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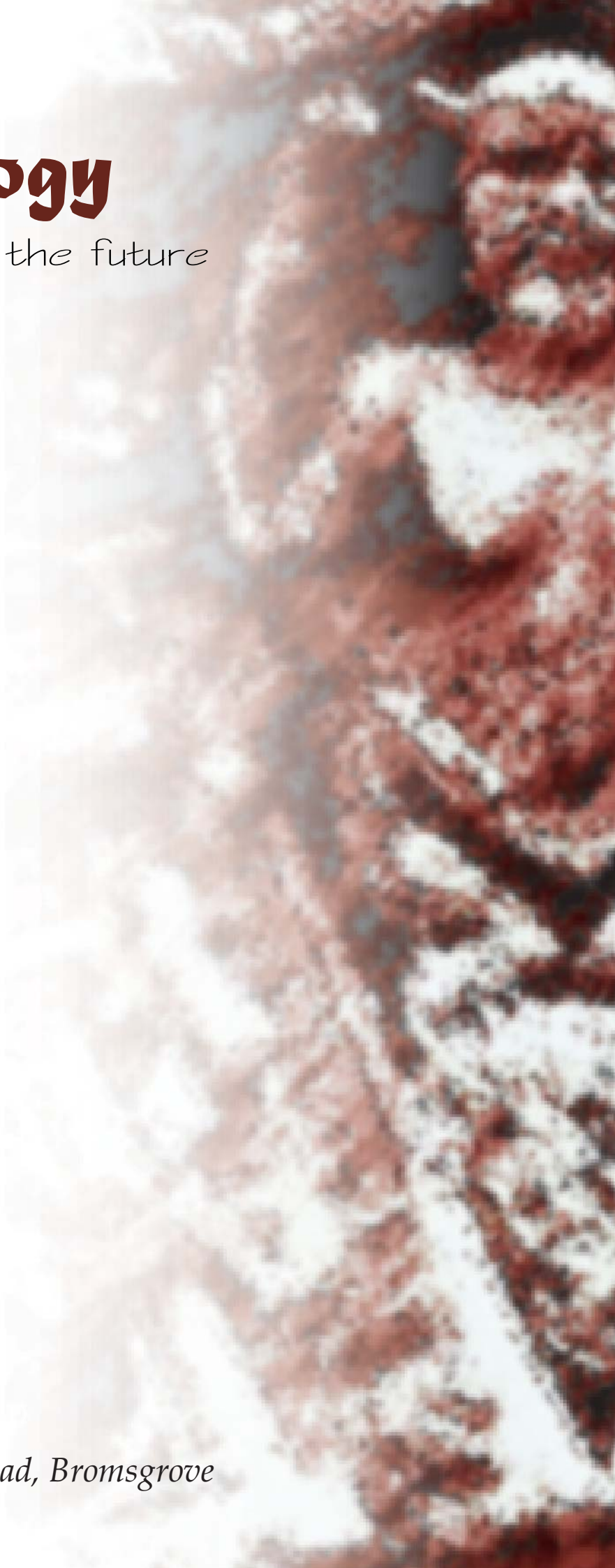

Historic Building Recording at
The Button Factory, Willow Road, Bromsgrove
Worcestershire

A Historic Building Recording at The Button Factory, Willow Road, Bromsgrove, Worcestershire

A report for David Payne Homes Ltd

October 2003

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Project: PJ 110

WSM: 32987

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1. Project Background

1.1. Location of the Site

The Button Factory, as it is locally known, is located in Willow Road, which is around 0.5 kilometres to the west of Bromsgrove town centre (NGR SO 9536 7094), just off the A448 Bromsgrove to Kidderminster road (Figure 1).

1.2. Development Details

A planning application has been made to Bromsgrove District Council by David Payne Homes Ltd, to demolish existing buildings and convert a 3-storey former factory building to provide domestic accommodation (reference B/03/0525). The planning process determined that the proposed development was likely to affect a building listed on the County Sites and Monuments Record (WSM 19672). As a result, the Planning Archaeologist, Worcestershire County Council, placed a 'Programme of Building Recording and Analysis' planning condition on the application, for which a brief of work was written (WHEAS 2003).

1.3. Reasons for the Historic Building Recording

The data contained within the Sites and Monuments Record suggested that the building conversion work would affect a building contained on the local list of historically important buildings (WSM 19672). The brief of works states that:

> *'Little is known of the building. Given the limited current knowledge, this evaluation will aim to provide the local planning authority with sufficient information to determine the buildings architectural, historic and archaeological significance'* (WHEAS 2003).

The proposed development site includes a former World War 2 air raid shelter, which was also proposed for investigation under this programme archaeological work.

2. Methods and Process

2.1. Project Specification

- The project conforms to the Standard and Guidance for the Archaeological Investigation and Recording of Standing Buildings or Structures (IFA 1999).
- According to guidelines defined by the Royal Commission for Historic Monuments of England (RCHME 1996).

- The project conforms to a brief prepared by the Planning Advisory Section, Worcestershire Historic Environment and Archaeology Section, Worcestershire County Council (WHEAS 2003) and for which a project proposal and detailed specification was produced (Mercian Archaeology 2003).

- Mercian Archaeology adhere to the service practice and health and safety policy as contained within the Mercian Archaeology Service Manual (Williams 2003)

2.2. Aims of the Project

The specific aims of the archaeological project are:

- To compile a descriptive, photographic and drawn record of the historic buildings and air raid shelter prior to any alteration or demolition.

- To investigate the historic and socio-economic background of the site using all available sources, including, for example, maps, written records, old photographs, drawings and oral history sources.

To use the results of the archaeological work to produce a report highlighting: -

- The development and function of the site from the earliest records until recent times and to put the site within its wider socio-economic context.

- The nature and importance of the historic and archaeological resource

2.3. Background Research

Prior to the commencement of fieldwork all the relevant available cartographic sources were consulted.

A former worker at the button factory was also interviewed to draw on his recollections (see below).

Documentary research was carried out at Worcestershire Record Office (WRO) and Bromsgrove Library (BL). The following sources were specifically consulted and were of use:

Cartographic Sources

Source	Reference Number
Tithe Map and Apportionment of the Parish of Bromsgrove (1840)	WRO BA1572/46 f 760/46 WRO BA 1572/45 f760/45
Ordnance Survey 2nd Edition 25". Worcestershire Sheet XV.16 (1903)	WRO
Ordnance Survey Revised 2nd Edition 25". Worcestershire Sheet XV.16 (1927)	WRO

Ordnance Survey 3rd Edition 25". Worcestershire Sheet XV.16 (1937)	WRO
Plan of the Streets and Houses of Bromsgrove (1830)	From *Bromsgrove Now and Then*, Richards, A and S (1988), The Bromsgrove Society. (BL)

Other Sources

Source	Reference Number
Bromsgrove's First Factory Rebuilt	Trades and Industries folder: Sanders and Sons, 16:1, Bromsgrove Library. Original in Bromsgrove Messenger 25 October 1958
Newspaper article	Bromsgrove Messenger article: August 20th 1997
Newspaper article	Bromsgrove Messenger article: June 26th 2002
Newspaper article	Birmingham Post article: March 9th 2002

Other sources used are referenced within the report.

2.4. The Fieldwork Methodology

The building recording was undertaken on 6th and 7th October prior to any development work being carried out at the site.

The photographic survey was carried out using both monochrome and colour print film. A 2-metre scale was used where possible.

Proforma Building Record Forms were used to record the structure in tandem with site notes and reference to site photographs, to produce the final record contained within this report.

The methodology adopted and the favourable working conditions meant that the aims and objectives of the brief could be fully met and the fieldwork was successfully concluded, with the exception that the eastern elevation of the building was inaccessible for photography as private houses back onto that side of the site. Health and Safety considerations were taken into account when recording the three-storey structure, as parts of the building were deemed unsafe.

3. The Documentary Research

3.1. Background

Bromsgrove is a market town with its roots in the medieval period. It had long been a coarse cloth and linen-manufacturing centre. Its later economic prosperity was based on a metals based industry. Bromsgrove is famous for its nail making and needle scouring workshops, but perhaps less known for its button making industry.

The Button Factory, also known locally as 'Button Castle', was originally a cotton mill called Sidemoor Mill. It is recorded that a steam engine, likely to have been a Boulton and Watt engine, was installed at the mill in the late 18th century (Richards 1984, 11). This suggests the possibility that an undershot waterwheel may have provided earlier power, although this is an assumption. The mill was at that time owned by Richard Collett, a linen producer. During the early 19th century, Collett's business fell into decline and by 1810 he had been declared bankrupt (Richards 1984, 103). The reason for the bankruptcy may have been twofold; a general decline in the linen trade coupled with over investment in infrastructure at this time. The mill became redundant and was left empty for several years.

