

**Archaeological Work at
the Market Square,
Wolverhampton,
West Midlands**

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Wolverhampton, West Midlands**

by
Melissa Conway

with contributions from
Malcolm Hislop

For further information please contact:
Simon Buteux or Iain Ferris (Directors)
Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit
The University of Birmingham
Edgbaston
Birmingham B15 2TT
Tel: 0121 414 5513
Fax: 0121 414 5516
E-Mail: BUFAU@bham.ac.uk
Web Address: <http://www.bufau.bham.ac.uk>

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Summary

Between March and July 2002 a desk-based assessment and subsequent watching brief was carried out by Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit (BUFAU) for Kendrick Construction Ltd. due to the construction of the Market Square as part of the redevelopment of the western portion of the Markets Development Area, Wolverhampton (NGR SO 9117/9835). This work was required as the Markets Development Area as had been identified as an area of archaeological potential by the Wolverhampton Town Centre Action Plan: Archaeology Phase 1 (Black Country Sites and Monuments Record No. 9914). The assessment shows that the development area was probably an occupied part of the town of Wolverhampton by the close of the medieval period, and that it has been subjected to a complex sequence of development during the post-medieval period. The dates of the standing buildings in the development area ranged from the end of the eighteenth century to the mid-twentieth century. The watching brief did not identify any features or deposits of archaeological interest and showed that considerable levelling has been carried out at a comparatively recent date in large parts of the site. The watching brief recorded further structural details that helped to confirm the dates of the buildings on the site.

1.0 Introduction

This report presents the results of archaeological work carried out by Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit (BUFAU), on behalf of Kendrick Construction, on the construction of the Market Square, Wolverhampton (NGR SO 9117/9835). The Market Square is to be comprised of residential and retail developments (Figures 1 and 2). The Market Square lies in the western portion of the Markets Development Area. The Markets Development Area was identified as an area of archaeological potential by the Wolverhampton Town Centre Action Plan: Archaeology Phase 1 (Black Country Sites and Monuments Record No. 9914; White and Wade 1997). The archaeological work was carried out in two stages in March 2002 and July 2002. The first stage comprised a desk-based assessment of the area's archaeological potential and an assessment of the buildings to be demolished as part of the development of the site. The results of the initial assessment led to a second stage of works, whereby a watching brief was maintained on the excavation of foundation trenches on the site.

The assessment follows a brief issued by the Planning and Environment Division of Wolverhampton Metropolitan Borough Council (WMBC 1999). The assessment was carried out in accordance with a written scheme of investigation prepared by BUFAU (BUFAU 2002) and follows the Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Desk-Based Assessments issued by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA 1999)

2.0 Location

The Market Square lies in the south-western portion of Wolverhampton city centre and is defined by Salop Street, School Street, Pitt Street, and the rear of the properties on Worcester Street (Figure 2). In order to set the development in context the entire street block defined by Salop Street, School Street, Pitt Street and Worcester Street was considered by the archaeological assessment and this area is hereafter referred to as the Study Area (Figure 2). The Study Area lies on ground that slopes gently down from south-east to north-west: the underlying drift geology of the area consists of a mix of glacial sands and gravels.

3.0 Objectives

- To identify areas within the Study Area where it is likely that archaeological deposits relating to the earlier land use of the area survive and where further archaeological monitoring may be required during the redevelopment.
- To assess the character of the buildings at Nos. 7-12 Salop Street which are to be demolished as part of the re-development.
- To record any significant archaeological deposits revealed during the redevelopment.

4.0 Sources

The following sources were consulted during the course of this assessment:

- ❖ The Black Country Sites and Monuments Record
- ❖ Historic mapping and early Ordnance Survey maps of the area held by Wolverhampton Archives and Local Studies
- ❖ Primary historic sources, including trade directories and censuses, held by Wolverhampton Archives and Local Studies
- ❖ Secondary archaeological and historical sources held by Wolverhampton Archives and Local Studies and the University of Birmingham libraries

A walkover survey of the Study Area was carried out in March 2002 to assess the archaeological potential of the area.

5.0 Present Character

The Study Area was visited in March 2002. The character of the Study Area is mixed. The buildings along the frontage of Worcester Street are of the same broad type being mainly three-storeyed commercial buildings with shops on the ground floor and domestic accommodation on the upper floors. The buildings on this frontage seem to date to the very late-nineteenth century or the early-twentieth century.

The buildings on the Salop Street frontage are of the same type but are much more varied in character. The frontages of the Salop Street buildings are very varied in date; numbers 4-8 seem to be late-eighteenth or early-nineteenth century in date, whilst the remainder of the buildings seem to have fronts dating to the late-nineteenth century which have, in a number of cases, been subject to extensive alteration in the later twentieth century. Numbers 7-8 Salop Street are currently derelict and are covered in scaffolding. The rears of the buildings along Salop Street have been heavily altered by multiple phases of extension and demolition.

The buildings on Bennett's Fold are industrial in character. These buildings are mainly brick built, with the exception of an iron shed, and seem to date to the early-mid-twentieth century.

The remainder of the Study Area is open and consists of a tarmaced car park and School Street. School Street is currently used as the venue for an open-air market and has fixed metal-framed market stands.

6.0 Archaeological and Historic Background

Evidence of archaeological sites or finds pre-dating the late Saxon period is extremely scarce within the Wolverhampton area as a whole and is limited to a few chance finds of frequently doubtful provenance (White and Wade 1997, 2). It has been argued by many that the hilltop on which Wolverhampton lies was the site of a hill-fort in the Iron Age (White and Wade 1997, 3); the present Study Area, however, lies outside the proposed extent of the fort.

Documentary evidence shows that a settlement and Minster church existed at Wolverhampton by the later tenth century (Hooke and Slater 1986, 10 & 14). It is not entirely clear, however, where the settlement was situated or what the settlement physically consisted of in the late Saxon period. Research into Anglo-Saxon charters relating to the area has identified some of the main routeways which had become established in the Wolverhampton area by the late Saxon period (Hooke and Slater 1986, 35-7). This research has demonstrated that the main streets of the medieval and later town, including Salop Street and Worcester Street, were established by this period. Although the extent of the Saxon settlement at Wolverhampton is not known, it may be inferred that the Study Area, lying at a junction of two major routes into the settlement, may well have seen activity, if not settlement, in the later Saxon period.

