

**No. 3 Birmingham
Street, Dudley, West
Midlands**

**An Archaeological
Desk-Based
Assessment 2008**

Checked by

Supervisor..... date.....

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**No. 3 Birmingham Street, Dudley, West Midlands
An Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment 2008**

by

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No. 3 BIRMINGHAM STREET, DUDLEY
AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT 2008

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SUMMARY

A desk-based assessment was undertaken of a 0.2 ha. site at No.3 Birmingham Street, Dudley, West Midlands (NGR SO 9476 9040) in order to accompany a planning application for redevelopment of the land for residential purposes. The assessment concluded that the site lay close to, but outside the historic core of Dudley, probably remaining free from development until the early 19th century. By 1835 the area had become built up with terraced housing and remained in much the same condition until wholesale clearance in the 1930s and the subsequent construction of a photographic studio and printing works and an extension to an adjacent school. The foundations of 19th-century housing are likely to survive in the southern part of the site.

**No. 3 BIRMINGHAM STREET, DUDLEY, WEST MIDLANDS
AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT, 2008**

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1.1 In July 2008 Birmingham Archaeology carried out an archaeological desk-based assessment of No. 3 Birmingham Street, Dudley (hereafter referred to as the site). The work was commissioned by Adrian Hutt Architects on behalf of Mrs J Matty in advance of a proposed redevelopment of the site for residential purposes.
- 1.1.2 This report outlines the results of the assessment, which was prepared in accordance with the Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment* (IFA 2001).
- 1.1.3 The assessment conformed to a Written Scheme of Investigation (Birmingham Archaeology 2008) reproduced here as Appendix 1.

2 LOCATION AND GEOLOGY

- 2.1.1 The modern town of Dudley is located c.13km west of Birmingham and forms a part of the West Midlands conurbation (Figure 1). The town occupies a site on a north-south ridge which forms part of the Pennine Chain of central England (VCH 1913, 90). It lies directly upon an area of Westphalian middle coal measures, a series including grey shales, clays and fireclays with ironstone and marine bands, dating to the Carboniferous period. Outcrops of sandstone occur at the southern edge of the town while Castle Hill, which rises sharply at the north end of the town, is composed of Wenlock limestone. To the southeast of Castle Hill, Cawney Hill and Tansley Hill form two eminences of basaltic origin; the remainder of the area includes numerous strata of coal, the thickest of which extends to 30m in depth, the thickest in the country and of 'superior quality' (Collins 1992, 9).
- 2.1.2 The site itself forms an irregular plot of 0.2 ha. sloping from south to north and situated on the east/northeast side of Birmingham Street, Dudley, West Midlands, centred on NGR SO 9476 9040 (Fig. 2). The principal alignment of the plot is from northwest to southeast and is largely occupied by a former photographic studio and printing works dating from the later 20th century (plates 1 and 2), the main building occupying the northwestern corner of the site separated by a courtyard from a large subsidiary building further to the southeast, which is hard up against the eastern boundary of the site.
- 2.1.3 This small complex is screened from the south and southwest by a greened margin broadening out at the south corner into a small triangular plot, and at a higher level than the former works, and separated from it by a late 20th-century retaining wall, indicating that the natural slope of the site has been modified in recent times. This plot is bounded by Bourne Street to the north, by Birmingham Street to the west and southwest, by a car park to the southeast, and to the northeast and east by properties associated respectively with Bourne Street, and St Joseph Street.

3 DESIGNATIONS

- 3.1.1 The site lies just within the Dudley Town Centre Conservation Area, and within the Area of Special Townscape Value (ASTV) as defined in the Unitary Development Plan, but contains no Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAMs), Statutory (LBs) or Locally Listed Buildings (LLBs).

4 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 4.1.1 The principal aim of the project was to assess the survival and potential significance of any archaeology within the study area by collating existing archaeological and historical information for the site and its immediate environs and placing it in its local, regional and national context
- 4.1.2 This information will be used to inform a mitigation strategy for future archaeological work on the site.

5 METHODOLOGY

- 5.1.1 A search of all relevant and readily available published and non-published documentary sources, including historic maps and photographs, was carried out in Dudley Archives and the Library of the University of Birmingham. The Dudley Historic Buildings, Sites and Monuments Record (HBSMR), the main source of archaeological information for the borough was also consulted.
- 5.1.2 In addition, a walkover of the study area was undertaken in order to assess the topography and any above-ground archaeology, including standing buildings.

6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL CONTEXT

5.1 Prehistoric

- 6.1.1 The historic town centre lies on a ridge of high ground, an advantageous site that would have proved attractive to prehistoric settlement. Until recently, however, there was little archaeological evidence for prehistoric activity within the town. A single sherd of Bronze Age pottery has been recovered during a watching brief maintained at The Inhedge (HBSMR 12097), while it has been previously postulated that Castle Hill may represent the site of a former Iron Age hillfort, although this latter assertion is based purely on the morphology of the area and is unsupported by artefactual evidence (DMBC 2004, 14).

6.2 Roman

- 6.2.1 The Dudley HBSMR holds no records of Roman occupation within the town centre or its immediate environs.

6.3 Anglo-Saxon

- 6.3.1 Although the modern town of Dudley originated as a planned medieval settlement (see below), there is a certain amount of evidence to suggest that there was an Anglo-Saxon settlement on the site of the later town. The name Dudley itself is thought to be derived from a personal name '*Dudda*' and the Old English term '*leah*' meaning a woodland estate (DMBC 2004, 14). It forms one of a group of names ending '*ley*'

concentrated to the west of Birmingham, suggesting that the vicinity had a considerable area of woodland at the time of the Anglo-Saxon settlements (Horovitz 2005, 238). It has also been suggested that the dedication of St. Edmund's Church is indicative of Anglo-Saxon occupation (Palliser 1976, 201); Edmund was a King of the East Angles, executed by the Danes in the 9th century, and it has been noted that the Normans rarely dedicated churches to Anglo-Saxons (John Hemingway *pers. comm.*). Archaeological excavations at Castle Hill have identified evidence of timber structures, radio-carbon dated to about the 8th century, while an Anglo-Saxon brooch has also been recovered (DMBC 2004, 14).

- 6.3.2 Passing historical references may also point to Anglo-Saxon activity; the 16th-century Staffordshire antiquarian Sampson Erdeswick describing a monument with 'Saxon characters' within one of Dudley's churchyards (Roper 1963, 20).

6.4 Medieval

- 6.4.1 Following the Norman Conquest, Dudley was awarded to Ansculf of Picquiny, or possibly to his son, William fitz Anulf (Roper 1962, 4); William was Baron of Dudley at the time of the Domesday Survey, which recorded the new Norman castle that by that date dominated the town;

'His castle is there. Earl Edwin held the manor.

1 hide in Lordship, 1 plough

4 villagers, 10 smallholders and 1 smith with 10 ploughs.

2 slaves

Woodland, 2 leagues.

Value before 1066 £6, now £3.'

- 6.4.2 Castle studies have historically focused on the architectural elements of the structures themselves, or when assessed in terms of landscape and position, were biased towards the defensive nature of their positions (Creighton 2002). More recent research, however, has attempted to understand these structures in terms of a more social context, acknowledging other less militaristic factors and functions and their relationship with their surrounding hinterland (Creighton 2002, Liddiard 2005). In terms of site location, apparent defensive sites also can be shown to have an enhanced natural visibility, making them prominent landmarks within a surrounding territory, and natural centres of estate administration and of nucleation (Creighton 2002, 3). Previous settlement patterns and established routes of communication may also have influenced the siting of castles (Liddiard 2005, 24).

- 6.4.3 Whatever the origins and influences on the siting of the castle and its associated settlement, the town as it appears today owes its origins to a conscious act of planned development undertaken in the 12th century by Gervase Paganel. The town was likely to have been laid out along a single street (Castle Street, Market Place and the High Street) running between the two churches of St. Edmund to the north-east (the bottom church) and St. Thomas to the south-west (the top church).¹ The principal

¹ In the 1180s, Gervase Paganel confirmed his endowments to Dudley Priory and granted the monks rights in relation to both churches, illustrating that they co-existed at that time (Roper 1962, 4).

street would have been served by a series of back lanes that would later evolve into Tower Street to the north-west and King Street / Birmingham Street to the east and south-east. It has been previously noted that the sinuous boundaries and regular block patterns of the burgage plots associated with the new, planned town may indicate that they were laid out to respect the pattern of the pre-existing arable field system (DMBC 2005, 15). It has further been suggested that Wolverhampton Street and Hall Street, which formed a part of the planned town, may have earlier origins (*ibid.*).

