



BLOCK C TRUMAN BREWERY, 91 BRICK LANE London E1

London Borough of Tower Hamlets

A Level 3 Standing Building Recording Survey

August 2011



Block C, Truman Brewery
91 Brick Lane
London E1

London Borough of Tower Hamlets
A Standing Buildings Survey Report

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Summary

This report presents the findings of the standing building survey, undertaken by Museum of London Archaeology (MOLA) of Block C of the former Truman Brewery, 91 Brick lane London E1. MOLA were commissioned by PSP Consultants on behalf of the Old Truman Brewery. The standing building survey was required to mitigate the conditions attached to planning consent, prior to the redevelopment and refurbishment of the building and a change in its use.

In appearance the building is functional, constructed of brick infill with a concrete frame and it was one of the last buildings to be added to the brewery complex in the 1970s. The site lies within a conservation area, at the centre of the former Brewery site and there are listed buildings associated with the brewery nearby. Though the building is not of great antiquity, it was a functioning part of the Black Eagle brewery, which may have been established on the site as early as 1666, centred on Brick Lane and the production site of Truman Hanbury, Buxton and Co.

Contents

1	Introduction.....	5
1.1	Site Background	5
1.2	Planning Background	5
1.3	Aims, scope and method of assessment	6
1.4	Organisation of this report and conventions used	6
2	Historical Background to the site and of Truman Brewery of Brick lane.	8
3	Analytical Description of the Building.....	11
3.1	Outline description and the setting of Block C.....	11
3.2	Area 1.....	12
3.3	Area 2.....	13
3.4	Area 3.....	13
3.5	Area 4.....	15
3.6	Area 5.....	15
4	A summary of the development and function of the building	16
5	Acknowledgements	17
6	Bibliograph.....	18
7	Cartographic sources Photo lists and site drawings	19
8	NMR OASIS archaeological report form.....	27
8.1	OASIS ID: molas1-106506	27

List of figures

Cover Image: The view north east, towards the Truman Brewery Chimney from the rooftop of Area 3, Block C.

Fig 1 Site Location	30
Fig 2 Site layout	31
Fig 3 A plan of the former brewery buildings, demolished in the 1970s, held at the LMA, dated 1950.	32
Fig 4 A plan of the former brewery buildings, demolished in the 1970s, held at the LMA, dated 1957	33
Fig 5 The western elevation of Block C shown in the Arup Journal Vol 12, 1977.	34
Fig 6 Plan showing the 3rd floor of Block C	35
Fig 7 Plan showing the 5th floor of Block C	36
Fig 8 The west facing elevation of Block C	37
Fig 9 The south facing elevation of Block C.	38
Fig 10 The view towards Area 1 of Block C from the south west.	39
Fig 11 The ground floor ceiling of Area 1, showing the circular holes for the vats & the cut end of an RSJ, looking south.	39
Fig 12 The recently inserted 1st floor of Area 1, looking south	40
Fig 13 The view north from Area 1 into Area 3, through a recent opening in the wall, showing the difference in floor levels and the removed floor in Area 3.	40
Fig 14 The roof of Area 1, viewed looking south from the roof of Area 3	41
Fig 15 The south elevations of Area 1 on the left, with Area 2 on the right, taken looking north west	41
Fig 16 The roof of Area 2, viewed looking south from the roof of Area 3	42
Fig 17 Steel columns and the cut ends of steel joists, emanating from the east wall of Area 1 looking south west, traces of a former structure in the space over Area 2	42
Fig 18 The vat housing structure within Area 2, looking south	43
Fig 19 The former 3rd-floor access from Area 1 into the vat area of Area 2.	43
Fig 20 Block C taken looking south east, with the two storey Area 4 on the left, Area 3 in the centre and Area 1 beyond	44
Fig 21 Disused pipes on the rooftop of Area 3, looking west.	44
Fig 22 The terrazzo covered steps of Area 3, looking south.	45
Fig 23 The glazed but vacant open space in front of the lift in Area 3, looking west.	45
Fig 24 The lobby area of Area 3 with the rolling shutter fire door, looking south	46
Fig 25 The blackboard on the 4th floor of Area 3, looking south east	46
Fig 26 The English bond brickwork in the east wall of Area 3, 4th floor, looking south	47
Fig 27 The circular hole cut into the concrete slab between the 5th and 6th floors of Area 3, looking north west	47
Fig 28 The easternmost room on the 6th floor of Area 3, looking west	48
Fig 29 A blocked hole for a former pipe, labelled with a tank number, south wall of the 5th floor, Area 3	48
Fig 30 A label for a former pump switch, north wall, of the 5th floor, Area 3	49
Fig 31 The north wall of the easternmost part of Area 3, looking south over Open Area 5. Note the RSJs on the right of the photo	49
Fig 32 The studio on the 1st floor of Area 4, looking east.	50
Fig 33 The view down into Area 5 from the roof of area 3. Note the cut ends of RSJs within the west wall of the adjacent Block D	50

1 Introduction

1.1 Site Background

This standing building survey report presents the findings of the investigation by Museum of London Archaeology (MOLA) into the building of Block C of the former Truman Brewery, 91 Brick Lane London E1, which hereafter may be referred to as the site (Fig 1).

