



**William Cowley Parchment Works
Caldecote St
Newport Pagnell
Milton Keynes**

**A PROGRAMME OF HISTORIC
BUILDING RECORDING**

Document: 2010/04
Version: 2.0

20 May 2010

Compiled by	Checked by	Approved by
Christiane Meckseper Hester Cooper-Reade	Christiane Meckseper	Drew Shotliff

MK HER Event no.	1252
Town / Parish	Newport Pagnell
Address	97 Caldecote Street Newport Pagnell
National Grid Reference	SP 8757 4348
Planning application no.	09/01237/FUL
Archive	Buckinghamshire County Museum
Client	Mr. Wim Visscher
Albion Project no.	PW1590
Fieldwork	December 2009 - January 2010





Contents

1. INTRODUCTION.....	10
1.1 Planning Background	10
1.2 Site Location and Description	10
1.3 Research Background	10
1.4 Aims and Objectives.....	11
1.5 Stages of Work	11
1.6 The Report	11
2. HISTORICAL AND DOCUMENTARY BACKGROUND.....	13
2.1 Introduction	13
2.2 Historical and Architectural background	13
3. BUILDING RECORDING: DESCRIPTION AND ANALYSIS	20
3.1 Methodology: Building Recording	20
3.2 Results of Survey.....	20
3.3 Phasing	27
3.4 Form and Function	28
4. CONCLUSIONS.....	30
5. BIBLIOGRAPHY.....	31
6. CONTENTS OF APPENDICES	33
6.1 Appendix 1: Archive and Record	33
6.2 Appendix 2: Summary of Photographic Record.....	34



List of Figures

- Figure 1 The parchment making process
- Figure 2 Site location map
- Figure 3 The parchment works
- Figure 4 Extract from 1882 OS map
- Figure 5 Extract from 1899 OS map
- Figure 6 Extract from 1925 OS map
- Figure 7 Annotated ground plan of building (including Test Pits)
- Figure 8 Annotated upper floor plan of building
- Figure 9 North-facing cross-section of building

List of Tables

- Table 1 Trade directory entries for the fellmongering and parchment trade in Newport Pagnell
- Table 2 Summary of key dates



List of Plates

Plate 1	Historic photograph of workshops
Plate 2	Historic photograph of workshops
Plate 3	General view of wet processing area (A and garage L)
Plate 4	General view of workshops
Plate 5	Workshop (area H)
Plate 6	NW elevation (garage L)
Plate 7	General view (garage L, skin store K and wet processing A & B)
Plate 8	Eastern elevation
Plate 9	General view of yard (boiler house G, western projection H)
Plate 10	Wet processing (A/C)
Plate 11	West processing area A
Plate 12	Wet processing area, view towards skin store (B/K)
Plate 13	Wet processing area B
Plate 14	Wet processing area C
Plate 15	Workshop area D
Plate 16	Workshop area D, view towards drying area F
Plate 17	Workshop area D (shows chimney and access to first floor)
Plate 18	Drying area F (showing drying cabinet)
Plate 19	Chemical store E
Plate 20	Boiler room G
Plate 21	First floor workshop H
Plate 22	First floor above area D
Plate 23	First floor above area E/F, view towards area D
Plate 24	First floor above area J (southern end of building)
Plate 25	First floor above area C, view towards area D
Plate 26	Detail of chimney, first floor
Plate 27	First floor to show position of former louvers
Plate 28	The process: skin store, area K
Plate 29	The process: infilled wet pits and present-day machinery in wet processing area
Plate 30	The process: stretching frames
Plate 31	The process: drying cabinet, area F
Plate 32	The process: Detail of stretching frame
Plate 33	The process: receptacle for collection toggles on removal of skin from frame
Plate 34	Infilled soaking pit in Test Pit 1 (former wet yard area A)

All photographs Nigel Macbeth, except 1-2 and unless otherwise acknowledged.
Historic photographs courtesy of Wim Visscher.





Preface

Every effort has been made in the preparation of this document to provide as complete a report as possible, within the terms of the specification. All statements and opinions in this document are offered in good faith. Albion Archaeology cannot accept responsibility for errors of fact or opinion resulting from data supplied by a third party, or for any loss or other consequence arising from decisions or actions made upon the basis of facts or opinions expressed in this document.

The building recording was undertaken by Hester Cooper-Reade and Christiane Meckseper. The report authors are Christiane Meckseper and Hester Cooper-Reade. All photographs were taken by Nigel Macbeth unless otherwise acknowledged. Christiane Meckseper prepared the original plans. The illustrations were prepared by Joan Lightning. The project was managed on behalf of Albion Archaeology by Hester Cooper-Reade BA (hons).

Acknowledgements

The project was commissioned by Mr. Wim Visscher of the William Cowley Parchment Works. Works were monitored on behalf of the local planning authority by Nick Crank, County Archaeological Officer, Milton Keynes Council. Thanks are due to Wim Visscher and the staff at the William Cowley Parchment Works for their kind assistance and for sharing their knowledge.

Albion Archaeology
 St Mary's Church
 St Mary's Street
 Bedford, MK42 0AS
 ☎: 01234 294001
 Fax: 01234 294008
 e-mail: office@albion-arch.com
 Website: www.albion-arch.com

Structure of this report

After the introductory Section 1, this report presents the results of the historic building survey. The survey requirements were for a record to Level 3 standard (English Heritage 2006). The report includes background information to place the buildings in context, a description of the site and an overview of process and phasing, where possible to ascertain (Sections 2 and 3). Conclusions are presented in Section 4 and a number of separate appendices contain information on content of archive. A selection of photographs and copies of the drawn plans are included to illustrate the text.

Plans are based on a measured survey undertaken as part of these works. For historic descriptions the imperial measurement is used with the metric equivalent in brackets; otherwise the metric measurement is given with the imperial equivalent only if it is relevant to the description. Throughout the text the room/area references are those found on Figs. 7 and 8.

Version History

Version	Issue date	Reason for re-issue
1.0	February 2010	n/a
2.0	May 2010	Addition of information from results of test pit evaluation





Non-Technical Summary

During December 2009 and January 2010 a project team from Albion Archaeology carried out a Level 3 (English Heritage 2006) historic building survey of the rear building of William Cowley Parchment Works. The work was commissioned by Wim Visscher of the Parchment Works. The work was a requirement of a planning condition compliance which was monitored on behalf of the local planning authority by the County Archaeological Officer.

The present rear complex of the factory is due for demolition and replacement with a new purpose-built wing. The archaeological works required by planning condition include a building record of the rear workshop complex which will be demolished as part of the building works. This report details the results of the building recording and, where relevant to the built heritage, information from the subsequent test pit evaluation. The full results of the test pit evaluation are subject to a separate report (Albion Archaeology, 2010).

As the only extant parchment works in England, the Caldecote Street workshop is of great significance in any record of the trade and its history. The building itself is unremarkable and fairly typical of the large workshops used for light industrial and artisan-level craft production. However, the processes taking place in the building are unique and an integral part of the built environment. Many undesignated buildings of this type suffer demolition and alteration and it is therefore important to make an appropriate record.

Documentary and map evidence suggests that the parchment workshop Willen/Caldecote Road was first established in, or a short while before 1876 as part of an already established tradition of parchment-making in Newport Pagnell. The workshop was built by David Cook who ran the works until sometime between 1883 and 1899, when William Cowley is first associated with the building. Although the building has been altered and re-modelled many times, the general as-built structure and building footprint is clearly recognisable.

The building complex recorded as part of these works was originally one of a pair of similarly constructed workshops either side of a narrow yard. The present-day structure is built largely of brick in Flemish bond, with a timber-framed upper storey and pitched roof. A number of re-built and additional extensions have been added to the north and south of the core building. Evidence for long thin stretches of glazing and large louvered, upper-storey openings is still visible as are a number of fixtures and fittings that have changed little over time.



1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 *Planning Background*

As part of planning Application 09/01237/FUL (submitted to Milton Keynes Council), the rear factory building of the William Cowley Parchment Works is to be demolished and replaced with a new purpose-built unit. Planning permission was granted in September 2009 with the following condition requiring a building record prior to demolition works:

Prior to any works commencing on the site, the applicant will employ a competent archaeologist, surveyor or architect to record the buildings to a scheme agreed in writing with the Council's Archaeological Officer. The record will comprise a report with plans, elevations and sections of the buildings at a scale of 1:50 drawn to the standards set by English Heritage (2006). This will be accompanied by a written description of the building and its development, together with a photographic record of the interior and exterior. All photographs will be dated and annotated. Two copies of the building recording report will be deposited with Milton Keynes Sites and Monuments Record prior to building works or demolition commencing, and within three months of the recording survey being completed. An additional copy of the report will be forwarded to the National Monuments Record.

The site has been identified as of particular interest in relation to it being the only surviving parchment works in England and potentially incorporating parts of a workshop dating from the mid 19th century.

1.2 *Site Location and Description*

Fig. 1, Fig. 2.

The parchment works are located on level ground in the southern part of Newport Pagnell, adjacent to the River Ouzel (Fig. 1). They are centred on grid ref. NGR SP8757/4348 and lie at a height of between 50.0m and 60.0m OD.

The entrance to the workshop complex is from Caldecote Street in the west, which leads via a driveway to a small triangular shaped yard in between the workshop buildings.

The building complex recorded as part of this study (Fig. 2), lies to the east, at the back of the site and adjacent to the river. The building forms a north-south aligned elongated L-shape. A second workshop building lies to the west of the yard and fronts onto Caldecote Street. The current front building was erected in 1964 but replaced an older 19th century building in the same footprint.

The northern part of the yard is framed by a 19th-century villa, 97 Caldecote Street, and its several eastern extensions, which house offices and small workshops of the parchment works.

1.3 *Research Background*

While not necessarily considered as a specific industry, parchment making falls under the heading of "Craft, Trade and Industry" in the draft of the Solent -Thames Historic Environment Research Framework, which covers the counties of



Buckinghamshire, Berkshire, Oxfordshire, Hampshire and the Isle of Wight (Green *et al* 2006; Oxford Archaeology nd.a, nd.b).

The Research Framework recognises that, in contrast to the Midlands and the North, the Solent Thames region is not usually associated with the heavy manufacturing and extraction industries, but that there has been a wide variety of industries like ship and aircraft manufacture, cloth working and brick and tile production. For Buckinghamshire in particular, small scale and cottage industries like furniture production, needle making, straw plaiting and lace making are mentioned (Oxford Archaeology nd.a & nd.b and Green *et al* 2006b), while the leather industry had always played a significant part in neighbouring Northamptonshire (Hall 2006).

The Solent-Thames Research Agenda stresses that there is a need to identify the smaller category of craft and industrial workshops and that the archaeology, architecture and activities of small and larger manufacturing industries be recorded now, before their closure or major alteration (Oxford Archaeology nd.b, p. 7).

1.4 Aims and Objectives

The purpose of the work as outlined in the Written Scheme of Investigation (Albion Archaeology 2009) produced to show how the work would comply with the brief (Crank 2009) is as follows:

- Identification and recording of any significant structural features or relationships. Investigation of the chronology, construction, fabric and development of the building
- An annotated ground plan and interpretation of the structure
- A photographic record
- An account of plan, form, function, age and development
- An account of materials and construction
- An account of any fixtures or fittings associated with the building and their purpose
- Interpretation, phasing and function will be considered and, if appropriate, process flow or permeability diagrams will be produced.

In view of the proposed demolition of the buildings the principle aim of the works is to record the building prior to demolition.

1.5 Stages of Work

Albion Archaeology carried out a photographic survey and building analysis during December 2009 and January 2010. An interim historic building report was produced on completion of the building survey. The subsequent test pit evaluation carried out during March 2010 revealed results relevant to the built history of the site (Albion Archaeology 2010). Information obtained from the results of this work has been added to this, the final version, of the report.

1.6 The Report

This report is intended to give an overview of the site, its historical background and context. It draws on primary and secondary documentary and cartographic sources, and a detailed photographic record and building recording survey of the structure.



The factory building adjacent to the river and earmarked for replacement is described in detail in its current form, with particular emphasis on those aspects that relate to its earlier history.



2. HISTORICAL AND DOCUMENTARY BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

Developed in Pergamum in Mesopotamia around the 2nd century BC, parchment is inextricably linked with the need to create a permanent written record. Its popularity grew throughout the 1st century AD due to its advantages over papyrus: it was more durable and flexible and in contrast to papyrus both sides of a parchment sheet could be written on. Also the writing was easier to read and corrections easier to make. By the 3rd century AD parchment had become the preferred medium for all writing purposes (Reed in diCurci 2003).

