

Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit  
**Project No. 517**  
March 1998

**49, New Street, Dudley, West Midlands**  
**An Archaeological Evaluation**

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## **1 Summary**

The works programme was designed to evaluate the survival of archaeologically significant deposits in the area of 49, New Street in Dudley. This report describes the background to the evaluation and places the findings in context with other archaeological work undertaken in the vicinity in the recent past. Four trenches were excavated within the standing buildings which are due to be demolished and these revealed the survival of c1.2m of archaeological deposits and associated features. Spot dating of the pottery assemblage demonstrated the survival of medieval features cut into the natural subsoil whilst masonry structures, tentatively dated to the 17th century, show the early expansion of the town in this period. Appropriate recommendations are made concerning future archaeological investigation of the site in advance of, and during the proposed development.

## **2 Background**

Dudley is a market town dominated by a castle first mentioned in the Domesday survey of 1086. The present form of the town centres on the Market Place and High Street which run in a southeasterly direction away from the foot of Castle Hill. Although the documentation is somewhat ambiguous the town of Dudley is generally accepted as gaining borough status and market rights in the mid 13th century. It seems probable that it was at this point that the ground plan of the town was formalised. New Street runs westwards from the northern end of the Market Place and forms the northern boundary of an approximately square area of land bounded to the south by Stone Street, to the west by Priory Street and to the east by Tower Street. The latter street was formerly known as Pease Lane and appears to have served as a "back lane" to the rear of the burgage plots facing onto the Market Place. Consequently the land to the west of it was within the open field system during the medieval period and was then encroached upon as the town expanded.

Previous archaeological work has been undertaken in this area. In 1990 P.Boland undertook a watching brief on the site of The Saracens Head (SO 94399039) which revealed a sequence of archaeological deposits some 2.0m deep. The deposits are dated to the early post-medieval period and contain extensive evidence of metalworking and are interpreted as indicating the expansion of Dudley town in the 16th century.

In November 1996 a series of evaluation trenches was excavated across the eastern part of the site by BUFAU and these demonstrated excellent survival of archaeological features along the frontage onto Tower Street. These features revealed activity in this area in the 14th century but the area seems to have then reverted to agricultural use until the later 16th century when the sandstone foundations of a substantial building indicate renewed expansion of the town. A watching brief was maintained during the groundwork stage of development and the extent of this building was established (Fig.1).

The area of New Street currently undergoing development (SO943903) is shown on J.Treasure's map of Dudley (1835) as containing a building which extends beyond the street frontages. In the 1841 census the building is noted as being occupied by Benjamin Smith (locksmith) and his family.

The building presently occupying the site is shown on Tanfield's map of 1880 and is described below in the section on structural analysis by S.Litherland.

The current work is necessitated by a recent planning application which will require demolition of the present buildings and the excavation of foundations for a new housing development.

### 3 Structural Analysis by S.Litherland

The following section presents the results of a rapid appraisal of the standing buildings comprising 49, New Street, Dudley undertaken in tandem with the below-ground archaeological evaluation of the site. The objective of the appraisal was to understand the sequence and use of the standing buildings on the site. The method involved a rapid internal and external examination of the standing buildings, using written notes and measured sketches, accompanied by a photographic record on colour print film. The following description is presented in summary with illustrative photographs. Finally, an attempt is also made to place the standing buildings within a framework provided by documentary research carried out by John Hemingway of Dudley M.B.C.

For the purposes of analysis the standing buildings comprising 49, New Street, Dudley were divided into three structural components (Fig.2).

- Structure A The main building fronting New Street (Plate 1).
- Structure B A three-quarter width rear range (Plate 2).
- Structure C The modern infill of the yard area between Structure B and the properties fronting Priory Street, only recorded photographically.

#### Structure A

Rump of an early-19th century two-storey industrial structure of elongated rectangular plan, situated perpendicular to New Street in the backplot of the property at the corner of Priory Street and New Street. Principal northwest-facing elevation faces access, blind-back to *The Old Priory Inn*. Constructed in clamped, irregularly-fired, orangey-red brick with grit inclusions (dimensions, 9.25 in. by 4.25 in. by 2.5 in). Thick walls of three-brick depth, irregularly bonded, but generally of between three and five stretcher courses of Flemish stretcher bond. A brick inscribed 'J.Guest 1810' is situated close to the south of the blocked first-floor window of the principal elevation (Plate 3). Originally of five bays, with a central doorway on the ground floor, the front two bays were demolished when New Street was enlarged in the 1930s. Although much altered, the original openings are all 4ft.6in. wide, with 5ft intervals between.

Internally, each ground-floor opening of the principal elevation has an elliptical moulded-brick arch (Plate 4). There is also a blocked centrally located opening in the ground floor of the rear gable. Moulded bricks are also used in the southwest corner of the building up to first-floor level (Plate 5). Three massive first-floor beams which span the width of the rear of the building are probably original, being sawn with chamfered soffit and end stops and 10in. wide and 14in. tall scantling (Plate 4).

There is extensive evidence of a major late-Victorian renovation of the building. The irregular spacing of the two timber trusses of the low profile (c.30 degree) slate saddleback roof indicates it was also probably added at this time, prior to the shortening of the building. The roof structure consists of two pairs of purlins, ridge-piece and king-post with raking struts to the upper pair of purlins. The gable walls also acted as a truss for the purlins at each end of the building.

It is probable that the external window openings in the principal elevation were also remodelled at this time. Note the similarity of the segmental uncut-brick arches of the ground-floor windows with the arch above the narrower doorway (Plate 6). The projecting stone sills of all windows are also of different stone compared to the basal quoins of the original larger doorway (Plate 7). The nine-light casements of the two unblocked first floor windows are of a long-lived design, commonly found in lower status housing or industrial buildings throughout most of the 19th century. The extent of these alterations, together with the common reuse of brick (e.g. the blocking of the central first-floor window) means it is difficult to be sure if the dentilated eaves represent the original height of the building.

Internally, there are no recognisable remains of any former partitions, fireplaces, hearths or lathe booms, but the building has been comprehensively gutted in the past. The garage access off New Street indicates the building was converted into a warehouse after it was shortened in the 1930s. The staircase against the party wall with the *Old Priory Inn* and a large trap-door cut into the first floor probably date from this time.

### Structure B

A rear range added onto Structure A, and three-quarters of the width of that building. Ostensibly a two-storey range, with slate saddleback roof; blind-back to *The Old Priory Inn*; principal northwest-facing elevation with three squat first-floor windows, large ground-floor arched entrance sprung from Structure A, two semi-circular arched windows behind, set either side of a doorway; and an offset chimney in the rear gable. In fact, the building has a complex structural history.

The best evidence for the development of Structure B can be read from the rear gable of the building (Plate 8). Above modern rendering the outline of a gable belonging to a slightly shorter building, approximately half the width of Structure A, can be seen. The gable is built in clamped, very irregularly-bonded, poorly-fired brown brick (dimensions, 8.75in. by 4.25in. by 2.75in.). Red clamped brick, used in a muted decorative fashion, forms a coping on the gables, and appears to have continued around the principal face of the building. The arch of a small window, also picked out

in red brick, can just be seen to the right of the chimney, which is centrally positioned within this smaller gable. The outline of the smaller building can also be traced from infilled former purlin supports and a change in the whitewash decor of what was once the exterior face of the rear gable of Structure A, which this building has been built up against.

The next phase of building involved the demolition of the principal elevation of this narrower building and the construction of a wider range which did not extend up to the rear gable of Structure A. The previously built blind party wall with *The Old Priory Inn* and the rear gable were incorporated into the new building (Plate 9). The facade of the building was of good quality, Flemish bonded red clamped brick (dimensions, 9.25in. by 4.25in. by 3in.), with semi-circular arches to the symmetrically arranged central doorway and two side windows (Plate 10).

This building may conceivably have provided domestic accommodation. However, a blocked series of inverted arches in the party wall with *The Old Priory Inn*, which were subsequently restated in a second abutting wall (Plate 11), may argue against this. The function of these inverted arches remains unclear, but seems to indicate continuity of some industrial use.

The final phases in the development of Structure B involved the infilling of the gap between the two buildings by an elliptical arch cut into the rear gable of Structure A (Plate 12), and the demolition of the corresponding gable wall of the rear range. Later, a second storey was added in poor quality, irregularly bonded clamped dark-red brick (dimensions, 9in. by 4.25in. by 2.75in.). Access to this cramped second storey was via a ladder, therefore it may have been a storage space, an interpretation supported by the presence of air-holes in the brickwork near the apex of the roof.

### Discussion

The following provisional phasing for the development of the standing buildings may therefore be proposed.

1. Construction of Structure A as a five bay two-storey industrial building.
2. Construction of a narrow one-and-a-half-storey rear range against the rear gable of Structure A.
3. The partial demolition of the phase 2 rear wing, to be replaced by a wider building.
4. The infilling of the gap between Structure A and the phase 3 range and, possibly later, the demolition of the gable wall between.
5. The addition of a second storey to the rear range.
6. The demolition of the two bays of Structure A when New Street was widened.
7. The covering over of the rear yard between Structure B and the backs of the properties fronting Priory Street.

