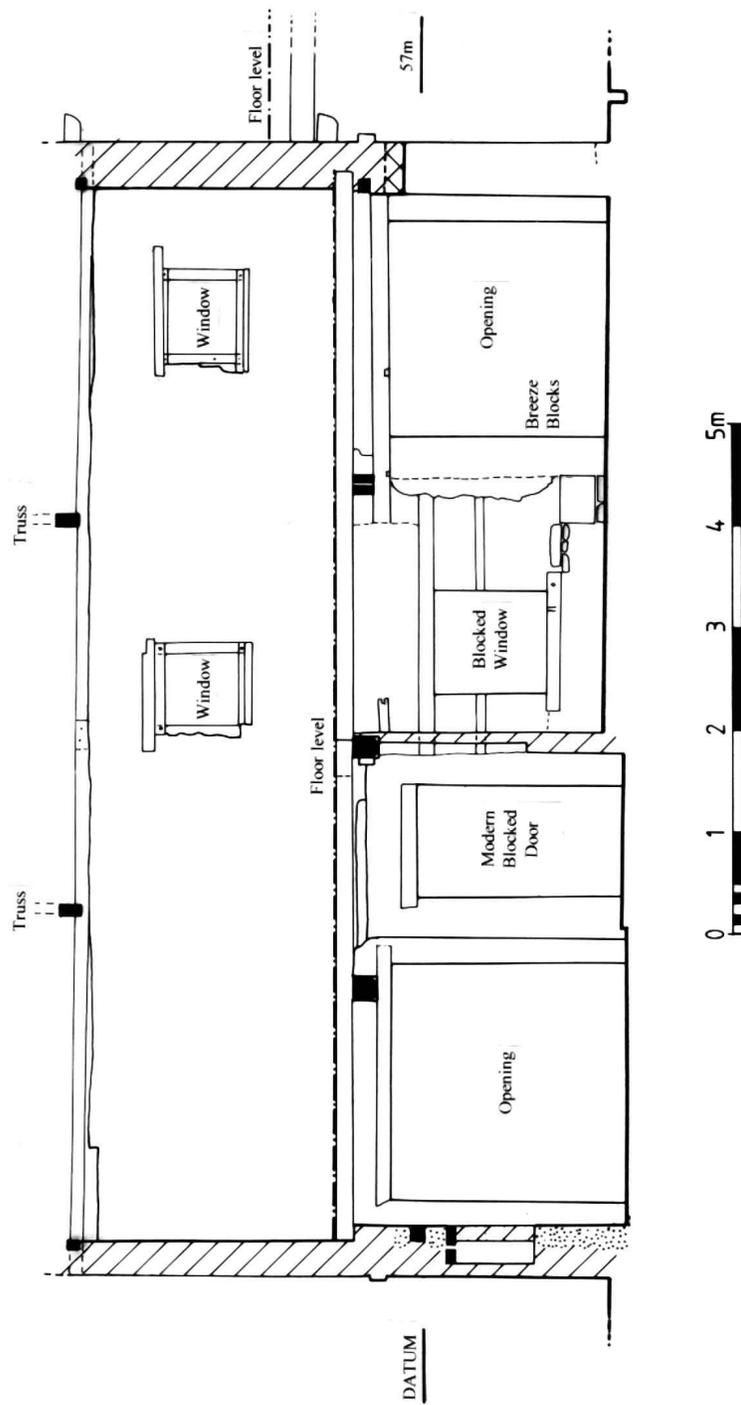


Figure 23: building 1 - north internal elevation

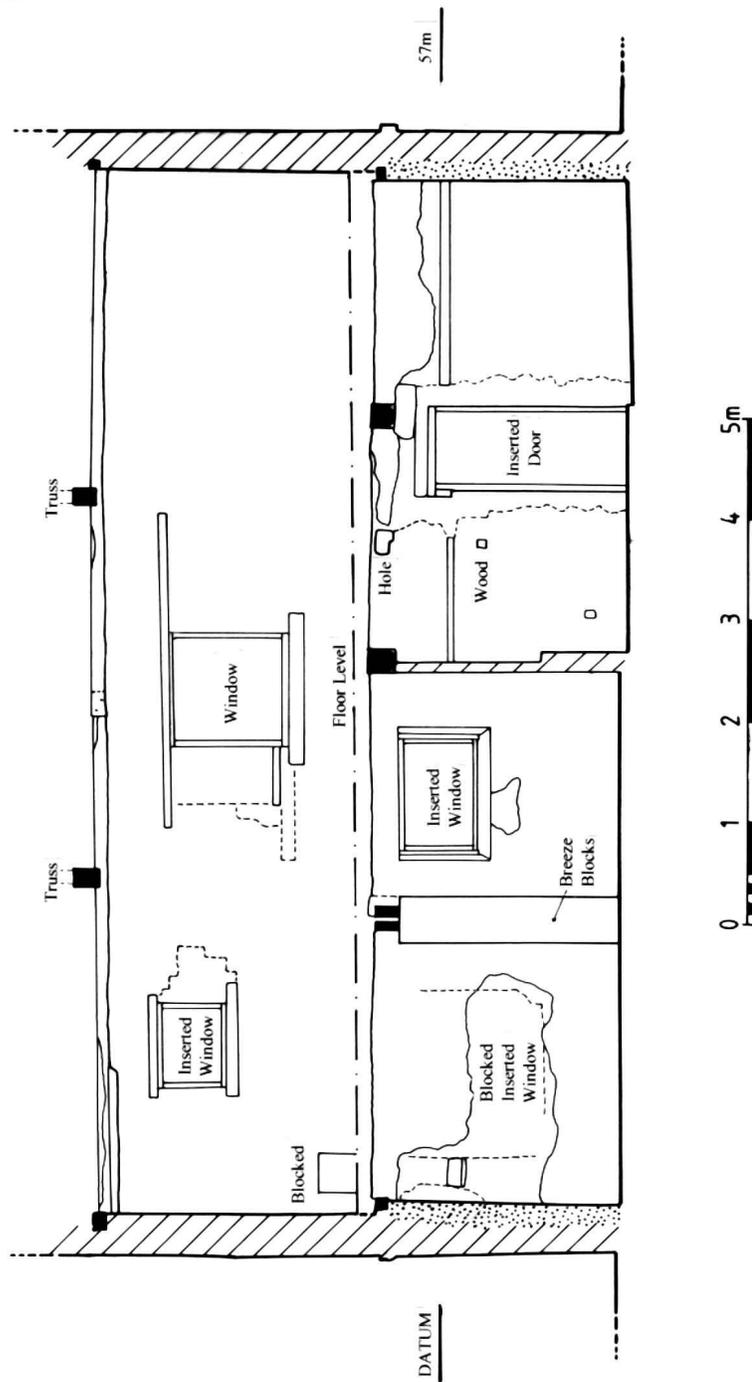


Figure 24: building 1 - south internal elevation

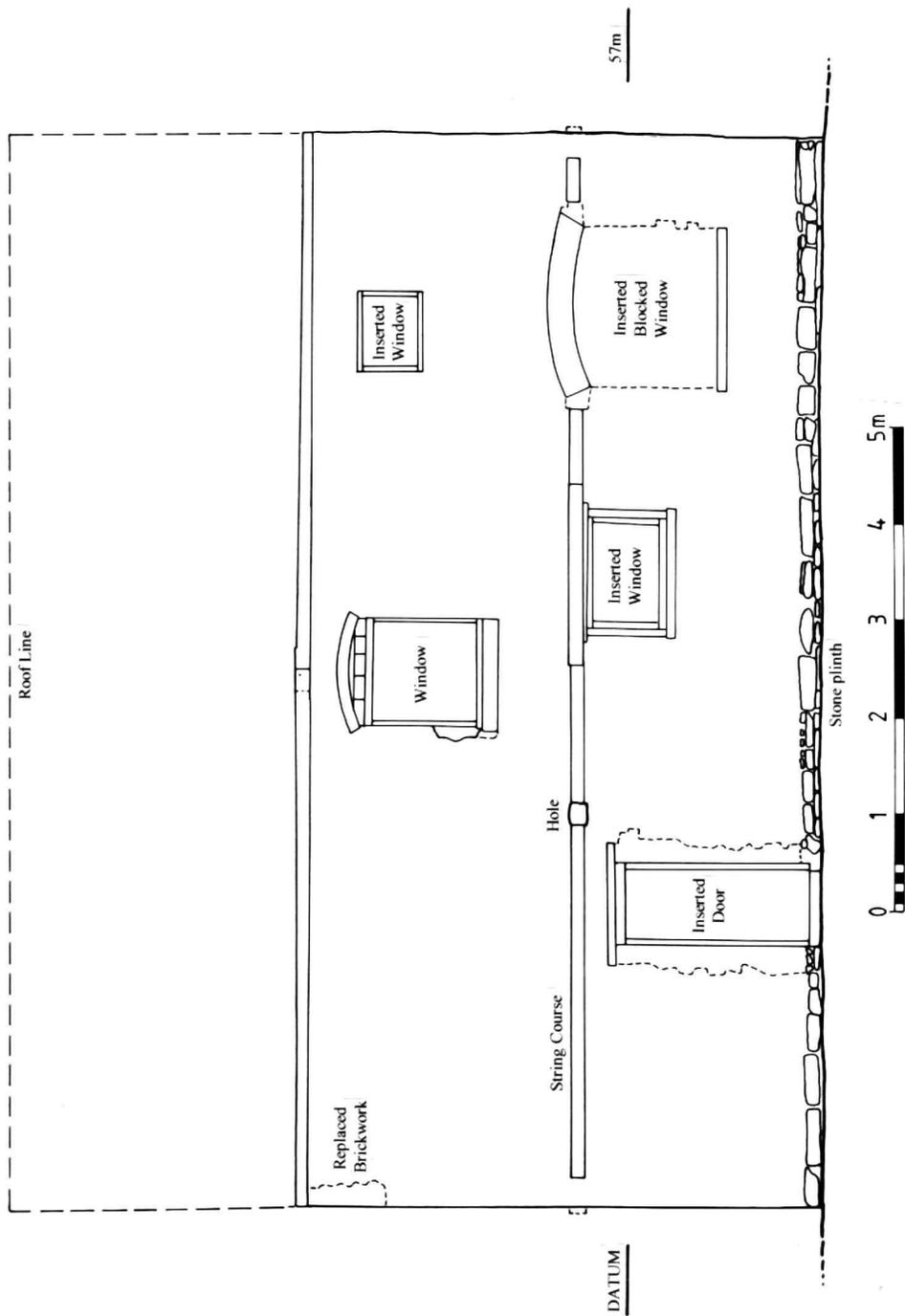


Figure 25: building 1 - south external elevation

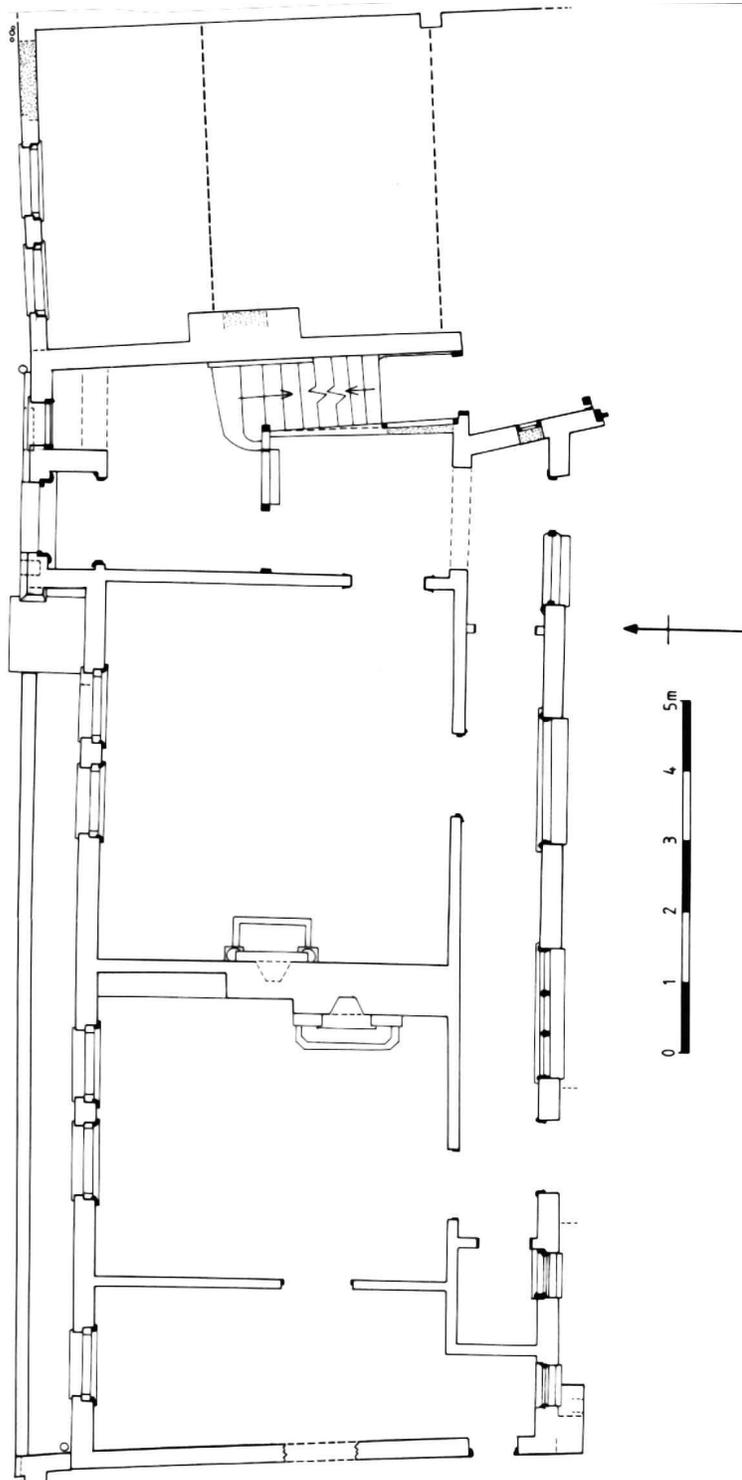


Figure 26: Coningsby House ground floor plan

5.2 The Stratigraphy

The engineers' trial pits

Five trial pits around the periphery of the site were excavated by the contractor, under archaeological supervision, before any demolition work was undertaken. Each of these trenches was approximately 2 metres square (figure 27, trenches C-H).

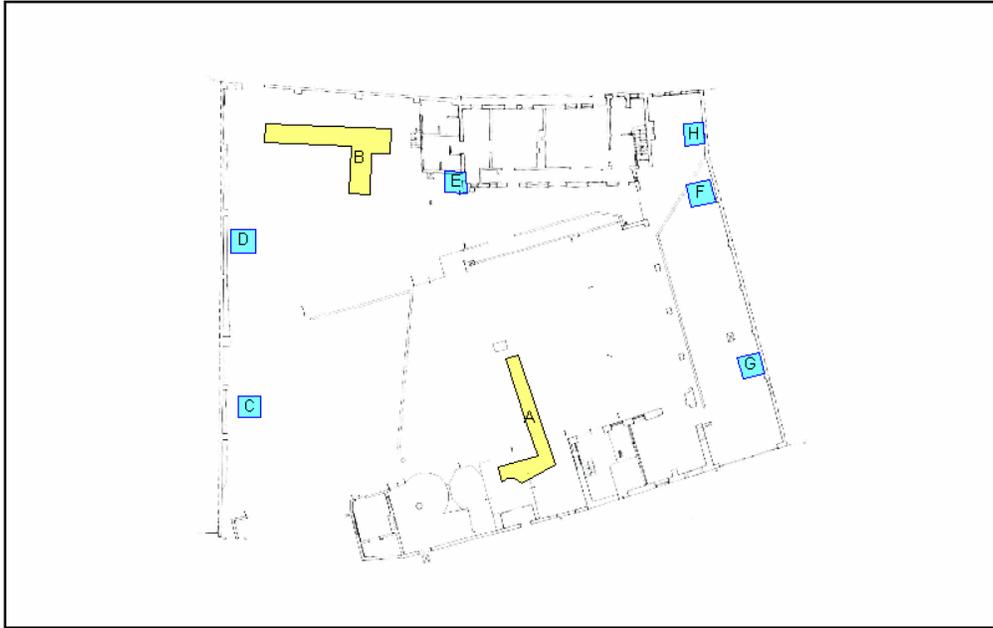


Figure 27: the 1999 trenches (A and B) and the 2001 trial pits

Trench C