Wolverhampton was officially composed of two estates in the medieval period: a religious manor, the Deanery, and a royal manor, Stowheath. The western portion of the town seems to have belonged to the Deanery manor and later cartographic evidence suggests that the Study Area lay within this estate. By the thirteenth century borough status had been granted to the Deanery manor and this gradually seems to have also come to apply to the Stowheath manor (White and Wade 1997, 3). Wolverhampton had become a prosperous market town by the later medieval period, mainly due to its important role in the wool trade (Upton 1998, 17). A model of the probable sequence of development and the extent of the medieval town of Wolverhampton has been proposed, using historic maps of the town, by Baker (1980). It is argued that the earliest settlement was focused on the high ground around St.

Peter's Church, at the point where the routes into the town converged, with settlement subsequently spreading outwards along these routes as the town prospered (Baker 1980, figure 2). According to this model the Study Area lies outside the developed core of the medieval settlement.

The industrial development of Wolverhampton began fairly early, and by the mid-seventeenth century many of the trades which later became important features of industry in the town in the nineteenth century, such as buckle and lock manufacture, were being carried out (White and Wade 1997, 4). Wolverhampton was also starting to play an important role in the distribution of raw materials required by industry, such as iron, by the close of the seventeenth century (White and Wade 1997, 4).

From the later eighteenth century and throughout the nineteenth century Wolverhampton became increasingly industrialised. Large-scale industries, such as iron production, became established on the outskirts of the town. Within the town itself many smaller-scale industrial processes, such as lock making and japanning, became established. The growing industrialisation of the town led to the infilling of spaces within existing street-blocks with small works, shoppings (small-scale rectilinear workshops occupying backplot areas) and back-to-back housing to accommodate these trades and their workers and families from the middle of the nineteenth century onwards. This process of increasingly dense building and occupation within the town led to the degeneration of many areas of the town into slums. The housing around Salop Street within the Study Area was amongst the worst slums within the town (Upton 1998, 108).

The twentieth century saw continued expansion of the built-up area covered by Wolverhampton and large-scale redevelopments of the town centre itself. One element of the re-development was the clearance of slum areas within the town, including part of the Study Area. The town centre was also subject to large-scale shopping developments in the 1950s and 1960s which have changed the face of the area completely. This activity has mainly by-passed the Study Area. Wolverhampton also retained an industrial character up to the recessions of the late 1970s and 1980s. Most industrial activity, however, is now focused on the many industrial estates on the outskirts of the town, rather than in the town centre proper.

7.0 Assessment of The Study Area

7.1 Archaeology

Sites recorded by the Black Country SMR

The SMR records that exist for the Study Area are mainly records allocated to post-medieval and modern occupation along the streets within the Study Area known from documentary and historic mapping evidence and from the present character of the area. Further records have been allocated to structures situated in the area and to archaeological work which has been carried out in the area.

SMR No. 9914

Market Development Area

SMR No. 9937
Pitt Street (north side)

SMR No. 9936
Worcester Street (west side), between Salop Street and Pitt Street

SMR No. 9935
Bennett's Fold, off Salop Street

SMR No. 9930
Salop Street (south side)

SMR No. 6791
NGR SO 9121/9839
4-8 Salop Street.
Three-storeyed shop and residential properties, brick-built, of probable nineteenth-century date. Placed on Local List of Buildings of Interest

SMR No. 9932
NGR SO 9118/9831
Modern electricity sub-station, dated 1932, on north side of Pitt Street

SMR No. 8637
NGR SO 9119/9830
Archaeological evaluation on the site of the Pitt Street/School Street car park carried out by BUFAU in 1996. Showed survival of evidence for later post-medieval industrial and building activity on the site (eighteenth to twentieth centuries). Also showed that large areas of the site had been levelled using imported materials

7.2 Map and Documentary Evidence

The evidence produced by maps of this area has been combined with documentary evidence for this area, including sources such as trade directories, the 1851 census and later historical works to build up a picture of the development and character of this area from the close of the medieval period to the present day.

Isaac Taylor's map of Wolverhampton (1750) shows the Study Area as within the south-westernmost portion of the town's residential area (Figure 3). There was development along the fronts of Barn Street (modern Salop Street), Worcester Street, and Brickhill Lane (modern Pitt Street). In 1750 there was no development along the Peel Street (called Brickhill Alley on the map) frontage. The routeway within the Study Area represented by School Street had not come into existence by 1750.

In 1750 the development on the south side of Barn Street was characterised by plots with main buildings along the frontage and smaller out-buildings in the backplots. The development on Brickhill Lane was similar in character. The out-buildings within these backplots were, however, slightly larger. The development along Worcester Street was dissimilar and consisted of squarer, more heavily developed plots where the main buildings were larger and not always orientated on the street

frontage. At this date there was an alley running from Brickhill Lane along the rear of the Worcester Street backplots. There were several plots and buildings which are orientated on this alley rather than on any of the "main" streets. The area between the development along Barn Street, Worcester Street and Brickhill Lane frontages was, at this date, undeveloped and was bisected diagonally by a curving boundary. The land to the north of this boundary was divided into narrow strip plots, which appear to have belonged to the buildings on Barn Street.

Taylor's map is the main source which has been used to establish the extent of the medieval town of Wolverhampton (e.g. Baker 1980, figure 2). The absence of recognisable burgage plots in the street-block that the Study Area lies within on this map has been used to argue that this area is not one which was a residential part of the medieval town (Baker 1980). It is known, however, that this area was fairly densely occupied by the later sixteenth century, as documents from this period record that 104 dwellings and 30 hay stores on Barn Street were destroyed in a catastrophic fire in 1590 (White and Wade 1997, 11). There are also features on the Taylor map which suggest that this area could have been occupied by housing by the close of the medieval period. Although the area apparently lacks burgage plots on the 1750 map, certain features of the plot pattern visible on the map suggest that they might have existed. The plots along Salop Street, including their associated strip plots, are of a similar length and width to the surviving burgage plots depicted on other streets on the 1750 map. The length of the plots along Worcester Street and the alley to the rear of the street are also suggestive of an area of burgage plots with a rear service lane.