- 6.4.4 Around the new town, common arable fields were also laid out, Church Field and Peacock's Field to the south and Greystone Field to the north (Roper 1962, 14), Wolverhampton Street forming the eastern edge of the latter. The land between Wolverhampton Street and St. James' Priory, to the north of the town, belonged to the monastery (DMBC 2004, 16). These communal fields were slowly encroached upon as the town and population expanded. To the north-west of the medieval town was the Horsepool and Horsepool Green, an important open space and the only watering place in the early town (Hemingway 2003, 19).
- 6.4.5 The castle of Gervase Paganel was demolished in the late 12th century by order of Henry II. Paganel died in c.1190, and was succeeded by his brother-in-law, John de Somery (Roper 1962, 4). Roper (*ibid.*, 5) suggests that the early town charter dates from the time of the early Somerys, and that it is probable that Roger II de Somery conceived the idea of laying out Dudley as a borough and may even have envisaged Dudley as a walled town. In 1264, Roger obtained a licence from the King to fortify and crenellate '*his dwelling place of Dudley*',² and it is likely that the present castle dates from this period (Roper 1962, 6). The castle was described as '*newly commenced*' at the time of Roger de Somery's death,³ but was probably largely completed by his son in the 1290s.⁴ The new burgesses of the town paid rent to the lord in return for their burgage plots and for the right to trade in the newly created Market Place;⁵ forty burgesses are recorded from documentary records, which suggests that the frontage between the two churches would not originally have been fully developed (Boland and Hemingway, *pers. comm.*).
- 6.4.6 Around the early 1300s, under Roger de Somery's son, John, some of the first town improvements appear to have been made. A grant to St. Edmund's Church in 1301 suggests that Smythelane (now Wolverhampton Street) was already partially developed by this time. A grant was made by John de Somery in 1314 in favour of Richard, son of Agnes Russell of Dudley, for a piece of land in the town on which to build a shop. The extent of the land '*in length 40 feet and in width 20 feet*', may give an indication of the size of standard burgage holdings (Roper 1962, 10). In 1315, John de Somery obtained a grant from the Crown for '*pavage upon all wares brought for sale in the town of Duddele*' for a period of 5 years, in order to improve the main streets, though Roper notes that John de Somery may not necessarily have used the money for this purpose, as he was still building the castle at this point (Roper 1962, 10).

² Calendar of Patent Rolls, 1258-1266, 307.

³ Calendar of Inquisitions, Post-Mortem Edward I, ii, no.16.

⁴ *Ibid.* no.813.

⁵ There is documentary evidence for the market from 1261 (Roper 1962, 4).

6.4.7 John de Somery died without issue in 1320 and his holdings, including the castle and town of Dudley passed to his sister Margaret and her husband John de Sutton. They were ousted almost immediately, and did not regain control of Dudley until the death of Edward II in 1327 (Roper 1962, 11). During the early 14th century, the town charter was confirmed or regranted to John de Sutton. By 1338 he had been succeeded by his son, also John, who obtained a licence to 'assart' from the King and, as Roper (1962, 12) notes, the town was undoubtedly growing outwards from its ancient centre and its common fields extending further still.

6.4.8 Cartographic evidence suggests that the town originally ran right up to the base of Castle Hill, and Roper (1962, 14) describes the appearance of the town at the end of the 14th century as follows:

'At its eastern end, the castle, very different from that of the early Someries, still dominated the whole town. From its foot ran the "Great Street" or "Head Street" to the Market Place and High Cross, and then continued towards St Thomas's Church at the town's other end. By this period, Fisher Street, Hall Street and Wolverhampton Street were almost certainly being developed as part of the seigniorial borough, the sites of the burgage houses being granted in return for a fixed annual rent to the lord of the borough. It is probably that Stone Street – Stoneylane – was also cut and provided an outlet from the Market Place into Peaselane (Tower Street), the Horspool and the Priory'.

6.4.9 The archival sources are scant for the period of the 15th century (Roper 1962, 16), though it is evident that by the 16th century the town had changed little. Growth within the town was mostly confined to the pre-existing street pattern, though the Castle itself was reconstructed between 1540 and 1553 to the designs of Sir William Sharrington. The 16th-century antiquarian Sampson Erdeswick, referring to the town at the end of the 16th century (quoted in Roper 1963, 9) described Dudley as a 'good and handsome town'. Evidence suggests that the fabric of the town at this time would have overwhelmingly comprised buildings of timber-framed construction, following a well recognised Midlands tradition; several examples survived until the 20th century including the 'Seven Stars' Inn at the Market Place and the 'Britannia Inn' on Hall Street, though much has been lost to subsequent redevelopment. Elements of timber-framed structures have been exposed, often during redevelopment works, preserved within later structures (DMBC 2005, 21; see for example HBSMR 12287, Area 8).

6.4.10 Two inns present in Dudley during the 16th century were The Cow and The Hawke's Head. Roper suggests that The Cow was probably situated at the Hall Street end of the Market Place, and that The Hawke's Head stood near Stone Street. There is also the possibility of the Dudley Windmill being situated opposite St Thomas's Churchyard at the top of Windmill Hill, and the first mention of New Street (then called Horsefair) was in 1530 (Roper 1963, 20).

6.4.11 The exploitation of Dudley's natural resources began well before the Industrial Revolution; coal was being mined as early as 1291 (VCH 1913, 99) though the beginnings of industry proper were not evident until the 16th century. Farming and nailmaking, often undertaken hand in hand, remained the predominant occupations of the town's residents (Roper 1963, 9), nailmaking being an established industry in the

West Midlands with manors such as Sedgley, Rowley Regis and Dudley being amongst the earliest where the trade flourished (Roper 1963, 17).⁶

- 6.4.12 From the 16th century onwards, industry slowly increased within and around the town. Documentary evidence from the medieval period has been very much enhanced by archaeological research and evidence from excavations throughout the town (see below). Even in the heart of the town, archaeological deposits have survived, that have thrown light on the origin and evolution of Dudley, from a planned market town through expansion and contraction during the medieval period, to its development as an early and important centre for industry within the Black Country.

6.5 Post-medieval

- 6.5.1 The 17th-century historian Thomas Habington describes the town as having two churches, its Sunday market and its fair, and states that during this time its people were for the most part engaged in coal mining and iron working (quoted in Roper 1965, 4). However, the town also retained many characteristics of a country market town, and would have been similar to other Black Country towns such as Wolverhampton and Walsall (*ibid.*). The 17th century saw many changes, as upheaval on both a local and national scale affected the town. A devastating plague of 1616 was followed by the ravages of the Civil War. During the war, the castle was garrisoned for Charles I by Thomas Leveson of Wolverhampton and was twice besieged by Parliamentary forces under William Brereton until its final surrender in May 1646. In the spring of that year, Leveson had demolished St. Edmund's Church and burnt the north end of the town in preparation for the second siege (Roper 1965, 8); Leveson's plans for the defence of the castle may well have affected other properties in the area, including the vicarage house (*ibid.*, 16). Further damage was caused by the digging of a large ditch and bank extending from St Edmund's to Dudley Priory, by the besieging parliamentarian troops (DMBC 204, 26).
- 6.5.2 Following the end of the war, documentary evidence attests to the buying and selling of properties in the town, and recovery appears to have been rapid (Roper 1965, 10). By 1653 money was being collected for a new Market Hall and for the paving or repaving of the streets. Roper (*ibid.*) notes that houses of this period along Wolverhampton Street would have done credit to many other larger and more important towns. From the 1662 Hearth Tax records, 14 people in Dudley are listed as having five or more hearths. The largest house listed belonged to Thomas Mason, who had 10 hearths; it was probably located on Wolverhampton Street, which was becoming a well-appointed suburb of industrialists (Boland and Hemingway, *pers. comm.*). Analysis of the hearth tax figures suggests that in 1664, Dudley was likely to have had about half the population of Birmingham, and was far more heavily populated than Wednesbury or West Bromwich, and very similar in size to Walsall (Roper 1965, 10).
- 6.5.3 Dramatic changes occurred during the 17th century, though the plan of the town itself, with its main street and side streets probably changed little. Building carried on consistently along the principal thoroughfares of the town and settlements became established at Eve's Hill, Town's End, Wadam's Hall and Dixon's Green (Roper 1965, 15). Around the town, a good deal of enclosure had taken place by c.1660 and continued throughout the century. No buildings of the period have survived intact,

⁶ The earliest reference to nailmaking as a trade in Dudley is found in the Close Rolls of 1468 which makes mention of one Thomas Walsale, nailer (Roper 1962, 18).

though views survive of a number of handsome town houses. During the early part of this period, many of the buildings would have maintained the timber-framed tradition, though new buildings may equally have been of stone. There is less evidence for building of brick, common in other Midland towns of the time, a notable exception being the porch of St Thomas' (Roper 1965, 16).

