



# LAND ADJACENT TO 1 WOOD STREET Tipton Green Sandwell

*Archaeological Evaluation*



**September 2006**

Hereford Archaeology Series 731

EXCAVATION • RESEARCH • GEOPHYSICS • ARCHITECTURAL SURVEY

**This report is produced by**

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**Cover picture:** Site under excavation (5.9.06), looking west.

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**Land adjacent to 1 Wood Street  
TIPTON GREEN  
Sandwell**

**An Archaeological Evaluation**

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**Site Work**

S. Mayes

**Text & Illustrations**

S. Mayes and N. Oakey

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**September 2006**

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# Land adjacent to 1 Wood Street

TIPTON GREEN

**Sandwell**

SO 9547 9242

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## 1. Summary

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*Archaeological Investigations Ltd was commissioned by Mr J. Jones to undertake an archaeological evaluation of the proposed site of a house on land adjacent to 1 Wood Street, Tipton Green.*

*Two trenches were excavated on 5<sup>th</sup> September 2006 and revealed that all traces of previous activity on the Site had been removed by demolition, clearance and dumping episodes. Natural clay was revealed, which had been truncated along the street frontage. This is presumed to have been evidence for cellars or half cellars below houses shown on the western frontage of Wood Street in the 19<sup>th</sup>- and earlier 20<sup>th</sup>-century. All structural evidence of the cellars and associated buildings had been removed during slum clearance in the 1930s and subsequent groundworks.*

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## 2. Introduction

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Archaeological Investigations Ltd (AIL) was commissioned by Mr J. Jones to undertake an archaeological evaluation of the proposed site of a house on land adjacent to 1 Wood Street, Tipton Green (Fig. 1). The site lay at NGR SO 9547 9242 and at a height of c.140.00m AOD. It covered an area of c. 62.50m<sup>2</sup> and had been open ground partially surfaced with concrete. Underlying geology was Keele Formations of the Westphalian Group, comprising red mudstone with sandstone (British Geological Survey, 1:250,000 1990 *Mid Wales and Marches*).

The proposed development fell within the postulated medieval settlement area of Tipton Green as identified on the Sandwell MBC Sites and Monuments Record (SMR)(PRN: 6210). Consequently planning application DC/06/46441 was approved subject to conditions, including

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

A brief was issued by the Borough Archaeologist’s office requiring archaeological evaluation (Appendix One). Discussion between AIL and the staff at the Borough Archaeologist’s office concluded that excavation of a 3% sample of the footprint of the proposed development was unlikely to produce meaningful results and a variation was agreed whereby two trenches, each measuring 5m x 1m, were to be excavated within the footprint. A proposal designed to fulfil this requirement and those of the brief was accepted by the Borough Archaeologist and the client (Appendix 2). Archaeological fieldwork took place on 5<sup>th</sup> September 2006.

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## 3. Background

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The early history of Tipton Green is obscure and little archaeological work has taken place in the area. Birmingham Archaeology carried out an evaluation on the west side of Coppice Street (c. 60m to the west of the Site) earlier in 2006, but no report was available at the time of writing (Graham Eyre-Morgan *pers comm.*).

A settlement with at least five ploughs is recorded in Tipton in Domesday Book (1086), but “Tibbintone” is more likely to correspond to Tibbington in the north of the parish. There are two possible medieval moated sites in the vicinity of the Site, confusingly both called Moat Farm; one c.300m to the east (SMR PRN:3958) and the other c.350m to the south-west (PRN: 6262). Elements of the former were still visible on the First Edition Ordnance Survey of 1884, whilst the location of the latter is inferred from a 1690 survey of Tipton. It is likely that until c. 1700 Tipton comprised a small village or scatter of settlements surrounded by fields, but that activity in the area included mineral extraction (Raven 2005, 318).

On the 12<sup>th</sup> June 1644 a Civil War engagement, the Battle of Tipton Green, took place in which Parliamentary troops under Lord Denbigh routed Royalist troops going to defend Dudley Castle (Cochin 2000, 590).

Coal, iron and limestone extraction had taken place locally in the medieval period, but in the 18<sup>th</sup> century this expanded considerably, partly as a result of technical advances. In c.1712 Newcomen installed one of the first of his steam-driven beam engines at Coneygree Colliery at Burntwood (Raven, 318) and local transport of raw materials and products was greatly improved in 1768-72 by the construction by Brindley of the first branch canal in England, the Birmingham Canal Old Cut Old Main Line (Cochin, 590-1). Coal mining continued in Tipton through the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, but ceased in the 1920s, partly because of flooding. Thanks to accessible local supplies of all the necessary raw materials and good transport links, iron production boomed in Tipton to the extent that local company Barrows and Hall became the largest iron producers in the Black Country before their closure in 1906. Another local firm, the Horsley Iron Company, made the world's first iron steamship in 1821 (Raven, 318).

The workforce required for these industries required housing and other infrastructure and this resulted in the growth of settlement in the area. However, apart from the 17<sup>th</sup>-century battle, little is known of activity at Tipton Green before the late 18<sup>th</sup> century. The main street, Owen Street, developed in the late 18<sup>th</sup> or early 19<sup>th</sup> century (Brimble 1991, 45) and Wood Street is thought to have been established in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, taking its name from nearby Tipton Wood (*ibid.*, 65). Its establishment may have coincided with the erection of St. Paul's Church in 1837-8 and the creation of the parish of Tipton St Paul or Tipton Green in 1842 (Cochin, 590).

The First Edition Ordnance Survey of 1884 (Fig. 2) shows streets and courts of terraced houses on both sides of Owen Street. Later photographs of Brick Kiln Street and Coppice Street show terraces of brick houses along cobbled streets with raised pavements and it can be assumed that Wood Street was much the same (Brimble and Hodgkins 1995; 19, 21). The map shows that the Site had buildings on the Wood Street frontage, but these flank an alley giving secondary access to a terrace of buildings running parallel to Owen Street. Primary access to the court of which this terrace formed the northern side was from Owen Street. No material changes had taken place in the layout of the Site by the publication of the Second Edition in 1904 (not reproduced), but by 1920 (Fig. 3) the Owen Street access to the court had been blocked by the erection of a Market Hall. Reordering also appears to have taken place on the Site with the alley from Wood Street now only giving access to a small yard, separated from the court by a boundary. This yard had been created at the expense of one of the terraced houses in the court.

By the 1930s these streets and courts of early and mid-19<sup>th</sup>-century houses were regarded as rundown, dark, unsanitary and lacking in basic amenities. This resulted in slum clearances and the map of 1938 (Fig. 4) shows this operation underway with large areas of open land to the north of Owen Street where terraces had formerly stood. On the western side of Wood Street a line of semi-detached and one detached (number 1) houses had been built since 1920. The Market Hall became the Tivoli Music Hall and had subsequently been replaced by the Regent Cinema (*ibid.*, 16), which covered a larger area and extended as far as the western edge of the Site. Few buildings survived on Wood Street from 1920, but they included "The Noah's Ark" public house (to the north of the school) where the inaugural meeting of the Black Country Society was held in 1967 (*ibid.*, 41).

In 1938 the Site was clear and little had changed prior to the evaluation apart from the construction of a brick commercial garage between the Site and the Owen Street junction. It is believed that the Site and the land between it and Coppice Street had been mechanically cleared prior to the construction of a tarmaced or concrete surface in recent years (J. Jones

*pers comm.*). However, considerable change has taken place on Owen Street where almost all the existing buildings were swept away in the late 1970s.

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#### **4. Aims and Objectives**

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The objectives of the work were to:

- a. Establish the presence/absence of archaeological remains within the development area
- b. Determine the extent, condition, nature, character, quality and date of any archaeological remains encountered
- c. Provide further information on the origins and development of Tipton Green from the medieval to the present day
- d. Contribute to the existing body of academic knowledge
- e. Make available to interested parties the results of the investigation (subject to restrictions of confidentiality).

The evaluation represented only a first stage of archaeological works. If it (or further stages of evaluation) established that significant archaeological deposits survived on the site, further archaeological works might be required in accordance with an approved site-specific Written Scheme of Investigation.