In England in the early medieval period writing was almost exclusively restricted to monasteries and religious houses where books and manuscripts were produced and copied by religious scribes. From the 12th century onwards the establishment of schools and universities led to an increase in the literacy and numeracy of the laity. The establishment of orders of mendicants in towns, a trading middle class and courts of law also led to an increased demand for written contracts and administrative documents.

In the later middle ages onwards parchment was increasingly replaced by paper. Parchment continued to be used for important documents, government documents and diplomas and to this day Acts of Parliament are inscribed onto parchment. (A motion to end this tradition was narrowly defeated in 1999, after opposition led by Brian White, then Labour MP for Milton Keynes NE.)

During the medieval and post medieval period, book and manuscript production became a town-based trade, operated by increasingly specialized laymen. The occupation of parchmenter was often closely connected with that of scribe, decorator or book binder (Morgan and Thomson 2008).

As the initial stages of parchment making are very similar to the tanning process (Fig. 1), the production of parchment is often closely connected the leather industries. In the medieval period, leather making was traditionally divided into the “heavy” trades of tanning and currying, and the “light” trades of fellmongering, whittawing, leather dressing and fur dressing (Thomson 1981, 161). As one of the “light” trades of the leather industry, the physical evidence of the equipment and buildings used for parchment making are often indistinguishable from those used in a tannery, leather dresser’s business or s fellmonger’s. It is not surprising that the William Cowley parchment works grew out of a fellmongering business.

The main difference between parchment making and tanning is that the initial soaking process uses a much lighter solution, almost entirely based on lime, without any of the tannins produced by the vegetable matter added to leather treatment vats.

2.2 Historical and Architectural background

2.2.1 The parchment-making process

Parchment-making has changed little over the centuries and many of the tools equipment and processes used today would be immediately recognisable to the 19th-century employees of William Cowley (plates 12, 29-34). The key to



parchment-making is the treatment and drying of the skins under continuous tension, which transforms them into a smooth and near transparent material and makes them suitable for writing (Plate 30).

When the skin is removed from the lime solution the fibres of their membrane run in all directions. The stretching of the skins serves to break some of the fibres and to align the rest of them into layers parallel with the pattern of the grain. During the drying process the parallel layers are set in place and cannot revert to their former relaxed state (Reed in diCursi 2003).

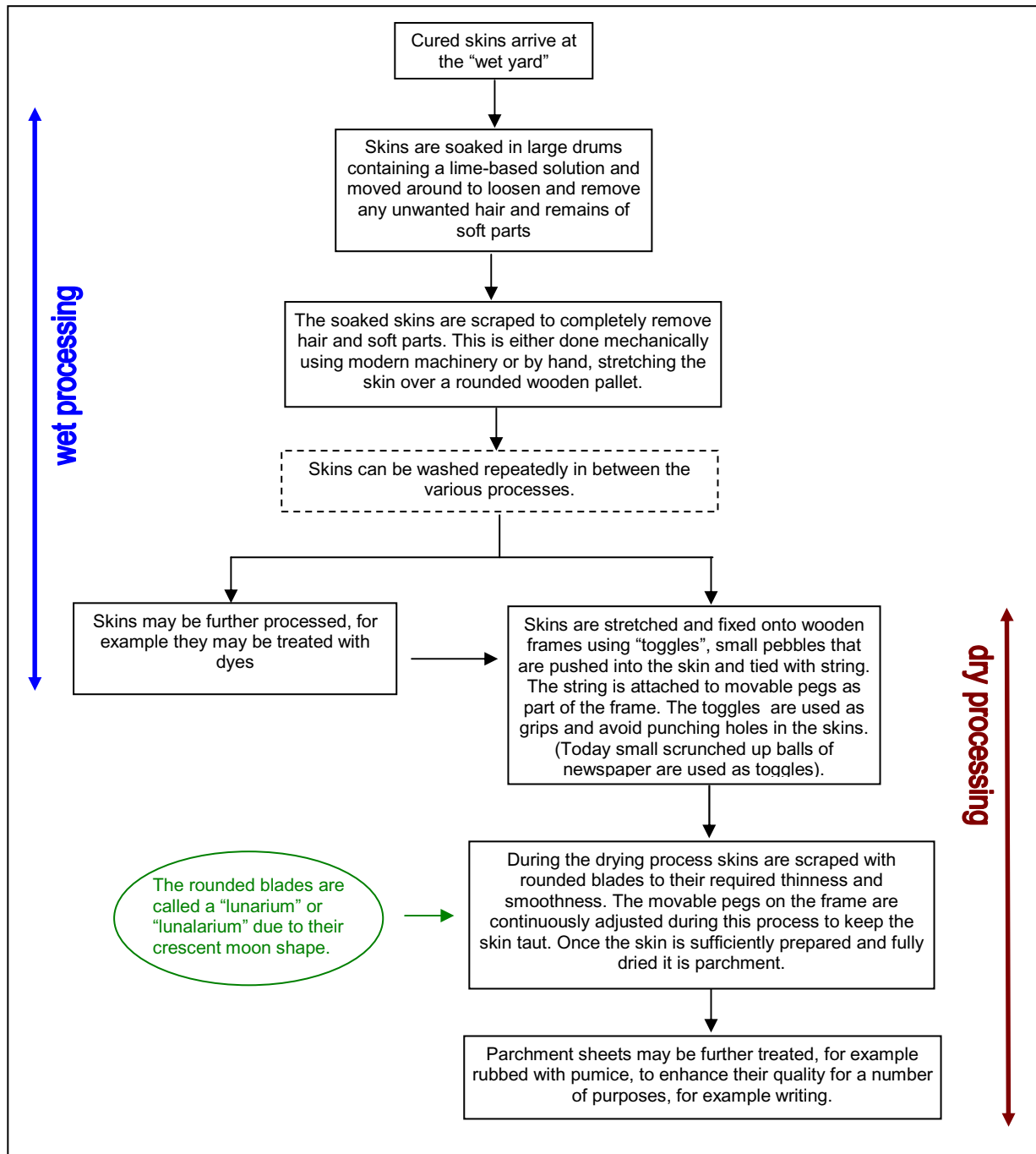


Figure 1: The parchment-making process



2.2.2 The history of the parchment trade in Newport Pagnell

The trade directory entries for Newport Pagnell are the best source of information we have on the industrial precursors of the William Cowley parchment works. They also show how closely parchment manufacture was linked to the leather industry as the trades of leather dresser, fellmonger, tanner and parchment maker are shared by the same families and are often carried out on the same premises.

Records begin in the late 18th century with Edward Jefferson being named as a leather dresser in the *Buckinghamshire Directory* of 1775. No location is given for his business but in the subsequent trade directories and for the next 80 years the Jefferson family are listed as running a fellmongering business in Tickford End.

The name Edward seems to be passed down the generations and the last Jefferson to be listed in *Kelly's Directory* of 1854 is Edward Jefferson, fellmonger and butcher at Tickford End.

The first parchment manufacturer listed in Newport Pagnell is Matthew John Hillyard, who seems to have taken over the fellmongering premises at Tickford End by 1864. The Tickford End butchery is now run by one Josiah Wakefield.

Four years later David Cook is listed as tanner and parchment manufacturer based in Tickford Street (Simpson 1868) and Edward Cook, presumably his brother or son, is running the fellmongering business at Tickford End. Matthew Hillyard seems to have moved to Great Doddington, as he is listed there two years later as running a parchment manufacture with his brother Samuel.

The premises at Willen Road first appear in 1876 as a fellmongery in Harrold and Co's *Royal County Directory of Bedfordshire, Buckinghamshire, Berkshire and Oxfordshire*. They are run by David Cook who must have moved there from Tickford Street. A year later the address has changed to 100 Caldecote Street and is listed as a parchment manufacture. It is difficult to separate the premises of Willen Road and Caldecote Street by their directory listing alone. As the factory building is situated in the slight bend of road where Caldecote Street ends and Willen Road begins, it is assumed that they refer to the same location.

It is also in 1876 that William Cowley is first named as a parchment manufacturer in Newport Pagnell. He first set up business in Marsh End and a year later gives his address as 72 Silver Street where he remained until at least 1883. The first directory entry for William Cowley on the Caldecote Street site appears in Kelly's of 1892

By 1883 William Cowley and David Cook also shared their trade with another member of the Hillyard family, Gaius Hillyard, who is listed as a parchment maker as well as running the *Green Man* public house at 76 Silver Street on the corner with Caldecote Street, barely a few hundred meters north of David Cook's parchment works.

Sometime between 1883 and 1892, William Cowley had taken over the premises at Caldecote Street as he is listed there as a parchment maker in 1892. It is possible that David Cook retired as he continues to be listed as a "private resident" in Tickford Street (Kelly's 1899), while the fellmongery at Tickford End is run by Edward Cook and Sons until at least 1915. Edward Cook may additionally have



branched out into the public house business as he also seems to run the *George Inn* in Tickford Street in 1915.

William Cowley continued to share the parchment trade with Gaius Hillyard until circa 1907, when Mrs Pamela Hillyard is listed as proprietor of the *Green Man* and also still as parchment maker. However, Mrs Mary Jane Hillyard by 1911 had decided to concentrate solely on running the *Green Man* public house. This left the premises at Caldecote Street the only remaining parchment manufacture in Newport Pagnell.

Date	Directory	Details of entry
1775 – 1787	<i>A Buckinghamshire Directory 1775 – 1787</i> compiled by Eve McLaughlin (Bucks Publication Series 1993).	Jefferson, Edward, leather dresser
1831- 1832	Pigot and Co's National Commercial Directory	Jefferson, William, fellmonger, Tickford End
1844	Pigot's Directory of Buckinghamshire	Jefferson, William, fellmonger, Tickford End
1847	Kelly's Post Office Directory of Bucks	Jefferson, Edward, fellmonger, Tickford End
1850	Slater's Directory	Jefferson, William, fellmonger, Tickford End
1854	Kelly and Co's Directory Berks, Northants and Oxfordshire with Bedfordshire, Bucks and Huntingdonshire	Jefferson, Edward, fellmonger and butcher, Tickford End
1864	Kelly's Directory of Bucks	Hillyard Matthew John, parchment manufacturer, Tickford End (Wakefield, Josiah, butcher, Tickford End)
1868	Joseph Simpson. <i>History of the Town of Newport Pagnell and Its Neighbourhood.</i>	Cook, David, tanner and parchment manufacturer, Tickford Street
1869	Kelly's	Cook, Edward, fellmonger, Tickford End
1876	Harrod and Co's Royal county Directory of Bedfordshire, Bucks, Berks and Oxfordshire	Cook, David, fellmonger, Willen Road Cowley Willm, parchment maker, Marsh End
1877	Kelly's	Cook, David, parchment manufacturer, 100 Caldecote Street Cook, Edward and Son, fellmongers, 12 Tickford Street Cowley, William, parchment maker, 72 Silver Street



Date	Directory	Details of entry
1883	Kelly's	Cook David, parchment manufacturer, 100 Caldecote Street. Dowley [sic] William, parchment maker, 72 Silver Street. Hillyard Gains, <i>Green Man</i> and parchment maker, 76 Silver Street
1892	Kelly's	Cook and son, fellmongers, 12 Tickford Street Cowley, William, parchment maker(?), 100 Caldecote Street
1895	Kelly's	William Cowley, Hillyard Gaius? Not checked!
1899		William Cowley Hillyard Gaius, <i>Green Man</i> PH and parchment maker, 76 Silver Street.
1907	Kelly's	William Cowley, parchment maker, 100 Caldecote Street. Hillyard, Pamela (Mrs), <i>Green Man</i> PH, parchment maker, 90 Silver Street. Hillyard, Mary Jane (Mrs), <i>Green Man</i> , 90 Silver Street
1911 & 1915	Kelly's	William Cowley, parchment maker, 100 Caldecote Street. Daws Robert, parchment maker, Caldecote Street Cook E & Sons, fellmonger, Tickford Street (Cook Edward, George Inn, 97 Tickford Street.) Hillyard, Mary Jane (Mrs), <i>Green Man</i> , 90 Silver Street

Table 1: Trade directory entries for the fellmongering and parchment trade in Newport Pagnell

2.2.3 Architectural and Documentary Background

Architecturally or morphologically there is no such thing as a “purpose-built” parchment works with distinctive features particular to the parchment trade. The parchment making process is very similar to the tanning process and may often share its premises with a tannery or fellmongery. There are however a few criteria that may be employed to characterize a parchment works building. In addition to a fairly generic factory space, providing storage facilities, work floors and drying rooms, there would be a wet yard, either indoors or outdoors with rectangular pits, often set into the floor. The wet pits are used to soak the skins in their lime bath solution at the beginning of the parchment-making process. A large chimney would also have been required to provide heat to dry the skins in inclement weather conditions.