This was excavated to a depth of 1.2 metres. Reinforced concrete (context 41), to a maximum depth of 0.4 metres, was removed by a machine equipped with a concrete breaker. Beneath this was approximately 0.55 metres of very dark, loose, friable garden-type soil (context 42) containing some animal bone, glass and pot (willow pattern and black glazed slipware). Below this was a clean, light brown soil (context 43) with frequent gravel inclusions on average 0.3 metres thick. The base of the trench terminated at the interface with a natural layer of red brown clay and fluvioglacial gravel at 53.9 metres OD.

Trench D

This was excavated to a depth of 1.2 metres. Reinforced concrete (context 41) over brick and sand make-up was removed by machine to a depth of 0.3 metres. Beneath this was a black garden type soil (context 44) 0.6 metres deep, as in trench A (context 42). This soil was heavily polluted with glass fragments, rubbish and some 20th century potsherds. Below this soil was a similar clean, light brown soil (context 45) as was found in trench A (layer 43). Again, excavation terminated at a natural slightly grey, red clay mixed with silt and fine gravel (layer 46).

Trench E

This was mechanically excavated to a depth of approximately 1.0 metre. Reinforced concrete (context 41) was removed to depth of 0.3 metres. Beneath this there was a dark brown, undifferentiated soil (context 47) heavily disturbed by the presence of services and the footings for Coningsby House. The footings

(context 48), were exposed by this excavation and consisted of two courses of brick and mortar to a depth of 0.35 metres.