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#### **5. Method**

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The dimensions of the Site, the size of the available machine and problems with the stability of the trench edges meant that the size and location of the trenches was varied slightly from that shown in the archaeological proposal (Appendix 2). In the event, Trench 1 measured 7m by 1m and was orientated north/south, with Trench 2 (6m by 1m) laid out at right-angles to it to form a T-shape (Fig. 5).

It was intended that all archaeological features and deposits excavated were to be recorded in plan at a scale of 1:50, in section at 1:20 and photographed using B&W negative and colour film (35mm). Photographic registers were kept, but no finds were retained. The site was given the Sandwell MBC code TGWS06.

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## 6. Results

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Before the evaluation took place the Site had been stripped of top soil and concrete to create a level platform (see cover). This had resulted in the ground being reduced by a maximum of c.0.80m at the western side of the Site and a minimum of 0.40m at the eastern edge.

After the trenches were excavated the Borough Archaeologist for Sandwell MBC, Graham Eyre-Morgan was contacted. He declined an invitation to inspect the trenches, but approved backfilling.

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### 6.1 Trench 1

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Trench 1 measured 7m by 1m and was excavated to a depth of 1.30m below the previously exposed site surface. It was orientated north/south and ran parallel to the eastern boundary wall of the Site (Fig. 5).

The contents of the excavated trench consisted exclusively of modern demolition debris containing machine made red brick, fragmented red roof tile, white mortar and ceramic drainage pipe within a black, mouldable to loose, petrol and oil contaminated loam (1001) (Plates 1 and 3). This sealed buff brown-yellowish/green clean clay, which was stepped downwards from south to north reflecting the natural slope of Wood Lane. It outcropped at the surface of the truncated ground level (i.e. after concrete and imported top soil had been stripped) at the southern edge of the plot.

Excavation of the trench had to stop at the level of the clay due to the unstable nature of the trench sides, which were continually collapsing. This meant that the clay could not be tested.

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### 6.2 Trench 2

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This trench was aligned east/west to form a "T"-shape with Trench 1. It measured 6m by 1m and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.6m (Plate 2).

The sequence of deposits was identical to Trench 1 (1001), with modern demolition debris overlaying a clean clay layer. However, the clay was present at a depth of only 0.40m apart from at the eastern end of the trench where there was a step downwards approximately 0.40m west of the junction with Trench 1 (Fig. 5 and Plate 4).

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## 7. Discussion

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Building, demolition and modern clearance episodes on the Site had removed any archaeological deposits and all evidence of the structures shown on the 19<sup>th</sup>- and early 20<sup>th</sup>-century mapping. Although not tested, the clean clay had the appearance of a natural deposit. It had been cut into along the eastern, street frontage in a stepped fashion following the natural slope. It is suggested that the stepped cuts represent the remnants of cellars or half-cellars to the houses shown on the 1884 and 1920 OS maps (Figs. 2 and 3). Photographs of Brick Kiln Street and Coppice Street prior to slum clearance show that at least some of the



houses had flights of two or three steps up to the front doors, implying that they were raised above cellarage (Brimble and Hodgkins 1995, 19 and 21).

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## 8. Conclusion

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The methodology finally adopted was found to be appropriate in achieving the aims of the project.

It was established that the Site did not contain significant archaeological deposits and that excavation of footings for the proposed development are unlikely to cause any damage to archaeological deposits. Demolition and clearance episodes had removed all structural traces of the buildings that had been on the Site in the 19<sup>th</sup>- and early 20<sup>th</sup>-centuries leaving only the putative imprint of cellarage.

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## 9. Bibliography

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Brimble, J., 1991 *The Street Names of Tipton* typescript held by Smethwick Library Community History and Archives Service

Brimble, J. and Hodgkins, K., 1995 *Britain in Old Photographs, Tipton*

Cochin, T., 2000 *The Staffordshire Encyclopaedia* Malthouse Press

Raven, M., 2005 *A Guide to Staffordshire and the Black Country, the Potteries and the Peak.*

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## **Appendix 1: Site Archive**

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Currently held at Archaeological Investigation Ltd's office in Hereford, but shortly to be deposited with the Community History and Archives Service at Smethwick Library, the site archive comprises:

This document

1 page site notes

3 pages of photographic registers

8 colour photographs and negatives

8 B&W photographs and negatives

12 digital photographic images.

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**Appendix 2: Sandwell MBC brief**

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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**

**LAND ADJACENT TO 1 WOOD STREET, TIPTON**

**SANDWELL MBC**

**AUGUST 2006**



**Site:** Land Adjacent To 1 Wood Street Tipton

**Agent:** Paul Whitehouse (0121 421 3469)

**Planning Officer:** John Baker (0121 569 4049)

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

**Assistant Archaeologist:** Charlotte Lewis (0121 569 4217)

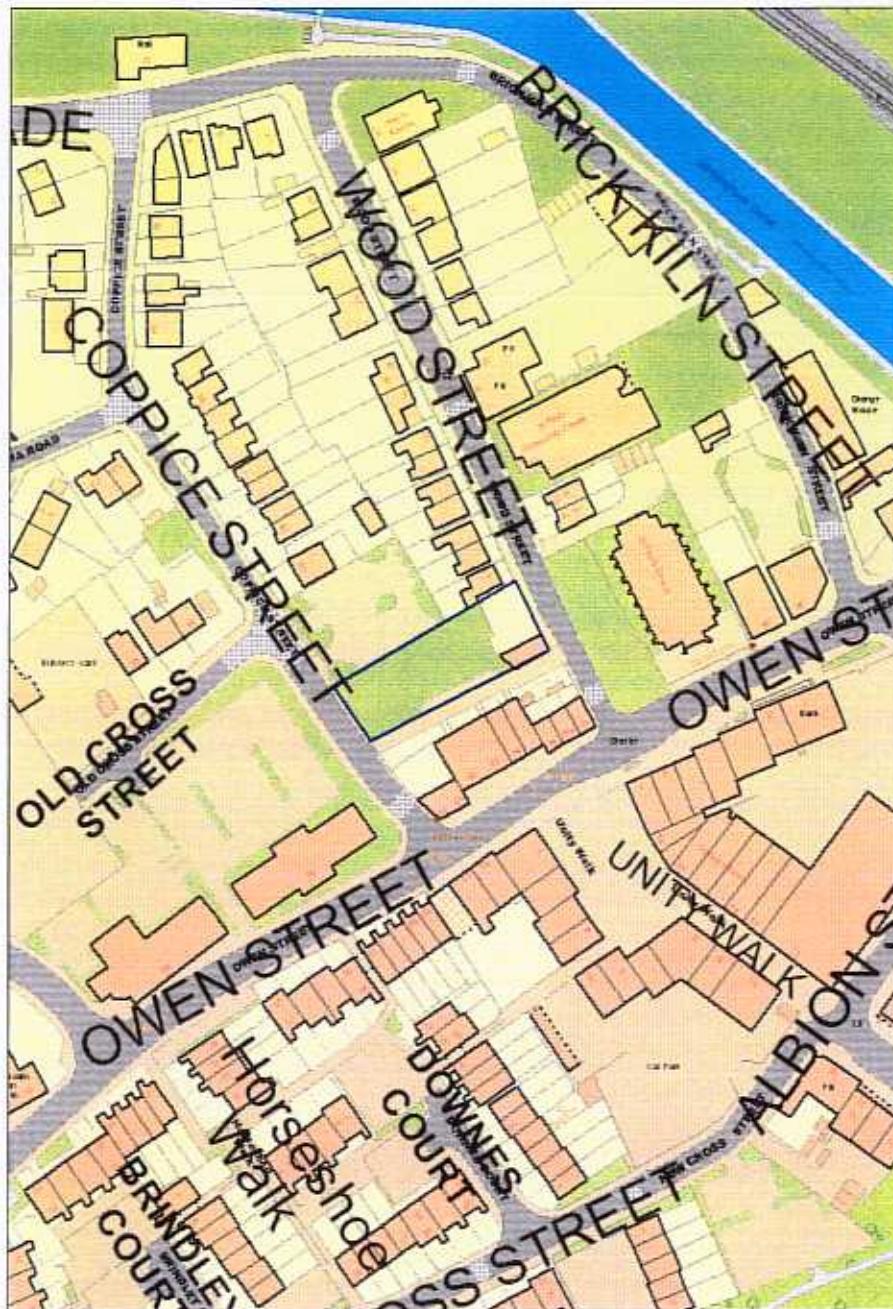
*This archaeological brief is only valid for six months. After this period the Borough Archaeologist should be contacted. Any written scheme of investigation resulting from this brief shall only be considered for the same period. The contractor is strongly advised to visit the site before completing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

## **1. Introduction**

This brief has been prepared by the Assistant Archaeologist of Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council. The brief sets out the requirements for an archaeological evaluation by trial trenching. The purpose of evaluation is to determine the presence/absence of archaeological features within the application area so that an informed decision can be made on their preservation or otherwise. This Brief and any resulting Contractors' Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) will ensure that the requirements of the Condition can be adequately discharged.

