

western end of the southern wall of {44}. The known swinging pits associated with the New House Cone are substantial structures, and it does seem unlikely that there was

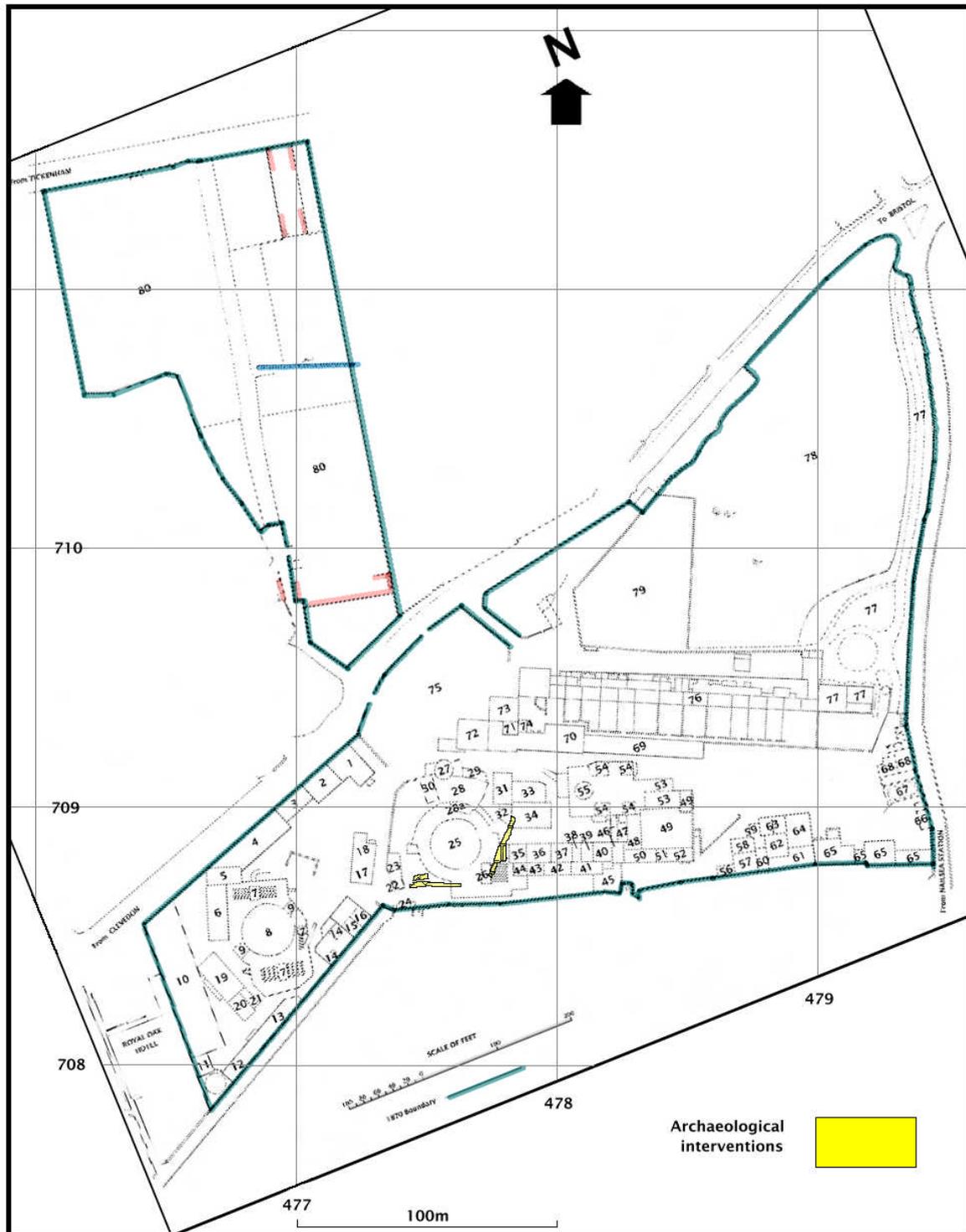


Figure 2.24: 1994 evaluation superimposed on 1870 plan

no evidence for something similar in Trench 2. The 1870 drawing does seem to be reasonably accurate, both when compared with later OS maps and with the archaeology found so far.

