

birmingham archaeology



**THE UNIVERSITY
OF BIRMINGHAM**

**Wednesbury Bus Station,
Wednesbury, West Midlands:
An Archaeological Watching
Brief. 2004**



Project No. 1142
April 2004

**Wednesbury Bus Station,
Wednesbury,
West Midlands
An Archaeological Watching Brief. 2004**

By
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For
Chase Norton Construction Ltd

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**WEDNESBURY BUS STATION, WEDNESBURY,
WEST MIDLANDS
AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF. 2004**

SUMMARY

Birmingham Archaeology undertook an archaeological watching brief on the site of Wednesbury Bus Station between December 2003 and March 2004. The work was commissioned by Chase Norton Construction Ltd on behalf of Halcrow and took place during groundworks prior to the construction of new bus shelters and associated buildings.

The archaeological work was informed by a brief prepared by G. Eyre-Morgan, Borough Archaeologist for Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council (Eyre-Morgan 2003) and was guided by the Standard and Guidance for archaeological watching briefs, laid down by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA 2001). Given the location of the site there was a potential for the discovery of features associated with the medieval and post-medieval periods, of which little is currently known. A 19th century brick-lined well (SMR 6444) was recorded, along with the remains of two cellars and parts of the wall of an outbuilding associated with a public house. These latter appear on the 1846 tithe map (Fig.3). With these exceptions little else of archaeological significance was observed.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This report describes the results of an archaeological watching brief undertaken at Wednesbury Bus Station prior to the construction of new bus shelters and associated buildings. The watching brief took place as a condition of Sandwell M.B.C's planning process and relates specifically to planning application DC/01/38261. In accordance with Planning Policy Guidance Note 16 (DoE 1990), an archaeological brief was prepared by Sandwell's Borough Archaeologist, and a Written Scheme of Investigation was prepared by Birmingham Archaeology (Birmingham Archaeology 2003). The work was commissioned by Chase Norton Construction Ltd on behalf of Halcrow for Centro and was undertaken by Birmingham Archaeology.

2.0 LOCATION AND GEOLOGY

The site was centred on NGR SO 9852 9490 (Fig. 1), and occupied a total floor area of 672m² and was covered primarily by concrete hard standing. The site lies to the northeast of Wednesbury Central Station on the corner of Loxdale Street and Holyhead Road (Fig.1). Wednesbury itself lies on the Upper Coal Measure with the underlying geology comprising grey clays with alluvial deposits to the north.

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The origins of the town are thought to lie to the east on Church Hill, the site of a possible Iron Age hillfort. In the same area is the 13th century church of St Bartholemew, its associated medieval manor house and an open field system. The original nucleus of the early settlement is thought to be on either the north side of Church Hill or beside the market place.

During the later medieval period the settlement expanded to the northeast. Archaeological investigations at Oakeswell Hall, the Shambles and Ridding Lane provided evidence of the Wednesbury pottery industry (Hodder and Glazebrook 1987, Hodder 1992). However, the limited scope of these investigations means that little is currently known about the extent of medieval and post-medieval activity at the edge of the town.

The site itself was relatively heavily developed during the 19th and early 20th centuries. A public house with several outbuildings as well as residential buildings can be seen on the 1846 tithe map (Fig.3), and a later map of 1890 (Fig.4) shows the location of a public well at the southern end of the site. The northern part of the site was cleared for the old bus depot that can be seen on the 1966 map (Fig.8). The southern part of the site appears to have been cleared after this time.

4.0 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

The aim of this archaeological watching brief was to locate and record any surviving archaeological deposits and features uncovered by the groundworks during the construction of the bus shelters. This was achieved by the observation and recording of groundworks by a suitably qualified archaeologist. All surviving structures were recorded and their location, nature, depth of burial, thickness and any potential dating information was obtained during the process.

Initially the hard standing was removed. This occurred prior to the beginning of the watching brief. The service and foundation trenches were excavated using a JCB equipped with a toothed bucket. The sections of service trenches and of the bus shelter foundation trenches were recorded, as were excavations for a BT service tunnel and associated man-hole. All features or changes in geology were recorded using pro-forma context and feature record cards. Where appropriate, scale drawings were made. All records, along with colour print and monochrome photographs, form the site archive, and are currently stored at the offices of Birmingham Archaeology.

5.0 RESULTS

The first area of development in the northeast corner of the site revealed remains of a cellar in plan, F205 and F206, that probably belonged to one the buildings seen on the

tithe map 1846 (Fig.3). The walls of the cellar were made up of orange and red brick (9"x 4¾"x 8½") and later service trenching revealed a herringbone brick floor, F104. The cellar was in-filled with brick rubble, clinker and ash (1005) to a depth of at least 1.20m. Both walls of the cellar were exposed, and to the south there were other brick courses exposed in the section, F200-F203. These consisted of red/orange bricks of standard size (8½"x 4" x 3"), which were probably associated with cellars of adjacent buildings of the same period.

The area to the west of F205 revealed another possible cellar, F102, which can be related to a wall 3.8m in length, F100. This cellar and wall were part of a modern building and were not of archaeological significance. In the same area an L-shaped wall was uncovered which appears to relate to the corner of an outbuilding associated with the inn that is indicated on the 1846 tithe map (Fig.3). This inn does not appear after 1960 (Fig.8) and presumably was demolished to make way for the bus depot. In the section parallel to Dudley Street, a barrel vaulted cellar profile was uncovered, also 19th century in date, made up of orange/yellow brick 5-6½" long and 3" thick.

Towards the southwest corner of the site a brick-lined well was uncovered which is likely to that marked on the 1890 map (Fig.4). It has already been documented by an SMR report (SMR 6444) and was not completely backfilled. The bricks used in its construction were laid side on (9½" x 4¾" x 3½") and were slightly corbelled. It was capped by an iron plate with a pump set into the top. The well measured 1.0m in diameter and 7.5m in depth. Below this depth the well contained a grey silty clay with brick and oyster shell fragments within the soil matrix.

The area around the structures comprised mostly light yellow-orange silty clay that is part of the natural geology. However, the majority of the site comprised mixed grey clays with thick deposits of clinker and coal, which may have been used to raise the ground level after the demolition of the 19th century buildings occurred. Whilst excavation of the service trenches (Fig.2 shown as dotted lines) which ran through the whole site was being observed and recorded, it was evident that the general stratigraphy of the site comprised alternating bands of grey and yellow clays over coal and clinker, as well as brick rubble in the centre and the north of the site. The BT service trench highlighted this stratigraphy more clearly since it was between 5.0m-12.0m deep. The service trenches were on average 0.60m deep and 0.50m wide, and 1.0m deep where the services terminated at a drain cover (Plate 1).

6.0 DISCUSSION

It appears that any archaeology which may have predated the surviving elements discussed above has been either truncated or scoured away by the post-medieval clearance and development of the site. Wednesbury itself is famous for its coal deposits and the numerous steel and iron foundries that made use of this direct source of fuel. The waste, or clinker, that was found over the majority of the site would appear to be a by-product of these industries. Only the deep cellars of the 19th century buildings and a well

of the same period survive, so it may safely be interpreted that earlier archaeological deposits were in all probability destroyed by the 19th and early 20th century development of the site. In this light it is the conclusion of Birmingham Archaeology that the site must be considered of low archaeological potential in terms of both the current development and likely future development.