## **2. Site Location and Description**

The land subject to development is located adjacent to 1 Wood Street, Tipton. The development is for a detached dwelling and associated parking. The site is currently vacant with vehicle access and surrounded by a mix of residential and business use. The extent of the development area is shown on the site location plan on page 3, copyright Sandwell MBC.



**Site of development –Land adjacent to 1 Wood Street, Tipton**

### **3. Planning Background**

3.1 A planning application (DC/06/46441) development at adjacent to 1 Wood Street, Tipton was submitted and approved in August 2006.

3.2 Based on the advice given in *Planning Policy Guidance Note 16: Archaeology and Planning* (DoE 1990, paras 21-22):

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

The evaluation is designed provide sufficient information on the presence/absence, nature, quality and extent of any below ground remains. If present, the investigation will identify any archaeological remains thereby enabling the formulation, if appropriate, of an additional programme of excavation; should the deposits be of 'national importance' there would be a presumption in favour of their in-situ preservation.

3.3 This Brief and any resulting Contractors' Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) will ensure that the requirements of any future Condition can be adequately discharged.

#### **4. Archaeological Background**

This site is identified on the Sandwell Sites and Monuments Record PRN: 6210 as the settlement area of Tipton Green as mentioned in the Domesday Book. The current application provides a fresh opportunity of examining the origins and development of the medieval town. Isolated pottery fragments are also likely to provide important information on the chronology of the town, the status of the inhabitants and their general living conditions. Other archaeological remains could also be revealed.

Due to the location of the proposed development, which was the focus of early medieval occupation it is recommended that an archaeological evaluation (trial trenching) is undertaken by a professional archaeological contractor to determine the archaeological potential of the site. Should archaeology be discovered it is possible that further archaeological work may required at the site before any development may take place.

## 5. Requirement for Work

5.1 The purpose of the archaeological investigation is to locate and identify any surviving remains within the constraint area; in this particular instance this office wishes to know the extent, the date, nature and state of preservation of any archaeological deposits, which may be present under the area, proposed for development. The work must also assess the relative importance of these deposits, and the potential loss of any archaeological information by the development, therefore substantiating any need for further excavation or change in the planning consent

5.2 A **3% sample** of the development area will be investigated by trial trenching and the layout should be designed to ensure uniform coverage across the site; a trench plan must be appended to the specification.

5.3 The site-specific aims are:

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

5.4 The evaluation recommended above is only the first stage in the archaeological investigation of each of the sites recommended. The scope of any further archaeological recording on each of the sites will depend on the results of the preliminary (and second phase if appropriate) evaluation of surviving archaeological deposits.

5.5 If evaluation indicates that significant archaeological evidence survives on the site, and would be negatively impacted by the proposed redevelopment, a further stage of detailed archaeological excavation and recording will be carried out, in accordance with a site-specific



Written Scheme of Investigation approved by the Borough Archaeologist, which sets out specific aims of further recording work.

## **6.0 General Methodology**

6.1 The evaluation shall be supported by a written scheme of investigation.

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

6.3 Details including the name, qualifications and experience, of the site director and all other project personnel (including specialist staff) shall be supplied to the Borough Archaeologist as part of the written scheme of investigation.

6.4 Notification of the supervisor/project manager's name and the members of the team shall be provided in writing to Borough Archaeologist at least one week in advance of commencement of work.

6.5 The site code for this project is **TGWS06**.

6.6 All the latest Health and Safety guidelines shall be followed on site.

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

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

## **7. Evaluation Methodology**

7.1 The contractor shall ensure detailed study of all mains service locations and avoid damage to these.

7.2 Prior to the commencement of on-site works the contractor must consult the Sandwell Sites and Monuments Record (Fay de Souza 0121 568 4216) and undertake a rapid map regression exercise based on the sources held at the Local Studies Section of Smethwick Library. This information will assist in on-site interpretation.

7.3 It is recommended that a minimum of 3% of the area to be developed is investigated by trial trenching. The trial trenches will be machine excavated using a toothless ditching bucket, and under the supervision and to the satisfaction of a professional archaeologist. The exposed sub-soil or archaeological horizon will be hand cleaned in all trenches and any archaeological deposits or negative features planned.

7.4 At least 50% of all contained features shall be excavated. A stated percentage of structural and linear features to be excavated shall be provided in the WSI. For those trenches where substantial nineteenth and twentieth century masonry remains are encountered hand dug test pits will be excavated within the trench in order to examine the presence/absence of earlier remains. NOTE: In some circumstances it may be necessary to use shoring to support the sides of the trench, but advice must be sought from the Borough Archaeologist before employing this methodology.

7.5 Details of how all archaeological contexts and artefacts will be excavated, surveyed, recovered and recorded shall be provided. The site grid will be tied to the national grid.

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

7.7 The photographic record shall consist of high quality digital colour and black and white copies. This shall include both general and feature specific photographs; a photographic scale (including north arrow) shall be included in the case of detailed photographs. A photographic register and supporting plan detailing as a minimum feature number, location, and direction of shot shall accompany the photographic record.

7.8 The contractor must arrange, through a suitably qualified specialist, the assessment of the environmental and metallurgical potential of the site through the examination of suitable deposits. Guidance should be sought from the appropriate English Heritage Regional Advisor in Archaeological Science and details of the methodology included within the WSI.

## **8.0 Finds**

8.1 All finds, where appropriate, shall be washed and marked with both the site code and context number.

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

8.3 Finds work should be to accepted professional standards and adhere to the Institute of Field Archaeologists Guidelines for Finds Work. Details of the finds retrieval policy must be included within the WSI.

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

## **9.0 Results**

9.1 The draft full report including all specialist assessments of artefact assemblages shall be submitted to the Borough Archaeologist within six weeks of completing the fieldwork for approval. Once approved a total of **eight** copies plus a copy on CD-ROM are to be supplied to the Borough Archaeologist for general distribution.

9.2 The report must contain:

- The aims and methods adopted during the course of the evaluation.

- Detailed results including a suitable conclusion and discussion. This must be linked to the research objectives cited above and consider the sites in their local, regional and national context.
- An assessment of the local, regional national importance of the site. The latter should be based on the criteria for scheduling as set out in Annex 4 of PPG 16 (DoE 1990).
- Impact Assessment and recommended mitigation strategy will be used to assess the impact of the proposal on the surviving archaeological resource.
- The contractor is also expected to formulate a mitigation strategy and future research programme. The latter should be based on national/regional/local research frameworks and identify the aims/objectives of any future excavation.
- Although the emphasis should be on those deposits that are likely to be destroyed, the wider potential the site must also be considered
- A concise non-technical summary of the project results
- All specialist reports and assessments
- Site location plan, copies of any historical maps and a representative sample of the photographs including colour prints
- Location plan of trenches in relation to the proposed development. All corners of each trench shall be given a 10 figure grid reference
- A section/s within each trench showing the depth of deposits including the present ground level with Ordnance Datum, vertical and horizontal scale
- Sufficient plans by period and area to aid interpretation
- Artefact illustrations that would be submitted in any future publication

9.3 The following appendices should also be included:

- Location and summary of the archive contents
- Completed Sites and Monuments Record summary sheet (copy attached to brief)
- Photographic register
- Archaeological brief, the approved contractors' written scheme of investigation together with the completed pro-forma and site location plan which were submitted as part of the planning application

9.4 The proposed format of the report will be described within the WSI.

## 10.0 Archive

10.1 Before commencing any fieldwork, the Contractor must contact the Community History and Archives Service, Smethwick Library (High Street, Smethwick, West Midlands B661AB. Tel. 0121 5582561), to determine the requirements for the deposition of the archive.