In contrast to a tannery with similar provisions, all rooms in a parchment works are built so a number of parchment frames could be stacked alongside each other with handling space in between them (Visscher pers. comm.). A parchment frame measures 42 inches across, so the rooms would have to be of a minimum size in order to accommodate frames and handlers.

It is not possible to determine whether the building at Caldecote Street was built for parchment manufacture. However, David Cook was already an established parchment maker at Tickford Street and may have acquired the new location with the intention of building himself a “purpose-built” workshop. The business was initially listed as a fellmongery, but within a year that listing had changed to parchment manufacture.

The exact date of the building at Caldecote Street is also unclear. It was most likely built sometime between 1868 and 1876, the time after David Cook is last listed at Tickford Street (Simpson 1868) and before the address at Willen Road first appears in the Trade Directory (Kelly’s 1876).

The building recorded as part of these works is first shown on the 1882 OS map for Newport Pagnell (Fig. 4), where it is depicted as an elongated L-shape with a western annex extending into the yard towards the building along the street front. Two smaller additions in the north-east extend towards the river. The southern slightly narrower extension, shown in the historic photographs as a single storey lean-to, is also just about discernable on this map.

Due to many later alterations, the original form of the building is unclear although throughout its life the constraints of the site have meant that the building footprint has remained largely the same. The OS map of 1899 (Fig 5) shows the workshops more clearly with a number of minor alterations to the building at the rear of the yard. Although structurally, the western annex is not tied into the building that it projects from, the maps suggest that it was added as part of the original construction phase. The same is true for the southern, single storey lean-to extension of the main building.

By 1899, William Cowley had taken over the works, the two smaller north-eastern sheds have been replaced by a larger singular extension, forming the north-eastern wing of the building. A further extension, now the garage L, has also been added to the northern end of the building. The workshop owner’s villa, 97 Caldecote Street, has also been enlarged at this stage, although the building fronting the street remains the same.

The only addition to the 1925 OS map (Fig. 6) is a further smaller shed filling in the north-eastern corner of the building, extending the garage annex eastwards. Its dimensions are wider than the small shed in existence in the same location today, suggesting that it was rebuilt sometime in the mid-20th century.

Modern OS maps show that the external layout of the building has changed little. Sometime after 1925 the north-eastern extension (B) was rebuilt in the same footprint and the southern wall of that extension was angled to join with the main north-south part of the factory works, presenting a continuing elevation towards the river.

Pictorial evidence shows the parchment works looking much the same from the late 19th century to the mid-20th century. A photograph taken c1950-1960s, and



published in Maynard and Hunt's "Newport Pagnell, a Pictorial History" (1995), shows the parchment works from the Willen Road looking much as it would have done in the 1890s. Various constructional elements typify the workshops, a number of which are still apparent to varying degrees in the present-day buildings: the main workshop buildings are constructed using brick piers, the walls infilled with brick at ground floor level and clad with weatherboard at their upper level and containing a number of louvered openings for ventilation. The southern end of the road-frontage workshop contains long, narrow strips of glazing, maximizing light. Similar glazing is visible along the eastern elevation of the workshop recorded as part of this study (Plate 8).

Louvered-openings puncture the upper storeys of both main workshop buildings and are particularly visible in Plate 2, an earlier photograph which shows the wet processing area A and garage L. Although there the louvers are no longer extant, evidence for their existence remains in the present building, their location shown by the corrugated sheeting covering the eastern side of the factory building (Plates 8, 27). The ventilated upper floors would have been used for drying the parchment and evidence for the fixtures and fittings used to secure the stretcher frames is still apparent.

The western projection H was constructed entirely from brick and a 19th-century photograph (Plate 2) shows that, other than minor changes to some of the window and door openings, this part of the workshop complex has changed little over the years. The present double-doors are clearly a recent insertion although the other door and window openings are as originally built. The high level heating pipe running between the main workshop buildings is also shown on the earlier photograph.

Another historic photograph (Plate 1) shows the wet processing area A and although a brick wall and long strip of glazing has replaced the open fronted lower portion and louvered upper portion of the façade, the function and overall impression of this part of the building is recognisable today. The upper storey of this part of the building, now open to the roof, was clearly being used for the drying of skins on their stretching frames.

The work going on in the yard shows a number of the various processes involved in the initial stages of parchment making. Other than ubiquitous stretching frame (see Plate 30) and a number of the scraping and smoothing tools, it is clear the workshop would have required few fixtures and fittings specifically identifiable with parchment making. A number of tools including the moon-shaped lunarium were recorded stored on one of the beams in the present building (Plate 18)



3. BUILDING RECORDING: DESCRIPTION AND ANALYSIS

3.1 **Methodology: Building Recording**

Throughout the project the standards set in the IFA *Standard and Guidance for the Archaeological Investigation and Recording of Standing Buildings and Structures* and English Heritage's *Understanding Historic Buildings* (2006) have been adhered to. All work has been done in accordance with the IFA Code of Conduct.

The site survey comprised detailed examination of the buildings, compilation of a plan record of the structures, and a photographic survey. The requirement was for a survey at English Heritage Level 3 standard (2006). The photographic survey was undertaken using high quality, high resolution digital photographs. The photographs will be stored in .tiff format. A selection of the photographs have been reproduced to illustrate the report. These photographs have been reproduced as lower resolution jpegs in order to ensure digital versions of the report are of a manageable size.

A number of historic plans, mostly OS map editions, dating from the late 19th century onwards, were available for consultation in the Milton Keynes Local Studies Library.

A full range of photographs were taken of the parchment Works, along with detailed points of interest.

3.2 **Results of Survey**

3.2.1 **General Description of Site and its Layout**

The William Cowley Parchment Works comprise a number of brick and wooden-framed buildings bounded by the River Ouzel to the east and south, Caldecote Street/Willen Road to the west and 97 Caldecote Street, the house of the workshop owners, to the north. The buildings are largely two storeys high and, with the exception of more recently-built extensions have pitched, slate or corrugated sheet roofs. The internal spaces of the workshops and a number of the external elevations have been subject to change and, in some cases, more extensive re-building.

Access to the site is from Caldecote Street in the west via a short driveway that leads to a narrow yard between the two main buildings of the works. The workshops consist of the main 19th-century, L-shaped building that directly fronts onto the River Ouzel in the east, the subject of this report, and a second 20th-century rectangular block that fronts onto Willen Road. The workshop fronting Willen Road, replaced a 19th century building on the same location.

No. 97 Caldecote Street in the north is also part of the complex and was built as the factory owner's home. The style of the villa, which had been extended by 1899, suggests that the workshops provided a comfortable living. There are several extensions at the back of the house that form the northern boundary of the yard and accommodate the main office and further workshops. An extensive garden at the back of the house also forms part of the property.



The workshop at the back of the yard and recorded as part of this study, consists of two sections on differing alignments: in the north, a wooden-framed workshop with a flat-roofed brick-built extension (Plates 4-5, 7-9) and on a north-west, south-east alignment and, in the south, an L-shaped brick-built structure with a number of single-storey additions and extensions and principally on a north-south alignment (Plates 5-6, 9-10). The short arm of the L-shaped southern section comprises a rectangular two-storey projection extending into the central yard (Plate 5). This projection, shelters a one storey, multi-angular annex (the boiler house (G)) in the angle between its southern wall and the western wall of the main factory building (Plate 9). The central core of the building consists of two floors with a low pitched roof.

The workshop complex is largely brick-built in Flemish bond, although the southern part of the workshop, fronting the yard, is timber-framed with part-brick and part-wooden elevations. There are a number of window openings mostly containing wooden-framed windows some of which provide long stretches of glazing characteristic of an industrial workshop. The roof facing west towards the yard is clad in grey slate tiles. The east-facing roof sections towards the river are clad in corrugated metal sheets.

3.2.2 External Description

3.2.2.1 Northern Section (A, B, C + K and L)

Figs. 7-9

Plates 3-8

The main entrance to the building is in the western side of the NW-SE aligned wing and faces the driveway leading into the yard from Caldecote Street (Plate 3). This side of the building has been considerably altered since its construction with the removal of internal floors and conversion into one large space open to the rafters.

Historical photographs show that the original façade was entirely built of timber (Newport Pagnell Guide 1963). The current western façade is brick-built and divided into a ratio of two-thirds lower storey to a narrow upper storey that takes up the remaining third of the façade. The two storeys are divided by a narrow concrete band.

The main doorway consists of a large garage-sized opening, taking up the full height of the lower façade. The door opening is fitted with sliding, wooden doors. The entrance leads directly into the “wet yard” area of the factory which houses the machines for the first stages of treatment for the newly arrived animal skins (Plate 3).

Two window openings are set into the lower façade. These are both to the south of the doorway and reach up to the concrete band. The northernmost window opening contains a tripartite frame with steel meshed industrial glass panes, the southernmost, a single rectangular frame with a clear glass pane (Plate 3).

The upper third of the façade is taken up by a continuous horizontal band of square panes, set into wooden frames. The frames are set above three courses of bricks and extend to roof height. The panes alternate in type between simple flat glass sheets and horizontal, glass- louvered panes (Plate 3).



The northern end of the main building consists of the garage extension (L) that was added to the building sometime before 1882. Its lower storey is constructed of bricks while the upper storey is entirely clad vertical wooden slats. Originally most of the upper floor of the building consisted of wooden walls and louvers (Plate 3). The garage (L) is the only part of the building where the wooden upper storey survives (Plates 4-7).

The garage has a large double wooden door on hinges providing access from the yard in the west. A small horizontal window, divided into three adjacent square panes and with wooden sill, is set below the eaves in the upper storey above the door (Plates 4-5).

There are three regularly-spaced window openings at ground floor level on the northern elevation (Plates 7-8). The frames are divided into six smaller, rectangular panes divided by wooden mullions. Two horizontal, rectangular window openings are set into the upper, wooden part of the northern wall, with a single, similar opening, in the upper part of the north-eastern-facing elevation. The frames comprise three rectangular panes. Each of the windows in this elevation has a wooden lintel and sill. A small high-level wooden door, set at the northern edge of the building, gives access to the upper floor of the garage extension (Plate 7). The door is reached by a steep, wooden, open-riser stair with a simple, square, wooden handrail.

Most of the lower part of the north-east facing side of the garage is hidden by a single-storey lean-to (K) built from a mixture of new and reclaimed bricks (Plate 7). It has a single-slope roof covered with corrugated iron sheets. Access to the lean-to is from the interior "wet yard". The lean-to has two vertical window openings set into its northern elevation, towards the western end. These are rectangular in shape and the frames are divided into two vertical rows of three panes each. The north-east facing side has two regularly spaced narrow, vertical window openings with concrete sills, the frames of which are divided into three rectangular panes. All windows are boarded up from the inside.

The eastern part of the northern wing consists of a largely rectangular block with a flat roof (B) (Plates 8-9). The flat roof replaced an earlier single pitched roof (Visscher pers. comm.). Three large rectangular window openings dominate its north-eastern elevation. The frames are divided into three vertical panes with mesh-enforced, frosted, industrial glass. The central pane of each frame contains glass louvers. The same type window overlooks the river in the eastern elevation but the outer panes are boarded up externally with plaster board (Plate 9). A single door adjacent to this window leads onto the narrow bank between the river and the building.

The northern wall of the extension is obscured by the lean-to shed described above.

3.2.2.2 Southern Section (D, E, F, H + G and J)

Figs. 7-6

Plates 5, 8-9

The southern section of the workshop complex retains its original partitions on both the lower and upper storey and the interior floors have largely remained in place,



although with some alteration. The exterior features divide the façade into equal-height upper and lower sections.