At the end of the 18th century Worcester born Benjamin Sanders was forced to leave his retirement home in Denmark when Nelson's fleet laid siege to the Danish fleet in Copenhagen harbour. Unfortunately, Nelson's bombardment also destroyed Sanders' home (Bromsgrove Messenger 1958). Sanders returned to England and set up a button making business in Birmingham, which at this time was the largest producer of buttons in Britain. It had a pedigree in the metal trades and metal buttons had become very popular. Sanders began making and selling buttons in Birmingham and soon developed an iron-shanked button covered in silk, based on an idea pioneered by one Mr Ainsworth, a Birmingham button maker (Leadbetter undated, 98), although it is also argued that Sanders invented the process himself whilst living in London during the late 18th century (Bromsgrove Messenger 1958).

In 1821 Sanders moved to Bromsgrove (Birmingham Post 2002), after he had he inherited some property situated off Bromsgrove High Street, from his cousin James Wilkinson (Richards 1984, 103). He founded a small button works utilising the property and soon began production. It is argued that he moved from Birmingham to avoid industrial espionage, which was rife at the time (*ibid*). His mechanical device for covering the buttons in cloth had forced the item price down and his cloth covered buttons proved to be very popular. His early button manufactory soon became too small and in the mid-1820's he purchased the redundant Sidemoor Mill building and so The Button Factory was born.

The mill was apparently extended in 1829 and by the 1830's employed around 300 people (Richards 1984, 99). The Tithe Apportionment Map of 1840 showed that by this time Benjamin Sanders owned a house and garden and factory on the site (Figure 2). The map shows a detached building just to the north, which may have been Sanders' house. He also owned much of the land surrounding the manufactory. A photograph dating from around 1890 shows the extent of the three-storey building by this date (Plate 1).

The first edition Ordnance Survey map of 1883 shows a large pool on the west side of the mill building, which appears to have been fed by leats from the north east and the north west, (Figure 3). This pond does not appear on the detailed Tithe Map, suggesting it was created between 1840 and 1883 and was not a millpond, but more likely a reservoir to supply water to the later steam engine(s) that would have powered the machinery at the factory. The pond has

gone by the time of the second edition in 1903 and is shown as an area of marshy ground (Figure 4).

In 1915 the northern end of the factory burned down and replacement single storey machine shops were built (Bromsgrove Messenger 1958). These are shown on the revised Ordnance Survey plan of 1927 (Figure 5). Further buildings had also been added on the west of the site, in place of the much-denuded pond.The marshy ground was by now confined to the northern end of the site. Ten years later, according to the Ordnance Survey 3rd edition, the marshy ground had gone and there were additional ancillary buildings attached to the site (Figure 6).

In the 1930's John Nicholls took over the factory and continued button production until he retired (*John Nicholls died in 1997 at the age of 88*).

In 1958 the southern end of the original mill building burned down (Bromsgrove Messenger 1958).Production carried on in temporary sheds until a replacement building was butted onto the remaining central portion of the old mill. This took less than a year. Apparently, the roof had to be painted brown by order of the local council, rather than the natural green of the asbestos (Bromsgrove Messenger 1958).

Sadly, the Button Factory closed down in the early 1990's closing the book on over two hundred years of social history. Many of the former workers look on the dilapidated buildings with open fondness. One such worker was Ernest Abedenigo Waldron, former toolsetter at the factory from the 1940's until it finally closed its doors. Mr Waldron kindly gave us an interview in which he recalled some of his reminiscences. These are recorded below.

3.2. Later History: Based on an Interview with Ernest Waldron

Mr Waldron worked at the Button Factory for 47 years, beginning his working life as an errand runner after leaving school, before progressing to become a toolsetter. He remembers the brook that ran down the eastern side of the building, referring to it as slow flowing except when in flood. Interestingly he refers to a second watercourse culverted under the factory, but could shed no light on there ever being water power at the site.

The Button Factory was to a great extent self-sufficient. Power to drive the machinery and lighting was supplied by a single diesel engine connected to huge dynamos. The power supply was supplemented by a reserve mains supply, which was used when there were internal supply problems. The power train involved a complex series of drive shafts, belts and pulleys running the complete length of the factory. It was clear from the interview that John Nicholls, the factory proprietor during the half-century that Mr Waldron worked there, was a shrewd and frivolous businessman. Water for kitchen and sanitary usage was pumped from three wells below the factory floor into a large tank, from where it was distributed. Thus power and water costs were kept low. The wells and culvert are apparently still below the factory floor.

The 1950's brought a decline in the button industry, when for example, the armed forces that were supplied with metal buttons from the Bromsgrove factory, changed to buttons made from other materials. After the fire of 1958 the top floor of the old mill building was hardly used as production wound down. By the early 1960's the situation had deteriorated. It was then that the company first diversified and entered the badge and emblem market, although John Nicholls had earlier argued that 'anything other than buttons would be made over his dead body!' New tooling was made for badges and samples sent out, this gave the factory a new lease of life. The first badge to be made was for the RSPCA and soon a wide range followed (Plate 14). The 1966 football World Cup proved to be a boom time for the factory, with

thousands of ‘World Cup Willy’ badges produced. The factory then employed many outworkers to keep up with demand, especially for a thriving export market. The factory never operated a shift system. Mr Waldron assumes that this was due to Mr Nicholls’ strong religious beliefs.

After the badge boom the company hit another period of decline and the Button Factory closed for production in the early 1990’s, the firm taking smaller premises at Charford. The local authority took over the building, using the southern end of the building as a store and distribution centre for wheelchairs. The central portion, the old mill building, had been proclaimed unsafe and was secured. Today the buildings stand empty. Apart from, according to Mr Waldron, a ghost that has frequently been heard walking up the stairs of the old mill.

Mr Waldron remembers using the air raid shelter for practice drills just after the end of the Second World War. The shelter was used exclusively during the war for the factory workforce. Later, after the threat of further conflict had passed the shelter was used as storage for the factory produce and shelves were fixed into place within the structure.

Strictly speaking the air raid shelter is not an Anderson shelter. Anderson shelters were made in corrugated sheet steel; whereas the shelter at The Button Factory is of prefabricated concrete sections.

3. Button Manufacture

Buttons are probably one of the items we take for granted during our everyday lives and we probably never think of the way they are produced. Today they are mainly synthetic, whereas in the past they were fabricated from various materials including copper, plated metal, silver and other materials such as horn, bone, wood, mother of pearl, jet, shell, cannel coal, leather and even paper (Rees 1972, 263). The earliest buttons made in England’s button factories were stamped or cast in copper, pewter, silver or even covered in a gold wash, as commonly made in Birmingham at the end of the 18th century (Richards 1984, 11). In the 18th century John Taylor’s button factory was the largest employer in Birmingham making Taylor the richest man in the town (Birmingham Post 2002). As outlined above, Benjamin Sanders moved his button manufacturing operation from Birmingham to Bromsgrove around the same time, as he feared industrial espionage. He had developed a unique mechanical method for covering his buttons in silk and these proved to be very popular, making Sanders a rich man.

4. The Results

The Fabric Survey

The Southern End

The building at the southern end of the complex was built in 1958 (Figure 7). It is a single storey construction of 9" brick walls with an asbestos apex roof. Stud partitioning divides the internal space. The building is generally in good condition (Plate 2).

The Central Section

The three-storied central section of the complex (Figure 7) represents a single bay of the original 18th century mill building, the rest having been destroyed in two separate fires. All that remains of the original build are the western elevation, which apart from minor alterations to the loading bay section remains generally intact; the opposite eastern side was significantly altered at ground floor level when a lean-to extension was added in the late 19th century (although much 20th century alteration has obscured the evidence); the former bay partition walls at the north and south also remain, their upper access apertures are now bricked up and a second floor window inserted at the southern end; the buttresses at the north and south ends were part of the original sidewalls, but have been strengthened by extra brick courses (Plate 3).

The structure is of handmade brick elevations below a clay tiled apex roof. It is narrow, typical of mill structures, where light was important (Figure 8). Large windows were used on both elevations to bring the maximum light into the working areas. There are three windows to each storey on the western elevation, but only a single window to each storey on the east. A photograph of the late 19th century shows that at this time, each bay had three windows per storey (Plate 1), thus the remaining section is typical of the lost parts of the building.

The earliest windows are 30 light cast iron rectangular units below segmental arched heads. Most, however, have been replaced with wooden frames. At first and second floor levels on the western elevation there are pairs of loading doors, which are now boarded over. These would originally have opened to allow raw materials to be winched up from the ground below. There is a 12 light rectangular window on the upper floor eastern elevation indicating the possible position of a stairwell or landing. The building has been altered in this area and evidence of the original form is obscure. The existing staircase rises from an access through the original southern partition wall; the enclosing wall has cut the segmental arch above the access to the staircase (Plate 4).

On the eastern side of the building there is a single storey lean-to extension. This has been heavily modernised, but is likely to date from between 1840, when the tithe map shows the mill as a long narrow structure and 1883, when the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map shows a building on this footprint.

The Northern End

A single storey extension was added at the northern end to replace the parts of the mill building that collapsed after the fire of 1915 (Plates 5 and 8). The building is a rectangular brick structure with prefabricated steel roof trusses. The remaining original windows are large 24 light cast iron units with arched heads and there is a circular light in the apex at the northern gable end (Plate 9). Some window apertures have been bricked up. There are some remains of the power train bolted to the western wall (Plate 10).