For ease of plotting the 1870 plan used has been reduced from its original size of approximately 1.2m square to a 1:1500 scale, but it is felt, by boundary comparisons, that any error is still

slight. It is considered, therefore, in view of the errors found in the reports examined so far, that an error in positioning, either on the ground or in the subsequent drafting, is more likely than a significant error in the 1870 plan, even at reduced scale. Having said that, there does seem to be a slight variance in the boundaries as one goes the length of Woodview Terrace {76}, although some of this may be down to redevelopment.

The archive was with Avon Archaeological Unit, but has now been transferred to the North Somerset Museum at Weston-super-Mare.

## 6. 1994 - (2)

The photographic recording of the French kiln and pot arch buildings, centred at OS 34772 17085, {14}, {15} and {16} on the 1870 plan, was done in October-November 1994. It is in the N Somerset SMR as event 10371. The photographs showing the targets at metre intervals vertically and horizontally, together with some explanatory drawings are held in the archive, but no report seems to have been prepared at the time. Lynn Hume has now analysed the photographs and the accompanying site drawings and produced a report, on which this section is based.<sup>19</sup>

The buildings are in the background of the right-hand plate in Figure 2.6 above, probably taken circa 1986; the roofs have been removed. They were apparently demolished shortly after the photogrammetric recording, which is a great pity, because archaeological evaluation does not really seem to have been complete.

It should be noted that in this section the room numbers quoted in the report will be used. Room 1 corresponds to the room with the two French Kilns {14} on the 1870 plan, and Room 2 contains Pot Arch 2, {15}, and Pot Arch 1, {16}. There is a structure on the 1870 plan corresponding to Room 3, but there it has no identifying number/description.

Room 1 seems to have been cleared to floor level, and it was noted that, “A small area of sandstone slabbed edging, located along the western face of Wall 18 (figure 3) [see Figure 2.25 below], appeared to indicate that the floor had originally been paved throughout. These sandstone flags, however, appear to have been superseded at a later date by a simple concrete floor. N.B. Although this room is supposed to be a ‘French Kiln’ room, no surviving indication of these structures was observed.”

Some partial excavation was carried out in this area in 1983<sup>20</sup> but had been suspended because of the dangerous condition of the roof. Even so some clues might have been available subsequently if more than just recording the walls had been commissioned. However, it is reported that some of the structure was in a poor state of preservation, and a lot of vegetation had had to be removed prior to the photographic recording. Some parts of the building were collapsed and others patched/infilled with modern materials. The building was “largely constructed from roughly coursed sandstone rubble, bonded with lime-based mortar flecked with ash/charcoal fragments.”