10.2 The archive should include the record photographs and digital information together with a copy of the Report.

10.3 Photographic prints should be re-produced at a minimum of five by four inches and labelled on the back using indelible ink with the frame number, date, photographers name together with the site code, name and grid reference; the photographs being mounted in archival quality sleeves.

10.4 It is the responsibility of the Contractor to meet the Community History and Archives Service requirements with regard to the preparation of material for deposition.

10.5 Written notification of the commencement of fieldwork shall be given to Community History and Archives Service at the same time as the Borough Archaeologist.

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

10.7 Sandwell MBC supports the Online Access to Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) project. The overall aim of the OASIS project is to provide an online index to the mass of archaeological grey literature that has been produced as a result of the advent of large-scale developer funded fieldwork. The archaeological contractor must therefore complete the online OASIS form at <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/>. Contractors are advised to contact Sandwell MBC Sites and Monuments Record prior to completing the form. Once a report has become a public document by submission to or incorporation into the SMR, Sandwell MBC Sites and Monuments Record may place the information on a web-site. Please ensure that you and your client agree to this procedure in writing as part of the process of submitting the report to the case officer at Sandwell MBC.

## **11.0 Monitoring**

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

11.2 Written Notification of the start date will be given to the Borough Archaeologist at least one week before the commencement of work and once the fieldwork stage of the investigation has been completed.

## **12.0 Contractors Written Scheme of Investigation**

12.1 Any variations to the WSI shall be agreed in writing with the Borough Archaeologist before being implemented.

12.2 This Brief has been written following a cursory examination of the site by the Borough Archaeologist, potential contractors are therefore strongly advised to carry out their own inspection before submitting a written quotation.

12.3 If on first visiting the site or at any time during the recording exercise, it appears that:

- i) part or the whole of the site is not amenable to the recording programme outlined above, and/or
- ii) an alternative approach may be more appropriate or likely to produce more informative results, and/or
- iii) any features that should be recorded as having a bearing on the interpretation of the site have been omitted,

then it is expected that the Contractor will contact the Borough Archaeologist as a matter of urgency.

For further information regarding the content of this Brief please contact the author at the address below. As part of our desire to provide a quality service, we would welcome any comments you may have on the content and presentation of this Archaeological Brief.

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## Appendix 3: AIL Project Design

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# **LAND ADJACENT TO 1 WOOD STREET**

**Tipton**

WEST MIDLANDS

*Archaeological Proposal*

August 2006

**LAND ADJACENT TO WOOD STREET, TIPTON**  
**West Midlands**  
**(NGR SO 9547 9242)**

*Project Design for archaeological evaluation*

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# ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS LTD

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## LAND ADJACENT TO WOOD STREET, TIPTON West Midlands (NGR SO 9547 9242)

### *Project Design for archaeological evaluation*

#### **1. Background**

##### **1.1 Description of the site**

- 1.1.1 The site lies near the centre of Tipton Green, within Sandwell Metropolitan Borough. It is bounded by Wood Street to the east, with the Parish Church of St Paul on the opposite side of the street. To the north is 1 Wood Street and to the south an area of concrete associated with garage buildings.
- 1.1.2 The extent to which archaeology has been preserved within the area of the site under investigation is presently not known, but it is within an area defined in the council's Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) as the historic settlement of Tipton Green. The underlying geology is Keele Formations of the Westphalian Group, comprising red mudstone with sandstone (British Geological Survey, 1:250, 000 1990 *Mid Wales and Marches*).
- 1.1.3 The site is located at NGR SO 9547 9242 and is turfed. We understand from the client that the area was mechanically stripped a few years ago.

##### **1.2 Previous archaeological work/knowledge**

- 1.2.1 Tipton Green is mentioned in Domesday Book and this site is near the focus of the medieval settlement. Currently little is known of the extent and nature of activity in the medieval and later settlement.

##### **1.3 Reasons for the project**

- 1.3.1 Planning permission was granted by Sandwell MBC for development on the site subject to an archaeological condition (Application Ref. DC/06/46441).
- 1.3.2 The condition is based on advice within Planning Policy Guidelines Note 16 and states  
"No development involving any ground disturbance shall take place until an archaeological investigation of the site has been carried out in accordance with a specification to be submitted to and approved by the local planning authority in writing."
- 1.3.3 A brief has been drafted to demonstrate the archaeological methodology required to fulfil the terms of the condition and after discussion with the author of the brief, Charlotte Lewis, this method statement has been submitted to comply with its requirements.
- 1.3.4 The client must arrange for access to the site and provide information on all services.

- 1.3.5 Trenches will be backfilled on completion using the material removed from the trenches. On completion of site work **Archaeological Investigations Ltd will not take any responsibility for the maintenance of the backfilled trenches. If special reinstatement is required then this is additional to the quote submitted.**

#### **1.4 *Archive deposition***

- 1.4.1 It is Archaeological Investigations Ltd's policy to encourage landowners to deposit the site archive including all finds with the local museum. Archaeological Investigations Ltd will prepare the archive for transfer following discussion with the Community History and Archives service, Smethwick Library.

## **2. Aims and objectives**

### **2.1 *Research design***

- 2.1.1 The objectives of the work are to:

- a. Establish the presence/absence of archaeological remains within the development area
- b. Determine the extent, condition, nature, character, quality and date of any archaeological remains encountered
- c. Provide further information on the origins and development of Tipton Green from the medieval to the present day
- d. Contribute to the existing body of academic knowledge
- e. Make available to interested parties the results of the investigation (subject to restrictions of confidentiality).

- 2.1.2 This evaluation represents only a first stage of archaeological works. If it (or further stages of evaluation) establish that significant archaeological deposits survive on the site, further archaeological works may be required in accordance with an approved site-specific Written Scheme of Investigation.

## **3. Method statement**

### **3.1 *General archaeological method***

- 3.1.1 This applies to all relevant cases below.

- 3.1.2 The trench positions and survey grid will be tied into features shown on the Ordnance Survey 1:2500 mapping. A temporary site bench mark would be set up on site using the nearest surviving Ordnance Datum (where possible).

- 3.1.3 All archaeological features will be recorded in plan at a scale of 1:20, and photographed, using B&W negative and colour slide film (35mm), following cleaning. A trench plan will be produced at 1:50. Selected sections of the trenches would be drawn at 1:10.

- 3.1.4 Trenches will be excavated by a machine with a toothless ditching bucket under continuous supervision by a qualified archaeologist. After removal of overburden and topsoil, exposed subsoils or archaeological horizons will be cleaned for planning.
- 3.1.5 At least 50% of all features totally contained within the trenches will be excavated. A sample of at least 20% will be dug of linear or large features extending beyond the bounds of the trenches and, where substantial 19<sup>th</sup>- or 20<sup>th</sup>-century masonry foundations are encountered within trenches, test pits will be dug by hand to establish the presence/absence and condition of earlier remains.
- 3.1.6 A hand auger may also be used to establish the sequence of deposits in areas where further excavation is not being carried out. The auger has a head diameter of 100mm, which is usually sufficient for the collection of soil samples, and identification of relatively fine changes in stratigraphy.
- 3.1.7 A system of context records will be kept and numbered independently by trench. Recording will be in accordance with Archaeological Investigations Ltd's site manual. Registers will be kept for context records, photographs, drawings, small finds and samples on site.
- 3.1.8 General biological samples (c.30 litres) would be retained from archaeological deposits. Each sample would be floated to recover carbonised remains. A number of further samples which, based on assessment of the environmental remains, demonstrate good potential for environmental preservation will be assessed for plant macrofossils, insects and pollen. Specialist advice will be used to determine which samples to collect and assess.
- 3.1.9 All pottery, metal artefacts and stratified bone would be retained for further analysis. Any ceramic building material would usually be retained although if large quantities are present (>10 pieces per context) then only diagnostic pieces/or a representative sample would be retained.
- 3.1.10 The code of conduct of the Institute of Field Archaeologists will be adhered to, in particular the *Standards and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (2001).

