



**Programme of Archaeological Field
Evaluation & Archaeological
Standing Building Recording**

On behalf of:

Paloma 1 Unit Trust

Concerning:

**The Former Interbrew Site
(Access Park)
Eastern Avenue
Gloucester
GL4 6SW**

April 2018



REPORT SPECIFICATION

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1 Executive Summary

Border Archaeology Ltd (BA) was instructed by Paloma 1 Unit Trust to undertake Archaeological Field Evaluation and a Built Heritage Assessment (Standing Building Recording) at the Former Interbrew Site (Access Park) Eastern Avenue Gloucester GL4 6SW (NGR: SO 84907 17890). This report contains the results of both phases of work.

The site had been occupied by government buildings associated with the headquarters of the RAF Record office until 1951. One of these buildings survives in the southwest corner and was recorded by BA as part of the present programme of work.

Despite extensive postwar development along Eastern Avenue, the site does not appear to have undergone any major changes until the 1980s and, by 1996, most of government buildings occupying the western part of the site had been demolished.

1.1 Archeological Field Evaluation

Seven trenches, each measuring 30m in length and 2m wide, were excavated down to undisturbed natural deposits to determine and record the nature and extent of any archaeological remains which may have been present on the site.

However, no deposits or features of archaeological significance were encountered in any of the trenches. Modern drains, possibly associated with the former RAF buildings, were revealed in Trench 5 and Trench 6 whilst a single sherd of 2nd century AD Samian ware and fragments of fired clay, including two pieces of possible Roman tegulae, or roof tile, were found within the subsoil of Trench 7.

1.2 Archeological Standing Building Recording

The surviving building in the southwest corner of the site was recorded to Historic England Level 2 comprising a photographic and drawn survey together with a brief written component describing the building's origins, form, function and date and identifying any evidence of phasing resulting from change of use.

The building formed part of the RAF Record Office complex that occupied the site until 1951, when its functions were transferred to RAF Innsworth on the north side of Gloucester. Although the basic structure of the original building survived, it was found to be in a poor and much-altered condition. No original internal partitions survived and a number of stud-walls had been inserted to create small internal rooms or cubicles.

All original window-openings had been blocked, with the exception of those on the northwest side of the building, which contained replacement uPVC windows. Three doors, one with a roller-shutter door, had been inserted into the northwest side of the building. A large entrance at the northeastern end may have been original. Some structural damage was noted, including substantial cracking of the fabric on the southwest and southeast elevations.

2 Introduction

Border Archaeology Ltd (BA) was instructed by Paloma 1 Unit Trust to undertake a programme of archaeological work comprising Archaeological Field Evaluation followed by Built Heritage Assessment (Archaeological Standing Building Recording) at the Former Interbrew Site (Access Park) Eastern Avenue Gloucester GL4 6SW (NGR: SO 84907 17890) in connection with the demolition of existing buildings and the construction of new units.



Fig. 1: Site location plan

2.1 Site Description

The site lies at a height of approximately 25m AOD on the NW side of Eastern Avenue Gloucester and roughly 1.9km SE of the city centre (*fig. 1*).

Due to its urban location, this area has not been surveyed by the Soil Survey of England and Wales (SSEW 1983). However, the British Geological Survey records the geology as Lias Formation and Charmouth Mudstone Formation (undifferentiated) (BGS 2018).

2.2 Brief Historical and Archaeological Background

A detailed Cultural Heritage Assessment (Finch 2013) has been previously submitted and the following summarises its results.

2.2.1 Roman

The site lies outside the Romano-British city of *Glevum* and to the S of the line of Ermin Street (GHER Number: 7542; Margary 1973 - 41b and 41c), the road linking Cirencester and Kingholme. The road was flanked by a number of known areas of Romano-British burial at SO 8375 1930 (GHER 14409), SO 8433 1903 (GHER 14694) and SO 8450 1890 (GHER 11278). The construction of the railway bridge at Barnwood in 1838 revealed a former road surface some 18 inches below the modern surface, although the precise date of this earlier surface remains unclear. An extensive Romano-British farm or small villa is located approximately 300m to the SE of the site (GHER 1251/1252) and Romano-British pottery has been found within and adjacent to the site.

2.2.2 Saxon & Early Medieval

No evidence of Saxon and early medieval occupation has been identified within the site or its immediate vicinity.

2.2.3 Medieval

No evidence of medieval occupation has been identified and it would appear the site lay within open fields during this period, its character attested - based upon historical map evidence - by the possible sites of three mills. The field name 'Windmill Field' located adjacent to the southern site boundary may be significant in this context.

2.2.4 Post-Medieval & Modern

The Ordnance Survey 1st Edition map of 1884 shows the site as undeveloped agricultural land. The former railway line associated with an early phase of the GWR Gloucester-to-Cheltenham connection ran along the NW boundary and remains of the embankment may survive.

No significant changes took place until the Second World War when the headquarters of the RAF Record Office at Barnwood was established on the site in 1941 and remained there until 1951, when its functions were transferred to RAF Innsworth (Herbert 1988, 190). At least one of these buildings associated with the former RAF Record Office survives in the SW corner of the site and has been recorded as part of the present programme of work.

Work on a bypass incorporating Eastern Avenue began in the early 1930s to relieve traffic congestion in the city centre (Herbert 1988) and whilst this was accompanied by extensive commercial and industrial development, including warehousing, depots, a builder's yard and a garage, the present site remained largely unaffected until the 1980s with most of the government buildings in the W part of the site having been demolished by 1996.

The results of a previous Archaeological Field Evaluation carried out on the site in 2014 revealed no significant archaeological remains, the only features identified being the remains of ridge-and-furrow cultivation and a 19th century drainage feature. No earlier features or deposits were revealed (Smith 2014).

3 Archaeological Field Evaluation (AFE)

3.1 Aims

The aims of the AFE were:

- To determine, as far as is reasonably possible, the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains likely to be threatened by the proposed development, and to fully record the character, date, location and preservation of any such remains.
- Where applicable, to determine the relationship of any above-ground structures or features to surviving archaeological deposits below ground.
- Seek to clarify the nature and extent of existing disturbance and intrusion (such as basements, fuel tanks, services etc.) and assess the degree of archaeological survival of buried deposits and surviving structures of archaeological significance.
- To consider the extent to which any archaeological features, structures or deposits present within the site may inform research themes and objectives set out in the *South West Archaeological Research Framework* (SWARF) (Grove & Croft 2012).

3.2 Methodology

The programme of archaeological work was carried out in accordance with *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment: The Project Managers' Guide* (MoRPHE) (Lee 2015) and with practices set out by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) in *Standard and Guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (CIfA 2014) and *Standard and Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (CIfA 2014).

Seven evaluation trenches, each measuring 30m × 2m, was opened by machine and toothless bucket (*fig. 2*). Soil was removed in successive, level spits down to natural deposits. A *sondage* was excavated by machine at both ends of each trench.

Site conditions were such that it was necessary to move Trench 6 some 5m SE to avoid a lighting column (*fig. 2*).

All recording was carried out using BA's standard trench recording sheets.

A high-resolution digital photographic record was made. Each photograph contained a scale and all photographic records were indexed and cross-referenced to written site records. Details of subject and direction of view were recorded in a photographic register, indexed by frame number.

No deposits suitable for palaeoenvironmental/palaeoeconomic sampling purposes were identified.

