

**West Bromwich Town
Centre Redevelopment**

**An Archaeological Desk-Based
Assessment**

Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit
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West Bromwich Town Centre Redevelopment

An Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment

Summary

An archaeological assessment was carried out by Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit on an area of land in West Bromwich, in the West Midlands (NGR SP 400700/291500), in advance of a planning application being made by G.L. Hearn for redevelopment. The aim of the assessment was to identify and determine the survival and significance of archaeological remains within the Study Area, in order to allow the consideration and identification of any recommendations for further archaeological work ahead of redevelopment. The assessment identified 37 sites of mainly 19th and 20th-century date and made recommendations for mitigation strategies on each site.

1.0 Introduction

This assessment was undertaken by BUFAU during August 2000 under commission by G.L. Hearn. It comprises an archaeological assessment of an area of land in West Bromwich town centre in Sandwell in the West Midlands (hereafter the Study Area; Figs.1 and 2). The assessment has been prepared with reference to the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Deskbased Assessments* (Institute of Field Archaeologists 1999), the assessment section of the *Design Manual for Roads and Bridges Volume 11*, the English Heritage Non-Statutory Criteria for the Scheduling of Ancient Monuments, and English Heritage's New Approach to Appraisal document.

2.0 Objectives

The objectives of the assessment were to:

- identify the archaeological sites within the Study Area.
- determine the known and potential survival of the archaeological and historical resource within the Study Area.
- assess the significance and value of the resource in a local, regional, national or international context as appropriate.
- assess the impact of redevelopment on each site identified.
- assess the effect of future construction and operation on each site identified.
- make provisional recommendations for any further archaeological work in advance of redevelopment of the Study Area.

3.0 Method

3.1 Definitions

The definition of 'archaeological sites' should be taken to include upstanding remains, earthworks, buried features, palaeoenvironmental evidence and artefact scatters that may indicate the location of an archaeological site. No listed buildings were recorded within the Study Area.

3.2 Report Framework

The broad framework used in this report will include those categories provided by G.L. Hearn. These are as follows:

- Existing Conditions
- Effects on Construction
- Effects on Operation
- Mitigation

The Study Area has been divided into 12 zones for descriptive purposes and for ease of presenting mitigation recommendations. The zones are identified by letters A to L (Fig.3). Each identified archaeological site has been given a unique number (BUFAU Site Number), on one occasion this is in addition to an existing SMR number. The locations of these sites can be seen on Fig. 4. An historical and archaeological profile of the Study Area will be given, followed by a description of existing conditions in each zone of the Study Area. The development of each zone will be traced in detail from a set of historical maps (Appendix 2, Figs. 5-15) and other published and unpublished sources. An assessment of site value is given, together with recommendations for further archaeological fieldwork, where considered appropriate.

3.3 The Study Area

The archaeological Study Area is in West Bromwich town centre, centred on NGR SP 400700/291500 (Fig.1), and comprises an area of approximately 14.29 hectares. It is bounded by the Expressway to the north and east, Cronehills Linkway and West Bromwich Ringway to the west, and Reform Street to the south (Fig.2). A brief historical profile of West Bromwich has been provided in order to place sites in a broader local context, and to help make an assessment of any group value they may possess.

3.4 Assessment of Site Value

The assessment criteria employed in determining the importance of those sites affected by the proposed redevelopment are those laid out in the English Heritage Non-Statutory Criteria for the Scheduling of Ancient Monuments. They are as follows:

- Period;
- Rarity;
- Documentation;
- Group value;
- Survival and/or condition;
- Fragility and/or vulnerability;
- Diversity;
- Potential.

The English Heritage Guidance on the New Approach to Appraisal has also been used to determine levels of significance.

The archaeological sites which would be affected by the proposed redevelopment are categorised according to importance, or potential importance, as follows:

- Sites of national importance, usually Scheduled Ancient Monuments;
- Sites of regional importance;
- Sites of local importance;
- Sites of limited importance, including those sites so badly disturbed or poorly documented, that too little now remains to justify their inclusion at a higher grade.

3.5 Sources

- Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council Sites and Monuments Record. This is the primary source of existing archaeological information.
- Published and unpublished documentary and cartographic sources were consulted at Staffordshire County Record Office.
- Cartographic and photographic sources were consulted at Sandwell Community History and Archives Service.
- Published and unpublished documentary and cartographic sources were consulted in the Birmingham Central Reference Library – Local History and Archives Sections.
- Other published sources were consulted in the University of Birmingham Library.

4.0 West Bromwich: Historical and Archaeological Background

4.1 Geology and Topography

West Bromwich lies at the northern end of a low plateau which forms part of the South Staffordshire Plateau, and which extends southwards to Birmingham and the Rea Valley. The central part of the town lies on high ground at the junction of Beeches Road and Thynne Street and, from here, two spurs run northwards and north-westwards respectively. West Bromwich is situated on the Coal Measures. The northern part of the parish consists of Carboniferous shales, and the western part of marls. In the south-eastern part, Carboniferous red sandstone overlies the Coal Measures. Over the central high ground the drift consists of boulder clay. The western and eastern sides of the parish are largely shales and marls.

4.2 Historical Context

West Bromwich was known as Bromwic in the Domesday Book, which means 'a wic where broom grew,' and its 3 hides of land were held by William fitz Anculf. There were 10 villeins and 3 bordars. By 1322, it was becoming known as West Bromwich, perhaps to distinguish it from Castle Bromwich and Little Bromwich.

The main medieval settlement was at Lyndon, on the northern edge of West Bromwich Heath and to the south of the parish church, while other settlement in the parish was in small groups of cottages around the Heath, such as at Mayer's Green (formerly known as Mares Green) to the north-east of the Heath. The open fields of the parish were in Lyndon, and the market was also held there in the early 18th century. By the 1680s there was settlement at Mayer's Green, a small part of which lies within the north-east corner of the Study Area. By 1723, 20 cottages occurred as encroachments on the Green and 54 on the Heath, and another 25 elsewhere in the

parish, and this practice continued throughout the 18th century. The majority of the encroachments were for cultivation or for the building of cottages, although some were for industrial purposes: in 1634, a saw-pit was constructed and, in the 1680s, sand was dug out there. Workshops were also built onto some of the cottages. The number of encroachments increased year by year until, by 1803, there were just over 200, half of these being on the Heath and its fringes. Most of these were gardens, pigsties, privies or courtyards, but around 50 were dwellings. In the 1780s, Thomas Penn, a developer, had erected and leased out several houses on the eastern side of the Heath.

The Birmingham to Wolverhampton Road, which crossed the Heath, was turnpiked in 1727. In 1804, the Heath was enclosed under an Act of Parliament and was partially brought into cultivation. Some of the land was then sold for building around 1818 and, by 1820, the Heath had become the new centre of West Bromwich. Bratt Street, at the north-west of the Study Area, and New Street were laid out by 1816. In the 19th century more new streets were built and the parish became much more industrialised, although large areas of the parish were still farmed. However, agriculture was now of secondary importance to the manufacturing industry.

Since the 16th century, the iron industry has been the main industrial activity of West Bromwich. At the beginning of the century, John Repton was supplying buckles, rings and bridle bits to the Crown and, by the end of it, nailing was probably the most manifest iron trade in West Bromwich. By 1775, the parish was the principal nail-manufacturer in the Black Country. The Salter family was making bayonets in the 1770s but, by the early 19th century they were mainly manufacturing articles that incorporated springs. By the end of the 18th century, the foundry industry was well established. In 1820, the manufacture of gun and pistol locks also became a principal industry in the parish. A local iron-smelting industry was developed in the 1820s and, by 1834, there were 14 iron-founding firms, which had risen to 20 in 1851. Izens, Kenricks, and Bullocks were dominant in the mid-19th century.

The iron industry was at its most prosperous in the mid-19th century when the local mining industry developed. The two industries went hand-in-hand. By the mid-1850s there were about 60 collieries, mostly in the western part of the parish, on the exposed coal or close to the canals. By the 1860s the industrial prosperity of West Bromwich relied heavily on the few large ironworks in the town which mined the coal and ironstone as well as producing the finished iron products. However, by the end of the 1860s, the mines of the South Staffordshire coalfield were exhausted and this particular part of the industry could not be sustained, although the manufacture of iron articles, as opposed to the getting and smelting of the ore, continued to thrive. In the 1850s water pumped out of the coal pit in Pitt Street was a source of domestic water supply.

Brewing has also been one of the industries present in West Bromwich. In 1777, the first wholesale brewery was licensed to Joseph Bullevant, although brewing for domestic and retail purposes had existed prior to this. In the earlier and mid-19th century there were usually two or three brewers in West Bromwich, probably supplying a local market. In 1908 there were eight breweries, but the industry began to decline and had ceased to exist by 1970.

The population of West Bromwich rose dramatically in the 18th and 19th centuries, due to the growth of the iron industry. In 1666, the population numbered around 300. By 1773 there were nearly 1,200 houses in the parish. By 1801 the population numbered 5,687 and, by 1851, it stood at 34,591.

By 1856 High Street was built up on both sides, and the area between New Street and Bull Street (part of which lies within the Study Area), had also been developed. Towards the end of the 19th century, the insanitary slum housing had been cleared in certain parts of the town, and improved housing was erected. These new houses were built around 1880-1910 and were frequently arranged in long terraces with larger plots behind and smaller ones at the front. From 1919, large housing estates began to be built on derelict industrial land. In 1955, a new clearance programme began, and about 15% of the town's population was rehoused. The 1960s saw a great deal of redevelopment, when many old housing and factories were replaced. The Pitt Street and Queen Street area (within the Study Area) was cleared by 1969, and work was begun on a new town centre, including a covered shopping precinct, a bus station, and a multi-storey carpark. In 1970, work on the stretch of the ring road from Birmingham Road to Carter's Green started, and there was more extensive clearance along the route, north-westwards from Mayer's Green. The Expressway, bordering the Study Area to the east, was built in 1973.

5.0 Description of Zones

This section includes a description of the existing conditions in each of the 12 zones. A description, based on the historical maps, of past land-use, and any supporting documentary evidence to corroborate the map evidence is given. An assessment of each identified archaeological site follows, with mitigation recommendations where considered to be appropriate. A later section of the report will discuss the archaeological mitigation strategy in broader terms (Section 7.0).

The Site Numbers allocated to each identified site can be referred to on Fig. 4. The numbers provided with the 1804 map references refer to the Enclosure numbers and can be seen on Fig. 6. All historical maps referred to in the 'Mapped Development' sections, (Figs. 5-15), can be found in Appendix 2.

5.1 Zone A

Description

Bounded by Hardware Street to the south, Cronehills Linkway to the west, and The Expressway to the east. Consists of Cronehills Junior and Infants School, a Social Club and surrounding playground.

Mapped Development

1775: Area of Heath.

1804: Enclosed parcels of land (a6,85,86,82,83), owned/occupied by Thomas Woodall, Richard Wright, Joseph Hall, and the Corporation of Walsall.

1837: Street running roughly east-west across it.