These phases can be tentatively fitted into the following chronology, based upon documentary evidence for the development of the site provided by John Hemingway of Dudley M.B.C. (Appendix A). The interpretation of later phases is comparatively

straightforward as relevant documentary information survives. Interpretation of earlier phases becomes relatively more difficult as documentary sources become more scarce. Phases 6 and 7 occurred between 1934 and 1938 after New Street was widened. Tanfield's map of Dudley of 1880 and the first and second edition Ordnance Survey maps of 1884 and 1904 show the wider rear range and the infilled space between it and Structure A. Therefore, phase 4 had occurred by 1880, which is consistent with the continued use of clamped brick, (as machine-cut brick would have been the preferred building material after this date). It is tempting to think that these changes and, possibly, the renovation of Structure A and the addition of a second storey to Structure B (phase 5) occurred within a similar context, possibly between the use of 49, New Street as a nail warehouse, first recorded in the census of 1881, and the first record of no one living in the property, made in the 1871 census.

The construction sequence represented by phases 1, 2 and 3 would seem to imply a reasonable passage of time between phase 1 and phase 3. The census returns of 1841, 1851 and 1861 each record occupation of the property. This must have been in the rear range rather than Structure A. While the absence of a rear range on Treasure's map of Dudley of 1835 cannot be taken as a definite depiction of the area (there is a conspicuous absence of any backplot buildings on his map) such a stage is certainly implied by the structural evidence of the buildings. It is also extremely tempting to interpret the building depicted on the 1835 map as being Structure A. The ground plan is the right size and shape, and the earlier features which have survived within the building (e.g. the internal elliptical moulded brick arches of the ground floor openings) are consistent with an early 19th century building. Having reached 1835 it is not too difficult to argue that the brick inscribed with the date of 1810 in the fabric of Structure A may in fact be an original feature. This early-19th century chronology also has the merit of tying the construction of Structure A into a sub-division of the backplot of the property at the corner of Priory Street and New Street, and the later Georgian appearance of the main building on the street frontage (Plate 13). Indeed, the shape and proportion of the windows of the rear range of this building are similar to the original openings in Structure A.

Too little has survived of the original features and fittings of Structure A to be able to state with confidence that the occupation of Benjamin Smith as a locksmith recorded on the 1841 census may be taken as a clue to the early function of the building. While the quality of the build and the size of Structure A are not inconsistent with a purpose-built workshop for one of the relatively higher status metal-bashing industries; admittedly later-19th century examples of lockmaking workshops which have been studied in Wolverhampton, Willenhall, and Walsall were usually better-lit, being generally freestanding within backplots.

It is suggested that a sample of the bricks from the various builds of Structures A and B be made; and that further more detailed documentary research may be worthwhile.

#### **4 Below-ground Evaluation**

Based on the results of previous archaeological evaluations and watching briefs (see Background) it seemed highly likely that the proposed development of 49, New Street would encounter significant archaeological deposits and features. The Borough Archaeologist therefore imposed a planning condition requiring further archaeological evaluation of the site in advance of development. The following sections describe the results of this evaluation exercise.

#### **5 Methods**

Except in Trench 4 all work was undertaken using artificial light provided by 500 watt tungsten halogen lamps powered by a generator. After first using a concrete breaker to remove the modern floor surfaces, four trenches were excavated using a mechanical excavator. The trenches were 1.0m wide and on average 1.2m deep. Generally the trenches were excavated to natural and the archaeological deposits were recorded in section. Medieval features were identified and sampled. All contexts and features were recorded on pro forma record cards and finds were related to context where possible. Plans and sections of each trench were drawn at a scale of 1:20. The pottery assemblage enabled the dating of features and contexts. This was undertaken by S.Ratkai. A photographic record was prepared of the standing masonry and an analysis of the building prepared by S.Litherland.

For ease in using the text, north is considered to relate directly to the street frontage facing onto New Street. True north is some 40 degrees to the east of the text north.

#### **6 The archaeological results**

See Figure 2 for the location of individual trenches.

##### **Trench 1**

This trench was excavated by machine in the form of a cross. The depth of the trench was c1.2m to natural which consisted of a yellow clay with occasional grey patches considered to be due to root activity. Archaeological deposits survived well and these consisted of:

##### **Medieval**

At the base of the machine excavated trench a grey clay/loam (1002) filled a negative feature (F101). No further contexts were given for this feature although after excavation it seems likely that there were at least two intercut features. The principal element of the feature/s was recorded in the western arm of the trench and consisted of a ditch running from north to south. It was c2.0m wide and a considerable but unknown depth. A shallower depression ran alongside the principal ditch along its eastern edge and running at right angles towards the east was a very shallow linear



depression. A further element consisted of a ditch running off the main ditch to the northeast.

The limited nature of this evaluation means that interpretation of the feature/s can only be speculative. It seems probable that they are structural and may well relate to the expansion of the town in the 13th or 14th centuries. Associated floor surfaces which once would have existed were destroyed when the structures went out of use and the land reverted to agriculture as the town shrunk back to its previous form. The town later re-expanded in the early post-medieval period.

Pottery evidence might suggest that there are at least two phases of activity associated with this feature, as small collections of pottery date from both the 14th and later 15th centuries.

Layer 1005 is a compact pale grey clay loam with occasional charcoal flecks and will have been the ploughsoil cultivated as part of the open field system in the medieval and early post-medieval periods. This layer overlies F101 and its fill.

#### Post-medieval

F109 cuts layer 1005 and is a ditch running from east to west in the northern arm of the trench with a deposit of compact iron slag on its base (1015), and a general fill, consisting of yellow clay, off-white mortar and limestone rubble (1014). This feature is similar to ditch F206 in Trench 2.

Overlying 1005 is 1006, a similar loam layer but much darker and with a higher concentration of charcoal and coal. This is a post-medieval layer yet still seems to be agricultural.

Overlying 1006 is 1007 a similar dark loam but with significant inclusions of off-white mortar indicative of building activity in the area. It seems possible that this layer is associated with two possible walls (F103 and F104).

F103 is a sandstone wall foundation running from west to east. Only the southern face of this wall was exposed in the northern arm of the trench. The foundation is a considerable distance from the street frontage and bearing in mind the widening of the street in 1934 probably relates to the rear wall of a structure facing on to New Street in its original form. Dating of this structure is difficult but some period in the early post-medieval period seems likely.

F104 is a similar sandstone foundation running from north to south and uncovered in the eastern arm of the trench. The foundation stops half way across the trench at a distance of 2.0m from F103. The upper part of the foundation has been robbed out (F105) and backfilled with broken bricks and mortar (1011). This might suggest that the sandstone foundations supported a brick built superstructure, as seen elsewhere in Dudley.

In the western arm of the trench a large pit (F102) was excavated to a depth of some 1.50m below present ground surface. The pit had fills of a pale grey ash (1016) and a black ashy loam (1003), producing 17th century pottery.

In the western arm of the trench another foundation occurred. F106 consisted of mortar deposited in a trench with inclusions of broken brick. This feature again runs from north to south and stops 2.0m from F103 which suggests that it is somehow connected to F104 yet totally dissimilar in construction.

#### 19th century and modern

Two construction trenches were cut through 1008 in order to bury drains. F107 is a brick built drain which runs from north east to south west. The fill of the construction trench was a black ashy loam (1012). F108 was observed in the northern arm of the trench and consisted of a poorly constructed, although fairly large, brick built drain, running from west to east. These drains are probably contemporary with the mid-19th century construction of the present building.

It seems probable that this room was floored with brick in the original 19th century construction but this was removed, possibly when New Street was widened in 1934 and the building was given a new facade. The present floor surface is lower than the original would have been and consists of a concrete skim (1010), frequently repaired, overlying a bed of mortar and loam with brick inclusions etc. (1009).

#### Trench 2

The yellow clay subsoil (2015) sloped gently from south to north forming a shallow depression some 0.50m deep at the northern end of the trench. This depression was filled by a series of blue/grey silty clays containing medieval pottery of the 14th century (2011, 2010, 2007, 2006). The material was waterlogged and seems to be filling a wide shallow ditch running from west to east. The shallowness of the excavated side would suggest that this was a natural feature rather than a man made ditch. To the south of this feature was a single post-hole (F202) and its fill (2008), which appeared to be contemporary.

Cutting into the medieval surface was a trench running from west to east (F206). The fills consisted of a base fill of grey loam overlain by a thin, compact layer of iron slag in turn overlain by a mixed deposit of brick rubble and loam with concentrations of iron slag (2014). This would appear to relate to the early industrialisation of the area.

Two features appear to be contemporary and predate the standing fabric. They consist of pits (F201 and F205) excavated into the medieval surfaces and then backfilled with mortar used to set a timber post (F201-2009 and F205-2013).

The southern end of the trench was formed by a brick-built drain (F208) that is earlier than the floor surface above but may have been built as part of the same general building process.

The northern end of this trench consisted of a wall foundation (F207), running from east to west, and part of the 19th century structure. It was later demolished to ground level. The wall sits in construction trench (F204) with associated fills (2012 and 2016). The floor surface constructed in the 19th century to go with the new building consisted of a bed of black ash (2003), for a brick surface (2002), which, in turn, underlay two, more modern, concrete floors (2001 and 2000).

### Trench 3

The natural subsoil (3001) consisted of the usual yellow clay and this was overlain by the grey clay/loam (3002) interpreted as being medieval and early post-medieval plough soil.

3002 was cut by two post-pits (F302 and F303 and their fills 3005 and 3006) These were c0.40m in diameter and 0.50m deep and had the remains of wooden planks in their bases which will have functioned as post-pads. Associated pottery would suggest a 17th century date for their construction. The post holes form an alignment running from east to west but without further excavation little more can be said of them. Three circular patches of grey clay observed cutting the natural at the base of the trench. They are interpreted as being stake-holes (called together F309) and probably relate to the two post holes.

Overlying this sequence is a layer of darker grey loam with concentrations of coal and charcoal (3003). This is cut by a pit (F301) with concentrations of iron slag within its fill (3008) indicating industrial activity in the area.