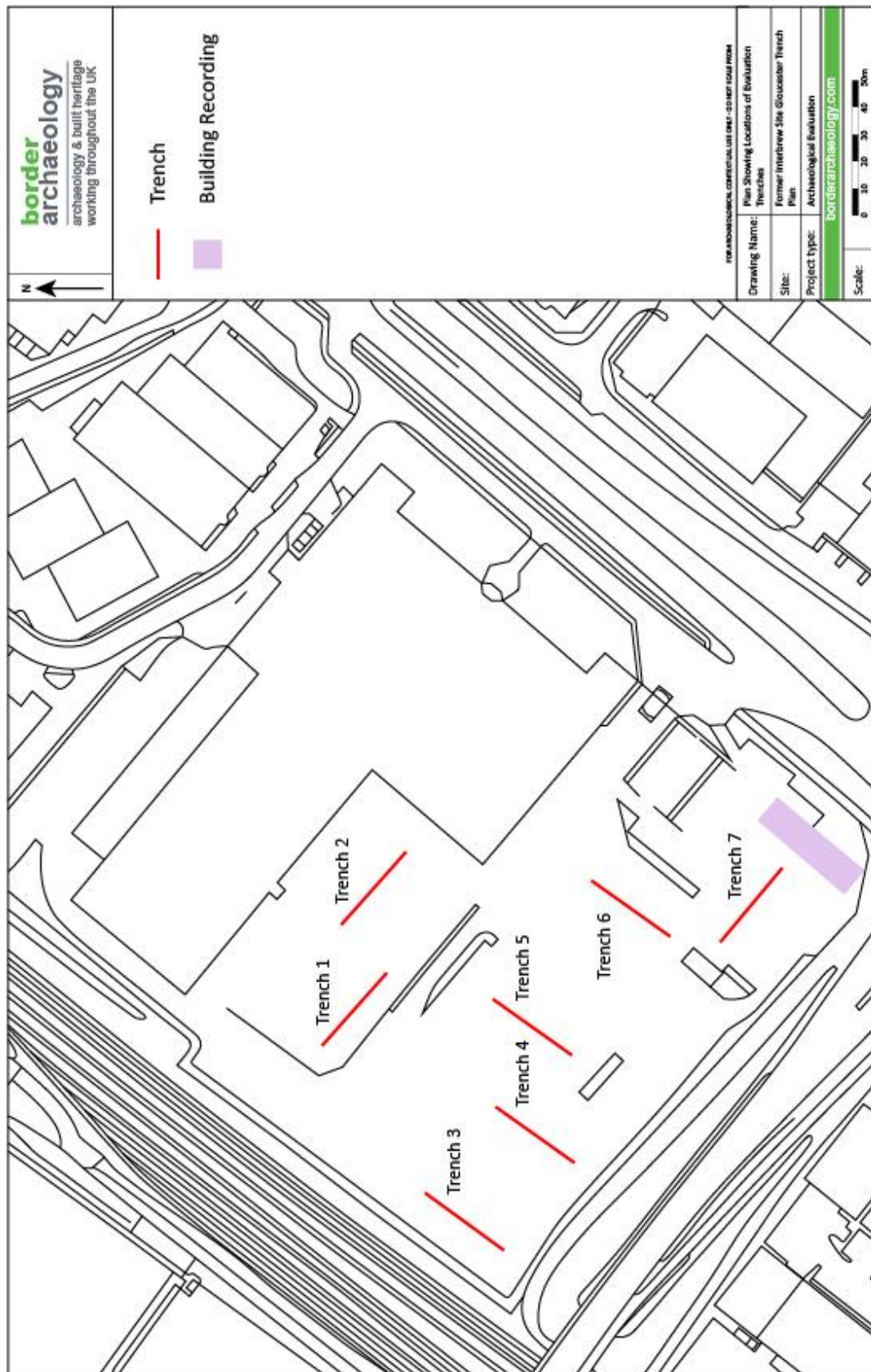


Fig 2: Plan showing location of trenches and building recording.

4 Results

Modern concrete (1001) surfacing and associated hardcore deposits (1002) were recorded over most of the site but these were absent from Trench 7.

4.1 Trench 1

Ground level: 22.637m AOD Natural deposits: 22.157m AOD.

Item	Context No.	Matrix Phase	Type	Interpretation	Discussion	Finds					Comments
						Small Find	Pot	Bone	Misc.	Sample No.	
1	(1001)		Layer	Modern surface.	Concrete; c.0.13m thick. Overlying (1002).	-	-	-	-	-	Site-wide surface.
2	(1002)		Layer	Modern hardcore.	Hardcore; c.0.12m-0.37m thick. Overlying (1003). Underlying (1001).	-	-	-	-	-	Site-wide hardcore deposit.
3	(1003)		Deposit	Natural.	Firm mid greyish-blue clayey sand; c.>0.46m (at sondage). Underlying (1002).	-	-	-	-	-	Natural deposit found immediately underlying (1002). Undulating throughout site. No evidence of top/subsoils.
4	(1004)		Deposit	Natural.	Soft orange sand.	-	-	-	-	-	Pockets of sand showing

Item	Context No.	Matrix Phase	Type	Interpretation	Discussion	Finds					Comments
						Small Find	Pot	Bone	Misc.	Sample No.	
											evidence of feathering at edge of deposit due to water and pollution.

4.2 Trench 2

Ground level 22.306m AOD Natural deposits: 21.746m AOD.

Item	Context No.	Matrix Phase	Type	Interpretation	Discussion	Finds					Comments
						Small Find	Pot	Bone	Misc.	Sample No.	
1	(2001)		Deposit	Natural.	Firm mid greyish-blue firm clayey sand; c.0.75m thick.	-	-	-	-	-	Natural deposit immediately underlying (1002).
2	(2002)		Deposit	Natural.	Soft orange sandy clay; variable thickness. Underlying (1001), (1002).	-	-	-	-	-	Occurring in pockets.

4.3 Trench 3

Ground level: 24.475m AOD Natural deposits: 24.025m AOD.

Item	Context No.	Matrix Phase	Type	Interpretation	Discussion	Finds					Comments
						Small Find	Pot	Bone	Misc.	Sample No.	
1	(3001)		Layer	Natural.	Firm mid greyish-blue clayey sand; c.0.31m thick. Underlying (1001), (1002).	-	-	-	-	-	-
2	(3002)		Layer	Natural.	Soft orange sandy clay; variable thickness. Underlying (1001), (1002).	-	-	-	-	-	Occurring in pockets.

4.4 Trench 4

Ground level: 24.634m AOD Natural deposits: 24.224m AOD.

Item	Context No.	Matrix Phase	Type	Interpretation	Discussion	Finds					Comments
						Small Find	Pot	Bone	Misc.	Sample No.	
1	(4001)		Layer	Natural.	Firm mid greyish-blue clayey sand; >c.0.45m thick. Underlying (1001), (1002).	-	-	-	-	-	Natural deposit found immediately underlying (1001) & (1002).
2	(4002)		Layer	Natural.	Soft orange sandy clay; variable thickness. Underlying (1001), (1002).	-	-	-	-	-	Occurring in pockets.

4.5 Trench 5

Ground level: 24.170m AOD Natural deposits: 23.800m AOD.

Item	Context No.	Matrix Phase	Type	Interpretation	Discussion	Finds					Comments
						Small Find	Pot	Bone	Misc.	Sample No.	
1	(5001)		Layer	Natural.	Firm mid greyish-blue clayey sand; C.0.38m thick trench-wide.	-	-	-	-	-	Natural deposit found immediately underlying (1001) & (1002).
2	(5002)		Layer	Natural.	Soft orange sandy clay; variable thickness. Underlying (1001), (1002).	-	-	-	-	-	Occurring in pockets.
3	(5003)		Layer	Concrete.	Concrete. Underlying (1002).	-	-	-	-	-	Layer sealing (5005).
4	[5004]		Cut	Cut for services.	Cut; linear in plan; measured 1.95m × 0.38m at NW section Cutting (5001). Filled by (5005), (5003).	-	-	-	-	-	-
5	(5005)		Services	Pipes.	Pipework; c.030m diameter. Underlying (5003). Fill of [5004].	-	-	-	-	-	Water/drainage pipes possibly associated with RAF Barnwood.

4.6 Trench 6

Ground level: 23.608m Natural deposits: 23.268m AOD.