Trench F

This was excavated to a depth of 1.15 metres. A layer of reinforced concrete (context 49) over brick and rubble make-up, to a depth of 0.4 metres, was broken up by machine. Beneath this there was a dark brown soil approximately 0.75 metres thick, slightly flecked with black carbonised material and with occasional bone fragments (context 50). The trench bottomed out onto red clay natural (context 51) with a higher gravel content than those to the west. The eastern edge of this trench was formed by the rear, western wall of the stable block belonging to the adjacent pub - the Nell Gwynne (formerly the British Oak). Beneath the footings of this wall (context 52), the excavation revealed a roughly coursed rubble stone wall (context 53) at a depth of 0.4 metres below the surface.

Trench G

This trench was dug to a depth of 1.15 metres. The stratigraphy of this trench was the same as that of trench F. The stone wall beneath the footings of the boundary wall was also visible here.

Trench H

Excavated to a depth of 1.0 metre, this exposed the external footings of the adjacent stable range of the public house next door. No other stratigraphy was observed.

The foundation and service trenches

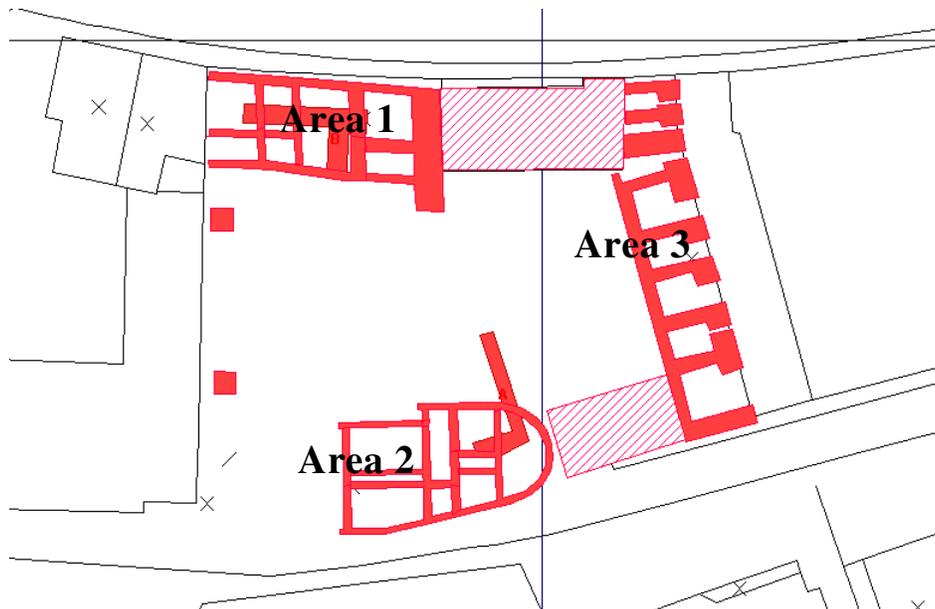


Figure 28: the 2001 trench location plan

Further archaeological recording of the site below ground level was conducted after the demolition of the standing structures and the mechanical breaking-up and removal of the concrete floors and courtyard. The trenches recorded during this phase of the work were in three areas, numbered 1-3 on the site plan (see figure 28). All these trenches were excavated by machine and were rapidly back-filled

with concrete, affording only a short time within which it was possible to carry out recording. All the spoil removed from the trenches during excavation was immediately removed from the site.

Mechanical excavations of foundation trenches to a depth of 1.2 - 1.5 metres were recorded as follows.

Area 1

Located to the west of Coningsby House, the trenches here were for the foundations of a range of buildings intended to run along Coningsby Street. The footprint of this range includes the area of trench B in the 1999 excavations. When recording began the height OD of the then ground surface was 53.2 metres.

The easternmost trench of this range ran north-south along the western side of Coningsby House. The trench was 2.25 metres wide and 1.75 metres deep. The exposed section consisted of a layer of mid-brown silty soil (context 54) with frequent inclusions of brick and pieces of salt glazed drainpipe. No finds were retrieved and no archaeological features were observed.

The northern foundation trench of this range ran along the Coningsby Street frontage, immediately inside the boundary wall. It was 1 metre wide and 1.75 metres deep. The section showed that a layer of gravel and modern brick 0.7 metres thick (context 55) overlay mid brown silty soil. This would seem to correspond with layer 15 found in trench B in the 1999 excavation. Natural gravels were visible at the base of the trench. The upper deposit was very loose and the sides of the trench were collapsing. To the north-west of this was a very loose layer of broken roofing slate and occasional pieces of stone in a matrix of decayed mortar (context 56). A stone-lined cellar-like structure (context 57 - see plate 5) lay 10 metres from the western edge of Coningsby House. This was constructed of roughly coursed rubble stone blocks measuring approximately 0.45 metres by 0.3 metres. The base of the wall was not visible, and it was not possible to see if this structure had a floor. One wall of the structure (context 58) ran north-south across the trench and a return (context 59) was also found running parallel to Coningsby Street. The height of the walls was approximately 1.75 metres with the top at 54.56 metres OD.