Overlying this sequence is a layer of dark loam with inclusions of off-white mortar and brick fragments (3009). This is cut by a large pit (F301 and its fill 3004). This pit was only partially visible in the north and west sections and its dimensions and purpose are unknown. This layer is also cut by a shallow bowl shaped pit (F304 and its fill 3007).

The next layer in the sequence consisted of a deposit of off-white mortar thinning out to the east (3011). This was overlain by limestone setts and their bedding material of black ash (3012) The use of limestone setts would suggest a yard surface external to the buildings presently standing on the site. The setts are overlain by a skim of modern concrete (3013).

In the northeast corner of the trench was an area which had been covered by a slab of concrete in the recent past (F308). The feature was interpreted as a backfilled inspection pit for working on mechanical vehicles. Below the concrete cap the sides of the feature consist of sandstone masonry, unusual in a feature of such recent date.

The majority of finds from this trench are of the 17th and 18th century and came from the machine excavated spoil. The limited nature of more recent material would suggest that all the stratigraphy and features described relate to medieval and post-medieval occupation on the site apart from the yard surfaces which are of mid-19th century and later date.

## Trench 4

Consisted of a 1.0m square sondage excavated by hand external to the buildings currently undergoing development.

After removal of modern overburden (4000) a brick floor (4001) was uncovered. The floor was very worn and was based on a bed of grey ash (4002) which immediately overlay the natural yellow clay (4003). A ceramic drain (F400-4004) had been inserted through the floor. In this part of the site all traces of archaeological stratigraphy have been removed although negative features excavated into the subsoil in the medieval and post-medieval periods may still survive. The nature of the floor would suggest that it was internal to an industrial unit occupying the site in the later-19th century.

## 7 The Finds

### The Pottery by S.Ratkai

#### Spot dating

1002	late 15th-early 16th c (residual 13th-14th c)
1003	17th c
1004	17th c
Tr1 u/s	19th c (residual 17th, 16th and 13th-14th c)
2007	14th (15th?) c
2009	17th c
2011	14th (15th?) c
2012	late 17th-early 18th c
Tr2 u/s	late 17th-early 18th c (residual 15th-16th c)
3006	17th c
3007	17th c?
Tr3 u/s	mix of 17th and 18th c (three modern glazed sherds, 19th c)
4000	19th c

#### Discussion

The pottery is in a good state of preservation with large, unabraded sherds. A limited range of fabrics is represented dating from the 13th-14th centuries up to the 18th century. Within this date range the pottery tends to fall into two main groups; 13th-14th century sherds and 17th-18th century material. There is a small amount of late-15th-early-16th century pottery.

The medieval pottery consists of sandy, white wares and coarse, sandy, brown cooking pots and a glazed, micaceous, sandy, orange ware. Similar whiteware and cooking pots are known from both Dudley Castle and Stafford Castle. The orange, micaceous ware is more unusual and may not be local. The transition from the medieval to the post-medieval period is represented by a late red ware sherd

(unstratified) from Trench 2 and two joining, hard-fired, fine, red ware sherds from 1002. These latter two sherds were so hard fired that they appeared almost wastered.

The post-medieval pottery consisted mostly of coarsewares and blackware. There were also small quantities of yellow ware, Cistercian ware, manganese, mottled ware, English stoneware and four modern glazed ware sherds of 19th? century date.

The pottery seemed to be fairly typical of domestic occupation. However in addition to the two wasters (see above), there was also a piece of possible kiln furniture from 1003. This was a shallow, unglazed, straight-sided vessel. The external base was covered in glaze and kiln debris i.e. small ceramic chips and fuel ash. The form resembled a saggar but was too shallow to be used with hollow wares. It is possible that two of these vessels could be stacked rim to rim making a deeper saggar. Previous excavation on the site of The Saracens Head revealed a possible waster and kiln furniture. There is thus a strong possibility of pottery making in this area of Dudley and further investigation and/or excavation in the area should take heed of this.

Although there was only a small amount of pottery from New Street, it has nevertheless provided information for 13th-14th century occupation, some, perhaps more limited, late-15th-early-16th century activity, which may be associated with pottery production in the area. This was, in, turn followed by more extensive 17th-18th century occupation.

### **Other finds**

The finds collection obtained from this evaluation was surprisingly limited considering the depth and complex nature of the archaeological stratigraphy.

#### *Animal bone*

Six fragments were collected and no further study is recommended.

#### *Vessel glass*

Three fragments were collected and no further study is recommended

#### *Clay pipe*

Fourteen fragments were collected with only one providing dating evidence of c1700 from Trench 1, u/s and no further study is recommended.

#### *Iron*

Three objects were collected and no further study is recommended

### *Worked bone*

One object was identified as a late 17th century knife handle and this should appear in any future publication related to further work on the site.

### *Industrial debris*

Samples of slag were taken from the 17th? century features and these deserve limited analysis in conjunction with samples obtained from further excavation if their dating can be defined more precisely.

### *Building materials.*

Brick, tile, stone and mortar were retained from construction and destruction deposits and these may deserve incorporation into any report following on further excavation.

### *Wood*

In Trench 3 two short planks were excavated from the bases of post pits F302 and F303. These are currently preserved in water. Only after further excavation provides closer dating and further information referring to their structural purpose should consideration be given to conservation treatment.

## **8 Discussion**

Previous excavations at the Tower Street and Saracen's Head sites, along with this evaluation, have demonstrated that archaeological deposits and features survive to a remarkable degree over the greater part of the area bounded by New Street, Tower Street, Priory Street and Stone Street. Evaluation trenches allow only a glimpse of the buried archaeology and any interpretation of the results of such evaluations must always be considered as liable to reinterpretation in the light of further work in the area.

The medieval features recovered in 1996 along the Tower Street facade and those recovered by the present work appear to reveal an expansion of the medieval town of Dudley into the adjacent open field system in the 14th century. New Street probably owes its existence and its name to this stage of the town's development. The fact that no floor surfaces have survived associated with these features and that they were all covered by ploughsoil would suggest that the area reverted to agricultural purposes in the later medieval period although the line of New Street was retained. This could be due to an economic downturn in the town's wealth or, more dramatically, the onset of plague or other disaster which reduced the population.

The pottery assemblage, indicating the presence of a pottery kiln in the vicinity of the area under review, appears to provide evidence of a re-expansion of the town in the 16th century. This aspect of the development of Dudley town is of great potential interest and deserves further study.

The sandstone foundations and associated finds indicate a new expansion of the town in the 17th century. The presence of iron slag in many of the features would indicate the industrial nature of this expansion. The development of the town then continued apace until the deliberate destruction of the northern part of the town in the course of the siege of Dudley Castle in the mid-17th century. It has been suggested that the development of the New Street site in the later-17th century is a direct result of renewed and planned development of the town in the aftermath of this destruction (pers. comm. P.Boland). More precise dating of the structures and associated layers could be achieved by further excavation in more controlled circumstances.

The development of the site in the 19th century is described under the section (above) "Structural Analysis" by S.Litherland.

## 9 Acknowledgements

This evaluation project was sponsored by Focus Housing Group. P.Boland and J.A.Hemingway of Dudley MBC provided much useful background information based on their own researches. The excavation team consisted of S.J.Linnane, E.Newton and K.Nicholl. The analysis of the standing masonry was undertaken by S.Litherland whilst the illustrations were prepared by Nigel Dodds. Spot dating of the pottery assemblage was undertaken by S.Ratkai and the project was monitored and managed by I.Ferris for BUFAU. Thanks are extended to all involved in the preparation of this report.

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Wrathmell S. 1977 Industrial workshops in Walsall and Willenhall. unpublished MA thesis, University of manchester.