### 3.2 *Documentary research*

The following sources will be consulted:

- Sandwell Sites and Monuments Record
- Local Studies Section, Smethwick Library.

### 3.3 *Trial trenching*

A sample by trenching of 3% of the development area was proposed in the brief. Subsequently Charlotte Lewis, Assistant Archaeologist with Sandwell MBC, has varied this to a requirement for two trenches each of 5m length and measuring 1m in width. **Trench positions may vary according to the results of the documentary research and factors local to the site (e.g. service locations).** Any variations to the indicated trench locations will be agreed with the Borough Archaeologist for Sandwell MBC.

### 3.4 *Schedule of drawings (preliminary)*

<b>Drawing</b>	<b>Scale</b>
Trench location plans	1:500
Trench plans	1:20/1:50
Plans of archaeological features	1:20
Selected sections of trenches	1:10
Sections through archaeological features	1:10/1:20.

#### **4. Fieldwork resources and programming**

##### **4.1 Staffing and equipment**

4.1.1 The project team would comprise the following members of staff:

Project manager – Niall Oakey (27 years+ professional field experience)  
Based in Hereford and responsible for the over all co-ordination of the development of the project along with determining strategies and reassessing priorities in consultation with the project supervisors, specialists, monitors and client.

Project officer – Simon Mayes  
Responsible for the day to day running of the site work and adherence to the agreed project design and risk assessment along with the assignment of priorities to individual project staff following consultation with the project manager.

1 Post excavation assistant - finds/environmental processing.

4.1.2 Specialists

Faunal remains – Andy Hammon  
Charred remains – Angela Monkton  
Pollen/plant macrofossils - James Greig  
Insects - David Smith (Birmingham)  
Medieval pottery – Kath Crooks (AIL)  
Roman Pottery – Dr Jerry Evans  
Post-medieval and modern pottery – Jon Goodwin (Stoke-on-Trent Archaeology)  
Industrial - Jerry McDonnell (Bradford).

4.1.3 Specialist equipment

Soil auger (2m depth/100mm head)  
Floatation tank.

##### **4.2 Draft Programme**

<b>Documentary research</b>	<b>1 day</b>
<b>Trial trenching on site</b>	<b>1 day</b>
<b>Report for above</b>	<b>within 20 working days of the end of fieldwork.</b>

#### **5. Consolidation of the site archive**

##### **5.1 Paper records**

5.1.1 All records will be checked and catalogued. The site supervisor and staff will ensure that the site archive is complete and all registers are up to date.

5.1.2 On completion of the fieldwork the entire paper record will be copied and the copy held in a repository other than the building in which the post excavation work is being carried out.

## **5.2 *Finds***

### **5.2.1 Pottery**

All pottery will be washed and marked with the site code and context number.

### **5.2.2 Bone**

All bone will be washed and stored in labelled bags. Any bone tools will be marked and bagged separately.

### **5.2.3 Metal artefacts**

All metal artefacts will be X-rayed and stored under appropriate humidity conditions.

### **5.2.4 Glass**

A conservator will be contacted if any glass is recovered and they will ensure that the material is stored and adequately consolidated.

### **5.2.5 Industrial waste**

The conservator's and industrial specialist's advice will be sought over the treatment and storage of industrial waste.

## **5.3 *Inventory***

An inventory of the site archive will be produced and this will be available to all members of the project team.

## **5.4 *Report***

The site report will amalgamate the results from specialist work and the excavation and research. A plan and section for each trench will be produced as well as an overall site plan showing the location of the trenches in relation to surrounding features. The site will be assessed for local, regional and national importance (on the criteria set out in Annex 4 of PPG 16) and a strategy formulated to mitigate the impact of the development on the archaeological resource if required.

## **6. *Report specification***

The interim report will contain the following elements and will not be paginated but each section is numbered for easy reference:

- Contents page
- Summary
- Introduction
- Background information
- Statement of aims and methods employed
- Description of results
- Discussion of results integrated with any other information
- Assessment of the local, regional and national importance of the site
- Assessment of the impact of the development on the surviving archaeological resource

- Formulation of a mitigation strategy, if appropriate
- Conclusion
- Appendices containing specialist reports, site archive information, archaeological brief, written scheme of investigation and completed summary sheet.

Eight copies will be provided for planning purposes and a copy on CD-ROM.

An online form for the Online Access to Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) will be completed.

## **7. Publication**

It is envisaged that the results of the work will be published in either a regional or local journal depending on the relative importance of their findings. This will be determined after the completion of the interim report.



## RISK ASSESSMENT

- 1. Company/Location:** Archaeological Investigations Ltd  
Unit 1, Premier Business Park  
Westfields Trading Estate  
Faraday Road  
Hereford HR4 9NZ
- 2. Date of assessment:** 31/8/06
- 3. Activity/situation:** Archaeological works at Wood Street, Tipton

### **4. Identification of hazards/action to note**

#### **4.1 Heavy plant**

All staff to be issued with safety boots, hard hats and vis jackets and to wear these at all times on site. Visitors to be issued with hard hats/vis jackets. Access to areas where plant is working to be restricted to members of the client's agents and company staff only. Staff should note that they must keep out of the swing arc of the machine. Never approach a machine from behind. Always ensure the driver of the machine has seen you before approaching a machine.

#### **4.2 Fall on level**

Staff should be aware that soil and gravel is slippery when wet. Take extra care when working in the wet. Never run on site. Grid pegs should be clearly identifiable and safely protected.

#### **4.3 Use of ladder/fall from height**

No one is to climb the step ladder for the purpose of taking photographs without it being placed on firm level ground and another member of staff supporting the ladder all the time it is in use.

#### **4.4 Use of hand tools**

Staff using hand tools must be aware that lack of care can result in injury. Always regularly clean soil off tools. Take short rests if feeling fatigued. Ensure no one is working within 2-3m of the maximum swing distance of picks, mattocks and shovels. If you are unfamiliar with any particular item of equipment then ask a supervisor.

#### **4.5 Deep holes**

Be aware of the location of the sides of excavation trenches. All trenches should be marked 1m from their edge with bunting. Ramped access should be provided at one end of each trench. Shoring and fencing will be provided where necessary.

#### **4.6 Underground services**

A plan of known services will need to be obtained prior to work commencing from the site agent/owner. The client is carrying out the machining himself. Take a CAT.

#### **4.7 Lifting soil sacks/equipment**

Do not lift anything that because of its size or weight is likely to cause you injury.  
Remember:

Keep a straight back

Take the strain with your thigh muscles

Keep your fingers clear of edges and trapping areas

If you are lifting with someone else ensure that you both work as a team - notifying each other when to lift or lay the item to rest.