Item	Context No.	Matrix Phase	Type	Interpretation	Discussion	Finds					Comments
						Small Find	Pot	Bone	Misc.	Sample No.	
1	(6001)		Layer	Natural.	Firm mid greyish-blue clayey sand. Underlying (1001), (1002).	-	-	-	-	-	Natural deposit immediately underlying concrete & aggregate (1001), (1002).
2	(6002)		Layer	Natural.	Soft orange sandy clay; variable thickness. Underlying (1001), (1002).	-	-	-	-	-	Occurring in pockets.
3	[6003]		Cut	Service trench.	Cut; linear in plan; >2.0m (length) × 0.43m (max. width). Cutting (6001), (6002). Filled by (6005).	-	-	-	-	-	-
4	(6004)		Structure	Junction box etc.	Brick; measured 0.76m × 0.43m; size of materials: 220mm × 110mm × 65mm. Filled by (6004), (6005).	-	-	-	-	-	Brick structure around joint of (6005).
5	(6005)		Services	Service pipe.	Pipe, cast iron; >1.09m (length). Fill of [6003].	-	-	-	-	-	Partially contained within (6004).
6	(6006)		Deposit	Fill of (6004).	Loose pale yellowish-brown pea gravel; measured c. 0.76m × 0.43m Fill of (6004).	-	-	-	-	-	

4.7 Trench 7

Ground level 24.389m AOD Natural deposits: 23.859m AOD.

Item	Context No.	Matrix Phase	Type	Interpretation	Discussion	Finds					Comments
						Small Find	Pot	Bone	Misc.	Sample No.	
1	(7001)		Layer	Modern surface.	Tarmacadam; 200-800mm thick trench-wide. Overlying (7002).	-	-	-	-	-	-
2	(7002)		Layer	Concrete layer.	Concrete; 0.15m thick trench-wide. Overlying (7003). Underlying (7001).	-	-	-	-	-	-
3	(7003)		Surface	Concrete layer.	Concrete; 0.13m thick trench-wide. Overlying (7004). Underlying (7002).	-	-	-	-	-	-
4	(7004)		Deposit	Layer of demolition debris.	Loose black sandy clay, very frequent brick, glazed brick, unworked sandstone; 0.33m thick trench-wide. Overlying (7005). Underlying (7007).	-	-	-	-	-	-
5	(7005)		Deposit	Redeposited subsoil.	Light brown sand; 0.40m thick trench-wide. Overlying (7006). Underlying (7004).	-	✓	-	✓	-	Blackened interface due to leaching from (7004).
6	(7006)		Deposit	Natural	Firm mid bluish-grey clay sand; >0.30m thick trench-wide. Underlying (7005)	-	-	-	-	-	Contained pockets of orange sandy clay.
7	(7007)		Structure	Brick surface	Brick; measured 10.60m (length) × 0.07m (thickness); size of materials: 220mm × 105mm × 70mm, lime mortar bonding. Overlying (7005). Underlying (7002).	-	-	-	-	-	Brick surface at edge of trench.
8	(7008)		Deposit	Mortar	Lime mortar.	-	-	-	-	-	Part of structure (7007).

5 Discussion



Plate A: View NW of SE-facing section of Trench 4. Absence of topsoil and subsoils representative across site.

Trench 1 and Trench 2 lay at the northern extent of the site and were located closest to the modern buildings, enclosed by a concrete retaining wall. These two trenches were excavated into natural clay with sandy alluvial deposits; modern reinforced concrete surfacing and hardcore, found over much of the site, directly overlay natural, with no evidence of topsoil or subsoil deposits. Neither trench contained archaeological finds or features.

Natural deposits encountered in Trench 3 consisted of greyish-blue clays and pockets of orange sand. The sand overlying the undulating natural clay was far more prevalent here than in Trench 1 and Trench 2. No subsoil or topsoil were present and the trench contained no archaeological finds or features.

A single land-drain ran diagonally N-S across Trench 4. Natural deposits were very similar to those encountered in Trench 3, although the orange sandy natural was less prevalent, and topsoil and subsoil were again absent (*Plate A*). No archaeological finds or features were encountered.

Trench 5 contained land-drains aligned N-S and E-W and more substantial NE-SW services. The full extent of the pipework was obscured by a thick concrete sealing deposit (5003). No relationship could be determined between the service pipes and land-drains; however, it would appear likely that the services may have been contemporary with the RAF administrative buildings.

A single cast-iron pipe (6005) ran NW-SE at the SW end of Trench 6, with a small rectangular brick structure (6004) filled with pea gravel surrounding the pipe brackets. The brick was frogged and the pipe appeared to have been deliberately cut before continuing NW into the trench section. Again, the pipe can probably be considered contemporary with the wartime and immediate postwar use of the site. As in the other trenches, topsoil and subsoil were absent with the concrete and associated hardcore directly above the natural deposits.

Trench 7, at the southernmost extent of the site lay within a fenced area adjacent to a single-storey structure (which was subject to a separate programme of Standing Building Recording) formerly used by the RAF. A tarmac skim provided the surface in this area, with no concrete present, this probably being due to the use of this area as a carpark following the demolition of two former RAF buildings in 1999 (*Plate B*).



Plate B: View SW of NE-facing section of Trench 7 showing brick layer (7007) above demolition layer (7004).

Below the tarmac layer (7001) were concrete surfaces (7002), (7003), a thick demolition deposit (7004) and a brick surface (7007). The demolition material (7004) consisted of a dense mixture of assorted building debris, including red/yellow brick (white glazed and standard) and unworked sandstone, which appears likely to represent former RAF structures. A single residual sherd of 19th-20th century Bristol type stoneware was found amongst the rubble.

The lime-mortar (7008) bonded brick surface (7007) did not extend over the entire trench, measuring 10.60m (length). Its location adjacent to one of the demolished RAF buildings suggests a likely association.

A single sherd of Central Gaulish Samian ware was found at the interface of subsoil (7005) and natural (7006) in Trench 7. Additionally, four fragments of ceramic building material (CBM) were found within (7005), one piece being identified as possible *tegula*; the form of the remaining pieces could not be established. A single fragment of fired clay was identified as possible industrial debris resulting from a process such as non-ferrous metalworking; however, its small size precluded any further determination of its origin.

6 Conclusion

Trench 1 and Trench 2 were 1.36m lower at maximum depth than the other five trenches due site topography. The presence of a retaining concrete wall at the brow of the slope and the almost complete absence of topsoil and subsoil suggest that any previous agricultural soils were removed by groundworks following the site's acquisition by the RAF in the 1930s.

It is likely that any surviving archaeology, including traces of ridge-and-furrow cultivation, was also removed at this time. No evidence of land-use predating the RAF's tenure of the site was thus encountered, the pipework found in Trench 5 and Trench 6, together with the brick surface revealed in Trench 7, probably being contemporary with this phase of use.

The CBM and pottery recovered from Trench 7 was residual in context and could not be associated with any features or stratified archaeological deposits (*Appendix 1*).

7 Appendix 1: Pottery and Ceramic Building Material (CBM)

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7.1 Introduction

Two sherds of pottery and six CBM fragments were recovered from Trench 7.

7.2 Method

All finds were washed and the fragment of Samian ware was identified as to fabric and form (Webster 1996).

7.3 The Finds

7.3.1 Context (7004)

A sherd of Bristol-type stoneware, probably from a large preserves jar or similar, was recovered from demolition debris and dated to the end of the 19th or early 20th century.

7.3.2 Context (7005)

- **The Samian ware**

The single sherd (24g) of Central Gaulish Samian ware from context (7005) was heavily abraded. It is probably from a dish or bowl (Drag 31 or 31R) but had broken just above the slight angle in the wall of the vessel. No rouletting was present, possibly because only the upper part of the vessel only was present, including the beaded rim. The form dates to the later part of the 2nd century AD (Webster 1996, 35).

- **The CBM and fired clay**

Four fragments of highly abraded CBM in a soft pale orange oxidised micaceous fabric with streaks of yellow clay were recovered. One was probably a fragment of a *tegula* but the form of the other small pieces could not be determined.

A further highly-fired fragment was also possibly from a *tegula*; in addition to rounded quartz, it contained fragments of grog and was sanded on the lower surface.