7.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Chase Norton Construction Ltd commissioned this project on behalf of Halcrow. Thanks are due to Steve McGuigan, who managed the site on behalf of Chase Norton Construction Ltd. The watching brief was undertaken by a number of individuals on separate occasions, these were John Halsted, Erica Macey-Bracken, Kristina Krawiec, Ellie Ramsey and Sally Radford. Kristina Krawiec wrote this report and Bryony Ryder prepared the illustrations. Mark Hewson managed the project for Birmingham Archaeology and edited the report.

8.0 REFERENCES

- Birmingham Archaeology 2003 *Written Scheme of Investigation, for an Archaeological Watching Brief. Wednesbury Bus Station, Wednesbury*
- Department of the Environment (DoE), 1990 *Planning Policy Guidance Note 16: Archaeology and Planning*
- Eyre-Morgan, G 2003 *Archaeological Watching Brief, Wednesbury Bus Station, Wednesbury*
- Hodder, M.A and Glazebrook, J.M 1987 'Excavations at Oakeswell Hall, Wednesbury, 1983', *Transaction of the South Staffordshire Archaeological and Historical Society Vol. 27*
- Hodder, M.A 1992 'Excavations in Wednesbury, 1988 and 1989: The Medieval and Post Medieval Settlement, and the 17th Century Pottery Industry', *Transactions of the South Staffordshire Archaeological and Historical Society Vol.32*
- Institute of Field Archaeologists 1999 *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Brief. Revised 2001*

Cartographic Sources

1846 Tithe Map of Wednesbury, in the County of Stafford

Ordnance Survey 1:2500 map published 1890. 1st Edition

Ordnance Survey 1:2500 map published 1903. 2nd Edition

Ordnance Survey 1:2500 map published 1919. 3rd Edition

Ordnance Survey 1:2500 map published 1937. 4th Edition

Ordnance Survey 1:2500 map published 1966

Ordnance Survey 1:10000 map published 1987

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

WEDNESBURY BUS STATION

WEDNESBURY

September 2003



Site: Wednesbury Bus Station, Wednesbury

Agent: Mr Peter Jackson Halcrow (0121 633 363)

Borough Archaeologist: Graham Eyre-Morgan (0121 569 4025)

Planning Officer: John Dadd (0121 569 4269)

Museum: Wednesbury (0121 556 0683)

This archaeological brief is only valid for six months. After this period the Borough Archaeologist should be contacted. Any written scheme of investigation resulting from this brief shall only be considered for the same period. The contractor is strongly advised to visit the site before completing their written scheme of investigation as there may be implications for accurately costing the project.

1. Introduction

This brief has been prepared by the Borough Archaeologist of Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council. The brief sets out the requirements for an archaeological watching brief during the redevelopment and refurbishment of Wednesbury Bus Station.

2. Site Location and Description

Lying to the immediate west of Wednesbury Town Centre and at the junction of Holyhead Road and Loxdale Street, the site occupies a total floor area of approximately 672 square metres (SO 98529490). The site is completely covered with concrete hard standing and at the time of writing there are no access restrictions.

3. Planning Background

A planning application (DC/01/38261) for the re-development of Wednesbury Bus Station to provide enhanced facilities was submitted to Sandwell MBC by Halcrow on behalf of Centro in August 2001. Given the archaeological potential of the site the Borough Archaeologist advised the Council to attach a negative condition on any future consent. Based on the advice

given in *Planning Policy Guidance Note 16: Archaeology and Planning* (DoE 1990) together with the archaeological policies within the Councils Unitary Development Plan, the wording is as follows:

'No development involving any ground disturbance shall take place until an archaeological investigation of the site has been carried out in accordance with a specification to be submitted to and approved by the local planning authority in writing'.

This brief together with the resulting contractors' written scheme of investigation will ensure that the requirements of any future planning condition can be adequately discharged.

4. Archaeological Background

The Origins of Wednesbury seem to lie on Church Hill, the site of a possible Iron Age Hillfort. This area also contains the thirteenth century church of St Bartholemews, the medieval manor house and an open field system. The original nucleus of the settlement is thought to lie on the north side of Church Hill or beside the market place and during the late-medieval period it expanded to the north-east.

Although archaeological work within the town has been limited, investigations on the site of Oakeswell Hall, the Shambles and Ridding Lane have demonstrated the presence of important buried remains including evidence of the Wednesbury pottery industry (Hodder and Glazebrook 1987 and Hodder 1992).

Little is known about the nature and extent of medieval and post-medieval activity on the edge of the town and the present development affords a rare opportunity of examining this area in greater detail.

5. Requirement for Work

The site-specific aims are:

- To establish the presence/absence of archaeological remains within the development area

- To determine the nature, extent, condition, character, quality and date of any archaeological remains encountered
- To provide further information on the origins and development of Wednesbury from the medieval period to the present day
- To contribute to the existing corpus of academic knowledge
- To make available to interested parties the results of the investigation subject to any confidentiality restrictions

6. General Methodology

6.1 All survey works shall be undertaken by a professional team of archaeologists. Details including the name, qualifications, and experience of the site director and all other project personnel together with a proposed timetable shall be included within the written scheme of investigation. CV's, previous examples of work and references from heritage curators may be requested prior to approving any resulting written scheme of investigation (WSI).

6.2 The contractor will operate with due regard for Health and Safety regulations. Those who wish to undertake the work should ensure they are adequately insured, to cover all eventualities, including risks to third parties. Sandwell MBC cannot be held responsible for any accidents which may occur to contractors engaged to undertake this survey while attempting to conform to this WSI.

6.3 The contractor is expected to follow the Code of Conduct of the Institute of Field Archaeologists.

6.4 A site code must be obtained from the Borough Archaeologist.

6.5 Should the client wish to curtail the investigation for any reason at any point in advance of its completion the contractor will still be expected to produce a full report including specialist finds assessments within the timetable set out below.

6.6 The IFA's *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* should be used for additional guidance in the production of the written scheme of investigation, the content of the report, and the general execution of the project.

7. **Watching Brief Methodology**

7.1 Prior to the commencement of on-site works the contractor must consult the Black Country Sites and Monuments Record (Mike Shaw 01902 555493) and undertake a rapid map regression exercise based on the sources held at the Local Studies Section of Smethwick Library. This information will assist in the on-site interpretation and recording strategy.

7.2 The refurbishment/redevelopment of the bus station will result in the removal of the modern concrete surface to a depth of approximately one metre together with the installation of new services. These works shall be monitored by a professional archaeologist in accordance with a timetable set out in the written scheme of investigation.

7.3 The exposed sub-soil or archaeological horizon will be hand cleaned where appropriate and any archaeological deposits or negative features planned. The site grid shall be tied to the National Grid.

7.4 Details of how all archaeological contexts and artefacts will be excavated, surveyed, recovered and recorded shall be provided.

7.5 Details of the site planning policy shall be given in the written scheme of investigation. The normal preferred policy for the scale of archaeological site plans is 1:20 and sections at 1:10, unless circumstances indicate that other scales would be more appropriate.

7.6 At least 50% of all contained features shall be excavated. A stated percentage of linear features to be excavated shall be provided in the written scheme of investigation. In the absence of dateable finds the area of the feature to be excavated must be increased.

7.7 The photographic record shall consist of black and white prints, negatives and colour slides. This shall include both general and feature specific photographs, a photographic scale (including north arrow) shall be included in the case of detailed photographs. The photographic record shall be accompanied by a photographic register detailing as a minimum feature number, location, and direction of shot.

