

It can be seen that in each pit “Weathered sandstone” lay at the bottom, occurring at varying depths relative to the existing surface. Test pits 2 and 9 were the only two to be without any direct archaeological evidence, although 9 may have been close to the junction of {57}, “Old chapel (used for Carpenters Room)” and {59}, “Boy Shop”.

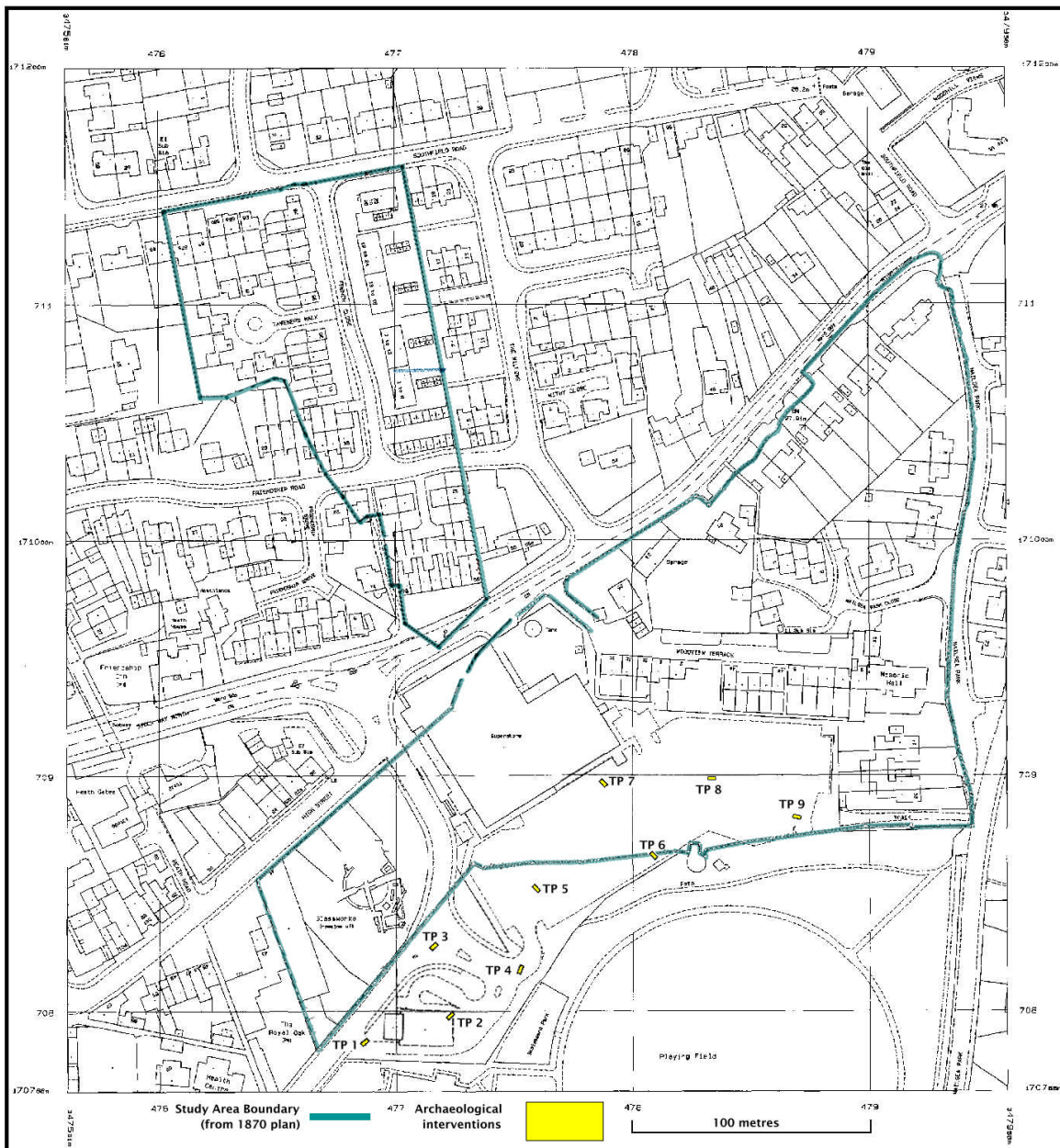


Figure 2.14: 1991 Test Pit locations on site-centred map

It is suggested in the text of the report that test pit 6 may be building {41} on the 1870 plan, but it seems on present measurement to sit more on the boundary wall. Similarly test pit 7 is postulated [reasonably correctly] as being building {32}/{34}. Building {34} was the site of a French kiln in 1870. Test pit 8 is postulated in the report as being building {69}. The latter is too far north on the original plan, and it appears that a more correct interpretation may be between building {53} and {49}. These were unoccupied spaces, the first covered, and the second, the site of the old bottle house, open, in 1870, so they may be remains of an earlier development.