There are a series of mid to late 20th century lean-to buildings butted onto the western elevation of the main build at this end. The additions have obscured the 1915 building from the outside.

The Air Raid Shelter

The air raid shelter stands in the north-west corner of the site (Plates 12 and 13). The floor of the shelter was not visible at the time of the survey, as there was a layer of heavy brick rubble inside, although the height of the structure is around 2 metres (Figure 9). The shelter is semi-sunk into the ground and still partly covered in earth, which would have been piled on immediately after construction in order to hide the shelter and to add a second dimension of protection against fall out from bomb damage.

The shelter comprises a series of 44 centimetres wide pre-cast reinforced arched concrete sections bolted together, with a cast concrete slab roof. The concrete is generally in a poor condition, with frequent cracks and the heavily rusted steel reinforcing mesh is clearly visible in places. There is a central entranceway at the southern end, located nearest to the factory and an offset emergency exit at the opposite end. The structure is over 8 metres long and 2 metres wide, allowing room for the workforce of around 40 people.

5. Phasing of the Buildings and Dating

Discussion of the Fabric and Dating Evidence

The earliest upstanding fabric on the site represents part of the former linen mill known as Sidemoor Mill. The date can only be attributed to the 18th century, but it is likely to date from the early to middle decades of that period. The dates for the northern and southern ends of the current building are documented, the northern end having been built in 1915 and the southern end in 1958 (Figure7).

The earliest phase is typical of a mill structure from this period, with long narrow floors and large windows to allow maximum light into the working area.

PHASE	FABRIC of BUILDING	DATE	MAP / FIGURE
I	The central three-storey section is all that remains of the original 18th century Sidemoor Mill.	18th century	Figure 7
II	The rectangular building at the northern end replaced the part of the mill lost by the first fire at the manufactory.	1915	Figure 7
III	The brick extension at the southern end replaced the part of the mill lost in the second fire at the manufactory.	1958	Figure 7

IV	Further extensions and additions were added piecemeal over the following decades	20th century	

6. The Historical, Archaeological and Architectural Significance

The archaeological work produced no evidence to suggest that there was a mill on the site earlier than the 18th century. The power source for the earliest mill structure also remains elusive. Mr Waldron referred to the brook adjacent to the eastern side of the mill being slow flowing, suggesting that without pounding back, it would not provide enough power to turn a waterwheel. The secondary documentary sources located, indicate that by the late 18th century the mill machinery was powered by at least one steam engine. The large pond on the western side of the factory first appears on a map in 1883, but does not appear to have been there before 1840. This suggests that the pond did not provide an extra head of water to power a waterwheel, as by this time steam engines had operated at the mill for almost a century. It seems likely that as suggested, the pond was a reservoir to provide water for the steam engine(s). Further documentary research may shed some light in this area.

The three-storey mill section of the building is significant both historically and archaeologically. It is the only remaining three-storey mill structure in the Bromsgrove area and represents a monument to the former enterprise and economic interface between Bromsgrove being an agricultural community and a player in the ongoing industrialisation of the West Midlands. The building itself is limited in its architectural finery, but it portrays what it was intended to be, a manufactory where profit was the ultimate aim. It was usual for the frontage, or 'public' end of the building to be embellished with architectural features, whilst the work end of the manufactory would generally be plain. A parallel may be drawn with The Crescent Works, a former needle mill at Redditch, where the complete three-storey mill building survives fronted by an architecturally significant public end (Williams 2002).

Archaeologically the building represents the remaining upstanding fabric to which historical background may be applied. The archaeological work has also identified features that may have presented problems to an uninformed development programmes. For example, the work has highlighted that a culvert and at least two wells lie somewhere below the footprint of the original mill and that the area on the west of the site was once a large pool. This may be the reason for several large settlement cracks in the outbuildings on the western perimeter of the site.

The other buildings are generally not significant archaeologically or architecturally and this report has recorded the basic historic background, on which further research may be built should these buildings be of interest to future generations.

The air raid shelter is a typical pre-cast concrete structure, probably manufactured locally. There are several others in Worcester and probably many more across the county (pers comm. Colin Jones). It has historic significance, but only when taken in context of being part of the factory infrastructure. If it is removed from site it will simply be an example of a shelter of a similar type.

7. Potential of the Buildings

The proposed plans put forward by David Payne Homes Ltd indicate an intention to retain the upstanding remains of the original three-storey mill building. The plans incorporate this section of the building complex into the scheme for residential accommodation. It is only by such sympathetic conversion that this structure will be saved from an uncertain and precarious future. In this respect the best use of the space, in the current climate, is for conversion to residential accommodation as proposed by David Payne Homes Ltd.

The 1915 extension at the northern end is worthy of saving as a building within itself. However, the space could not be easily and logically altered to provide residential accommodation and on this basis it should be considered for demolition. None of the other brick buildings on the site are worthy of restoration or conversion.

The air raid shelter is a sectional prefabricated structure and in theory it could be moved if interested parties wished to preserve it in another location. However, many of the prefabricated sections are degraded, with crumbling concrete and rusting decayed steel work and fixings. The process of dismantling and removal of the structure would undoubtedly cause more damage, especially as it lies partially below ground. It would be possible to repair most of the damaged areas by recasting, but then there is an argument that the finished structure would be a partial replica of its basis, rather than a genuine historic building. Preserving the best sections and making a smaller shelter out of the remains is another option. However, again, the historic value of the building would be lost. It may also be argued that the historic value of the building would be lost if it were moved from its intended position, to serve the employees of The Button Factory in dangerous times. It may be counter argued that the building will be totally lost should it not be moved.

The archaeological work revealed that the fixtures and fittings within the structure, previously proposed as dating from World War 2, are in fact much later in date and not original.

The justification of demolishing, restoring, replicating or transporting the air raid shelter (or parts of it) should take into account the above arguments and findings.

8. Conclusion

The results of the historic building recording determined that the earliest upstanding building on the proposed development site is the central three-storey structure, which was originally part of an 18th century linen mill that was converted at the start of the 19th century to become 'The Button Factory'. In 1915 the northern part of the building collapsed after a fire. This was replaced with a single storey workshop. In 1958 a further fire destroyed the southern end of the building, which was then replaced by another single storey range. The workforce was provided with a prefabricated concrete air raid shelter during the 2nd World War. The shelter still remains in the north-western corner of the site in a fair condition.

Analysis of the evidence drawn from on-site observation, documentary research and personal comment suggests that only the central three-storey section of the buildings complex is worthy of preservation by change of use. There may be some salvageable components of the air raid shelter, but the logistics of removal probably outweigh the historic value; if removed from site the shelter would be taken out of its historic context and would become a replica of what it once was.

9. Acknowledgements

The author would like to thank Paul Cartwright of David Payne Homes Ltd. Thanks are also due to Ernest Abedenigo Waldron, former toolsetter at The Button Factory and David Jones for his personal comment on the air raid shelter. Thanks are extended to: David Payne Homes Ltd for supplying scaled drawings of the proposed development and one of their employees to clear out the light debris from inside the air raid shelter; the staff of Bromsgrove Library and Worcerstershire Records Office; Martin Cook of Mercian Archaeology and Mike Glyde, Planning Archaeologist, Worcestershire County Council.

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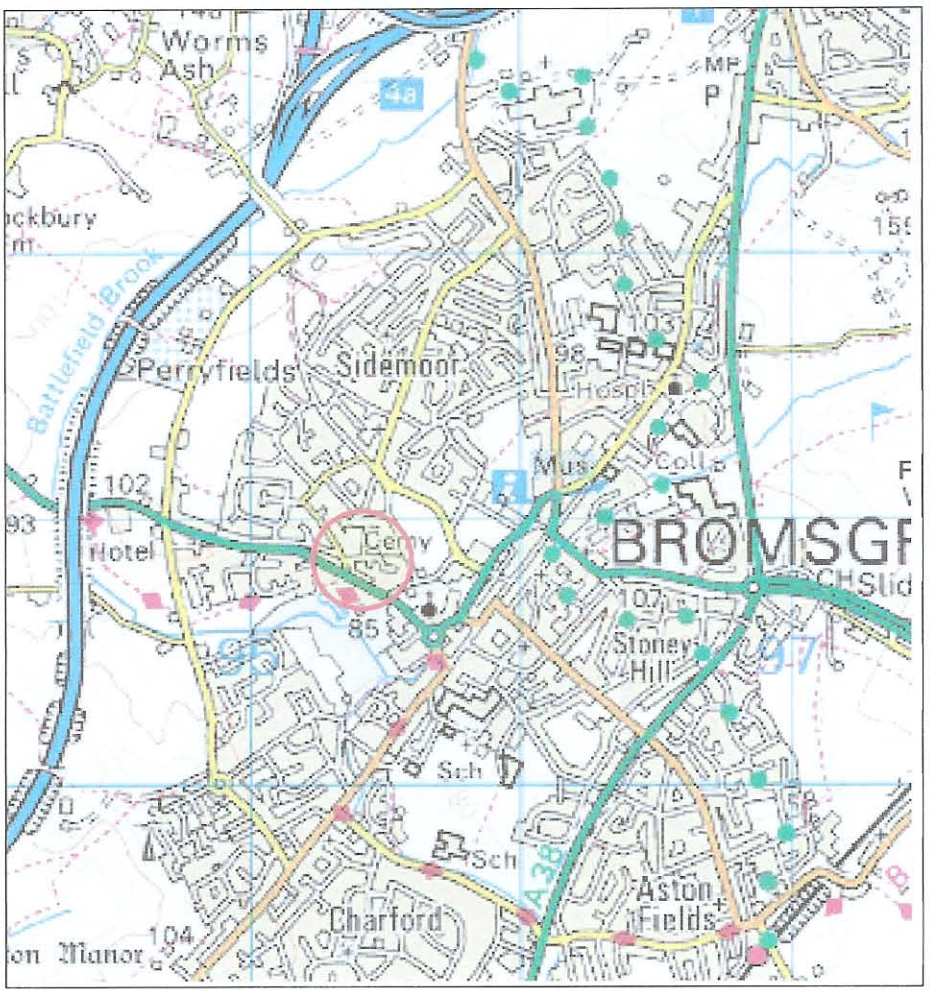
Figure 1: Location of Site