The newer-style plot patterns visible in the Study Area on the 1750 map probably represent reconstruction of the area following the devastating fires of 1590 and 1696 (White and Wade 1997, 11). It is possible, therefore, that this area lay within the area of the medieval town of Wolverhampton.

The earliest surviving trade directory for Wolverhampton dates to 1770 and, whilst it is impossible to isolate individual properties within the Study Area, it provides a general picture of the character of the area. The majority of traders in the area were to be artisans producing finished metal articles – including hinges, a variety of locks, buckles, watch-chains and toys. There were also a few professionals resident within the area, including a surveyor on Barn Street.

The tithe map of Wolverhampton (1842) shows that the Study Area had become more developed. Two further alleys, later to be called Brickkilm Croft and Bennett's Fold, and associated buildings have developed within the Study Area by this date. Barn Street had by this date assumed its current name of Salop Street and Brickhill Lane had become known as Brickkilm Street.

The Wolverhampton Health of Towns map (1852) depicts each property in this area to a similar scale and level of detail as that found on the 1:500 first edition Ordnance Survey maps. Unfortunately only the map which covers the northern part of the Study Area survives. This map includes a wealth of detail, including the location and number of privies per property and the location of workshops, brew houses and inns. The buildings within the Study Area were, at this date, quite mixed. The buildings along Salop Street and Worcester Street were fairly large houses. The buildings behind the frontages were characterised by a jumble of small shoppings and back-to-

backs crammed into courts. Many of the courts were focused on Bennett's Fold and Brickkiln Croft. There are two inns shown on the map, at 12 Salop Street was The Angel, and at the junction of the Bennett's Fold alley and Brickkiln Croft was The Royal Exchange. The courts also contained several brew-houses.

The 1851 census gives a very good impression of the character of most of the Study Area at this time. There is quite a clear distinction in the census returns between the occupants of Salop Street and those of Brickkiln Croft and Bennett's Fold. Some of the houses on Salop Street were the homes of professionals, including a solicitor's clerk, and pliers of more respectable trades, including grocers, a confectioner, stationer, coffee merchant and victualler. At least four of the households in this section of Salop Street had a servant. This stretch of Salop Street was also occupied by artisans such as smiths, bricklayers, lock makers and a brass-founder. The mean number of occupants per dwelling on Salop Street was 4.7. The average is increased, however, by No. 5 which had nine occupants and possessed a number of buildings at its rear. The majority of the other properties in this stretch of Salop Street had four-six occupants. In Brickkiln Croft and Bennett's Fold most of the occupants, where their profession is legible, were artisans, including lock makers, whitesmiths, joiners, coopers and bricklayers, and labourers. The mean numbers of occupants per dwelling in Brickkiln Croft was 5.1 and that for Bennett's Fold was 4.8. The numbers of dwellings which have seven to ten occupants is highest in Brickkiln Croft. The preceding figures seem low, but it must be borne in mind that there were at least 286 people living in 56 properties on Brickkiln Croft and 206 people living in 48 properties on Bennett's Fold, in contrast to the 76 people living in the 18 properties within the Study Area on Salop Street. Although the average number of occupants for the two areas is similar it must be borne in mind that the size of the properties in Bennett's Fold and Brickkiln Croft was much smaller than the houses along Salop Street. It can be concluded that those living in the properties on Salop Street were far better off than those in the courts to their rear.

On the first edition Ordnance Survey maps of 1885 (Figures 4 and 5) little change from the 1850s can be seen. The 1:500 scale of the first edition Ordnance Survey coverage of this area (1885) shows that the areas behind the frontages of Salop Street, Worcester Street and Great Brickkiln Street had become even more densely built-up with back-to-backs and shoppings (partially reproduced in Figure 5). The Angel inn still occupied the same plot, the Royal Exchange inn is not shown on this map, but another inn, The King's Arms, was present on Great Brickkiln Street. Two works had been established and are shown on the map. The London Works, a tin plate works, is shown as a large irregularly-shaped building occupying the position of No. 11 Salop Street and the area behind Nos. 7-10 Salop Street. The Great Brickkiln Street Foundry was situated on the corner of Great Brickkiln Street and the Bennett's Fold alley. The Bennett's Fold alley does not seem to be in the same position as the probable service alley depicted on the Taylor map (Figure 4).

Trade directories from this period show that the Study Area was still occupied by a mix of professionals and tradesmen on Salop Street and that both Great Brickkiln Street and Bennett's Fold were occupied by artisans producing mainly metal goods. The trade directories of this period have not yielded any further information on either the Great Brickkiln Street Foundry or the London Works. The King's Arms on Great

Brickkiln Street was established by at least 1869, as it is listed in White's directory for that year, it has not been possible to identify it in previous directories.

Little further development had occurred in the Study Area by the time of the third edition Ordnance Survey map of 1919 (Figure 6). The coming of the tramways in 1900 caused Worcester Street to be widened. This involved the re-fronting of Nos. 80 - 83 and the construction of new commercial and residential buildings of a unified type at Nos. 68 - 78. At the junction of Brickkiln Croft and Bennett's Fold the back-to-backs and shoppings that lay to the north of this junction in the 1880s had been cleared and a mission hall constructed in their place. A large L-shaped building had replaced some of the earlier structures to the rear of Worcester Street by this date; its function is unclear. The London Works buildings were partially demolished and its site had become occupied by rectilinear buildings. The site of the Angel inn was still a public house. The site of the King's Arms, however, is not designated as a public house on this map. Number 4 Salop Street is designated as a club on this map.

