

T H A M E S V A L L E Y

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

**Akzo Nobel, Wexham Road,
Slough, Berkshire**

Building Recording

by Danielle Milbank

Site Code: WRS19/118

(SU 9862 8024)

**Akzo Noble, Wexham Road,
Slough, Berkshire**

**Building Recording
For Panattoni UK Development Limited**

by Danielle Milbank

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code WRS 19/118

January 2020

Summary

Site name: Akzo Nobel, Wexham Road, Slough, Berkshire

Grid reference: SU 9862 8024

Site activity: Building Recording

Date and duration of project: 13th – 14th November 2019

Project coordinator: Danielle Milbank

Site code: WRS 19/118

Summary of results: The former factory comprises a complex of buildings, with development beginning in the early 20th century, though the majority of the buildings were constructed in the late 1930s/early 1940s onwards, with a range of construction types observed. The development and use of the site over time has been examined, and historic maps of the site have been studied. The site as a whole and the exterior of the buildings were successfully photographed and recorded, with recording of the interiors where accessible.

Location and reference of archive: The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at the Historic England Archive in due course.

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www.tvas.co.uk/reports/reports.asp.*

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Akzo Nobel, Wexham Road, Slough, Berkshire Building Recording

by Danielle Milbank

Report 19/118

Introduction

This report documents the results of building recording at Akzo Nobel, Wexham Road, Slough, Berkshire, located at SU 9862 8024 (Fig. 1). The project was commissioned by Taylor Cherrett of Turley, The Pinnacle, 20 Tudor Road, Reading RG1 1NH on behalf of Panattoni UK Development Limited.

Planning consent (P/00072/092) has been gained from Slough Borough Council for redevelopment of the site. A programme of building recording has been proposed prior to demolition in order that the historic fabric of the buildings can be preserved by record. This is in accordance with the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government's *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2019), and the Borough's policies on the historic environment. This report documents the results of the building survey. The fieldwork was undertaken by Danielle Milbank, Tim Dawson and Michael Paine on 13th and 14th of November 2019 and the site code is WRS 19/118.

The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at the Historic England Archive in due course.

Location, topography and geology

The site covers an area of 12.41ha and is an irregular rectangular shape located east of Wexham Road in Slough. (Fig. 2). It is bounded to the south by the main railway line to London and to the north by the Grand Union Canal, Slough Arm. Wexham Road runs north-south to the west of the site, with the Uxbridge Road (A412) aligned north-east to south-west, at the east of the site.

The north-eastern boundary of the site of the site extends eastwards to the Uxbridge Road, whilst the south-eastern corner is bordered by Slough Gasworks and other industrial units. The underlying geology of the site is mapped as bedrock of Lambeth Group and superficial deposits of Taplow Gravels (BGS 1999). The centre of the site is at a height of approximately 31m above Ordnance Datum.

Historical Background

The historical and archaeological background for the site has been covered in a desk-based assessment (Jones 2019). In summary, the site lies within an area of eastern Berkshire (previously south Buckinghamshire) of relatively modest archaeological potential for any of the more distant periods of the past (Ford 1987). The current site's interest is for more recent periods. Slough only developed as an urban settlement recently, and was a small village surrounded mostly by farmland until the 19th century. It was the mid 19th century impact of the railways that spurred the quick expansion and development of Slough. The town became a significant railway junction, and housing was needed for railway workers (VCH 1925).

The site has a significant industrial history as the former ICI (Imperial Chemical Industries) site and prior to that as a paint factory owned by the Naylor Brothers, which acquired the Slough site in 1919. In the early 1920s Naylor Brothers was acquired by Nobel Chemical Finishes which subsequently formed part of the merger to create Imperial Chemical Industries in 1926. This combined the four largest chemical companies in Britain into one to compete with companies in Europe. The factory produced Dulux paint in 1931 and introduced it to the building trade in 1932, though it was not an immediate success. With the outbreak of war in 1939 the factory produced paints and special finishes for the military. During the War the factory was twice bombed. ICI was acquired by Akzo Nobel in 2008 (<https://www.dulux.co.uk/en/about-dulux>; accessed 17/08/2019).

A range of Ordnance Survey and other historical maps of the area were consulted online in order to ascertain what activity had been taking place throughout the site's later history. The first map to show the site in detail is the First Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1878 shows the site to lie predominantly within an open field to the north of the railway line with a stream forming part of the eastern boundary along the Uxbridge Road. Within the south-west corner of the site are a small number of buildings including set of cottages labelled *Upton Lea Cottages*. By 1899 (Fig.3) the Grand Union Canal (Slough arm) has been constructed forming the northern site boundary. Within the site itself a small building is present centrally. The area of Upton Lea Cottages has seen a slight change with the demolition of a row of buildings, two wells are also shown in the area. The north-east corner of the site shows a building adjacent to the canal and stream. The smaller scale maps of 1900 and 1913 (not illustrated) show little change to the site.

However, by the next available large-scale map of the site in 1925 (Fig. 4) significant change has occurred with the construction of a *Paint and Varnish Works*. The gas works to the south-east is also now present. The railway lines have been extended into both the Paint works and the gas works. The earlier buildings are still present at the boundaries of the site. The Paint and Varnish works consist of a number of buildings

predominantly arranged around the railway lines with the main buildings consisting of three long, thin rectangular buildings and a number of smaller buildings to the north and south of them. The paint and varnish works has grown significantly by 1932 (Fig. 5) with the site as a whole also developing further with a *Wireless Works* in the north-west corner, *Viaduct Engineering Works* at the south-east corner, and a recreation ground with tennis courts and a bowling green in the south-west corner, adjacent to the Upton Lea Cottages. The north-east corner of the site is still undeveloped.

Post-war, the site has continued to expand (1955, Fig 6), now filling in the north-east corner with numerous tanks backing onto the existing buildings fronting the Uxbridge Road. The south-west corner has also been developed with new buildings on the site of the former recreation ground and tennis courts. The railway line is no longer shown as serving the paint and varnish works. Smaller scale changes occur across the site by 1969 (Fig. 7) with additional sets of tanks illustrated. Little further change occurs up to 1981 (not illustrated), but by 1993 (Fig. 8) the former Wireless works has been demolished and is now labelled as a *Business Village* containing a number of separate units arranged in five blocks.

Methodology

The building survey was carried out in accordance with guidelines set out by Historic England (formerly the Royal Commission on Historic Monuments) for a Level 2 record (HE 2016; RCHM(E) 1996) and Chartered Institute for Archaeologists guidelines (CIfA 2014). The survey comprised a photographic survey, paying attention to the methods of construction, chronological development and alterations, and features of special interest. The buildings have been recorded photographically using digital media which is catalogued (Appendix 1) and the photograph locations and orientations shown on the site layout plan (Figs 9-12). Access to the interior of the buildings was limited by health and safety constraints. Each building was numbered on site by the current owners and this numbering has been used within the text.

Description

The Site Layout

The former Akzo Noble site is spread out over a large, irregularly shaped plot of land, sandwiched between the railway, the canal and two main roads. There is now a single access off Wexham Road for the entire site with no traces of the former railway lines within the area. The site itself is fully covered in a mixture of large industrial buildings of varying date, and hardstanding / Tarmacadam roads. A number of buildings have been historically

demolished and the ground left scarred by the former footprints. The remaining buildings can be split into four main categories which loosely tally with their location: resin production at the north end of the site; decorative paint production to the east; research and development to the south and west; and a few redundant buildings to the west now occupied by facilities.

The main entrance to the site is from Wexham Road, through a controlled access with a pair of gatehouses (buildings 114 and 115) on either side of the road and a set of black cast iron gates, separating the site from the road. The buildings are described in the order in which they are encountered, moving from the entrance into the main site, and for ease of description the site as a whole, and the individual buildings, are discussed as north, west, south and east, as if the site is on a north-south axis rather than a SSW-NNE axis.

Site entrance: Buildings 114 and 115 (Fig. 10; Pls 1-4)

Gatehouses 114 and 115 are located on the northern and southern sides of the main site entrance. Each consists of a single-storey brick building. They both appear first on the 1955 map. In plan, building 114 is approximately 'L'-shaped with a curved front wall. It has a window looking north-west that has subsequently been blocked up. The bricks are laid in Flemish bond and it has a flat roof. Gatehouse 115 is rectangular in plan and is of the same construction and finish.

South area of site

Buildings 49/49b, 213, 68, 249 (Fig. 10; Pls 5-8)

This complex of buildings houses the research and development facility, which takes the form of long brick buildings forming a square around a central yard, which contains a nitro cellulose store (68) and HFI store (213), and adjacent gatehouse/security building (249). Building 49/49b is first shown on the 1955 map but appears to comprise more than one phase of construction. The building is single storey at the west, with the front façade facing west. The façade has a Tarmac path directly in front of it, and is of brick laid to English garden wall bond, with concrete lintels forming a string course at the top of the windows. A lower concrete string course is interrupted by the sills of each of the windows, which are arranged symmetrically either side of the central entrance doors. These are configured in pairs of double windows each flanked by a tall single window, with an additional single window at each end of the façade. The central panel of the façade, with the main wooden double doors under a concrete lintel, stands forward of the main plane of the building, forming a central taller panel with three decorative moulded flat pilasters. The roof level steps up between the pilasters and is topped with a concrete coping. To either side of the central panel are two round headed apertures (arched with header

bricks) for the gutters to feed into two cast-iron drainpipe hoppers of 1940s style. The building appears first on the 1955 map, and this ornamentation to the main façade of an otherwise functional industrial building is typical of the later art deco and early modern style.

The north-facing elevation of the building is of the same brick bond and window arrangement, with the concrete string course. At the east end of the elevation, the adjoining wing (49b, a separate construction) is of two storeys, and at the ground floor has an entrance under a porch, with a concrete step. The side of the porch comprises small rectangular windows, and at the north-east of the elevation is a small oculus window. At first-floor level there are three metal-framed windows, each of three central panes flanked by three narrow rectangular panes. At the east end of the first floor is a rectangular full-height window with a concrete sill and lintel, with a corresponding window on the east-facing elevation. The windows appear to be replacements though the form of the sill and lintel suggest they are the same materials and proportions as the original windows, and not later insertions. The elevation has a concrete coping which has a subtle hollow moulding.

The two-storey east-facing elevation again appears to be a separate construction, with bricks laid to a stretcher bond and a higher roof line, with a thicker concrete coping which is square in contrast to the moulded coping of the adjacent wing. There is a central covered passageway into the internal yard area, with five windows to the left and six to the right of it. The windows each comprise a central (almost) square pane with narrow rectangular windows above and below and to each side, with small square panes at each corner. A concrete string course at the base of the windows is interrupted by the sills, and the string course above the windows is broken by slightly projecting concrete lintels. These are narrower than those on the façade and north-facing elevation. There are various ventilation shafts and at the north end of the elevation at the ground floor is a small rectangular window.

The south-facing elevation comprises one storey on the left, which is the return of the west-facing main façade. It has the concrete string course at the top of the windows, forming the lintels, and a lower string course at the level of the base of the windows, broken by the sills, as on the façade. The concrete coping continues at the top of the wall.