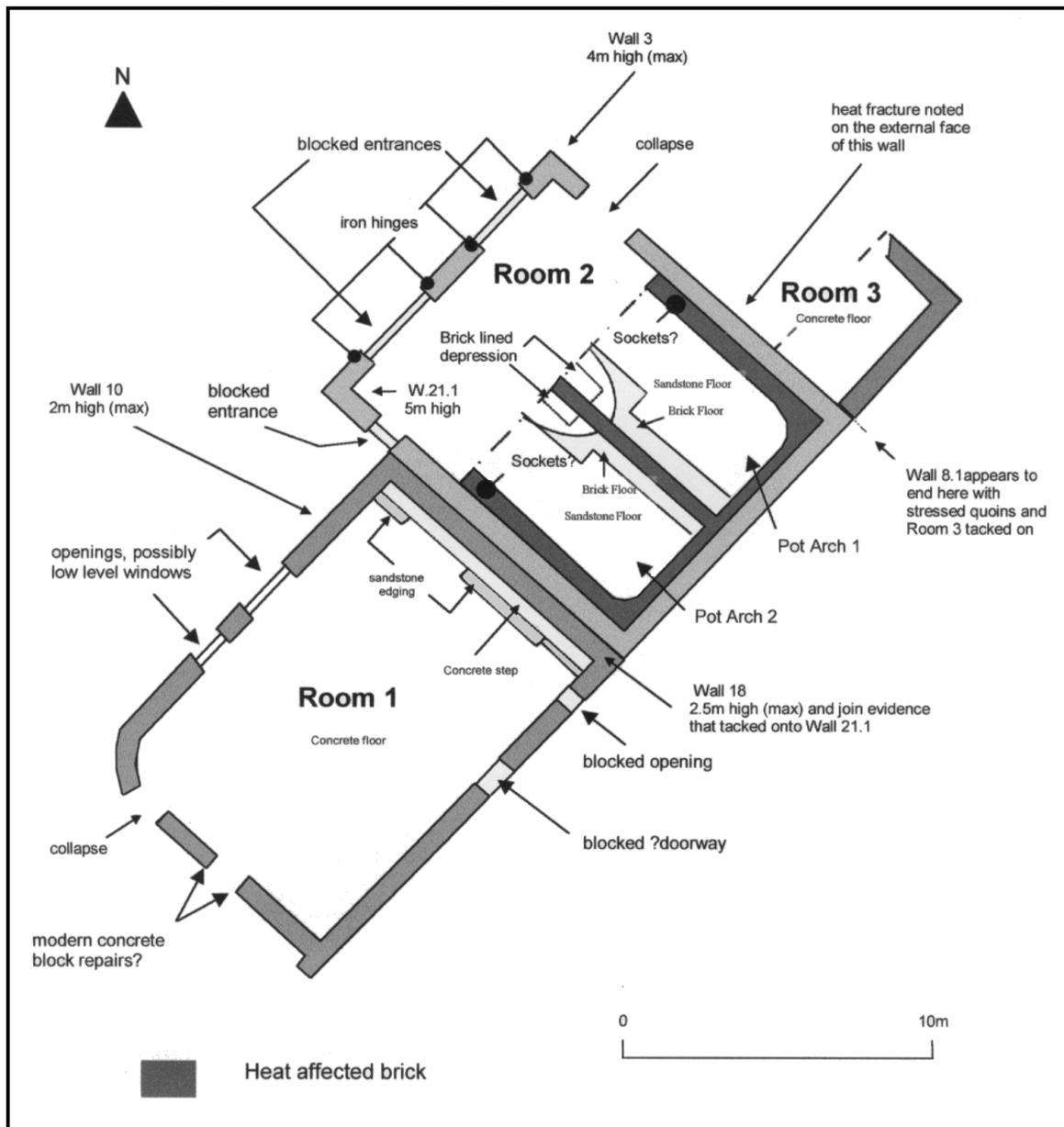
From what was left of the building it was difficult to determine phasing, but it appears from the discontinuities, both vertical and horizontal, as well as from blocked openings that the buildings had been altered probably more than once during their lifetime. There is further detail in the report regarding blocked window, door and other openings. Room 1 was described as having been a “workshop” in one of the early reports, but it also seems to have been a dump for spoil as well, at a later stage. There was, for example no comment on the “chamfered” western

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<sup>19</sup> Hume, L, *Archaeological Standing Building and Rectified Photographic Survey*, AAU, May 2003

<sup>20</sup> 1983 manuscript record, author unknown, possibly G Lewis, (File A, Area E)

corner, other than being identified as an individual wall, but this would appear merely to be part of the recording technique, in which each section of wall is given a different identifier for both the external and internal faces.



**Figure 2.25: Schematic Plan of Rooms 1 - 3, detailing blocked openings (from Figure 3 in original report)**

As observed in Part 1, and see Figure 1.9, part of this range appears to have been demolished to make way for extensions to the New House Cone, date unknown other than between 1840 and 1870, and this corner was presumably modified at this time

While the physical relationship of the building to the rest of the works is clear, the functional relationship is not. If the kilns were for annealing, for example, there would presumably be a problem with thermal shock if hot glassware was taken outside on a winter's day before being put in to the kiln. (The alternative is that these kilns were in fact "Flattening" kilns, where the