Spennell's Directory of 1922 shows that the club referred to at No. 4 Salop Street on the third edition map is the Municipal Welfare Centre for Children. Salop Street still has a confectioner's and a grocer's shop at this date. The street was developing a more industrial character, and an enamellers and plater's company is listed at No. 5. Brickkiln Croft was mainly occupied by private residents. The majority of the occupants of Bennett's Fold were also private residents. The only firms operating out of Bennett's Fold at this date were E. Thorneycroft & Co. (stamper's and piercers), Hugh Finlan (wrought iron manufacturer) and L. Bailey (coal dealer).

The Ordnance Survey map of this area of 1938 shows that the Study Area had assumed approximately its current morphology (Figure 7). The majority of buildings in the street block defined by Salop Street, Peel Street, Great Brickkiln Street and Worcester Street had been demolished and the area cleared. The cleared area had apparently been levelled and equates to the area currently in use as the School Street and Pitt Street Car Park. A new street, an extension of School Street, had been cut through the street block. The L-shaped building visible on the third edition map is labelled on this map as an electro-plating works. The only other buildings which remain in the Study Area at this date were along the frontages of Worcester Street and Salop Street. A new structure, an electric sub-station, had been constructed on Great Brickkiln Street and equates to the structure recorded by the Black Country SMR as No. 9932.

7.3 Buildings Assessment: Nos. 7-12 Salop Street (by Malcolm Hislop)

Nos. 7 (latterly Atlantis Fish Restaurant) and 8 (latterly Paradise)

This three-storey (reduced proportions to the second floor), three-bay building of *circa* 1800 is built of red brick (Flemish bond), painted white to the front, and has a slate roof, and a brick off-ridge stack to the rear (Plate 1). There are two large twentieth-century shop fronts at ground level, and a carriage entrance to the left, with a fascia over bearing the sign 'Wm. LACON & CO. LTD'. The windows are 12-pane glazing bar sashes with gauged brick heads and plain projecting sills. To the rear of the carriage entrance, the lintel is a reused timber (Plate 2). Probably a former wall

plate, it retains carpenters' marks and a series of notches for housing rafters. Above the carriage entrance are two blocked windows of c.1800, the lower one with a brick wedge lintel. Also to the rear, and to the west of the carriage entrance, is a nineteenth-century extension on the same alignment as the main range, the roof catsliding over it.

In the yard to the rear is a twentieth-century shed with corrugated iron roof, and a steel girder projecting from the gable, apparently for a hoist. The building, then, was evidently used for some minor industrial purpose.

Nos.9-10 (latterly Mahals)

Nos. 9-10 comprise a mid-to-late twentieth-century shop with later alterations (Plate 3). This two-storey, two-bay building is built of red brick. There is a large late twentieth-century shop front at ground level, boarded up at time of survey, and first floor casement windows with flat brick lintels. A plain parapet steps up to the centre.

No.11

No.11 displays a mid-to-late twentieth-century front towards the street; it is a two-storey three-bay building, and is built of red brick. At ground level there is a carriage entrance to right, and a mid-twentieth-century shop front to the left. The property has first floor casement windows with flat brick lintels and a plain brick parapet.

To the rear of this building is a long industrial range, aligned roughly north-south, that formerly formed part of the London Works (tin plate) that appears on the 1st edition of the Ordnance Survey map of 1885 (Plates 4 and 5). It is a later nineteenth-century brick (Flemish stretcher bond), three-storey (reduced proportions to second floor) five-bay structure, with a single-storey lean-to extension towards the west.

The east and south walls and the lower part of the west wall are built in red brick, but the bricks of the upper portions of the west wall, which are constructed of orange bricks and appear to represent a reconstruction of the range, are probably *circa* 1900. Other alterations include large-scale patching and the insertion of large windows with concrete lintels at ground storey level. The first floor windows have flat brick lintels, and the upper lights have segmental arches. Although most of the original openings survive, the windows themselves have been replaced in the mid-to-late twentieth century.

Two further ranges extend eastwards from this building to make up the industrial premises. The southernmost of these is built in red brick, and a straight joint between them suggests that they are of different construction periods. It has a lean-to roof. There three blocked openings at ground level in the south wall. The second cross range is a mid-twentieth-century red brick (stretcher bond) building with corrugated iron roof carried on a steel frame. Inside is a later-twentieth century range of brick built, flat roofed offices.

No.12 (Capital Cookers)

Formerly the Angel inn, No.12 Salop Street is apparently of mid-to-late nineteenth century date, with considerable later alterations (Plate 6). It is constructed of brick, now clad in cement rendering; and is roofed in slate. The main range is aligned with Salop Street, roughly east-west, and there is a triple pile rear wing, aligned roughly north south. To the south is a later twentieth-century extension. The two-storey, three-bay, Salop Street front has large, late twentieth-century, plate glass shop windows framed with plywood fascia panels of similar date. The large first floor windows probably date from the first half of the twentieth century. At eaves level there is a wide (probably plaster) frieze surmounted by a cavetto-moulded eaves cornice.

The rear elevation comprises three symmetrically-designed gables. Each has a late twentieth-century first floor window, apparently within the original openings, which appears to have been segmental-headed, and which retains plain, projecting stone sills. Each of the two side elevations retains what is probably an original first floor window. These are four-pane vertical sashes with horns, and they date from the mid-to-late nineteenth century. The late twentieth-century rear extension is a single-storey building with flat roof covered in roofing felt. An interior inspection revealed nothing of interest at either ground or first floor level.

8.0 Results of Archaeological Monitoring

The desk-top assessment of the land to be affected by the Market Square highlighted the area occupied by Nos. 7-12 Salop Street and their associated backplots as being most likely to contain archaeological deposits. The mapping evidence considered above showed that the remainder of the development area had been very densely occupied by buildings throughout the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries and, as such, the survival of intact archaeological deposits in this area is unlikely. An archaeological evaluation of the School Street car park in 1996 (Sternberg 1996) confirmed that no archaeological deposits survive in this area. Only foundation trenches which cut through the area previously occupied by Nos. 7-12 Salop Street, therefore, were monitored. The main foundation trench running between Salop Street and Pitt Street had already been partially filled with concrete by the time it was possible to carry out the archaeological monitoring. The top 1.2m of the trench was still visible over the concrete footings, so it would not have been possible, due to safety concerns, to record any deposits which had lain below this level in detail. The foundation trenches were approximately 1m wide and were approximately 2m deep (1.2 m deep after they had been partially concreted-in).