The western projection (H) seems to be largely unaltered since it was built sometime before 1882 even though repairs to the brickwork in its western façade suggest that the dimensions of some windows and doors have changed (Plate 5). The yard-facing façade of this part of the building contains two principle door openings: a double door, made of wood with an upper horizontal band of square glass lights, set in the northern part of the ground floor, and within the centre of the elevation to the south of the double door, a single door opening. There is also a centrally-placed, taking-in door in the upper storey. At the time of recording there was no evidence for the hoist or pulley that would have been used to take material into the upper storage space. (Plate 5)

There is a single, ground-floor window opening in the northern elevation of the western projection containing a rectangular frame divided into a series of small rectangular panes. Two windows are set to the left and right of the taking-in door. The northern window replaces a previous larger opening, as indicated by a horizontal row of brick headers that mark the location of the earlier sill. The present window opening is rectangular with a fixed, frosted pane in the southern part, set adjacent to a casement opening with clear window glass. A simple near-square window is set to the south of the central door, divided into two fixed, vertical panes. The unaltered brickwork surrounding it suggests that it has remained close to its original size. The north-facing façade has a central window opening on the ground floor with a window comprising three adjacent frames, each subdivided into four rectangular panes. The central frame contains a horizontally sliding window. A smaller rectangular window is set centrally, directly below the eaves within the upper storey of the north-facing façade. It consists of three frames, each divided by a mullion into two long vertical panes. The central frame is set within a thicker wooden casement and can be opened. All the window openings in the western projection have wooden sills and lintels. (Plate 5)

The southern façade of the western projection (H) is mainly hidden by the recently constructed annexe that houses the boiler (G) (Plate 9). The boiler house is built of orange-red brick in English bond with a single pitch roof covered in corrugated metal sheets. The western side, facing into the narrow yard, is largely made up of a set of brown wooden panels with a single rectangular window pane in each panel. Two of the panels function as a double door. A window opening in the upper floor of the western projection H and consisting of two rows of three square glass panes has been partially bricked up and obscured by the roof of the annexe. A centrally placed window in the lower floor of block H is now boarded up, but is still visible from the interior of the boiler room G.

The eastern, river-facing, wall of the north-south aligned part of the workshop, has several window and door openings, all of which have changed considerably over time (Plate 9). Changes are indicated by differential brick infill and wooden window sills and heads which are left "hanging" in the brick elevation. The lower quarter of the entire length of the wall is rendered in concrete to protect the building from the general dampness of the river environment.

One of the main features of the eastern elevation is the brick chimney that sits in the northern part of the elevation (Plate 9). The chimney, which has an internal flue and simple square stack, may have been added soon after 1876 when the



directory entries for the property changed, a year later, from fellmongery to parchment works

A wooden sill beam partially obscured by the metal sheeting but visible in the lower section of the chimney, a vertical line of queen closers above the beam and a section of English bond brick work below are perhaps suggestive of structural changes in this area, perhaps even the bricking up of an opening during the insertion of the chimney. A more likely explanation is that the chimney was part of the original construction and that the structural changes in this area are associated with the narrow band of ground floor windows and first floor louvered openings to the north of the chimney. The more recently fixed cladding obscures a large opening that would have contained an expanse of wooden louvers providing a well-ventilated drying floor on the upper storey. The wooden sill beam continues northwards beneath the corrugated sheet cladding and been required to support the cross members of the second storey at this point. Further to the south, and at the same level, second storey, level another wooden sill beam is just visible above a large horizontal window. This beam continues southwards and is similarly obscured by more recently fixed corrugated sheet cladding, again obscuring the wooden louvers in this part of the upper elevation. The section of the elevation between the two beams is taken up by a centrally placed rectangular window opening with a wooden frame divided into five thin vertical panes. This window sits directly below a similar sized opening on the upper floor, that is boarded up externally. The upper window cuts through a thin wooden lintel and the brickwork between the two windows is of a different kind than the rest of the elevation – slightly darker in colour and built in English bond. This suggests that previously a larger opening existed in this section of the eastern wall. However, its original form and function are unclear. (Plate 9)

The large horizontal window section in the central part of the wall consists of a frame divided into ten vertical window panes, with irregular thin and thick mullions. Some of the panes are also set into thicker casement frames. (Plate 9)

A bricked up door exists near the southern end of the building. Its regular vertical seam with the older brickwork suggests that it was inserted and then bricked up in the more recent past. (Plate 9)

A vertical seam within the brickwork of the elevation near the southern end of the building also suggests that the building was extensively repaired at this end. Although the single-storey lean-to shed (J) at the far southern end of the building appears to be of more modern build, a similar structure, is depicted on the OS map of 1882. The lean-to extension has large wooden double doors set in its western, yard-facing elevation and two window openings with concrete lintels and sill; one set in the western elevation, south of the door and the other in the eastern, river-facing elevation. (Plate 9)

3.2.3 Internal Description

Figs. 7-9

Plates 12-33

Internally the building has been considerably altered, although its original form can be discerned in a number of places. Partition walls have been variously inserted, moved and rebuilt in a mixture of materials. As the building was purely functional windows and door openings no longer in use have generally been roughly bricked



or boarded up and additional openings crudely knocked through. Ongoing repair and insertion has often been carried out using salvaged materials easily to hand, including in some cases, parts of the stretching frames. Original walls survive in the core of the building, represented by rooms D and H. Of all the rooms, D and H (ground floor and upper floor) probably most closely resemble the shape and form of the structure as built. A door leading from room H to D at ground level has been blocked off (Fig.7). Wherever the building has been substantially rebuilt, the roof and sections of the original floor are supported on new brick pillars and have been resettled onto new external and internal walls. (e.g., Plates 11-12)

Whilst accommodating the original footprint, rooms A, B and C have been almost entirely rebuilt at various times during the 20th century. The internal walls dividing rooms A, B and C and between rooms C and D all contain a mixture of modern brick and concrete 'breeze' blocks. (Plates 11-15)

Rooms A, B and C, the "wet processing area" of the works and contain machinery for the washing, soaking and scraping of animal skins (Plates 11-12). The machinery is largely fixed to the ground and, in some cases, to brick and concrete plinths built into the rooms. A concrete plinth, circa 0.30m in height and 2.0m in width, was installed along the eastern wall of room B to accommodate machinery and equipment. The wet processing vats are either half barrel-shaped wooden containers or rectangular plastic. Large rectangular metal containers topped with a roller mechanism were also part of this initial process which involved soaking and agitating of the skins to remove hair and soft tissue (Plates 11-12). Although of varying dates, none of the machinery in this area of the factory is contemporary with its first use (Wim Visscher pers. com).

The floor of the wet processing area consists of a simple concrete pebble wash. In some areas within rooms A and B, the square outline of the infilled sunken lime soaking pits can still be seen on the ground (Plate 29). A subsequent test pit evaluation on the site revealed the remains a number of these pits which were shown to be approximately 3.6m x 1m x 0.9m deep and lined with wood (Albion Archaeology 2010). Before they were replaced with modern machinery, the pits had been filled with clinker and covered over (Fig. 7, Plate 35).

In room A the ceiling has been completely removed, creating a large space that is open to the rafters of the roof. The original sawn-off ceiling joists can still be seen as part of the dividing wall between room A and the adjacent garage (L) (Plate 11).

The partition between rooms A and L consists entirely of wood (Plate 11). This could be a survivor of the original partition in this part of the building, which seems to have been largely built of timber (Plate 3).

The single-storey lean-to at the northern end of the complex (K) represents a "wet" storage area for cured animal skins and has been insulated extensively from the inside (Plates 13, 28). The lower half of the room is lined with bare dark grey concrete blocks and the windows have been blocked with plywood. A small raised concrete plinth, circa 0.20m in height and 1.0m wide, has been built around the edges of the room to accommodate the piles of animal skins.

Sections D and H have the original ceilings intact. In room D, and possibly throughout the works, these were originally lathed and plastered D (Wim Visscher pers. comm.). The laths and plaster has since been removed, now revealing the



ceiling beams and boards of the upper floor. The brick walls are covered in a simple white wash. (Plates 16, 18)

Room D is used as a workshop and storage area (Plates 16-18). Bags of lime and ammonium chlorate powder are stored along the western wall of the room, workbenches are placed against the southern and eastern wall and parchment frames and other tools and utensils in various stages of repair are stacked in the centre and around the available edges of the room. The north-eastern corner of the room is taken up by the chimney with its separate flue and firing area built of a mixture of squared new bricks and white-glazed bull-nosed bricks (Plate 17). Metal shutters on pulleys and chains attached to the ceiling allow the flue to be open and closed in order to control both draught and heat to the upper drying floor (Plate 26). Test Pit 2 of the subsequent archaeological evaluation revealed fragmentary remains of a north-south aligned wall to the west of the chimney (Albion Archaeology 2010). It is thought that this represents a former partition wall within this area of the building.

The upper and lower floors of H are now used as a storage area (Plate 21). Deep shelves are fixed against the eastern wall on both floors. The upper room has a parchment hanging frame and a box to accommodate cut off toggles (Plates 33-34). Although no longer in use these are most likely remnants of equipment in use during the early life of the factory. The western projection H is bare of fixtures, but cut out ceiling beams suggest alteration to contain various pieces of equipment associated with the parchment-making process.

The southern part of the factory building (D-H and J) has also been largely re-built. A wooden, sliding door leads from the old section of the works, room D, into area E and room F (Plate 16). Area E houses a sink, work tops and shelves on which a number of chemical compounds and dyes are stored (Plate 19). Area F, contains the modern drying cabinet. The boiler house (room G, Plate 20) was more recently purpose-built and contains the large boiler used to heat the works. The former external walls of the factory are still clearly visible as the northern and eastern walls of the boiler room.

In order to accommodate the drying cabinet the ceiling was raised in room F (the drying cabinet and adjacent work area are supported on a low concrete plinth) and new concrete 'breeze' block partitions were inserted between rooms F and J (Plate 18).

Room J serves as a dry storage area for animal skins. Its interior was not inspected.

Although large parts of the upper storey ceiling have been boarded over (e.g., Plate 22), the timber-framed roof structure is visible in some places (Plate 23). Other than the flat roof above room B, the roof framing throughout comprises simple bolted together king post trusses. The upper portions of each of the gable ends and the partition walls dividing the wet processing area A from the garage and the southern portion of the works are constructed in wood (Plates 7, 11, 12, 25). The northern gable end and partition between area A and the garage are in weatherboard, the southern most gable end and the partition between area A and the remainder of the workshop complex are clad with planks laid vertically (Plates 7, 11).



3.3 Phasing

Figs. 7-10

The rear factory building of the William Cowley Parchment Works was built between 1868 and 1876 and was expanded soon after. In terms of size and layout it has retained more or less the same footprint throughout the 20th century. However, a number of structural elements have been considerably altered.

The building has very much been a “living building” that has continuously been adapted and evolved around the family-run parchment trade. From soon after its construction, internal and external elements of the building have been altered, added to, removed, blocked, filled in, heightened, re-routed and modernised so that few original features have remained exactly as they were.

The core of the mid-19th century structure is represented by the narrow central north-south wing of the building (D) and its western projection (H), and the northern section on a NW-SE alignment (rooms C and A). However, 19th-century walls in their entirety only survive in the central north-south section of the building (D) and the western projection (H) (Fig. 7). Once the structure turns to its different alignment in the north all internal and external walls have been replaced and altered. The function of the north-south aligned wall revealed during the test pit evaluation (Albion Archaeology 2010) is unclear. Its position suggests that it may have formed a north-south subdivision of the earliest wing of the building (D).

The western projection (H) is one part of the building that has survived closest to its original shape and form. Some of the internal and external window openings may have been slightly altered and blocked off but the internal space has remained largely unchanged.

The garage (L), that forms the northern end of the building, had been added by 1899 and also seems to have largely retained its original shape and form. The NW-SE aligned wing (A), between the garage and the N-S aligned core of the building, has been substantially rebuilt in the mid 20th century.

The rear extension of the NW-SE aligned wing (B) first appears on the OS map of 1899, however, the building as it is in existence today, represents an early 20th century re-build of that extension in the same footprint. On the 1899 map the workshop B is shown as rectangular with its south-easternmost end perpendicular to its long elevation. In the present building the south-eastern end of B is angled to join the northern corner of the eastern elevation.

The southernmost shed (J) that is currently filling the NE corner of the complex is a fairly modern, re-build of a shed that was first shown on the map in 1925. The lean-to brick shed (K) at the far southern end of the main building was added in the 1950s.

The most recent addition to the works building is the boiler room (G), which was built in 1996 and adjoins the southern wall of the western extension.



Date	Evidence
1876	First Directory entry (David Cook). Listed as fellmongery
1877	Directory entry (David Cook). Listed as parchment works
1882	First map evidence (1st ed OS)
1892	Directory entry (William Cowley). Listed as parchment works
1899	Map evidence (OS). Minor alterations to works
1925	Map evidence (OS). Addition of small extension on gable end of door
1950s, 60s	Pictorial evidence show the works as much the same. Boiler inserted into space D (1950s)
Post 1960	Willen street frontage demolished and replaced, purpose built boiler house (1996) and new drying cabinet added, wet- processing area re-modelled, other partitions and room arrangements changed

Table 2: Summary of key dates

3.4 Form and Function

Whilst it is arguable if the building has been purpose-built as a parchment works it is nevertheless possible to link the present form of the building, as well as its development through time, with the parchment-making process.