1849: Building in north-east corner.

1857: '____ Pits' marked.

- 1886:** Part of 'Cronehills Colliery (Disused).' At eastern end, a boundary line enclosing earthworks and 'Old Shafts.'
- 1902:** Named The Cronchills. Earthworks still in evidence.
- 1904:** Same as above.
- 1919:** Cronchills St. is planned to join Hardware St. along the eastern boundary of the zone. The line of this new section of road is dotted in.
- 1938:** Cronchills School buildings and playing field.

Supporting Documentary Evidence

Prior to 1839, Lord Dartmouth owned the Cronehills mines, and leased them to Messrs. Heaton and Salter. The mines were worked between about 1850 and 1860. Correspondence between F.G. Meachem, a mining engineer, and West Bromwich Education Committee c.1911-1913, reveals that the depth to the Thick Coal here was c.290 yards, and its thickness 10 yards. Also that the minerals had only been partially worked. Meachem was preparing a report for the Education Committee on the suitability of the land at Cronehills for building a school. He believed that they would have consolidated since the time that they had been abandoned, and concluded that the land would be suitable providing that the mines had been secured.

This school was originally designed as a replacement for Bratt Street School. Building of the school began in 1915 but because of World War I nothing was available for use until 1921. The school was opened in 1925. In 1947 it became West Bromwich Secondary Technical School and, in 1968, took children from the closed Christ Church Junior and Infants School.

It is not clear where the name 'Cronehills' comes from, or whether it has any local significance. John Field (1993) refers to a 'Croners Feildes,' a 1637 field-name from Cheshire. The name in this instance referred to its ownership by the local coroner, so it is plausible that Cronehills has a similar origin.

Known Archaeological Sites

- *Below-ground remains of 19th-century Colliery*

Site Number: 1

Existing Conditions: No visible above-ground remains. Exact location of any colliery buildings unknown. Pit shafts likely to be beneath school building and/or playground.

Map Source: 1911 plan shows position of pit shafts and earthworks relating to mines.

Value: Limited importance.

Effects on Construction/Potential Impact: Unless this area is subject to foundation-trench cutting, it is unlikely that there will be any effects on the pit shafts when construction is undertaken. The earthworks are probably the pit 'mounds' referred to in the Meachem correspondence. These would have been cleared prior to the building of the school.

Mitigation Recommendations: No further action is recommended.

- *Cronehills School*

Site Number: 2

Existing Conditions: Standing buildings around periphery of zone and main school building in eastern half. Tarmac playground area in remaining ground-space. From limited external inspection, buildings appeared to be in good condition. Redbrick, built in 1921.

Map Source: 4th edition O.S. map.

Value: Local importance.

Effects on Construction/Potential Impact: School buildings will presumably be demolished ahead of the proposed development.

Mitigation Recommendations: Programme of limited building recording (building analysis and photographic survey; Royal Commission Level 1 or 2) prior to demolition.

- *Possible below-ground remains of former 19th-century street*

Site Number: 3

Existing Conditions: No visible remains.

Map Source: 1837 John Wood.

Value: Limited importance.

Effects on Construction/Potential Impact: It is likely that any remains will already have been destroyed.

Mitigation Recommendations: No further action is recommended.

5.2 Zone B

Description

Bounded by Hardware Street to the north-west, Colley Street to the south, and Cronehills Street to the west, and The Expressway to the east. In the south-east corner is an approximate square of land labelled as a scrapyard on the map provided by G.L. Hearn. The bounds of this area are demarcated by built-up linear banks and ditches on the inner sides. The main surface is composed of 'hardstanding' made of gravel, brick debris, etc. Ground is littered with small industrial waste, such as nails, glass, small fittings, etc. Slopes slightly to east.

To the north and west of this area is scrubland, separated from the 'scrapyard' by shrubbery. The scrubland contains long grass and, to the north, it was noted that the ground was quite uneven and bumpy. A small patch of brickwork embedded in the ground was also noted in this area. At the far northern end of this area of scrub, the ground dipped sharply down to a flat strip before a line of fencing demarcated an area of presumably private land. Through the fence this land looked like garden or managed scrubland.

In the far west of the zone was a small area of landscaped parkland, with a public footpath running across from north-west to south-east. Two grassed banks were noted, one running north-south and another running east-west. These had young trees and shrubbery growing on them. It was not clear whether or not these were part of landscaping or an earlier feature.

Colley Street, cut off at its eastern end by The Expressway, had remnants of blue brick pavements on both sides, especially the northern side, where there was also cobbling on the road itself. The rest of the lane was tarmac and had a pronounced camber. On the northern pavement two service covers were noted. One of these was a fire hydrant, dated 1885. One loose brick had the makers stamp W & I in an entwined pattern in the frog of the brick.

Mapped Development

- 1804:** Enclosed parcels of land (87,90,91) owned/occupied by Thomas Wilcox, Jane and Catherine Cooper, and Anna Maria Ward.
- 1837:** Nothing shown.
- 1849:** Buildings along Colley Street frontage and a few along Cronehills Street.
- 1886:** Terraced buildings along Colley Street, with communal backyards. Nothing in central area, dotted-in enclosures to east. Short terrace along Cronehills Street to the west, and about two buildings on Cronehills Street to the south. Gardens and some trees. Buildings and plots in NW corner.
- 1902:** Nothing shown.
- 1904:** Grassed central area.
- 1919:** Terraces along Sandwell Road. More along Cronehills Street to west. Central area divided into yards containing larger buildings.
- 1938:** Ice Works near centre of zone.

Known Archaeological Sites

- *19th-century buildings on Colley Street and 19th-century terraced housing on Colley Street and Hardware Street*

Site Number: 4

Existing Conditions: No standing remains. Former scrapyard and associated banks of debris may relate to housing material remains.

Map Source: 1849 and 1st edition O.S.

Value: Local importance.

Effects on Construction/Potential Impact: As this area is likely to be covered with a car-park, it is unlikely that any below-ground remains will be disturbed. However, if any trench-cutting or lowering of ground-level is undertaken in this area, remains are likely to be affected.

Mitigation Recommendations: Watching Brief only in event of excavation during construction works.

- *20th-century building remains in centre of zone and on Hardware Street*

Site Number: 5

Existing Conditions: No standing remains. Remnants of building material observed on ground.

Map Source: 4th edition O.S.

Value: Limited importance.

Effects on Construction/Potential Impact: As this area is likely to be covered with a road and/or car-park, it is unlikely that any below-ground remains will be disturbed. However, if any trench-cutting or lowering of ground-level is undertaken in this area, remains are likely to be affected.

Mitigation Recommendations: No further action is recommended.

- *20th-century Ice Works in centre of zone*

Site Number: 6

Existing Conditions: No standing remains. Remnants of building material observed on ground.

Map Source: 4th edition O.S.

Value: Limited importance. While the Ice Works is of social historic interest as one of the last forms of factory-produced ice before the post war boom in home-refrigerators, the nature of 1930s ice production, with the use of a gas or electrically-powered refrigeration unit, is unlikely to have left many traces of archaeological interest.

Effects on Construction/Potential Impact: As this area is likely to be covered with a road and/or car-park, it is unlikely that any below-ground remains will be disturbed. However, if any trench-cutting or lowering of ground-level is undertaken in this area, remains are likely to be affected.

Mitigation Recommendations: No further action is recommended.

5.3 Zone C

Description

Bounded by Cronehills Linkway to the west, Hardware Street to the north, and Cronehills Street to the south and east. The north-eastern corner is taken up with housing dating from around the 1930s. The north-west corner contains the West Bromwich United Reformed Church, a modern building. Much of the southern side consists of a rectangular area of long grass, private land owned by Hilti Industries. Nothing of archaeological interest was observed from its boundaries. A modern workshop was in the south-east corner.

Mapped Development

- 1804:** Enclosed parcels of land (83,84) owned/occupied by Richard Wright and the Earl of Dartmouth.
- 1837:** Farmer Street runs east-west across the zone, separating it from Zone B.
- 1849:** Buildings along Cronehills Street to east. Some buildings on Bratt Street.
- 1886:** Earthworks extend in from colliery in Zone A. Terraces along Hardware Street, with possible court arrangement. Buildings with long backplots on Loveday Street South, and buildings on Cronehills Street to east. Phoenix Safe and Lock Works on border with Zone D.
- 1902:** Nothing shown.
- 1904:** Safe and Lock Works extended.
- 1919:** No major development since 1904.
- 1938:** Phoenix Iron Foundry replaces Safe Works, and has been extended. Row of buildings slightly set back from Hardware Street in north-west corner (with front gardens).

Supporting Documentary Evidence

A Phoenix Ironworks was erected on the Balls Hill branch canal between Swan Village and Greets Green by John Spence in 1844, which may suggest a similar date for the Phoenix Works in this zone.

Known Archaeological Sites

- *19th-century buildings on Cronehills Street and 19th-century terraced housing on all street frontages*

Site Number: 7

Existing Conditions: No standing remains. All built over apart from southern corner, which is currently a rectangular area of long grass.

Map Source: 1849 and 1st edition O.S.

Value: Local importance.

Effects on Construction/Potential Impact: As this area is likely to be covered with a car-park, any remains may be preserved *in situ* and may not be disturbed.

Mitigation Recommendations: Watching Brief only in event of excavation during construction works.

- *19th-century Phoenix Safe and Lock Works*

Site Number: 8

Existing Conditions: No standing remains observed.

Map Source: 1st edition O.S.

Value: Local importance.

Effects on Construction/Potential Impact: As this area is likely to be covered with a car-park, any remains may be preserved *in situ* and may not be disturbed.

Mitigation Recommendations: Watching Brief only in event that excavation is undertaken during construction works.

- *Colliery Earthworks*

Site Number: 9

Existing Conditions: No visible remains. Mounds are likely to have been removed prior to past construction on site. Land currently occupied by 20th century housing.

Map Source: 1st edition O.S.

Value: Limited importance.

Effects on Construction/Potential Impact: None.

Mitigation Recommendations: No further action is recommended.

5.3 Zone D

Description

This is a large traffic island bounded by the Cronehills Linkway. It consists of a man-made grassed mound and a modern garage in the central area.

Mapped Development

1804: Enclosed parcels of land (83,84), owned/occupied by Richard Wright and the Earl of Dartmouth.

- 1837:** Farmer Street separates this zone from Zone C.
- 1849:** Part of Cronehills area.
- 1886:** Terraced buildings with outdoor privies along Loveday Street South. Terrace along Bratt Street, and a Malthouse. Buildings along Hardware Street. Trees in backplots. Phoenix Safe and Lock Works appears to occupy both Zones C and D.
- 1902:** Nothing shown.
- 1904:** A few more buildings, possibly industrial. Malthouse not marked.
- 1919:** Brewery in south-east corner.
- 1938:** Larger industrial buildings on Bratt Street.

Known Archaeological Sites

- *19th-century Malthouse*

Site Number: 10

Existing Conditions: No standing remains.

Map Source: 1st edition O.S.