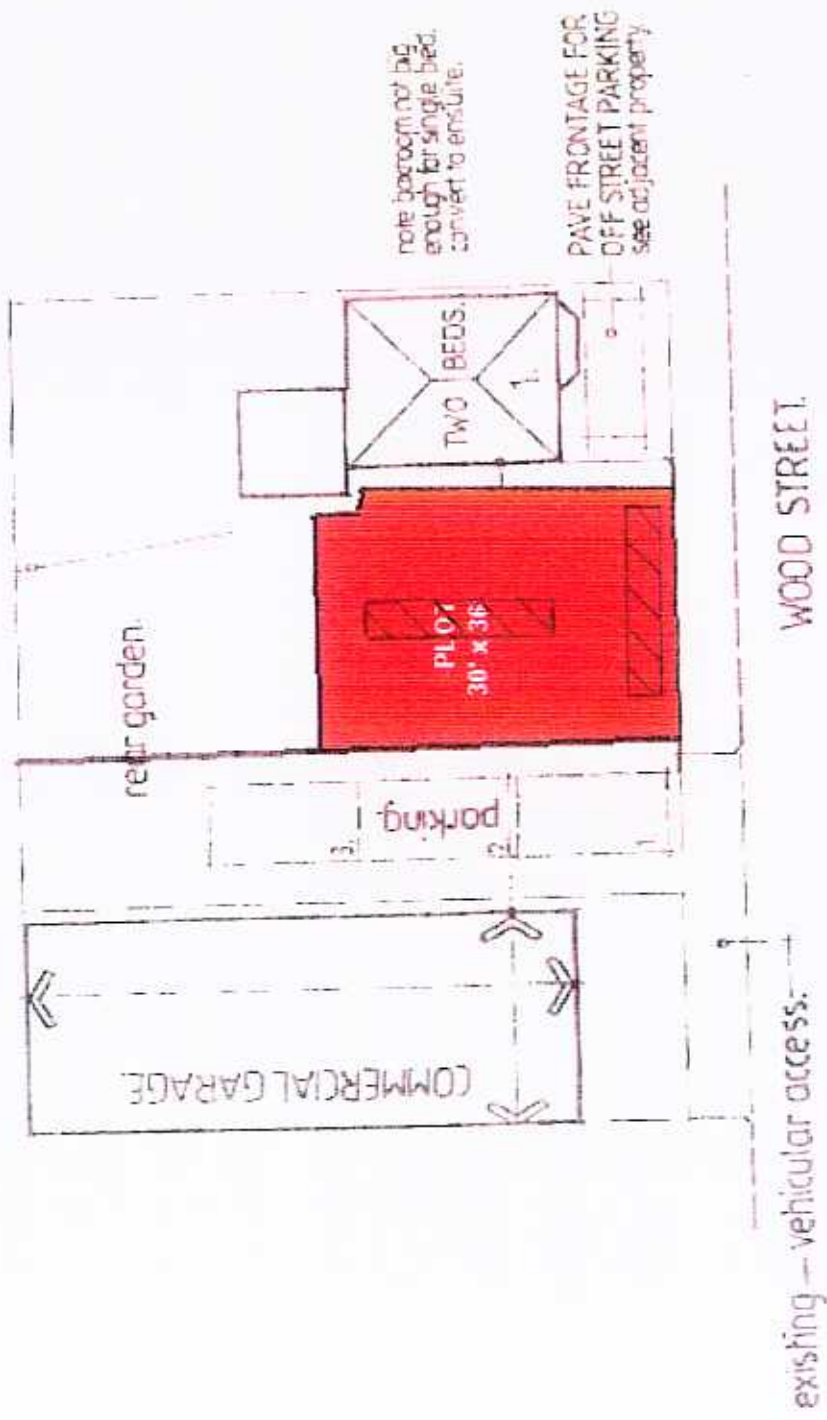
#### **4.8 Contaminated ground**

The site is not known to be contaminated but never the less staff should wash hands before eating or any other hand to mouth activity.

### ***5. Items assessed which present low level risk***

#### **5.1 Bad weather**

Come equipped with enough clothing and waterproofs for bad weather.



SITE 1.200

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**Appendix 4: Sandwell MBC SMR Summary Sheet**

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*SANDWELL MBC SMR*  
**SUMMARY SHEET**

<b>Site name/Address:</b> Land adjacent to 1 Wood Street, Tipton Green	
<b>Borough:</b> Sandwell	<b>NGR:</b> SO 9547 9242
<b>Type of Work:</b> Archaeological Evaluation	<b>Site Code:</b> TGWS06.
<b>Contractor:</b> Archaeological Investigations Limited	<b>Date of Work:</b> 5 <sup>th</sup> September 2006
<b>Location of Finds/Curating Museum:</b> Wednesbury	
<b>Title of Report:</b> Land Adjacent to 1 Wood Street, Tipton Green, Sandwell. Archaeological Evaluation (HAS 731)	
<b>SUMMARY OF FIELDWORK RESULTS:</b> Two trenches were mechanically excavated and revealed that all traces of previous activity on the Site had been removed by demolition, clearance and dumping episodes. Natural clay was revealed, which had been truncated along the street frontage. This is presumed to have been evidence for cellars or half cellars below houses shown on the western frontage of Wood Street in the 19 <sup>th</sup> - and earlier 20 <sup>th</sup> -century. All structural evidence of the cellars and associated buildings had been removed during slum clearance in the 1930s and subsequent groundworks.	
<b>Author of Summary:</b> N.J. Oakey	<b>Date of Summary:</b> 14 <sup>th</sup> September 2006

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## Figures

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1. Site location
2. First Edition Ordnance Survey, 1884
3. Ordnance Survey, 1920
4. Ordnance Survey, 1938
5. Trench Layout  
Plates.

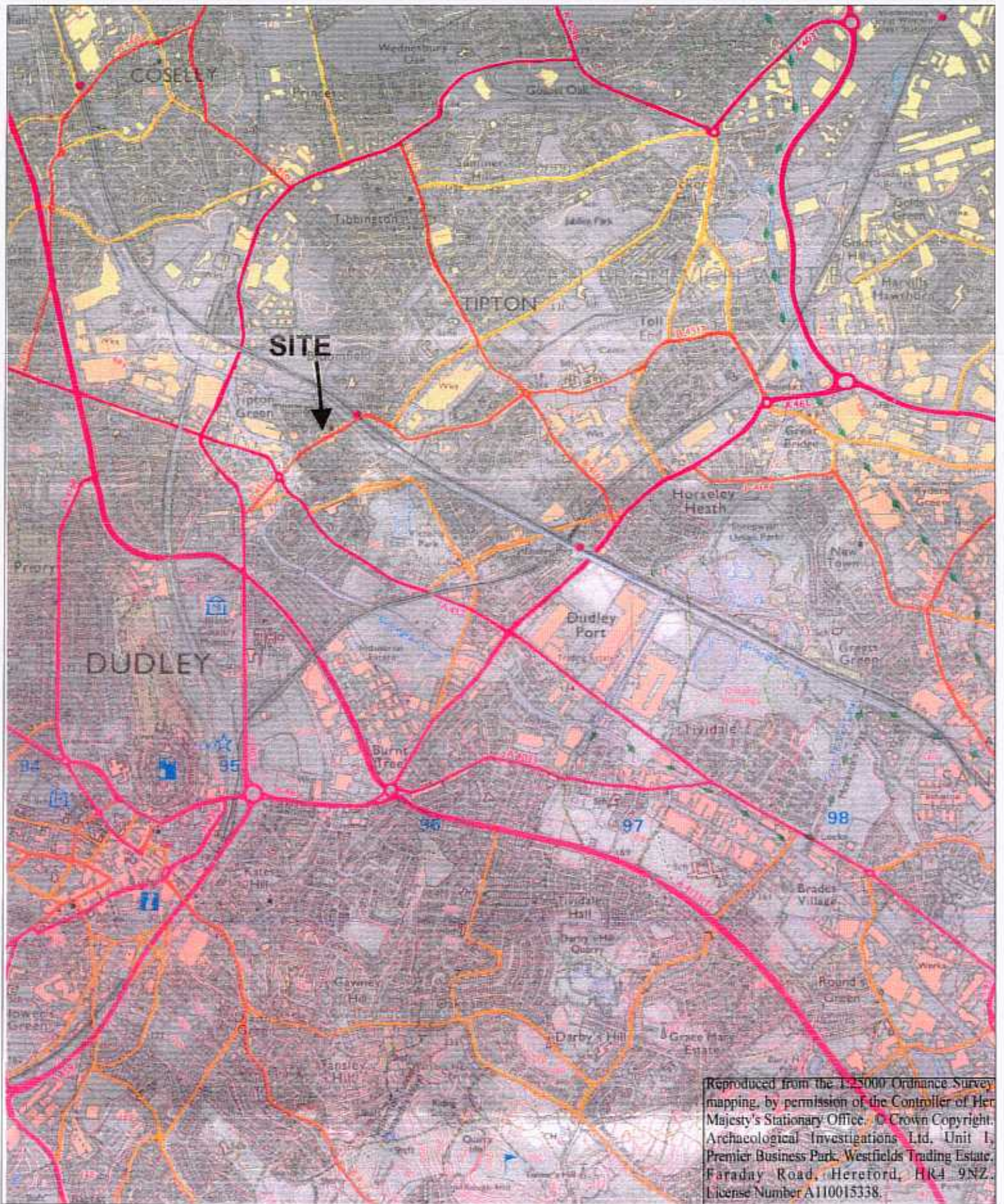


Figure 1. Site location (1: 25 000, 1999)

