



University of Leicester

Archaeological Services

**An Historic Building Survey at
The Whittle Estate, Cambridge Road,
Whetstone, Leicestershire
NGR: SP 5565 9685 centre**

Andrew Hyam



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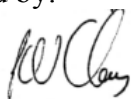
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An Historic Building Survey at the Whittle Estate, Cambridge Road, Whetstone, Leicestershire.

NGR: SP 5565 9685 centre

Andrew Hyam

Summary

An historic building survey was undertaken by the University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) at the Whittle Estate, Cambridge Road, Whetstone, Leicestershire between the 28th of November and the 3rd of December 2012. The survey studied a number of buildings located in the north-eastern corner of the site. These were: a range of former farm buildings known as Park Farm, the former estate canteen known as Block 5 and also a workshop and small outbuilding known as Block 6 and 6a.

Park Farm has its origins as an early 19th century set of farm buildings with modifications continuing to the mid-20th century and was subject to a photographic survey. The original farmhouse appears to have been demolished in the early 1960s. Blocks 5, 6 and 6a date to the mid-1940s and form part of the original complex of buildings erected as part of Sir Frank Whittle's manufacturing site used for the development and production of jet engines. Because of their historical connections these blocks underwent an English Heritage Level 2 survey.

Planning permission has been granted to demolish the redundant Blocks 5, 6 and 6a.

The report and archive will be deposited with Leicestershire County Council under Accession Number X.A123.2012

1. Introduction

In accordance with National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) Section 12 *Conserving and Enhancing the Historic Environment* this document forms the report for an historic building photographic survey on the farm buildings identified as Park Farm and a Level 2 survey on Blocks 5, 6 and 6a. Both a photographic survey and a Level 2 survey are defined in the English Heritage guidance document – *Understanding Historic Buildings: A guide to good recording practice* (2006). Under planning application number 12/0176/1/OX it is intended that Blocks 5, 6 and 6a will be demolished and the site be redeveloped. The assessment has been prepared by A R Hyam of University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) Historic Buildings Team, on behalf of the client, EDP/Revelan Limited.

The site is located to the south of Whetstone, which in turn lies approximately 5km to the south-west of Leicester (Fig. 1). The Whittle Estate is contained by Cambridge Road which runs along its eastern boundary and Warwick Road which runs along the northern boundary. The M69 motorway cuts across the south-west corner of the estate

and the now disused former Great Central railway forms the western boundary. The buildings being surveyed are located in the north-east corner of the site and are contained within the corner formed by Cambridge Road, Warwick Road and the estate road called North Road (Figs. 2 and 3).

The oldest range of buildings belongs to Park Farm which occupies the extreme north-east corner of the site. Block 5 is located near to the present entrance to the Whittle Estate at the eastern end of North Road and Block 6 lies along the northern edge of North Road. Block 6a is near to the north-east corner of Block 6 (Fig. 3).



Figure 1. Site location

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Figure 2 Northern area of site
Source: Waterman CPM Assessment Plan 3

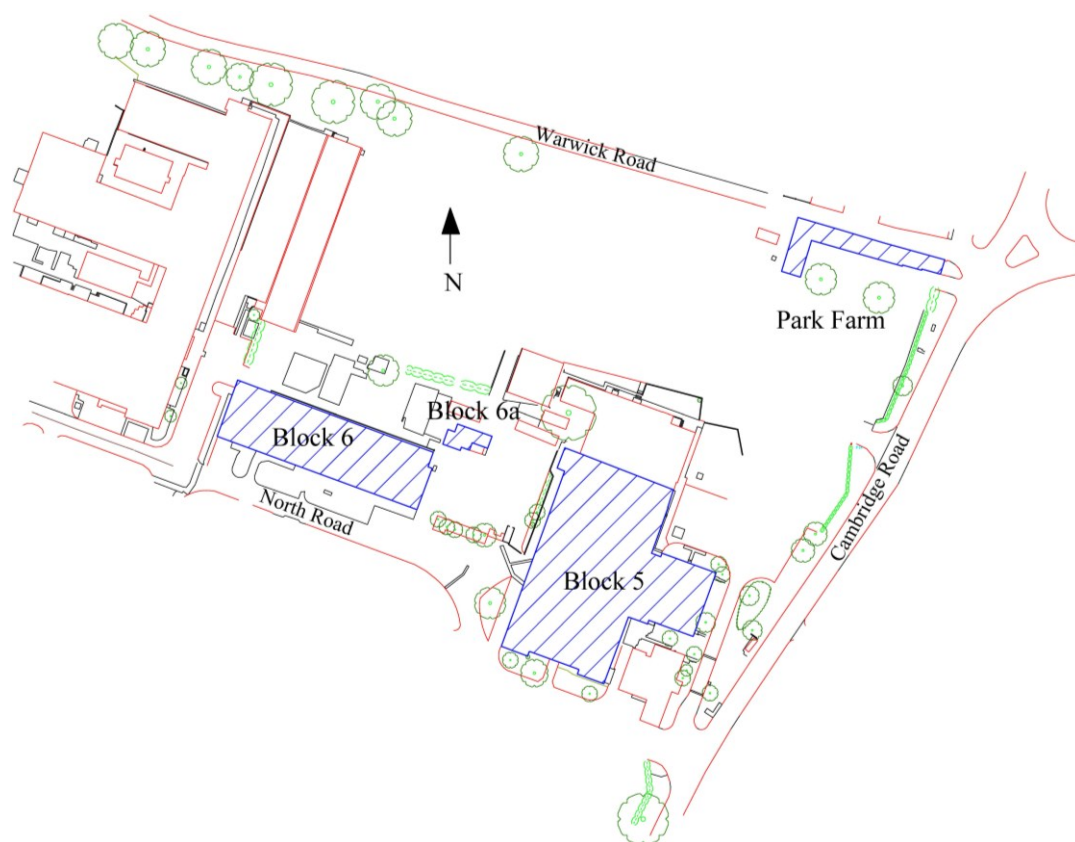


Figure 3 Building identification
Modified from survey supplied by client

2. Background

The earliest available map evidence is from the 1835 Ordnance Survey One Inch map which shows a small group of unidentifiable buildings set into the corner of what are now Cambridge and Warwick Roads. These may contain the earliest components of Park Farm. The rest of the site, to the south of Park Farm, is empty except for a small brickworks which would be near to the centre of the Whittle Estate. The First Edition Ordnance Survey County Series published in 1886 shows Park Farm as a central building, which is presumably the farmhouse, with a courtyard to the west surrounded by farm buildings (Fig. 4). The first reference to the farm having a name is on the 1914 edition when Park Farm appears but the building layout remains as shown on the 1886 edition with the additional information of each individual building being shown rather than as a single entity (Fig. 5). Cambridge Road is also shown as Cosby Road. With a few additional buildings appearing the overall layout continues until the 1958 edition which is followed by the 1967 edition where the central farmhouse has been removed. The remaining buildings are then gradually reduced in number until the present time.