Deposits were recorded from the main foundation trench between Salop Street and Pitt Street. The earliest deposit encountered was a layer of mid-light orange-brown silty clay (1004). This layer occurred at 1m below the modern ground surface and extended below the level of the concrete (1.2m deep) and was flecked with charcoal and with small pieces of grey and red material. The nature of this grey and red material is unclear, as the inclusions were very small. They may represent degraded stones or fragments of brick/burnt clay. The date of layer 1004, is unclear as no finds were identified within it. The clay layer (1004) was overlain by a layer of clean red

sand (1003). This layer occurred at 0.75m below the modern ground surface, was approximately 0.25m thick, and may represent some levelling activities in this area. A layer of mottled orange sand (1002) overlay the clean sand layer (1003). This layer occurred at 0.65m below the modern ground surface and was 0.10m thick. The sand was flecked with charcoal and contained infrequent small – medium sized lumps of red and brown clay. This layer was overlain by a brown silty clay (1001). This clay layer contained frequent pieces of building rubble, including bricks and mortar, it occurred at 0.50m below the modern ground level and was 0.15m thick. The clay layer (1001) was overlain by a layer of rubble contained in a clayey matrix (1000). The rubble layer was 0.5m thick and formed the uppermost layer across the site.

No evidence for archaeological deposits or features relating to the medieval or early-post-medieval periods was seen in any of the foundation trenches observed.

The watching brief identified areas of walling relating to two of the eighteenth and nineteenth-century buildings which had previously stood in this area. The first comprised two sections of a wall, the remainder of which had been destroyed by the excavation of the trenches. It was situated approximately 2.2m west of No.6 Salop Street, and extended south from the Salop Street frontage for approximately 9m. It was built of red brick 9¼" x 4½" x 2½-2¾", stood to a height of 0.6m below ground level, and was two bricks thick (i.e. 9¼"). It must represent the foundations of the demolished No.7 Salop Street, a building dated to *circa* 1800 on architectural grounds.

The second area of interest was situated approximately 16m south and 6m east of the southeast corner of No.12 Salop Street, and was evidently the remains of a cellar, comprising the junction of the north and east walls, and, slightly further to the south, the end of another wall, aligned east-west. These walls were constructed of red brick 9½" x 4⅝" x 2¼-2⅝" in English Garden Wall bond. They were two bricks thick (9½"). There were buildings in this position by 1751, and this cellar presumably served one of them.

9.0 Discussion

9.1 Archaeology

The foregoing discussion of the map and documentary evidence shows that this area may have been occupied in the later medieval period. The area was part of the town itself by the later sixteenth century. The complex sequence of development which the Study Area has seen – from being mainly residential in character in the eighteenth century to a dense slum of back to backs and shoppings by the start of the twentieth century – typifies the urban development of much of Wolverhampton from the later medieval period to the twentieth century.

An overlay of Taylor's map and the first edition Ordnance Survey coverage of the area shows that certain parts of the Study Area seem to have remained free of building activity since the eighteenth century. These areas together with that currently occupied by Nos. 7 – 12 Salop Street were considered to be areas of potential archaeological survival, and that important evidence for the poorly understood

medieval and early post-medieval stages of Wolverhampton's development may exist as surviving islands of archaeology in these areas. Previous archaeological work in the area of the School Street car park showed that archaeological survival over the remainder of the development area was unlikely. The watching brief maintained on the foundation trenches for the Market Square was targeted on the area formerly occupied by Nos. 7-12 Salop Street for these reasons. The watching brief failed to identify any such survival of archaeological deposits relating to these periods in this area.

9.2 Standing Buildings

The inspection of the standing buildings fronting onto Salop Street, and the recording of foundation details during the archaeological monitoring, revealed a sequence of construction ranging from the end of the eighteenth century to the mid-twentieth century. The building types include a good quality town house of *circa* 1800 (Nos. 7-8), a mid- to late nineteenth-century inn (No.12) or public house, later nineteenth-century industrial works (The London Works), and mid-twentieth-century retail premises (Nos.9-11). These buildings seem to reflect the changes that have occurred in the area's fortunes over the last two hundred years.

10.0 Acknowledgements

This report was written by Melissa Conway with contributions by Dr. Malcolm Hislop and edited by Steve Litherland who also managed the project. The illustrations were prepared by Nigel Dodds. Dr. Malcolm Hislop carried out the standing building assessment. The watching brief was carried out by Richard Cherrington, Melissa Conway and Dr. Malcolm Hislop. Thanks are due to Kendrick Construction for commissioning this work and to their Site Manager Chris Wilson for all his assistance on site. Many thanks are due to Mike Shaw, the Black Country Archaeologist, and to the helpful staff of the Wolverhampton Archives and Local Studies.