Value: Local importance.

Effects on Construction/Potential Impact: As this area is likely to be covered with a car-park, any remains may be preserved *in situ* and may not be disturbed.

Mitigation Recommendations: Watching Brief only in event of excavation during construction.

- *19th-century buildings and later 19th-century terraced buildings on Hardware, Bratt and Loveday Streets*

Site Number: 11

Existing Conditions: No standing remains.

Map Source: 1849 and 1st edition O.S.

Value: Local importance.

Effects on Construction/Potential Impact: As this area is likely to be covered with a car-park, any remains may be preserved *in situ* and may not be disturbed.

Mitigation Recommendations: Watching Brief only in event of excavation during construction.

- *Early 20th-century ?industrial buildings*

Site Number: 12

Existing Conditions: No standing remains.

Map Source: 2nd edition O.S.

Value: Local importance.

Effects on Construction/Potential Impact: As this area is likely to be covered with a car-park, any remains may be preserved *in situ* and may not be disturbed.

Mitigation Recommendations: Watching Brief only in event of excavation during construction.

5.5 Zone E

Description

Bounded by Colley Street to the north, the Expressway to the east, Alfred Street to the south and Cronehills Street to the west. The north-west corner is a gravel and tarmac carpark. To the south of the carpark are the remains of a demolished building or yard. Two brick walls, running north-east to south-west then turning to the south, are joined in the south by a modern concrete wall. The space inside the walls is full of long grass, and a bank of debris lies against the western boundary of the area. The south-eastern area of the zone is an area of scrubland, with a footpath running across it from Alfred Street to Colley Street. The footpath is only marked as such by openings in the modern wooden fencing at each end, and is grown over with grass.

Mapped Development

- 1804:** Enclosed parcels of land (92,93), owned/occupied by Charles Leonard and William Mallin (purchased from James Blakeshaw).
- 1837:** Nothing shown.
- 1849:** Buildings along Colley Street, Walsall Street and Cronehills Street.
- 1886:** Geneva Works (Screw, Rivet and Bolt) in northern half. Nothing shown in southern half. Buildings, including a terrace, along Colley Street, with small yards. Terrace along Cronehills Street.
- 1902:** Nothing shown.
- 1904:** Southern half now filled with terraced houses and backplots on Alfred Street.
- 1919:** No major development since 1904.
- 1938:** Albion Spring Works in north-east area.

Known Archaeological Sites

- *19th-century buildings and later 19th-century terraced buildings on Colley, Walsall, and Cronehills Streets*

Site Number: 13

Existing Conditions: Two partially-standing walls remaining in southwest corner. No other standing remains.

Map Source: 1849 and 1st edition O.S.

Value: Local importance due to possible earlier 19th-century buildings.

Effects on Construction/Potential Impact: If area is under car-park, effects may be minimal if not nil. If foundation trenches are cut in this area, any below-ground remains may be disturbed or destroyed.

Mitigation Recommendations: Watching Brief only in event that excavation is undertaken during construction work.

- *19th-century Geneva Works*

Site Number: 14

Existing Conditions: No standing remains.

Map Source: 1st edition O.S.

Value: Local importance.

Effects on Construction/Potential Impact: If area is under car-park, effects may be minimal if not nil. If foundation trenches are cut in this area, any below-ground remains may be disturbed or destroyed.

Mitigation Recommendations: Watching Brief only in event that excavation is undertaken during construction work.

- *20th-century Albion Works*

Site Number: 15

Existing Conditions: No standing remains.

Map Source: 4th edition O.S.

Value: Local importance.

Effects on Construction/Potential Impact: If area is under car-park, effects may be minimal if not nil. If foundation trenches are cut in this area, any below-ground remains may be disturbed or destroyed.

Mitigation Recommendations: Watching Brief only in event that excavation is undertaken during construction work.

5.6 Zone F

Description

Bounded by Alfred Street to north and west, New Street to south and Walsall Street to east. Terrace of Victorian redbrick houses on Alfred Street frontage in west and a few on northern frontage. In the south-western corner is a funeral director's and other buildings. A high, 'capped' brick wall and gateway leads into the funeral director's. On this building's southern frontage is a large cart entrance. The eastern area of the zone is taken up with a tarmac car-park.

Mapped Development

1804: Enclosed parcels of land (94,95,96), owned/occupied by Jervoise Clarke Jervoise, and John Brinton.

1837: Boundary line shown within area.

1849: Buildings along Walsall Street and New Street.

1886: Alfred Street now exists. North-south section appears to have been inserted through middle of previously existing enclosure, possibly corresponding with enclosures 84b and 96, shown on Enclosure map. Terraced housing along New Street, plus larger building in south-west corner. Other buildings and yards behind.

1902: Nothing shown.

1904: Terraced housing and backyards on all frontages.

1919: No major difference since 1904.

1938: No major difference since 1919.

Supporting Documentary Evidence

New Street was laid out in 1816 and, by 1856, the area between it and Bull Street were built up.

Known Archaeological Sites

- *19th-century Standing Building (funeral directors)*

Site Number: 16

Existing Conditions: Occupied. Brief external inspection noted that building appeared to be in good condition.

Map Source: 1st edition O.S.

Value: Local importance.

Effects on Construction/Potential Impact: Building would presumably be demolished prior to redevelopment.

Mitigation Recommendations: A programme of building recording up to Royal Commission Level 1 or 2, should be undertaken prior to demolition, probably to include building analysis and photographic survey.

- *19th and early 20th-century terraced buildings in area of existing car-park*

Site Number: 17

Existing Conditions: No standing remains.

Map Source: 1849, 1st edition O.S. and 2nd edition O.S.

Value: Local importance, due to possible presence of earlier 19th-century remains.

Effects on Construction/Potential Impact: If this area is to be developed as a car-park, effects may be minimal if not nil. If foundation trenches are cut for new building in this area, any below-ground remains would be disturbed or destroyed.

Mitigation Recommendations: Watching Brief only in event that excavation is undertaken during construction works.

- *Early 20th-century terraced buildings on Alfred Street*

Site Number: 18

Existing Conditions: Standing buildings in occupation, in apparently good condition externally.

Map Source: 2nd edition O.S.

Value: Local importance.

Effects on Construction/Potential Impact: Buildings would presumably be demolished prior to redevelopment.

Mitigation Recommendations: Programme of limited building recording of one of these buildings, up to Royal Commission Level 1 or 2, including building analysis and photographic survey.

5.7 Zone G

Description

Bounded by Cronehills Street (formerly Loveday Street South) in the north, Alfred Street in the east, New Street in the south, and Griffin Street in the west. On Alfred Street frontage is a vacant lot comprised of hardstanding and gravel. To the south, however, is some blue-brick surfacing. The western boundary of this lot is a high brick wall with a gateway in the south-western corner. Wall turns to east for c.6.0m, including another gateway. The lower 1.5m of the wall is built with blue brick, the rest with redbrick. The western half of the zone is taken up with a large modern warehouse building belonging to Hilti Industries.

Mapped Development

- 1804:** Enclosed parcels of land (84a,84b,94), owned/occupied by Cornelius Dixon, Theodosia Harman, and Jervoise Clarke Jervoise.
- 1837:** Boundary line shown running parallel to Griffin Street.
- 1849:** Buildings along corner of Griffin Street and Loveday Street South. Two buildings on New Street.
- 1886:** Terraces along Griffin Street and New Street. Yards behind. Short terrace on Loveday Street South. This street does not now exist.
- 1902:** Nothing shown.
- 1904:** More terraced housing on Alfred Street.
- 1919:** Brewery in central area.
- 1938:** Brewery no longer marked as such.

Known Archaeological Sites

- *19th-century buildings and later 19th-century terraced buildings on Griffin Street and Loveday Street South*

Site Number: 19

Existing Conditions: No standing remains. Modern warehouse covers most of site.

Map Source: 1849 and 1st edition O.S.

Value: Local importance.

Effects on Construction/Potential Impact: Any below-ground remains would be beneath a proposed Tesco building and would be disturbed or destroyed by the cutting of foundation trenches for this building.

Mitigation Recommendations: If construction method is to involve foundation trench cutting, then a Watching Brief during these works would be required. If another design option is chosen, such as Rafting, any below-ground remains would be preserved *in situ* and no further action would be recommended.

- *Early 20th-century Brewery*

Site Number: 20

Existing Conditions: No standing remains.

Map Source: 3rd edition O.S.

Value: Local importance.

Effects on Construction/Potential Impact: Any below-ground remains would be beneath a proposed Tesco building and would be disturbed or destroyed by the cutting of foundation trenches for this building.

Mitigation Recommendations: If construction method is to involve foundation trench cutting, then a Watching Brief during these works would be required. If another design option is chosen, such as Rafting, any below-ground remains would be preserved *in situ* and no further action would be recommended.

5.8 Zone H

Description

Bounded by Cronehills Street (formerly Loveday Street South) in the north, Griffin Street in the east, New Street in the south, and Cronehills Linkway in the west. On the New Street frontage is a terrace of houses, including the Nelson Inn. On the gable end

of the westernmost building can be seen the 'shadow' of a smaller house. Within the area of this 'shadow' the brickwork looks different, perhaps older, than that of the existing gable end. This older-looking brickwork extends back from the road to form a high wall extending beyond the building. The wall turns to the west and encloses a tarmac carpark which lies behind the modern flat block, Loveday House, west of the terrace on New Street. In the western half of the site is a modern Health Centre.

Mapped Development

- 1804:** Enclosed parcels of land (80,84), owned by the Earl of Dartmouth. Allotment 80 is marked 'Tithe' on the Enclosure map.
- 1837:** Two buildings on New Street frontage. More buildings to south along western side of New Street.
- 1849:** Buildings on all frontages.
- 1886:** Terraces along Griffin Street, Bratt Street and Loveday Street South. Saw Mills on corner of New Street and Bratt Street. Yards in central area of zone. South of Bratt Street are large buildings with gardens and a school in the angle of New Street and Bratt Street.
- 1902:** Nothing shown.
- 1904:** Saw Mills no longer marked as such.
- 1919:** No major difference since 1904.
- 1938:** Larger building in south-west corner.

Known Archaeological Sites

- *19th-century Saw Mills*

Site Number: 21

Existing Conditions: No standing remains. Area beneath modern flat block.

Map Source: 1st edition O.S.

Value: Local importance.

Effects on Construction/Potential Impact: This area may fall outside the area of the proposed Tesco building. If so, it should not be affected by any foundation trench cutting. If any such excavation or lowering of ground level is carried out, any below-ground remains may be affected.

Mitigation Recommendations: Watching Brief recommended in event of excavation during construction works.

- *19th-century buildings and later 19th-century terraced housing on all frontages*

Site Number: 22

Existing Conditions: No standing remains. Griffin Street terraces are beneath warehouse and car-park, Loveday Street terraces are beneath car-park, Bratt Street terraces are probably beneath Cronehills Linkway, and New Street terraces are beneath early 20th-century terraces (Site No. 23) and modern flat block.