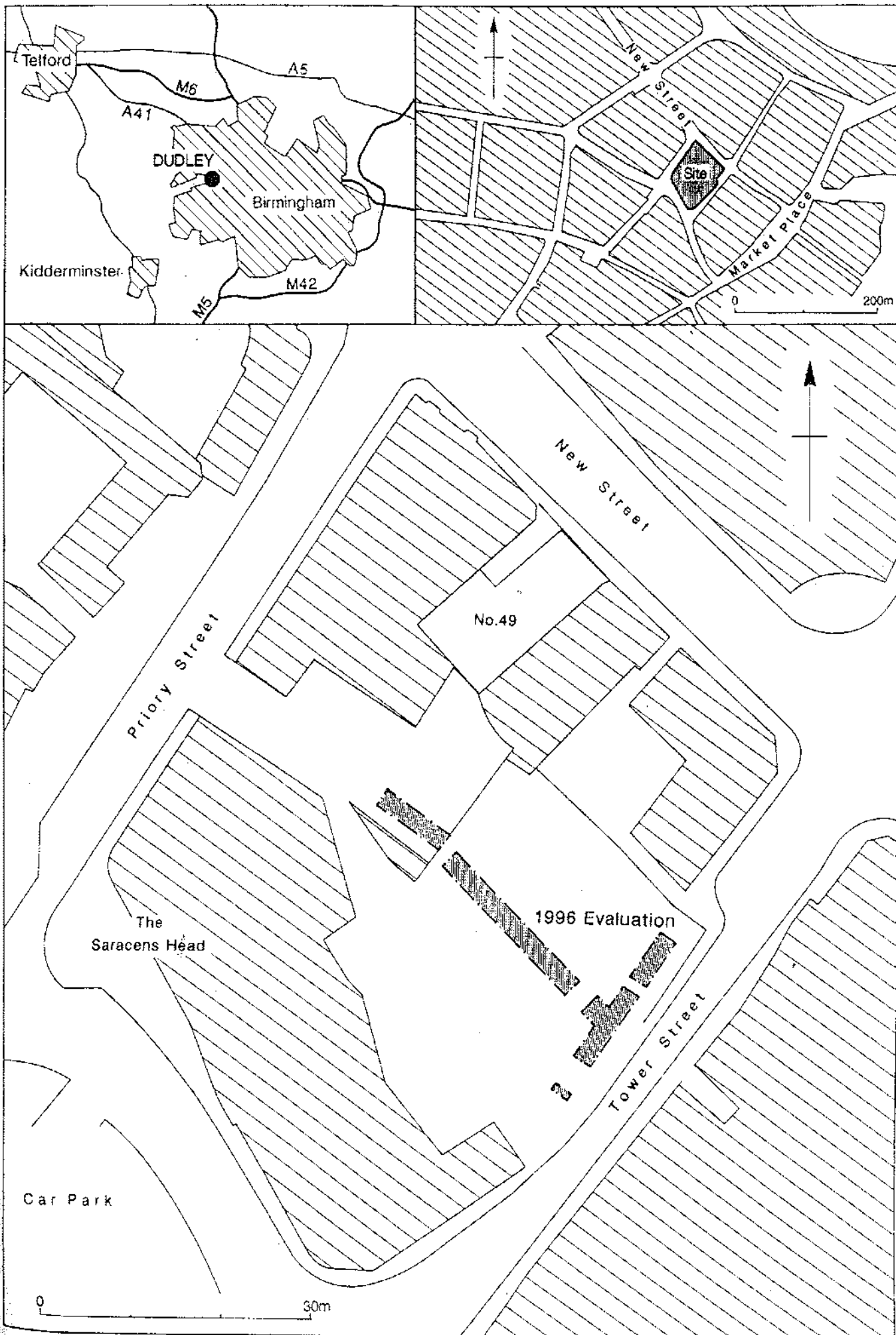


Fig.1

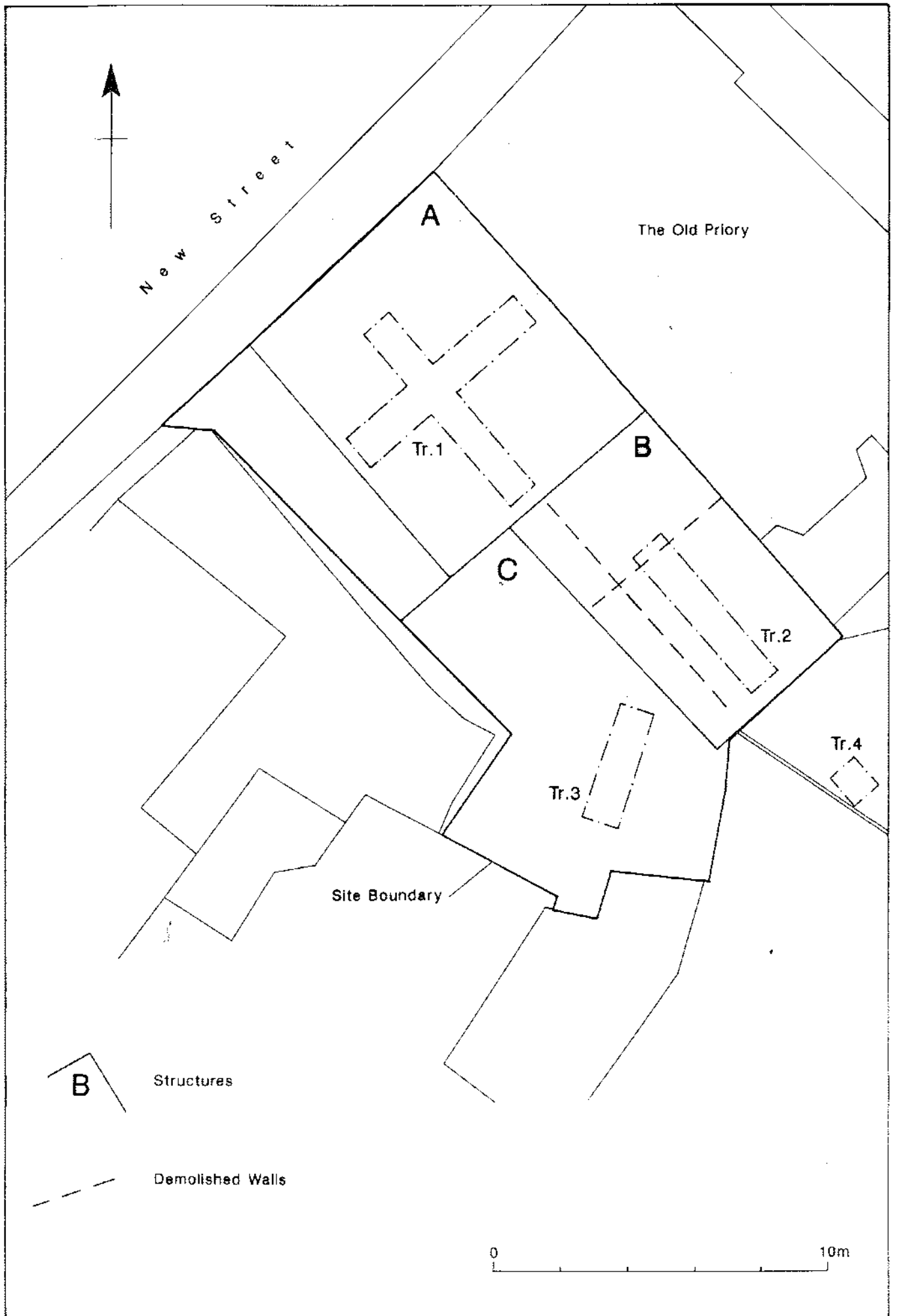


Fig.2

Trench 1