0.5 0.0 0.5 1.0 1.5 2.0 2.5 3.0 3.5 4.0 4.5 5.0 5.5
1:50,000 Kms

Location of The Button Factory,
Willow Road, Bromsgrove

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Figure 2. Extract from Bromsgrove Tithe Apportionment Map (1840)

Tithe Apportionment of Bromsgrove (1840) with location of site highlighted. Not to scale. The overlay shows a detached building to the north of the mill, this was possibly the factory owners house as referred to in the tithe apportionment.

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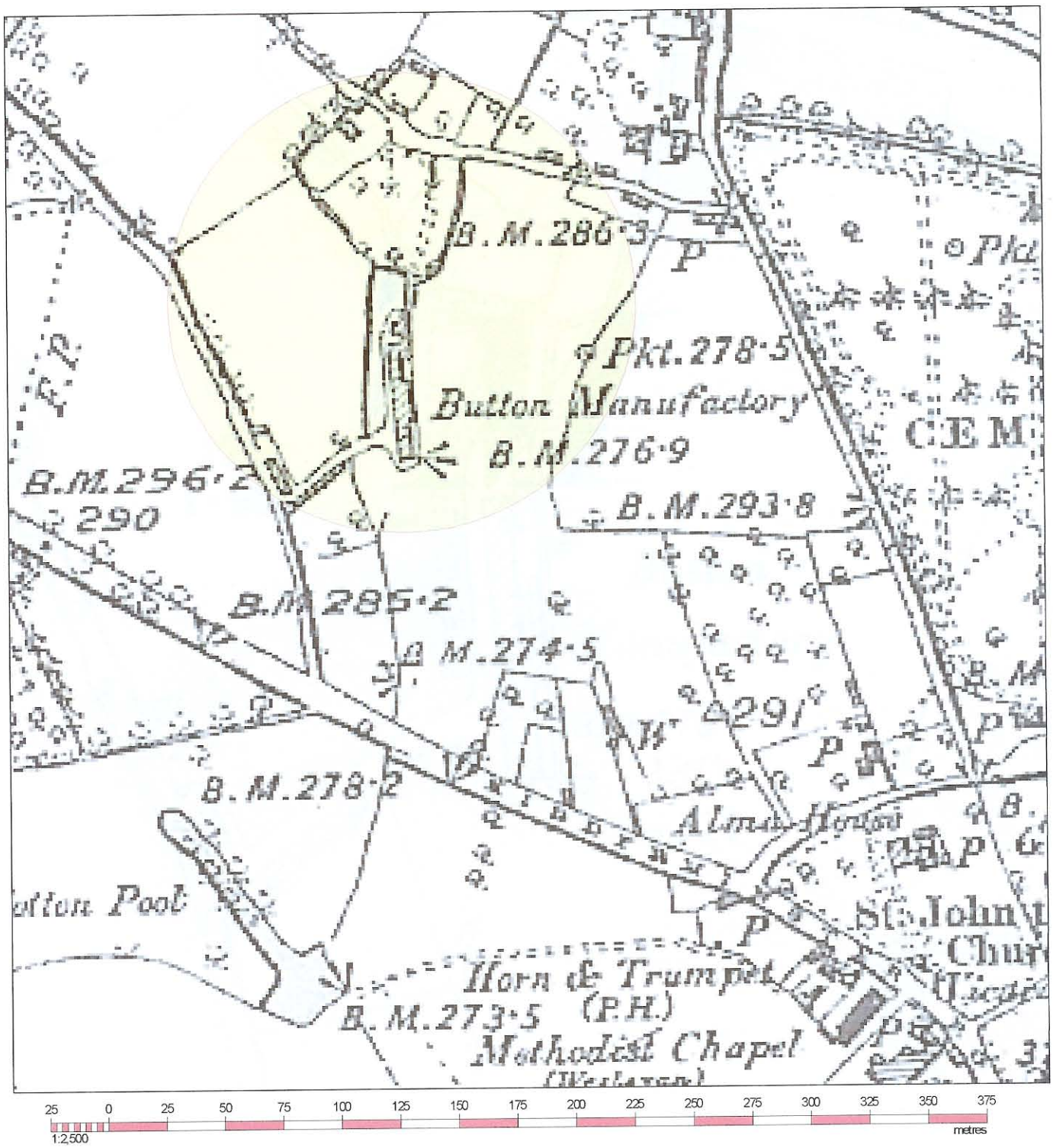
Figure 3. The Button Factory; 1st Edition Ordnance Survey (1883)



The 1st edition Ordnance Survey map shows a large pond adjacent to the western side of the factory and apparent leats swinging in from the north-west and north-east.

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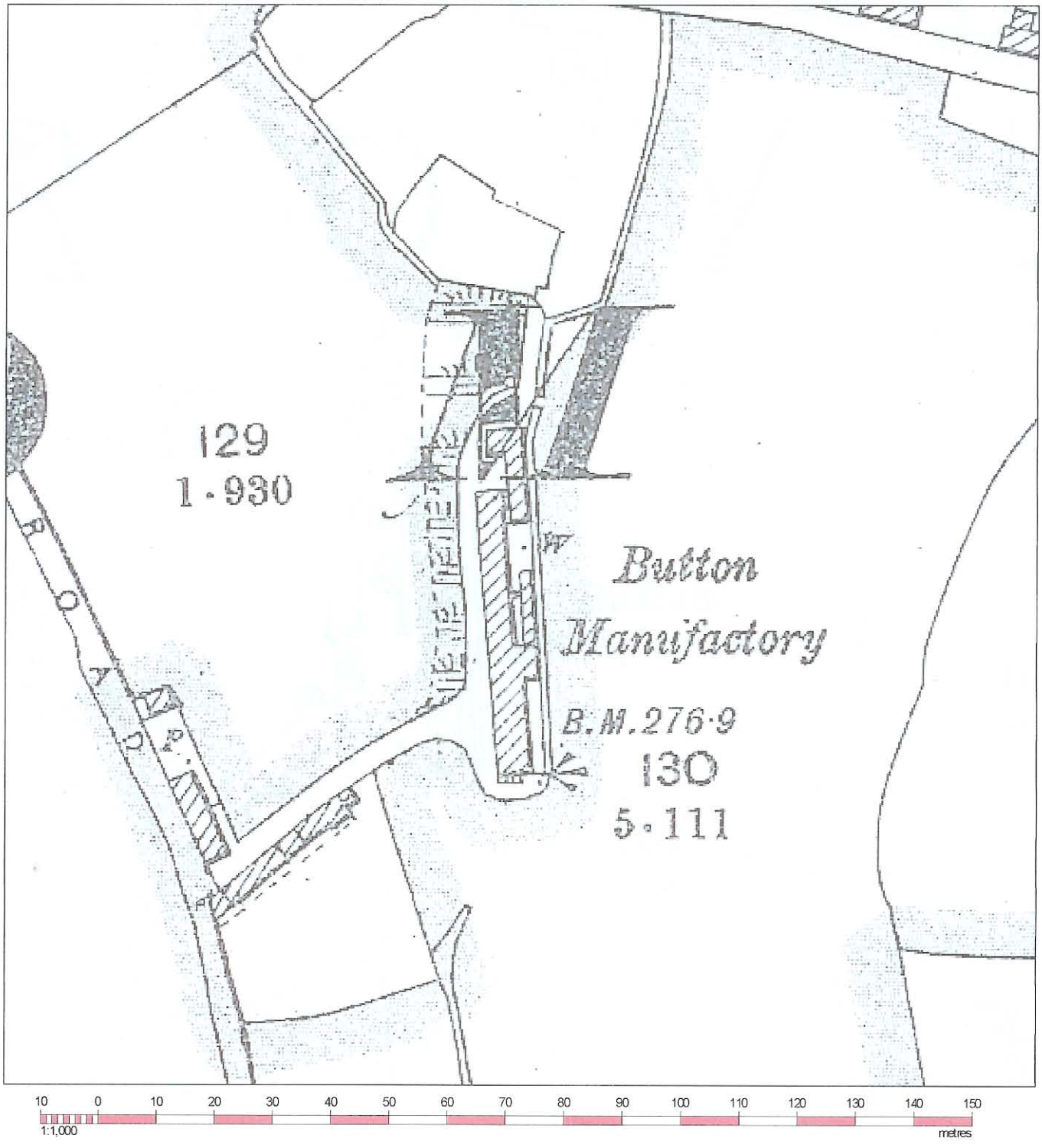
Figure 4. The Button Factory; 2nd Edition Ordnance Survey (1903)



The 2nd edition Ordnance Survey map shows the pond on the west of the factory to be disused and depicted as wetland.