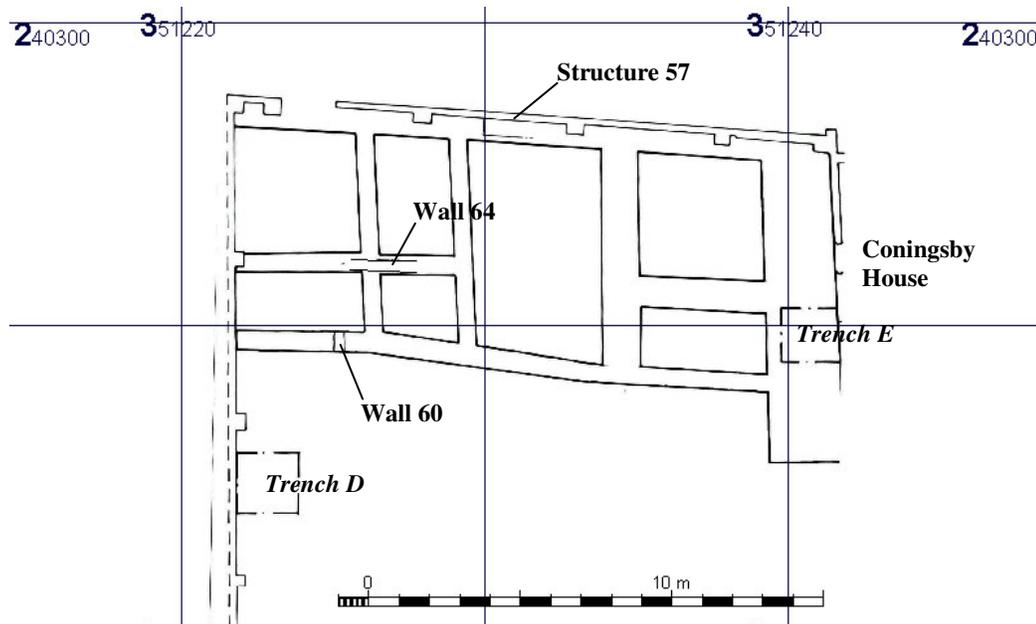


Figure 29: area 1

The position of this cellar corresponded with the north-east corner of the westernmost of those buildings on the site which faced Coningsby Street in the 1850s (see Curley's plan, Figure 9). 5.5 metres to the south-west of the cellar was a brick wall (64) running east-west. This would have been the rear (south) wall of this building.

One other feature was found in this area. This was another brick wall (context 60), which ran north to south across the southern foundation trench at a distance of 3.9 metres from the eastern boundary wall. This feature represented the rear wall of the building which originally stood on the western side of the site. The boundary seems to have moved to the west in the intervening years.

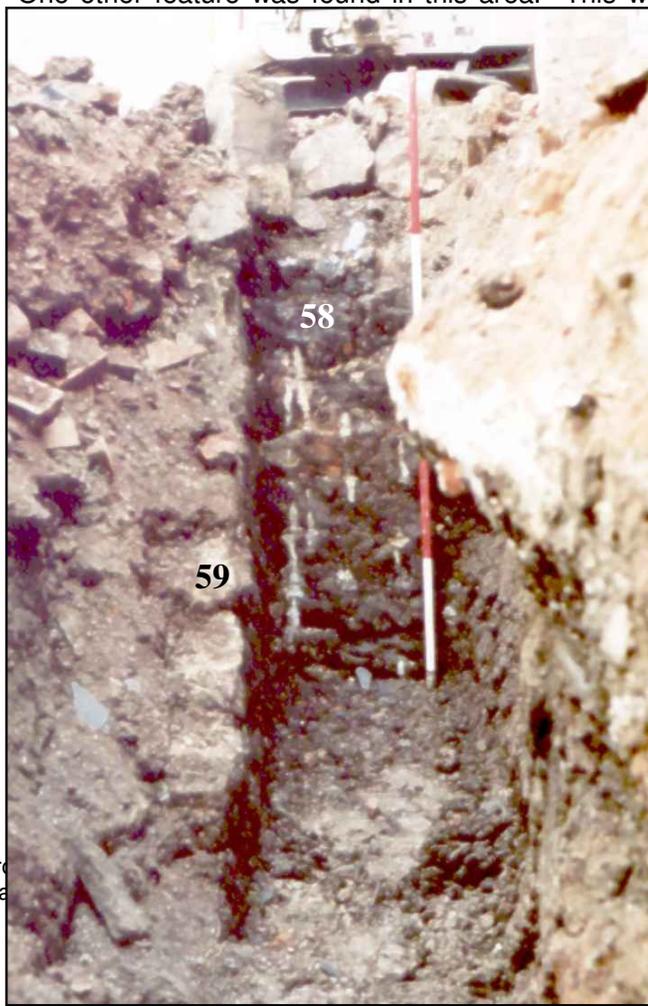


Plate 5: Structure 57 at extreme northern edge of the site.

Viewed from the east, the southern wall (59) of the cellar-like structure is visible on the left.

The western wall (58) is in the background.

Area 2

Located to the west of building 1, which was demolished before this part of the project took place, the trenches here were for the foundations of a range of buildings intended to run along Catherine Street. The footprint of this range includes the southern area of trench A in the 1999 excavations.

After the demolition of the standing buildings and removal of the slab, observations of this area before the start of the trenching revealed a number of features.



Plate 6: the remains of the stable flooring in the eastern end of building 2

There were stable bricks, of the 2 squared brick type, to the west of the site of the barn (building 1). These corresponded with brick floor 11 found in trench A during the 1999 excavation. These would have formed the floor of the eastern part of building 2 and were divided from the cobbled floor (14) in the western part of building 2 by an internal north-south brick wall, 10.



Plate 7: cobbled floor 13 in building 2

To the west of these bricks were intermittent remains of cobbled floor 14, much disturbed by the slab removal. No traces of internal wall 10 or the northern wall 9 of building 2 were observed at this stage. Just to the west of the position of wall 10 was the remains of a drain, which would have run parallel to the wall here.

There were more double stable bricks (18) within the area which had been occupied by building 1 (the southern walls of both building 1 and building 2 were still standing

at this stage). These were identical to the ones forming floor 11 of building 2.

Beneath these bricks were the remains of an earlier floor formed of large cobbles (18). These cobbles were 250mm down from the doorstep, which would suggest that they formed part of an earlier floor of the building. The stonework on the internal faces of the barn continued down beneath the old floor level for at least 380mm from the step at the door.



Plate 8: cobbled floor 18 in building 1

Unfortunately, after these initial observations were made, a lack of communication led to the foundation trenches in the western third of this range being excavated and back-filled without archaeological monitoring. In the remainder of the area the following observations were made.

Mid-way along the Catherine Street frontage of this range (31.9 metres from the western end of the property) was a brick wall (21). This survived from a height of 100mm below the then ground surface (53.35 OD) and was 350mm deep. This was the western wall of the small lean-to building to the west of building 2. To the west of this again was a brick floor (22) consisting of a single layer of brick laid flat. Many of these bricks had already been broken when they were laid. The western extent of this feature was not observed but it underlay the slab which had formed the southern entrance to the factory in the later 20th century.

Below floor 22 there was a compacted layer of broken glass bottles (23) on which the floor was directly laid. This layer was 350mm thick and lay on another brick floor (61). As with floor 22 above, the western ends of these features were already destroyed or covered with concrete before they could be recorded.