The northern NW-SE aligned part of the building has always been the first point of access and location of the initial processing stages. In the building's present form, skins that are being delivered into the yard from Caldecote Street are stored in the "wet" storage area (K) at the northern end of the building. Rooms A and B represent the "wet yard" of the works, where skins are soaked in their lime baths, washed and scraped to remove hair and unwanted fleshy remains. (Plates 11-15, 29-30)

This area had always been the wet yard of the works, as the old lime pits, which were originally used for soaking the skins, are still visible as shallow sunken areas of the concrete floor in the floor of rooms A and B (Plate 29). The test pit evaluation (Albion Archaeology 2010) revealed the remains of several lime pits in this area (Fig. 7, Plate 35). They were rectangular in plan and had a wooden lining.

Room C (Plate 14) still serves as an area where further processing of the wet skins takes place; for example, treating the skins with dyes, or additional stages of washing and soaking. Room D contains the large chimney of the works which would have originally served to heat the building facilitate the drying process (Plates 16, 18, 27).



Initially, the main drying space for the stretched skins was the first floor of the works. Most of the upper external walls consisted of wooden louvers, allowing air freely to circulate (Plates 23-25, 28). All louvers have now been removed and the openings blocked off by corrugated metal sheets. However, the original louver hinges still survive on the upright timber studs of the building (Plate 27). In summer skins were also dried outside in the yard (Plates 1 and 2).

The heating system was replaced in the mid-20th century by a large boiler that took up most of the space in room D. In 1996 modernisation allowed the room to be freed when a new and smaller heating system was installed in the purpose-built boiler house (G). Room D is now a general workshop.

Attached to the boiler room and extending into rooms E and F is the drying cabinet, in which skins are stretched on metal frames and dried (Plates 19, 32). Rooms E and F allow further processing and storage space. Room E also houses a kitchen area and space for the preparation of chemical solutions and dyes.

Some of the 19th-century equipment for the hanging of animal skins and the storage and discard of toggles survive in the room on the upper floor of the western projection H. This comprises wooden frames and troughs for the storage and discard of the toggles used on the stretching frames (Plates 33-34).

At some point the ground floor of room H housed machinery as one of the ceiling beams still bear marks of a drive belt and another ceiling beam is cut away to accommodate a similar fixture. The western projection (H/N) (ground floor and first floor) now functions as general storage space.

Room J functions as a storage space for dry skins whilst room L at the northern end of the building was most likely purpose built as a garage – in the early 20th century it accommodated the Humber car of the works owner (Visscher pers comm.) – it is now used as a storage space.



4. CONCLUSIONS

The parchment manufacture has changed little over the one-and-a-half centuries or so that the process had been associated with Newport Pagnell. As the only extant parchment works in England, the Caldecote Street workshop is of great significance in any record of the trade and its history. The building itself is unremarkable and fairly typical of the large workshops used for light industrial and artisan-level craft production. However, the processes taking place in the building are unique and an integral part of the built environment. Undesignated buildings of this type are a diminishing heritage asset as a result of demolition and alteration and it is therefore important to make an appropriate record.

Although the workshops themselves have undergone numerous repairs and alterations, the buildings have been used for parchment manufacture, if not from the time of their original construction, from very soon after. Parts of the 19th century building and evidence for earlier processes remain intact and these have been recorded as part of this study. The demolition and replacement of the present building is yet another development in the life of the parchment works.



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6. CONTENTS OF APPENDICES

6.1 *Appendix 1: Archive and Record*

6.1.1 Summary of Archive Contents

- Report (hard and pdf digital copy)
- Set of survey plans as provided (digital)
- CAD drawings – digital and hard copy, detailed survey plan based on architect's drawings
- Digital photographs – saved on CD format (.tiff)
Prints on archival quality paper

6.1.2 Arrangements for Long-Term Deposition

The project archive will be deposited at Buckinghamshire County Museum. Copies of the report will be deposited with the relevant Historic Environment Record and with the National Monuments Record: Buildings



6.2 Appendix 2: Summary of Photographic Record

IMAGE No	Plate No.	SUBJECT	VIEW	BY	DATE
1	4	Northern end, south-western facing elevation	NE	NMcB	12/09
2	5	Northern end, oblique view from northern part of yard	SE	NMcB	12/09
3		North-western elevation, northern end (garage)	SE	NMcB	12/09
4	7	North-western elevation, northern end (garage). Full extent	SE	NMcB	12/09
5	8	Northern end, oblique view of north-western and part of north-eastern elevation	NE	NMcB	12/09
6	9	Eastern elevation southern end	W	NMcB	12/09
7	6	Projection along eastern frontage	E	NMcB	12/09
8		View at roof level (projection along eastern frontage, boiler room)	N	NMcB	12/09
9	10	High level view from southern end of yard	NNW	NMcB	12/09
10		Projection along eastern frontage (north-facing elevation)	S	NMcB	12/09
11		Internal view (Room A) towards Room C	SE	NMcB	12/09
12		Roof structure, partition wall between Room A and C	SE	NMcB	12/09
13	11	Internal view (Room A) towards Room C	SE	NMcB	12/09
14		Machinery , Room A		NMcB	12/09
15		Roof space and partition wall, northern end of Room A	NW	NMcB	12/09
16		Detail roof space, southern end Room A	SE	NMcB	12/09
17		Detail roof space, northern end Room A	NW	NMcB	12/09



IMAGE No	Plate No.	SUBJECT	VIEW	BY	DATE
18		Detail roof structure southern end Room A	SE	NMcB	12/09
19	12	Internal view of Room A	NE	NMcB	12/09
20	15	Internal view of Room C, towards Room A	NW	NMcB	12/09
21	16	Internal view of Room D towards Room C	N	NMcB	12/09
22		Skins ready for processing (Room K)		NMcB	12/09
23	29	Skins ready for processing (Room K)		NMcB	12/09
24		Skins ready for processing (Room K)		NMcB	12/09
25		Skins ready for processing (Room K)		NMcB	12/09
26		Skins ready for processing (Room K)		NMcB	12/09
27		Internal view of Room D towards Room E	S	NMcB	12/09
28	21	Boiler Room	E	NMcB	12/09
29		Boiler Room, eastern wall	SE	NMcB	12/09
30		Boiler Room, internal detail	E	NMcB	12/09
31		Boiler Room	NE	NMcB	12/09
32		Room D at entrance to boiler room and Room E	SW	NMcB	12/09
33		Room D at entrance to Room E	SE	NMcB	12/09
34		Detail of door to Room E	S	NMcB	12/09
35		Partition Wall and entrance between Room D & E	E	NMcB	12/09
36		Partition Wall and entrance between Room D & E	E	NMcB	12/09



IMAGE No	Plate No.	SUBJECT	VIEW	BY	DATE
37		Southern end of Room D, showing entrance to Room E	S	NMcB	12/09
38	17	Southern end of Room D, showing entrance to Room E	SE	NMcB	12/09
39		Drying Area, Room F	SE	NMcB	12/09
40		The process. Drying Cabinet		NMcB	12/09
41		The process. Drying Cabinet		NMcB	12/09
42	32	The process. Drying Cabinet		NMcB	12/09
43		Stretching Frames		NMcB	12/09
44		The process. Tightening skin on Stretching frame		NMcB	12/09
45	31	The process. Tightening skin on Stretching frame		NMcB	12/09
46		The process. Tightening skin on Stretching frame		NMcB	12/09
47		The process. Tightening skin on Stretching frame		NMcB	12/09
48		The process. Trimming the frame		NMcB	12/09
49	20	Storage Area E	S	NMcB	12/09
50		Storage Area E	N	NMcB	12/09
51		Drying Area F, drying cabinet	W	NMcB	12/09
52	19	Drying Area F, drying cabinet	NW	NMcB	12/09
53		Tools hanging from overhead beam between Areas E and F		NMcB	12/09
54		Tools hanging from overhead beam between Areas E and F		NMcB	12/09
55		Tools hanging from overhead beam between Areas E and F		NMcB	12/09



IMAGE No	Plate No.	SUBJECT	VIEW	BY	DATE
56		Tools hanging from overhead beam between Areas E and F		NMcB	12/09
57		Internal detail, edge of drying cabinet, western partition Area F	W	NMcB	12/09
58		Internal detail drying Area E, window on eastern elevation	E	NMcB	12/09
59		Stretching frame with skin, Area F		NMcB	12/09
60		Area F, internal view	E	NMcB	12/09
61		Area F, internal view	SE	NMcB	12/09
62		Area D, internal detail		NMcB	12/09
63		Detail, ceiling/window Area E	SW	NMcB	12/09
64		Detail , ceiling/window Area F		NMcB	12/09
65		Detail , ceiling/window Area F		NMcB	12/09
66		Area D, view towards E	SE	NMcB	12/09
67		Area D, view towards E	SE	NMcB	12/09
68		Area D, view towards boiler room G	W	NMcB	12/09
69	18	Area D, showing chimney	NE	NMcB	12/09
70		Area D, showing chimney	NE	NMcB	12/09
71		Area D, showing chimney	NE	NMcB	12/09
72		Area D	SW	NMcB	12/09
73		Detail Area D	W	NMcB	12/09
74		Detail Area D		NMcB	12/09



IMAGE No	Plate No.	SUBJECT	VIEW	BY	DATE
75		Detail Area D		NMcB	12/09
76		Area H, detail of ceiling (cut away for line shaft)		NMcB	12/09
77		Area H, detail of ceiling		NMcB	12/09
78		Area H, detail of ceiling (cut away for line shaft)		NMcB	12/09
79		Area H, ground floor		NMcB	12/09
80		Area H, ground floor		NMcB	12/09
81		Area H, ground floor		NMcB	12/09
82		Area H, ground floor		NMcB	12/09
83		Trolley, Area C		NMcB	12/09
84		Detail Area D	E	NMcB	12/09
85		Detail of chimney Area D		NMcB	12/09
86		Vent mechanism for flue, Area D		NMcB	12/09
87		Vent mechanism for flue, Area D		NMcB	12/09
88		First Floor, above Area D	S	NMcB	12/09
89	25	First Floor, above Area D	NE	NMcB	12/09
90		First Floor, above Area E/F. Towards former external wall, now boiler room G	W	NMcB	12/09
91		First Floor, above Area E/F/J	S	NMcB	12/09
92		First Floor, above Area E/F	N	NMcB	12/09
93	24	First Floor, above Area E/F	N	NMcB	12/09



IMAGE No	Plate No.	SUBJECT	VIEW	BY	DATE
94		First floor detail – fixture for stretcher frame (above E/F)		NMcB	12/09
95		First floor detail – fixture for stretcher frame (above E/F)		NMcB	12/09
96		First floor above E/F/J, detail of frame	S	NMcB	12/09
97	25	First floor above J, gable end	S	NMcB	12/09
98		First floor detail – fixing (above E/F/J)	N	NMcB	12/09
99		First floor detail (above J)		NMcB	12/09
100		First floor above J	W	NMcB	12/09
101		First floor above E/F/J	N	NMcB	12/09
102		First floor detail - fixing		NMcB	12/09
103	27	First Floor, detail of chimney		NMcB	12/09
104		First Floor, view through suspended ceiling (above D)		NMcB	12/09
105		First Floor, angle between N/S and NW/SE wings (above D/C)	NW	NMcB	12/09
106	26	First Floor, above D/C	S	NMcB	12/09
107		First Floor, above C, high level door towards Area A	N	NMcB	12/09
108		First Floor, above C/D	S	NMcB	12/09
109		First Floor, detail of high level door, above C , looking towards A	N	NMcB	12/09
110		First Floor, detail of high level door, above C , looking towards A	N	NMcB	12/09
111		First Floor, detail of high level door, above C , looking towards A		NMcB	12/09
112		First Floor, Area H, high level taking in door	NW	NMcB	12/09



IMAGE No	Plate No.	SUBJECT	VIEW	BY	DATE
113		First Floor, Area H	NE	NMcB	12/09
114	23	First Floor, Area H	SW	NMcB	12/09
115		First Floor, Area H	E	NMcB	12/09
116		First Floor, Area H, detail		NMcB	12/09
117		Detail, wet processing Area A (fixed to wall between A and C)	S	NMcB	12/09
118		Detail wet processing Area A		NMcB	12/09
119		Detail wet processing Area A (fixed to wall between A and B)	E	NMcB	12/09
120		Detail wet processing Area B (fixed to wall between A and skin store K)	N	NMcB	12/09
121		Detail wet processing Area B (fixed to wall between A and skin store K)		NMcB	12/09
122	30	Detail of infilled wet pits, Area A		NMcB	12/09
123		Detail of infilled wet pits, Area A		NMcB	12/09
124		Detail equipment Area A		NMcB	12/09
125		Detail equipment Area A		NMcB	12/09
126	34	First Floor Area H (toggle receptacle)		NMcB	12/09
127		First Floor Area H (skin stretcher)		NMcB	12/09
128		First Floor Area H (detail of skin stretcher)		NMcB	12/09
129	33	First Floor Area H (toggle receptacle)		NMcB	12/09
130		First Floor Area H (detail high level taking-in doors)		NMcB	12/09
131		Area B (detail mallet)		NMcB	12/09



IMAGE No	Plate No.	SUBJECT	VIEW	BY	DATE
132		Area B (detail mallet)		NMcB	12/09
133		Area B detail of equipment with graffiti (at entrance Area B/A)		NMcB	12/09
134	13	Area B ground floor. Wet processing, towards skin store (K)	N	CFM	
135	14	Area B ground floor. Wet processing	S	CFM	
136		Area B ground floor. Wet processing	NE	CFM	
137		External elevation Area B	SE	CFM	
138	28	Upper floor – detail to show former position of louvers		CFM	
139		Upper floor – detail to show former position of louvers		CFM	

See Figures 7 and 8 for building references.