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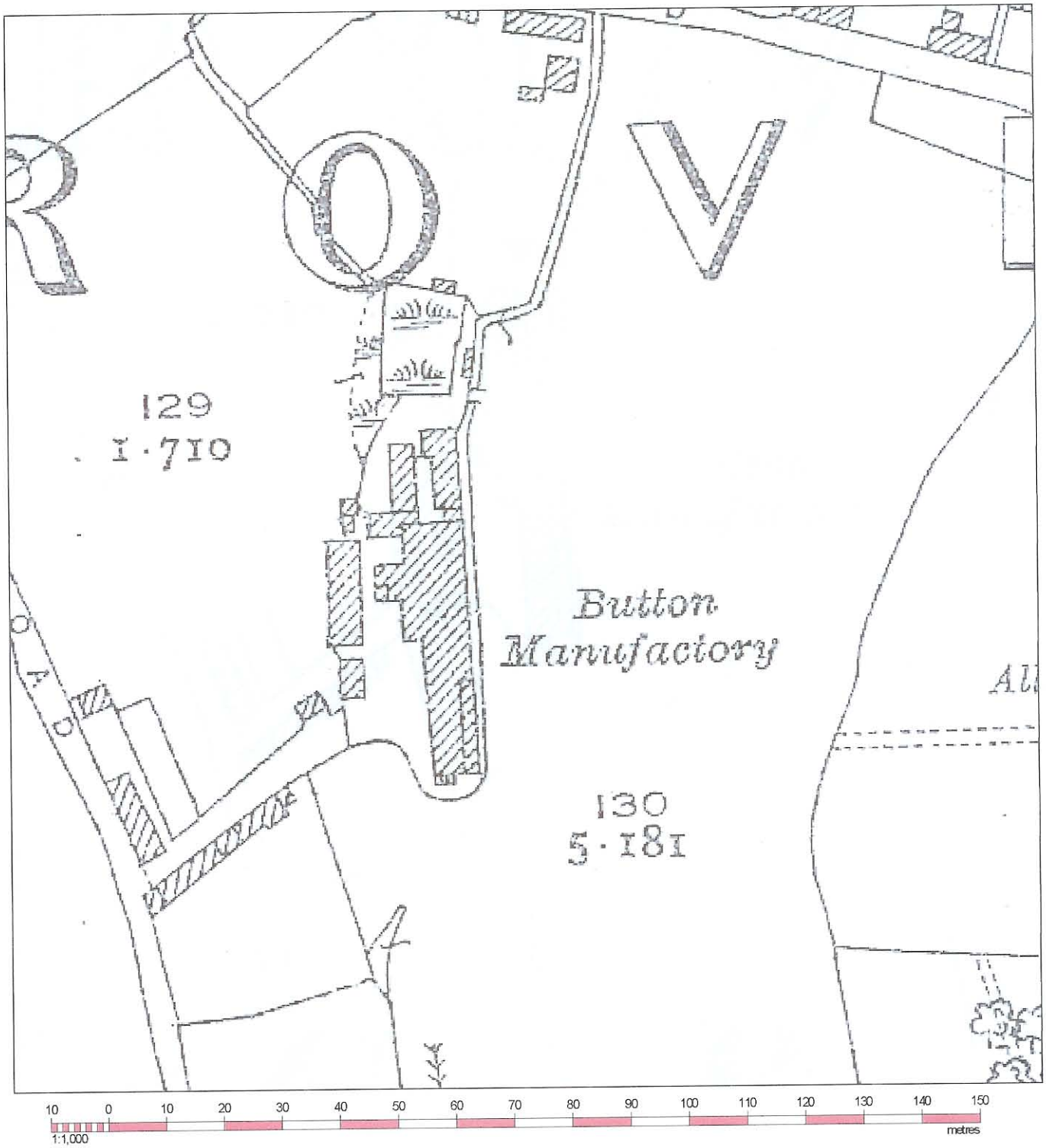
Figure 5. The Button Factory; 2nd Edition (Revised) Ordnance Survey (1927)



The revised 2nd edition Ordnance Survey map shows the pond on the west of the factory to be built over, with wetland remaining to the north.

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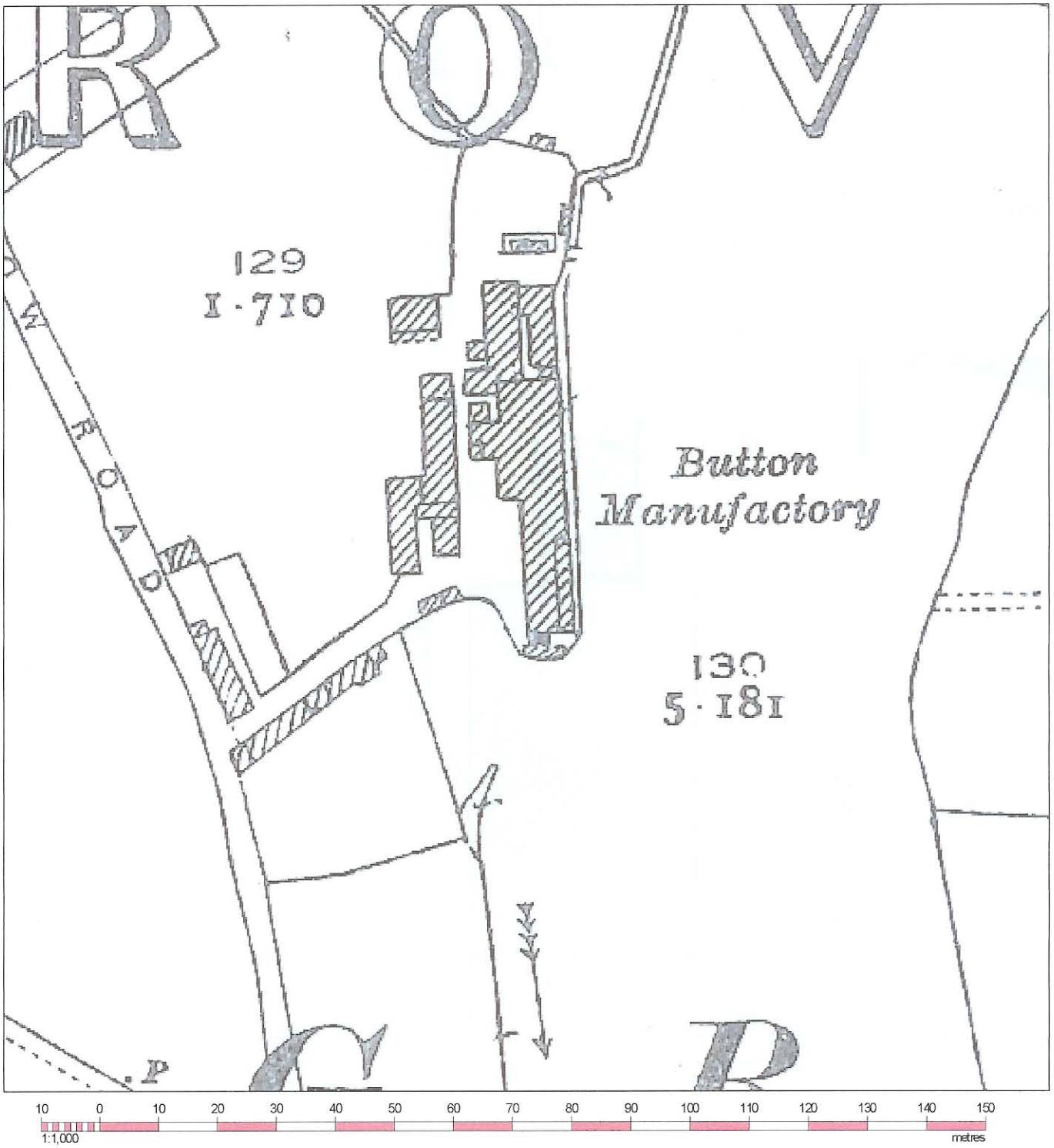
Figure 6. The Button Factory; 3rd Edition Ordnance Survey (1937)



The 3rd edition Ordnance Survey map shows the pond to have now gone. There are further small buildings attached to the complex.