The interpretation of this feature presents some problems, as no building is shown at this position on any of the plans. To summarise - a brick floor of unknown date was covered with a 0.4 metre thick layer of broken glass bottles on which another brick floor was laid. This latter brick floor was at the approximate level of the 19th and earlier 20th century yard surface in this area. This part of the site had been

the sole access until the range of buildings fronting Coningsby Street were demolished in the later 20th century.

To the west of wall 21, bricks 25, consisting of a single layer of brick laid flat, represented the floor of the small lean-to building. This overlay a dark soil which was not internally differentiable (26), which, in turn, overlay the natural fluvioglacial gravels at 52.4 OD. Soil 26 did not appear to be a natural formed soil and may represent the fill of an earlier feature which was not identified.

1.5 metres to the east along the Catherine Street frontage from wall 21, another wall (24) marked the edge of floor 25. This survived as two courses of brick above what appeared to be a stone and brick rubble foundation. This wall was the western wall of building 2.

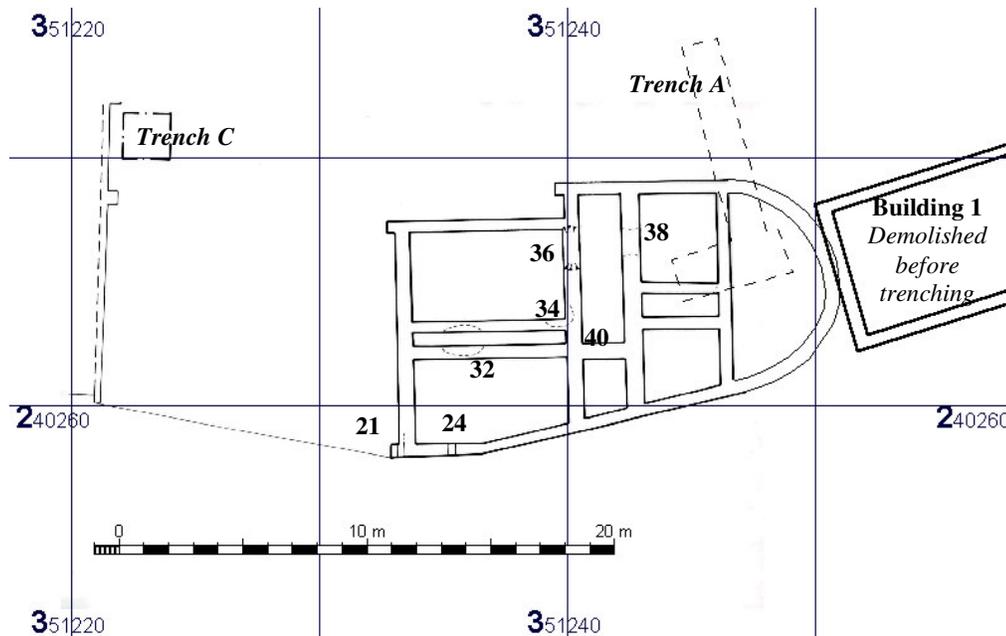


Figure 30: area 2

To the east, this wall was butted by small cobbles 27. These appear to have been part of the floor of the eastern end of building 2 and may be identified with cobbles 14 found in 1999. Beneath these was an orange clay layer (28), about 100mm thick, which was probably bedding for the cobbles. Layer 29 rested on an ashy layer (30) about 50mm thick, which in turn, lay on soil 31. At the western end, there was no visible stratification within 31, which lay above the fluvioglacial gravel natural. Further to the east, layer 31 could be seen to overlie a dark greyish-brown loam which was up to 0.4 metres thick.

North of the southern façade of this range of buildings, several features were observed which were tentatively identified as pits. These seemed to have pre-dated the cobbled yard and could be from any period.

Pit 32 was more or less in the centre of the range. It was visible in plan in two parallel trenches (0.5 metres apart) and appeared to be roughly circular with a diameter of 1.6 to 1.7 metres. Its fill (33) was a dark brownish grey clay loam and was not excavated.

Four metres east-north-east of pit 32 was slightly smaller pit, 34. About 75% of the circumference of this pit was visible around a 90^o turn in the footings and it

appeared to be just over one metre in diameter. Its fill (35) was a dark brownish grey clay loam.

About 2.7 metres north of pit 34 was feature 36. This was a substantial feature, which appeared in the trench in this area and was filled with a dark brownish grey clay-loam deposit (37). This was partially machined out to a depth of two metres. This was the only feature machined out to a greater depth than the rest of the trenches (soft fill) - no finds were observed but the general character was suggestive of a medieval feature.

In a parallel trench, at 2 metres to the east of feature 36, was another feature, 38. A dark brownish grey clay loam (39) formed its observable fill. It is possible that 36 and 38 formed one linear cut aligned east to west.

Area 3

Area 3 was a series of foundation trenches for the range of buildings planned for the eastern edge of the site. It ran from Coningsby Street in the north to Catherine Street in the south.