There are three tall rectangular windows at the left of the elevation, each of six rectangular panes arranged vertically, and wooden double doors between the second and third from left. There are two small projections to the south, each housing one small room, and all part of the same construction. The first of these (at the left of the elevation) has four rectangular windows, each of three panes arranged vertically, on its south-facing side. The second projection has four rectangular windows, each of three panes arranged vertically, on its west-facing

elevation. It is built to English garden wall bond and has a small round-headed aperture with an arch of soldier bricks for the gutter to drain into a cast-iron hopper, as on the main façade. Above this, in the upper part of the wall are another soldier arch and drain hopper to the same design, and a concrete string course as on the main façade.

To the right of the projecting rooms, the string course continues and forms the lintel to five asymmetrically-placed tall windows, each of six rectangular panes. There is a small wooden door at the right of this part of the elevation, with a band of small square white tiles set into the wall at mid height either side of the door. To the left of the door is a third round-headed arch over an aperture for the cast-iron drainpipe, to the same design as described above.

The two-storey block at the right (the return of the east facing elevation) comprises brick laid to an English garden wall bond, with no string course with two small rectangular windows. To the right of these, the ground floor projects to the south, housing one small room. This has a wide rectangular window of small rectangular panes, with a concrete sill and lintel, with a wide, almost full height window to the right comprising small rectangular panes, and at the east end of the ground floor a small horizontally hinged circular window.

At first-floor level there are three roughly square windows, each of three central panes flanked by three smaller rectangular panes. At the east end of the elevation is a rectangular full-height window with a concrete sill and lintel, with a corresponding window on the east-facing elevation (as at the north-east of the building).

The walls facing into the courtyard match the external walls, with two oculus windows (one either side of a blocked former doorway) on the east-facing wall, breaking a mid-height concrete string course. Each of these circular windows is surrounded by two courses of header bricks, and both are now blocked with later brickwork, matching the brickwork blocking the doorway.

Within the central courtyard space are two small stores, to the south a small brick and metal structure used as a nitro-cellulose store (68), first appearing on the 1955 map. At the north is a more substantial small one-storey storage building (213, first appearing on the 1969 map) of brick construction laid to an English garden wall bond, with a flat felted roof and small air vents. On the north side is a small lean-to, of metal and corrugated plastic construction.

Buildings 145, 217 and 222 (Fig. 12; Pls 9-12)

These buildings are at the centre of the southern part of the site, and relate to the production of decorative paint. A building on the footprint of 145 (a warehouse) is shown first on the 1955 map, although the existing building may be a later construction.

Building 145 comprises one main warehouse space, with additional rooms housing battery charging facilities. The walls are of brick laid to English garden wall bond, and comprise two main parts. At the south and west, the building is L shaped, two-storey, with a segmented roof comprising three long pitched roofs aligned north-east–south-west, along the long axis of the building. The roof is of corrugated steel, which is plain throughout the majority of the structure and gable ends, with blue painted panels comprising the bottom half of the gable end of the roof at the west. At the west end, the roof projects over the brick elevation and is supported on steel joists (I-beams) at the corners. Here, the wall is white-painted brick.

The north elevation has large wide windows, each comprising one wide rectangular pane with two small top-hung panes above, and are arranged singly and in pairs along the ground floor. At first-floor level, smaller windows, each a smaller pane with a wide top-hung pane above are again arranged singly and in pairs, and all the windows appear to have metal frames.

There is a small projection to the north, where the main L-shaped building adjoins the taller section at the northeast. This has the main entrance door, flanked by a window on each side, comprising three small rectangular panes arranged vertically, with a matching window on the return (west-facing elevation) and a pair of the same windows above the door, on the first floor and again a single on the return.

The projecting part of the building also contains a tower housing the stairwell, which is square in plan and four storeys high. The north-facing elevation of this has a tall window composed of 15 approximately square panes arranged vertically, spanning the third and fourth floors. The two-storey part of the building at the east has two further entrance doors on the ground floor and pairs of small one-over-one windows. To the east of this, the northeast corner of the building is taller and separately roofed with a shallowly pitched roof. This corner appears to be of the same construction phase and is of the same brick bond. The main north-facing elevation of this part of the building has narrow concrete buttresses the full height of the wall, with all but the westernmost of these clad in metal. The south elevation is of plain brick, with narrow buttresses at intervals and concrete coping to the top of the buttresses and to the walls.

The interior of the north-east part of the building is primarily occupied by one large space, with one enclosed office space, skylights at intervals and metal roof trusses, and brick buttresses along the long walls.

Adjacent to the north side of building 145 is a small one-storey building (222), a brick built, flat-roofed booth serving as a security office, with large windows on the west, north and east sides.

To the south-east of building 145 are six cylindrical steel tanks on a concrete base, labelled on the plan as ‘tank farm’ and serving the resin production part of the site and first appearing on the 1969 plan.

Central area of site

Buildings 46, 111 and 15/15a/15b/15c (including 218, 236 and 125) (Figs 9–12; Pls 13-16)

Buildings 46 (currently housing the personnel, works and estate department, and the I.T. hub) and 111 (the medical department) are located at the centre of the site and served as the Facilities division. They are first shown on the 1955 plan. Building 15, to the east of these, housed the filling shop and first appears on the 1969 map, comprising a building on a rectangular plan, and 15a as a narrower adjoining building. Also narrow and rectangular in plan, 15b and 15c are later additions on the south and west, which appear first on the 1993 map.

Building 46 is rectangular in plan, on an east-west axis, with its front façade facing south. It is two-storey and brick built to an English garden wall bond, with a flat roof. The façade has a central double doorway with slightly projecting and moulded, stepped brick jambs, and a decorative panel above, of bricks laid on end and facing outwards. The roof line of the central portion of the façade is stepped up, with brick pilasters above the door jambs to the top of the façade. At the centre of each side of the façade are pairs of decorative vertical bands either side of a window, each is three bricks wide and formed of columns of bricks set diagonally in a dog-tooth style, with a corner point facing out. These project above the top of the elevation, with the roofline between each pair slightly higher than the rest of the façade, and with concrete coping moulded to match the dogtooth bricks. Above the doorway, there is a further section of this style of dogtooth brickwork, three bricks wide and projecting to the highest part of the elevation.

To either side of the doorway is a concrete string course the width of the building, forming the window lintels, and a lower course interrupted by the window sills. The windows each comprise a rectangular opening pane with a larger fixed pane above and below, and these are arranged symmetrically across the façade (nine on each side of the doorway, though some windows are missing). The windows on the first floor match those on the ground floor, and above the door is a central window of the same type. At each side of the elevation is a small brick soldier arch over the feed from the roof gutter into a cast-iron hopper and drainpipe.

The north (rear) elevation matches the front, with a concrete string course across the building at the level of the base and top of the windows, and brickwork to an English garden wall bond. At the centre of the elevation is a double doorway, with stepped and moulded brick pilasters either side, almost the full height of the elevation and stopping short of the concrete coping to the top of the elevation. Above the door, between the pilasters, is a tall window comprising square glass bricks (six wide and 23 high) lighting the stairwell.

At the western end is a small separate room, built to the same brick construction and a later addition, joined to the main part of 46 with a short corridor. This part is also two storey and flat roofed. At the north end of the

building, an external staircase of steel with a corrugated steel cover leads up from west to east to provide a separate access to the first floor level.

To the north of building 46 is building 111, which is T-shaped in plan, on an east-west axis with a wing at the north. It is of the same brick construction, laid to English garden wall bond, with concrete sills and lintels to the windows, which are separate from a concrete string course which projects from the wall at first floor level. It has an entrance door on the west-facing elevation of the north wing, and windows on both ground and first floor each comprising four wide rectangular panes arranged vertically, with four smaller panes at each side.

Building 15/15a/b/c comprises adjoining rectangular buildings on a north-south axis, with a further part at the south on an east-west axis. Single-storey building 15 is of white painted brick to an English garden wall bond, with rectangular windows along the east elevation, while to the south, building 15b is a combination of low stretcher-bond brick walls with corrugated steel on a steel frame construction above. The roofs of 15, 15a and 15c are all shallow pitched, with 15 lower profile than 15a and 15c, and 15a and 15c have brick gable ends with double doors under concrete lintels. The north elevation of 15 is white painted, partly rendered, and has a small single-storey, flat-roofed addition in brick, 236, projecting to the north, with evidence for a lean-to of metal construction (125), now removed.

Building 107 (Fig. 9; Pls 17-20)

At the eastern site boundary is building 107, part of the Facilities department, housing the canteen, training centre and offices. The main part of the building appears on the 1955 map, while the north-east corner is an addition first appearing on the 1969 map. It is irregular in plan, on a north-south axis, of brick construction laid largely to a stretcher bond, but with areas of irregular bond where some remodelling has been carried out to doors and windows. At the south, it comprises one and a half storeys, with three concrete string courses within the brickwork, one at the base of the windows, one at the top of the windows, and one mid-height between the first floor and roof line. The roof is corrugated asbestos, and is segmented into several long roof structures (four over the western part of the building and three over the east) aligned north-south, each with a gently-pitched side at the east and more steeply pitched side at the west. The east facing elevation is overgrown with climbing plants, and a small low wall of concrete blocks appears to be a later addition.

At the centre of the building, a three-storey tower of the same brick construction appears to be part of the original building. The later addition at the north-east is two-storey, with a shallow-pitched hipped roof (the type of material is unclear). It has a southern elevation of brick built to a stretcher bond, and an eastern elevation comprising largely long rectangular glass windows and blue painted panels. The north-facing elevation on the

left-hand side is glass at ground- and first-floor level, comprising five by five large square panes, with blue painted panelling at the top of the wall under the eaves. The right-hand side is of brick laid to a stretcher bond, with three metal-framed windows on the ground and three on the first floor.

Northern area of site

Building 173 (Fig. 9: Pls 21 and 22)

At the north-west perimeter of the site, 173 is a small rectangular building, first shown on the 1969 plan. It is marked as 'fire station' and has a tall lookout tower at the west end, and at the east comprising a one-storey unit with two wide folding doors under concrete lintels in the east elevation. It has a pitched roof, with a small flat-roofed storeroom along the northern side. It is of brick to an English garden wall bond, with three brick buttresses and four sets of metal-framed windows under concrete lintels on each long side. The function of the building, to house fire-fighting equipment and perhaps small vehicles, are reflected by the tower, doors and its position at the north-east of the site, permitting a quick response to any part of the site.

Building 188 (Pl. 23)

This is two storey and rectangular in plan, with the ground floor of brick laid to Flemish garden wall bond and a tall upper floor of corrugated asbestos and a pitched corrugated roof. On the ground floor south elevation there are two sets of wooden doors and four small windows. The building first appears on the 1969 map, serving as the pump house regulating the water supply throughout the site, and on the south facing elevation is a metal gauge.

Buildings 26C, 43, 63, 155, 157, 158, 162, 190, 192, 196, 201, 223, 235, 251 (Fig 9. Pls 24-28)

The north-eastern part of the site is occupied by buildings relating to resin production, in addition to several small buildings including a pump house for surface water (157), a pressure tank (158), sprinkler pump house (26C), substations (235) and TMA handling building. These are all of mixed brick, concrete and steel construction and are first shown on the 1969 map, with the exception of 26C (small brick outbuilding shown on the 1955 plan). A building is shown on the 1955 map in the same location and orientation as building 251, however the steel construction and finish show that the current building is a replacement for the original.