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Figure 7. Building Phases

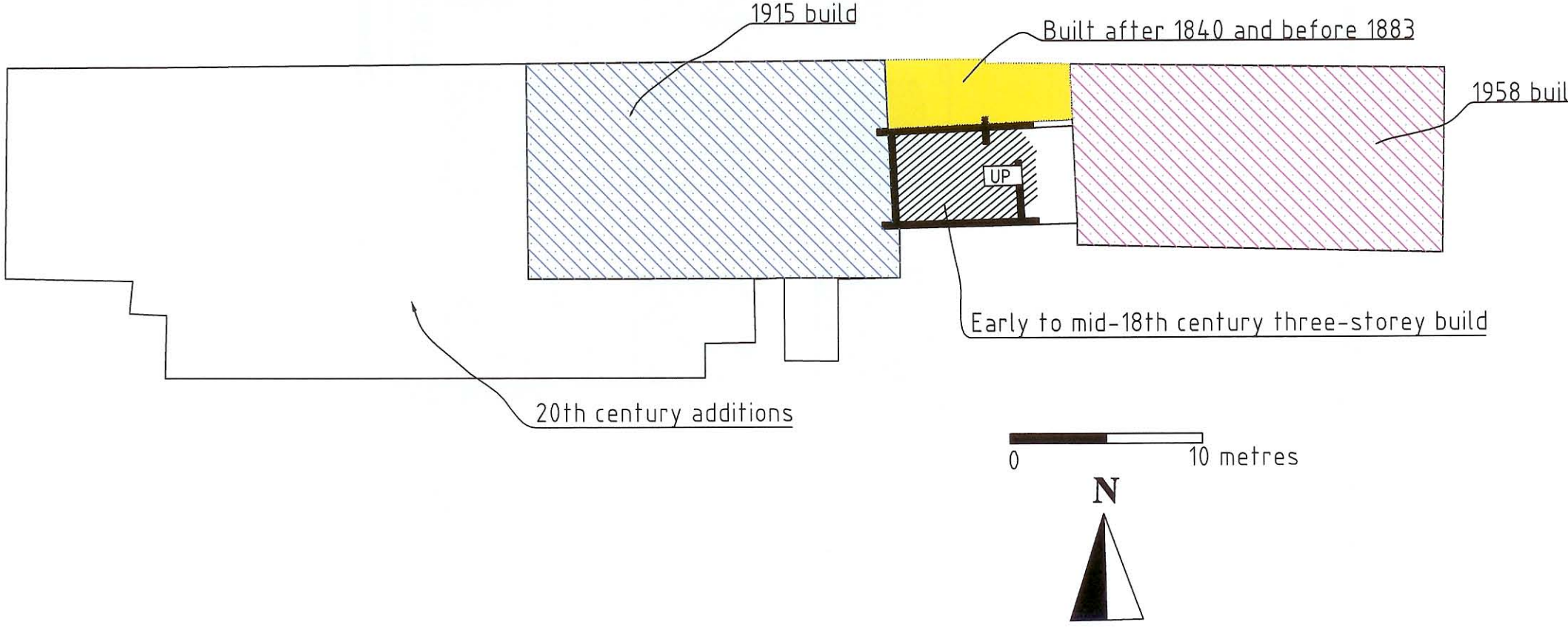

Figure 8. Cross-section through the three-storey build (view to the west)