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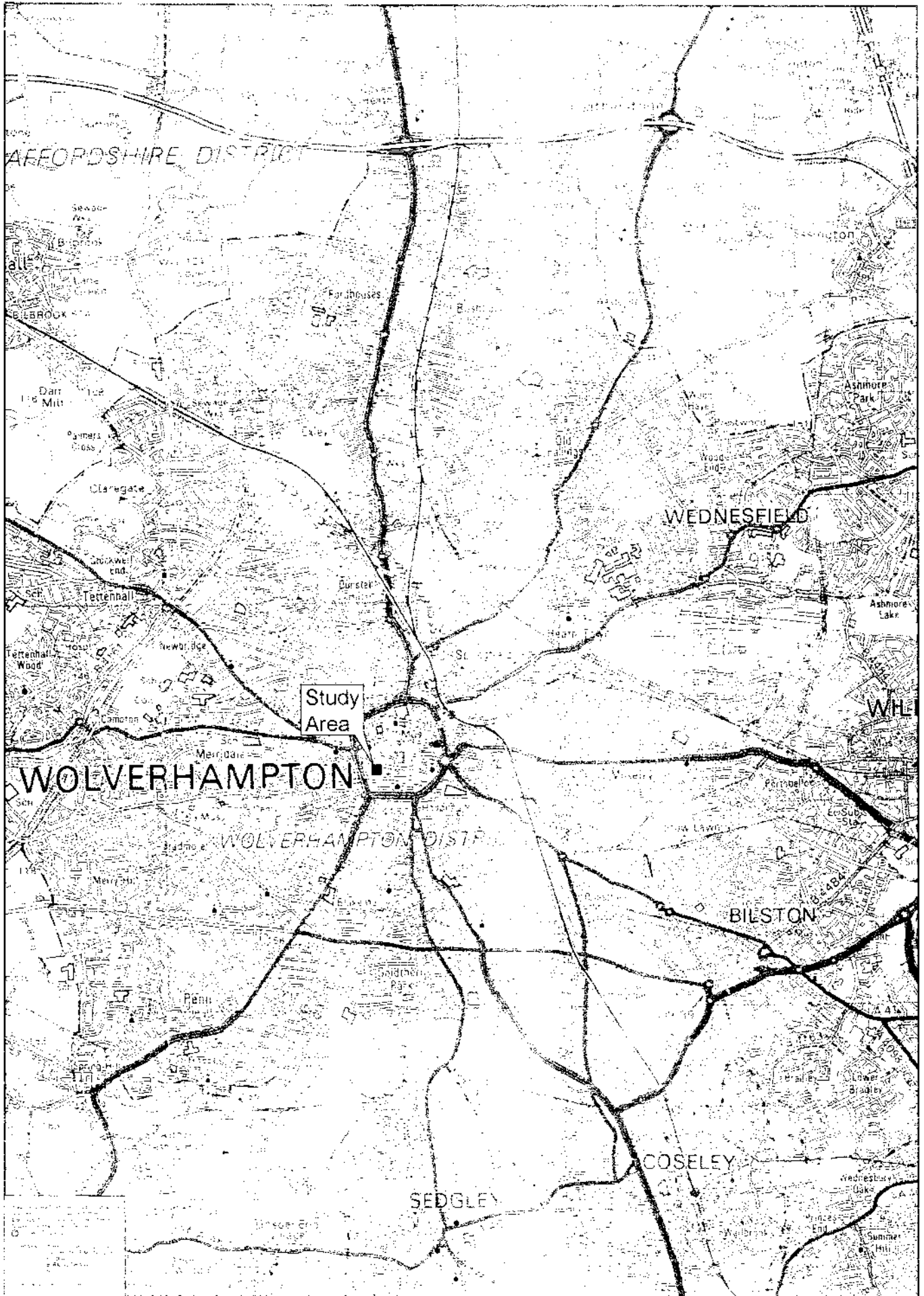