Map Source: 1849 and 1st edition O.S.

Value: Local importance.

Effects on Construction/Potential Impact: If below-ground remains exist, some may lie beneath the area of the proposed Tesco building, and some may lie outside it. If any are within area of trench-cutting or ground lowering, they will be disturbed or destroyed.

Mitigation Recommendations: Watching Brief required in event of excavation during construction works.

- *Early 20th-century terraced housing on New Street frontage*

Site Number: 23

Existing Conditions: Standing buildings in occupation, including a Chemist's and the Nelson Inn. In apparently good condition externally. Evidence of continuation of terrace on western gable end.

Map Source: 2nd edition O.S.

Value: Local importance.

Effects on Construction/Potential Impact: Buildings would presumably be demolished prior to redevelopment.

Mitigation Recommendations: Programme of limited building recording, comprising building analysis and photographic survey of one of these buildings ahead of demolition.

- *19th-century School*

Site Number: 24

Existing Conditions: No standing remains. Building demolished by 1937.

Map Source: 1st edition O.S.

Value: Local importance.

Effects on Construction/Potential Impact: May lie just outside Study Area. If within Study Area, any below-ground remains may be affected by redevelopment if any excavation is undertaken during construction.

Mitigation Recommendations: Watching Brief recommended in event of excavation during construction works.

5.9 Zone I

Description

Bounded by Walsall Street in the west, Messenger Lane in the south, and The Expressway in the east. The northern area of this triangle, north of New Street, which runs through the centre of the zone, is an area of cut grass bordered by a low wooden fence. It appears to be slightly bumpy or uneven. In the south-east corner is a small area of scrub.

The southern half of the zone is an area of scrubland and long grass, containing young trees and bordered by a low brick wall. The area is slightly raised in the centre.

Mapped Development

1804: The northern half of the zone comprises part of two enclosures belonging to J.C. Jervoise Esq. and the Earl of Dartmouth respectively. A small building existed in the extreme northern corner, which may or may not be included within the Study Area. Immediately south of these enclosures is a short lane running east-west and houses set in small plots of land. New Street did not yet extend through the zone. In the southern half, the land again consists of houses in small plots of land. These houses are all in a discrete area of land bounded by the Earl of Dartmouth's land, Reform Street, Messenger Lane and Walsall

Street. Plot b3 belonged to John Richards – a garden ‘situate near the oak.’ and plot b4 was a house occupied by Isaac Norton. Another map produced as part of the Enclosure Award shows a chapel on the northern side of Messenger Lane.

1837: Nothing shown.

1849: Buildings on Walsall Street. A few buildings along Messenger Lane and the smaller lanes coming off it.

1886: Buildings along Messenger Lane and series of interconnecting lanes behind. One plot of land is marked ‘B.G.’ for Burial Ground. Terraced buildings along Walsall Street. One building in south-west is an Inn. To east lie Christchurch School and Four Acres cricket and Football Ground on Mayers Green, just outside the Study Area.

1902: South-west corner of Mayers Green.

1904: Burial Ground now disused.

1919: Burial Ground still disused.

1938: New Street now extends through zone. Some of terraced buildings on northern side of Messenger Lane have been demolished and replaced by semi-detached buildings set back slightly from the road. Burial Ground has been built over by these and their gardens. Semi-detached houses also exist along New Street.

Supporting Documentary Evidence

In 1787 Hugh Williams, a minister, started building a small chapel on the north side of Messenger Lane. The chapel opened in 1788 and, in 1790, it was lengthened and a gallery added. A building representing the chapel can be seen on the 1804 Enclosure map. In 1805, side galleries were added but the chapel must still have been too small, so a new one was built on the opposite side of the road in 1807-8 (in **Zone J**). This was built of brick, with a classical façade, and reused material from the older chapel. The site of the old chapel became a burial ground and was bought by the corporation in 1914.

The Victoria County History refers to a polluted well existing at Messenger Street, Mayer’s Green in 1876, but its exact location is not known.

The name ‘Mayer’s Green,’ a corruption of ‘Mares Green’ may have its origins in the Old English name meaning ‘land on a boundary.’ A similar word means ‘land on which mares grazed,’ but it is difficult to separate the two forms. Field (1972) suggests that the former explanation is in the majority. If this is the case, the name could refer to the fact that Mayer’s Green lies on the boundary with the Sandwell Park estate.

Known Archaeological Sites

- *Late 18th-century chapel, which became a Burial Ground in early 19th century*

Site Number: 25

Existing Conditions: No standing remains of chapel. No visible remains of burial ground.

Map Source: 1804 for chapel and 1st edition O.S. for burial ground.

Value: Local importance.

Effects on Construction/Potential Impact: Although the site of the chapel and burial ground was built over probably sometime during the 1930s, and this site may have been partially or wholly destroyed at that time, the possibility remains that there are some below-ground remains, which would be built over by the proposed new Ring Road and tree planting. These construction works may affect any such remains.

Mitigation Recommendations: It is recommended that a programme of trial-trenching be carried out in this area ahead of redevelopment, in order to evaluate and record any archaeological remains that may exist here. The results of this stage of work will determine whether any further mitigation work is needed.

- *Early 19th-century (or earlier) buildings and plots*

Site Number: 26

Existing Conditions: No standing remains.

Map Source: 1804 Enclosure

Value: Local importance.

Effects on Construction/Potential Impact: Excavation during construction works may disturb or destroy any below-ground remains of these buildings.

Mitigation Recommendations: It is recommended that a programme of trial trenching in conjunction with that recommended for Site No. 25 be carried out ahead of redevelopment. The results of this stage of work will determine whether any further mitigation work is needed.

- *19th-century Inn and other terraced buildings on Messenger Lane and Walsall Street*

Site Number: 27

Existing Conditions: No standing remains.

Map Source: 1st edition O.S.

Value: Local importance.

Effects on Construction/Potential Impact: Any below-ground remains may be disturbed if excavation carried out during construction works.

Mitigation Recommendations: The trial-trenching recommended for Site Nos. 25 and 26 may pick up remains of these buildings ahead of construction works. It is also recommended that a Watching Brief be undertaken if any below-ground work is carried out outside the area of trial-trenching.

- *19th-century Well at Messenger Street*

Site Number: 28

Existing Conditions: No visible remains.

Map Source: None. Mentioned in Victoria County History

Value: Local importance.

Effects on Construction/Potential Impact: May be disturbed if located within Study Area.

Mitigation Recommendations: The trial-trenching recommended for Site Nos. 25 and 26 may well pick up remains of the well ahead of construction works. It is also recommended that a Watching Brief be undertaken if any below-ground work is carried out outside the area of trial-trenching.

5.10 Zone J

Description

Bounded by Messenger Lane to the north and east, Walsall Street to the west, and Reform Street to the south-east. It consists of a carpark of tarmac and gravel hardstanding. Along its northern border is a line of scrubland against a man-made bank of general debris, perhaps from levelling the carpark.

Mapped Development

- 1804:** Enclosed parcels of land (c58,c58a,c58b,c58c,c58d,c56,c56a,d54,d55,6c52,e52a,c53), owned/occupied by William Haines, Richard Dickenson, Joseph Gregory, Robert Grace, Joseph Withers, Benjamin Messenger and William Carter respectively.
- 1837:** Nothing shown. Buildings outside zone on eastern side of Reform Street.
- 1849:** Buildings along Messenger Lane and Walsall Street in northern corner. A few buildings on Reform Street and one in extreme southern corner.
- 1886:** Terraced buildings along Walsall Street, possibly courts. Terrace with outdoor privies along Reform Street. On Messenger Lane is Congregational Chapel and School, and more housing.
- 1902:** No major difference since 1886.
- 1919:** No major difference since 1919.
- 1938:** No major differences, although a very large building in the southern half of the zone has been added.

Supporting Documentary Evidence

A new chapel was built on the southern side of Messenger Lane in 1807-8 to replace the earlier one on the northern side of the road. This was built of brick, with a classical façade, and reused material from the older chapel. The chapel was bought by the corporation in 1968 under a compulsory purchase order, and was destroyed by fire in 1969.

Known Archaeological Sites

- *19th-century buildings and later 19th-century terraced buildings on Messenger Lane and Walsall Street*

Site Number: 29

Existing Conditions: No standing remains.

Map Source: 1849 and 1st edition O.S.

Value: Local importance.

Effects on Construction/Potential Impact: If any excavation during construction works is undertaken in this area, below-ground remains may be disturbed or destroyed.

Mitigation Recommendations: Watching Brief only in event that excavation is undertaken during construction works.

- *19th century Chapel and Sunday School*

Site Number: 30

Existing Conditions: No standing remains.

Map Source: 1st edition O.S.

Value: Local importance.

Effects on Construction/Potential Impact: If any excavation during construction works is undertaken in this area, below-ground remains may be disturbed or destroyed.

Mitigation Recommendations: Watching Brief only in event that excavation is undertaken during construction works.

5.11 Zone K

Description

Bounded by New Street in the north, Walsall Street in the east, Queen Street in the south, and West Bromwich Ringway (formerly Pitt Street) in the west. The easternmost area consists of a tarmac carpark. To the west of this is a modern police station. To the west of the police station is a small area of mown grass and shrubbery. The westernmost area of the zone comprises a modern B&Q store and associated tarmac carpark.

Mapped Development

1804: Enclosed parcels of land (97,98,99,100,101,102), owned/occupied by _____ Webb, John Green, Mary Parker and Jervoise Clarke Jervoise.

1837: Former street shown running north-south across zone. The word 'Darby' is inscribed beneath it, probably indicating ownership or tenancy of the plot of land. Charles Darby and his son George, were beer sellers in West Bromwich by the late 1860s.

1849: Buildings along New Street, Queen Street and Walsall Street.

1886: Terraced buildings all the way along New Street, with long, narrow backplots; including an Inn. Housing on all frontages. In south-east corner is a garden or orchard, east of Boys' School and Methodist Chapel on Queen Street frontage.

1902: Chapel shown.

1904: No major difference since 1886.

1919: No major difference since 1904.

1938: Large bakery in western half of area.

Supporting Documentary Evidence

Plate 1 shows Queen Street prior to clearance in 1969.

Known Archaeological Sites

- *19th-century buildings and later 19th-century terraced housing, including Inn*

Site Number: 31

Existing Conditions: No standing remains. Modern buildings currently on site.

Map Source: 1849 and 1st edition O.S.

Value: Local importance.

Effects on Construction/Potential Impact: If any excavation is undertaken during construction works in this area, below-ground remains may be disturbed or destroyed.

Mitigation Recommendations: Watching Brief only in event that excavation is undertaken during construction works.

• *Late 19th-century School and Chapel off Queen Street*

Site Number: 32

Existing Conditions: No standing remains. Modern buildings currently on site.

Map Source: 1st edition O.S.

Value: Local importance.

Effects on Construction/Potential Impact: If any excavation during construction works is undertaken in this area, below-ground remains may be disturbed or destroyed.

Mitigation Recommendations: Watching Brief only in event that excavation is undertaken during construction works.