Building 192, described as 'jumbo kettle' is of largely brick construction, built to English garden wall bond, three storeys high with a flat roof. It has support structures around a tall tower and gantries linking it to building 193, and a large cylindrical structure to the north, labelled 'Thermex boiler'. Windows comprise three rectangular panes arranged vertically, with three smaller panes at each side, with three of these at first-floor level

on the south elevation and none in the upper storey, and one on the east-facing elevation. At the south, a brick-built, metal-roofed addition projects to the south and is open-fronted.

Tank structures 196 (resin storage) and 210 (resin latex) are aligned east-west along the northern perimeter of the site, and are rectangular in plan with cylindrical steel tanks. They are of concrete and steel construction.

Buildings 190, 63 and 201 are brick-built and joined with steel gantries, however they appear to have been built as separate phases in slightly different styles, with the central of the three (63) appearing to be the earliest, and sharing features with the pre-1955 buildings, though all three first appear on the 1969 map. They together form the P.V.A. manufacturing buildings and the adjacent tanks would have supplied the raw ingredients (vinyl acetate) and stored the produced PVA.

Building 190 is rectangular in plan, with three storeys (the top storey being double height), and has brickwork laid to an English garden wall bond, with concrete pillars at each corner. There are two wide concrete bands at first- and second-floor level and at the top of the elevations. On the ground floor, south-facing elevation are a pair of double sliding wooden doors, with a window (three rectangular panes with three small panes either side) on the first-floor right-hand side and evidence for a blocked window on the left. The second storey has a single window at the centre, on the left of which is a steel chute.

Building 63 is rectangular, of two storeys, and has a concrete string course above and below the first-floor level, and concrete coping at the top of the elevation. The first floor has a single window of four by four small rectangular panes, under a concrete lintel, and above this a circular oculus window with two rows of header bricks, and filled in with later brickwork.

Building 201 is roughly rectangular in plan and joined to 63 with a steel gantry and other pipes and fittings. It is brick, of two storeys (the first floor a tall storey) with a pitched roof. The ground floor has double metal doors on the front (south-facing) elevation, and a large rectangular panel above which may have served as a hatch, though this is unclear. At first floor level are a pair of central windows, each of two rectangular panes side by side, and an air vent above these in the centre of the tall gable end.

To the east of these buildings, several structures shown on the plan have been demolished due to contamination, and this part of the site was not accessible for health and safety reasons. Photographs (Pls 29-32) show hexagonal concrete structures (tank bases), two small one-storey brick buildings (67 and 160, a compression station and a substation), tanks at the east (152, 153 and 200, storing solvents and oil) with outbuildings (160, 174, 185, 216 and 252) housing stores, and monitoring and distribution equipment. The tanks

and buildings are linked to the main buildings of the paint and resin production areas of the site by pipe bridges, formed of steel box-framed gantries carrying arrays of pipes of various sizes at approximately first-floor height.

Buildings 21N, 21S, 21a, 24a, 29, 116, 166, 184, 205, 207, 208, 242, 250, 253 and 254 (Fig. 11; Pls 33-36)

This complex of buildings is first shown on the 1955 plan of the site. A building is shown in the location of 21N on the 1932 plan, and it is possible that this may have been incorporated into the complex, however the finish of the building conceals any indications of phasing. However, the layout suggests that the complex was added to in several phases. The southern parts (20, 209 and the outbuilding to the south) relate to decorative paint production, and those at the north (21/116/166 and outbuildings) house parts of the resin production process.

These buildings relate to the later stages of varnish production, with the raw ingredients stored in the tanks to the north and mixed with ingredients stored in 21N, 116 and 166 (dry colour), followed by blending (building 24). Building 21 houses the electrical distribution for this complex, and 253 is a small tank farm serving the buildings.

At the south of the range, building 209 comprises three storeys, in concrete construction, with occasional small windows on the ground and first floors only. It is on an east-west axis with a doorway at the east, which has a brick surround and concrete lintel. An external steel staircase leads up to a first-floor doorway. The west gable end has an additional three-storey height tower of brick to an English garden wall bond, with an external steel stairway and gantry (fire escape), with a doorway at the top of the south-facing side of the tower.

Building 20 adjoins it, on the same axis, and is also rectangular. It comprises two tall storeys, and is brick with a shallow-pitched steel roof, with brick gables built to English garden wall bond, and concrete construction below. The gable at the east is open fronted, with five wide loading bays separated by concrete pillars. The west gable comprises plain brickwork to an English garden wall bond, with a steel joist across the front of the elevation at first-floor level and below this, a wide, tall loading door and single small doorway with concrete lintel.

Building 166 is two-storey, with a brick gable end, built to English garden wall bond with a single brick buttress at the centre of the elevation, extending to mid height on the gable end. At ground-floor level, the elevation is painted white and has two wide sliding wood doors, and is covered with a projecting corrugated-steel canopy on steel joists.

Building 116 is one-storey, with corrugated steel roof, a white-painted brick gable end with a tall double door for loading at the south, and a small single door at the centre. Above these is a series of small square windows in pairs with three small rectangular windows between, set high in the elevation and a doorway at the

south. Adjacent to the elevation is a dust extractor, large rectangular steel hopper, with a pipe from the hopper inserted through a window opening. The north-facing elevation is bare brick to an English garden wall bond, with narrow buttresses at intervals along the elevation, and two small bays built one brick wide, with steel doors to each compartment, formerly containing bins or storage tanks. The interior is one open space with brick buttresses at intervals, which carry each on the roof trusses. It has a pair of wide loading bays with double sliding doors at the west end, leading into building 21, above which are two internal windows.

The main range comprising 21N and 21S (which are not easily distinguished from the exterior) is one tall storey, in brick which is rendered in places and painted white throughout, with single and double doors on the west elevation and rectangular windows arranged in groups of two, three, five and eight irregularly spaced at the top of the elevation, above the eaves. Below and above the level of the windows are arrays of pipes of various sizes which are connected to the pipe bridges at the north of the site. The roof is corrugated steel, with several vents, and above the wide loading door at the centre of the elevation is a projecting dormer in corrugated steel with projecting pipework. The east facing elevation is partly rendered white-painted brick to English garden wall bond, with a small door at the south end of the elevation. The north elevation comprises 21a (electrical distribution) and 24a (varnish blending store), which are white painted brick.

The interior is divided into three spaces, each occupied by large rectangular steel tanks. The tanks at the north are located along the western side of the building, with a narrow space between the tanks and the wall. A wide doorway connects it to the central of the three rooms, where the tanks are positioned in a north-south row in the centre of the building, with two wide loading doors at the east, leading into building 116, and two doors opposite on the western side. The southernmost end of the interior space has a small gantry crane.

Building 24 (varnish blending), at the north of the range, comprises one tall storey of brick with a corrugated steel roof divided into three, each portion on an east-west axis with roofs which are steep at the north and a shallower pitch at the south. There are doors on the north facing elevation, and a small metal lean-to on the east. The south-facing elevation is rendered and painted, and has pipes connecting it to the plant room to the south (253b). The interior contains pipes and a series of tanks, with central steel posts carrying a large duct, and in the centre of the south side, a large weighing scale of likely mid-20th century date.

In the yard formed by 116, 21 and 24, is a concrete structure (253b) housing hexagonal tanks, which are connected to building 209 via a pipe bridge, and a small metal cabin (254) marked 'Water De-Min Plant' (de-mineralizing) with doors on the south elevation.

Building 29 at the east of the resin building complex housed the resin amenities, and is on a long rectangular plan with a north-south axis, of one storey in white-painted brick and a shallow pitched roof which is corrugated metal, partly relatively new and partly apparently older and in poor condition. There are brick ridges dividing the roof into segments.

The brickwork is to a variation of English garden wall bond, with rows of headers alternating with one or three courses of stretchers. The west-facing elevation has two wide doorways (with the doors and frames now removed) under concrete lintels and a further wide doorway at the south end. It has later 20th-century replacement windows under concrete lintels, arranged in twos and threes, each of two larger lower panes and two small panes above, and two original windows at the centre of the elevation which each have a concrete sill and lintel, with five-over-five small rectangular panes. Above the windows are small air vents at intervals, with perforated cast-iron grilles. The south end of the elevation has six windows, also likely to be original, consisting of one-over-one rectangular pane under concrete lintels, with one continuous concrete sill. Two further small doorways alternate with two later replacement windows of two large rectangular panes.

The north elevation has a rendered and white-painted gable end with a small doorway, a wider loading door, and a small rectangular window which may be original.

The south-facing elevation comprises two separate additions, with a lower gable roof at the east, and projecting to the west, a smaller addition with a low pitched roof. The east addition on the west-facing elevation has a full height opening with a rectangular metal grid, serving as the air intake for machinery housed in the building. The west addition has a small doorway on the south facing elevation.

Interpretation

The recording was carried out as intended, although the interiors of some buildings could not be accessed for health and safety reasons. A full photographic record of the site was compiled, with the addition of supplementary photographs taken of the site before any remediation of contaminated areas.

The site layout and interpretation reflect the development over the site since its origins, although no individual buildings appear to have survived of the earliest phase of paintworks on the site (Naylor Brothers) in the period before the Ordnance Survey map of 1932.

The earliest remaining buildings on the site date to the late 1930s/early 1940s, the period after the site was acquired by ICI, and are primarily of brick. The sites development from the 1950s onwards included more frequent use of concrete and metal, often driven by changes in mechanization and the materials used. The

addition of many large storage tanks throughout the site demonstrates not only the change in the types of chemicals and plastics being used in the second half of the 20th century, but the scale and volume of the products being developed and produced.

The site's early buildings are uniformly designed in a late Art Deco/early Modernist form typical of the period, and are comparable in style to other 1930s industrial buildings, such as the 1937 Gillette factory (designed by Sir Banister Fletcher). Brick pilasters and stepped roof lines are typical of the period, and were influenced by the architecture of Giles Gilbert Scott, who popularized many of these features by his use in buildings such as Battersea Power Station (1935), and whose influence in brick-built industrial architecture continued throughout the 1940s and early 1950s. The use throughout the building of this period on the site of English garden wall brickwork is typical of the period, as both an aesthetic and economic preference, with concrete used in place of stone, as a cheap but versatile material to add strength and visual variety to the brick structures.

Conclusion

The buildings are fairly typical of the popular construction methods and finishes of their period, and although the later metal structures have little merit, these brick buildings are good examples of their type and have only been slightly modified and modernized over the later years of the factory site. Although they are not exceptional examples of industrial architecture of this period, they merit a record of their current condition, form and setting, and are representative of a significant period of Slough's industrial development.