- 6.5.4 Nailmaking remained dominant among domestic industries, having been well established in the area since the 1500s, while many of the properties in the town would also have had smithies. Habington states that, other than iron workers, '*the rest are myners*'; surprisingly, little is known about coal mining in Dudley at this date (Roper 1965, 13) though there is substantial evidence for coal mining in some of the adjacent parishes and the Dudley family themselves owned several coal mines within a wide area around the town and foreign (Roper 1965, 14). The introduction of the blast furnace into the West Midlands in the 16th century was responsible for dramatic changes in the iron trade though forges, largely dependent on water for power, were not common in Dudley. The production of pig iron, however, required charcoal, and was more common in the area, despite the clearance of wooded areas around the town (Roper 1965, 12). Court's 18th-century map identifies a field, Furnace Piece, at the end of the main street, and in 1632 the Coneygree Furnace was established to the east side of the castle (*ibid.*). Roper notes that one of the chief endowments of the famous Tandy Charity in 1709 was land called 'Furnace Piece' at Queen's Cross and that Tandy and his colleagues were themselves very active in coal mining and iron working (*ibid.*, 13).
- 6.5.5 The 18th century again witnessed change in the town, though unlike the previous century, these were slow and relatively painless. The town grew in population and area, and the trades and industries diversified as Dudley grew into an important commercial centre. The local natural resources continued to be exploited, and much of the town, including the church of St Edmund, was rebuilt. Monumental tablets in the church show name many of the leading families associated with it, including Dixon, Finch, Amphlett, Hawkes and Wainwright (Roper 1968, 9). The early 18th-century fashion was to rebuild in brick, with Roper noting a house in Priory Street, and the Presbyterian Meeting House, in Wolverhampton Street (HBSMR 839), as examples of these (Roper 1968, 6). Rebuilding continued throughout the century, and Dudley lost many of its timber-framed buildings from its major thoroughfares, either demolished or refaced to suit cotemporary taste (Roper 1968, 9). As well as residential buildings, the 18th century saw the construction of a number of schools in the town (Samuel Taylor's School in Fisher Street, Baylie's Charity School in Tower Street and Hodgett's Charity School), as well as churches (Roper 1968).
- 6.5.6 One of the earliest trade directories comes from this period, Pearson and Rollason's Directory of 1781, giving an overview of the occupations and industries of the inhabitants of the town; butchers, grocers, chandlers, curriers, maltsters, cordwainers and mercers predominate, though ironmongers, whitesmiths, lock manufacturers and glassmakers, as well as professions including attorneys and surgeons are also listed. Trades were concentrated in the High Street and Market Place (Davies and Hyde 1970, 3), though names also appear under Hampton Street (Wolverhampton Street), New Street and Hall Street (Roper 1968, 20).
- 6.5.7 From the 18th century onwards, the town became dominated by seven main industries:
- Limestone working

- Basalt quarrying
- Mining (coal, fireclay, ironstone)
- Iron production
- Nail making
- Anvil and vice manufacture
- Fender, fire-iron and bedstead manufacture
- Glassmaking

6.5.8 Even until the later years of the 18th century, however, the town remained relatively small and well defined, maintaining a local significance as a market centre. Court's map of 1785 gives some impression of the extent of the developed area at this time, though some of 'Church Field', south of King Street is likely to have been witness to small-scale industrial activity prior to this period.

6.5.9 An Improvement Act of 1791 notes that Dudley at this time did not have properly paved lighted cleansed or watched streets, that there were other obstructions and nuisances, and that there was no proper water supply (Roper 1968, 22). After this date, Dudley gained a system of public lighting, street signs and house numbers, and an early attempt to provide a town water supply was made (Roper 1968, 25). However, these were not enough to prevent the town from suffering dramatically as a result of unsanitary conditions and over crowding, which resulted in the devastation of cholera epidemics in the 1830s.

6.5.10 The early 19th century witnessed an unprecedented increase in both the population and the industrial output of the town, with the population growing over 400% in just over half a century, from 10,000 in 1801 to 45,000 in 1861 (Davies and Hyde 1970, 19). As well as redevelopment within the town core, the urban area spread outwards. In particular, to the south of King Street the informal industrial area solidified into an intensively developed mixture of brick terraces and courts of housing, mixed with light industries producing a wide range of metal items. Development was undertaken without regulation or plan and the building stock often had no adequate sanitation, drainage or water supply. The Inspector of Health, Mr. William Lee, reported in 1852 that;

'In many parts of Dudley the houses may be seen grouped together regardless of plan, almost all available space being covered either by the dwellings themselves or by blocks and rows of nail shops, in such a manner as to render proper ventilation impossible. The majority of the yards are dirty, neglected and unpaved,

Such overcrowding and unsanitary conditions provided ideal breeding grounds for disease, and cholera and typhus were rife. Lee concluded that;

'In no other part of England and Wales is the work of human extermination effected in so short a time as in the area surrounding Dudley.....So far as the duration of life, therefore, is concerned, Dudley is the most unhealthy place in the country' (quoted in Davies and Hyde 1970, 23).

6.5.11 From the 19th century onwards, successive maps of the town (Figures 7 – 14) make it possible to trace the urban development in some detail. By the time of the Ordnance Survey 1st Edition (Figure 10), further expansion and intensification had occurred, though the Conservation Area Appraisal (DMBC 2004) notes that within the town core, the long curving burgage plot boundaries continued to be respected by later

development. The expansion of industrial suburbs had continued, and they had become joined with the town itself by this time (DMBC 2004, 34). Later developments, traceable through historic maps, will be described in detail below.

7 HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE STUDY AREA

- 7.1.1 Court's map of 1785 (Fig. 3), which, as noted above, denotes developed areas as empty blocks, shows that the eastern side of Birmingham Street, then a north-south thoroughfare, within which the site lay, to have consisted of rectangular fields or plots, and that the site straddled two of these plots, some of its sides following the lines of the 18th-century boundaries, although other sides correspond with later developments.
- 7.1.2 By the time of Treasure's 1835 map (Fig. 4), however, the site had been partially developed with buildings, the southeastern part now containing terraced housing ranged along the two sides of a east-west aligned lane or court and entered from the west via Birmingham Street, and from the east via another north-south orientated street called Porter's Field, which formed part of the eastern boundary of the site at this date. Further north, the eastern side of the plot was formed by a field boundary which continued the line of the west side of Porter's Field; hard up against this boundary was another building which formed part of a courtyard development towards the west. The northwestern element of the site was, as yet, largely undeveloped.
- 7.1.3 Roper's Board of Health map of 1855 (Fig. 5) confirms the general arrangement described above and brings it into sharper focus. It seems fairly certain that from the early 19th century around half the site was occupied by terraced housing and possibly small industrial premises, although the northernmost block remained undeveloped as yet.. The extreme southern angle of the site extended as far as an east-west aligned lane described on later maps as Gatehouse Fold. The north end of Porter's Field was joined from the east by another east-west orientated lane later known as St Thomas's Street, the entire length of which to the north was occupied by the buildings of St Joseph's School.
- 7.1.4 Essentially, this is the arrangement depicted on the Ordnance Survey 1st Edition of 1883-7 (Fig. 6), although by the time of the 1st Revision map of 1903-4 (Fig. 7), some redevelopment had taken place. An extension to St Joseph's School had resulted in the demolition of buildings on the eastern periphery of the site, and towards the south the buildings lining Porter's Field had been replaced with others occupying the same footprint. No changes appear on the Ordnance Survey map of 1919 (Fig. 8), but by the time of the 3rd revision map of 1938 (Fig. 9), the wholesale slum clearance programmes, undertaken subsequent to the Housing Act of 1930, had resulted in the demolition of all buildings on the site.
- 7.1.5 By the time of the 1963-7 edition map (Fig. 10) the eastern part of the site had been acquired by St Joseph's School and a large new building erected there. By this time the area to the southwest of the site had undergone major change having been adapted to form a central bus station (opened in 1952) arranged around a central, landscaped island and incorporating the area to the north of Gatehouse Fold. Birmingham Street, running north-south to the west of this island, had been widened to three wide carriageways with shelters to east and west.⁷ This development involved the diagonal truncation of the street block defined by Bourne Street (north), Gatehouse Fold (south)

⁷ The appearance of the bus depot in the 1960s is illustrated in historic photographs (Rogers 2005, Pl.10).

and Birmingham Street (west), which accounts for the unusual shape of the assessment site. It was along this line that Birmingham Street was diverted when the bus station was reorganized in the 1980s (Roger 2005).