5.12 Zone L

Description

Bounded by Queen Street in the north, Walsall Street in the east, and West Bromwich Ringway (formerly Pitt Street) in the west. Comprises a tarmac car-park, on ground which is raised a little above the level of the street. A small semicircle of mown grass exists in the south corner, immediately north of a modern traffic island.

Mapped Development

1804: Enclosed parcels of land (205,206), owned/occupied by Jervoise Clarke Jervoise, Thomas Blakemore, and William Bullock respectively.

1837: Nothing shown.

1849: Buildings along Walsall Street and Queen Street. Approximately two buildings on western border.

1886: Terraced housing along Queen Street and Walsall Street. Theatre Royal in northern corner. Gospel Hall on Pitt Street – large grounds with ‘Rope Walk’ behind. Vacant rectangular area in centre of zone. Possible industrial buildings in southern corner.

1902: Chapel on Pitt Street. Theatre on Queen Street.

1904: Terraced housing along Pitt Street. Central triangle now Sandwell Brewery. Theatre in north-east corner.

1919: Former Gospel Hall marked only ‘Hall.’ Sandwell Brewery has been extended.

1938: Sandwell Brewery extended further. Large, possibly industrial building off Walsall Street.

Supporting Documentary Evidence

A watching brief was undertaken by Dr. Mike Hodder for Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council in 1987 at a site off Walsall Street. This revealed two large cylindrical cast-iron vats and a series of interconnecting brick cellars with some iron

roof supports. It was recorded as a documented brewery site, appearing on the 1904 Ordnance Survey map (SMR 8016, Site Number 37).

Known Archaeological Sites

- *19th-century buildings and later 19th-century terraced buildings*

Site Number: 33

Existing Conditions: No standing remains. Currently a car-park.

Map Source: 1849 and 1st edition O.S.

Value: Local importance.

Effects on Construction/Potential Impact: If any excavation during construction works is undertaken in this area, below-ground remains may be disturbed or destroyed.

Mitigation Recommendations: Watching Brief only in event that excavation is undertaken during construction works.

- *19th-century Theatre on Queen Street*

Site Number: 34

Existing Conditions: No standing remains. Currently a car-park.

Map Source: 1st edition O.S.

Value: Local importance.

Effects on Construction/Potential Impact: If any excavation during construction works is undertaken in this area, below-ground remains may be disturbed or destroyed.

Mitigation Recommendations: Watching Brief only in event that excavation is undertaken during construction works.

- *19th-century Gospel Hall on Pitt Street*

Site Number: 35

Existing Conditions: No standing remains. Currently a car-park.

Map Source: 1st edition O.S.

Value: Local importance.

Effects on Construction/Potential Impact: If any excavation during construction works is undertaken in this area, below-ground remains may be disturbed or destroyed.

Mitigation Recommendations: Watching Brief only in event that excavation is undertaken during construction works.

- *Ropewalk on Pitt Street*

Site Number: 36

Existing Conditions: No standing remains. Currently a car-park.

Map Source: 2nd edition O.S.

Value: Local importance.

Effects on Construction/Potential Impact: If any excavation during construction works is undertaken in this area, below-ground remains may be disturbed or destroyed.

Mitigation Recommendations: Watching Brief only in event that excavation is undertaken during construction works.

- *Early 20th-century Brewery*

Site Number: 37 (SMR No. 8016)

Existing Conditions: No standing remains. Currently a car-park.

Map Source: 2nd edition O.S.

Value: Local importance.

Effects on Construction/Potential Impact: If any excavation during construction works is undertaken in this area, below-ground remains may be disturbed or destroyed.

Mitigation Recommendations: Watching Brief only in event that excavation is undertaken during construction works. However, it is not clear whether all below-ground remains were destroyed or removed during 1987 watching brief.

6.0 Archaeological Sites of Unknown Location

It is apparent from the published and unpublished evidence that cottage encroachments took place on West Bromwich Heath in the 17th and 18th centuries. As it is impossible to pinpoint the locations of any of these buildings and their associated outbuildings and courtyards, it should be borne in mind that below-ground remains of these may be present across the Study Area. This possibility emphasises the importance of carrying out Watching Briefs at all identified sites, as works may also reveal traces of these earlier sites.

7.0 Summary of Mitigation

All recommendations given in this assessment are subject to approval by the Borough Archaeologist for Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council.

In the case of sites which will be affected by proposed building plans, there are two options. The first option involves a design change, whereby the client could opt for a less invasive method, for example rafting, which would preserve the archaeology *in situ*. If the construction method is to be invasive, involving the cutting of foundation trenches, a Watching Brief must be maintained by a suitably qualified archaeologist. The relative value and importance of each site affected should be taken into account when choosing the design option.

Three forms of mitigation strategy have been referred to in this assessment:

- **Watching Briefs**

Where Watching Briefs have been recommended, these should be carried out during any excavation or lowering of ground-level during construction works on each identified site.

- **Building Recording**

Where programmes of building recording have been recommended, this should be carried out by a qualified archaeologist in advance of demolition. The level of building recording recommended corresponds to Royal Commission Levels 1 or 2 and would involve limited building analysis and a photographic survey.

- **Trial-Trenching**

In the case of Zone I, a programme of trial-trenching has been recommended due to the nature of the known archaeological sites in this area. This investigative programme would be carried out in advance of development and would aim to determine the presence/absence, extent, depth, date and condition of any archaeological features or deposits present. If archaeological remains are recorded, the trial-trenching may need to be followed by further mitigation work, involving area excavation or a Watching Brief

8.0 Conclusion

Until the early 19th century, the Study Area formed part of West Bromwich Heath. The original focus of settlement was to the north at Lyndon. However, after the Enclosure Act of 1804, the Heath gradually became sold off for building purposes and the centre of West Bromwich shifted from Lyndon to the Heath area. The Study Area itself has seen various phases of building and clearance and there are few surviving standing buildings from the 19th century. It is also unlikely that there are any below-ground remains of earlier 19th-century (pre-1875) buildings left within the Study Area, as the areas where these buildings stood were rebuilt over during the later 19th and 20th centuries. However, it is considered appropriate to carry out watching briefs on those sites which may be affected by below-ground work during redevelopment, because of the possibility that there may be some remains of these and 17th or 18th century buildings.

A total of 37 sites was identified within the Study Area. There were few upstanding remains, the majority of sites comprising the buried remains of 19th and 20th-century buildings. These are considered to be of local or limited importance. No listed buildings were recorded within the Study Area and no sites of national or regional importance were identified. No palaeoenvironmental sites or artefact scatters were identified.

Mitigation recommendations have been made for 32 of the 37 sites. A recommendation for trial-trenching across sites 25 and 26, building recording to Royal Commission Level 1 or 2 for sites 2, 16, 18, and 23, and a Watching Brief for sites 4, 7, 8, 10-15, 17, 19-22, 24, and 27-37. All mitigation recommendations will need to be approved by the Borough Archaeologist for Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council.

9.0 Acknowledgements

This report was written by Sarah Watt and edited by Catharine Mould. Thanks are due to Steve Litherland of BUFAU, Nigel Haines, Listed Buildings Officer for Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council, and Ruth Waller, the Borough Archaeologist for Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council.

Appendix 1: List of Sources

Published Texts

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- Field, J. 1993 *A History of English Field Names*
Longman Group UK Limited
- Greenslade, M.W. (ed). 1976 *A History of the County of Stafford*, Vol. XVII
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- Hodder, M.A. 1990 *The Medieval Landscape of West Bromwich* in
'Transactions of the South Staffordshire
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Walsall
- Rowlands, M.B. 1968 *Industry and Social Change in Staffordshire,
1660-1760* in 'Transactions of the South
Staffordshire Archaeological and Historical
Society,' Vol.9, 42-3
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Documents

Estates in the Parish of West Bromwich and Wednesbury in the County of Stafford –
the property of Henry Hallam Esquire, 1808.

Jewel Baillie Collection – Item No.249

Notebooks containing account of lands sold by the Commissioners of the West
Bromwich Inclosure Act, 1802, and papers concerning the enclosure, 1801-1810.

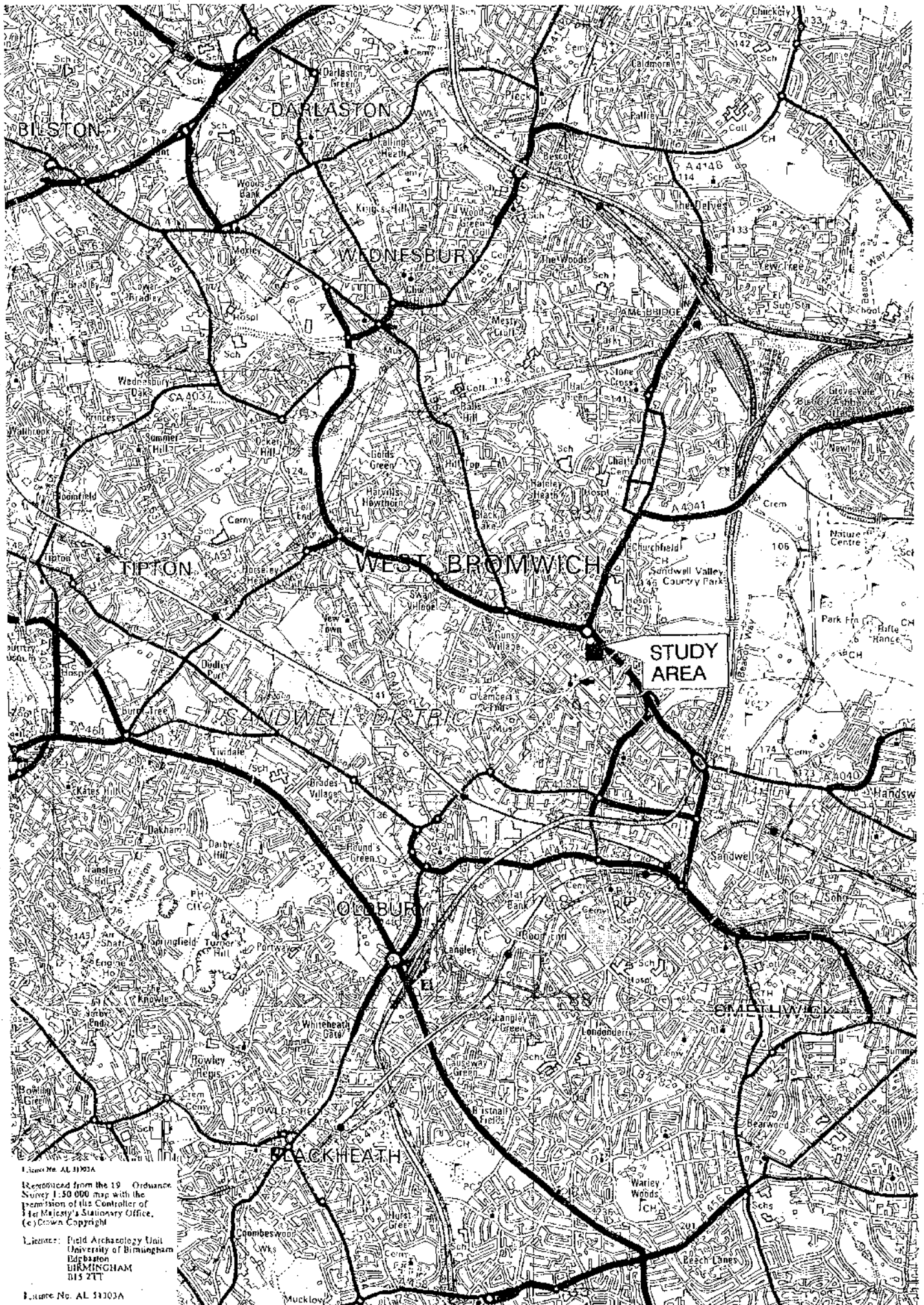
Survey and Plans, Dartmouth Estates, 1806.