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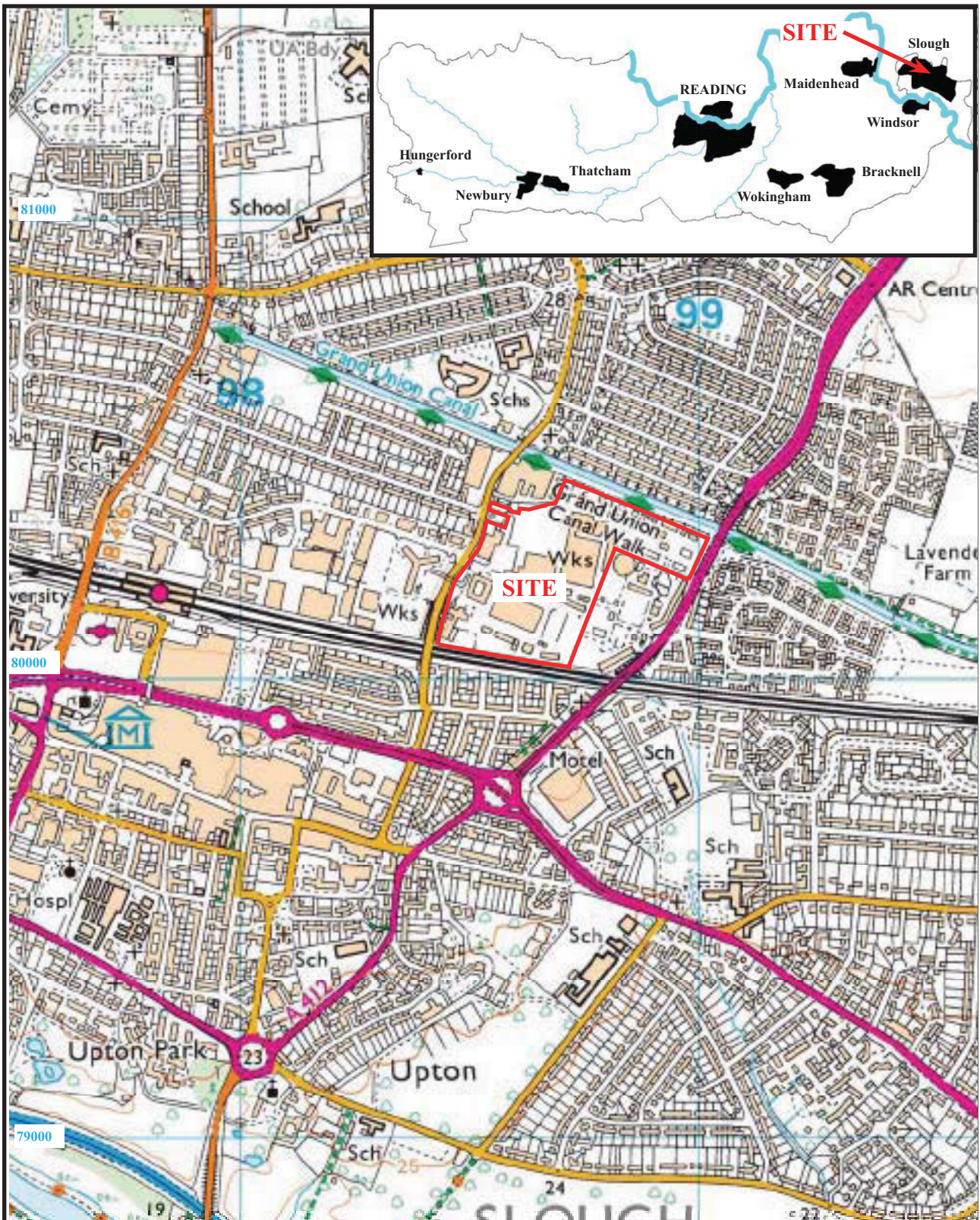
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APPENDIX 1: Photographic Catalogue

<i>Cat. No.</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Direction</i>	<i>Description</i>
01	South of Plant and equipment area, outside entrance	NW	General view of entrance to site and building 107 [PI. 1]
02	South of Plant and equipment area, outside entrance	East	General view of east side of entrance to site and building 46
03	West of plant and equipment storage area	East	General view of car park with building 15c in back ground
04	NW of plant and equipment area	West	General view of waste management area, with buildings 116, 190 and 192 visible in the background
05	Just NW of plant and equipment area	North	Buildings 173 and 188
06	NW of waste management area, in-between buildings 173 and 188,	SE	View over waste management area, to warehouses of building 15, 208 and 209
07	NW of waste management area, at SE corner of building 188	East	Wide view of waste management area, buildings 21S, 21N, 192 and 190 can be seen in background.
08	Building 29 to the south and building 201 to the north	East	General view to the eastern portion of the site, building 201
09	South of building 190 and 63	South	View of road between buildings 116 and 29
10	South of building 190 and 63	West	Full view of eastern elevation of building 241
11	West of plant and equipment area	West	Southern portion of eastern elevation of building 107, window detail. [PI. 17]
12	West of plant and equipment area	NW	Window detail of mid portion of eastern elevation of building 107 [PI. 18]
13	NW of plant and equipment area	West	Window detail, northern portion of the eastern elevation of building 107 [PI. 19]
14	North of building 107	South	North elevation of building 107, window detail. [PI. 20]
15	South of building 173, NW of Waste management area	North	Southern elevation of building 173 [PI. 21]
16	East of 173 and south of 188, North West of waste management area	West	Eastern elevation of building 173 [PI. 22]
17	East of 173 and south of 188, North West of waste management area	NE	Wide general view of building 188, showing southern and western elevations, doors and windows can be seen [PI. 23]
18	East of building 188	NW	Wide general view of building 188, showing southern and eastern elevations.
19	North of building 21N and 24	NE	Wide general view of building 192, Western and southern faces shown. Piping and other industrial facilities shown. [PI. 24]
20	North of building 24	North	View of southern face of building 192, window detail. Covered work area shown to be attached in front of building 192.
21	North of building 24	North East	Building 241 [PI. 25]
22	East of building 192, North of building 24	West	View of eastern elevation of building 192 [PI. 26]
23	External	NNE	Buildings 190, 163 and 201
24	External, east of 201	WNW	Building 201 external, stairs to second floor visible
25	External, NE of 29	SW	View of Building 29 North end external. Gas tower also visible
26	External	SW	View of NE end of 49B
27	external	WSW	View of W end of 49B, N end of 49, as well as 114
28	External	NE	General view of 115 and road, other buildings visible in background [PI. 2]
29	External	NW	View of 115 and gate [PI. 3]
30	S of 107	W	View of 114 and gate [PI. 4]
31	N of 49	S	View of 49
32	W of 49	E	Partial view of 49
33	S of 46	SE	View of 145 and partial of 49b [PI. 9]
34	S of 46	SW	View of NE corner of 49b. [PI. 7]
35	E of 49b	W	View of entryway 49b. as well as 68
36	E of 49b	NW	Oblique view of entryway of 49b
37	SE of 49b, W of 145	NW	Oblique view of S end of 49b [PI. 5]
38	S of 49b	N	View of S end of 49b
39	S of 49b	NE	Oblique view of S end of 49b
40	S of 49	NE	Oblique view of S end of 49, partial of 49b
41	SW of 49	ENE	Oblique view of E and S ends of 49 [PI. 6]
42	W of 49	E	View of entryway to 49 [PI. 7]
43	E of 183, W of 119	NE	Oblique view of W and S ends of 145
44	E of 183, W of 119	E	Oblique view of S end of 145
45	Interior of 49	W	Internal corridor of 49, as well as partial skylight [PI. 8]
46	Interior courtyard of 49/49B	NE	View of courtyard of 49 as well as 213
47	Interior courtyard of 49/49B	NW	View of courtyard as well as 213
48	Interior courtyard of 49/49B	E	View of 49b service elevator
49	Interior courtyard of 49/49B	NE	View of 49b service elevator
50	Interior courtyard of 49/49B	N	View of old doorway on outside of 49 [PI. 14]
51	Interior of 49B	SE	View of windows in 49B

<i>Cat. No.</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Direction</i>	<i>Description</i>
52	Interior of 49B	E	View of stairway in 49B
53	Entryway to 49/49B courtyard	S	View of interior of 49B, as well as doorway
54	E of 49b, W of 145	NE	General shot of W end of 145 and S end of 46
55	S of 46	S	View of N end of 145
56	S of 46	SE	Oblique of 145 [Pl. 11]
57	Interior of 145	E	Interior of 145
58	Interior of 145	E	Interior of 145 [Pl. 10]
59	S of 145	E	View alongside the S end of 145 towards storage tanks (217)
60	N of 141, S of 145	S	View of N end of 141
61	N of 141, S of 145	S	View of N end of 141
62	E of 217	W	Oblique view of 145
63	SW of 217	E	View of 141a
64	NW of 141	NW Facing	View of 145
65	S of 141	E	View of W end of 211
66	E of 211	NW Facing	View of E end of 211
67	E of 145	W Facing	View of E end of 145
68	N of 217	SW Facing	General shot of 217, 145 and 141
69	E of 145	W Facing	View of E end of 145
70	E of 145	W Facing	Oblique view of E end of 145
71	NE of 145	SW Facing	Oblique view of N end of 145
72	N of 145	SW Facing	View of 222 and N end of 145
73	NE of 145	NE Facing	View of S end of 15
74	N of 145	NW Facing	View of S end of 46
75	N of 145	NW Facing	View of S end of 46 [Pl. 13]
76	Interior of 46	W Facing	Interior shot of 46
77	Interior of 46, first floor	E Facing	Interior shot of 46
78	N of 46	E Facing	View of N end of 46
79	W of 46	E Facing	View of steps of 46
80	W of 111, N of 46	SE Facing	Oblique view of N side of 46
81	Interior of 111	N Facing	View of stairs in 111
82	Interior of 111, 1st floor	E Facing	View of exterior stairway in 111
83	Interior of 111, 1st floor	N Facing	View from top of interior stairs in 111
84	NW of 111	E Facing	View of doorway of 111 [Pl. 15]
85	S of 15C, N of 46	W Facing	View of 111 and 46
86	N of 46	SW Facing	View of window detail of 46 [Pl. 18]
87	NW of 46 and 111	SE Facing	Wide angle view of 111 and 46
88	NW of 15	SE Facing	Oblique view of 15a, 15, 15c
89	N of 15C	SW Facing	View of 15C entrance
90	Interior of 15C	SW Facing	View of 15C interior
91	Interior of 15C	SE Facing	View of 15C interior towards 15A
92	Interior of 15B	NE Facing	View of machinery in 15B
93	Interior of 15A	N Facing	View of 15A interior towards entrance
94	Interior of 15	NE Facing	View of interior of 15 [Pl. 16]
95	Interior of 15	E Facing	View from interior of 15 towards 20
96	NE of 15	SW Facing	Oblique view of 15, 15A, 15C
97	W of 20, NE of 15	SSW Facing	Oblique view of E side of 15 and W side of 20
98	Interior of 20	E Facing	View of inside of 20
99	E of 15	SW Facing	Oblique view of E side of 15
100	E of 15B	SE Facing	View of demolished buildings and 207
101	SE of 15B	NW Facing	Oblique view of 15B and 15
102	W of 207	NE Facing	View of S side of 209 and 207
103	S of 15	N Facing	View of 15 and 209
104	E of 145	W Facing	View of 145 and 15
105	NE of 206	SW Facing	View of 206
106	SW of 207/208	NNE Facing	View towards 208 and 209
107	SE of 209	NW Facing	Oblique view of S side of 209
108	SE of 209	N Facing	Oblique view of E side of 209 [Pl. 33]
109	Interior of 209	W Facing	View of interior of 209
110	E of 209	NW Facing	View of E elevation 20
111	E of 20	N Facing	View of 20 and 29
112	E of 20	NE Facing	Oblique view of 29
113	Interior of 20	WSW Facing	View of interior of 20
114	Interior of 20	WNW Facing	View of interior of 20, including scrap
115	W of 29	E Facing	View of 29 entrances
116	S of 29	SSW Facing	View of 20 and 209
117	W of 29	NW Facing	View of E side of 166 and 116 [Pl. 34]
118	W of 29	E Facing	View of 29 [Pl. 24]
119	Interior of 166	W Facing	View of interior of 166
120	E of 166	NE Facing	View of W side of 29