7.8 Should human remains be discovered the coroner will be informed and licence from the Home Office sought immediately. Both the client and monitoring officer must be notified immediately.

NOTE: In the unlikely event that significant remains are revealed which cannot be dealt in the course of a normal 'watching brief' both the agent and monitoring officer should be notified immediately.

8. Finds

8.1 All finds will be retained from each archaeological context excavated.

8.2 All finds, where appropriate, shall be washed.

8.3 All pottery, and other finds where appropriate, shall be marked with the site code and context number.

8.4 The written scheme of investigation shall include an agreed list of specialist consultants who might be required to conserve and/or report on finds, and advise or report on other aspects of the project.

8.5 The requirements for conservation and storage shall be agreed with Wednesbury Museum prior to the start of work, and confirmed in writing with the Borough Archaeologist.

8.6 Finds work should be to accepted professional standards and adhere to the Institute of Field Archaeologists *Guidelines for Finds Work*.

9. Results

9.1 The full report including all specialist assessments of artefact assemblages shall be submitted within four weeks of completing the fieldwork, with three copies supplied to the Borough Archaeologist.

9.2 This report must contain:

- A concise non-technical summary of the project results
- The aims and methods adopted in the course of the investigation
- A discussion of the development of the site based on the map regression analysis and/or other sources of historical information
- The findings of the watching brief
- Interpretation of the results in accordance with the research objectives outlined above
- Conclusions
- Location plans of all fieldwork in relation to the proposed works. All plans shall be tied to the national grid.
- Drawings of those artefacts identified by finds specialists which would be used as illustrations in any future publication
- A representative sample of the photographs
- The following appendices: All specialist reports or assessments
Context register with brief descriptions
Photographic register
Completed summary sheet (copy attached to brief)
Summary of archive contents, location and date of deposition
Archaeological brief, the approved contractors' specification together with the completed pro-form and site location plan which were submitted as part of the planning application

9.3 A full archive is to be prepared for all work undertaken.

10. Archive Deposition

10.1 The requirements for archive storage shall be agreed with Wednesbury Museum.

10.2 If the finds are to remain with the landowner a full copy of the paper archive shall be housed with the appropriate museum.

10.3 The archive including a copy of the written report shall be deposited with the appropriate museum within one month of the completion of the full report and confirmed with the Borough Archaeologist.

10.4 A summary of the contents of the archive shall be supplied to the Borough Archaeologist at the time of deposition to the museum.

11. Monitoring

11.1 The Borough Archaeologist will be responsible for monitoring progress and standards throughout the project and should be kept regularly informed during field work, interpretation and publication stages.

11.2 Any variations to the written scheme of investigation shall be agreed with the Borough Archaeologist preferably in writing prior to them being carried out.

12. Contractors Written Scheme of Investigation

12.1 It is advisable that the contractors forward a copy of the written scheme of investigation to the Borough Archaeologist for validation **before** submitting costed proposals to the agency commissioning the watching brief.

12.2 The contractors' written scheme of investigation will need to be approved by the Borough Archaeologist, on behalf of the Local Planning Authority **before** the commencement of any survey work.

12.3 The involvement of the Borough Archaeologist shall be acknowledged in any report or publication generated by this project.

References

Ede J F 1962 *History of Wednesbury*

Hodder M A and Glazebrook J M 1987 'Excavations at Oakeswell Hall, Wednesbury, 1983', *Transactions of the South Staffordshire Archaeological and Historical Society* Vol. 27, pp. 64-77

Hodder M A 1992 'Excavations in Wednesbury, 1988 and 1989: The Medieval and Post-Medieval Settlement, and the 17th Century Pottery Industry', *Transactions of the South Staffordshire Archaeological and Historical Society* Vol. 32, pp. 96-115

For further information regarding the content of this brief and as part of our desire to provide a quality service, we would welcome any comments you may have on the content and presentation for this archaeological brief. Please address them to the author at the address below.

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THE UNIVERSITY
OF BIRMINGHAM

**Written Scheme of Investigation for an
Archaeological Watching Brief
Wednesbury Bus Station, Wednesbury
Developer: Halcrow
Project Client: Chase Norton Construction Ltd
Archaeological Contractor: Birmingham Archaeology**



Birmingham Archaeology

Planning Application No. DC/01/38261

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This document outlines a proposed programme of work required to undertake a watching brief at the above site, during the redevelopment and refurbishment of the Wednesbury Bus Station. It forms a written scheme of investigation as requested by the Borough Archaeologist of Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council. Any variation in the scope of work would be agreed with Graham Eyre-Morgan, Borough Archaeologist for Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council, prior to implementation.
- 1.2 The development proposal involves the redevelopment and refurbishment of Wednesbury Bus Station in order to provide enhanced facilities.

2. Site Location

- 2.1 Wednesbury Bus Station lies immediately to the west of Wednesbury Town Centre and at the junction of Holyhead Road and Loxdale Street (SO 9852 9490). It occupies a total floor area of approximately 672m² and is completely covered with concrete hard standing.

3. Archaeological Background

- 3.1 The origins of Wednesbury seem to lie on Church Hill, the site of a possible Iron Age Hillfort. This area also contains the 13th century church of St Bartholomew's, the medieval manor house and an open field system. The original nucleus of the settlement is thought to lie on the north side of Church Hill or beside the market place and during the late-Medieval period it expanded the northeast.
- 3.2 Although archaeological work within the town has been limited, investigations on the site of Oakeswell Hall, the Shambles and Ridding Lane have demonstrated the presence of important buried remains including evidence of

the Wednesbury pottery industry (Hodder and Glazebrook 1987; Hodder 1992).

- 3.3 Little is known of the nature or extent of Medieval and post-Medieval activity at the edge of the town and the present development affords a rare opportunity of examining this area in greater detail.

4. Methodology and Aims

- To establish the presence/absence of archaeological remains within the development area and to preserve by record any archaeological remains that are encountered.
- To determine the nature, extent, condition, character, quality and date of any archaeological remains encountered.
- To provide further information on the origins and development of Wednesbury from the Medieval period to the present day.
- To contribute to the existing corpus of academic knowledge.
- To make available to interested parties the results of the investigation, subject to any confidentiality restrictions.
- To identify all previous unrecorded sites in order to update the SMR.
- To provide sufficient information to enable any subsequent archaeological interventions to be conducted within clearly defined research aims.

- 4.1 Prior to the commencement of on-site works and in consultation with the Black Country Sites and Monuments Record a rapid map regression exercise based on the sources held at the Local Studies Section of Smethwick Library will be undertaken.

- 4.2 It is proposed that an archaeologist will attend the site and monitor the removal of the modern concrete surface and the underlying material, which will be removed to a depth of 1 metre. All ground disturbance works associated with the proposed redevelopment/refurbishment shall be carried out under archaeological supervision.

- 4.3 The exposed subsoil or archaeological horizon will be hand cleaned where appropriate and any archaeological deposits or negative features planned. The attending archaeologist may request a delay in machine excavation or works in order to allow the recording of any features identified. Once the area has been stripped the deposits will be cleaned selectively and recorded. If digital mapping by total station EDM is necessary, this will require that a team of two be present. The attending archaeologist will confirm when mapping and recording in each area has been completed. The site grid shall be tied to the National Grid.