Report for Education Committee re Suitability of a Site in Cronehills Land for a
School, 1911.

Maps

- 1804 West Bromwich Enclosure Maps
- 1837 Plan of West Bromwich from Actual Survey by John Wood
- 1849 Plan of West Bromwich with tithe apportionments
- 1857 Birmingham and its Environs, Sheet I, by Charles Henry Blood
- 1886 Ordnance Survey 25"
- 1902 Plan of West Bromwich by Albert D. Greatorex
- 1904 Ordnance Survey 25"
- 1911 Plan of Cronehills Area
- 1919 Ordnance Survey 25"
- 1938 Ordnance Survey 25"

Appendix 2: Historical Maps



Licence No. AL 11003A
 Reproduced from the 19 Ordnance
 Survey 1:50 000 map with the
 permission of the Controller of
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 Edgbaston
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 B15 2TT
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Fig 1

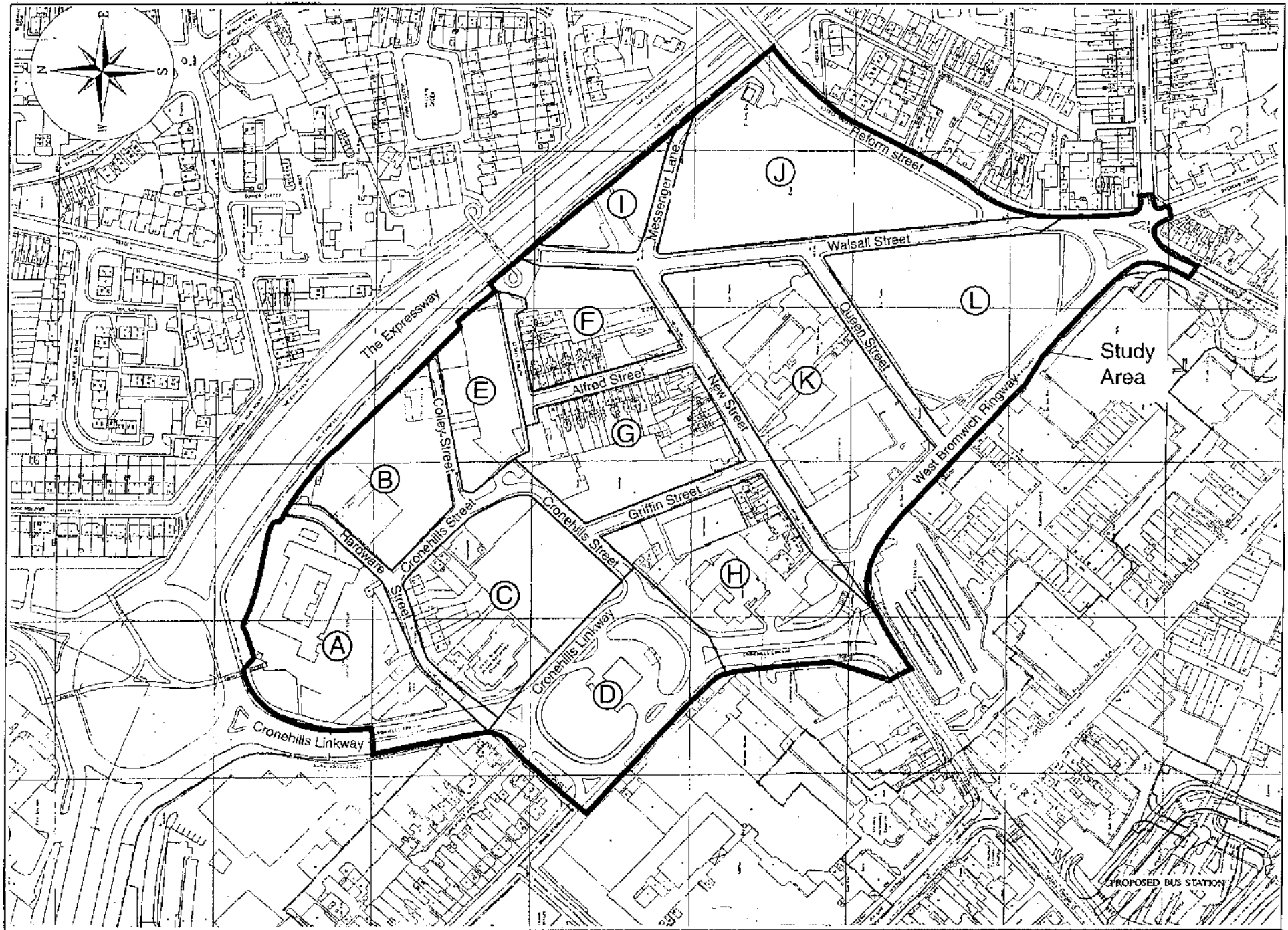


Fig.3

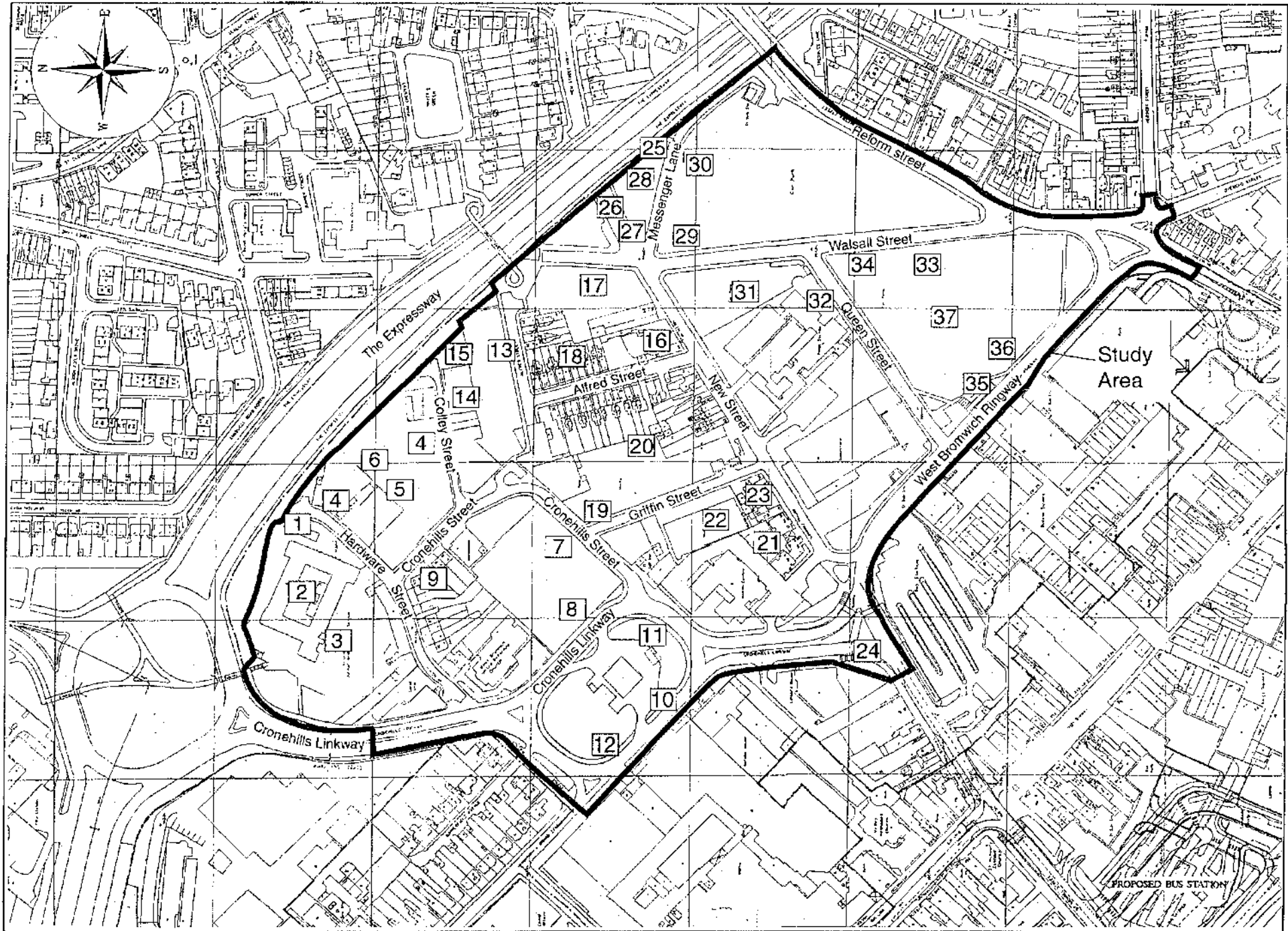
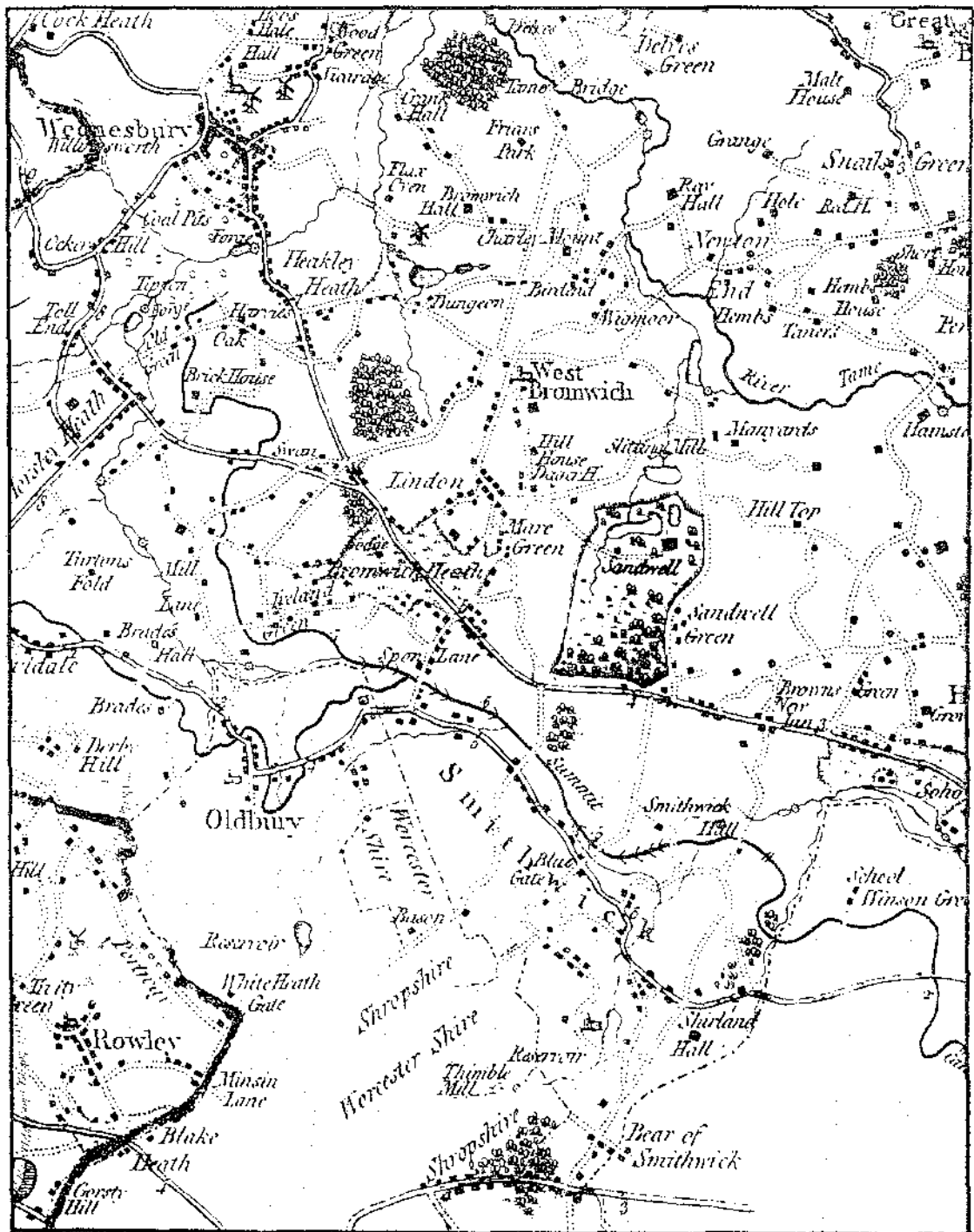