Figure 1

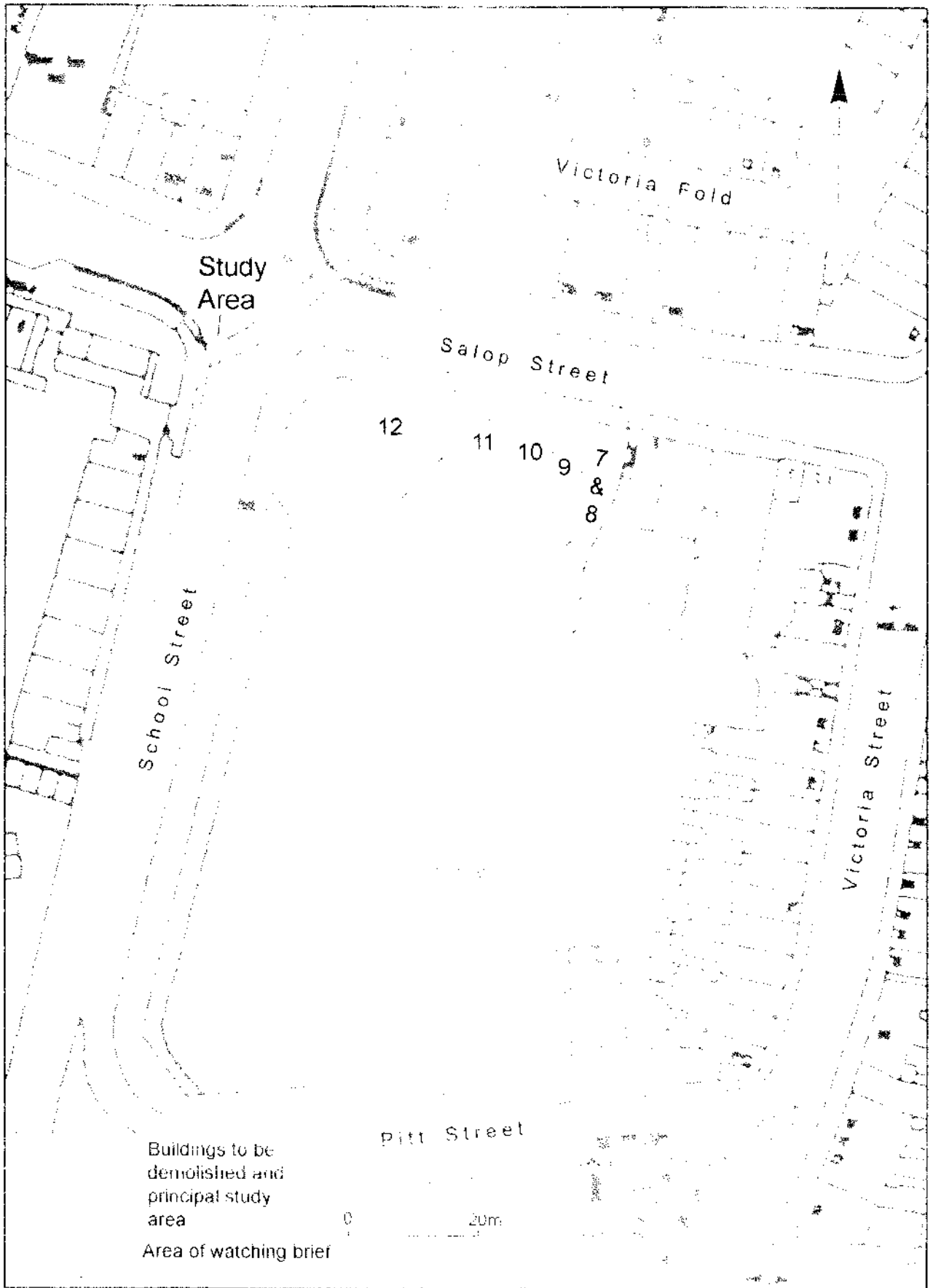


Figure 2



Figure 3



Figure 4

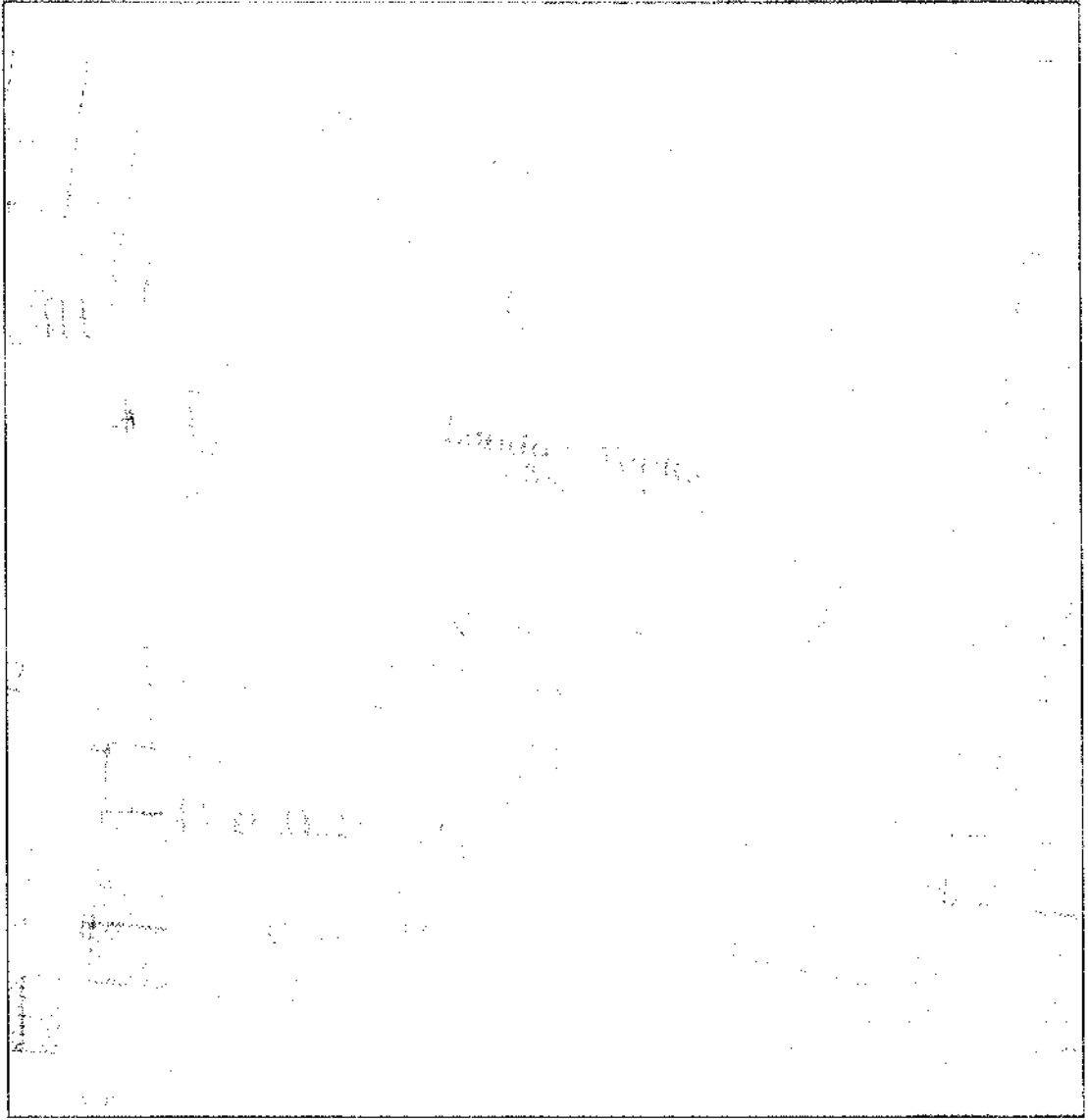


Figure 5



Figure 6



Figure 7