Contingency

- 4.4 Should stripping reveal archaeology for which the resources allocated are insufficient to provide a satisfactory treatment, the supervising archaeologist will signal to all parties that such a find has been made. This area will then be protected until a site meeting can be arranged. Agreement would then be

reached, in consultation with the Borough Archaeologist, for the appropriate excavation and recording of any archaeological deposits.

- 4.5 A full graphic, photographic and written record of all findings will be made. This recording will be by means of pre-printed pro-forma record cards for contexts and features, supplemented by plans (at 1:20 and 1:50), sections (at 1:10 and 1:20), and monochrome print and colour slide photography. All drawn records will be related to Ordnance Survey datum and published boundaries.
- 4.6 At least 50% of all contained features shall be excavated. In addition the following percentages will apply:
- Ring gullies and structural features (postholes, beamslots etc): 100%
 - Enclosure ditches Prehistoric to late medieval 20%
 - Non settlement agricultural features (boundary ditches, ridge and furrow etc). A sample up to 5% or a sufficient sample to fully understand the nature of the feature.
- 4.7 Provision will be made for the sampling of deposits for environmental and technological evidence where appropriate. Any environmental samples taken shall be bulk samples of a minimum of 20 litres. These shall be taken only from contexts considered to be of a high potential and will be used as a basis for assessing potential further analysis.
- 4.8 All finds shall be retained from each archaeological context excavated and where appropriate finds shall be washed and marked with the site code and context number.
- 4.9 Human remains disturbed by the work will be recorded and left *in-situ* in accordance with Home Office guidelines. Both the client and the monitoring officer will be notified immediately.
- 4.10 Photographic material will be labelled and mounted. All finds will be cleaned and labelled. An appropriate laboratory will conserve any finds which require specialist treatment. Finds will be identified in a summary report produced by an appropriate specialist. The results of the archaeological watching brief will be described in an illustrated report which will comprise the following:
- a. A full written description and interpretation of the results of all elements of the fieldwork.
 - b. A full written description and interpretation account of any excavated or recorded stratigraphic and structural evidence.
 - c. Full illustration with drawings to an appropriate scale showing location, trench layout, recorded structures, features and deposits, section drawings and selected photographs.

- d. Any documentary research/historical analysis shall be supported by copies of relevant historic maps, documents and aerial photographs. All sources consulted shall be cited.
 - e. The report shall also include a succinct summary of the results suitable for printed publication.
 - f. Appendices to include specialist reports/assessments. Context and photographic register. Completed summary sheet. Summary of archive contents, location and date of deposition. Archaeological brief and contractor's specification together with the completed pro-form and site location plan which was submitted as part of the planning application.
- 4.11 A summary statement may be made available earlier if an early decision on possible mitigation strategies is required (see contingency statement above 4.3).
- 4.12 Three copies of the final report including all specialist assessments of artefact assemblages shall be submitted to the Borough Archaeologist within four weeks of the completion of fieldwork. In addition a copy shall be sent to the appropriate authorities at Wednesbury Museum. The involvement of the Borough Archaeologist shall be acknowledged in any report or publication generated by this project.

5. Staffing

- 5.1 The evaluation will be managed for Birmingham Archaeology by Richard Cuttler BA MIFA, and supervised by an experienced Site Supervisor. Specialist staff will be consulted as appropriate. CVs for all members of staff involved in the project can be provided upon instruction.
- 5.2 Specialist staff will be, where appropriate:
- Dr Lawrence Barfield - Flint artefacts and small finds.
 - Wendy Smith- charred plant remains.
 - Emma Hancox - animal bone.
 - Dr James Greig - pollen and plant macro-fossils.
 - Dr David Smith - micro-fauna.
 - Dr Susan Limbrey - soils.
 - Dr Ann Woodward - prehistoric ceramics.
 - Stephanie Ratkai – Roman, medieval and Post-medieval pottery.
 - Dr Megan Brickley - Human Bone

6. Archive

- 6.1 The site archive will conform to the guidelines set down in of the *Management of Archaeology Projects* (Appendix 3), and in Guidelines for the Preparation of Excavation Archives for long term storage (UKIC 1990). An archive list will be sent to Wednesbury Museum and the requirements for archive storage shall be agreed with the museum. The written, drawn and photographic archive shall be deposited in the museum within one month of completion of

the final report and confirmed with the Borough Archaeologist. A summary of the contents of the archive shall be supplied to the Borough Archaeologist at the time of deposition in the museum.

6.2 The results of the watching brief will be submitted for publication to an appropriate academic journal, dependant upon the nature of the results. A copy of these results will be sent to the Borough Archaeologist and the SMR.

6.3 The treatment of all finds will conform to the Treasure Act (1996).

7. Timetable

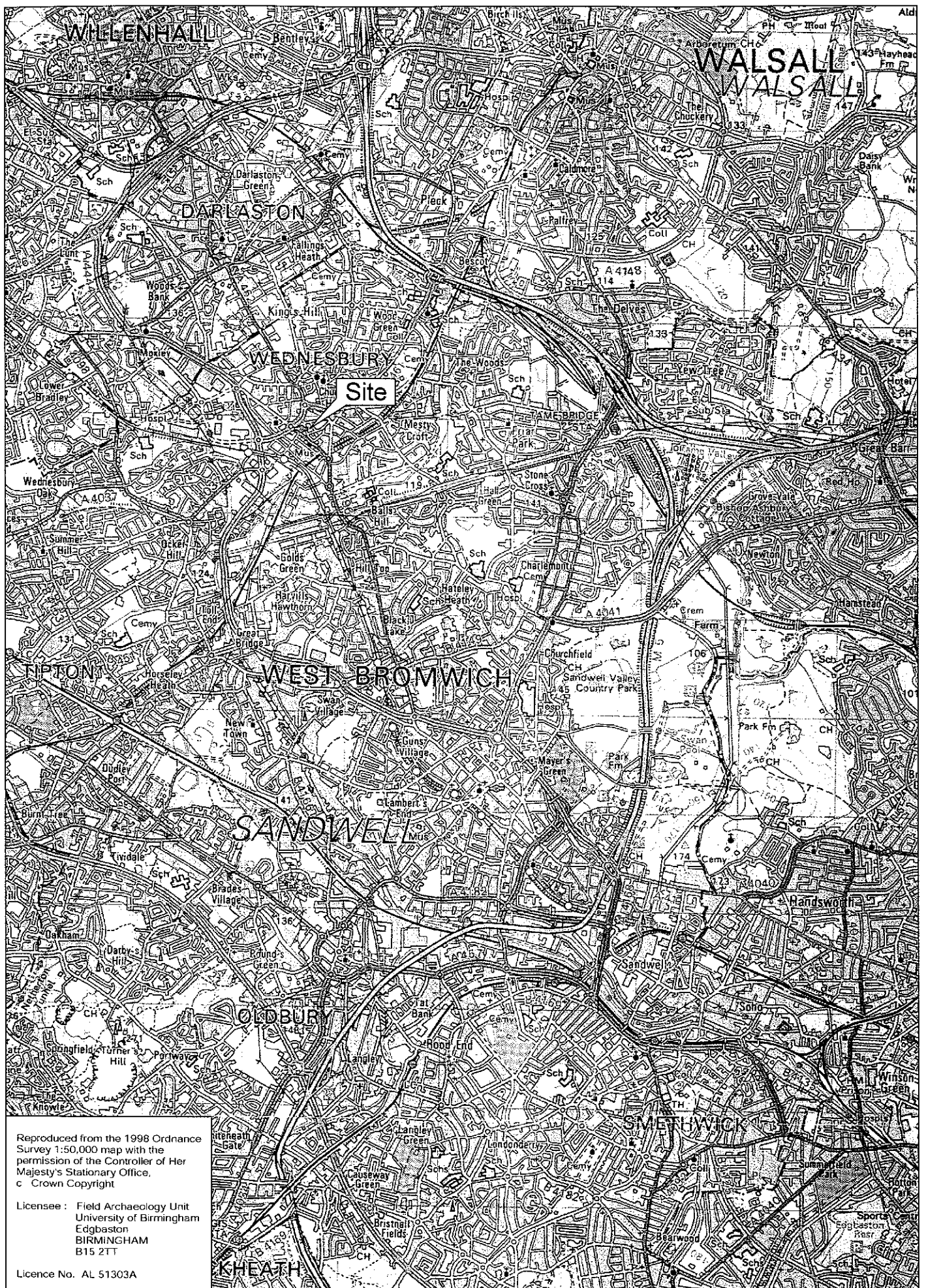
7.1 Commencement of works is scheduled for Monday 15th December 2003 and will continue intermittently during the course of the following months. Throughout the duration of the project contact will be maintained with the Borough Archaeologist and the Client in order that all parties remain informed of the project's progress.