A soft and extremely coarse and vesicular fragment of fired clay contained very abundant grog together with quartz and possible fragments of chalk/limestone. It appeared to have fired irregularly. The internal surface suggested it

was more likely a fragment of industrial debris, such as a from clay mould for non-ferrous metalworking. Unfortunately, the fragment was so small (7.3g) that it was not possible to determine any further details.

7.4 Conclusions and Recommendations

The deposit from which the pottery and CBM were recovered is thought to have been redeposited and the finds were not associated with features or stratified archaeological deposits. It is not therefore considered that any further work is necessary. The finds may have originated from the farm or villa known to lie to the SE of the site.

7.5 Reference

Webster, P., 1996, *Roman Samian Pottery in Britain*, CBA, York

8 Archaeological Standing Building Recording

Archaeological Standing Building Recording (ASBR) was carried out to RCHME/Historic England Level 2 of a Second World War RAF administrative building in the SW corner of the site (*fig. 2*). Recording was undertaken on 26th January and 6th February 2018.

9 Methodology

The ASBR was undertaken in accordance with RCHME/Historic England Level 2 requirements as specified in *Understanding Historic Buildings – A guide to good recording practice* (Lane 2016) and with *Standard and guidance for the archaeological investigation and recording of standing buildings or structures* (ClfA 2014) and *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment: The MoRPHE Project Manager's Guide* (Lee 2015). BA adheres to the ClfA Code of conduct (2014).

Level 2 is defined as follows:

*Level 2 is a **descriptive record**, made in similar circumstances to Level 1 but when more information is needed. It may be made of a building which is judged not to require a more detailed record, or it may serve to gather data for a wider project. Both the exterior and interior of the building will be seen, described and photographed. The examination of the building will produce an analysis of its development and use and the record will include the conclusions reached, but it will not discuss in detail the evidence on which this analysis is based. A plan and sometimes other drawings may be made but the drawn record will normally not be comprehensive and may be tailored to the scope of a wider project.*

This Level 2 record thus comprises the following:

9.1 Drawn record

- A site location plan.
- A plan identifying the location and direction of accompanying photographs.

9.2 Photographic record

- General views of the building.
- Oblique views showing external elevations.
- Views of all internal rooms and architectural detailing together with fixtures and fittings associated with the building's former use.

9.3 Written account

- A summary statement describing the building's purpose, historically and at present, its materials and possible date(s) so far as these are apparent from a superficial inspection.

9.4 Recording methodology

Records were made in accordance with BA's *Archaeological Field Recording Manual* (2017) and RCHME conventions as detailed in *Understanding Historic Buildings – A guide to good recording practice* (Lane 2016).

The photographic record was made using a Sony RX100 Mark 2 digital camera of 20MPX resolution. The photographic record comprises all external elevations and all internal room spaces and roof structures (as accessible). Each photograph contains an appropriate scale and all photographs have been indexed and cross-referenced to a written photographic register. Details of subject and direction of view will be maintained in a photographic register, indexed by frame number.

10 Results

10.1 Description

The building is a single-storey brick structure of 20 bays aligned approximately NE/SW. Internal partitions appear to relate to later usage, with no obvious evidence for the positions of any original subdivisions. Modern stud-walls have been inserted to create seven individual offices or cubicles and a WC; three of these and the WC cubicle are on the NW side of the building with a single cubicle on the SE side (*figs. 3 & 4*).

10.1.1 External

The original structure is of stretcher bond red-brick construction in under a corrugated asbestos cement roof.

The NW elevation has 12 window-openings and four doors, including a roller-shutter door at the NE end. Although the surviving window-openings retain their original dimensions and proportions, the frames have been replaced with uPVC double-glazed units. The eight bays at the NE end of the building are pebble-dashed but cast concrete lintels have been exposed above the windows at its SW extent where the render has fallen away. All window apertures were of similar dimensions. A blocked window and concrete lintel are visible above the later door at the SW end of the building. This suggests substantial alteration affecting the SW end of the building following redevelopment of the site after 1951 and conversion of the building to other uses. There is no evidence for a window in the SW bay. Contrasting brickwork above the roller-shutter door at the SW end of the building confirms that this was almost certainly inserted at a later date.

The NE elevation comprises a pebble-dashed gable-end into which a large metal roller-shutter door has been inserted, slightly off-centre (some 200mm to the E). The pebble-dash has concealed details of the original

construction, which may originally have been of a similar design to the SW elevation, although comparison with buildings of a similar date and type shows that the door-space at this end of the building could well be original. This is supported by the lack of evidence on the internal elevation for a window at the wall apex (*Plate 20*), as is clearly visible on the external elevation to the SW. Two blocked windows can be seen on either side of the door space.

The SW end of the building is of brick construction abutted by three substantial stepped-brick buttresses. Whilst these appear to be a later addition, the brickwork is similar to that of the wall fabric, suggesting that structural problems arose shortly after the building's construction. Two blocked windows have cast concrete lintels. A single blocked square window set close to the apex of the gable is of similar design to the remaining windows and also has a concrete lintel (*Plate 3*).

Alternate wide/narrow pilasters occur at regular intervals along the SE elevation. Window-blocking appears to have taken place some considerable time after the building was erected as the brick used differs from that of the original fabric. A substantial brick buttress abutting the SW end of this elevation (*Plate 5*) suggests a structural weakness at this point, which is further attested by a crack running almost the full height of the wall possibly suggesting subsidence.

10.1.2 Internal

No surviving evidence survives for original internal partitions or subdivisions. A ceiling conceals the internal roof space. Fig. 3 shows the floor plan of the building.

- Room 1

Room 1 at the SW end of the building measures 15.93m × 9.15m. Rooms 2 and 3, together with the WC cubicle, were inserted during a subsequent phase of alteration (*fig. 3*). Unlike that on the SW elevation, the blocking of the seven windows along the SE elevation is flush to the internal wall-face. It is likely that a blocked entrance and possibly a further blocked window are present at the NE end of the building (*Plate 8*). The large door in the NW elevation is later.

- Room 2

The small cubicle (Room 2) (*Plate 10*) measuring 3.8m × 2.81m was inserted on the NW side of the building. The stud-walls clad in heavy duty plywood with modern cable ducting attached are unpainted on the exterior. A service-hatch (*Plate 11*) is present on the NE side. Although the original window-openings are retained, original frames have been replaced with uPVC double-glazed units.

- Room 3

The second cubicle measures 3.36m × 2.81m, its NE wall formed by the SW wall of Room 2. The walls have modern fixtures attached and replacement uPVC windows have been inserted into original window-openings (*Plate 12*).

- WC cubicle

The small WC cubicle, 0.91m wide, (*Plate 13*) is situated between Room 3 and the stud-wall of Room 4, only the NW wall being part of the original structure. A modern double-glazed window has been inserted into the original opening and none of the fixtures or fittings are original.

- Room 4

Room 4 is partitioned from Rooms 1 and 5 by stud-walls with unpainted plywood cladding. A small room or cubicle (Room 6) (*Plate 16*) has been inserted into the NE corner of the room, accessed from Room 5. Two external walls (SE and NW) form part of the original brick-built structure. A single window and a door are present in the NW elevation, the door having been blocked with plywood (*Plate 15*). The door is thought likely to have been inserted at a later date. As with the remaining windows on the NW side of the building, a uPVC double-glazed unit has been inserted into the original window-opening. Two blocked windows are present on the SE side of the room.

- Room 5

The NE elevation of Room 5 at the NE end of the building is dominated by a large entrance flanked by two blocked windows of similar dimensions and design to those in the remainder of the building. It is likely that the opening for this entrance forms part of the original structure, as does the doorway in the NW elevation, although the door itself is modern.

- Room 6

The only part of the original building visible in Room 6 were two blocked windows in the SE elevation (*Plate 15*). No lighting was available in this room.

- Room 7

Room 7 measuring 2.46m × 2.42m is separated from Room 5 by stud-walls and plywood paneling. The only part of the original structure visible in this room is the NW wall and its replacement uPVC window unit.