- 7.1.6 The building at the northwest angle of the site was built in the mid-1970s (pers comm Mike Hazelden).

8 CONCLUSIONS

- 8.1.1 The current desk-based assessment has established that although the Birmingham Street site is located close to the historic core of Dudley town centre, that it was not developed until the early 19th century expansion of the town when it and the surrounding area were covered by working class housing. Cleared in the 1930s, the northwestern part of the site was redeveloped in the 1970s by the construction of the present structure. As a consequence of 20th-century activity, nothing of historical or archaeological significance survives above ground, and, although there is a possibility that below-ground archaeological remains will survive, especially within the southeast angle of the site, it is probable that these will comprise nothing earlier than the 19th century.

9 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 9.1.1 The project was commissioned by Adrian Hutt Architects, on behalf of Mrs J. Matty. Thanks are due to Mike Hazelden for his co-operation and assistance throughout the project. The assessment was undertaken by Ric Tyler who produced the written report which was illustrated by Nigel Dodds, and edited by Malcolm Hislop who also monitored the project for Birmingham Archaeology.

10 SOURCES

9.1 Primary Sources

- 1894 Blocksidge's Illustrated Almanack, Diary and Directory of Dudley.
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1936 Blocksidge's Illustrated Almanack, Diary and Directory of Dudley.
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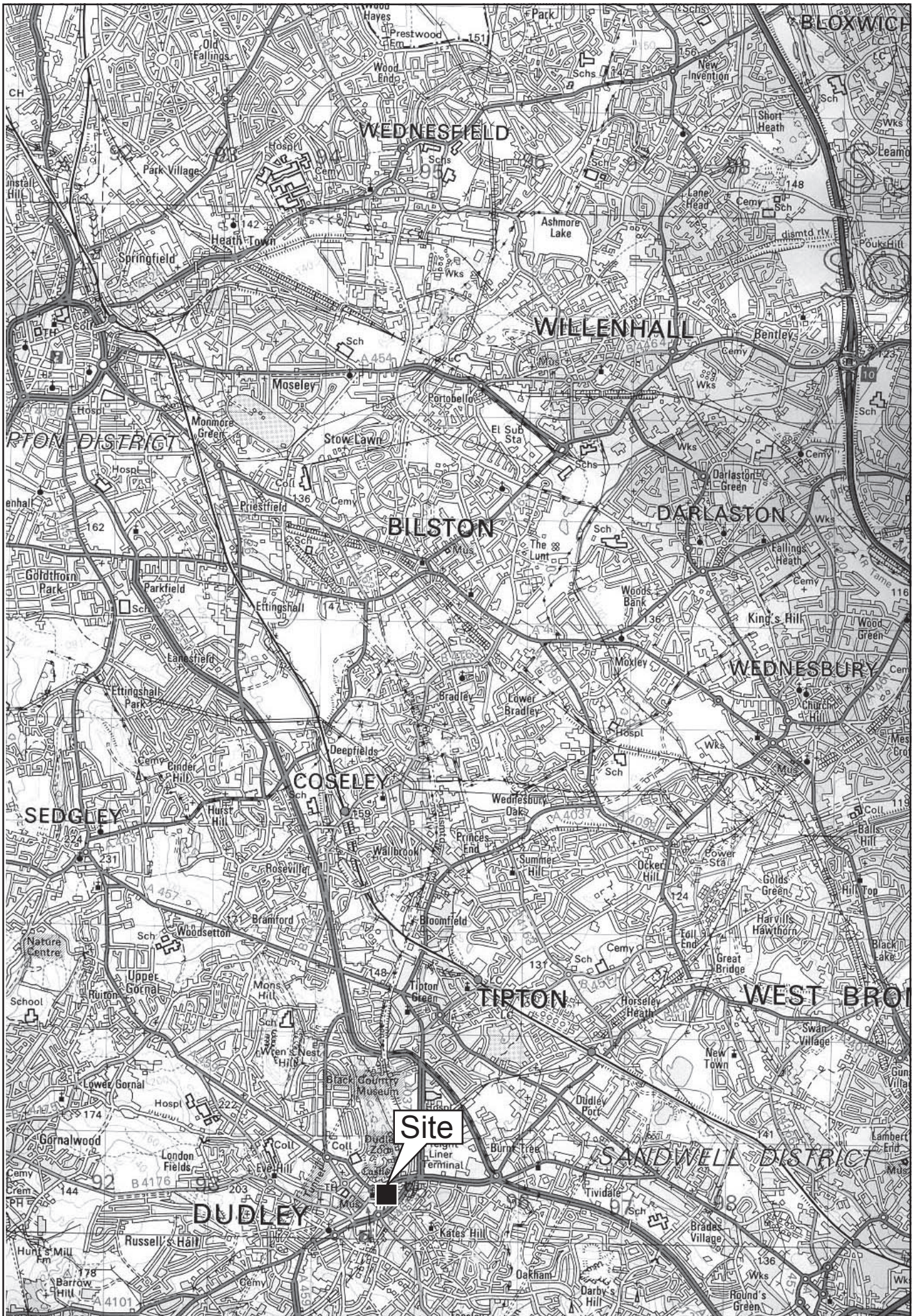
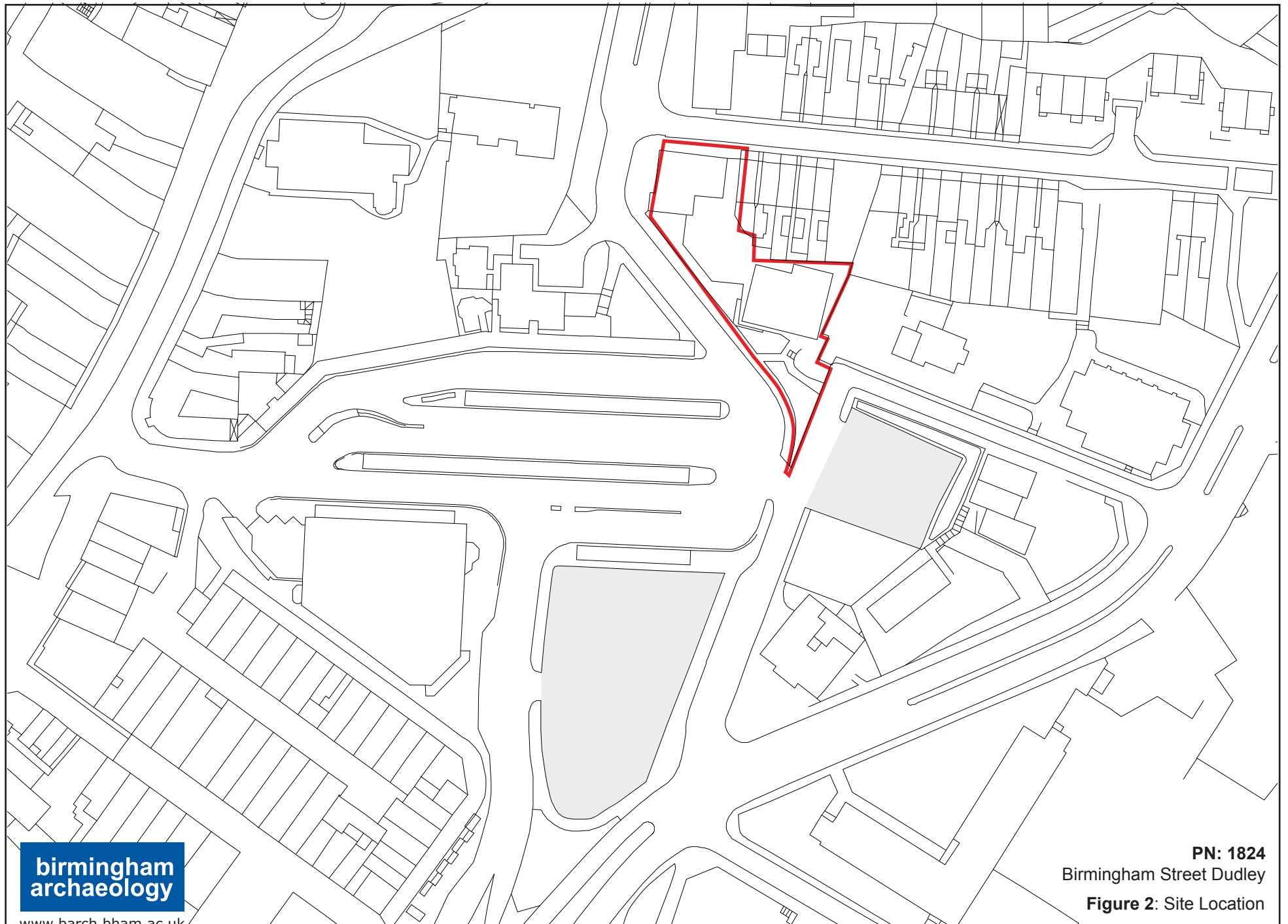
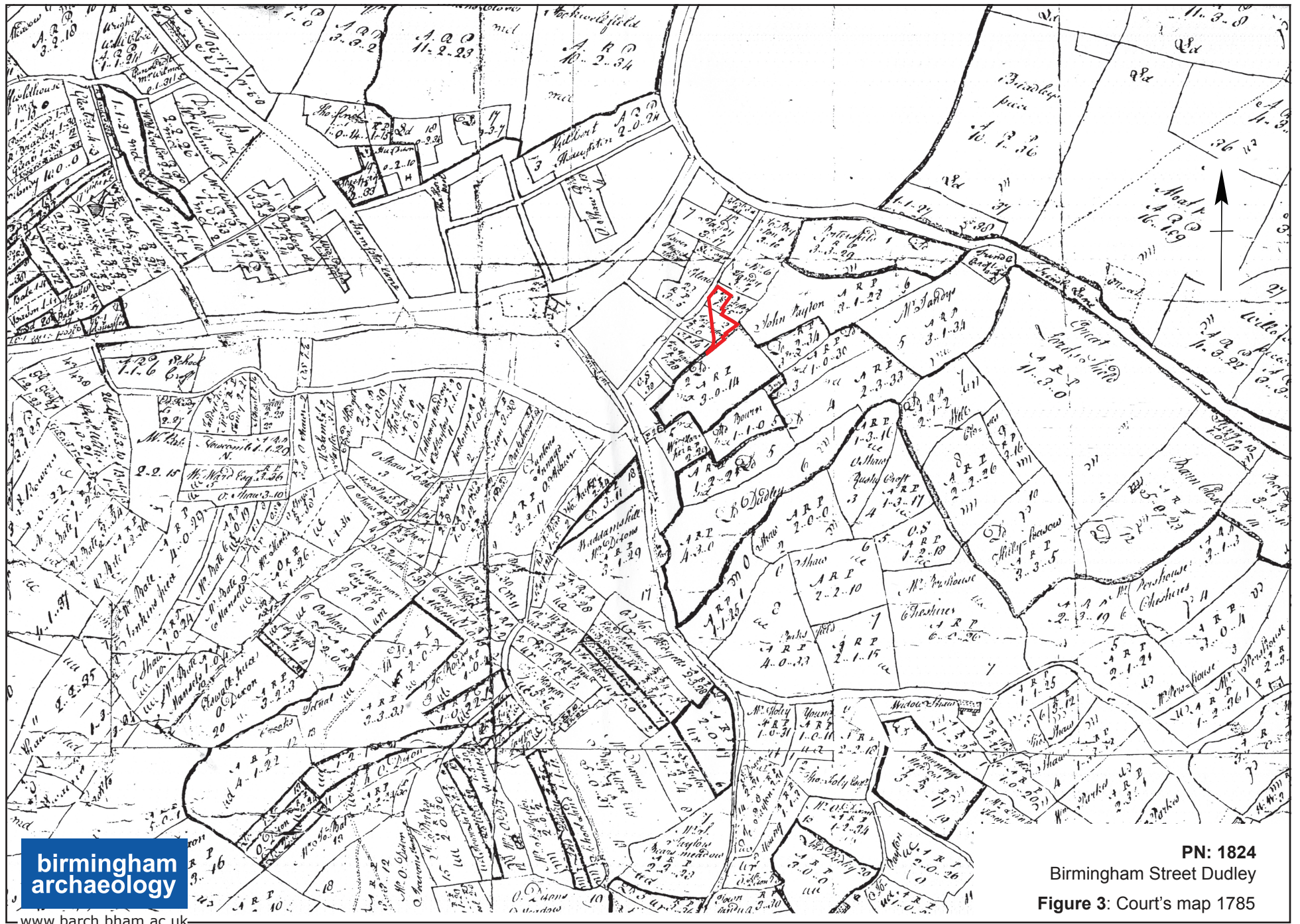