Fig. 4



WEST BROMWICH AND SMETHWICK AREA, c. 1775 (scale about 1 inch to 1 mile)

Fig. 5 1775 Yates

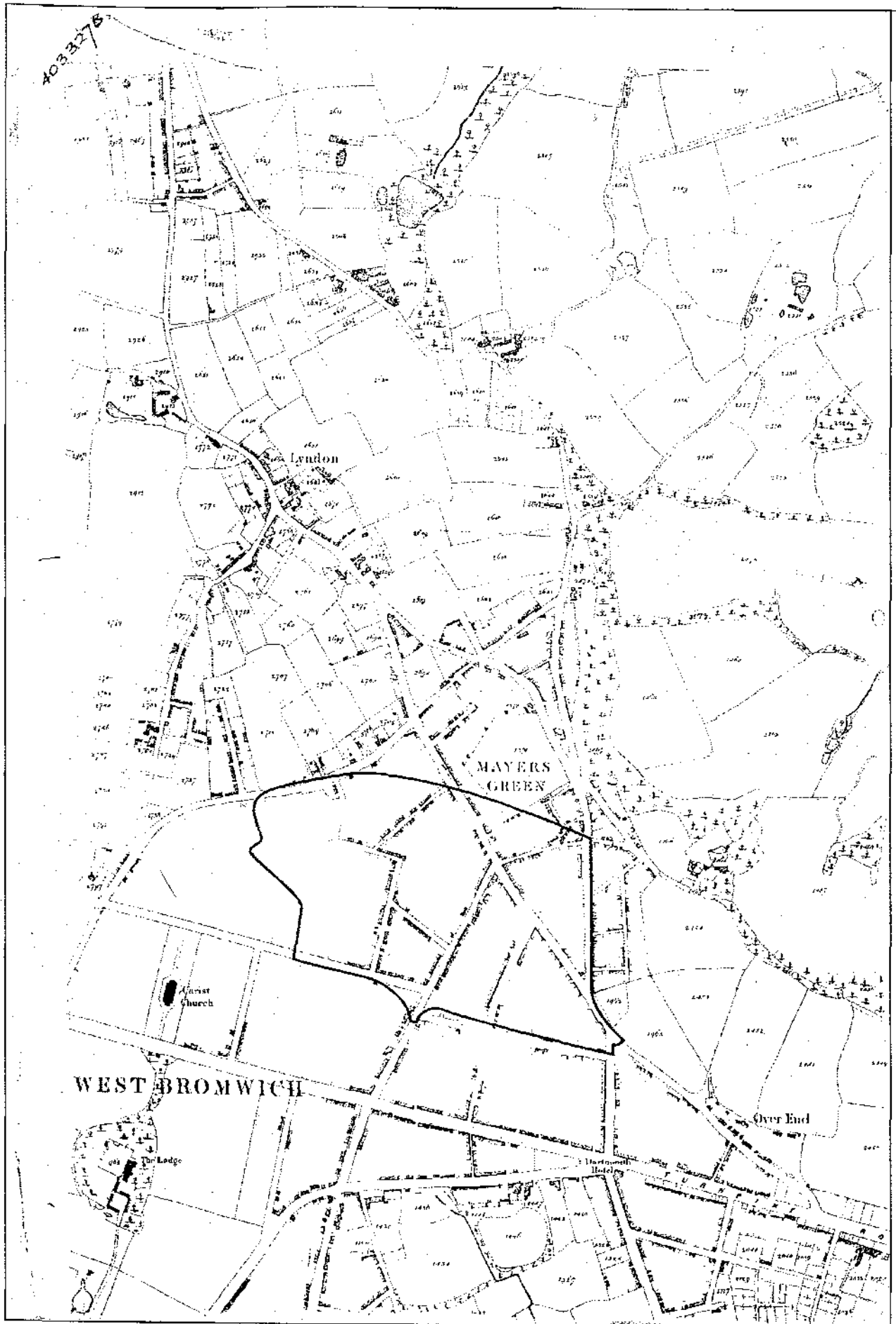


Fig.8 Tithe Map with Study Area



Fig.9 1857

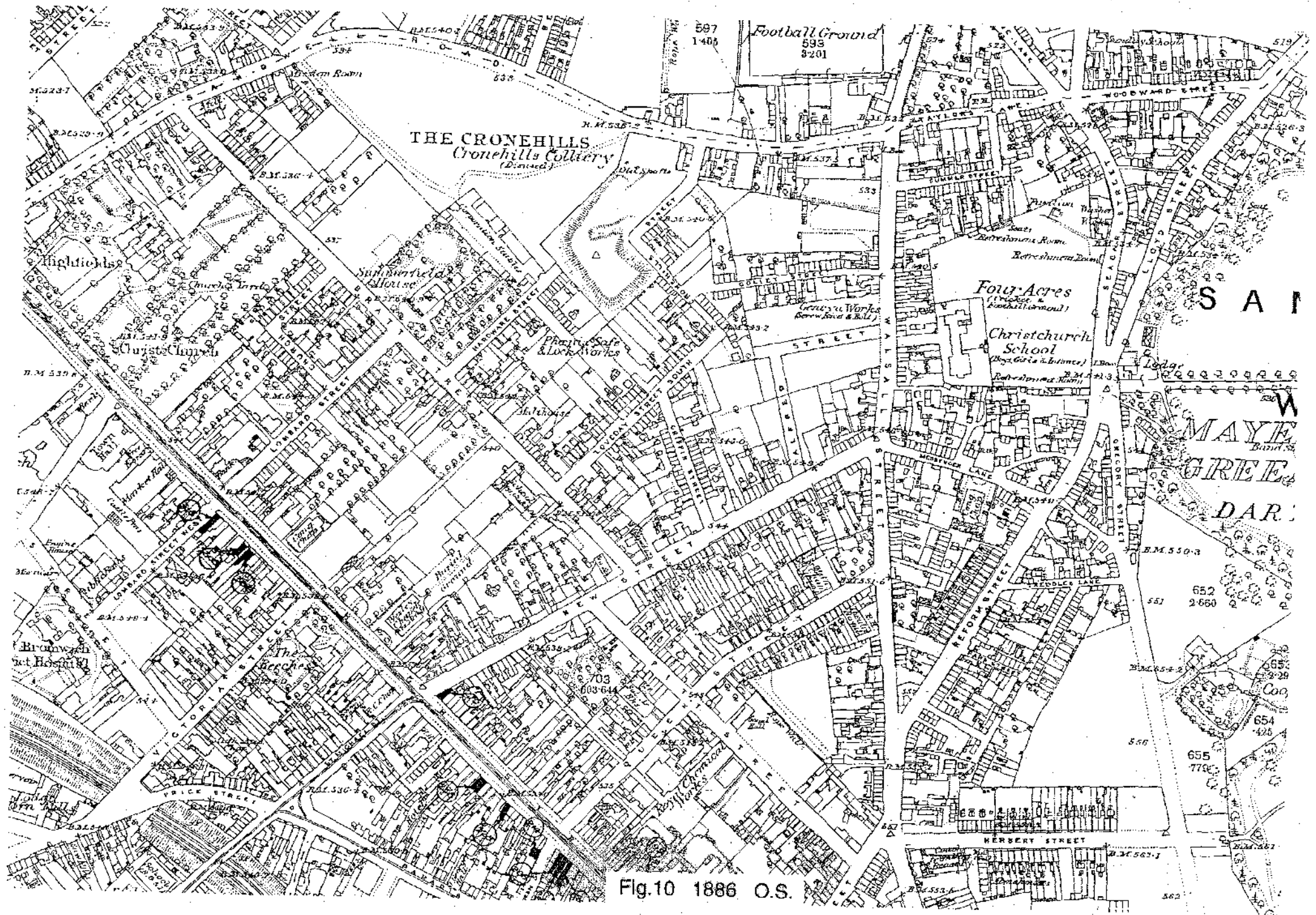


Fig.10 1886 O.S.