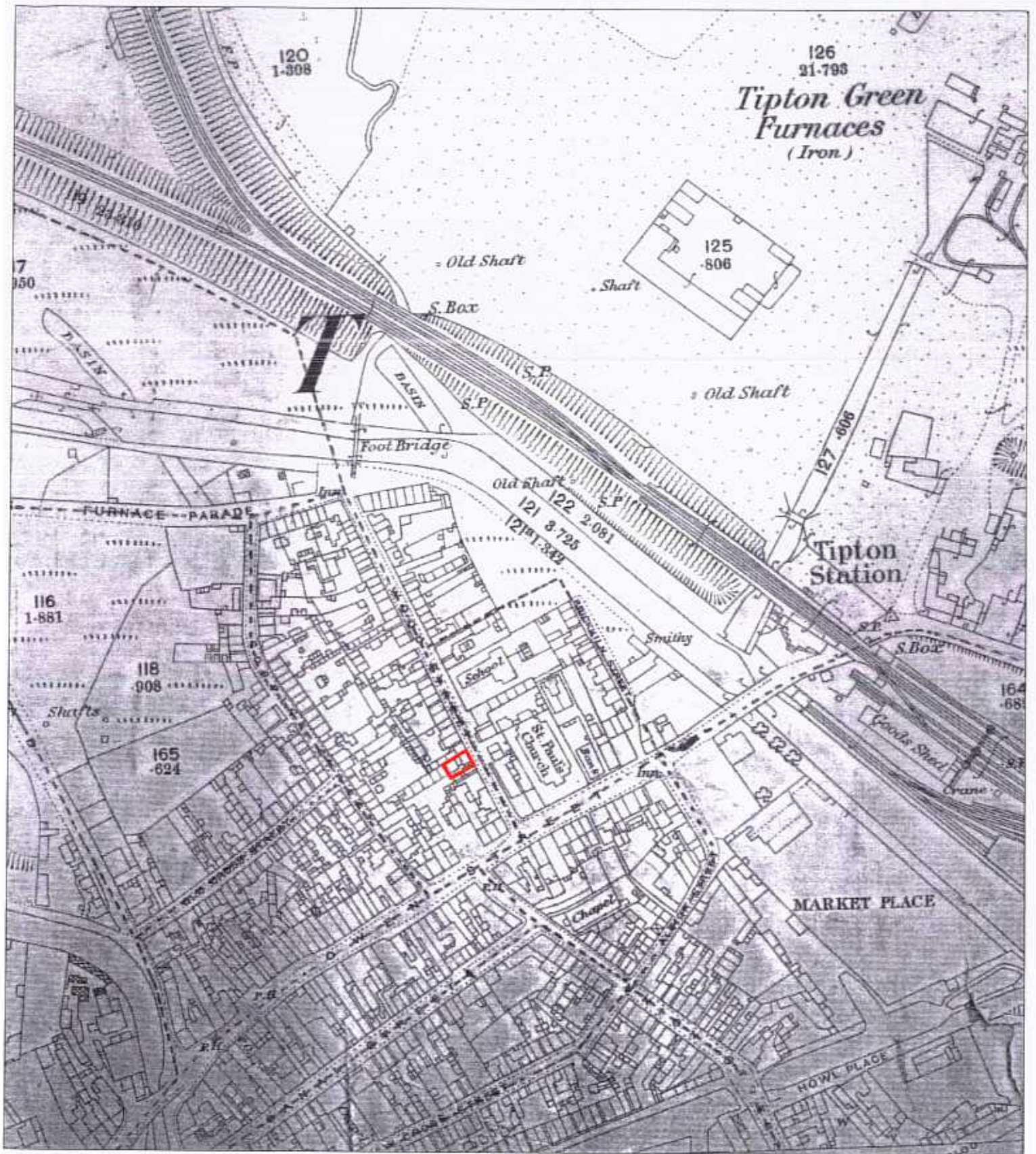


Figure 2. First Edition Ordnance Survey, 1884 (1:2500).



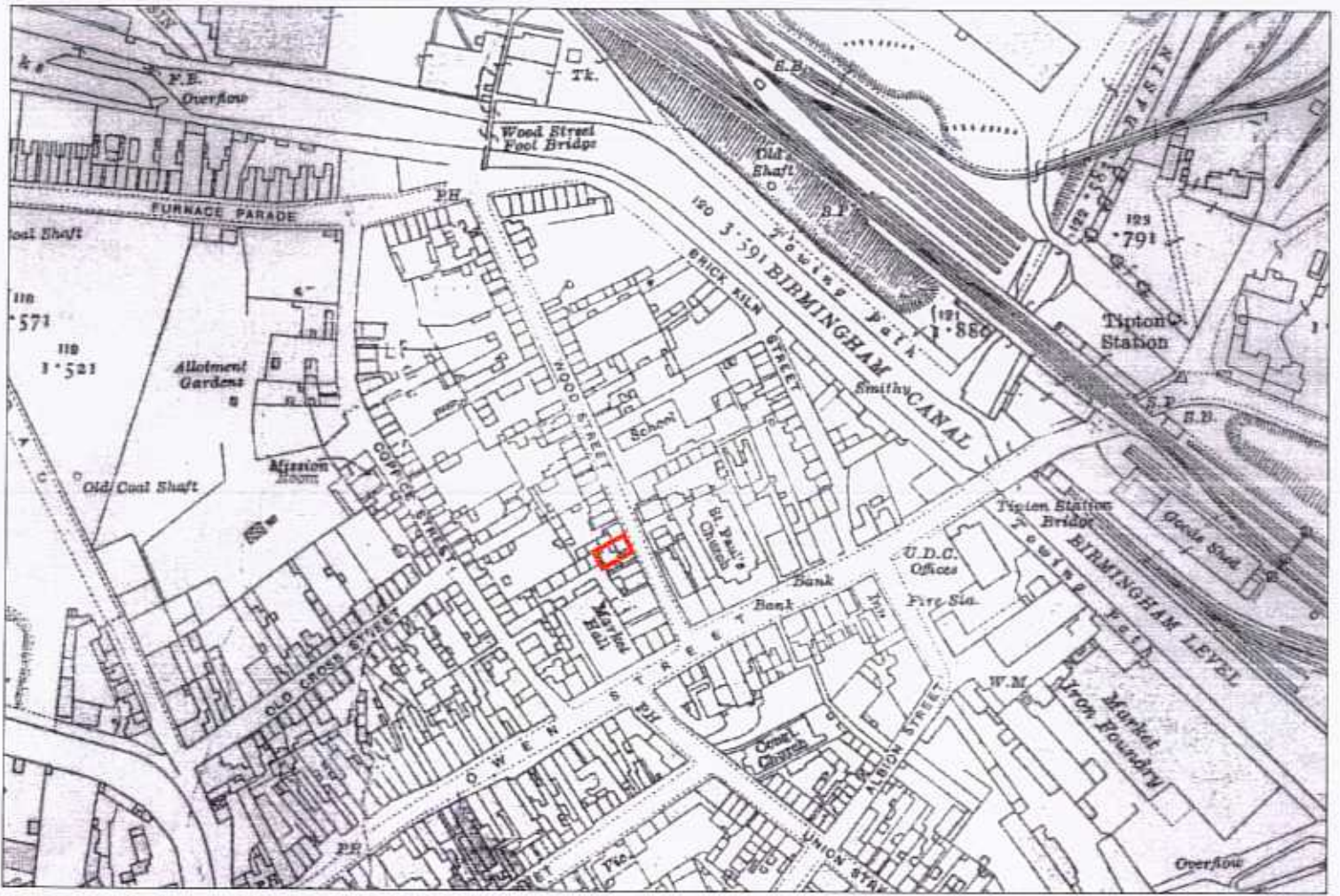


Figure 3. Ordnance Survey, 1920 (1:2500).