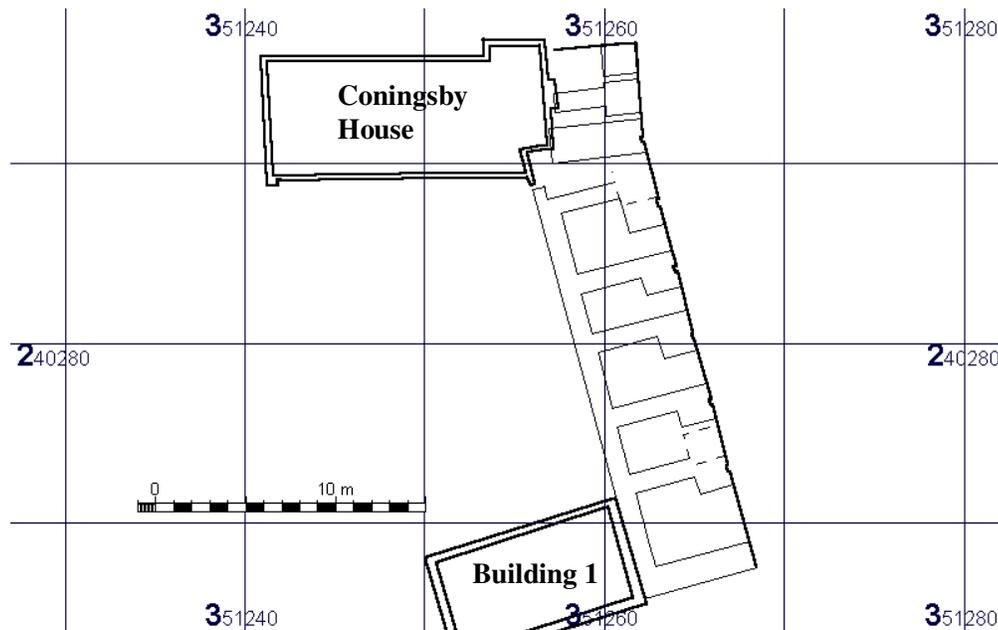


Figure 31: area 3

At the northern extremity, underlying the brick wall by Coningsby Street, was a wall (20) constructed of very large sandstone blocks. This was presumably the foundation of the northern wall of the building which stood here before the eastern factory range (3) was constructed in the mid-late 19th century. This seems to have been the western part of a building which was on this site in the 1850s and is marked on Curley's plan (Figure 9).

This building seems originally to have been a pair of cottages. The eastern cottage later became part of the stables of the British Oak public house, subsequently the Nell Gwynne, the adjacent property. The western house became part of the soft drinks factory, finally becoming offices. At some stage its

southern wall was demolished to open it up to the works range. It has now been demolished.

The brick footings of the southern wall (63) of this house were exposed during clearance of the site before trenching began (see Plate 10).

The trenching to the south of wall 63 exposed no identifiable archaeological features. The lack of traces of earlier buildings presumably reflects the absence of structures here until the factory range was built in the later 19th century.

Plate 9: the street frontage of the house to the east of Coningsby House in 1989



Plate 10: the southern wall (63) of the house which originally stood to the east of Coningsby House

5.3 The Finds

A total of 0.932 kg of post-medieval pottery was recovered during the monitoring operation. Similarly, scattered animal bone occurred sporadically and weighed 1.124kg.

No medieval or earlier material was observed. All finds were, however, recorded on the project database.

6.0 Conclusions

Although there may have been medieval activity on the site, no firm evidence of this was produced by the field project. The lack of medieval finds supported the documentary evidence that this area was not inhabited until fairly recent times. Whatever the area's status may have been in an earlier period, from at least the time that the Black Friars had established their fully developed house in the early 14th century, it was isolated from the fields which otherwise surrounded Hereford. The earliest records seem to indicate that it had been divided into individual gardens.

No structures on the site can be positively dated to a period earlier than building 1, which must be earlier 18th century.

Although on the site itself only Coningsby House and the cottage to its east can be demonstrated to have had domestic occupation, the area in general had developed into a densely populated working and lower middle class suburb by the mid 19th century. The houses were largely demolished in the mid 20th century. The new South Shropshire Housing Association development reverses the trend of the previous half-century, which replaced housing with commercial properties.

8.0 Archive Deposition

The primary project archive, consisting of the excavated material and any original paper records, will be prepared and stored in accordance with the guidelines laid down in the Institute of Field Archaeologists' guidelines for the preparation and storage of archives. The primary archive will be stored with Hereford City Museum.

For the buildings, plans based on those of the architects, Johnson Blight and Dees of Hereford, were annotated to include construction breaks, blocked openings and other architectural detail. The following is a list of updated drawings, including a ground floor plan of building 1 at a scale of 1:50 generated by Archenfield Archaeology.

Ground floor site plan	Scale 1:100
Ground floor plan (Coningsby House)	Scale 1:50
Ground floor plan of building 1.	Scale 1:50 by Archenfield Archaeology.

All internal and external faces of building 1 were drawn by Archenfield Archaeology.

These drawings were in outline only and simply show all features and construction breaks but without great detail.

North internal elevation	Scale 1:50	South	internal	elevation
	Scale 1:50			
North external elevation	Scale 1:50	South	external	elevation
	Scale 1:50			

East internal elevation Scale 1:50	Scale 1:50	West internal elevation
East external elevation Scale 1:50	Scale 1:50	West external elevation

All drawings form part of the project archive.

Scaled photographs were made of all accessible elevations, internally and externally with a medium format camera using both colour and black and white film.

Additional photographs indicating architectural features and alterations were taken using a 35mm camera and colour film, these photographs are also cross-referenced within the archive.

A copy of the digital archive, stored on CD and consisting of context and artefact data, together with the site plan and selected photographs, will accompany the primary archive.

The client, in consultation with the project manager, will make provision for the deposition of all finds from the excavation with the Hereford City Museum. On completion of the fieldwork and the processing, collation, recording and analysis of the finds from the excavation all finds will be handed over to the museum staff, along with the project archive. Arrangements will be made with the museum for the Transfer of Title.

9.0 Publication and dissemination proposals

Paper copies of this report will be lodged with the Archaeological Adviser to Herefordshire Council, Herefordshire Sites and Monuments Record and Hereford City Library. A short note on the project will be prepared for publication in the *Transactions of the Woolhope Naturalists' Field Club*.

Copies of this report (in CD ROM format or as hard copies) together with the supporting archival material will be available from Archenfield Archaeology.

Archenfield Archaeology will retain the complete photographic record, including the negatives.