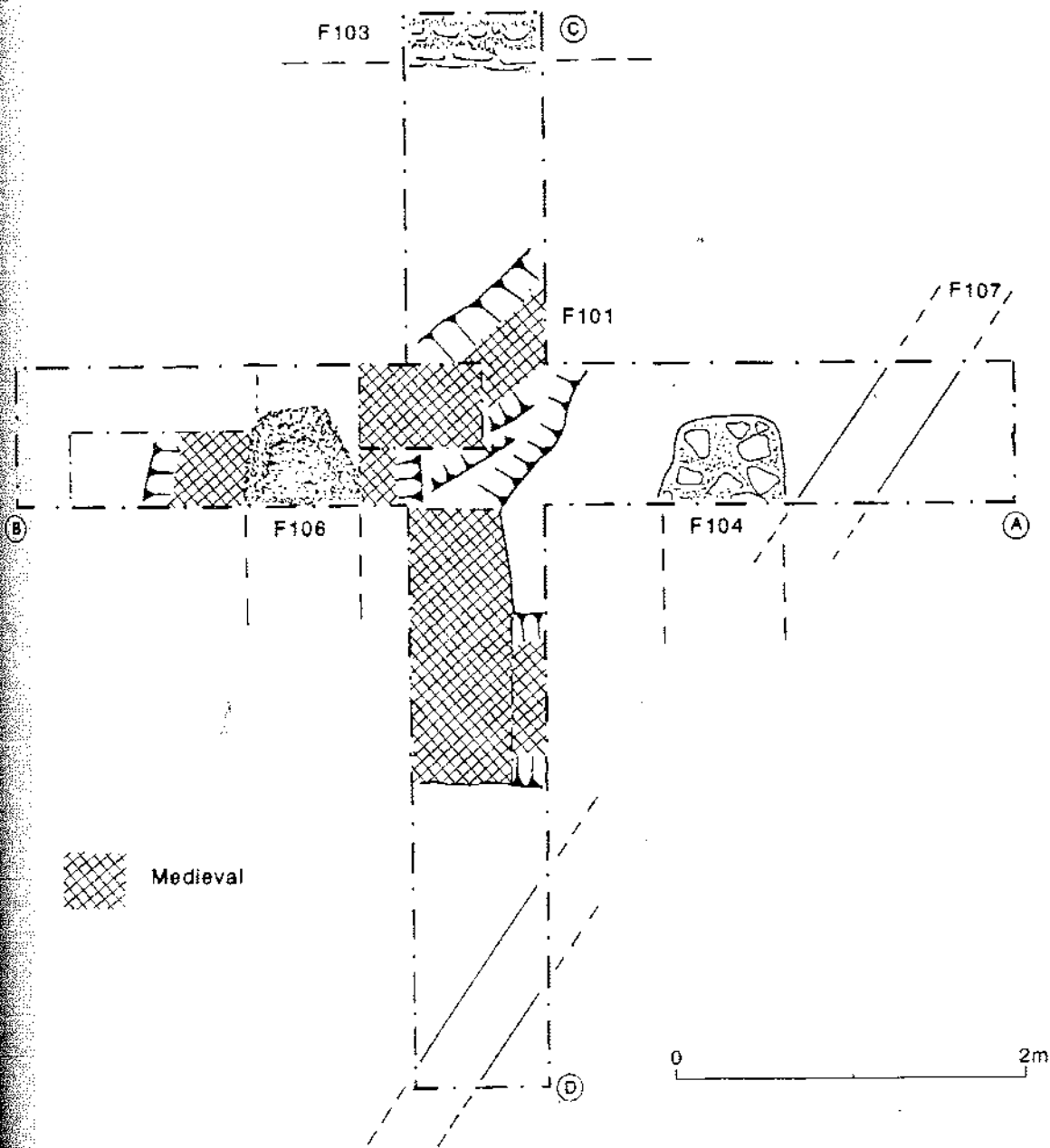
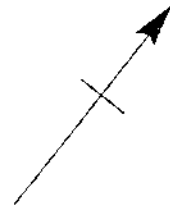
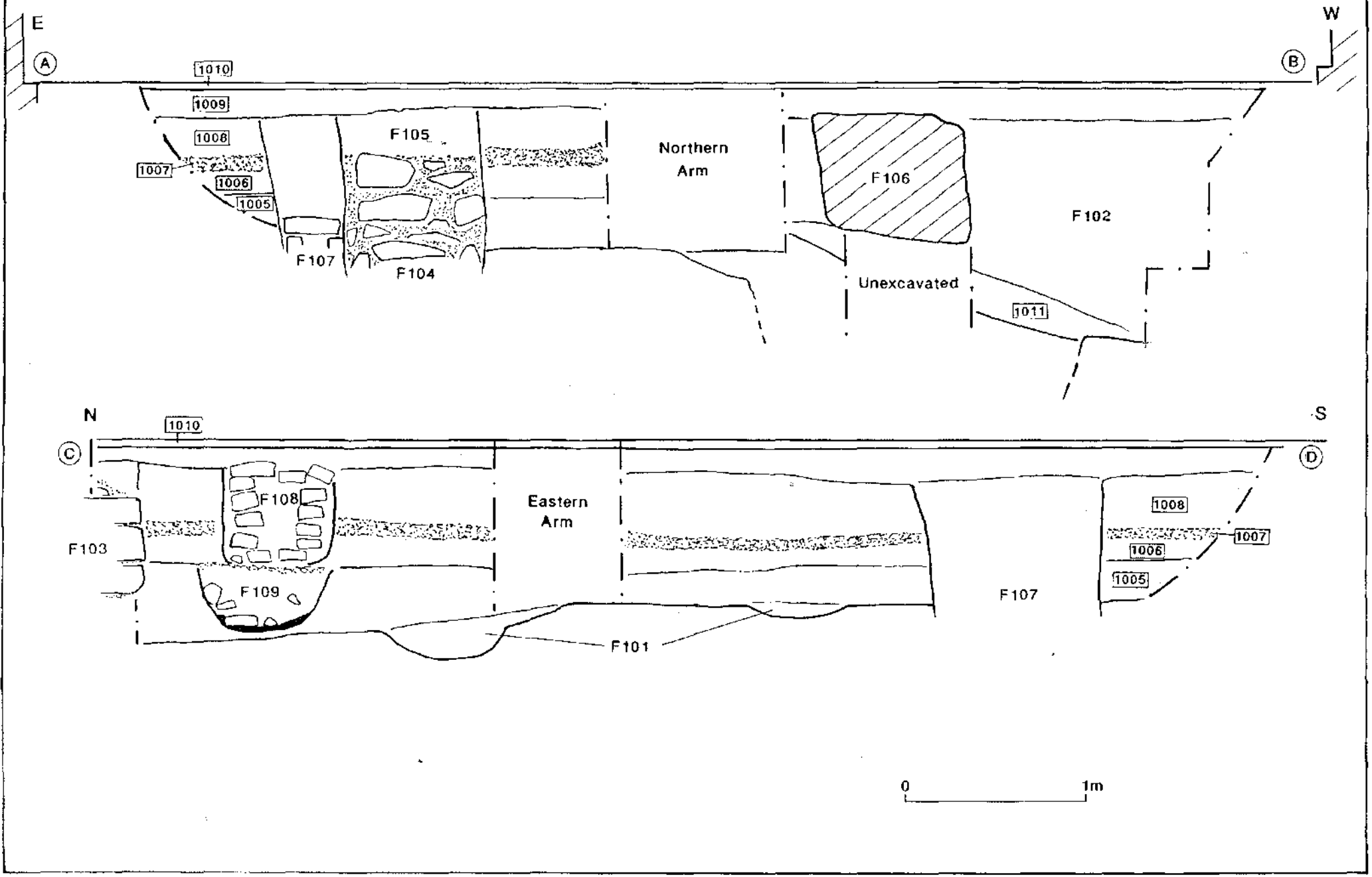