11 Summary Conclusion

The building overall is in poor condition with substantial cracks apparent at the SW end. The buttressing at this point is a later addition as it abuts the original wall rather than being tied-into it, although structural instability appears to have developed fairly rapidly following initial construction as the materials of both the walls and the buttresses is similar. There is extensive evidence of subsequent alteration, much of this work being of poor quality.

Internally, the building has been remodeled using makeshift stud-wall partitions with plyboard cladding to create seven separate internal spaces. Original fittings are few and include telephone cabling and 'Bakelite' insulators in the S corner of the building (*Plate 4*).

The roof structure comprising corrugated asbestos cement sheeting over angled iron trusses is almost certainly original, although much of this structure is concealed behind a suspended ceiling, with the exception of the NE end of Room 5, where the panels appear to be fixed to the original roof (*Plates 14 & 16*). Whilst the large doorway in the NE elevation is likely to form part of the original structure, at least two of the doors are almost certainly later insertions. A blocked opening on the SE side of the building (Room 1) (*Plate 8*) may have been the original entrance at this end of the building.

12 Plates and Figures

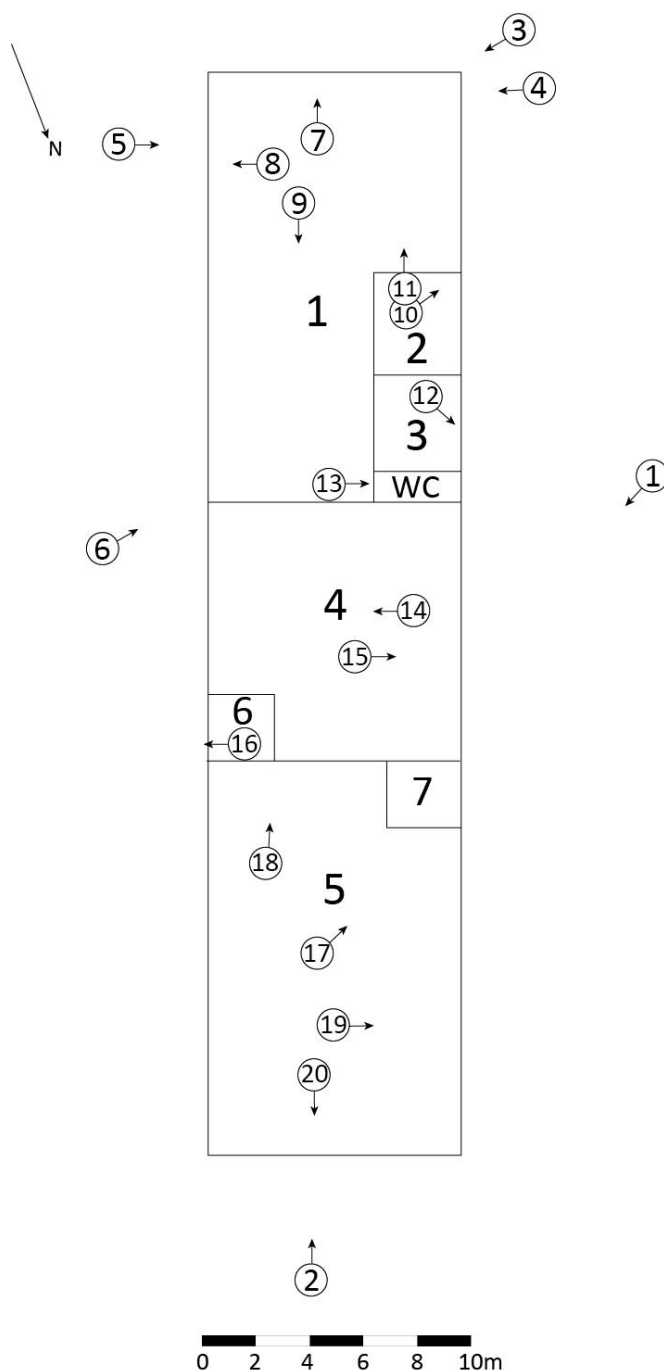


Fig. 3: Plan showing location and direction of photographs (numbers refer to plate numbers)

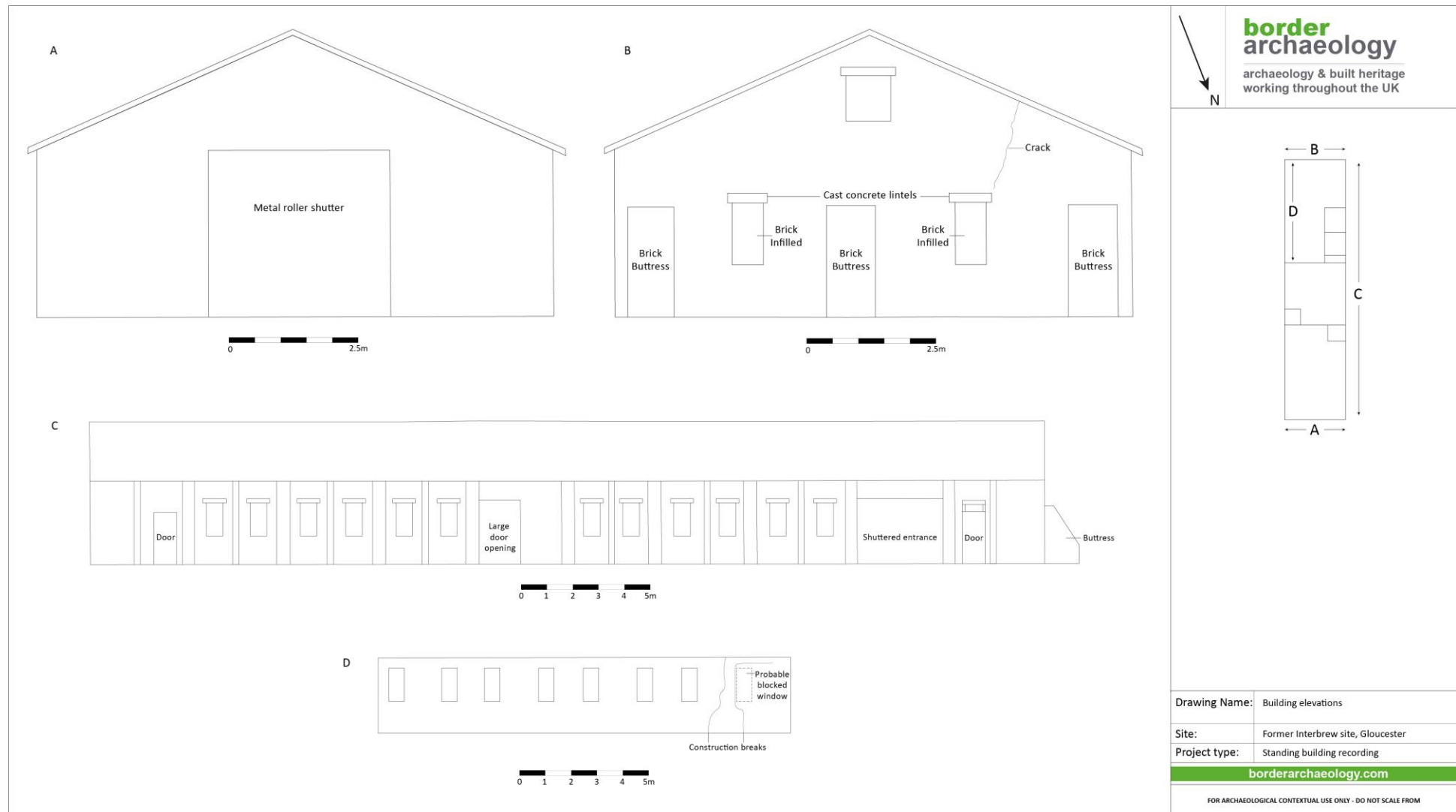


Fig. 4: External (above) and internal (below) elevations (see key to right)



Plate 1: View SE showing NW elevation of former RAF building; cast concrete lintels are visible above the windows at the NE end of the building



Plate 2: View SW showing pebble dashed gable end showing inserted roller shutter in the SW elevation.