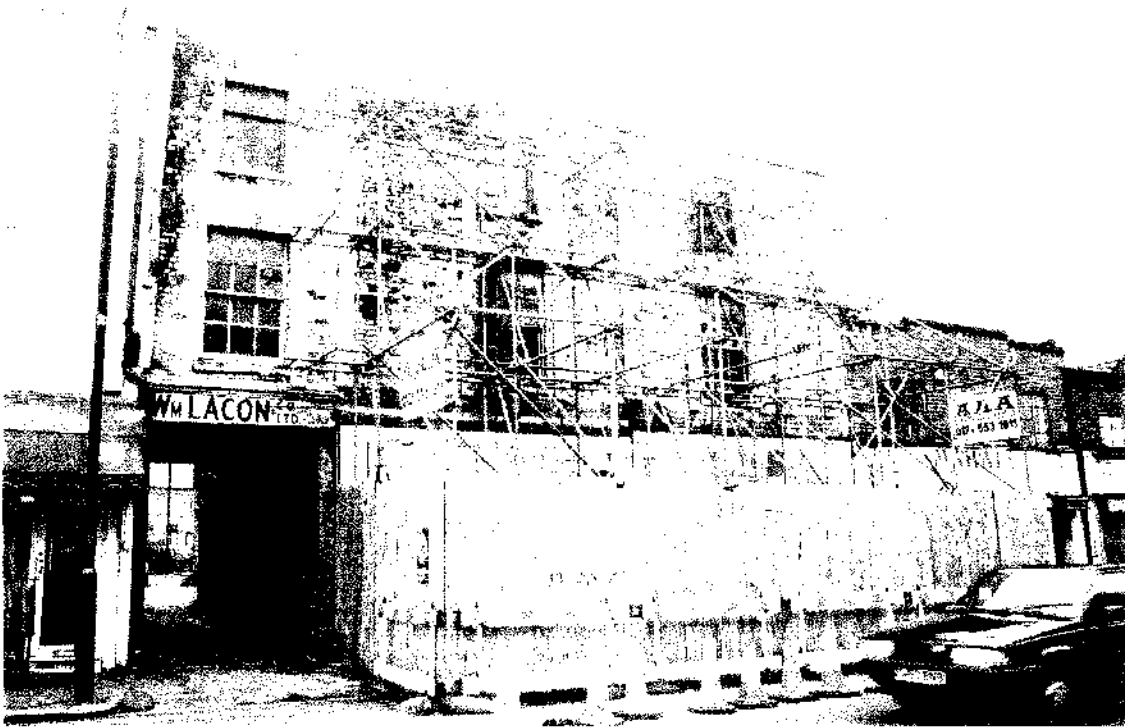


Plate 1

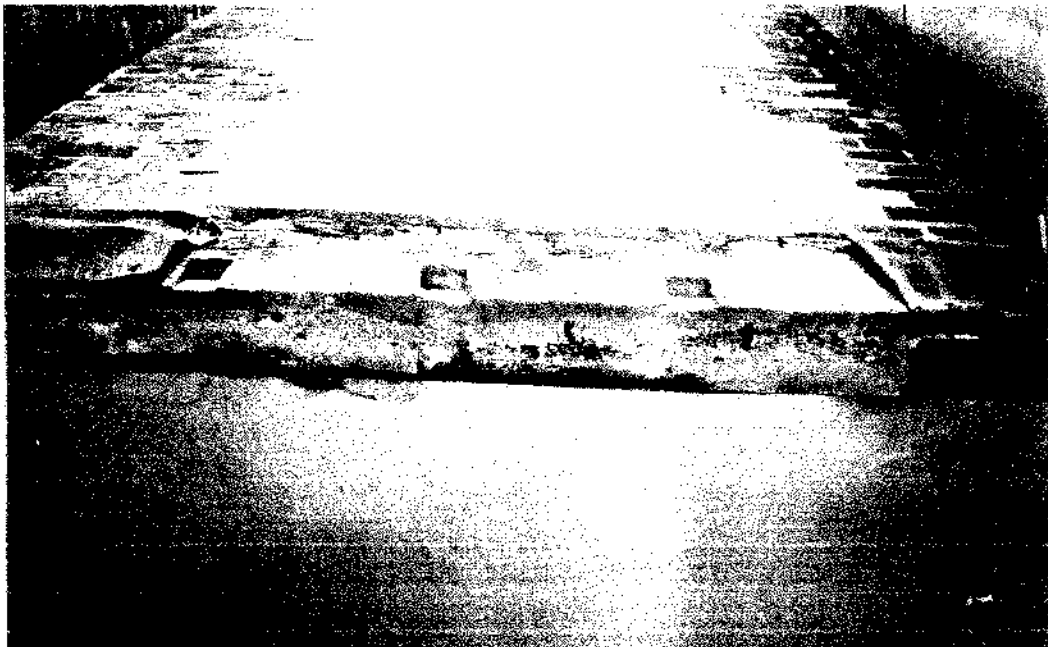


Plate 2



Plate 3

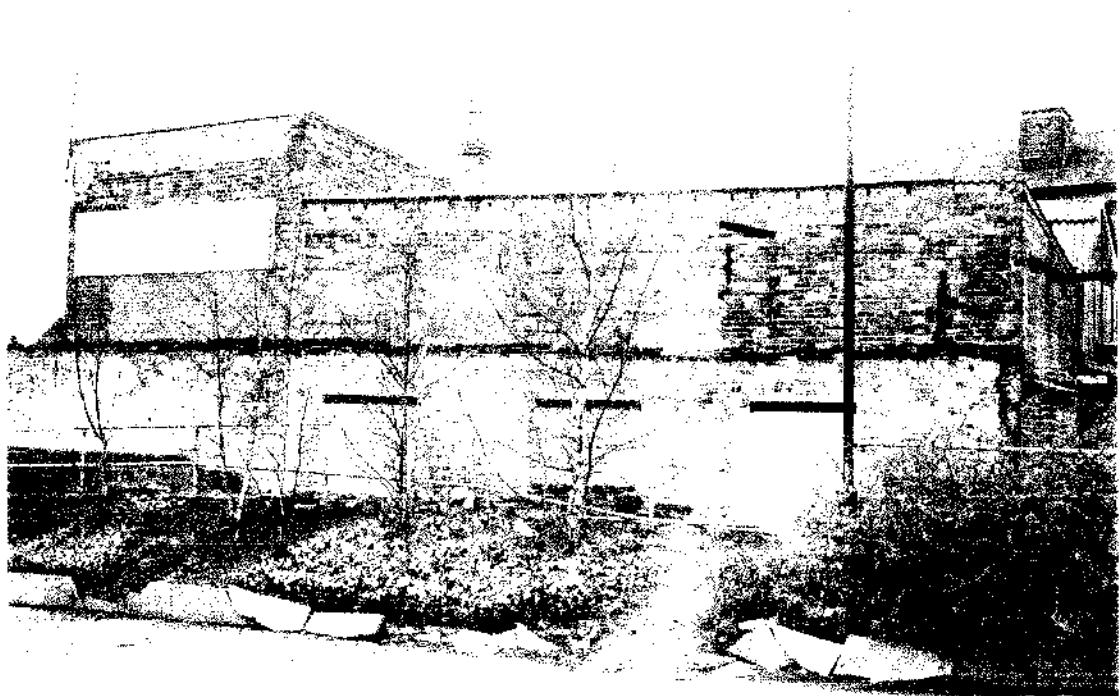


Plate 4



Plate 5



Plate 6