Fig.3

# Trench 1



# Trench 2

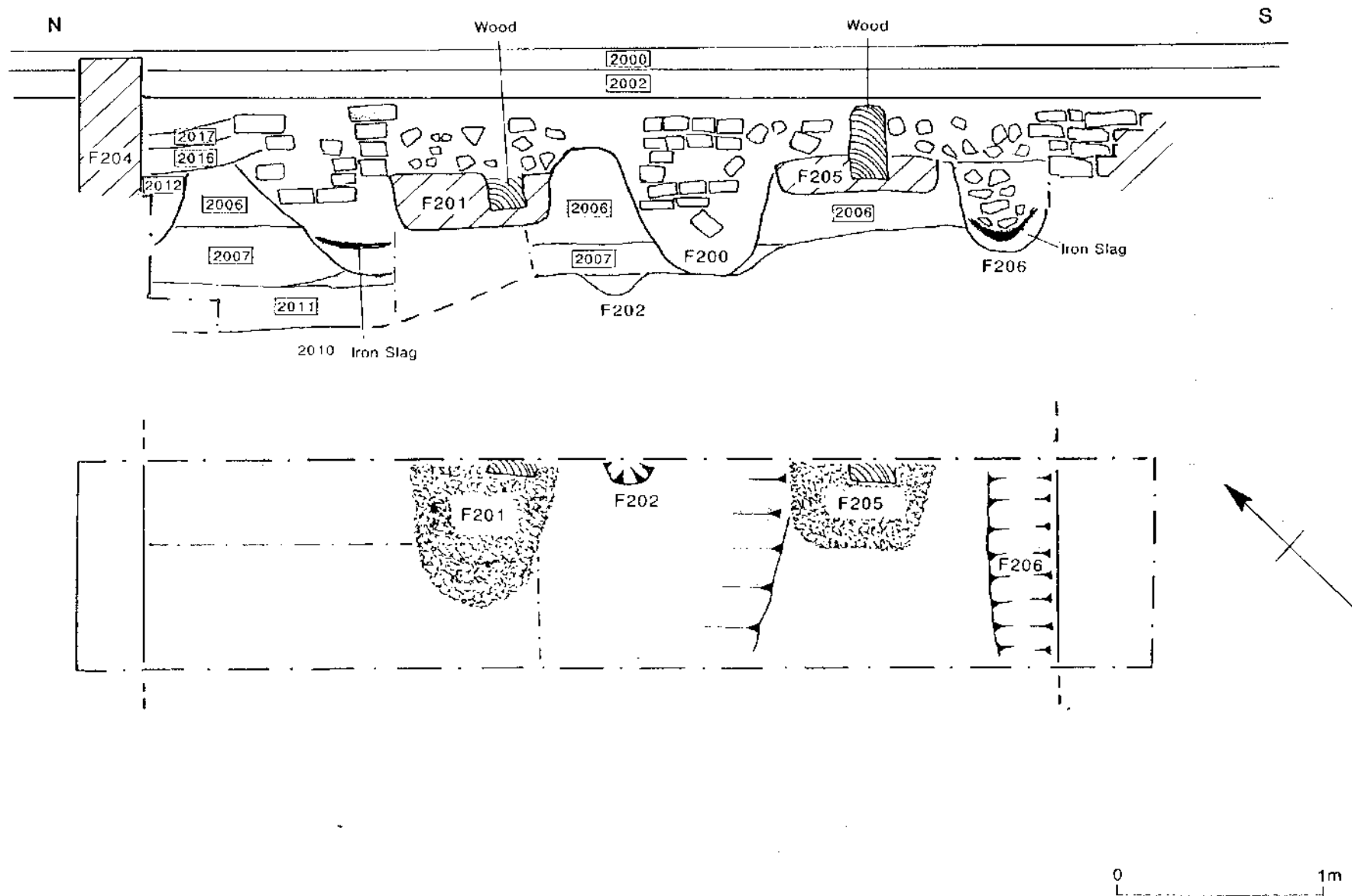


Fig 5

# Trench 3

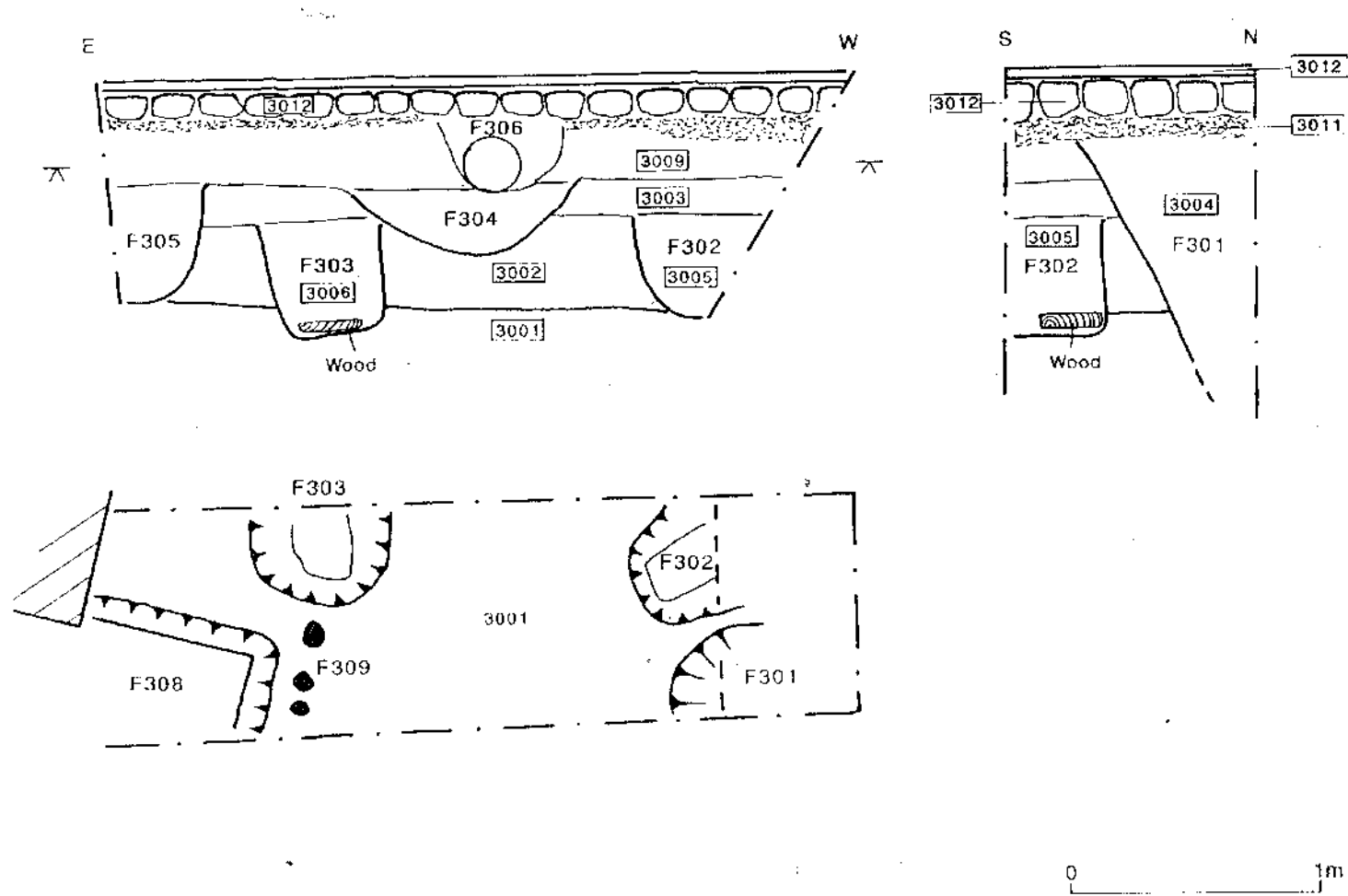
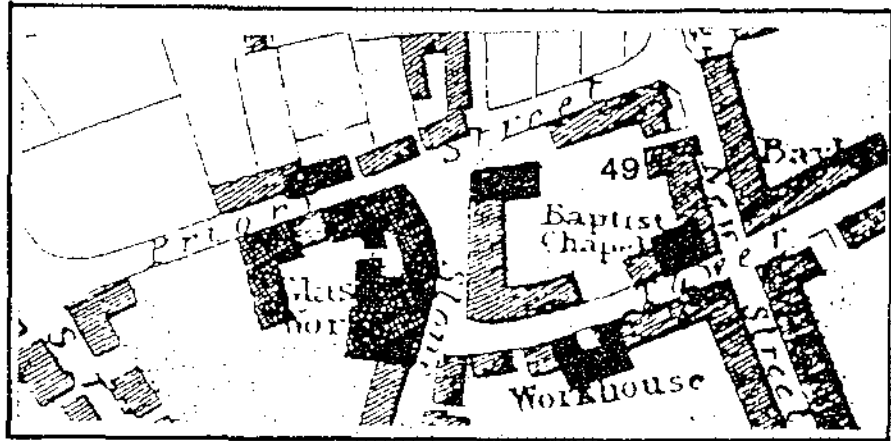
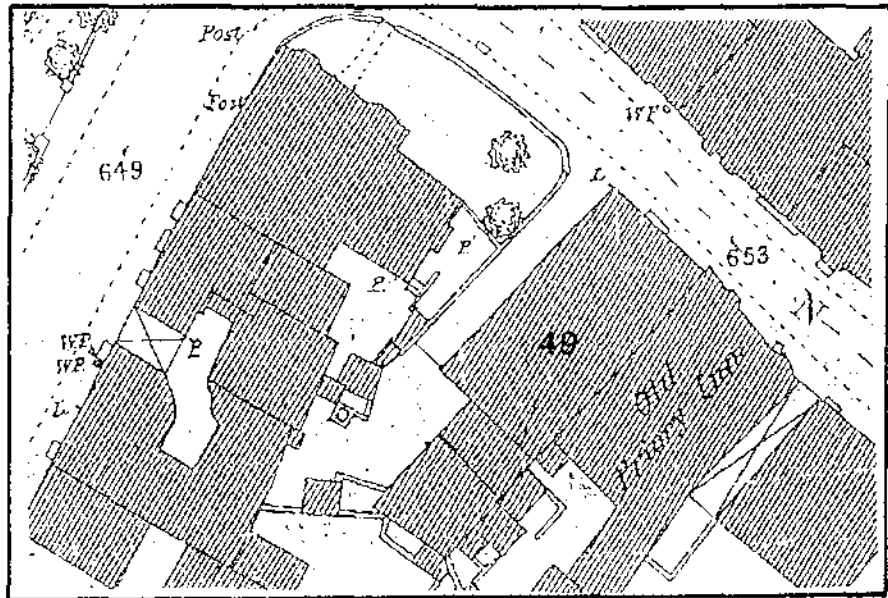


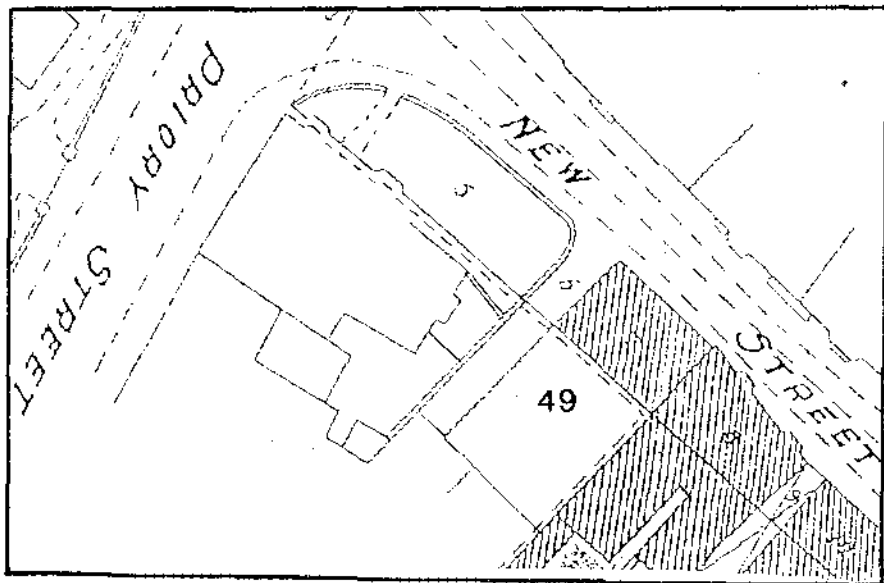
Fig 6



1835



1884 (1:500)