<i>Cat. No.</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Direction</i>	<i>Description</i>
121	E of 166	SE Facing	View of W side of 29
122	E of 253b	SE Facing	View of W side of 29
123	N of 29	S Facing	View of N side of 29
124	Interior of 29	N Facing	View of interior of 29
125	W of 29	W Facing	View of E side of 116
126	NNE of 116	W Facing	View of 21N 24
127	N of 116	NNW Facing	View of 24 [Pl. 35]
128	SE of 24, N of 116	W Facing	View of 21N and 253b
129	SE of 24	NW Facing	View of S side of 24
130	Top of 253b	SE Facing	Elevated shot from 253b, towards 29
131	Top of 253b	SW Facing	Elevated shot from 253b, towards 21N and 116
132	E of 21N W of 253B	N Facing	View of S side of 254
133	S of 24, S of 254	E Facing	View of S side of 254, partial view of 253b
134	SE of 24	NW Facing	View to E side of 24, 192 visible in background
135	E of 24	SE Facing	Oblique view of 29, partial of 116
136	Interior of 24	W Facing	Interior view of 24, showing machinery
137	Interior of 24	W Facing	Scale
138	Interior of 24	S Facing	Machinery
139	Interior of 24	W Facing	View of NW corner of 24
140	Interior of 21N	NNW Facing	View of raised walkway
141	Interior of 21N	S Facing	View of interior corridor of 21N, including machinery [Pl. 36]
142	Interior of 21N	W Facing	View of interior door
143	Interior of 21N	N Facing	View of machinery and interior hallway
144	Interior of 21N	S Facing	View of machinery and door
145	W of 21N	NE Facing	View of W side of 21N
146	W of 21N	SE Facing	View of W side of 21N, 21S
147	W of 21N	SW Facing	View of waste management area and 15
148	Interior of 21S	SE Facing	Interior of 21S, view of entrances to 116, 166
149	Interior of 116	E Facing	Interior of 116
150	Interior of 116	W Facing	Interior of 116
151	Interior of 21S	SE Facing	Interior of 21S
152	W of 21S	NNE Facing	View of W side of 21S
153	Interior of 20	S Facing	View of interior of 20 through to 209, and scrap
154	Interior of 107	S Facing	View of interior of 107
155	185	E	Tank bases [Pl. 29]
156	153, 160, 174	NW	Buildings 153, 160, 174 and pipe bridges [Pl. 30]
157	Northeast extent of site	NE	Northeast site boundary
158	60 and 150	N	Buildings and pipe bridges [Pl. 30]
159	205	S	Amenity block 205



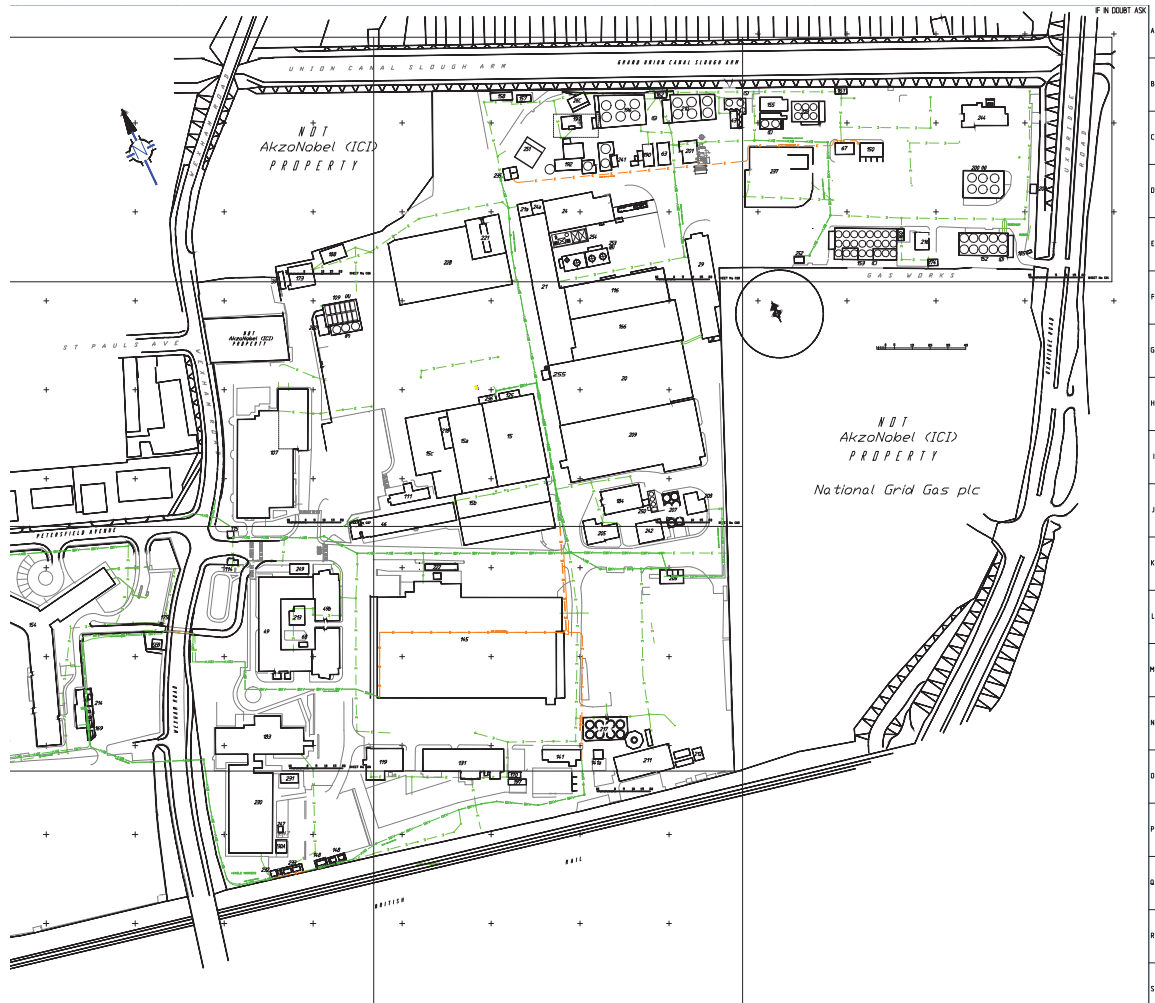
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Figure 1. Location of site
within Slough and Berkshire.

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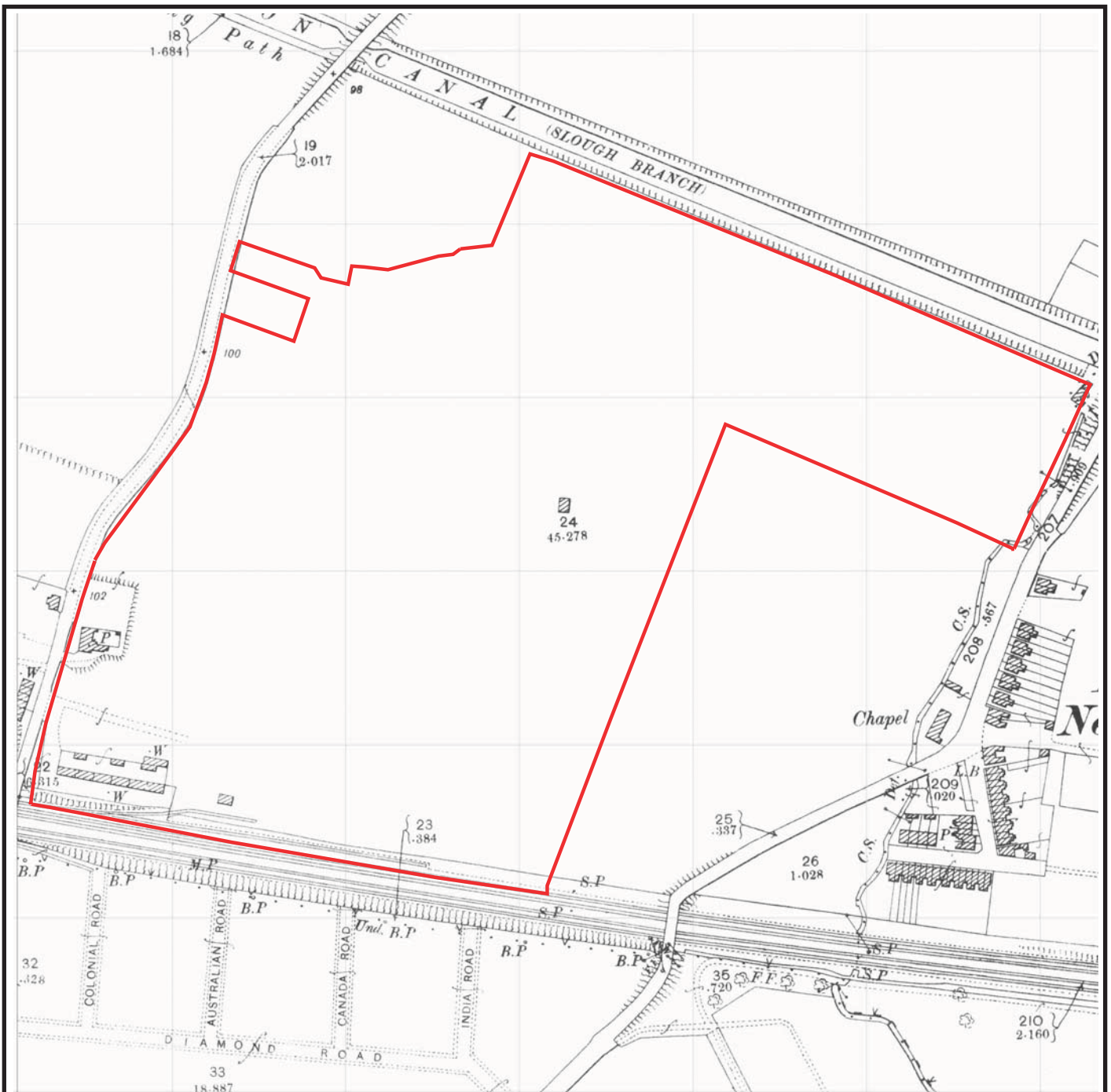
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Figure 2. Site plan showing buildings