Plate 3: View E showing stepped buttresses at SW end of building.



Plate 4: Original cabling and insulation at SW end of building; view SE



Plate 5 Brick buttress and blocked entrance on SE elevation; view NW



Plate 6: View W of SE elevation showing blocked windows with cast concrete lintels and alternating small and large buttresses



Plate 7: Internal SW elevation; view SW showing whitewashed walls and blocked windows and suspended ceiling. It is possible to see the brick construction of the SW end of the building through the missing ceiling panel.

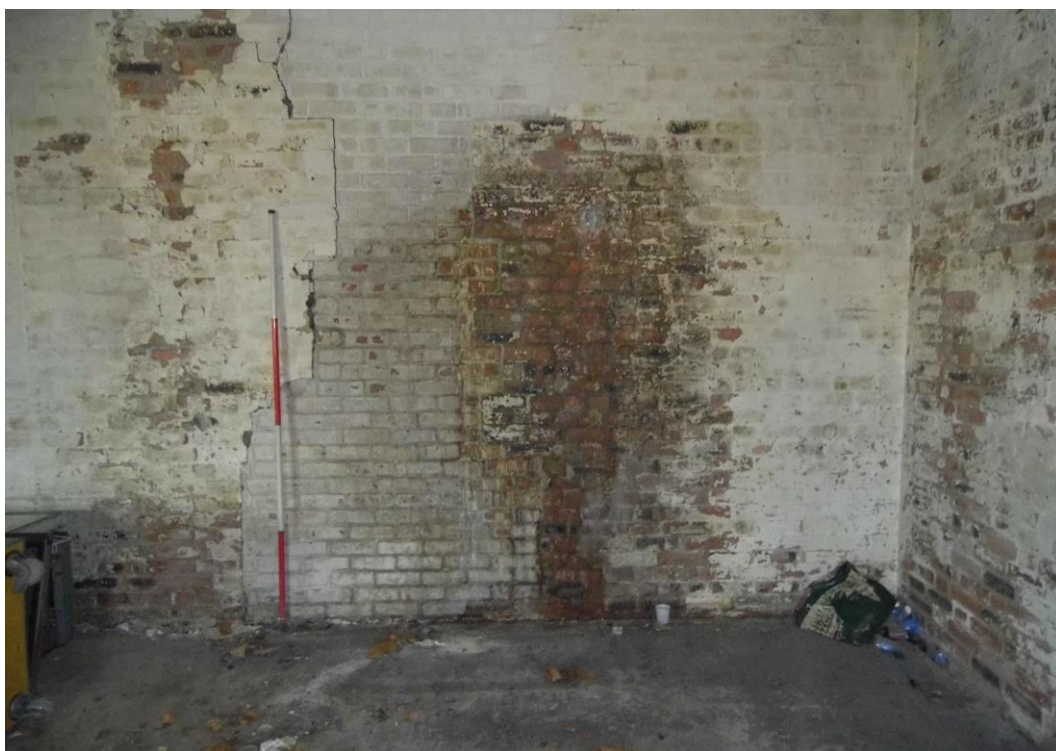


Plate 8: Damage and repair at the SW end of SE wall. A blocked window or door or evidence for repair is visible to the right of the scale. A stepped buttress is present at this position on the exterior (Plate 5)



Plate 9: View NE showing inserted stud walls; Rooms 2, 3 and WC cubicle to left of picture. Brick blocked windows in whitewashed wall to right



Plate 10: uPVC window inserted into original window space Room 2. The concrete lintel above the window can be seen beneath the whitewash. View W

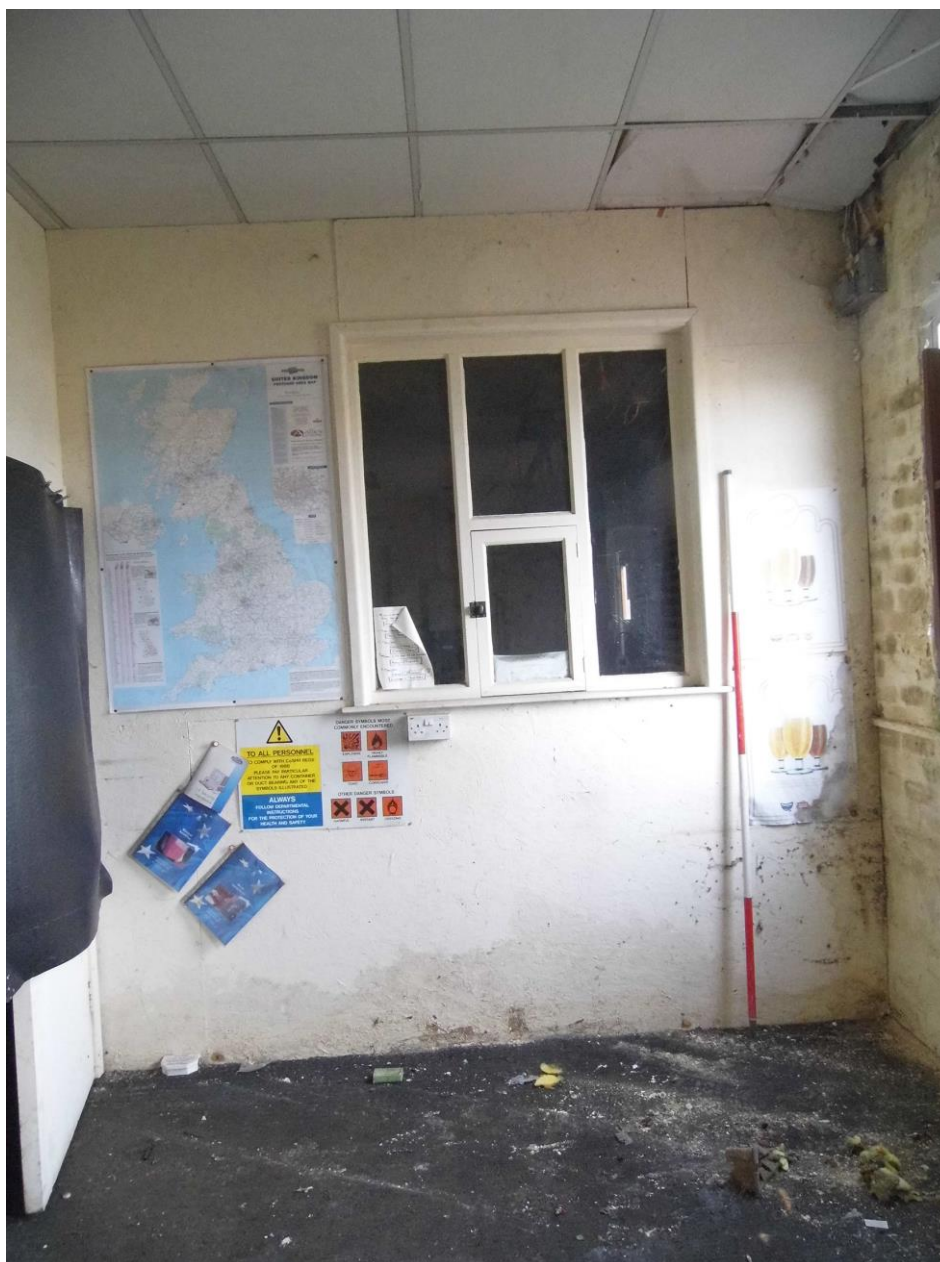


Plate 11: Stud wall and service hatch on NE side of Room 2; view SW; original structure to R of image