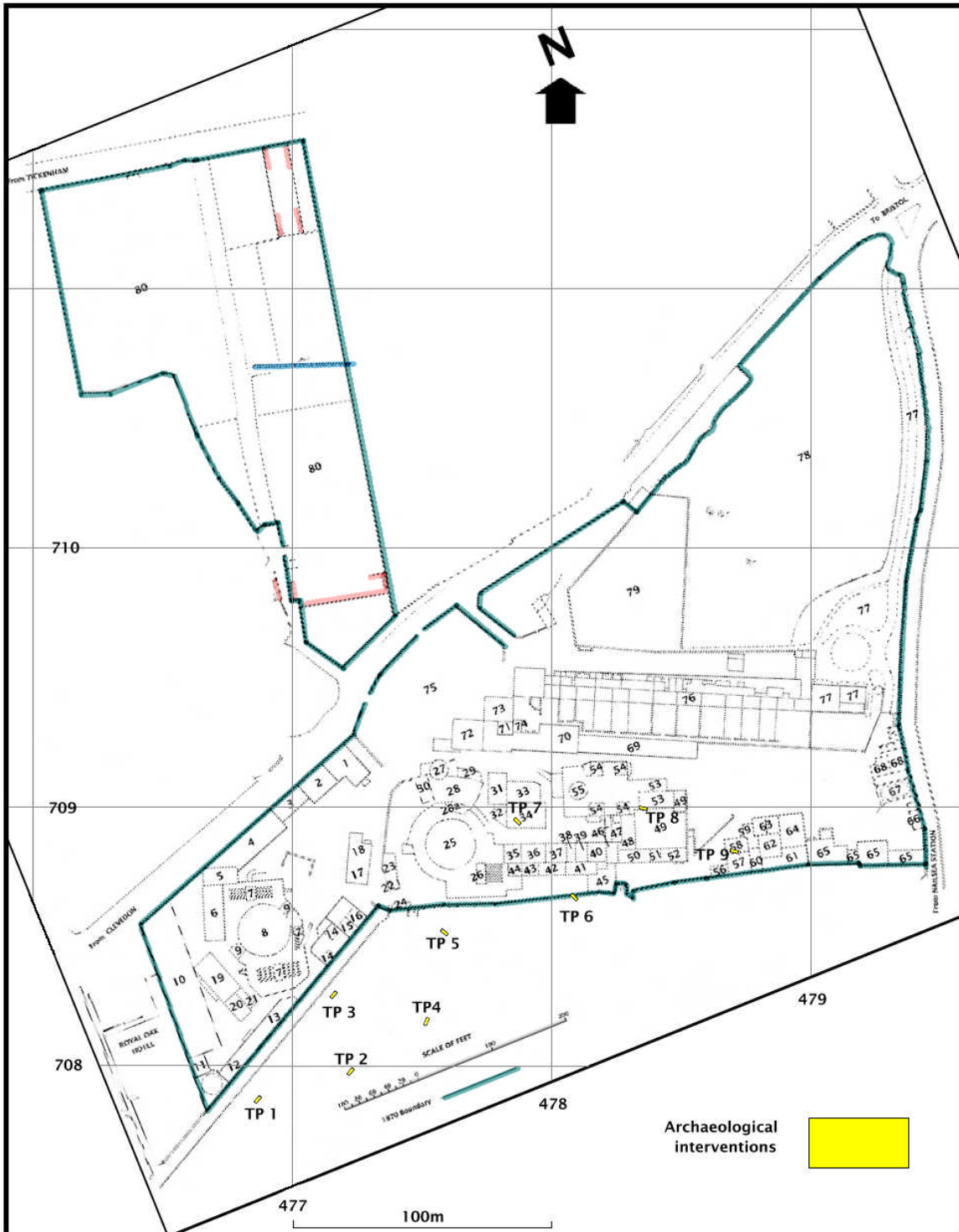


Figure 2.15: 1991 Test Pit locations superimposed on 1870 plan

Correlation of the text of the report (presented as Table 2.2 above) referring to the test pits is, unfortunately, difficult to relate to the accompanying drawings. These depict sections of test pits 6, 7 and 8, and although only 6 is described as having a structure within it, the other two both show coursed remains in the sections revealed. It is not clear whether these are sections or faces of walls. There is also no mention of the “red sandstone” that appears from the drawings to have been excavated for foundation trenches and which appears to overlie (unconformably?) the “weathered sandstone”. Equally the drawings do not show “silty clay”, and there are some

discrepancies between the overall depths as quoted in the table and those shown on the drawings. No absolute levels appear to have been recorded, but the comment is made that in the area of the proposed car park (that is the eastern portion of the site) “most of the archaeology seems to occur at 0.5m below existing ground level. No dating evidence was offered from the clay pipe stem found in test pit 4.

No real conclusions can be reached because of the lack of dating evidence, other than that the 1870 plan might be confirmed as having structures where revealed by these test pits, or of course that these are the remains of structures from some other phase of the glassworks' development. It would appear from test pits 1 and 3 -5 that demolition material spread well beyond the confines of the original site.

4. 1992

The report on this evaluation for Avon County Planning Department was originally given an Avon SMR number of 2397. This has been adopted as the overall NS SMR number for the glassworks site, so in January 2003 the North Somerset County Archaeologist subsequently allocated the NS SMR event number of 44980 to the report. All quotes in this section are taken from that report.¹¹

The purpose of the evaluation “was to determine the extent and state of preservation of archaeological deposits and structures of the former Nailsea glassworks...”