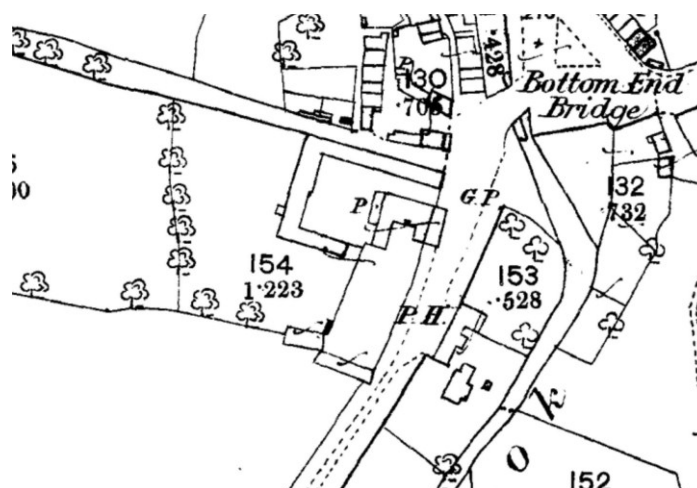


Figure 4 1886 Ordnance Survey map of Park Farm



Figure 5 1914 Ordnance Survey map detail of Park Farm

The Whittle Estate buildings do not appear on any of the Ordnance Survey maps until as late as the 1967 edition when it suddenly appears complete with later additions to many of the original buildings (Fig. 6). It is possible that in the same way that airfields and other defence complexes are not shown on 1940s and '50s this estate was not shown in any detail until the 1967 edition. The initial Archaeological Assessment of the site carried out by Waterman CPM has located an RAF aerial photograph from the 2nd of March 1944 (RAF/HLA/685) which does however show that most of the estate, and in particular Blocks 5 and 6, were in existence by that date.



Figure 6 1967 Ordnance Survey map
Map supplied by Waterman CPM

Frank Whittle (later to be Sir Frank Whittle in 1948) founded his jet research and development company in Rugby under the name of Power Jets Limited. The first jet prototype ran in 1937 and on the back of the successful developments a new site was opened at Lutterworth in 1938. The onset of the Second World War and its requirements for new and improved aircraft technologies prompted the Government in October 1941 to order the construction of a new design and development facility at Whetstone. This was opened in 1943 shortly before Power Jets was nationalised. The site subsequently became part of the National Gas Turbine Establishment in 1946 but was still known as Power Jets before being acquired by English Electric in 1954. English Electric later became General Electric then ALSTOM. The Whittle Estate, now owned by Babcock International Group, now consists of a number of smaller industrial units many of which continue to use the original buildings erected in 1943. Much of the background information concerning the development of the whole site is recorded in a publication produced by Babcock and written by Mr D Lyne who was a former Babcock employee.

Park Farm appears to have been incorporated into the estate but it is not clear what connection or function these buildings had with the purpose-built buildings. Block 5 was built as the works canteen and was located close to original estate gatehouse. It continued to be used for this purpose throughout its working life until it fell into disuse relatively recently. Block 6 is a long single-storey former workshop with internal subdivisions, part of which was until recently used as a garage workshop. Block 6a appears to have been a small workshop.

3. Objectives

The objectives of the historic building survey were:

- To provide a written, drawn and photographic record of all the buildings on site prior to the commencement of works with specific attention given to those elements proposed for demolition, conversion and/or alteration. This work to be undertaken to a standard that will allow the future interpretation of the building within the context for which it was originally designed and which subsequently evolved.
- To ensure the long-term preservation of the information through deposition of the record and a summary written report with an appropriate depository.

4. Methodology

4.1. Park Farm – photographic survey.

1. Photographic Record:

Black and white 35mm photographs and digital colour photographs were taken throughout the survey. Notes and sketches were also made to assist the photographic survey. The specific levels of detail used in the survey followed the guidelines laid down in the RCHME (1996) and English Heritage (2006) specification for photography, which were:

Item 1: General view or views of the exterior of the building.

Item 2: The overall appearance of principal rooms and circulation areas.

Item 3: Coverage of the building's exterior appearance.

Item 4: Any external detail, structural or decorative, which is relevant to the building's design, development and use and which does not show adequately on general photographs.

Item 5: The building's relationship to its setting, to other buildings, or to a significant viewpoint.

Item 6: Internal detail, structural and decorative, which is relevant to the building's design, development and use, and which does not show adequately on general photographs.

4.2. Blocks 5, 6 and 6a – Level 2 survey.

Black and white 35mm photographs and digital colour photographs were taken throughout the survey. Notes and sketches were also made and scale site plans supplied by the client were used and modified to suit the purposes of this survey. The specific levels of detail used in the Level 2 survey followed the guidelines laid down in the RCHME (1996) and English Heritage (2006) specification, which were:

1. The Written Account:

- The precise location of the building, by name or street number, civil parish, town, etc, and National Grid reference and details of listing or scheduling.
- The date when the record was made, and the name(s) of the recorder(s).
- A statement describing the building's plan, form, function, age and development sequence. The names of architects, builders, patrons and owners should be given if known.
- An account of the building's overall form (structure, materials, layout) and its successive phases of development, together with the evidence supporting this analysis.
- An account of past and present uses of the building and its parts, with the evidence for these interpretations. An analysis of any circulation pattern or decorative, iconographic or liturgical scheme.

2. Drawn Record:

- Shall comprise plans (to scale or full dimensioned) of all main floors as existing. Small buildings of well-known types, or buildings with a repetitive structure (e.g. many industrial buildings) may be planned on one floor only, but a note or a sketch plan should be made to show the arrangement of other floors. Plans should show the form and location of any structural features of historic significance (e.g. blocked doors and windows; former fireplace openings; masonry joints; changes in internal levels).
- As a minimum, in all cases, the drawn record will include a sketch plan roughly dimensioned (when no more thorough drawn record is required). Such a plan may not always include structural details (e.g. timber framing).
- In each of the above cases, use may be made of available plans (i.e. those prepared as part of a planning application). In all cases these shall be checked by the historic building specialist and supplemented or amended where necessary.

3. Photographic Record:

- General view of views of the exterior of the building.
- The overall appearance of principal rooms and circulation areas.
- Detailed coverage of the building's external appearance. In the case of a building designed by an architect, or intended to be seen from a certain point of view, it is important to have regard to the builder's intentions and to record the effect of the design or of the building's placing.

All work followed the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) *Code of Conduct* (2010) and adhered to their *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Investigation and Recording of Standing buildings or Structures* (2010). In addition, Leicestershire County Council's *Guidelines and Procedures for Archaeological Work in Leicestershire* (1997) was followed.

5. Results

Park Farm Photographic Survey

Key digital photographs are shown in the body of this report with a location plan and contact sheet of all photographs taken included in the appendices of this report.

The remaining components of Park Farm form an L-shaped range running along the south side of Warwick Road up to the junction with Cambridge Road (Figs 7 and 8). The east to west portion of the building consists of a single storey range whilst the north to south range extending down the west side of the complex is of two-storey height. It is built of red brick with a modern corrugated asbestos roof. No trace of the former farmhouse or any other buildings remain. A large number of bushes and trees have grown up around the south and west facing elevations preventing unrestricted photographs being taken.