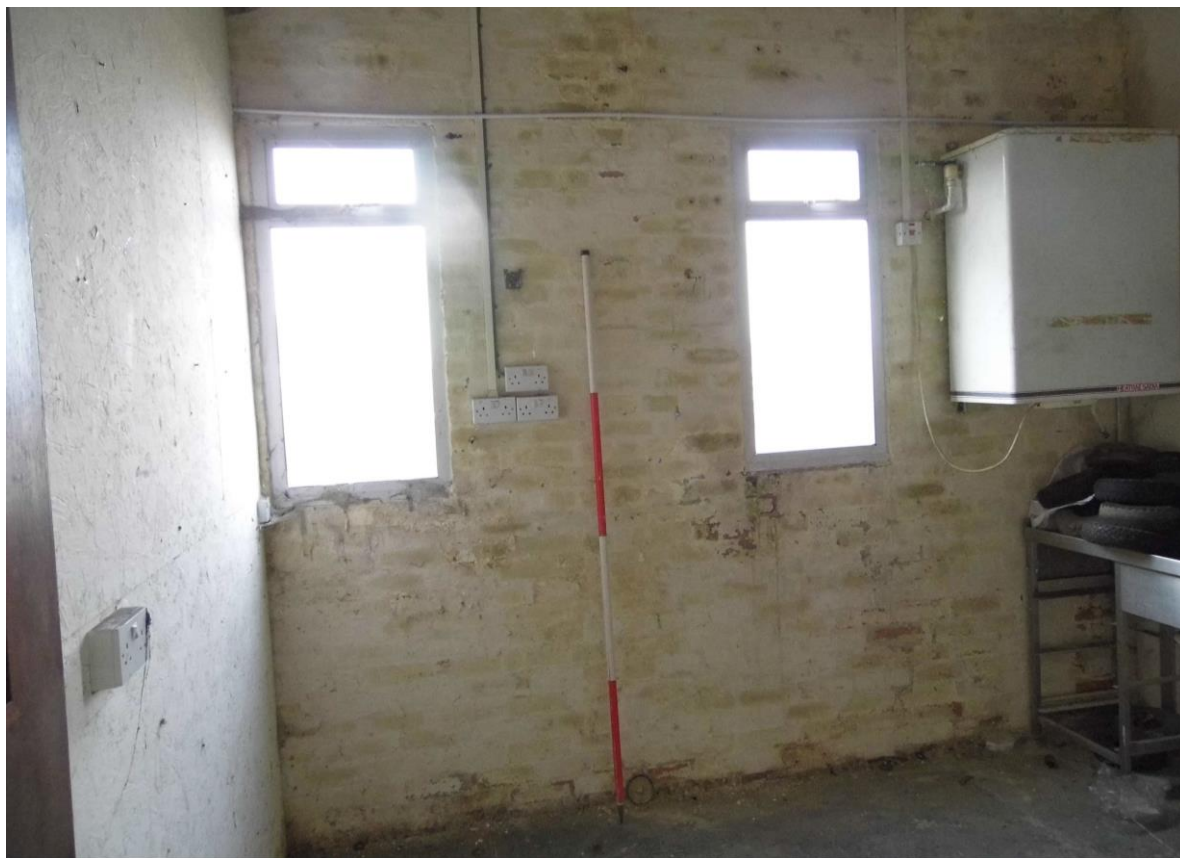


Plate 12: Room 3; view NW; original part of structure with inserted stud wall to L of image