Fig.1



PN: 1824
Birmingham Street Dudley
Figure 2: Site Location





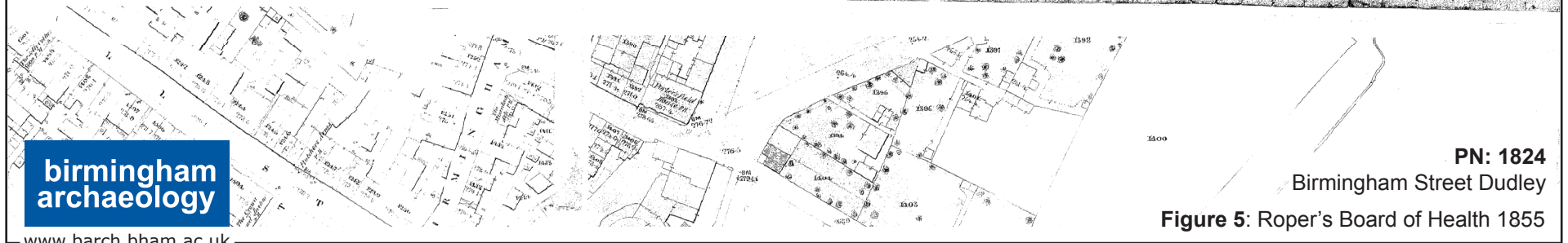
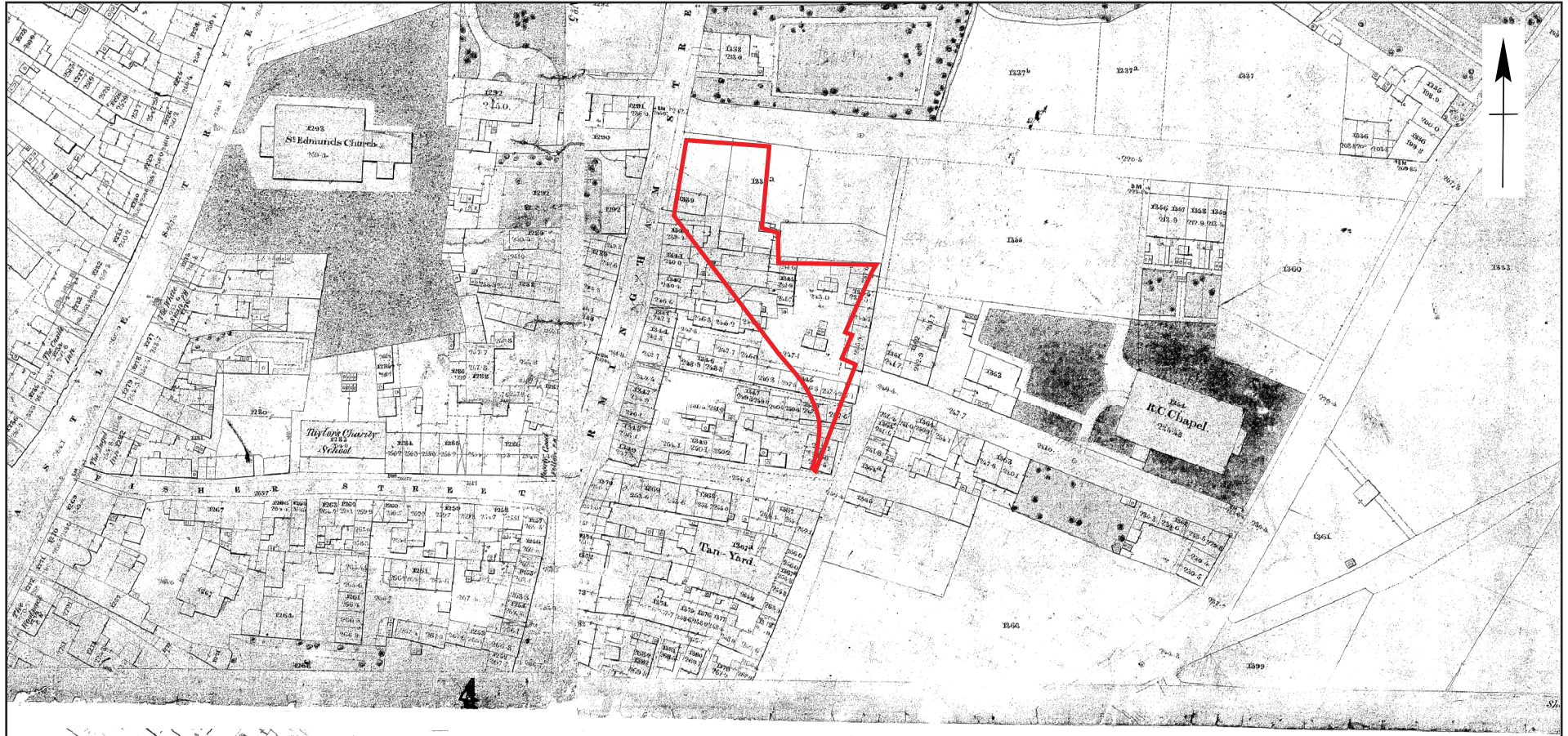
DUDLEY CASTLE KEEP.