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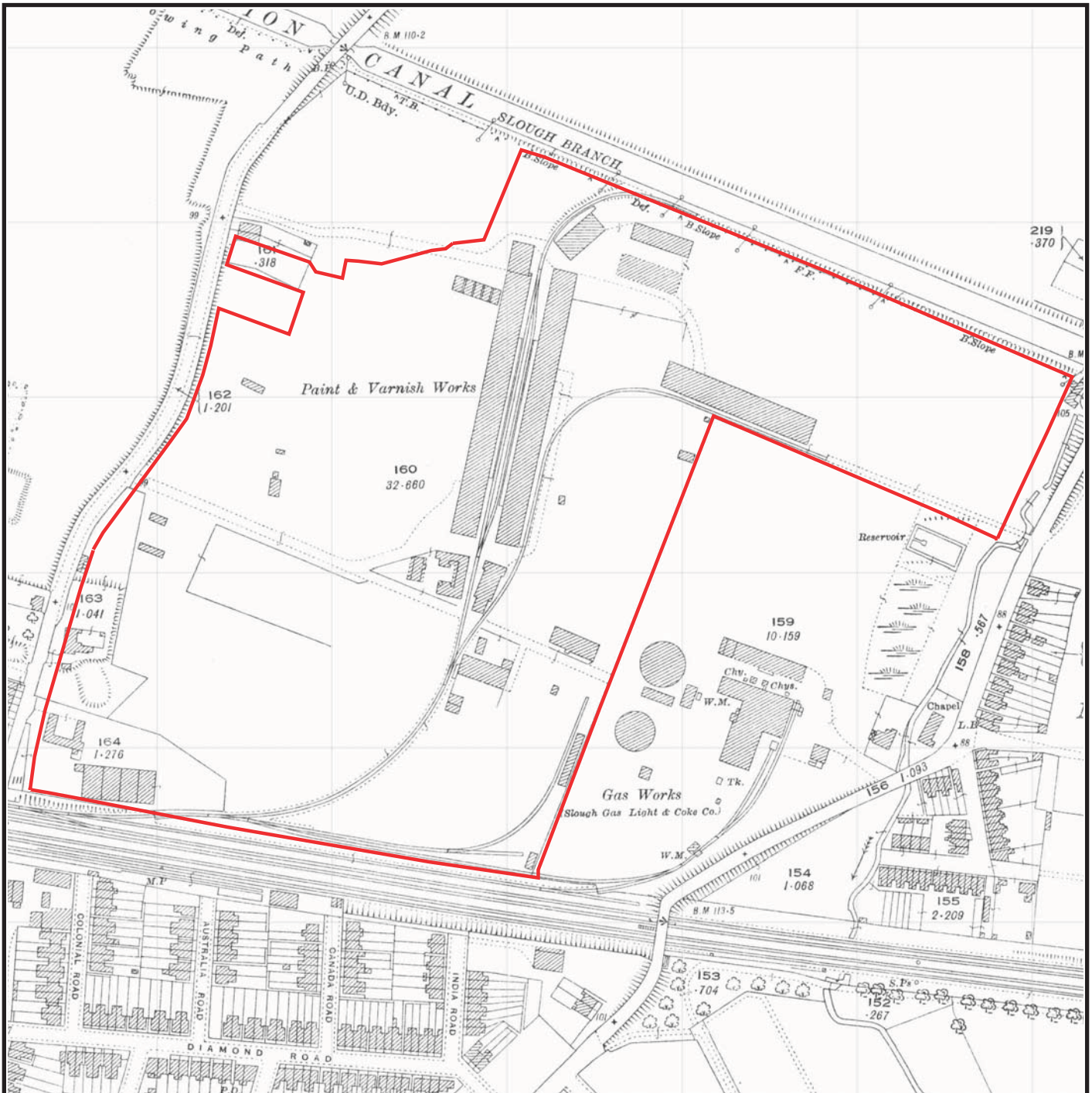


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Figure 3. Ordnance Survey 1899

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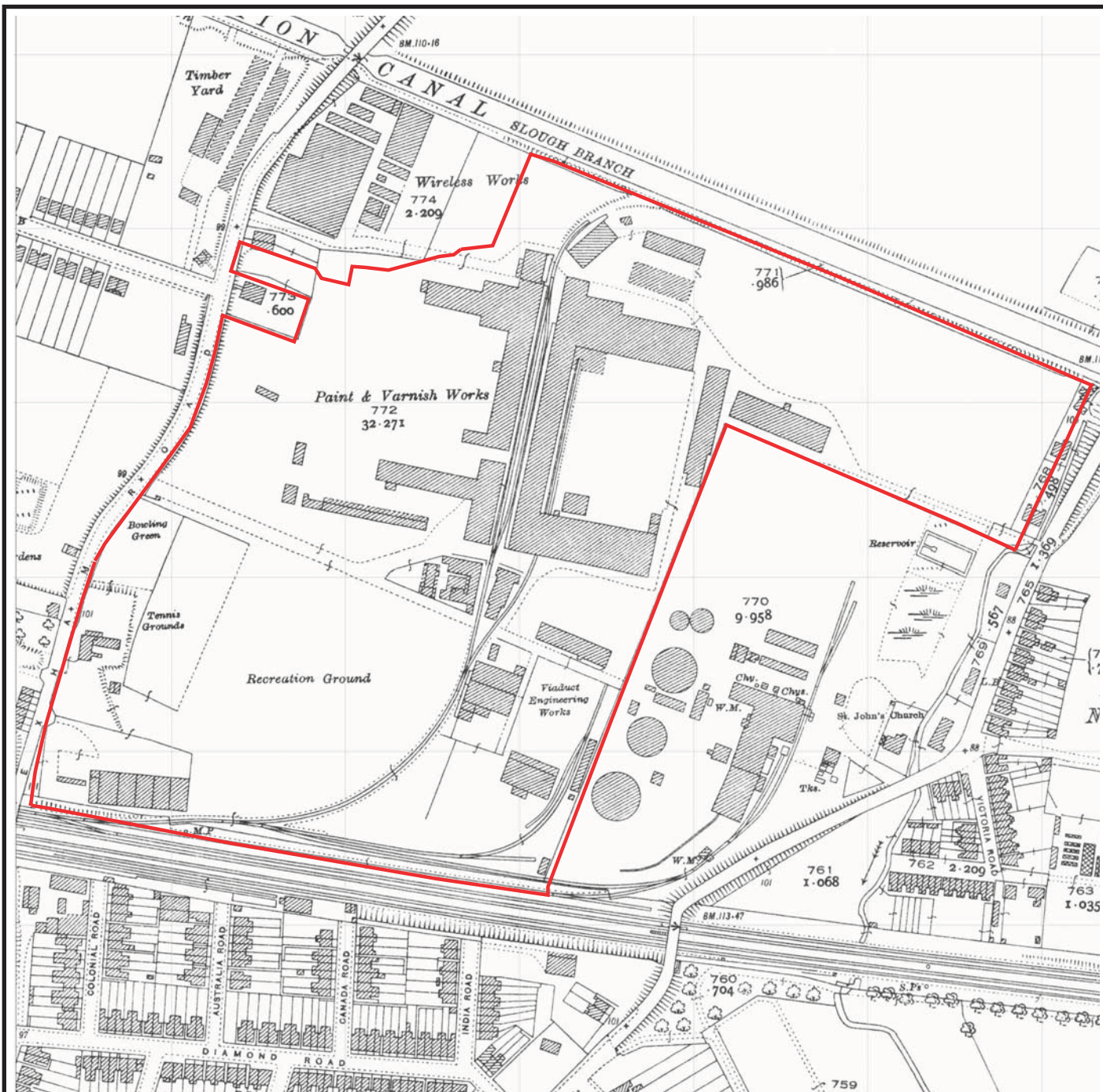


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Figure 4. Ordnance Survey 1925

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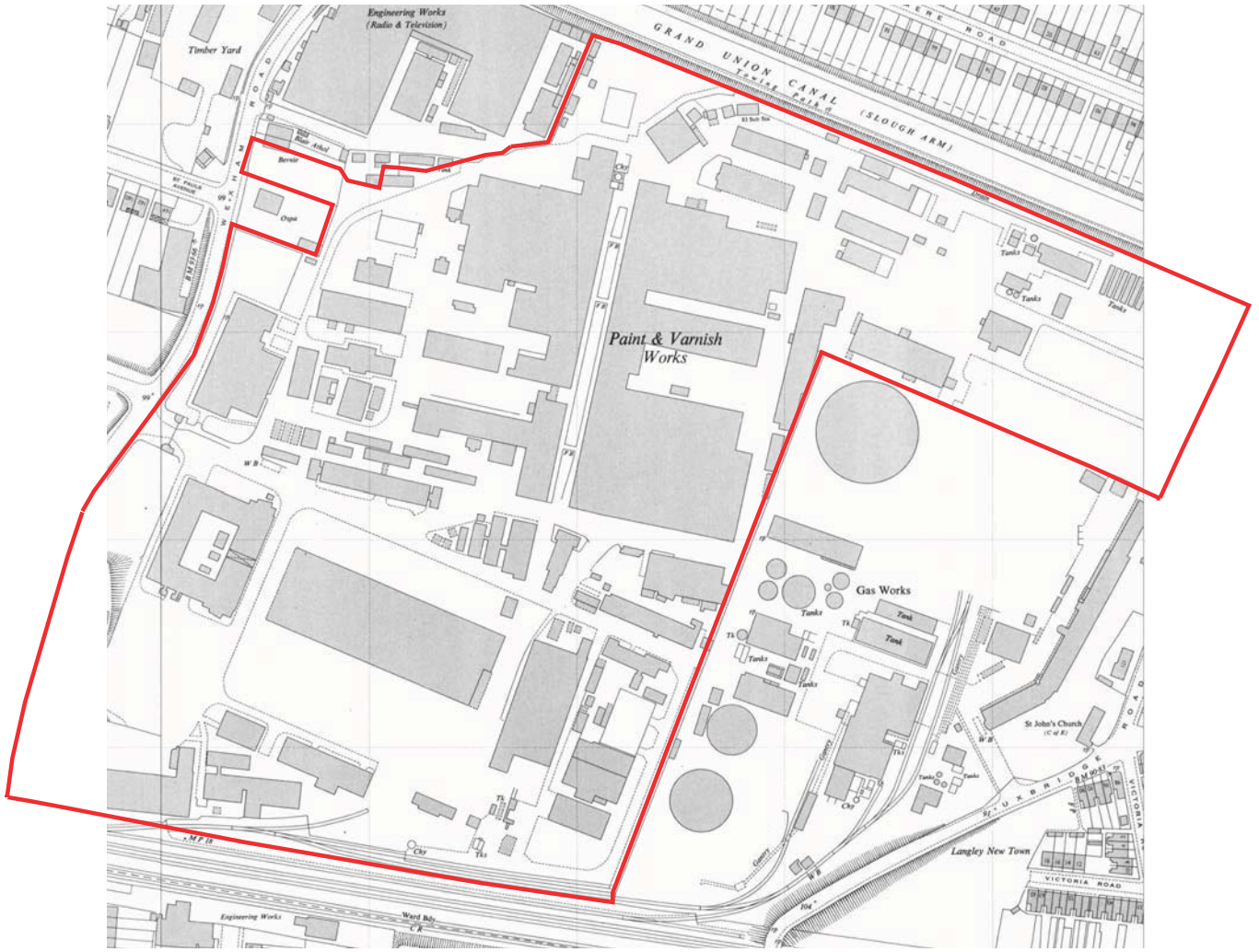