8. General

8.1 All project staff will adhere to the Code of Conduct of the Institute of Field Archaeologists. The project will follow the requirements set down in the appropriate Standard and Guidance notes prepared by the Institute of Field Archaeologists. A detailed Risk Assessment will be prepared prior to the commencement of excavation works.

9. References

- Eyre-Morgan, G. (2003), *Archaeological Watching Brief, Wednesbury Bus Station, Wednesbury*, Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council.
- Hodder, M.A. & Glazebrook, J.M. (1987), "Excavations at Oakewell Hall, Wednesbury, 1983", *Transactions of the South Staffordshire Archaeological and Historical Society* Vol. 27, 64-77.
- Hodder, M.A. (1992), "Excavations in Wednesbury, 1988 and 1989: The Medieval and post-Medieval settlement, and the 17th Century pottery industry", *Transactions of the South Staffordshire Archaeological and Historical Society* Vol. 32, 96-115.



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 University of Birmingham
 Edgbaston
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 B15 2TT
 Licence No. AL 51303A

Fig.1

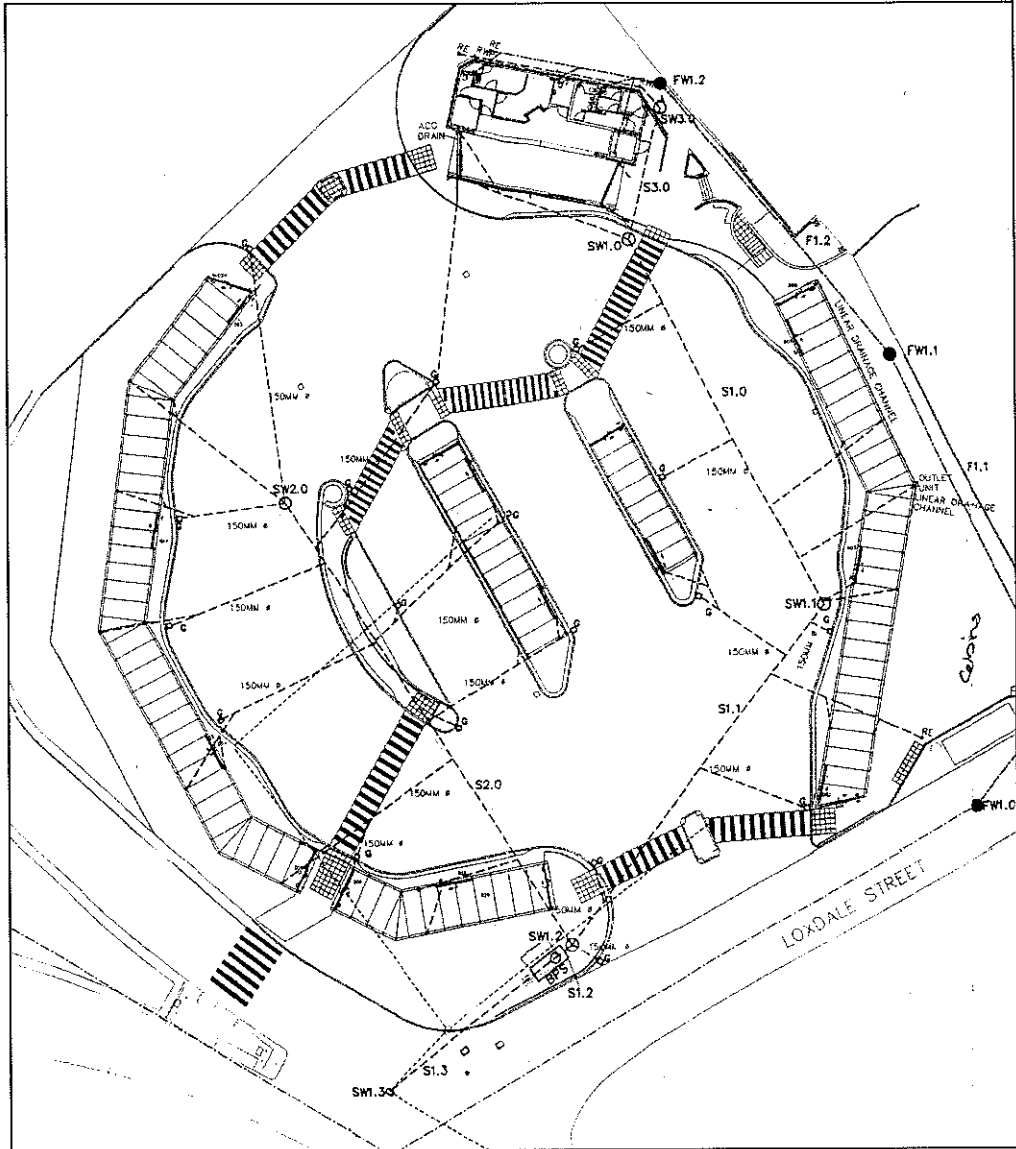