Appendix: Architect's plans of Coningsby House, 1888



Figure 32: block plan showing then existing buildings

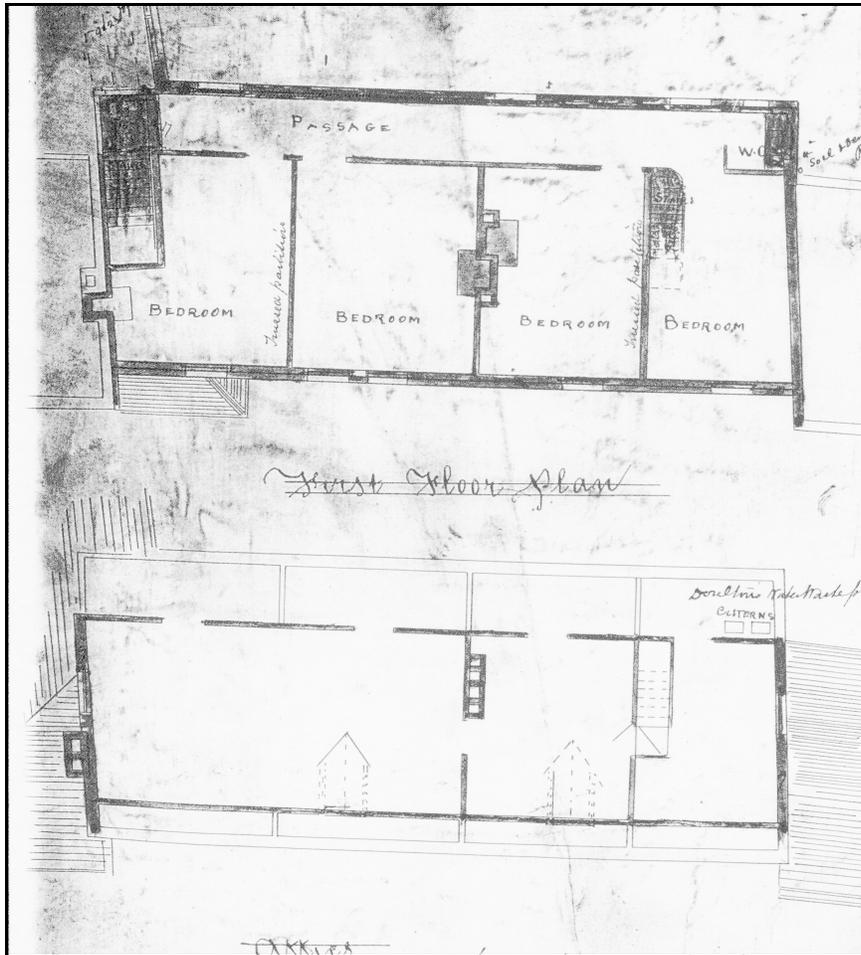


Figure 33: first floor and attic plans, Coningsby House

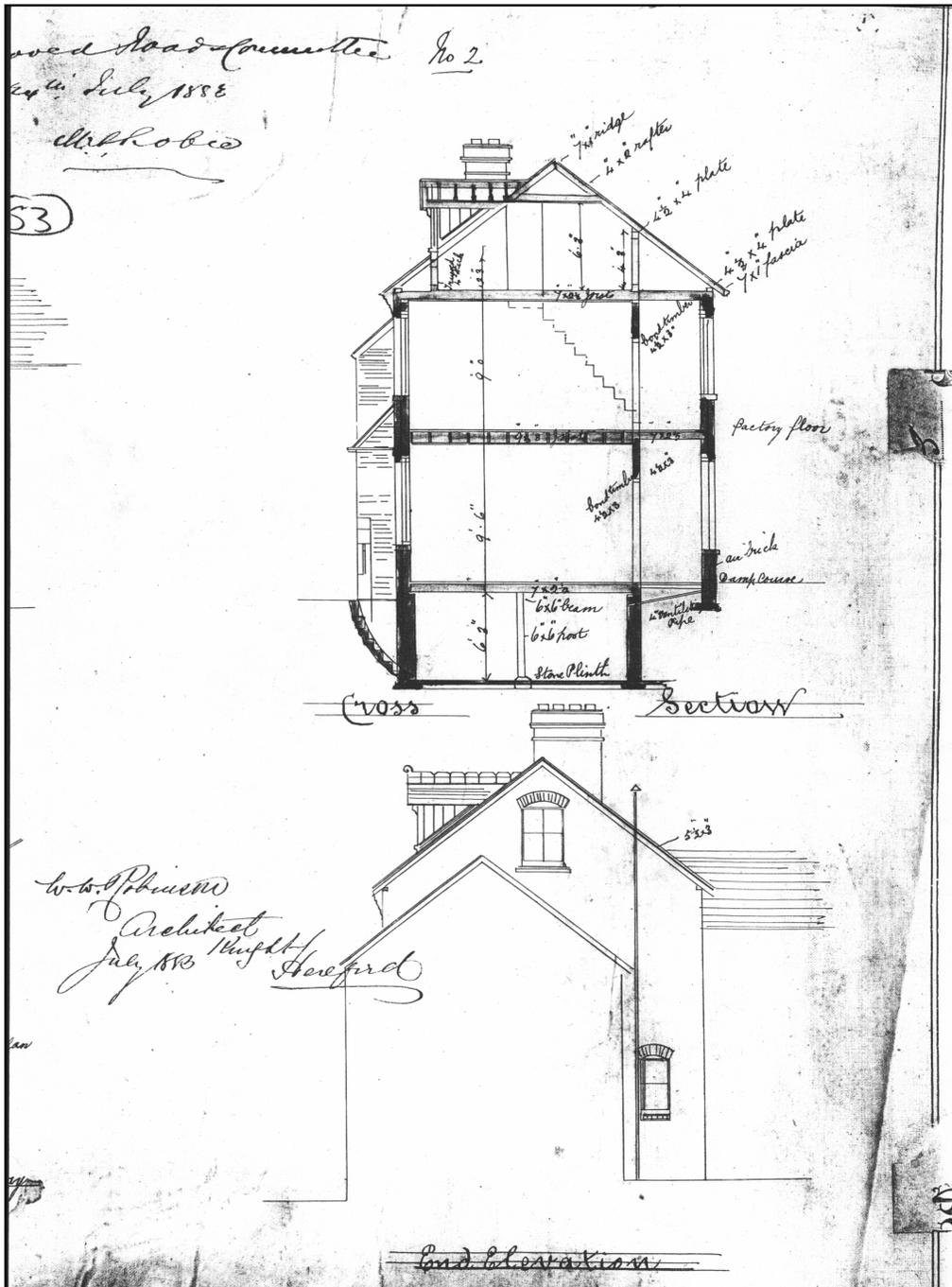


Figure 35: elevations, Coningsby House

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