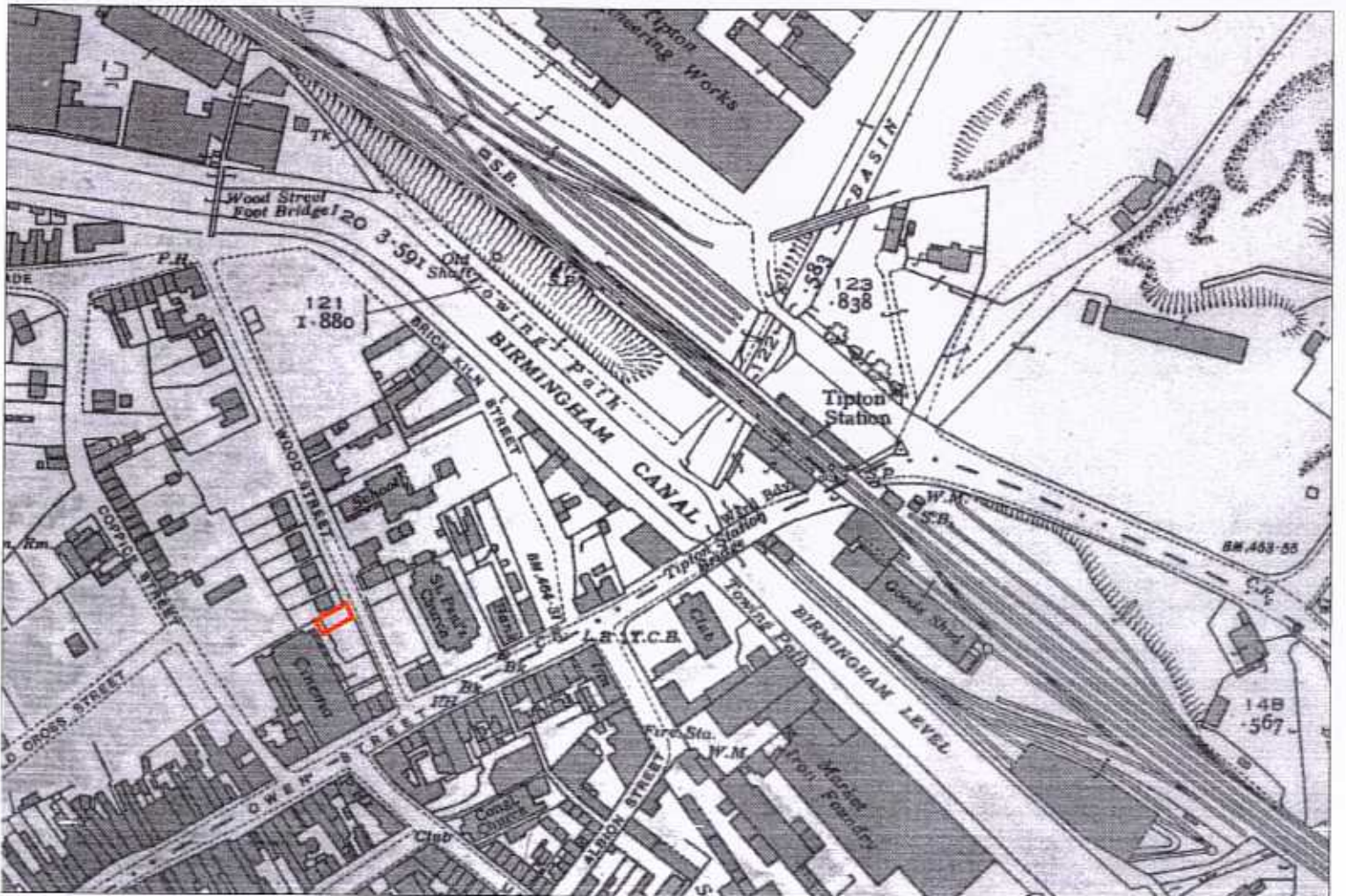
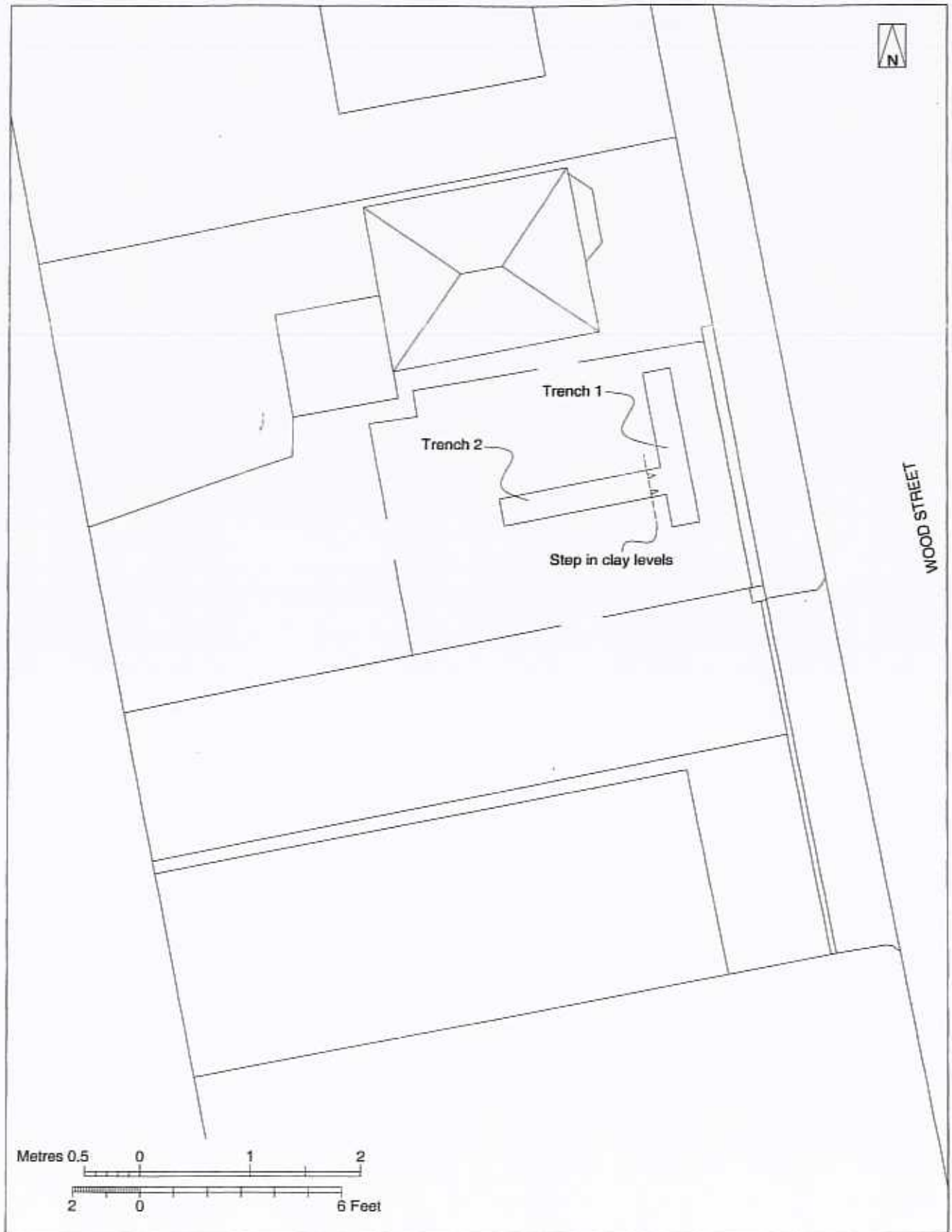


Figure 4. Ordnance Survey, 1938 (1:2500).



TRENCH LOCATION PLAN



*Plate 1* General view of trench 1, facing North.



*Plate 2* General view of trench 2, facing East



*Plate 3* General view of trench 1, facing South



*Plate 4* Detailed view of trench 2, facing North, showing cut/step in clay layer