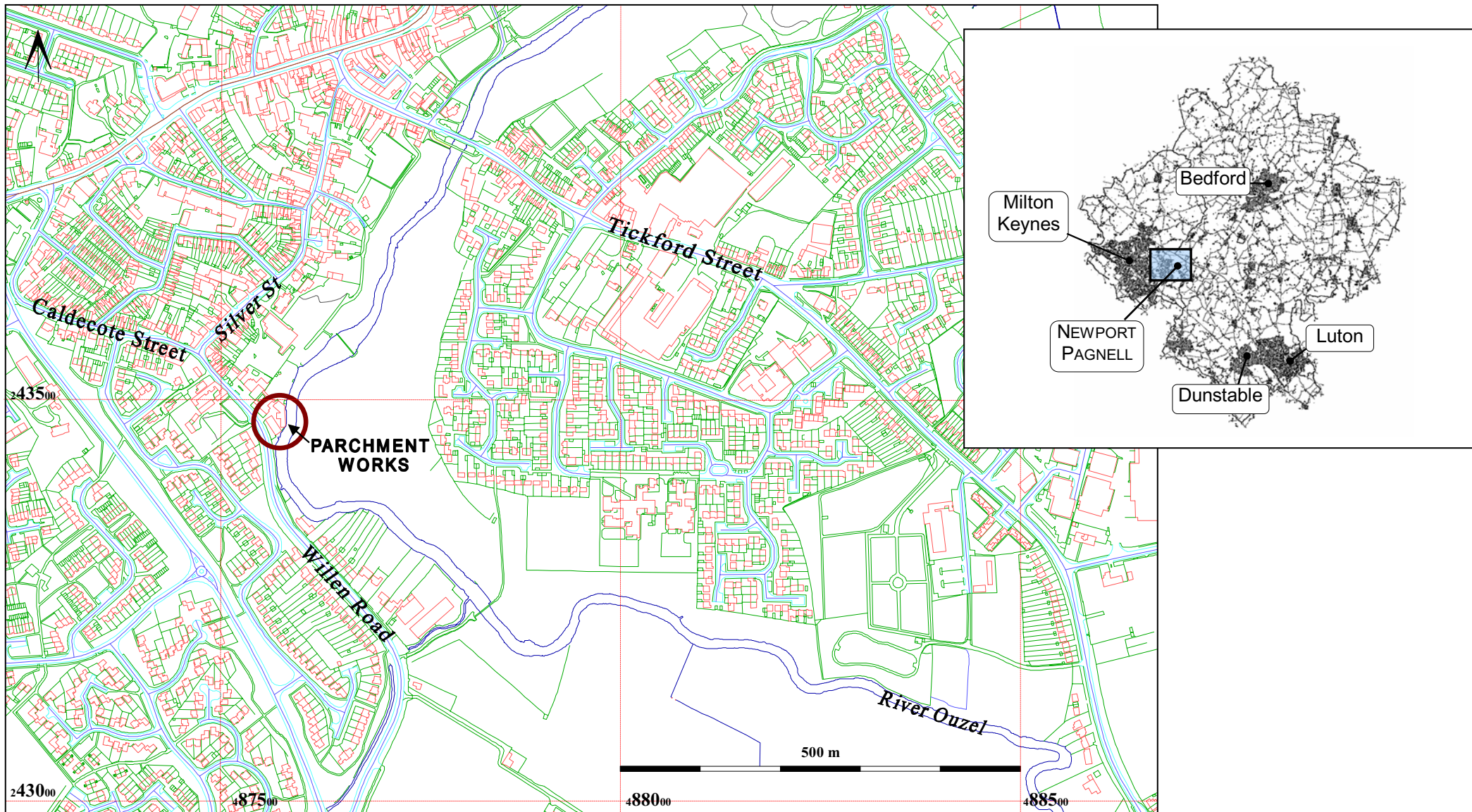


Figure 2: Site location map

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*William Cowley Parchment Works, Newport Pagnell, Milton Keynes
A Programme of Historic Building Recording*

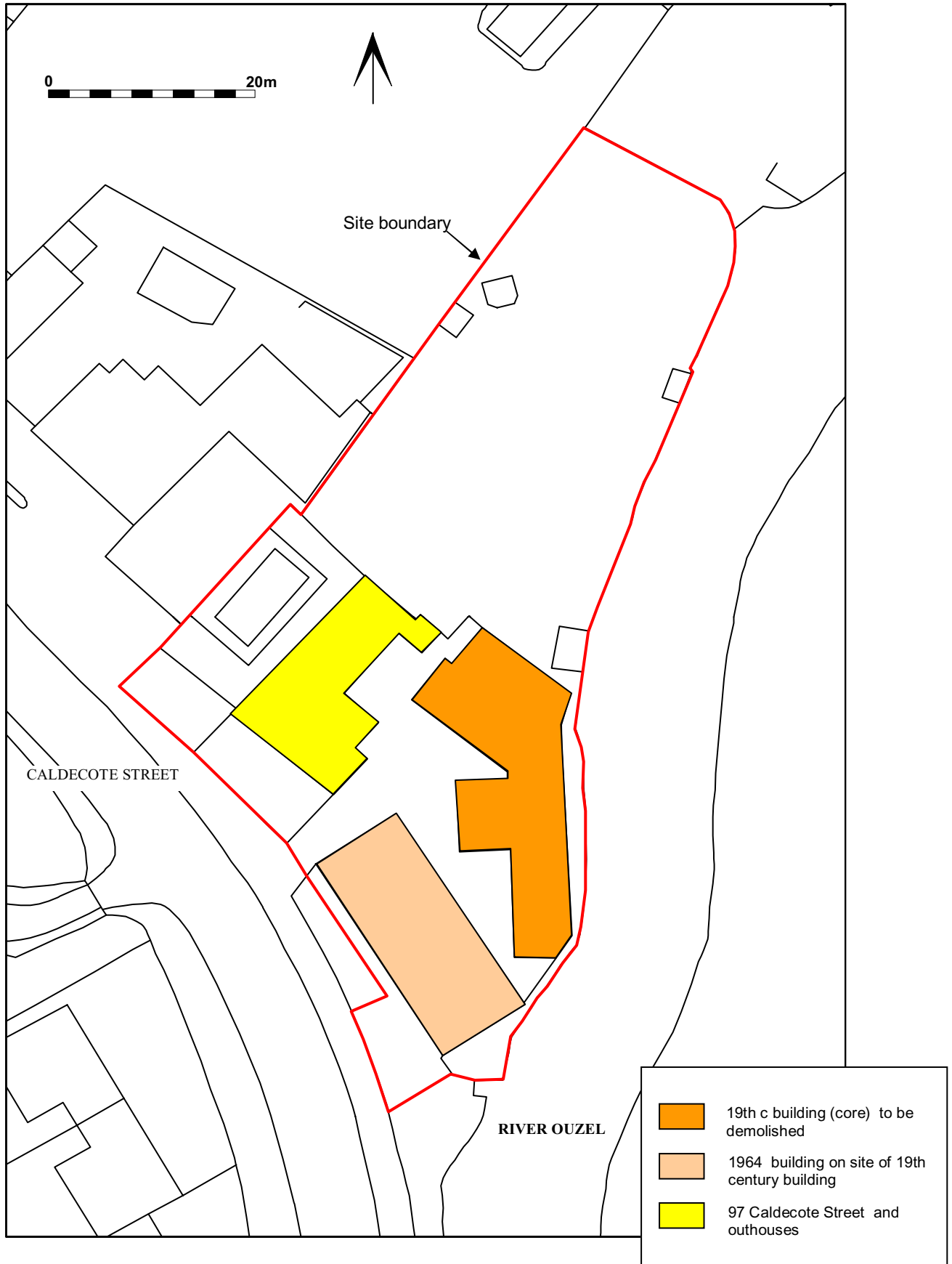


Figure 3: The William Cowley Parchment Works

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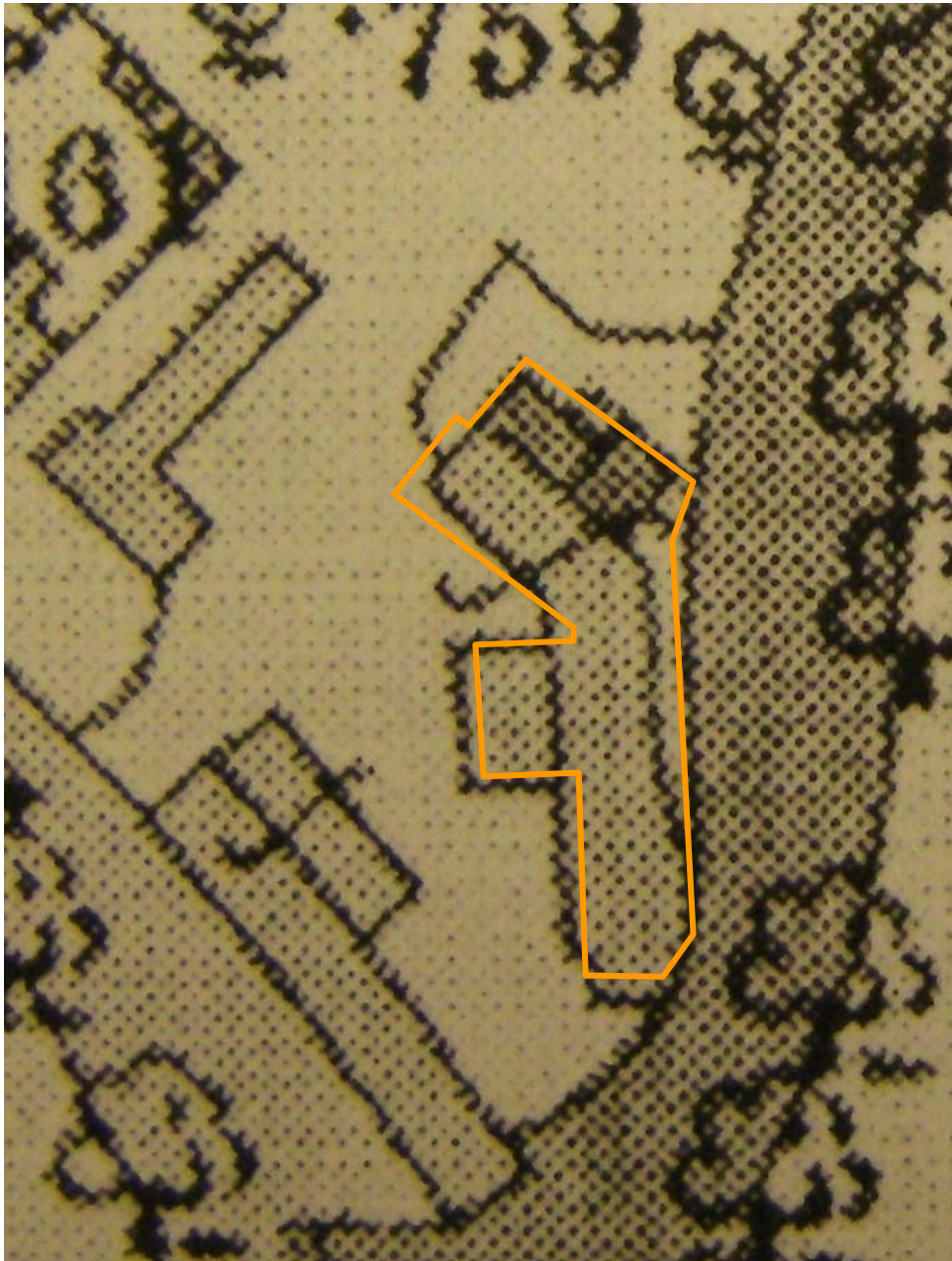