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Engraved by T. Smith, Esq. & R. W. Dixon, Esq.

PN: 1824
Birmingham Street Dudley

Figure 4: Treasure's map 1835

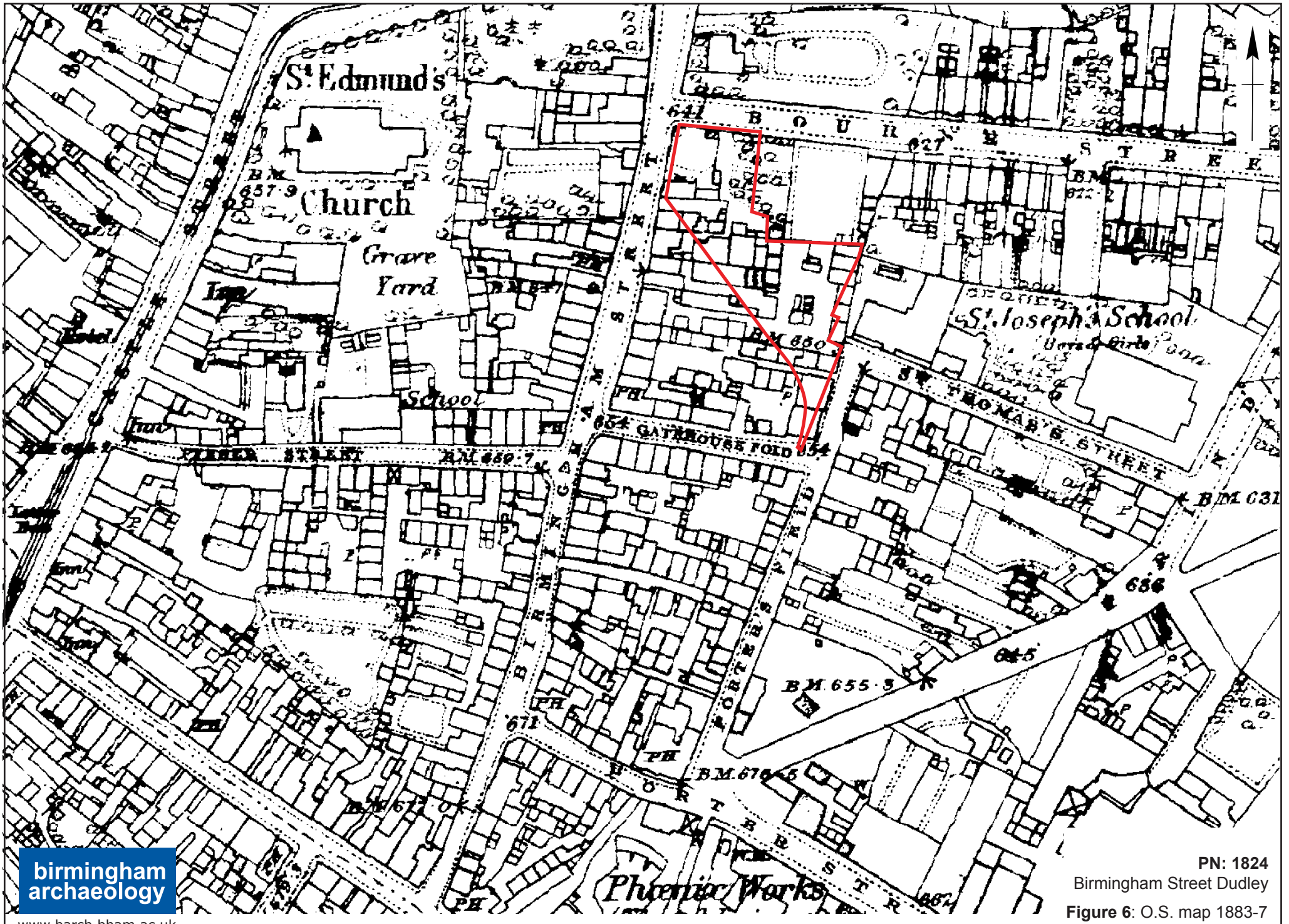


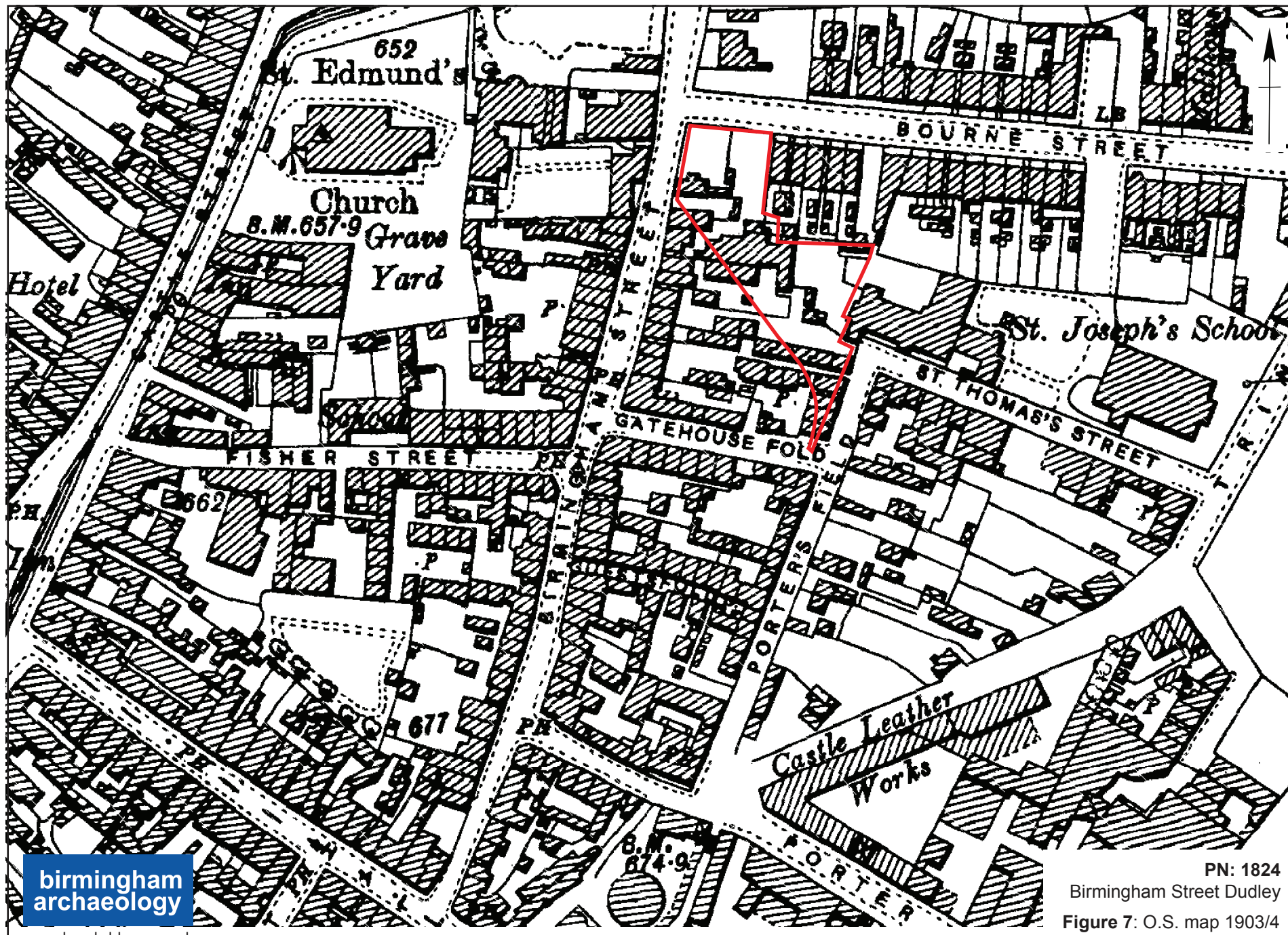