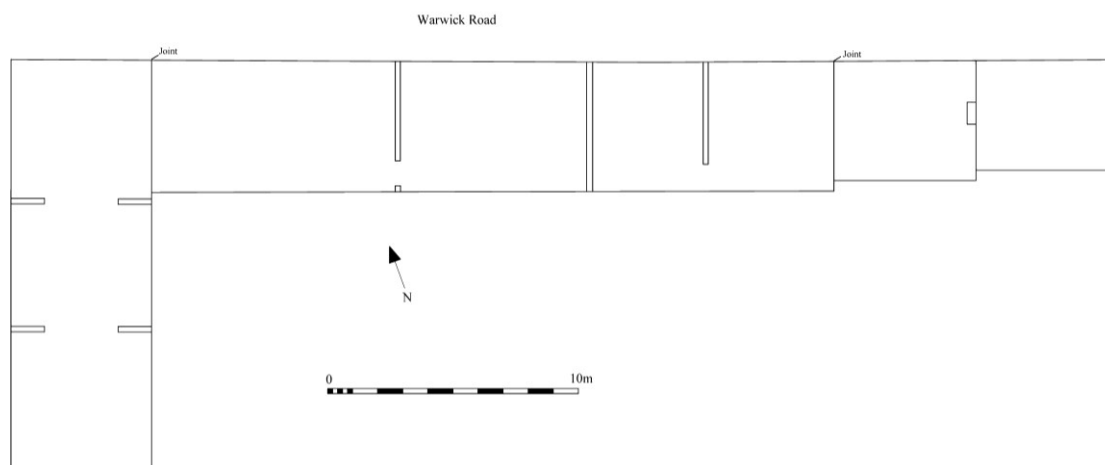


Figure 7 Schematic plan of Park Farm



Figure 8 General view of Park Farm (Looking north)

East to west range

The south facing elevation is constructed of red brick, as mentioned, with ground floor door and windows having rounded brick Romanesque inspired arches. The upper windows to the western building are square headed with wooden frames (Figs. 9, 10 and 11). The range consists of three main bays which reduce in height as it progresses towards the east. There is a straight joint in the brickwork between the two end bays indicating a later building date for the eastern end of the range which also has slightly thicker bricks (see Fig. 7).



Figure 9 South facing elevation of east to west range (Looking north-west. 1m scale)



Figure 10 General view of south facing elevation (Looking north-west)



Figure 11 South facing elevation, east end of range (Looking north. 1m scale)

The east facing gable end which faces out onto the corner of Cambridge Road and Warwick Road is a plain elevation with no evidence of blocked openings (Fig. 12). The north facing elevation is similarly plain with only the straight line joint mentioned above being visible.



Figure 12 East and north facing elevations (Looking south-west)

Internally the western bay of the range is divided by a brick wall into two rooms and has a floor inserted to give a low half-height space into the roof structure (Figs. 13, 14 and 15). The floor is unsafe but, without close inspection, the substantial roof timbers appear to be of mid-19th century origin and style. The west end wall makes use of the north to south range wall indicating that this is a later building.



Figure 13 Western roof of east to west range
Looking west. Note blocked air bricks in west wall



Figure 14 First floor of west room, east to west range
Looking west



Figure 15 Eastern half of west bay, east to west range
Looking south-west. 1m scale

The middle bay of the range is also divided into two and is open to the roof (Fig. 16). Because the span and length of this bay is shorter than the one to the west the roof structure only consists of rafters and purlins. As with the other rooms there are no fittings remaining which relate to its earlier uses.



Figure 16 Central room, east to west range
Looking south-east. 1m scale

The eastern end bay has a small fireplace and chimney in the centre wall which divides it into two (Fig. 17). The roof is covered by lath and plaster, which coupled with the fireplace, suggests that this space was occupied.



Figure 17 Eastern bay fireplace
Looking north-east

North to south range

This range is set at right angles to the east to west range and has slightly smaller bricks than that range. It has flat gable ends to the north and south and large double doors which may be threshing doors to the east and west. With the exception of a round-headed doorway in the south-east corner all of the other door and window openings are flat-headed and do not match the style of the other range (Fig.18). A hayloft door opens onto Warwick Road but there are no other openings on this elevation. There is evidence of a single storey building being attached to the south facing gable which has since been demolished (Fig. 19).



Figure 18 South and west elevations, north to south range
Looking north-west



Figure 19 East facing elevation, north to south range
Looking north-west

Internally the building is divided into three full-height spaces which are separated by brick partitions which also support the simple purlin and rafter roof structure (Fig. 20). The east wall in the north corner has been crudely pierced to provide access to the upper floor of the east to west range. A series of ventilations holes made using red bricks has been blocked by the erection of the east to west range (Fig. 21).



Figure 20. Inside north to south range
Looking north-west. 1m scale



Figure 21 North-east corner of north to south range
Looking north-east. 1m scale

Block 5 Level 2 Survey

Block 5 was the original works canteen and takes the form of a large open hall with side aisles and a small first-floor area at its southern end. It lies on a roughly north to south axis with its south facing elevation facing the entrance road leading into the estate. The building is predominantly red brick laid in a Flemish bond with two courses of blue bricks as damp-proof course. The bricks are of relatively poor quality which may reflect the wartime austerity conditions within which the estate was constructed. Large metal-framed rectangular windows run at ground-floor level and at clerestory height where the asbestos sheet covered roof steps up towards the ridge. Later wood-framed additions associated with sport and social rooms have been added to the north and eastern sides (Fig. 22). At the time of the survey asbestos hazards prevented close inspection of the internal portions of the building and entry into the wood-framed sections was advised against for the same reasons. Because the building has been out of use for a number of years a heavy growth of shrubs and buddleia plants is obscuring most of the outside elevations (Fig. 23).