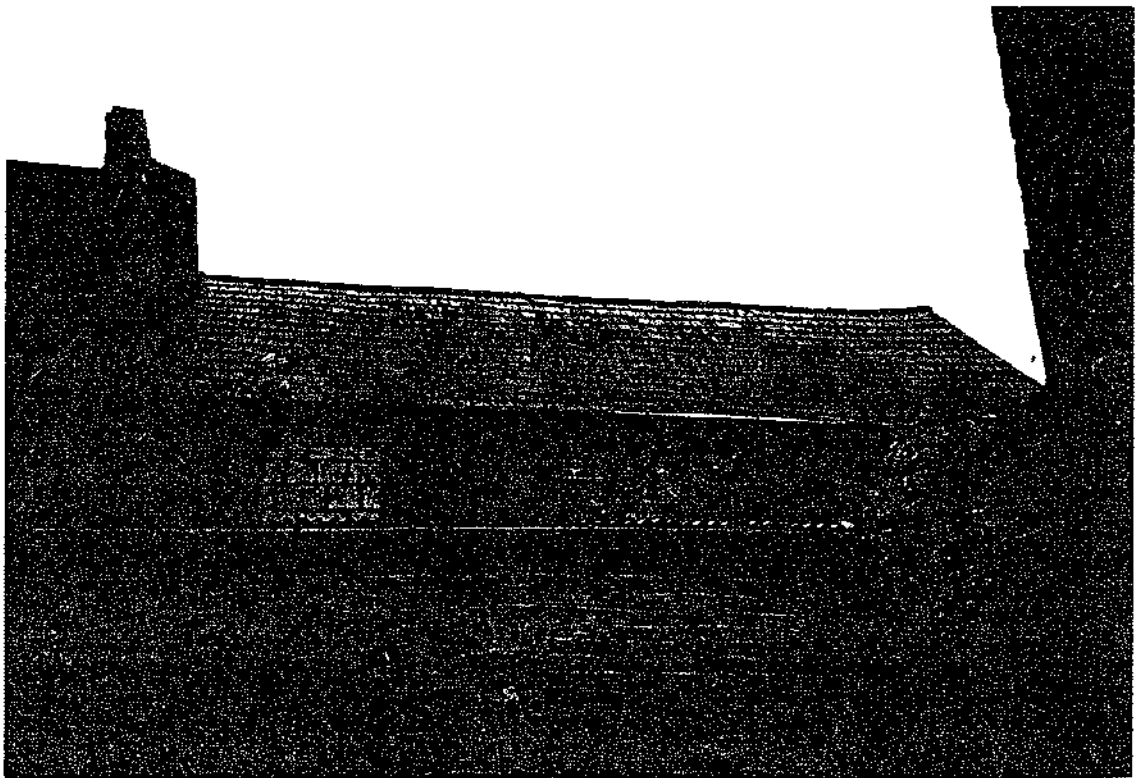


1934

Fig.7

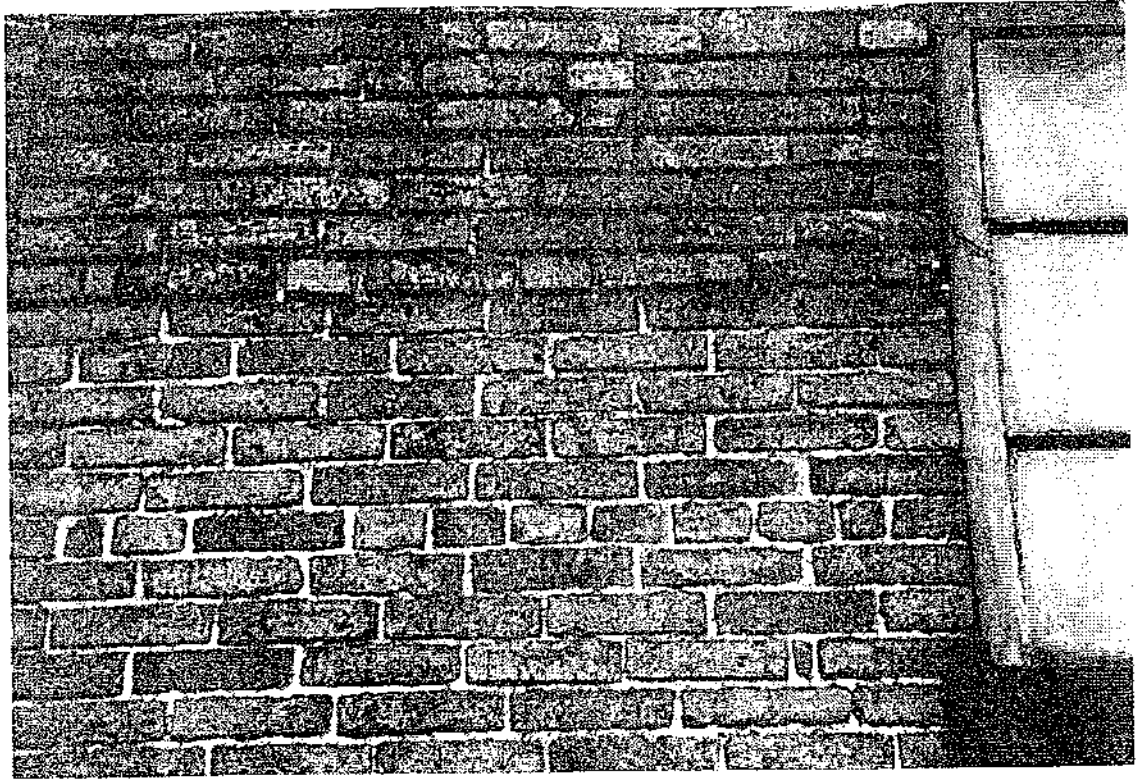


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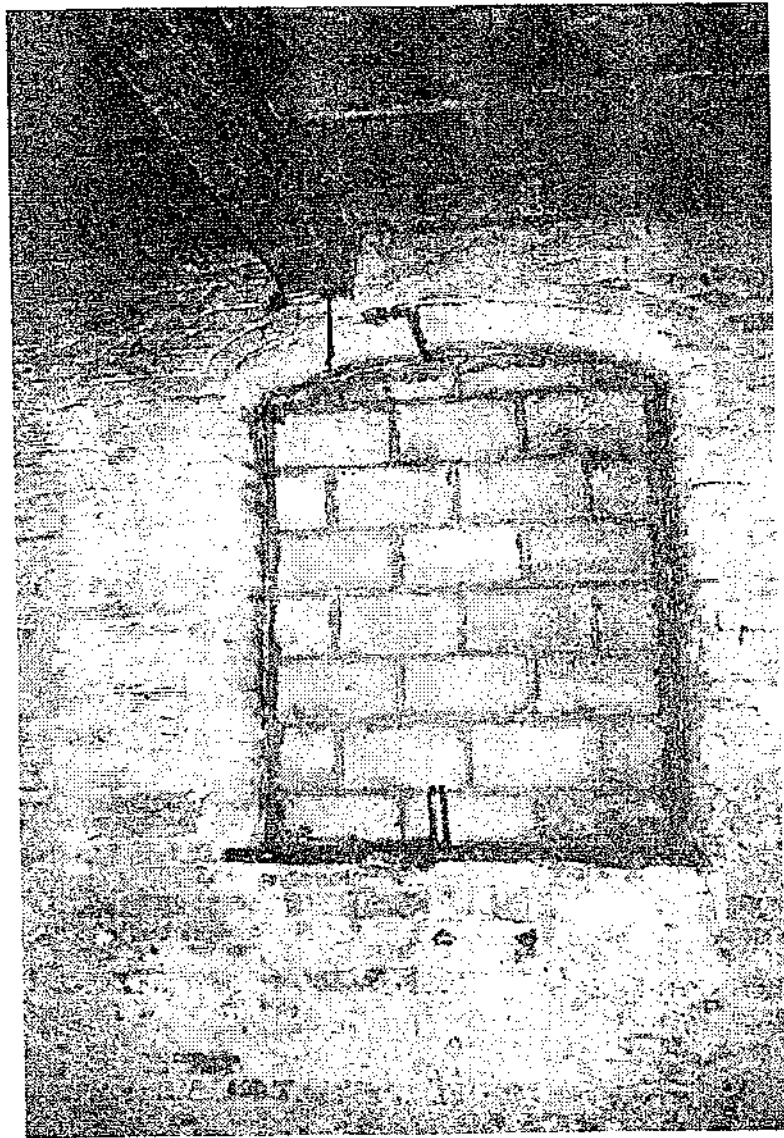