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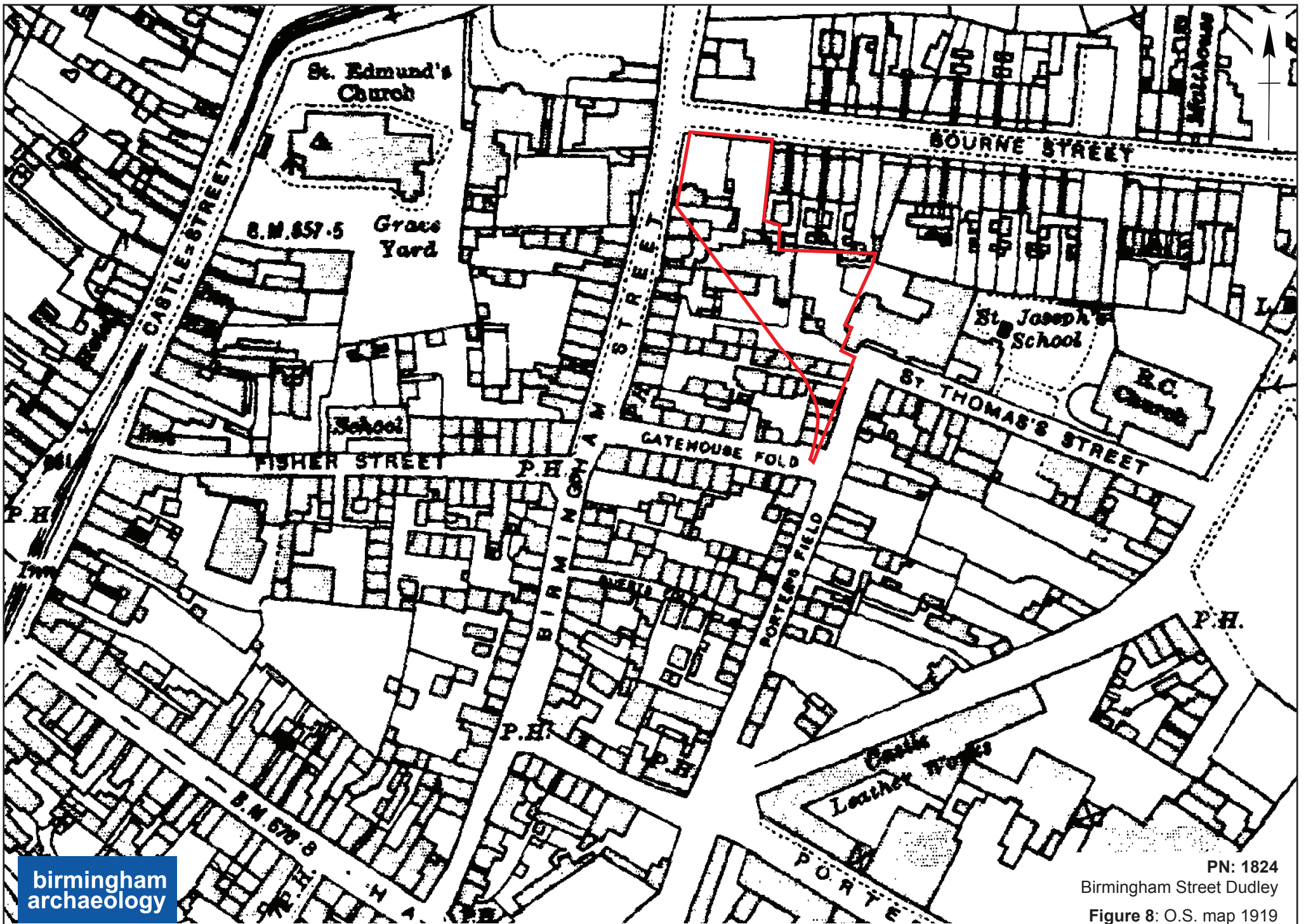
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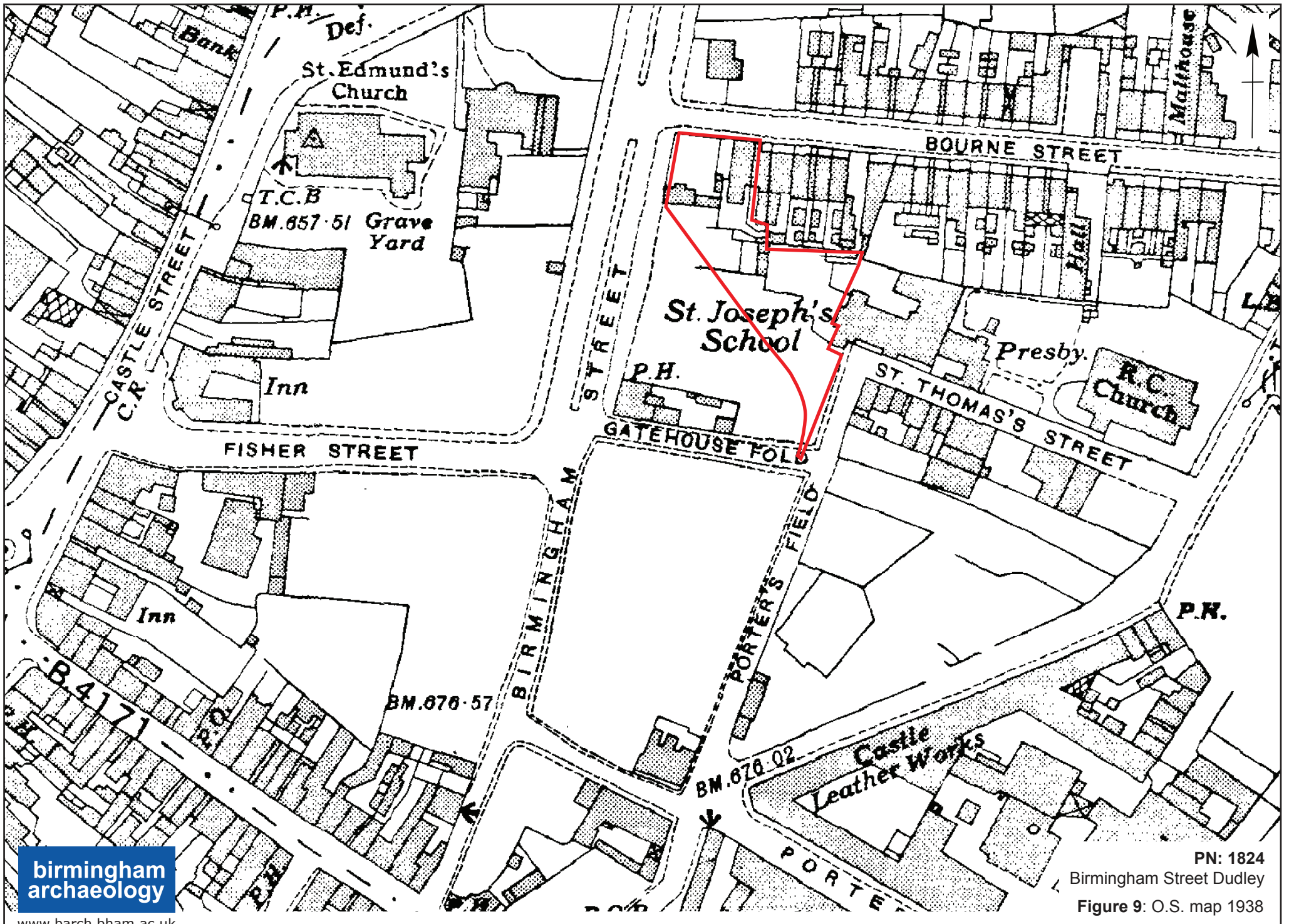
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Birmingham Street Dudley