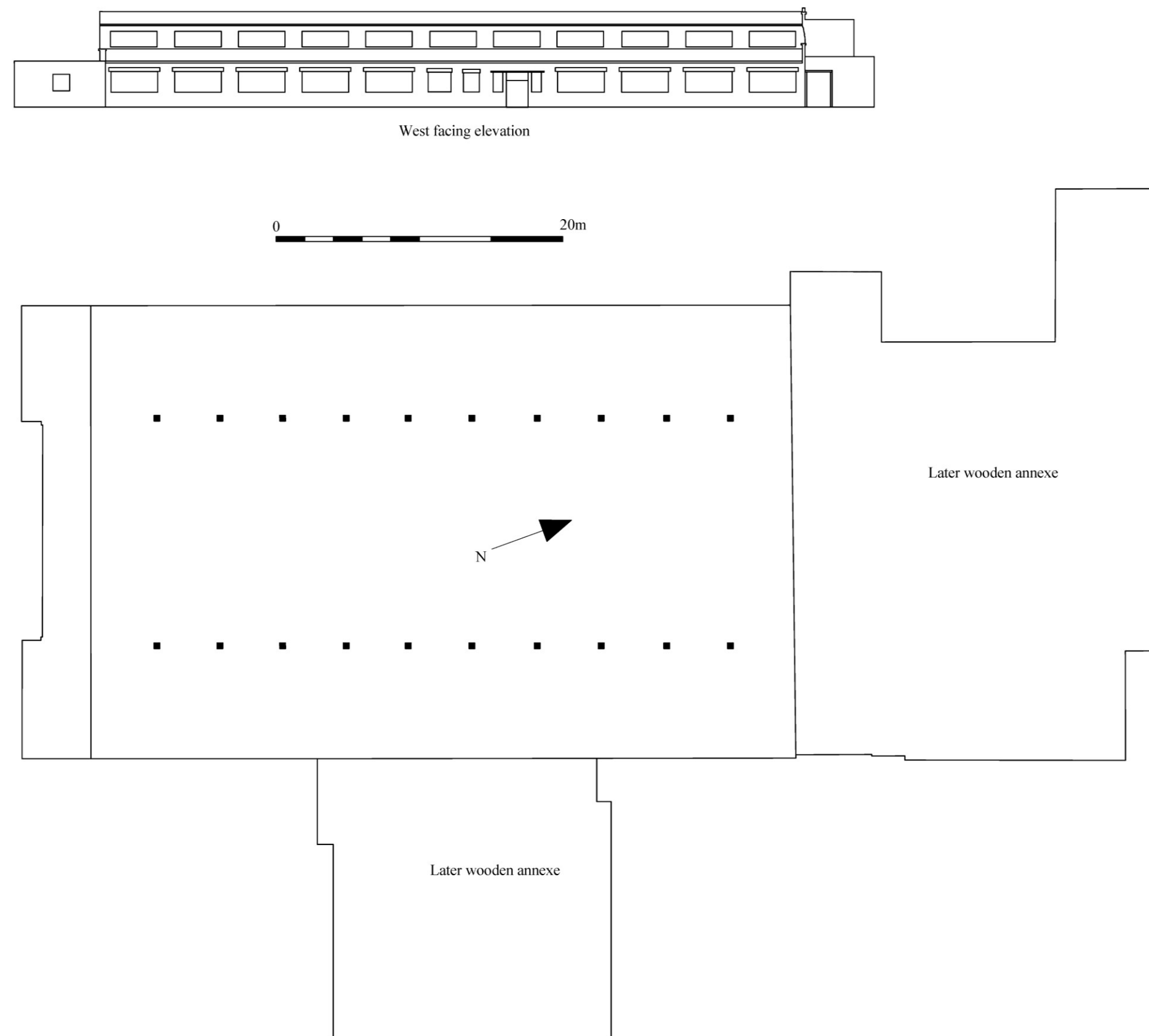


Figure 22 Block 5



Figure 23 Block 5 west facing elevation
Looking south-east

West facing elevation

Although obscured by vegetation this elevation is the least modified face of the original block. At the far northern end of the elevation are a variety of single-storey flat-roofed buildings including the wood-framed structure which leads away to the north and west towards a purpose built squash hall. Linking the wooden structure to the main hall is a brick-built structure which incorporates a small foyer with double doors facing southwards which lead into the hall (Figs 23 and 24). The bricks used for this extension are of a later date than the main hall but this extension does appear on the 1967 OS map which would suggest a late 1950s or early 1960s construction date. At ground floor level there is a repetitive pattern of identical windows broken only by a double door to the right of centre with two small flanking windows (Fig. 25). In order to maintain the regular spacing of the windows and to match the internal supporting aisle pillars the two windows to the north of this doorway are of a slightly smaller size. The clerestory windows maintain a regular pattern of eleven identical windows. At the south end of the elevation the hall has been extended southwards to incorporate a narrow two-storey extension built across the original south end of the building (Fig. 26). This extension has been built against the existing parapet of the south elevation and has a single opening on the west elevation consisting of a double doorway. The bricks are clearly later than the main hall but are of a different variety to those used on the extension on the northern side suggesting a different date to both additions, however the 1967 OS map shows this extension in place by that date. The fact that the southern extension has cast-iron rainwater goods would probably place it more towards the 1950s than the 1960s.



Figure 24 North end porch extension
Looking north. 1m scale



Figure 25 South end of west facing elevation
Looking south-east



Figure 26 West facing elevation
Looking east. 1m scale

South Facing Elevation

The original south facing elevation has been completely obscured by the later extension noted above (Fig. 27). The extension houses a small foyer with toilets and cloakrooms which only have small windows which results in the brick and render facade having a quite plain aspect which is rather out of keeping with the rest of the building. It has two single-storey flat-roofed flanking blocks either side of a slightly recessed two-storey central block.



Figure 27 South facing elevation
Looking north-east

East and North facing elevations

The south extension built against the south elevation has two sets of double doors on this side, both of which have been boarded over. The two southernmost windows at ground floor level have been blocked by later brickwork as far as the wooden extension built onto the east side of the hall and which obscures approximately one third of this elevation (Figs. 28 and 29). As with the previous extensions already noted the available map evidence shows that this extension was in place by the time the 1967 OS map was published. The extension is in a fairly poor state of repair and at the time of the survey was being stripped of its internal fittings and its contaminating asbestos. To the north of the extension the east elevation matches that on the west facing elevation and was again heavily obscured by undergrowth (Fig. 30). The narrow brick extension built across the northern end of the hall joins the hall to the wooden extension further north (Fig. 31). The 1967 OS map shows a gap between these structures indicating that an extra structure has been added at a later date to join them together.

The northern elevation of the original hall is completely obscured by the later extensions which, by the time of the survey, have all been joined up to produce a warren of rooms and corridors. The gable end parapet and copings are now the only visible pieces of the north facing elevation of the hall. A brick-built water tower sits on top of the brick extension in the north-west corner.



Figure 28 East facing elevation, south end
Looking north-west



Figure 29 East facing elevation and later wooden extension
Looking west



Figure 30 East facing elevation
Picture taken from CPM report due to high levels of vegetation during this survey
Looking south-west



Figure 31 East facing elevation of northern wooden extension
Looking west. 1m scale

Inside Block 5

As already noted there was a high risk of asbestos contamination at the time of the survey so only a basic photographic survey was made along with a small number of measurements taken to produce a basic outline plan (Fig. 22).

Internally the building forms a large open hall with side aisles created by slender concrete and steel pillars supporting the clerestory roof which also help to regulate the repetitive pattern of the external windows (Fig. 32). D Lyne's report notes that over 300 workers could be accommodated at any one time with a shift pattern in operation to control numbers. The roof structure is constructed from steel I-beams acting as rafters running from each pillar to the ridge (Fig.33). There are no trusses used in this structure as the clerestory aisles help support the building and prevent the roof from spreading. From the rafters a false ceiling has been suspended creating the appearance of a low and quite dark room which would be quite different from the open aspect when first built. A small low stage has been built at the north end of the hall along with doors leading northwards to the wooden extension and the brick-built porch and double doors. The whole hall floor has been raised by a few centimetres on wooden decking. The southern end of the hall has been separated off with a plasterboard partition to create a smaller area with a number of smaller side rooms (Fig. 34). Built into the side aisle in the south-west corner is a room with wooden panels, better quality carpets and curtains which is clearly intended for the higher echelons of the workforce and designed to keep them separate from the rest of the workers (Fig.35). The later extension built against the south facing elevation consists of tiled cloakrooms and small rooms with steps leading up to a small first-floor (36). This floor did not appear to be safe so was not entered.



Figure 32 Main hall viewed from eastern aisle
Looking north-west



Figure 33 Hall roof detail
Looking north



Figure 34 North end of hall
Looking south-west



Figure 35 Director's dining room
Looking north-west



Figure 36 Toilets and cloakrooms
Looking south-east

Block 6 Level 2 Survey

Block 6 is a single storey building following an approximate east to west alignment along the northern edge of North Road and is located to the west of Block 5 (Fig. 37). It is a steel-framed structure with a single skinned wall of non-structural red-brick wall and has a corrugated asbestos sheet roof. Where visible the bricks have LBC PHORPRESS stamped into their frogs. A number of capped rectangular roof vents are spaced at regular intervals along the south side of the roof and these match the roof vents on the buildings located on the south side of North Road. Until recently the eastern end of the building was used as a garage with the northern end being used by Brown Brothers Paper Ltd. D Lyne's report shows that when first built the block was intended to be used as a rolling mill, pattern and model shop, millrights shop and garage.