Figure 4: Extract from 1882 OS Map

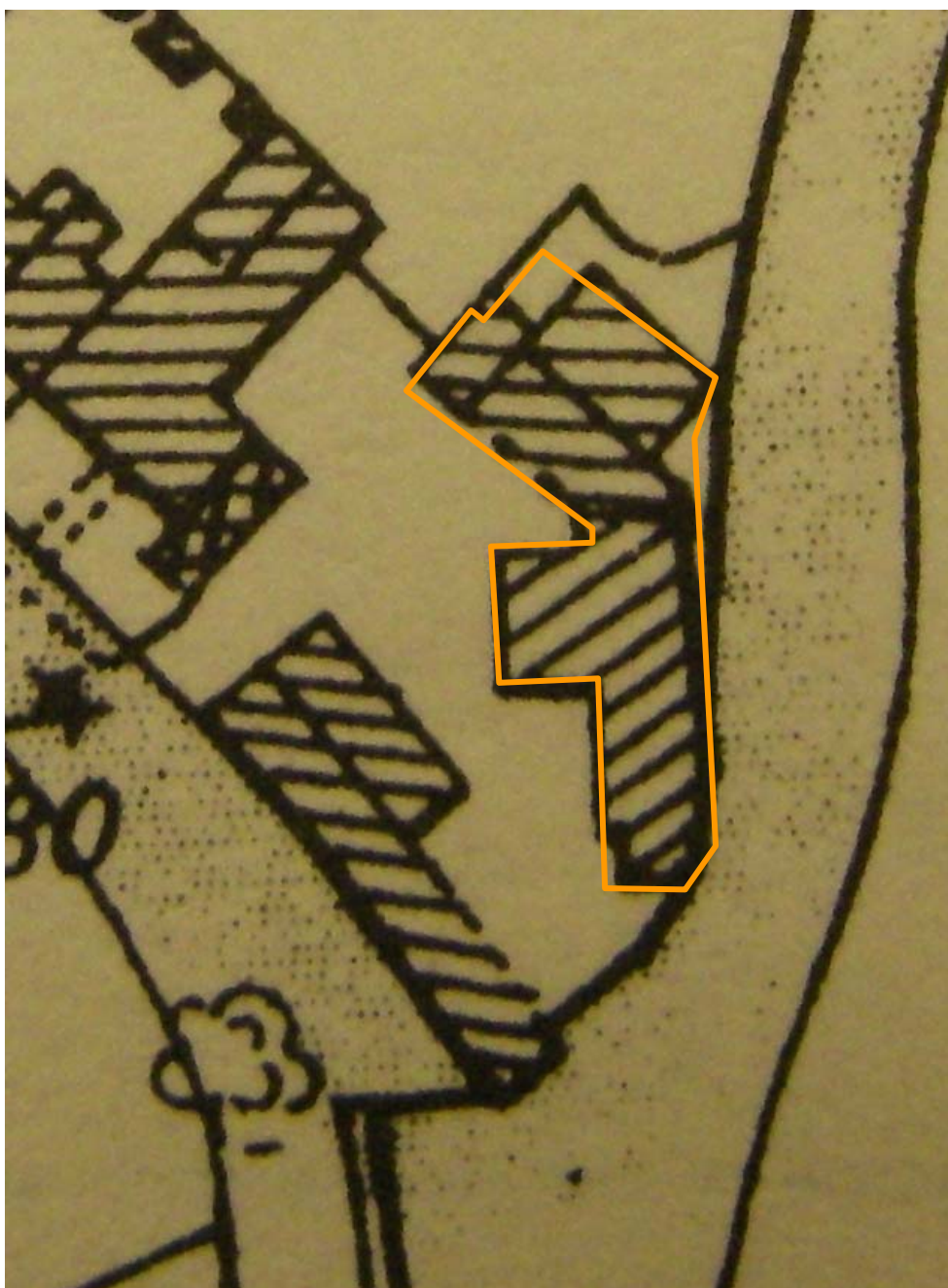


Figure 5: Extract from 1899 OS Map

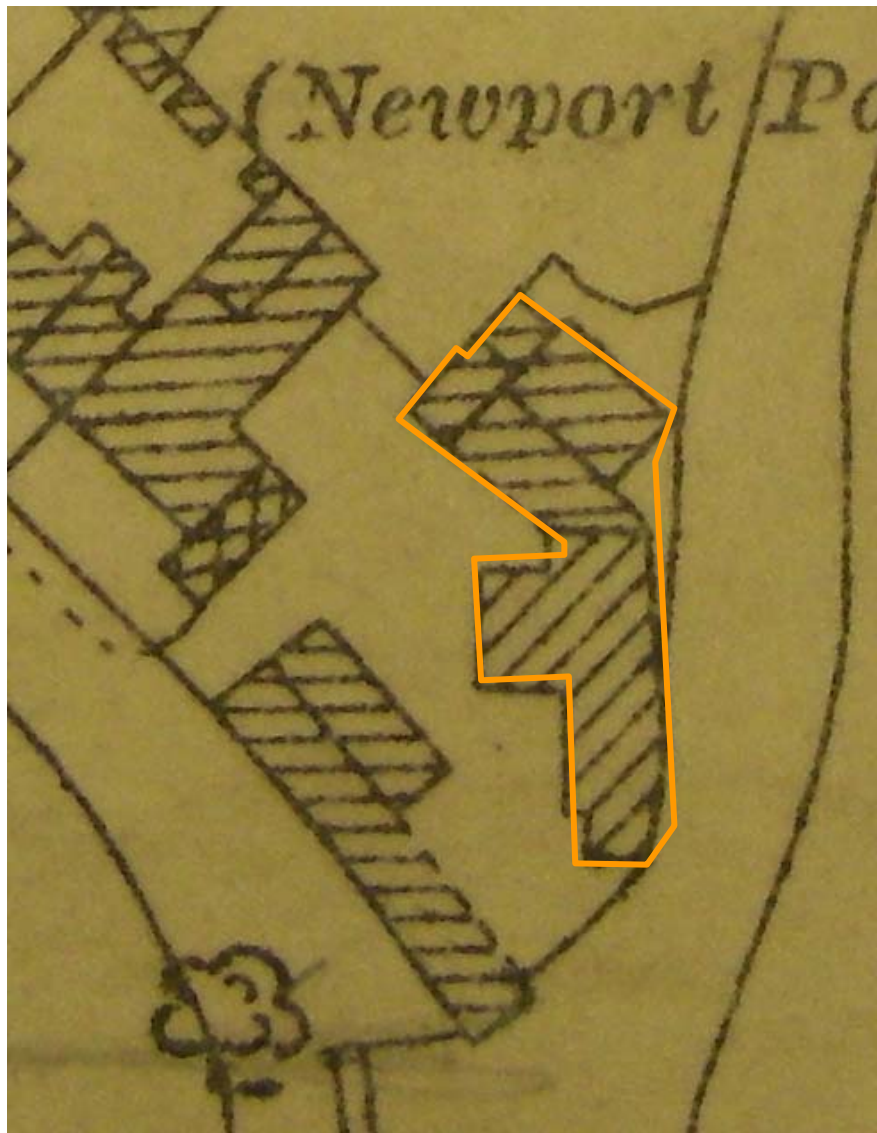


Figure 6: Extract from 1925 OS Map

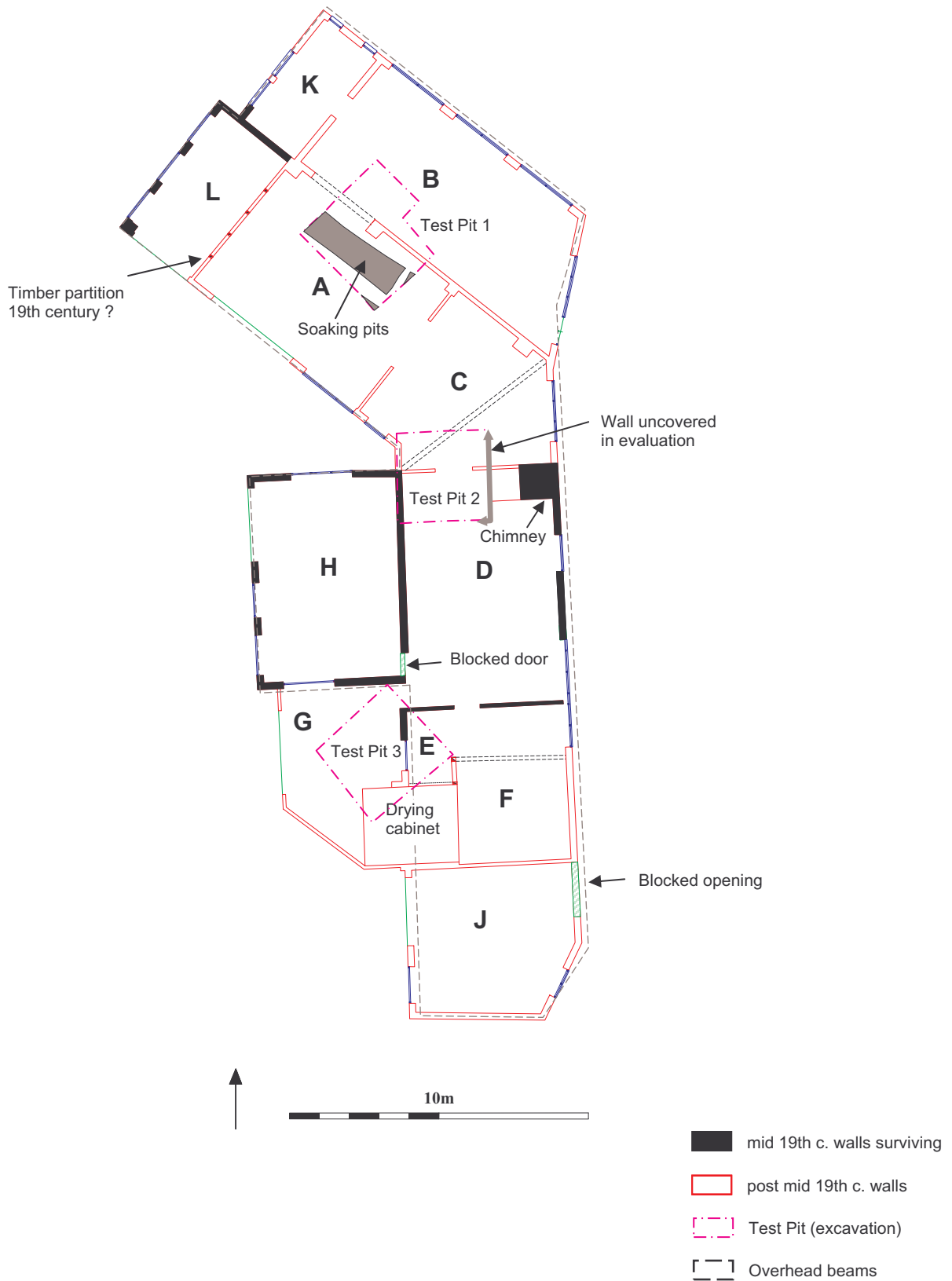


Figure 7: Annotated ground plan of building (including Test Pits)