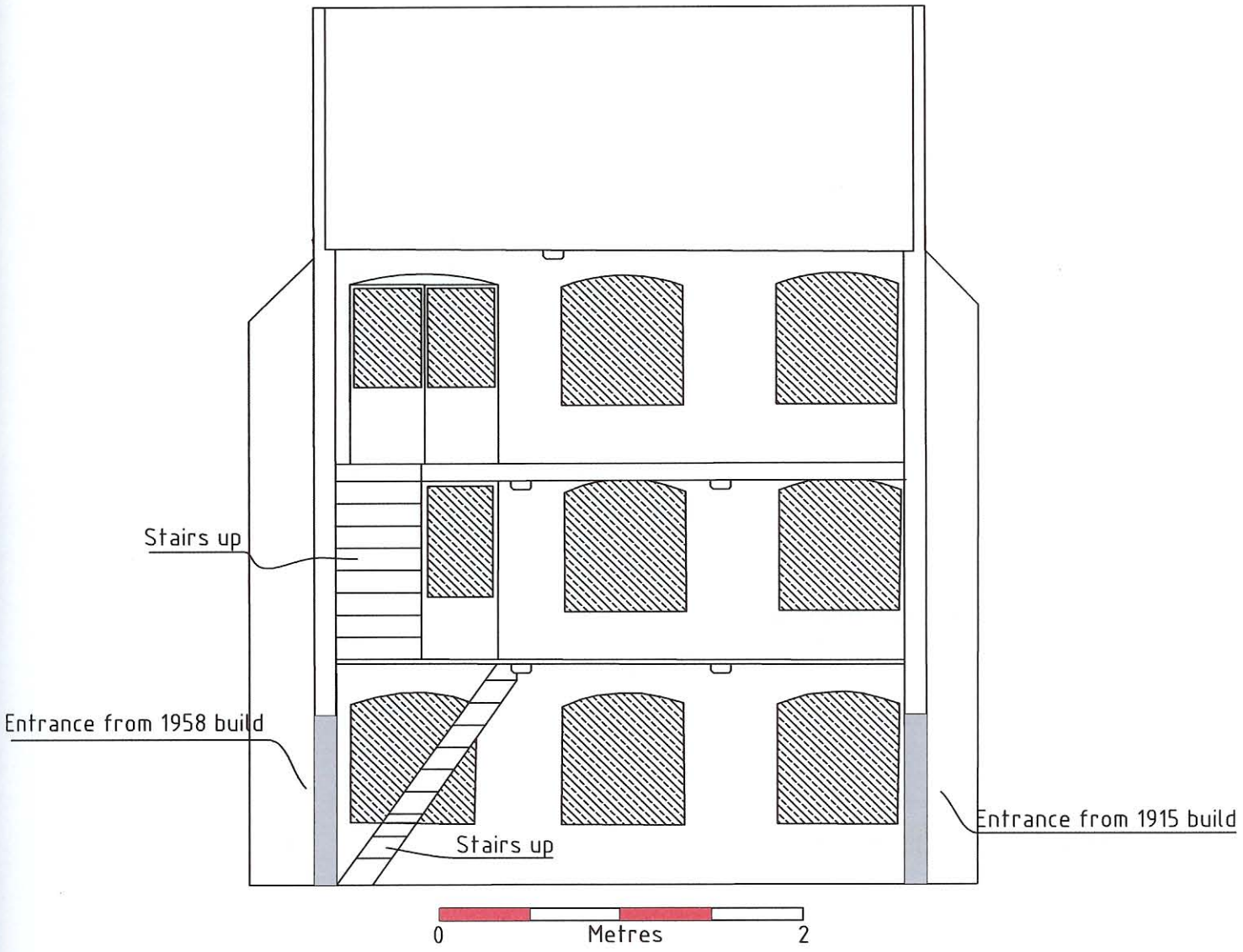

Figure 9. The Air Raid Shelter

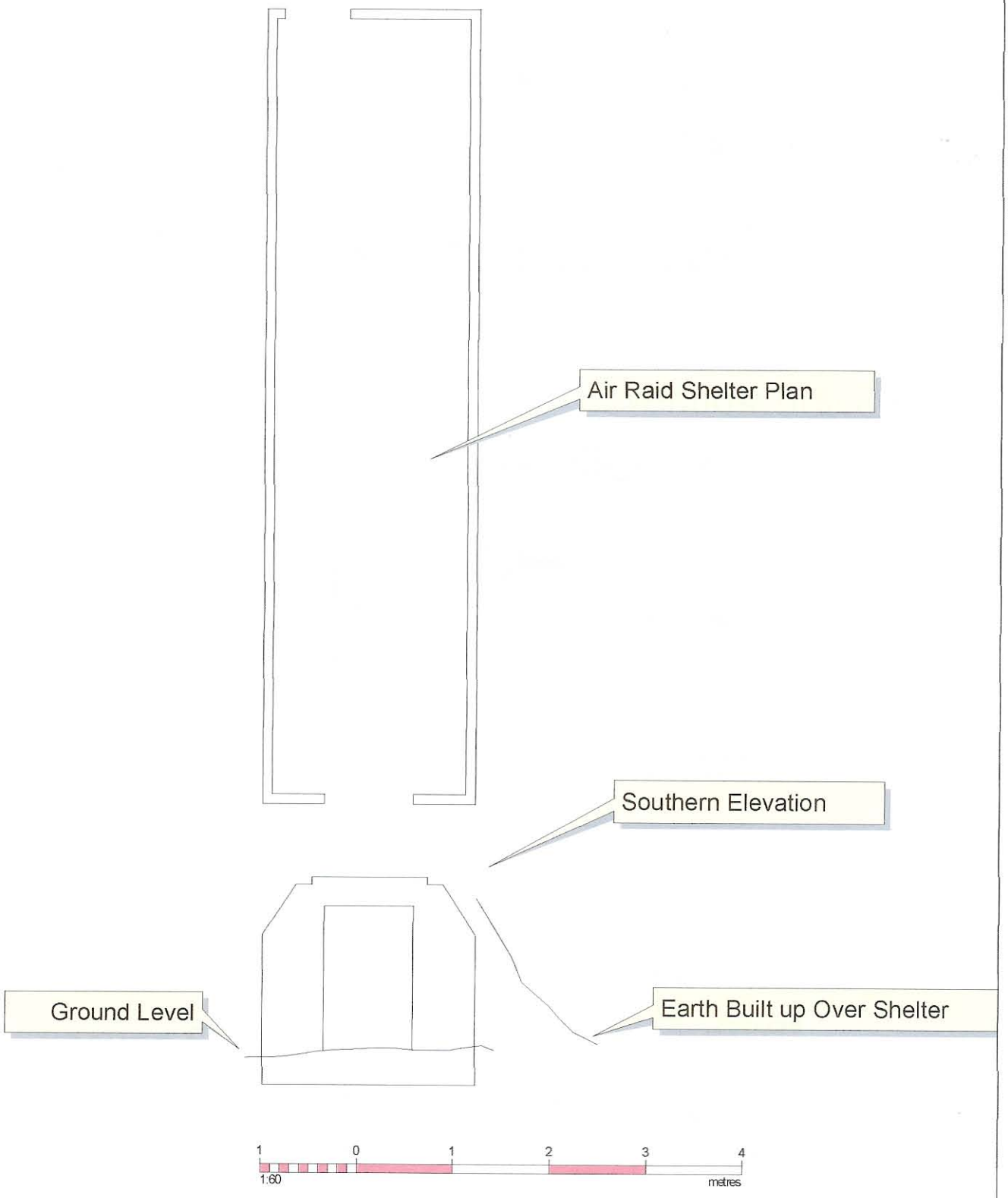

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Figure 10. Floor Plans of Three-Storey Building

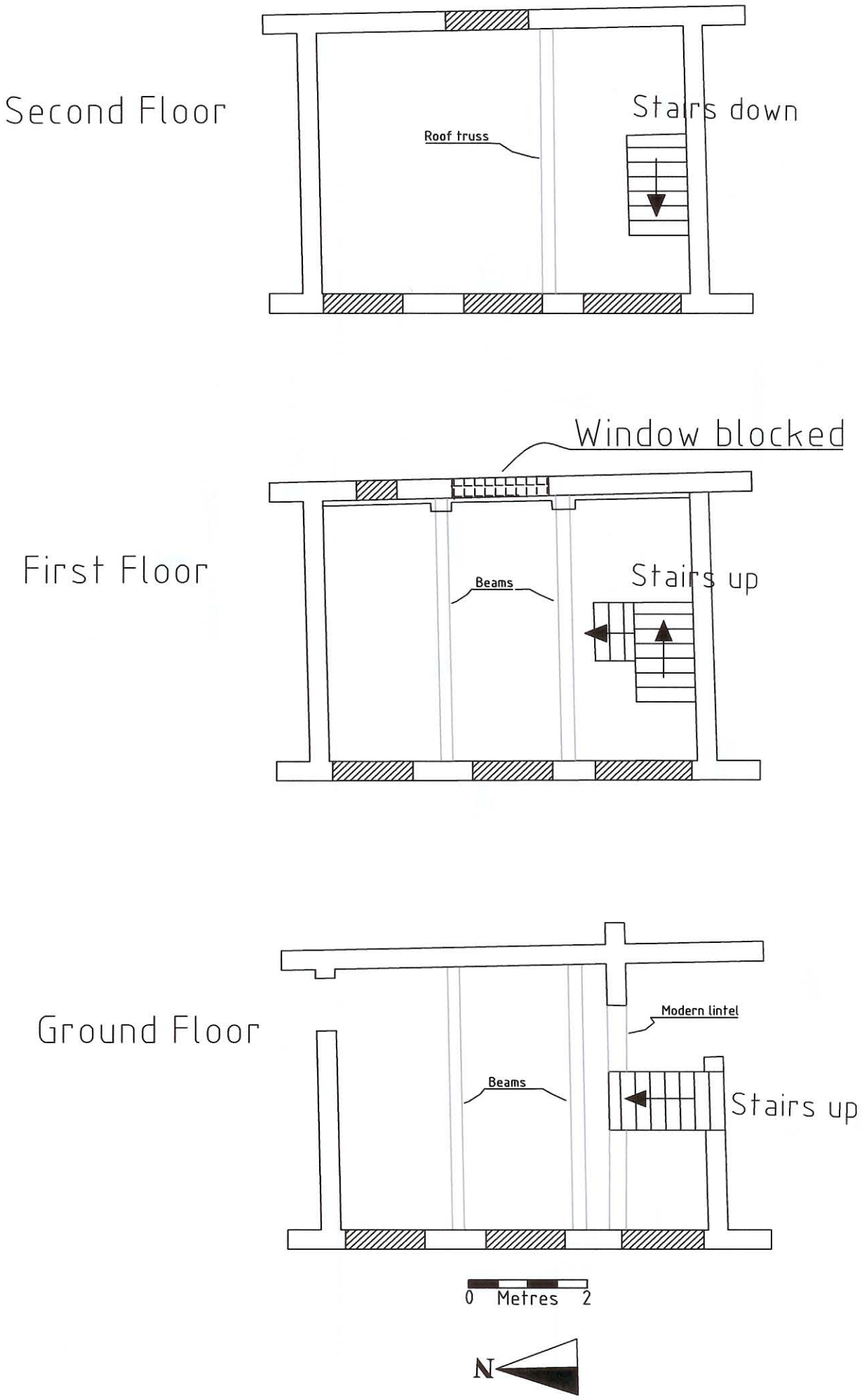
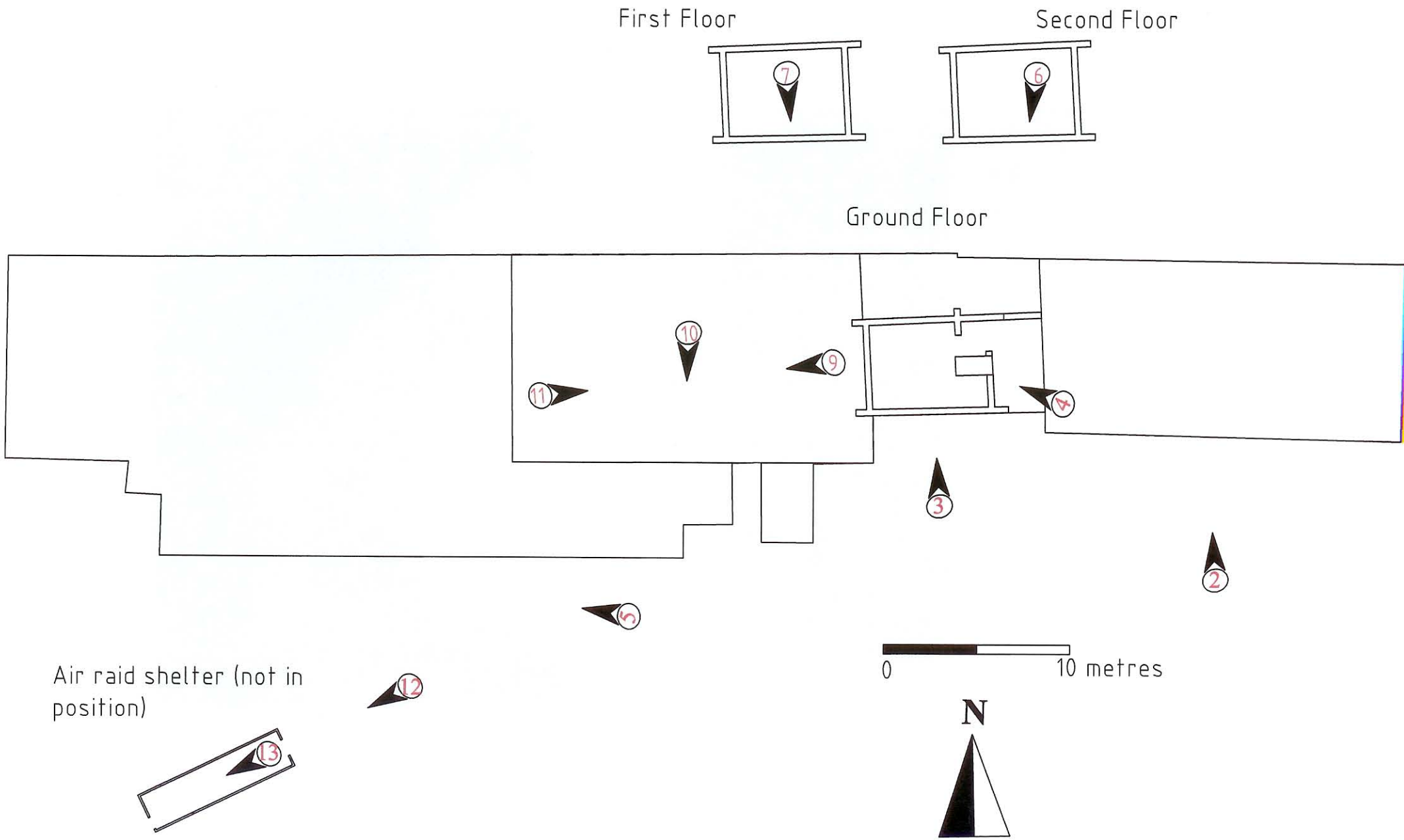
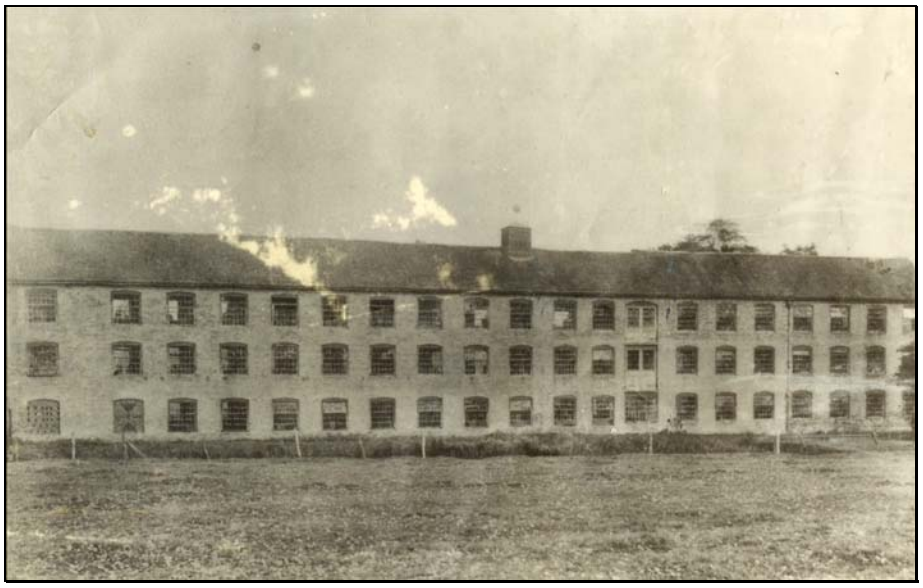