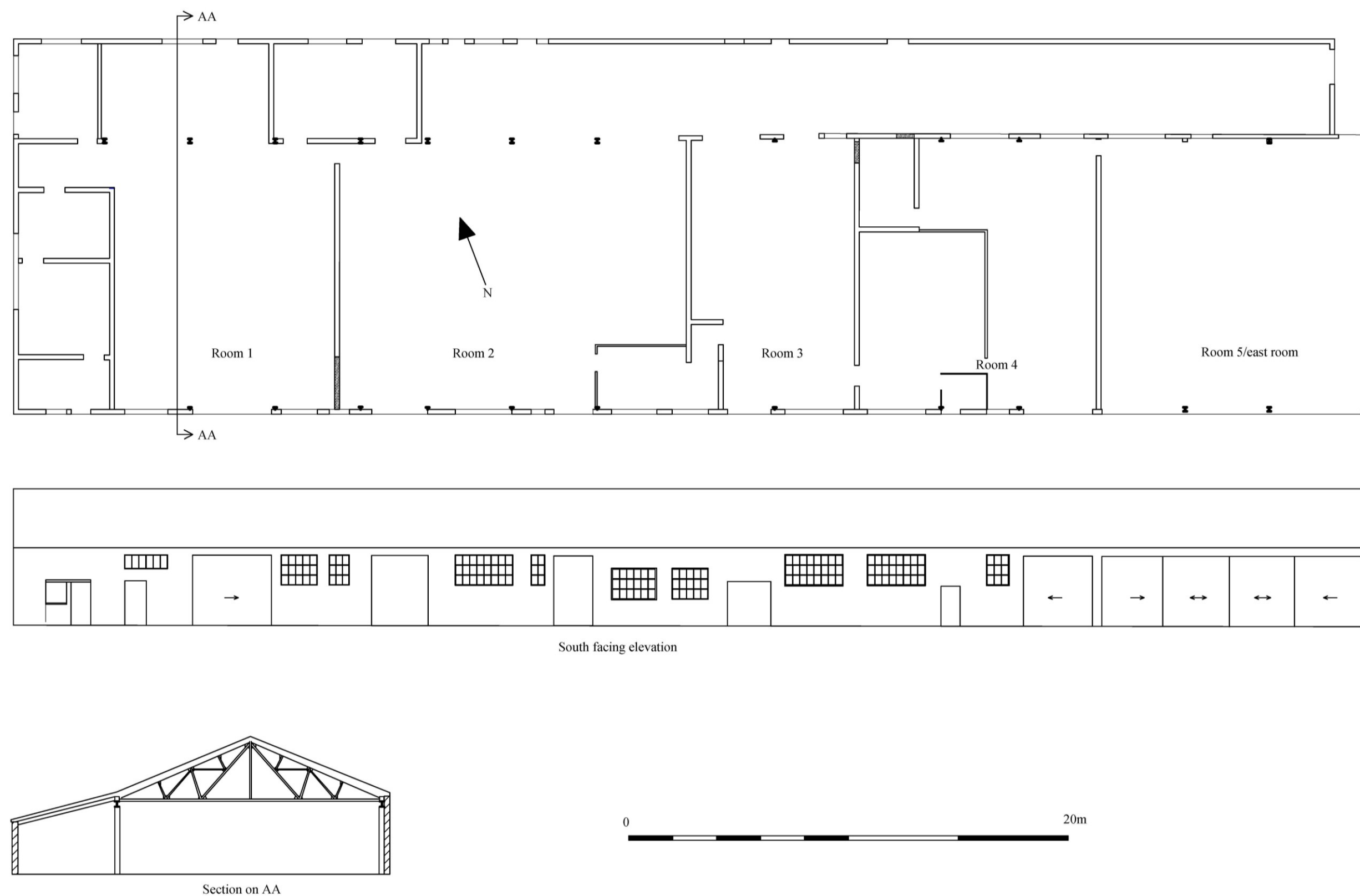


Figure 37 Block 6

South facing elevation

This is the main frontage of the building as it faces into the estate to the south. At the extreme western end of the elevation a single door and window appear to have replaced the original doors but this seems to be the only significant alteration of the whole elevation (Fig. 38). Along the elevation are a number of metal-framed windows of varying sizes but all following the same matching style with rounded brick sills and concrete lintels each presumably designed and located to suit the activities within the building (Fig. 39). Similarly there are a number of sliding and conventionally opening doors set at intervals along the elevation ending in a large set of sliding doors, used for the garage, at the east end (Fig. 40). These doors are the only external evidence of the original use as a garage.



Figure 38 West and south facing elevations
Looking north-east. 1m scale



Figure 39 Window detail, south facing elevation
Looking north. 1m scale



Figure 40 Sliding doors at east end of range
Looking north-east. 1m scale

East facing elevation

The east facing gable end of the building looks out on to an open yard, leading down towards Block 5. It has three large metal-framed windows at ground floor level which match the style of those on the east facing elevation (Fig. 41). The gable is clad in asbestos sheet. There is no evidence of any alterations or modifications to the main gable end. However, on the north facing elevation a low lean-to structure has been built against the eaves of the main building and a doorway from this leads out of its eastern elevation.



Figure 41 East facing elevation
Looking west. 1m scale

North facing elevation

All of the original north facing elevation has been obscured by the lean-to extension mentioned above. This appears to have been built in a piecemeal fashion from a variety of breeze-blocks and brick (Figs. 42 and 43). Few of the wooden and metal-framed windows match each other in style or size and none match those seen on the rest of Block 6. Some of the breeze-blocks are on a brick foundation whilst the central portion of the extension is entirely of brick. The 1967 OS map appears to show only some of this extension in place by that date so it would seem that this range has been added to and extended since then. The western corner of the extension contains a small office and is built entirely from bricks of a better quality than those used elsewhere on this face and suggest a later, probably 1970s, addition.



Figure 42 North facing elevation
Looking south-west



Figure 43 North facing elevation
Looking south-east

West facing elevation

The west facing elevation is similar to the east facing but has a single metal-framed centrally located window to light the toilet block within the building (Fig. 44). The later addition of the lean-to office on the north corner can be seen quite clearly on this side. A metal ladder leads up to a small opening in the gable end to access water tanks and other services.



Figure 44 West facing elevation
Looking east. 1m scale

Inside Block 6

The long building has been divided into five main rooms by brick dividing walls running at right angles across the building. For the purposes of this survey the rooms were numbered from 1 to 5 reading from west to east, it should be noted that these room designations do not relate to any former uses (see Fig. 37). In places the original north wall has been removed to open out into the later lean-to extension. In other areas, particularly towards the east end of the building this wall has been left in place. The whole structure is supported by upright steel I-beams many of which bear the name of SKINNINGROVE ENGLAND (Fig. 45). The roof is supported by L-section steelwork bolted together most of which bear the mark of LANCASHIRE STEEL CORPn Ltd ENGLAND and a small logo with British Steel 5x2 which should not be confused with the nationalised British Steel Corporation (Figs. 46 and 47). Both Skinningrove and the Lancashire Steel Corporation were nationalised in 1951. A few roof sections bear the alternative marks of SK GROVE indicating different deliveries of materials. There are no roof lights present and the corrugated asbestos sheet is backed by a smooth lining material which is probably asbestos based.