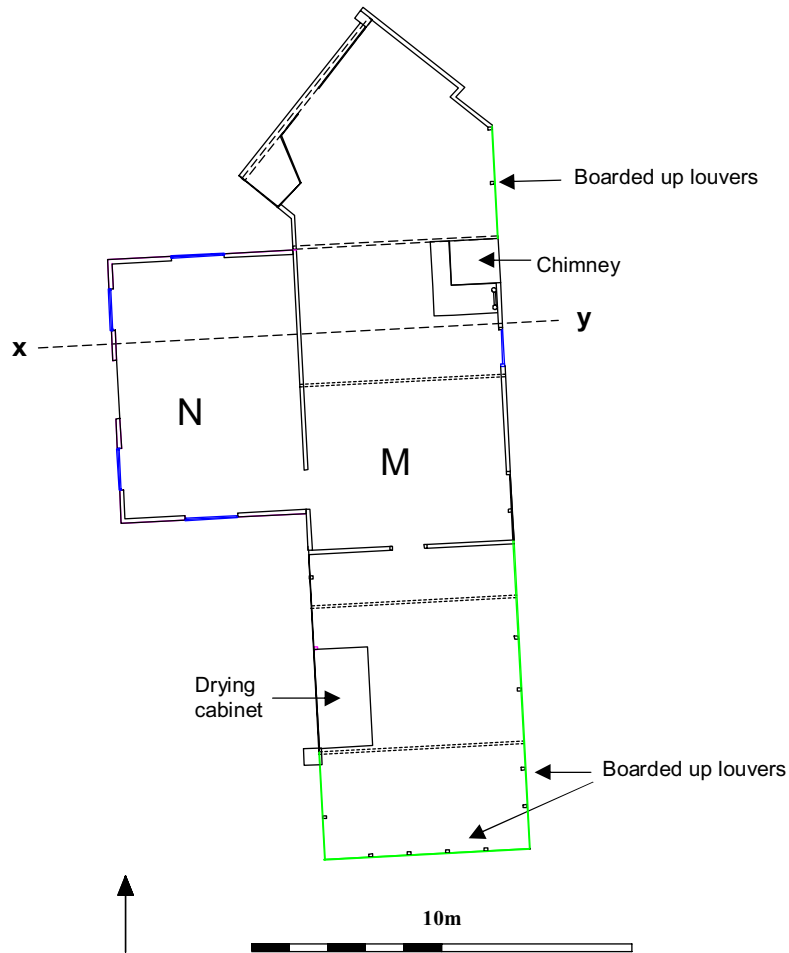


Figure 8: Upper floor plan of workshop

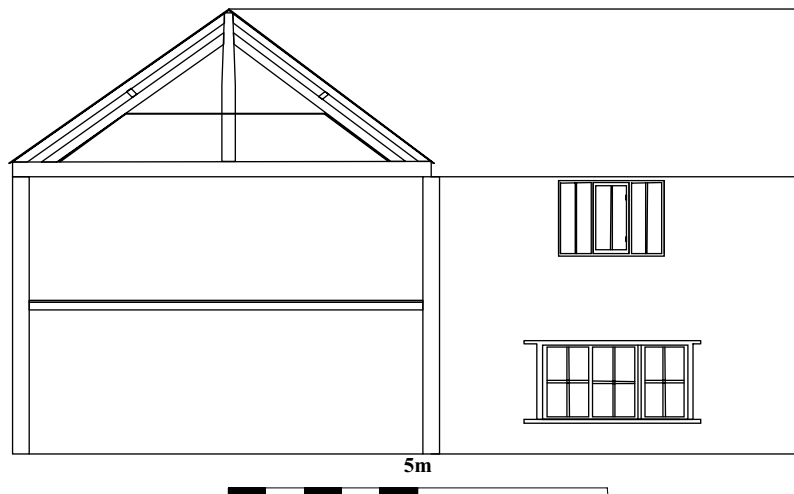


Figure 9: North-facing cross-section of workshop

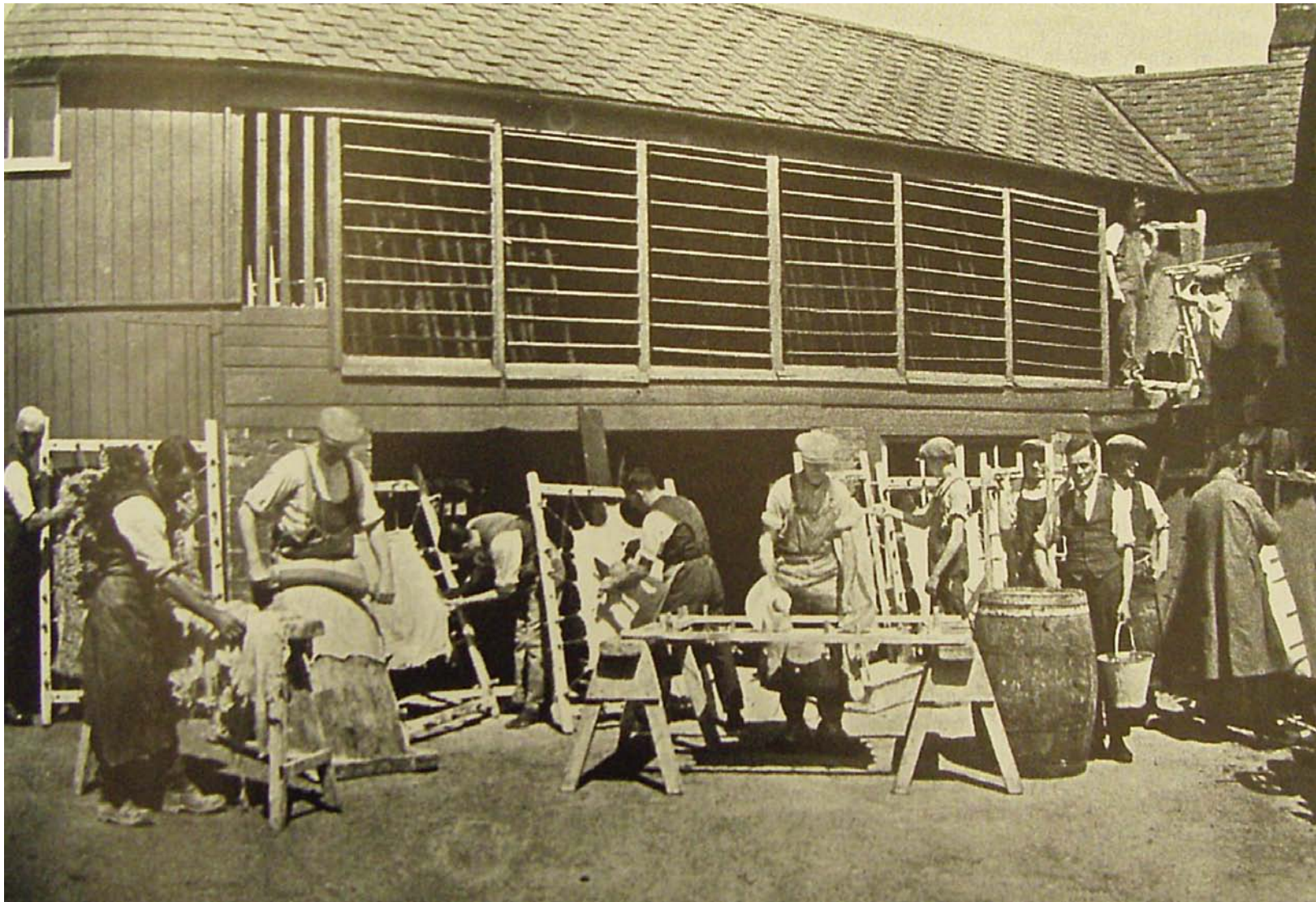


Plate 1: Historic photograph of parchment works (date unknown, courtesy Wim Visscher)

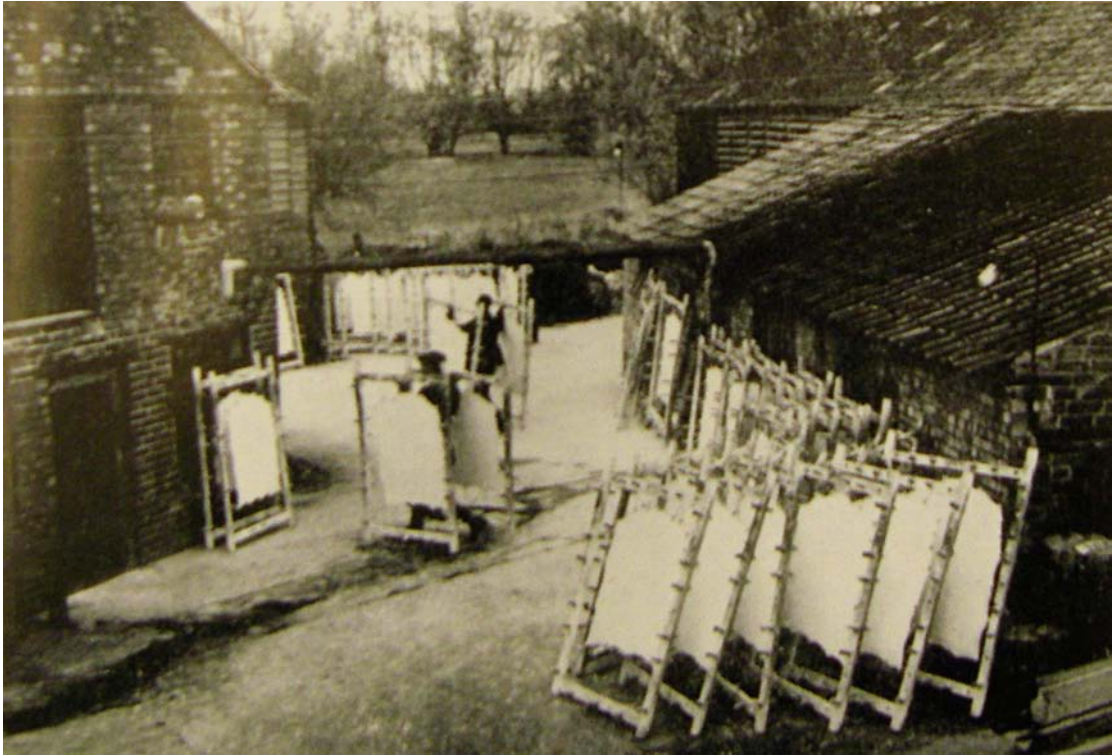


Plate 2: Historic photograph of parchment works (date unknown, courtesy Wim Visscher)



Plate 3: General view of wet processing area (A and garage L)



Plate 4: General view of workshops



Plate 5: Workshop (area H)



Plate 6: NW elevation (garage L)



Plate 7: General view (garage L, skin store K and wet processing A & B)



Plate 8: Eastern elevation



Plate 9: General view of yard (boiler house G, western projection H)



Plate 10: Wet processing area (A/C)



Plate 11: Wet processing area A



Plate 12: Wet processing area, view towards skin store (B/K. Photograph taken by Christiane Meckseper)



Plate 13: Wet processing area B (Photograph taken by Christiane Meckseper)



Plate 14: Wet processing area C



Plate 15: Workshop area D



Plate 16: Workshop area D, view towards drying area F



Plate 17: Workshop area D (shows part of chimney and access to first floor)



Plate 18: Drying area F (showing drying cabinet)



Plate 19: Chemical store E



Plate 20: Boiler room G



Plate 21: First floor workshop H



Plate 22: First Floor above area D



Plate 23: First floor above area E/F, view towards area D



Plate 24: First floor above area J (southern end of building)



Plate 25: First floor above area C, view towards area D

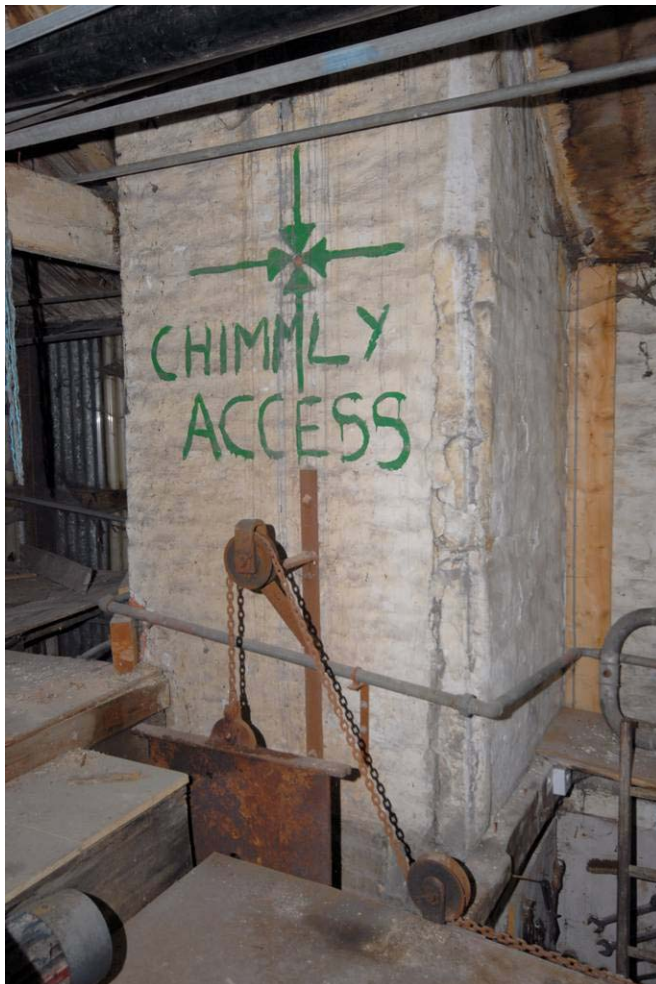


Plate 26: Detail of chimney, first floor



Plate 27: First floor to show position of former louvers (Photograph taken by Christiane Meckseper)



Plate 28: The process: skin store, area K



Plate 29: The process: infilled wet pits and present-day machinery in wet processing area A



Plate 30: The process: stretching frames



Plate 31: The process: drying cabinet, area F



Plate 32: The process: detail of stretching frame



Plate 33: The process: receptacle for collecting toggles on removal of skin from frame



Plate 34: Infilled soaking pit in Test Pit 1 (former wet yard area A. Photograph taken by Mark Phillips)