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Figure 5. Ordnance Survey 1932

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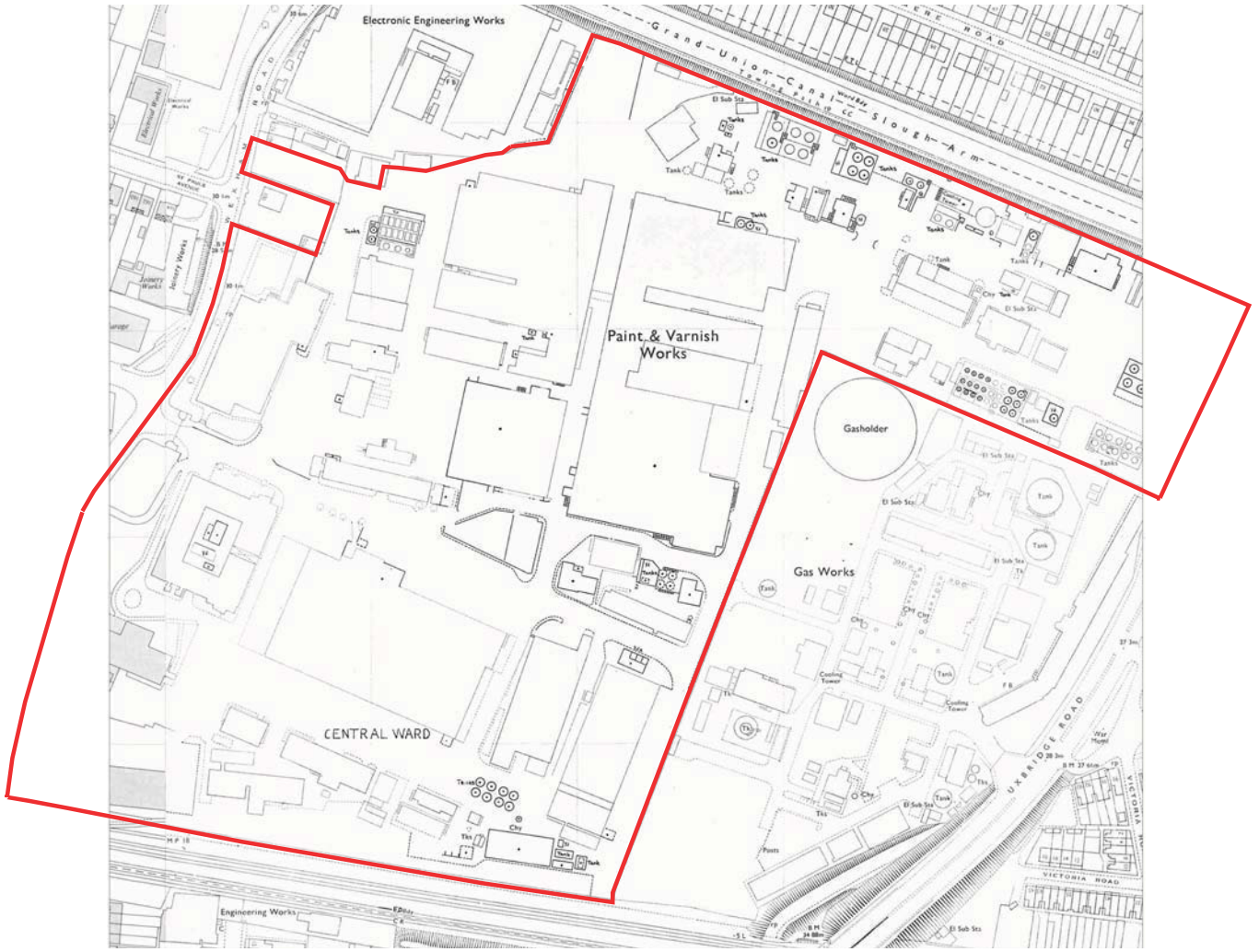


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Figure 7. Ordnance Survey 1955

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Figure 7. Ordnance Survey 1965-1969

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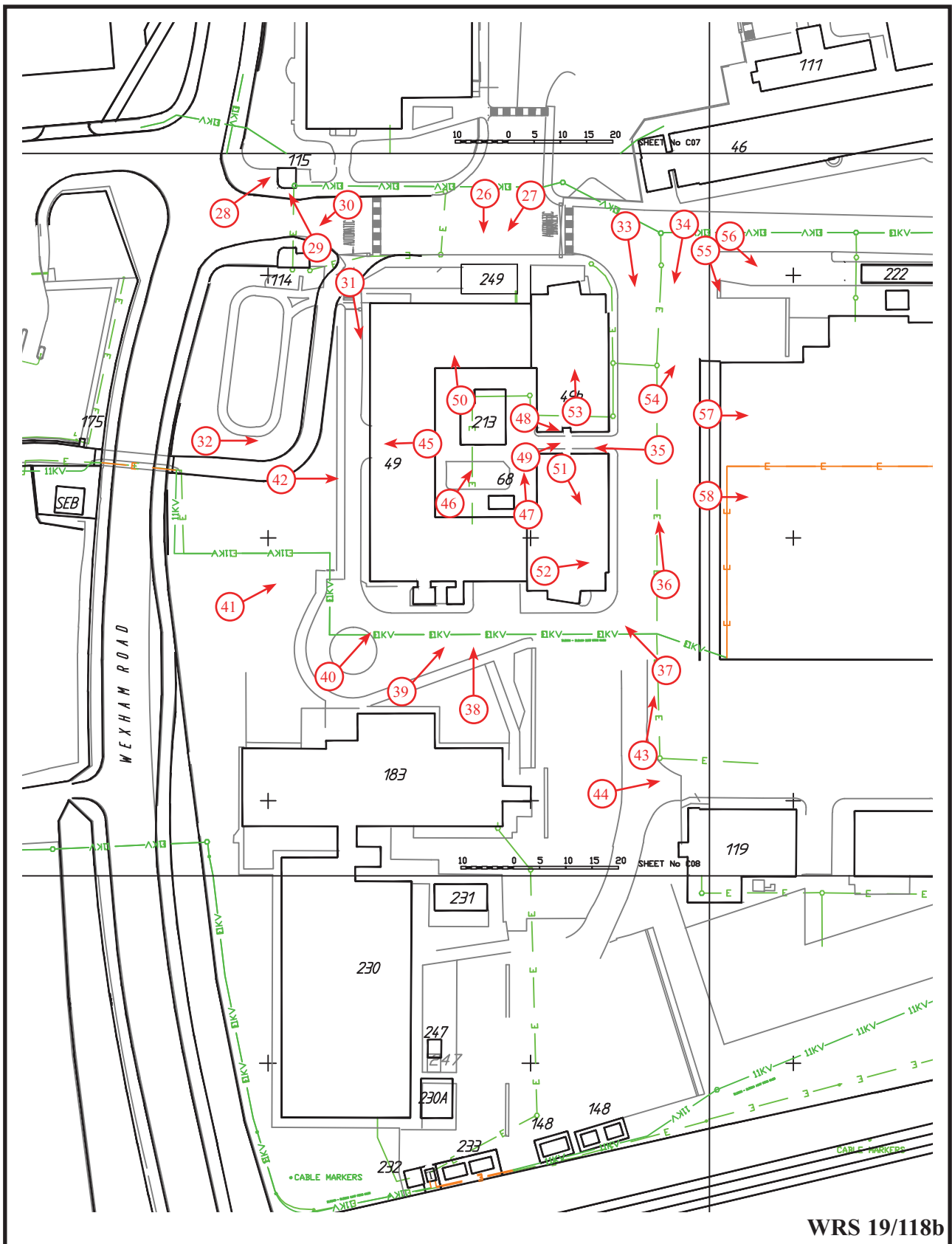


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Figure 8. Ordnance Survey 1993

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Figure 10. Site plan showing photo orientations
(southwest corner)

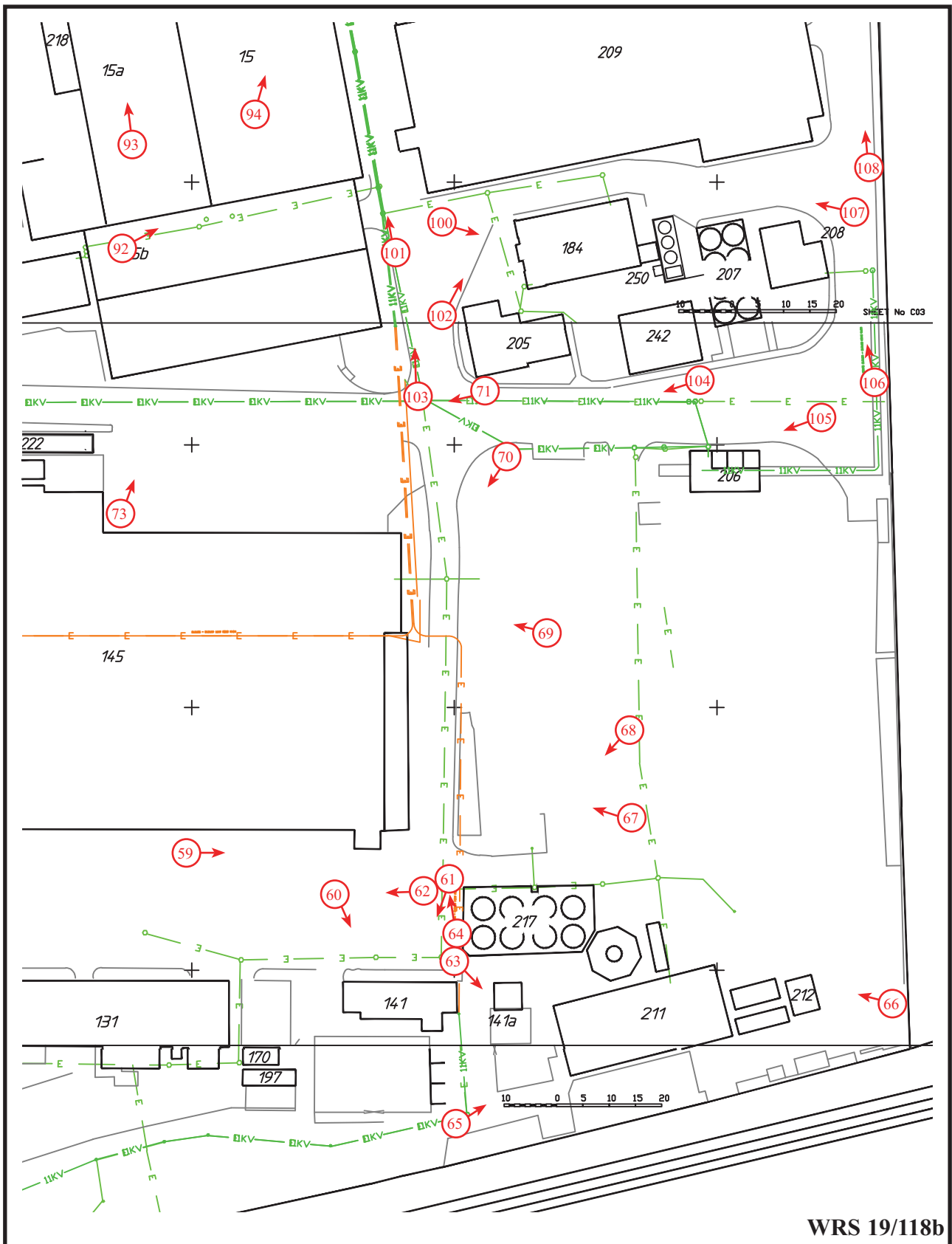




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Figure 11. Site plan showing photo orientations
(northeast area of site)



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Building Recording**

Figure 12. Site plan showing photo orientations
(southeastern area of site)





Plate 1. General view of site entrance and buildings 107 and 115, looking west



Plate 2. General view of 115 and road.