Figure 11. Direction of photographs contained in report



Plates

Plate 1



Photograph of The Button Factory taken at the end of the 19th century (Supplied by Mr E.Waldron)

Plate 2

The southern extension built in 1958 to replace the end of the building destroyed by fire (Scale 2 metres)

Plates

Plate 3

Western elevation of the former three-storey mill building (Scale 2 metres)

Plates

Plate 4

Staircase to first floor of the three-storey mill building. Note the central dividing wall has cut the arched lintel. This was originally an opening from one bay to another (Scale 2 metres)

Plate 5

Lean-to building's obscuring the 1958 extension at the northern end

Plates

Plate 6

Upper floor of the three-storey build showing the loading doors

Plate 7

First floor of the three-storey section showing the former location of loading doors on the right, replaced by a later window (Scale 2 metres)

Plates

Plate 8

Northern end of the former mill building after the fire of 1915

(Photograph kindly supplied by Mr E. Waldron)

Plate 9

Replacement building erected after the 1915 fire (Scale 2 metres)

Plates

Plate 10

Flywheels and shaft of part of the factory power train in the northern building.

Plate 11

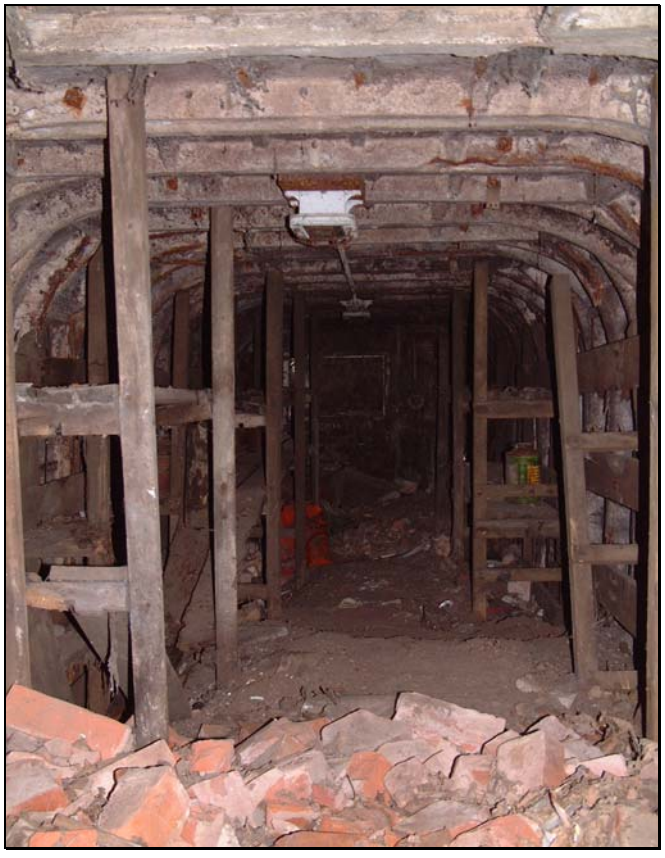
The northern end of the three-storey build where it is butted by the 1915 extension. The side walls of the original mill building project forward, adjacent to the blue doors

Plates

Plate 12

Entrance to air raid shelter (Scale 2 metres)

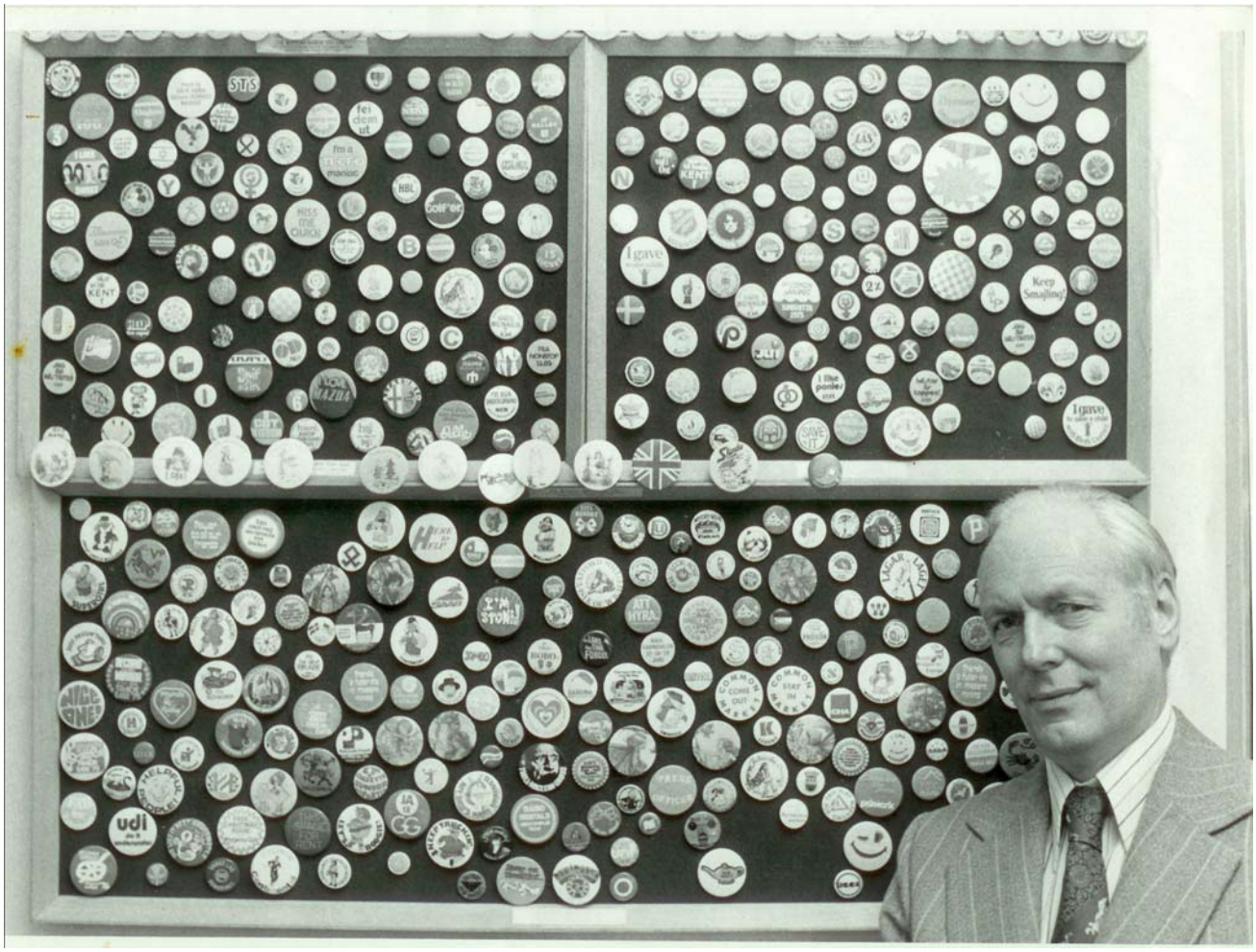
Plate 13



Looking into the air raid shelter. Note the pre-fabricated sections

Plates

Plate 14



Former button factory owner Mr John Nicholls with the catalogue of badges produced by the manufactory from the mid 1960's (Photograph kindly supplied by Mr E.Waldron)