The open roof structure of the lean-to consists of steel I-beams running from the north wall up to eaves height of the original wall. Most of the beams are plain but some in the central part of the structure have the name of Dorman on them which indicates that this portion of the extension at least was built before the nationalisation of the steel industry in 1951.



Figure 45 Upright I-beam detail of main building



Figure 46 Roof detail of main building



Figure 47 Roof detail of manufacturer's name

Starting at the western end of the main building there are a set of tiled rooms used for toilets and cloakrooms built under a mezzanine floor housing the water tank and other services as already mentioned (Fig. 48). These appear to be part of the original layout although the tile wall covering makes it difficult to identify phasing should any exist. The small lean-to office is clearly later and uses an earlier window on its east wall to look into the main body of the lean-to.

Room 1 is a large open space with a blocked double doorway on the east wall which now cuts across a window on the south elevation (Fig. 49). Most of the wall on the north side has been knocked down leaving only a small portion in the north-east corner which retains an original doorway and small eaves height windows of the same pattern as seen on the south elevation. A large sliding wooden door opens out onto North Road. There are no fittings in this room relating to its former uses.



Figure 48 Toilet and cloakrooms (Looking south-east. 1m scale)



Figure 49 Room 1 (Looking south-east. 1m scale)

Room 2 is similar in layout to Room 1 but has a small metal and glass partitioned office in the south-east corner (Fig. 50). Running from east to west across the roof trusses is an I-beam which was used as a hoist as it is painted yellow and bears the safe working load limit of 500kg/10cwt. It is probable that this dates to the same time as the construction of Block 6 as it uses Skinningrove produced steelwork. If not original it must at least have been installed before 1951. A small doorway leading from the small office passes through a wooden panelled door into Room 3. The style of the door matches those seen in Room 4 discussed below.



Figure 50 Room 2 (Looking south-east)

Room 3 forms a fairly small room in comparison with the others and is full of racking used to hold engineering spares and stores (Fig. 51). A lightweight mezzanine floor has been built over these racks but all are of a fairly modern date and do not have any relationship with the rooms earlier uses. A portion of the north wall has been removed to gain access into the lean-to extension which from this point eastwards forms a long room reaching as far as the north-east corner of the Block (Fig. 52). A single doorway near to the south-east corner leads into the next room.



Figure 51 Room 3 (Looking north-east)



Figure 52 Northern lean-to (Looking east)

Room 4 has been divided into a large office and a storage area using full-height partition walls (Figs. 53 and 54). A small metal and glass porch creates a minimally-sized entrance lobby into the office from North Road and, from the style of the fittings, appears to be as originally built or from very soon after. A brick built room is located in the north-west corner of Room 4 and has a doorway from Room 3 and one to the outside but has no clear function. A series of hoists built into the roof trusses

have steelwork with the names of Skinningrove and Shelton on them which suggest that they are part of the original construction. Two wooden doors in the north-east corner of the room appear to be original and are of the same style as that seen between Rooms 2 and 3 (Fig. 55).



Figure 53 Room 4, office (Looking south-east)



Figure 54 Room 4, garage/store (Looking north)



Figure 55 Room 4 door detail (Looking north-east. 1m scale)

Room 5 is the easternmost room of the block and was most recently used as a small garage which appears to be a continuation of its originally intended use. It contains some racking but no other evidence of former uses (Fig. 56). Large sliding corrugated iron doors occupy most of the southern wall and are supported by a substantial steel beam acting as a lintel running across the top of them. There is evidence of a large steel hoist by these doors which has been cut off at eaves height but this is probably a later addition as the surviving steel upright which still remains has the name of BSC SSG Gt Britain indicating that it was obtained from the nationalised British Steel Corporation.



Figure 56 Room 5 (Looking south-east)

Block 6a Level 2 Survey

Block 6a is a single storey brick-built structure with a number of different roof angles and heights. It has corrugated sheet asbestos and flat concrete roofs in the north-west corner which holds a drum-shaped tank (Figs. 57, 58, 59 and 60). It lies near to the north-east corner of Block 6 and is identified on EDP/Revelan plans and by numbers attached to the building as Block 44 which suggest that it may be a later addition to the estate although it does appear on the 1967 OS map. Despite its odd shape there do not appear to be any joints in the brick work which would suggest that it is all of one building phase.

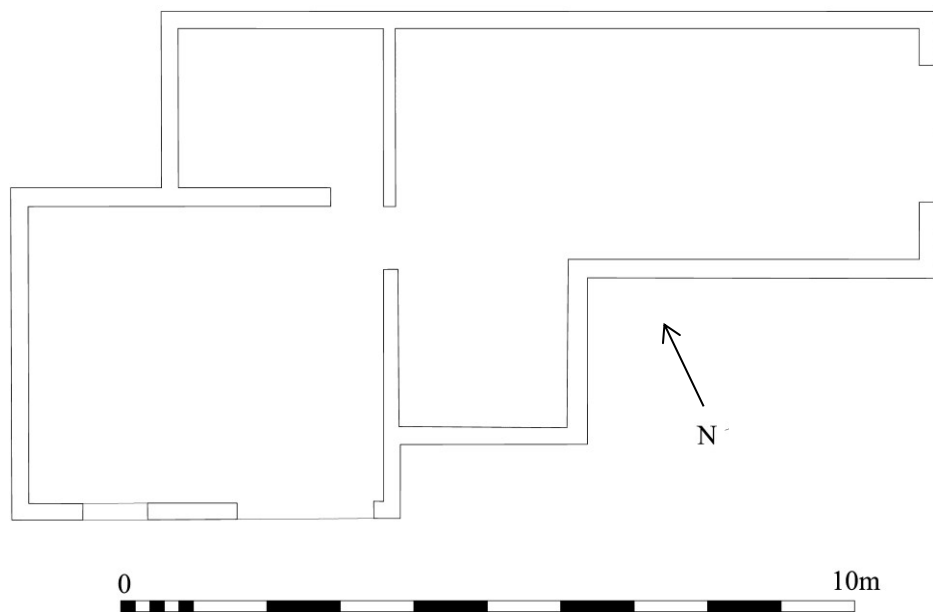


Figure 57 Plan of Block 6a



Figure 58 West facing elevation (Looking east, 1m scale)



Figure 59 East facing elevation (Looking west. 1m scale)



Figure 60 South facing elevation (Looking north. 1m scale)

Internally the building is divided into three rooms. The room to the south-west has large double doors leading into it from the south and a window has been blocked up on the west wall which could suggest that this space was once used as an office or small laboratory (Fig. 61). The room also has a lined ceiling and strip lights which further support the office idea, the remains of cabinets and benches are also present. On the north side of this room is a small store room without any windows and is

devoid of any surviving fittings. The room to the north-east is an L-shaped room and was last used as a small workshop as the workbenches are still present (Fig. 62). A hoist is attached to the ceiling running from east to west from the double doors on the east wall.



Figure 61 South-western room (Looking north-east)



Figure 62 North-eastern room (Looking north-east).

6. Discussion

The buildings at Park Farm represent only a fraction of the former courtyard complex which existed until the early 1960s when the farmhouse and other outbuildings were removed. Gradual removal of other buildings had further reduced the farm to its present state. It is not clear if this removal was due to dereliction or simply a need for alternative space nearby. The remaining buildings however are in a relatively good state and the modern roof covering is sound and is protecting the brickwork and internal roof structure. The buildings have clearly been added at separate times as and when required hence the sequential nature of their growth eastwards. The construction dates are not quite so clear but probably originate in the early 19th century and continue after that date. All of them appear to be present by the time of the first edition Ordnance Survey map in 1886. The oldest of the group is probably the north to south barn followed by the building on its eastern side which then has the smaller building added to its east side. There is no physical evidence of their links with the Whittle Estate other than their location within the estate boundary.