Plate 3. View of 115 and gate, looking north west.



Plate 4. View of 114 and gate west .

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Building Recording
Plates 1 to 4.

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Plate 5. Oblique view of S end of 49b, looking North-West



Plate 6. Oblique view of E and S ends of 49, looking East-North-East



Plate 7. View of entryway to 49, looking East



Plate 8. Internal corridor of 49, showing skylight, looking West

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Building Recording
Plates 5 to 8.

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Plate 9. General shot of 217, 145 and 141, looking South-West



Plate 10. Interior of 145, looking East



Plate 11. Oblique view of 145, looking South-East



Plate 12. View alongside the S end of 145 towards storage tanks (217), looking East

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Building Recording
Plates 9 to 12.**

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Plate 13. View of S end of 46, looking North-West



Plate 14. View of window detail of 46, looking South-West



Plate 15. Building 111, looking East



Plate 16. View of interior of 15, looking North-East

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Building Recording
Plates 13 to 16.**

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Plate 17. Building 107, east elevation, looking West



Plate 18. Building 107, east elevation showing northern addition, looking North-West



Plate 19. Building 107, northern addition, looking West



Plate 20. Building 107, northern elevation, looking South

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Building Recording
Plates 17 to 20.

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Plate 21. Building 173, looking North



Plate 22. Building 173, looking West



Plate 23. Building 188 looking North-West

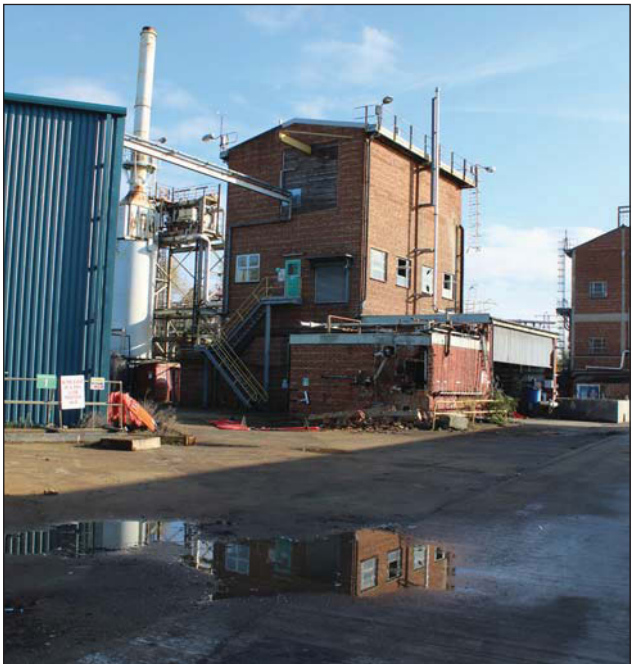


Plate 24. Buildings 215, 192 and 241, looking North-East

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Building Recording
Plates 21 to 24.

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Plate 25. Tanks 241 and 196, looking North.

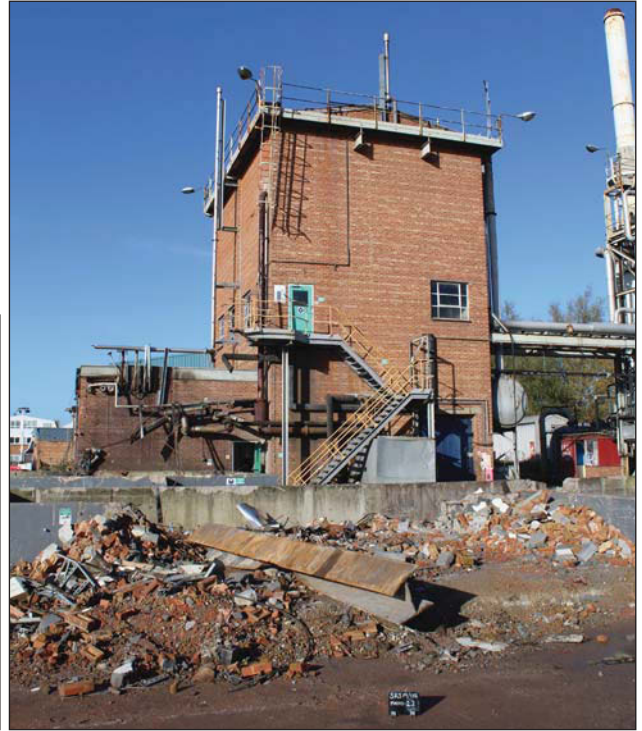


Plate 26. Buildings 192 and 241, looking West.



Plate 27. Buildings 190, 163, 201, south elevations, looking North.



Plate 28. Building 201, east elevation, looking West.

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Building Recording
Plates 25 to 28.**

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Plate 29. Tank bases 185, looking East



Plate 30. Buildings 153, 160 and 174, looking Northwest.



Plate 31. Northeast site boundary, looking Northeast



Plate 32. Buildings 60 and 150, looking North.

WRS 19/118

**Akzo Nobel, Wexham Road,
Slough, Berkshire, 2019
Building Recording
Plates 29 to 32.**

THAMES VALLEY
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
SERVICES



Plate 33. Exterior of 209, 20 and 29, looking North



Plate 34. Exterior of 116 and 166, looking North West



Plate 35. Building 24, looking North West



Plate 36. Interior of 21, looking South

WRS 19/118

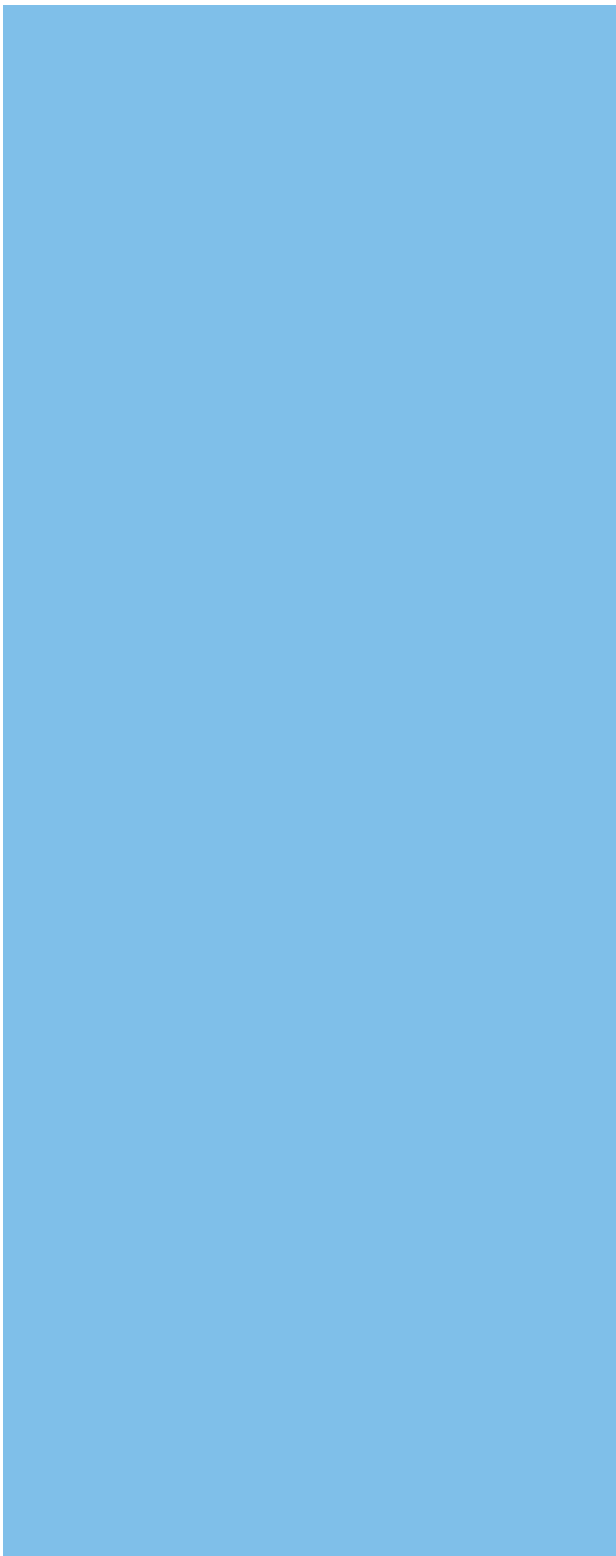
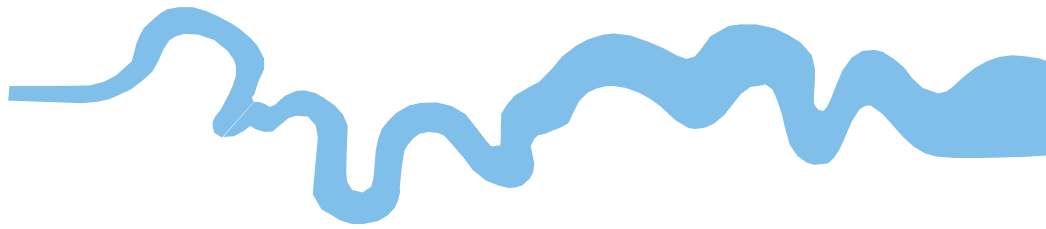
**Akzo Nobel, Wexham Road,
Slough, Berkshire, 2019
Building Recording
Plates 33 to 36.**

THAMES VALLEY
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
SERVICES

TIME CHART

	Calendar Years
Modern _____	AD 1901
Victorian _____	AD 1837
Post Medieval _____	AD 1500
Medieval _____	AD 1066
Saxon _____	AD 410
Roman _____	AD 43 AD 0 BC
Iron Age _____	750 BC
Bronze Age: Late _____	1300 BC
Bronze Age: Middle _____	1700 BC
Bronze Age: Early _____	2100 BC
Neolithic: Late	3300 BC
Neolithic: Early	4300 BC
Mesolithic: Late	6000 BC
Mesolithic: Early	10000 BC
Palaeolithic: Upper	30000 BC
Palaeolithic: Middle	70000 BC
Palaeolithic: Lower	2,000,000 BC





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