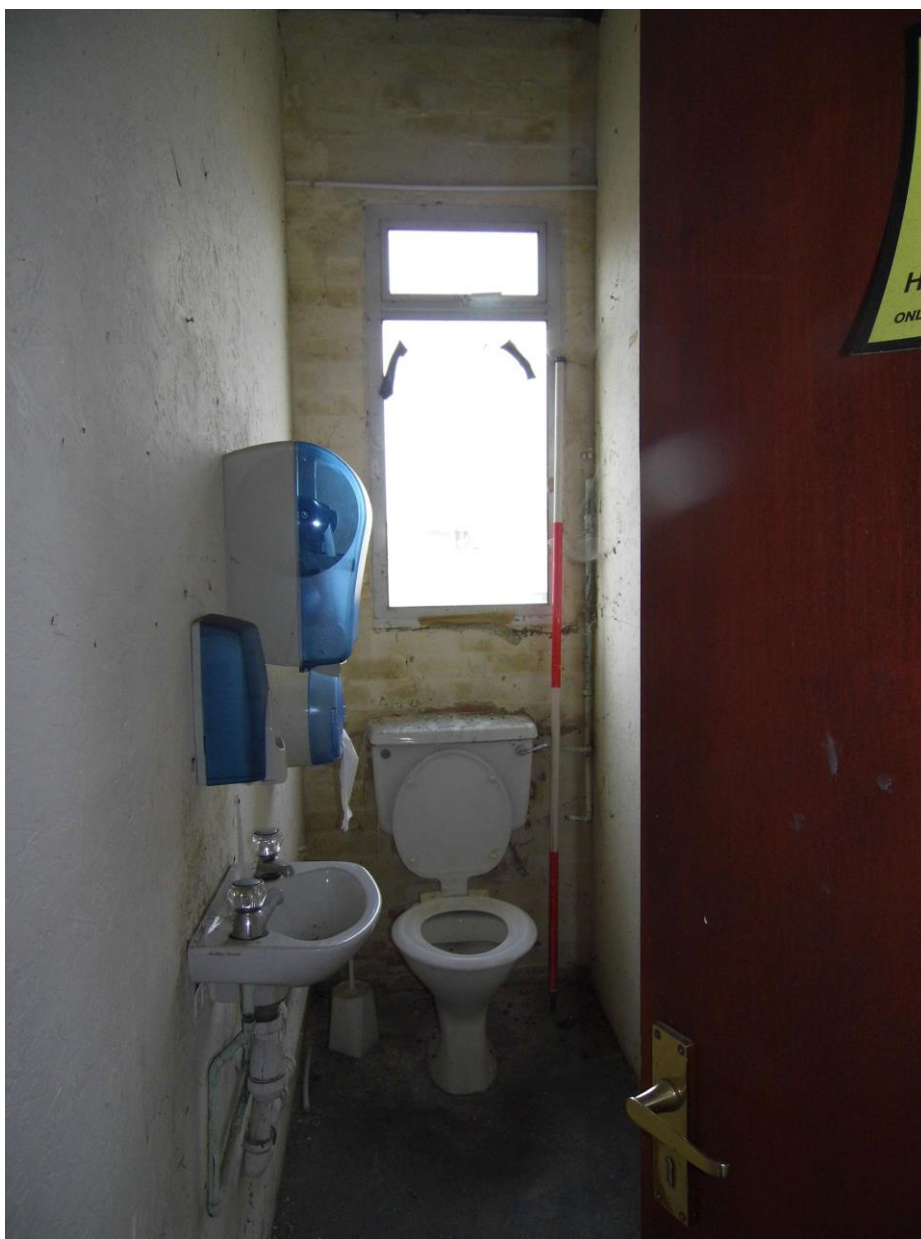


Plate 13 The WC cubicle; view NW



Plate 14 Room 4 view SE; inserted stud walls and suspended ceiling

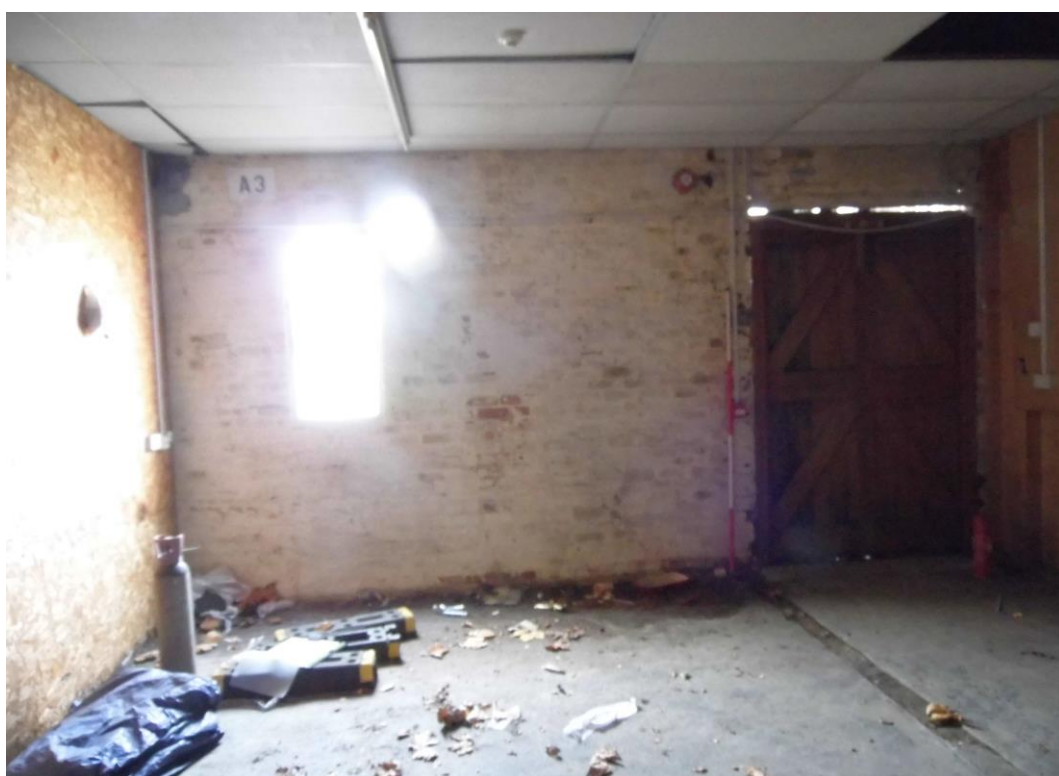


Plate 15: Room 4 view NW showing doorway



Plate 16 Room 6 view SE: Blocked windows in SE elevation are the only part of the original structure visible in Room 6



Plate 17: View W Room 5– internal NW elevation. Room 7 to L of picture.



Plate 18: View SW - Room 5 towards Room 4 - showing detail of angled iron roof supports.

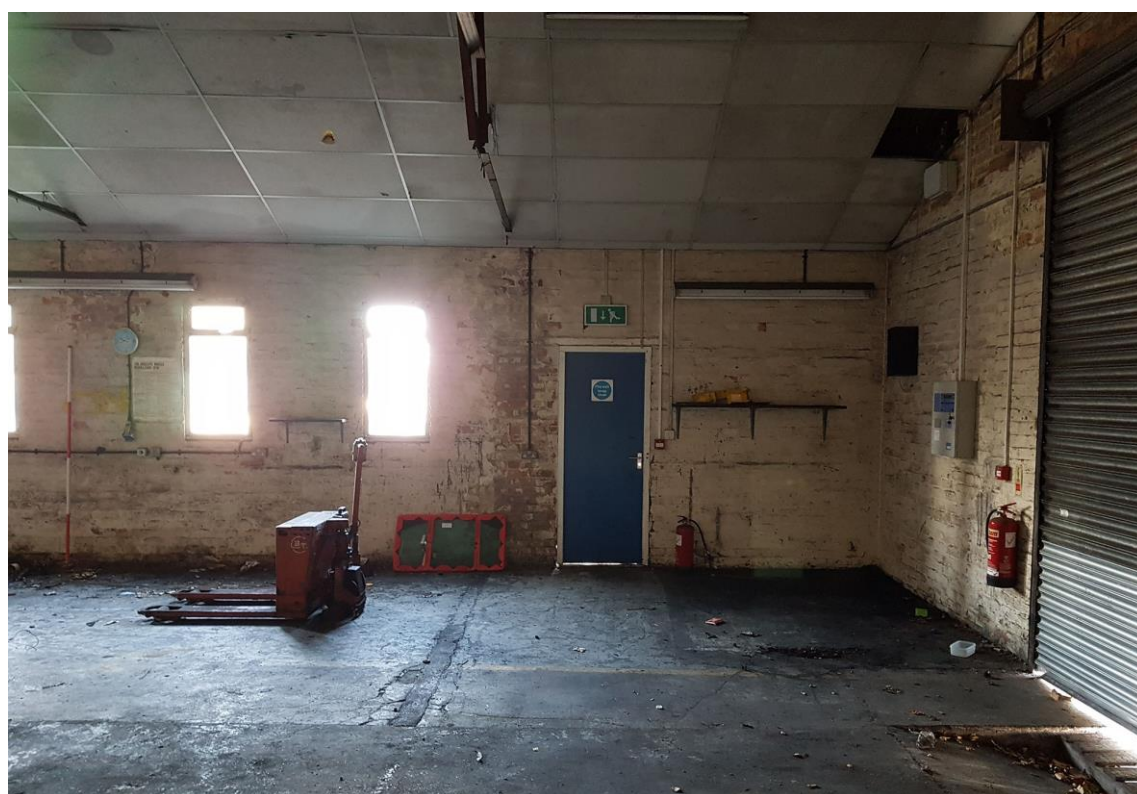


Plate 19: View NW of internal elevation Room 5

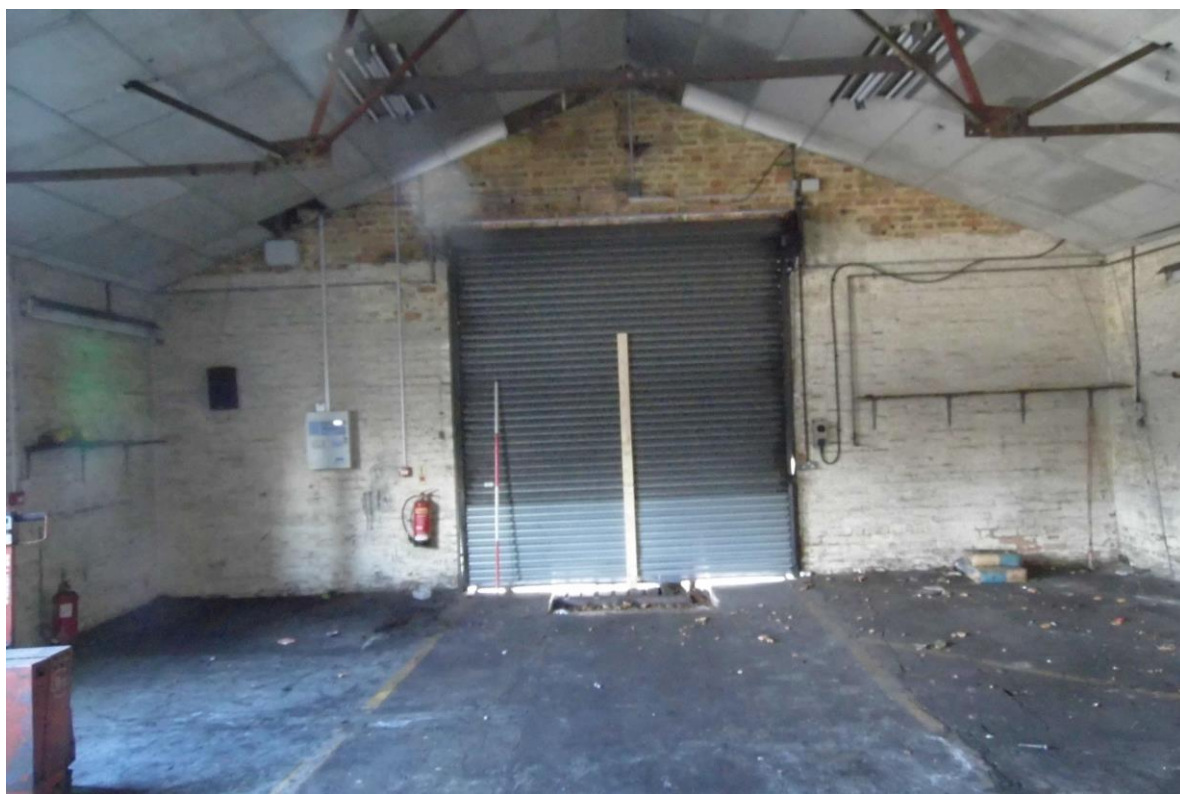


Plate 20: NE internal elevation view NE.

13 References

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