Fig.2



Fig.3 1846 Tithe map

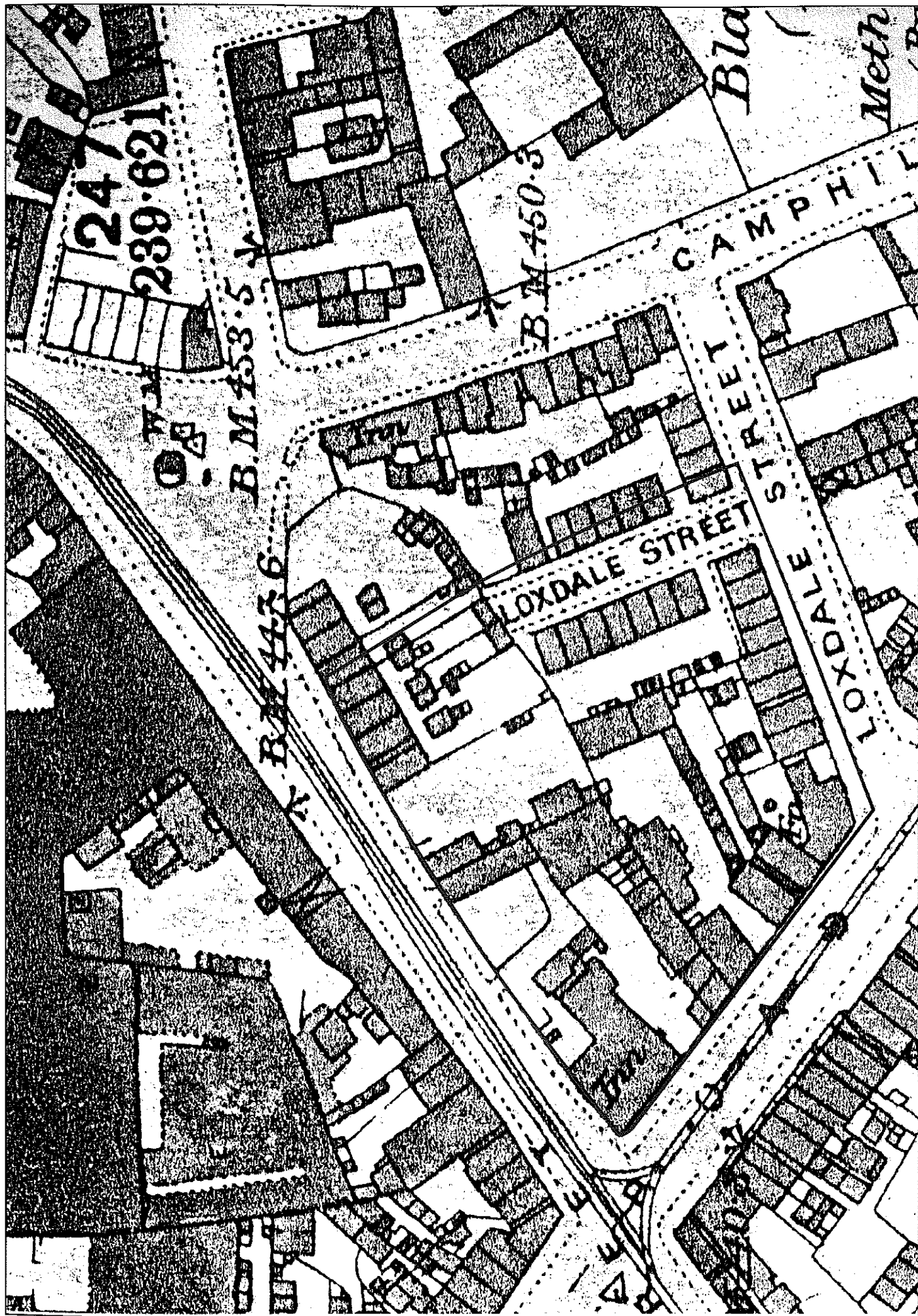


Fig.4 1890

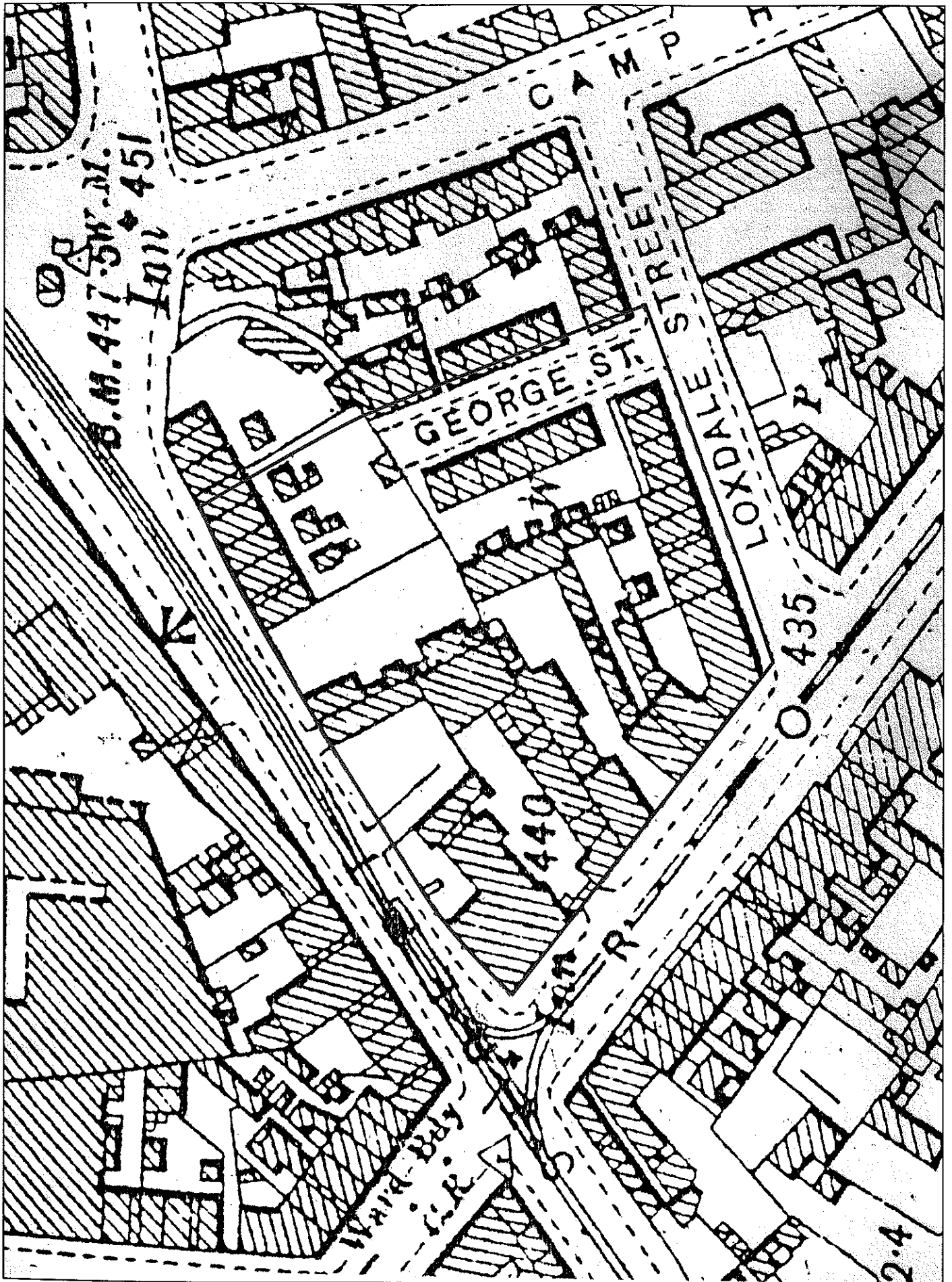


Fig.5 1903

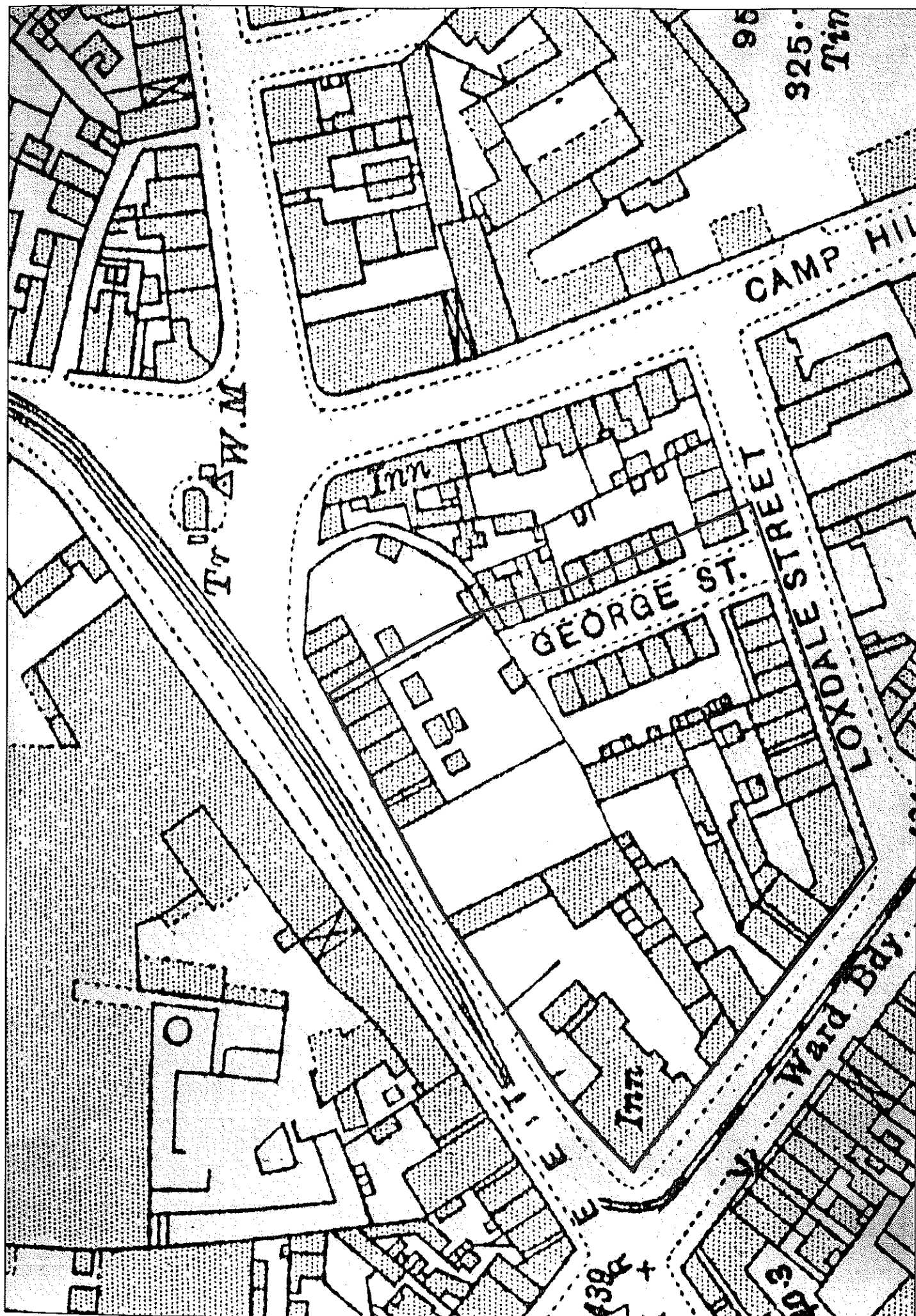


Fig.6 1919

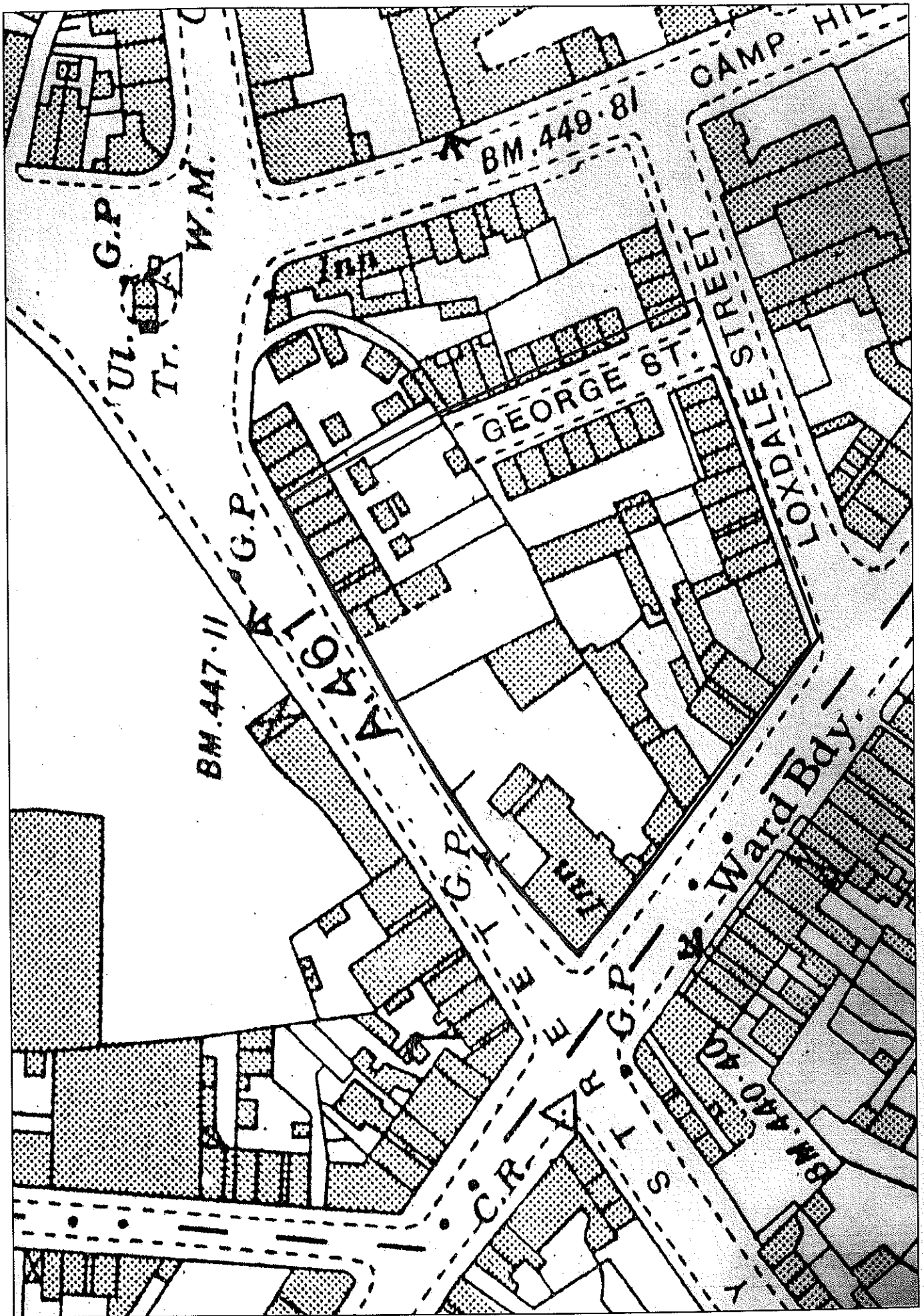


Fig.7 1937

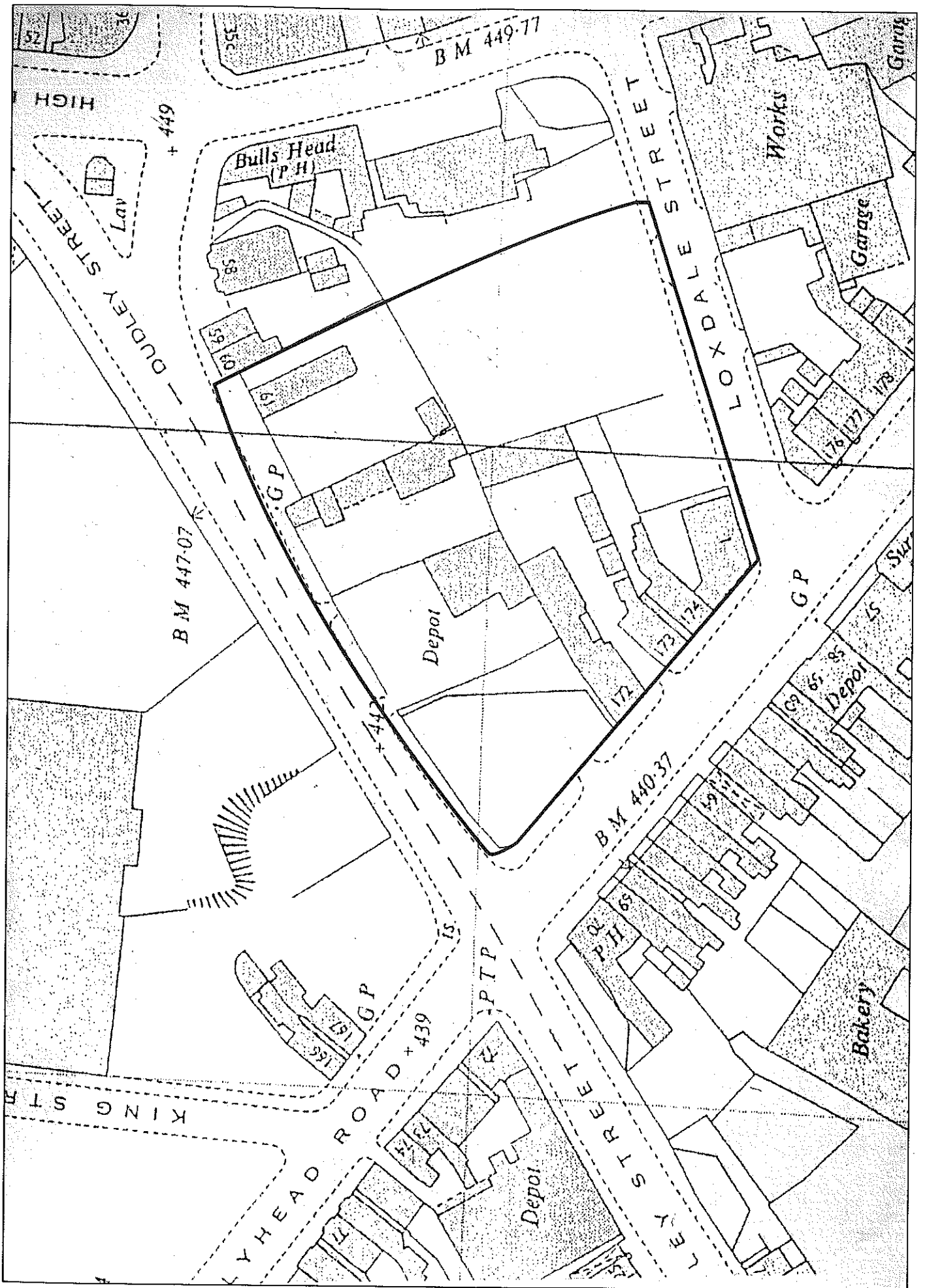


Fig.8 1966

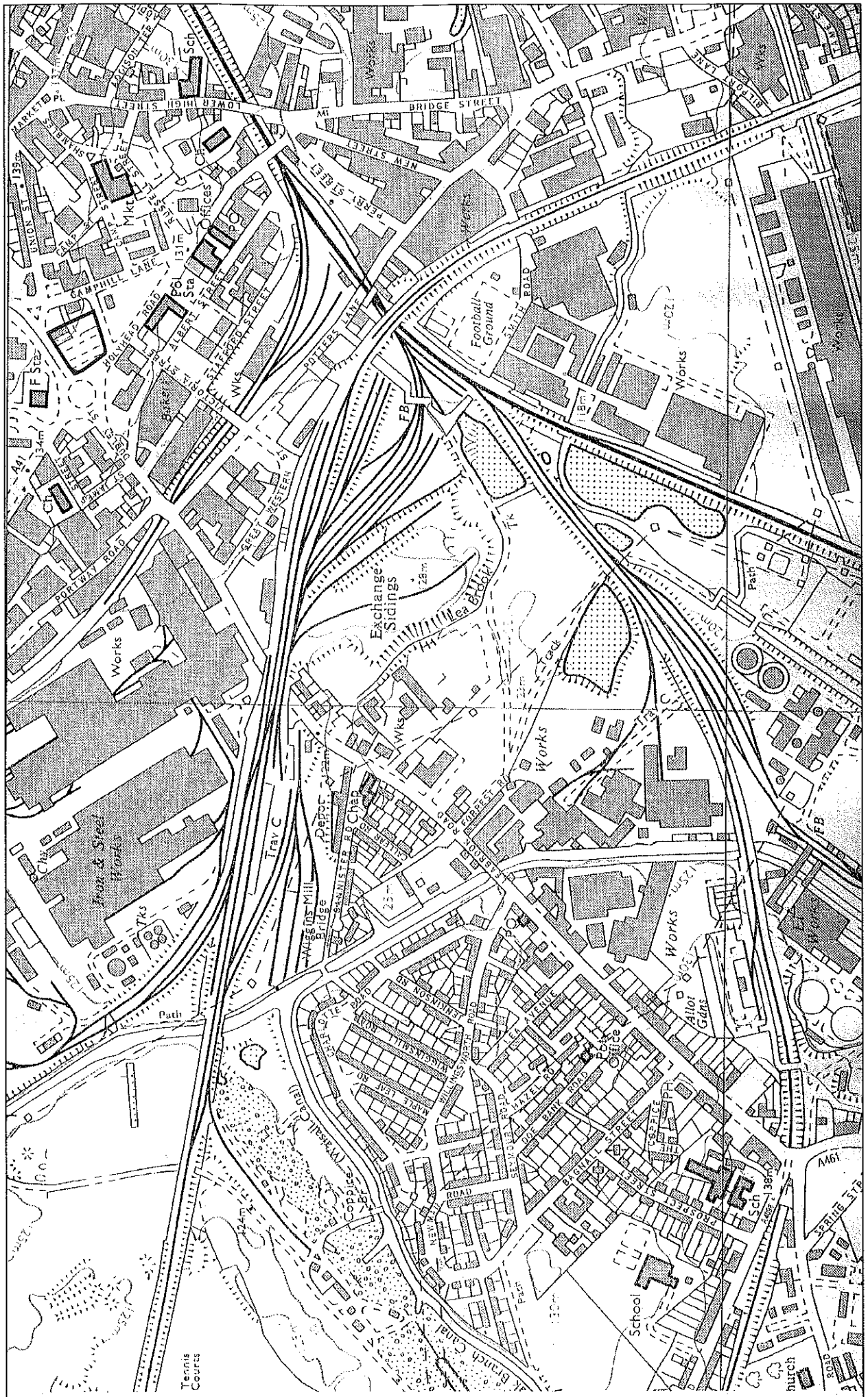


Fig.9 1987



Plate 1