Block 5 was clearly the social heart of the estate and of the workforce. When first built it was purely as a canteen facility but it soon seems to have taken on a social and sporting role with the addition of the wooden extensions which are present by the time of the 1967 map. This holistic approach to the workforce is typical of the way in which employees of larger companies were treated in the 1950s, 1960s and early 1970s when most workers were local and facilities away from work were limited to the local pub and cinema. The presence of the director's dining room also reflects employer and employee relationships of the time.

The original Block 5 building was a relatively large and plain building. The presence of such large, and so many, windows on a wartime building located at the heart of a military production site is perhaps surprising. Blackout issues would have been something of a problem as would potential blast damage with so much glass being present. The earliest extension appears to be the south entrance which probably dates from the late 1940s or early 1950 and provided toilet and cloakroom facilities which otherwise do not seem to have been present. The wooden extensions on the east and north sides came next with the brick-built porch and north end being added at a similar time although it is not clear which came first.

Block 6 is a large multi-function workshop with a number of relatively isolated rooms. There is no obvious progression or flow of people or materials from one room to the next suggesting that separate operations occurred in each room. With the exception of the surviving garage doors at the south-eastern corner there is no evidence of any of the original processes for which the block was built. The main building has undergone virtually no changes since its construction in 1943, the only exception being the piecemeal addition of the lean-to structure added to its north facing elevation. This began life as a relatively small structure built towards the centre of the block and was gradually extended to the east and west until the early 1970s. The style of Block 6 closely matches that of other buildings on the estate which were built at the same time.

It is not clear what function Block 6a fulfilled but it could have been a small stand-alone test or laboratory building. The construction date is uncertain but it appears to be of a single phase and was certainly in place by 1967.

7. Archive

The archive consists of:

This report,

Contact sheets of 146 digital photographs,

127 35mm black and white photographs and negatives,

5 Photographic record sheets, combined black and white and digital,

2 A2 drawing sheets and 1 A3 290mm x 320mm drawing sheet,

CD of this report and the digital photographs.

8. Publication

A summary of the work will be submitted for publication in the *Transactions of the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society* in due course. A record of the project will also be submitted to the OASIS project. OASIS is an online index to archaeological grey literature reports.