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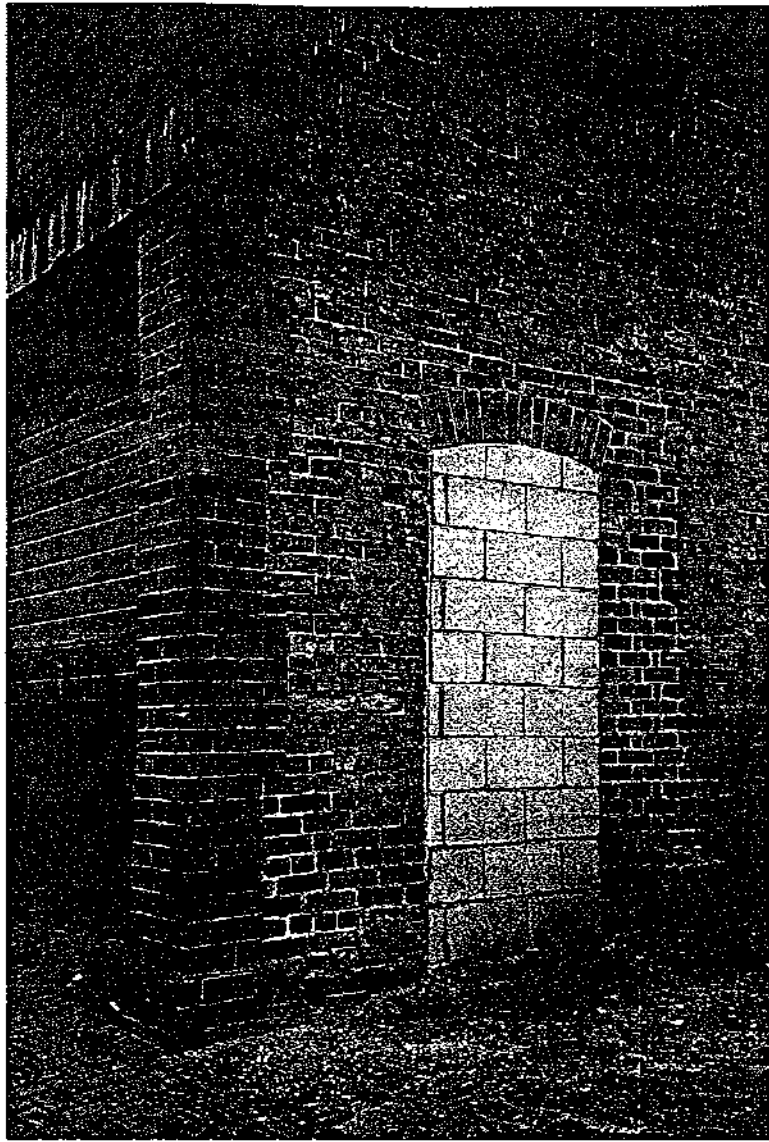
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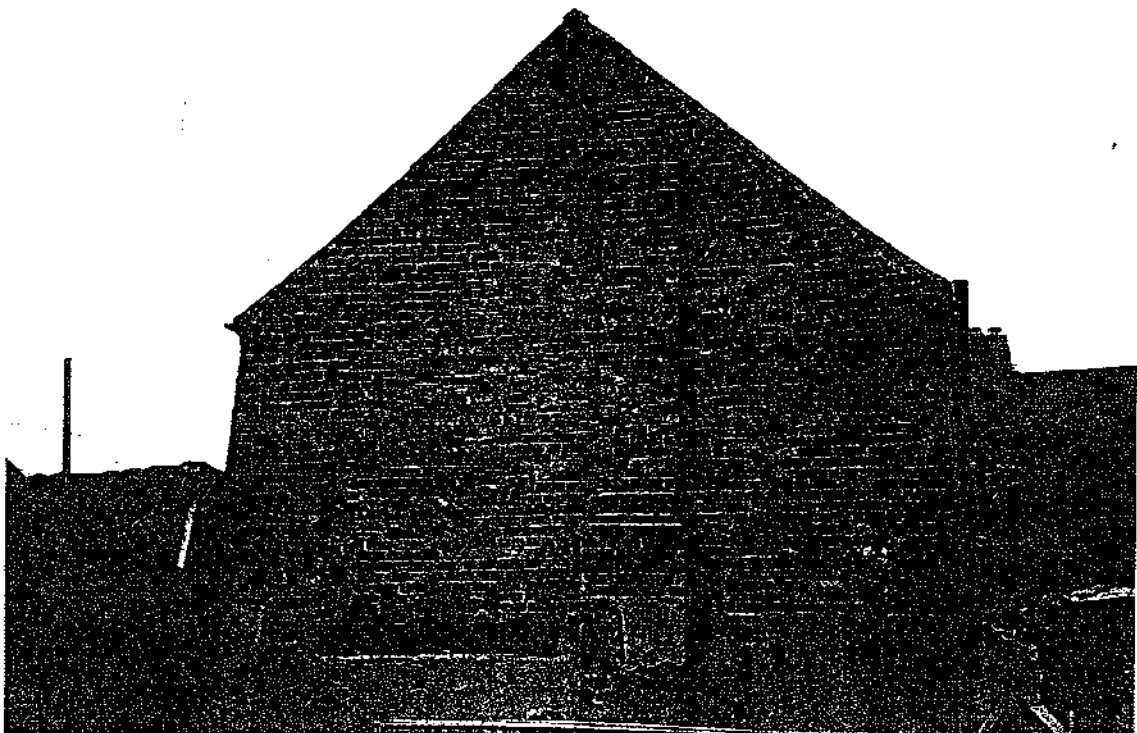
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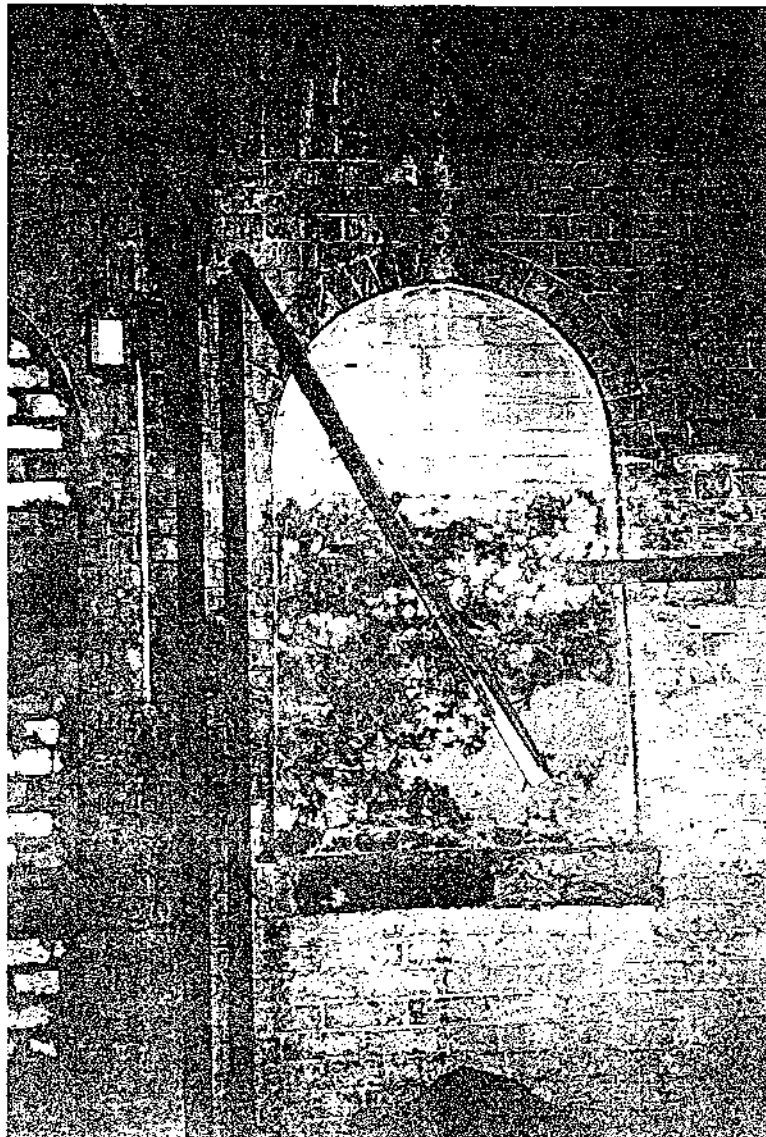
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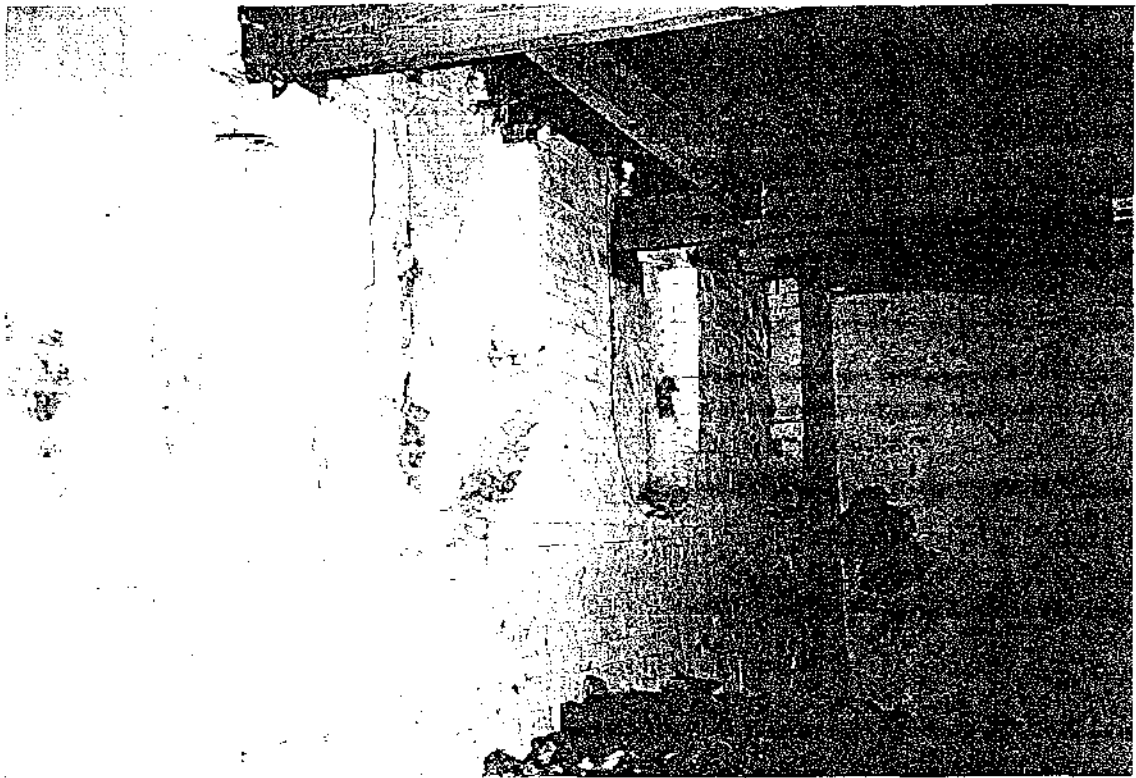
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9



10



11



12



Appendix A

No 199. 49 New Street, Dudley.

S.M.R.:7631

History

- c.1780: Henry Court's map.  
Shows the block of land to the north of Pease Lane (Tower Street) as a built-up area.
- 1835: Treasure's Map - shows individual building.  
On the site of No.49 there appears to be a building jutting out into New Street on an east-west alignment. There is a substantial gap between No 49 and No.51.  
[widening of New Street?]
- 1841: Census - Benjamine Smith & Family, Locksmith.
- 1851: Census - Thomas Fleet & Family + servant. (wife and 6 children).
- 1861: Census - Ann & Sarah Richards, 22 & 23, domestic servants.
- 1871: Census - 'no one living there'.
- 1876: Sale of Property.  
Shows the narrow building on the line of New Street.
- 1880: Tanfield's Map of Dudley.  
This shows the site in some detail. A wider building had been erected on the site of the narrow one. A  $\frac{3}{4}$ -wide range had been added to the rear. An entrance from New Street lead to a courtyard. A small structure (store/lavatory) lay against the south boundary wall and a well-like feature up against the north wall angle.
- 1881; Census - nail warehouse.
- 1884: O.S. Map.  
[shows the same as Tanfield's]
- 1904: ditto
- 1934: New Street widening.
- 1938: O.S. Map.  
By this date the courtyard had been roofed over.
- 1961: Conveyance: Henry Albert Gittings to Julia Hanson. (Legal dept.)
- 1972: Conveyance: Julia Hanson to Dudley. (Legal dept.)
- 1972: Borough Engineers Plan.  
This shows the courtyard building as being somewhat angular with a small rectangle in the south-west corner open. The north-west end of the building overlaps the main structure and there appears to be a building over or blocking the building.

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1881; Census - nail warehouse.

1884: O.S. Map.

[shows the same as Tanfield's]

1904: ditto

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1938: O.S. Map.

By this date the courtyard had been roofed over.

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