The work on site took place between 22nd January and 4th February 1992, under the supervision of James Mumford, of Avon County Planning Department. It was in response to the same development proposal as that of 1991, and was funded by Hobbs Holdings, Ltd.

The work took place in two zones, each with its own grid survey. That to the east was described under “Methodology” (p.4) as “Grid No 1: This was used for area D and was set into the west facing wall of building 69... at ref. Point 168/505, 6.0m from the south west corner of the building.” That to the west, “Grid No 2: is taken from the eastern corner of the southern side of the old rear entrance to the works, and from the southeast corner of building 15”. Grid 2 covered areas A, B and C. None of these points are now clearly identifiable.

There are three drawings included in the report, which are described in the text but not numbered on the drawings themselves.

Figure 1 is [a version] derived from the 1870 plan, merely a schematic key plan to identify the buildings of that date. Figure 2 (reproduced as Figure 2.18 below) is “the 1:100 scale plan of area D (reduced to A3)”, so that the scale is in fact 1:200. Figure 3 (reproduced as Figure 2.16 below) “is a plan at 1:100 scale of areas [Trenches] A, B and C, showing their relation to each other.” (p.5) It appears that the grid for area D is based on a 10m unit, while that for A, B and C is based on a 5m unit.

Analysis is further complicated by the fact that the north point marked on the key plan appears to be 54° west of grid north, while that on Figure 2 is 37° west of grid north, and that on Figure 3 is 50° west of grid north. Both buildings {15} and {69} are still shown on the 1988 OS 1:1250 map (4770 NE) and this has been used as a basis for a plot of the results from this evaluation. From close examination it is believed that Grid 1 was in fact measured from the south-east corner of building {69}. Grid 2 can be approximately positioned as above, using the

¹¹ Mumford, J, *Archaeological Evaluation in advance of supermarket development for John Lewis Partnership*, Avon County Planning Department, Bristol, February, 1992. NS SMR 44980.