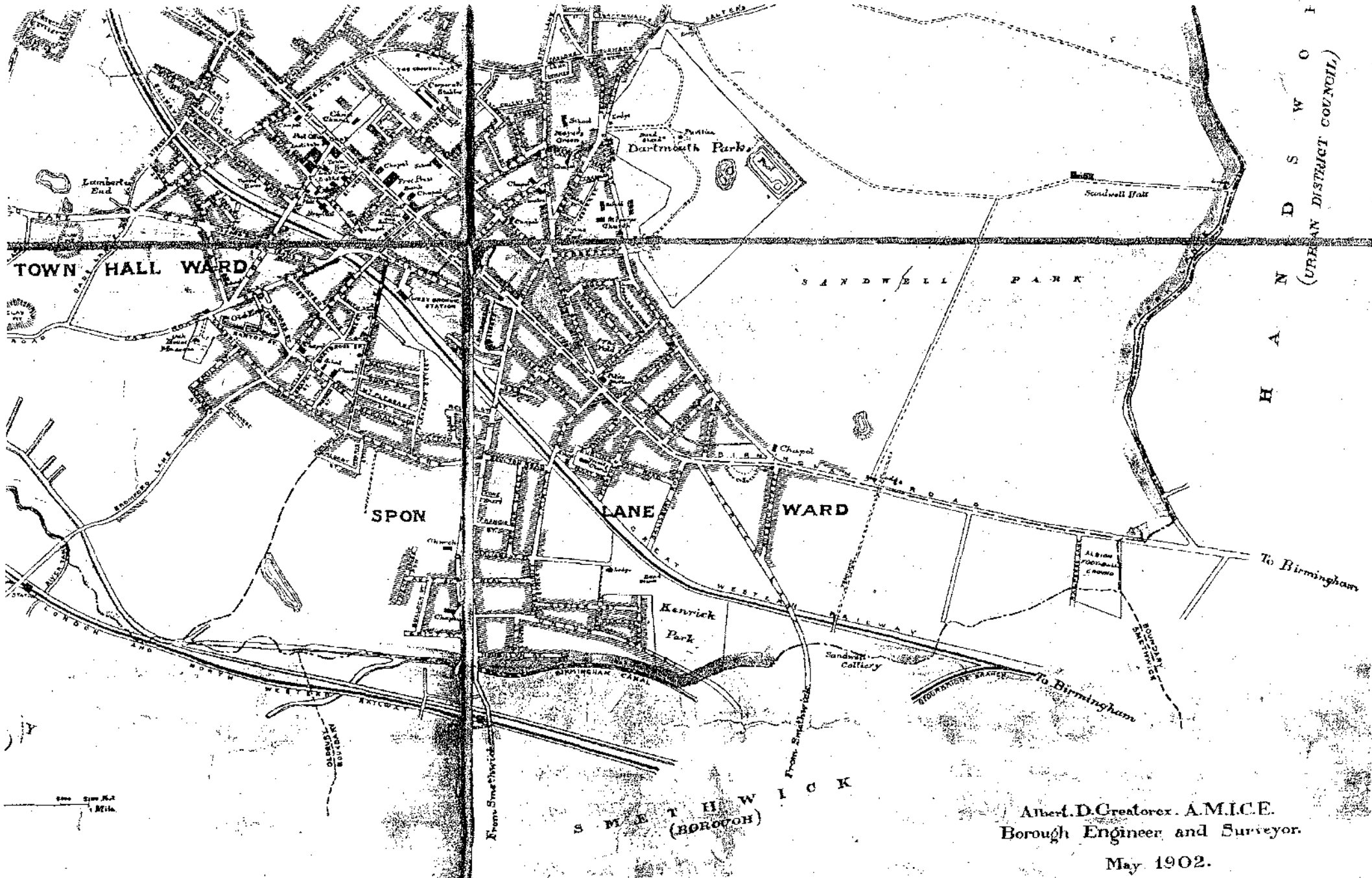


Fig.11 1902

Albert D. Grestorex, A.M.I.C.E.
Borough Engineer and Surveyor.

May 1902.



Fig.12 1904 O.S.

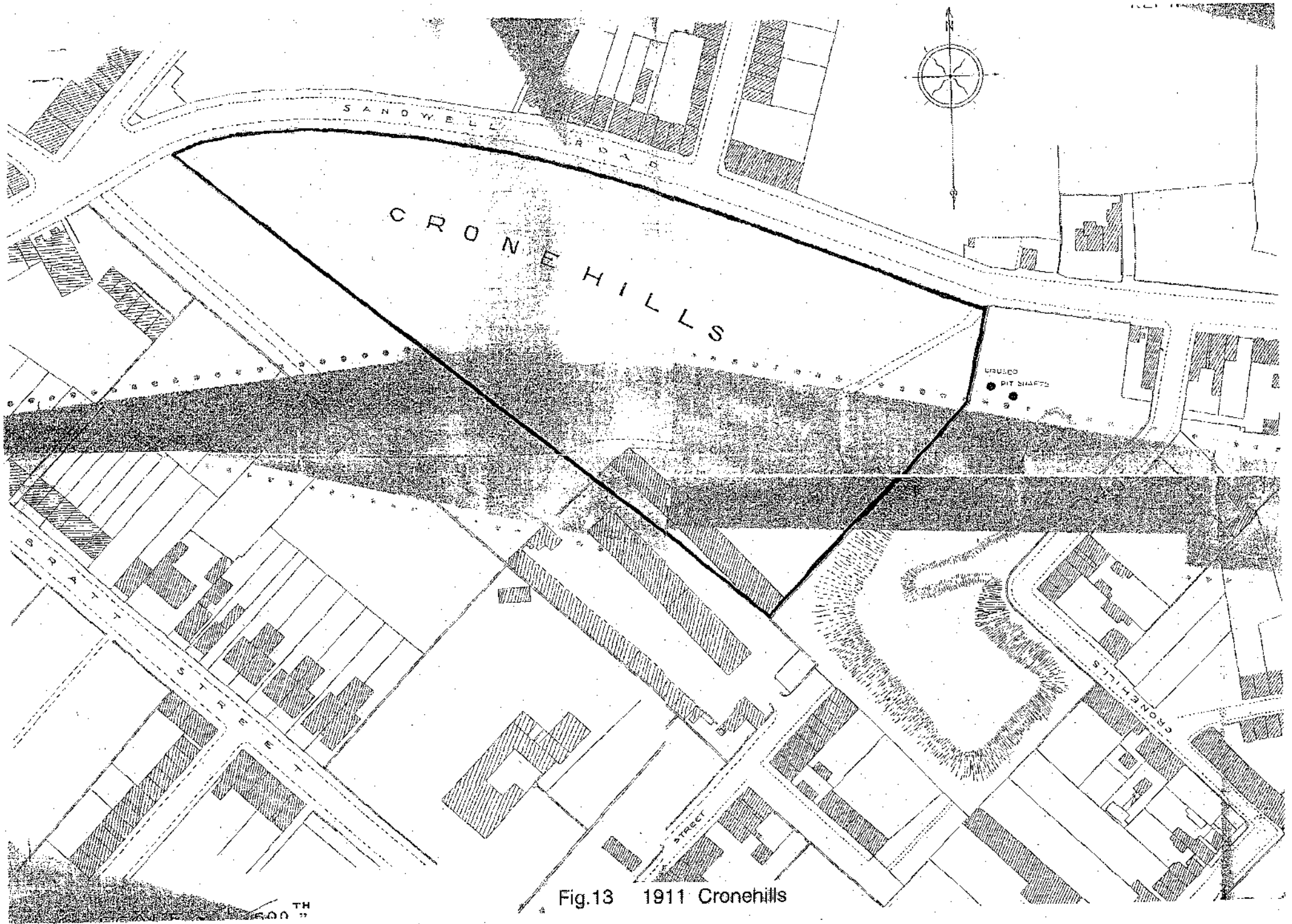


Fig.13 1911 Cronehills



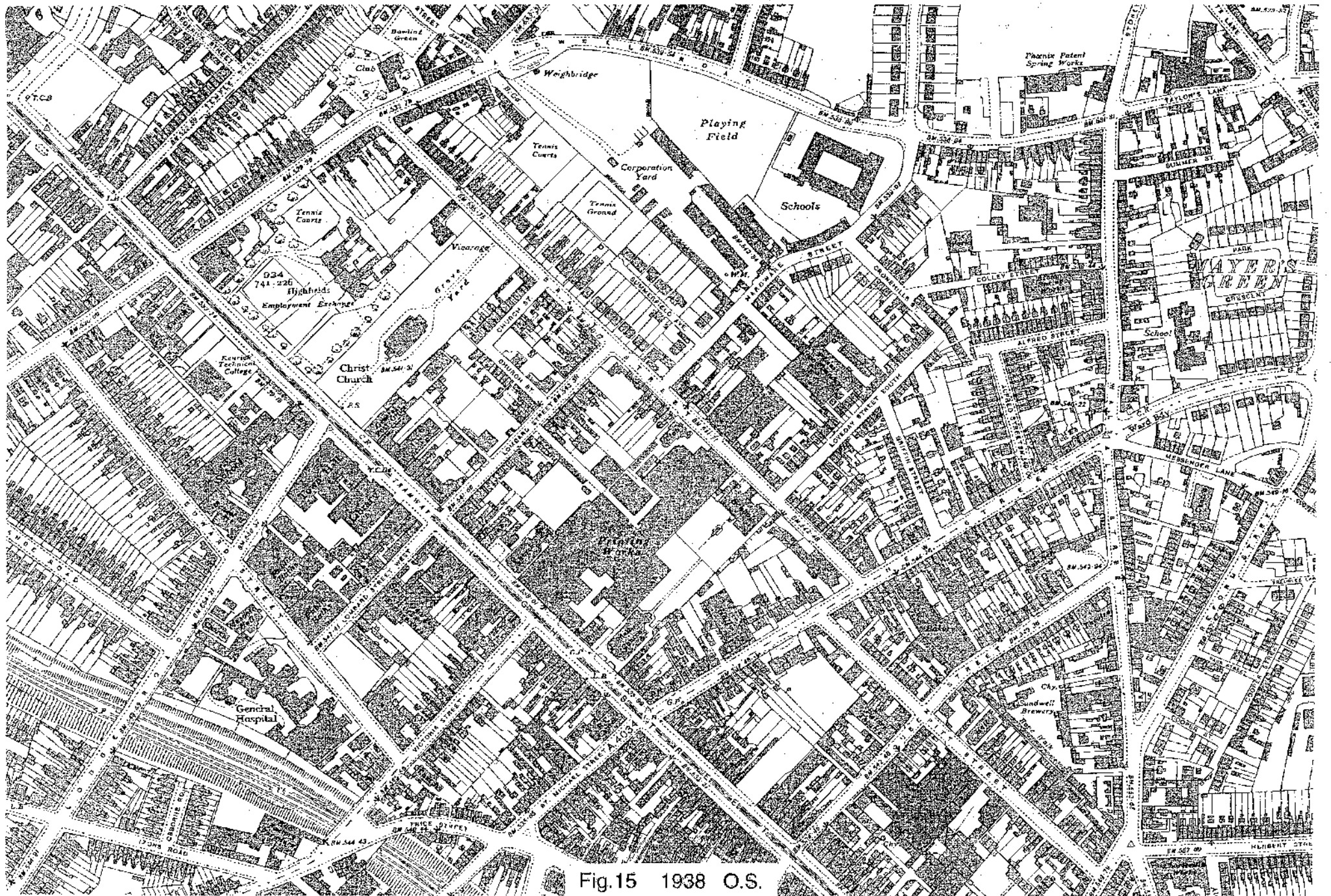


Fig.15 1938 O.S.



Plate 1