9. Bibliography

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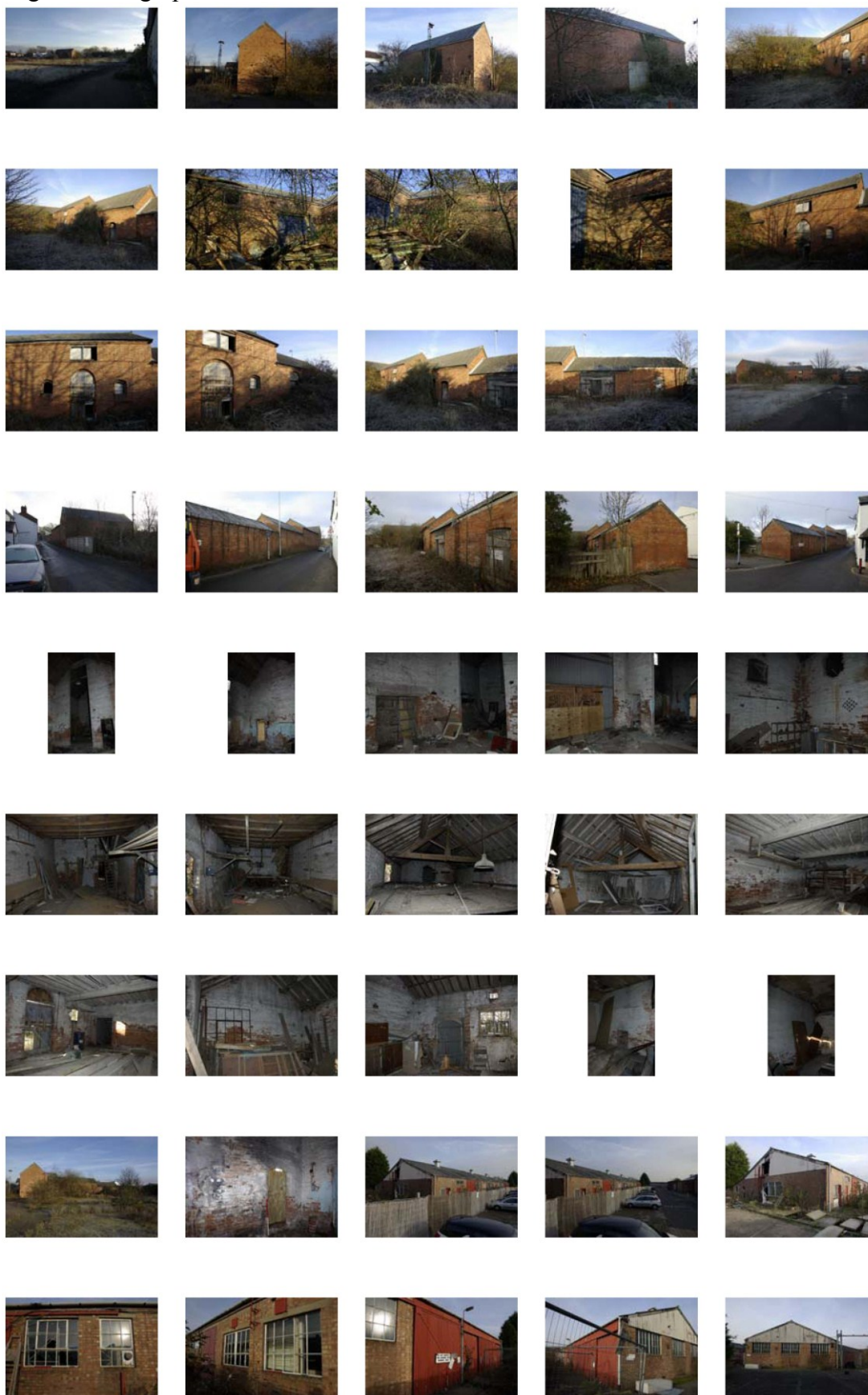
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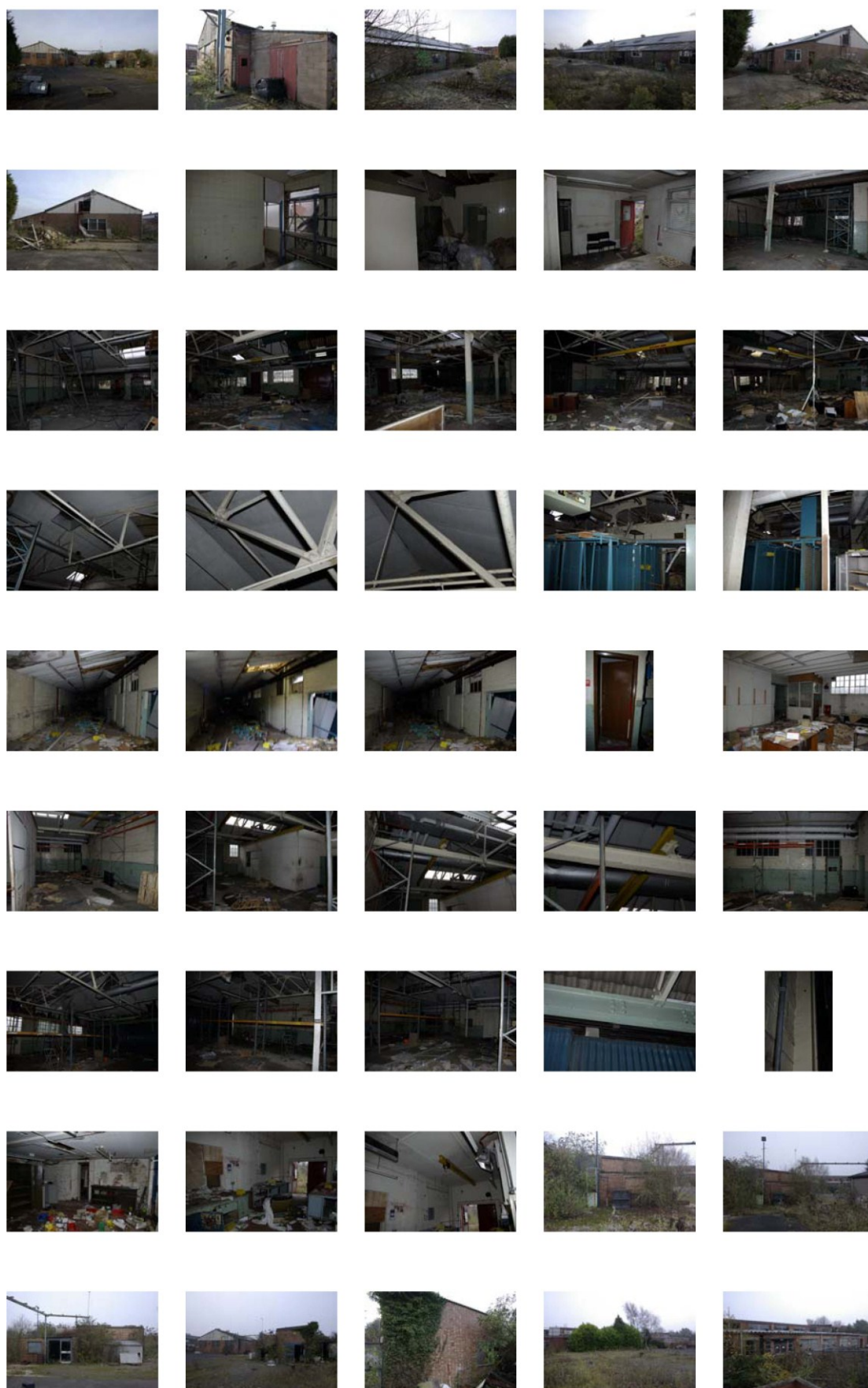
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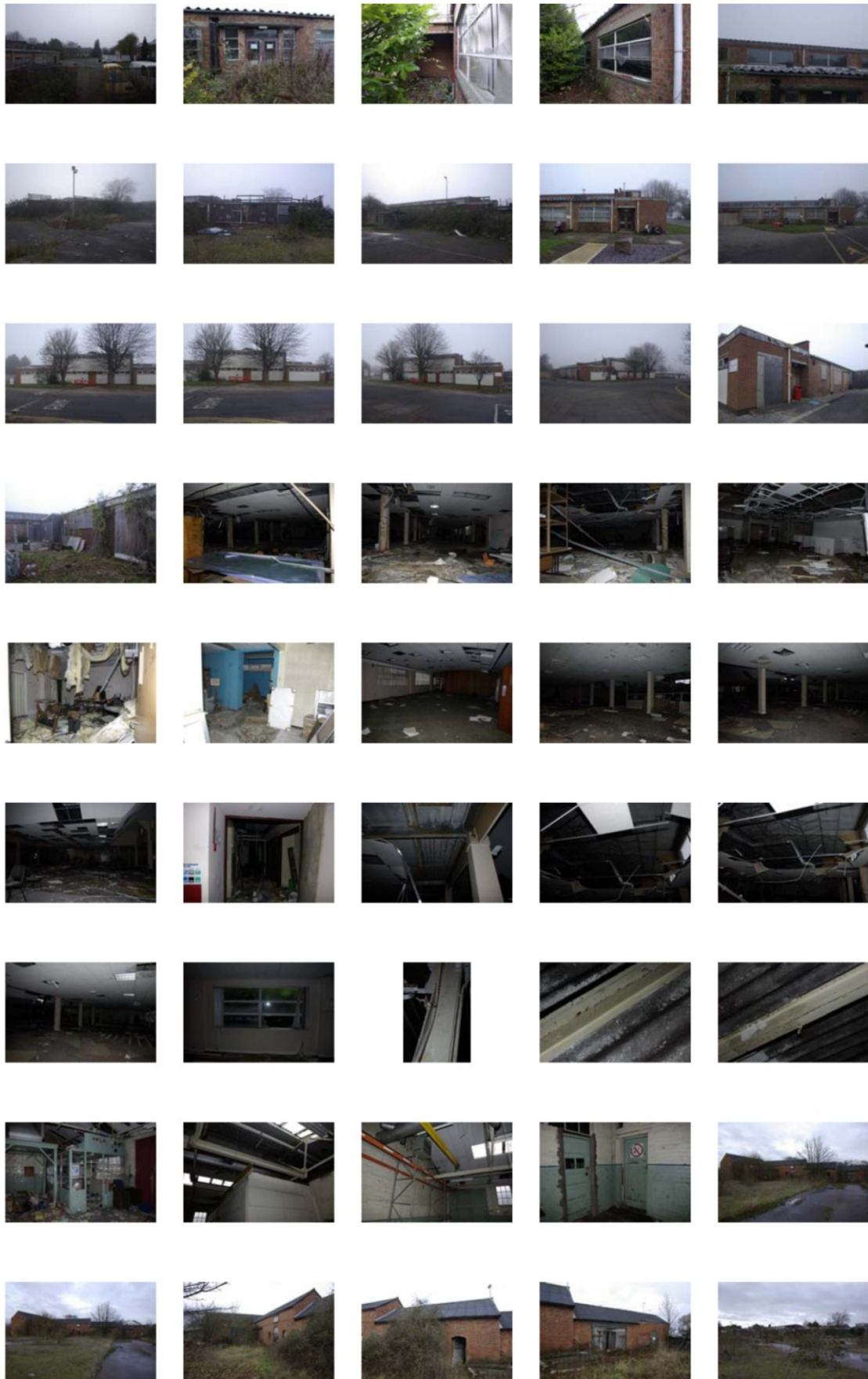
Website: <http://www.frankwhittle.co.uk/index.php>

Appendix 1

Digital Photographs









Appendix 2 OASIS Information

Project Name	Land at Cambridge Rd, Whetstone, Leicestershire
Project Type	Building Survey
Project Manager	P Clay
Project Supervisor	A Hyam
Previous/Future work	None
Current Land Use	Industrial estate
Development Type	Redevelopment of land
Reason for Investigation	As a condition
Position in the Planning Process	Ongoing
Site Co ordinates	SP 5565 9685
Start/end dates of field work	30.11.2012 – 4.12.2012
Archive Recipient	LCC
Study Area	17.5ha approx.

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