Figure 5: Roper's Board of Health 1855









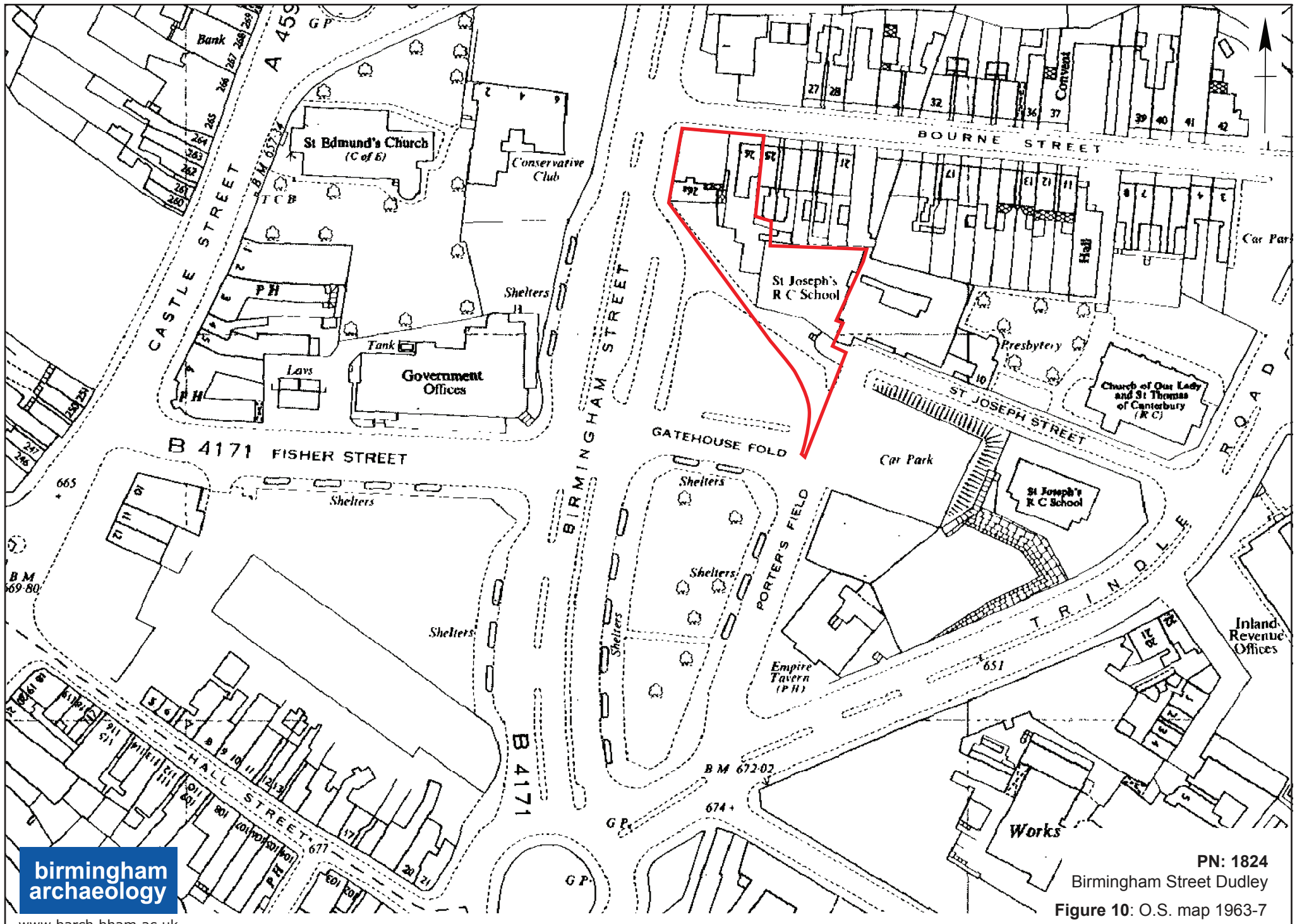




Plate 1



Plate 2

**No. 3 BIRMINGHAM STREET,
DUDLEY, WEST MIDLANDS**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT

WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION

Client: MRS J MATTY

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No. 3 BIRMINGHAM STREET, DUDLEY, WEST MIDLANDS

WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION FOR AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT

1. PLANNING BACKGROUND

The following represents a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for an archaeological Desk-Based Assessment (DBA) in respect of the proposed redevelopment of a site at No. 3 Birmingham Street, Dudley, West Midlands. The DBA is required as to accompany a planning application to redevelop the site for residential accommodation.

2 LOCATION

The study area forms an irregular plot of 0.2 ha. sloping from south to north and situated on the east/northeast side of Birmingham Street, Dudley, West Midlands, centred on NGR SO 9476 9040. The principal alignment of the plot is from northwest to southeast and is largely occupied by a former photographic studio and printing works dating from the later 20th century (plates 1 and 2), the main building occupying the northwestern corner of the site separated by a courtyard from a large subsidiary building further to the southeast, which is hard up against the eastern boundary of the site.

This small complex is screened from the south and southwest by a greened margin broadening out at the south corner into a small triangular plot, and at a higher level than the former works, and separated from it by a late 20th-century retaining wall, indicating that the natural slope of the site has been modified in recent times. This plot is bounded by Bourne Street to the north, by Birmingham Street to the west and southwest, by a car park to the southeast, and to the northeast and east by properties associated respectively with Bourne Street, and St Joseph Street.

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The general aim of the archaeological desk-based assessment is to collate existing archaeological and historic information relating to a proposed development site and its immediate environs, to enable informed decisions to be taken regarding any further archaeological input which may be required as the proposed development proceeds through the planning process. The objective of the project will be to assess the historical development of the site and the potential for below ground archaeological remains.

4 SOURCES AND METHODOLOGY

A search will be made of all relevant and readily available published and unpublished source material, including historic maps and photographs of the site, held by Dudley Archives and the libraries of the University of Birmingham. The Dudley Historic Buildings, Sites and Monuments Record (HBSMR), the principal source of archaeological data for the borough, will also be consulted.

Subsequent to the completion of initial archival research a walkover survey of the development site will be undertaken (subject to access) to assess current conditions and to assist in assessing the potential for below ground archaeology.

5 REPORT FORMAT

Upon completion of the documentary research and walkover survey, the results of the desk-based assessment will be presented in a report and will contain the following information:

- Non-technical summary
- Introduction
- Site location and description
- Objectives
- Methods
- Historical background
- Historical development
- Archaeological context
- Previous archaeological work
- Archaeological potential
- Illustrations including historic maps and aerial photographs as appropriate
- A plan showing possible zones of archaeological potential (if applicable)
- Colour plates showing the current land use

6 PROGRAMME

The work would normally start within one week of instruction to proceed and the report would ordinarily be completed within two weeks of starting the fieldwork.

7 STAFFING

The project will be undertaken under the general supervision of a project manager, Dr Malcolm Hislop MIFA of Birmingham Archaeology. All staff will be suitably qualified and experienced for their roles in the project.

8 PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS

Birmingham Archaeology is a Registered Archaeological Organisation (RAO) with the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA); all Birmingham Archaeology staff will follow the Code of Conduct of the IFA at all times.

The desk-based assessment will be undertaken in accordance with the standards laid down in the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment* (IFA, 2001).

9 HEALTH AND SAFETY

In line with current Health and Safety legislation, a Risk Assessment will be undertaken before commencement of the walkover survey.

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2.07.08