The address of Block C is given as 91 Brick Lane, although this is perhaps misleading as that is the address of the Grade II* Listed Directors House of the Truman Brewery (LB UID 205793). Block C stands at the centre of the former brewery complex on the western side of Brick Lane, its southern aspect fronting Dray Walk, whilst the western side faces on to Wilkes Street. Whilst elements of the complex on both this and the eastern side of Brick Lane are Listed, Block C is unlisted, though there are built heritage assets present on the application site, thus the local planning authority required a programme of Standing Building Recording prior to the development. The application site consists of four built elements and one open space (Fig 1). Two of these face Dray Walk and are known as Block C, and the Infill Block. These are connected to the shared stair and lift core, the tallest element of the site. To the north is a lower building with plant on its roof, whilst the final element of the site is a void in the north-eastern area. The building is thought to have been built in the 1970s to designs by Gordon Smith and partners, who designed the Bottling Plant at the same time, now known as the Atlantis Building (Brown and Pletts 2010).

1.2 Planning Background

The proposed development comprises the redevelopment and refurbishment of Block C, comprising a single storey glazed roof extension and change in use from general industrial to office space, which includes alterations to elevations and the infill of the existing central void (area 5 Fig 2).

The site is situated within the Fournier Street Conservation area as designated by the London Borough of Tower Hamlets. Numerous elements of the former brewery complex are listed and Block C is therefore, directly associated with these due to its function as a vat house within the Truman Brewery, though it is itself unlisted. Therefore the historical association of Block C to the Truman Brewery is such as to justify archaeological investigation and recording, and this has been recommended by the local planning authority.

Planning permission (reference PA/10/01153) was granted with a condition attached requiring recording of the heritage asset before commencement of development following procedures set out in PPS5. The programme of standing building recording to a Level 3 as defined by English Heritage (EH 2006) has been undertaken to discharge the planning condition.

1.3 Aims, scope and method of assessment

The aims and objectives of the Standing Building Survey have been laid down in the Brief (PSP 2011), which states the need for recording and historic analysis which considers the building's structure, architectural detail and archaeological evidence. The work will be carried out in accordance with the English Heritage Guidance Paper Understanding Historic Buildings (EH 2006) and other applicable standards and guidance (especially RCHME 1996, and IFA Standard and guidance for archaeological investigation of standing buildings or structures, 1999, 2001), and using as appropriate the terms and methods specified in the Museum of London Archaeological site manual (3rd edition 1994).

The building was recorded to level 3 in the EH specifications (EH 2006) which forms an analytical record of a building, whilst the survey work had the following four main components:

- To investigate the fabric of the building before localised demolition, refurbishment or alteration, with the aim of elucidating its use and structural history, and record and analyse the resulting evidence for this history using applicable archaeological methods.
- To make a basic record of the existing building in its present condition, mainly by means of photography and scale drawings, or with the use of existing scale drawings supplied by the client.
- To complete a survey of documentary sources for the history of the building and the Truman Brewery on the site and carry out an appropriate level of documentary research.
- To report the results in suitable form, publish a summary, submit a report to the Greater London Historic Environment Record, and archive the records within the LAARC archives.

1.4 Organisation of this report and conventions used

Block C of the Truman Brewery is divided into five distinct areas which are labelled 1–5 in this report (Fig 2). A description of each of these five areas is given below (section 3)

All dimensions are given in metres or millimetres, except possibly for certain brick and timber sizes where imperial measurements might be used. Heights are given

where appropriate in metres above the nearest floor level or, if external from ground level which is 12.08 m OD on Brick Lane directly to the east of the site.

2 Historical Background to the site and of Truman Brewery of Brick lane

The first known brewhouse on the Spitalfields site was built by Thomas Bucknall c 1666-9 on land that was part of the estate of Spittlehope, belonging to Sir William Wheeler situated on the western side of Brick lane (VCH 1911). Bucknall's brewery was then purchased by Joseph Truman, possibly as early as 1679 though one of the first appearances of Truman's name is in 1683, when he is described as a "brewer of Brick Lane" (Brown and Pletts 2010). In 1694 Joseph Truman the elder brought his son, also named Joseph Truman, into the business as a partner c 1716. The Black Eagle Brewery, as it was known, produced porter, a heavy black beer which was capable of long storage and therefore wide distribution. By 1739 the brewery's main partners were Benjamin Truman (Joseph the younger's son,) John Denne and Francis Cooper. With 296 publicans on its books the business prospered under Benjamin Truman's directorship whilst Royal recognition came when Benjamin Truman received a Knighthood on the Accession of George III in 1760, for voluntary loans to help fund foreign wars. Benjamin Truman was successful enough to commission Thomas Gainsborough to paint his portrait, which hung in the board room of the Directors House (formerly the drawing room) at the Brick Lane brewery, until 1976 when it was bought for the nation by the Tate Gallery.

Two of Sir Benjamin's great-grandchildren John Freeman Villebois and Henry Villebois inherited control of the brewery c 1780, whilst Sampson Hanbury and his cousin Osgood Hanbury both became partners around this time. Records at the London Metropolitan Archive (LMA) show that in 1804 John Wilkes (after whom Wilkes Street is named) leased ground to Messrs Villebois and Co. for the sum of £700 per annum, which suggest the continued prosperity and expansion of the business.

Osgood Hanbury's daughter Anna married Thomas Fowell Buxton and their son Thomas, born in 1786 joined the brewery in 1808 at the age of 22 (Biouet 2004). Within three years he had become a partner and soon went on to reorganise the brewing system at Truman Hanbury and Co, introducing steam power to the brewery. Thomas Buxton became a notable 19th century figure; he was a politician, philanthropist and was involved in numerous charitable activities in Spitalfields. Illiteracy amongst the workers at the Brewery was tackled when he threatened to sack anyone who could not read or write after six weeks of daily instruction from a schoolmaster. After the six weeks of lessons and an examination not a single worker was made redundant (VCH 1911). In 1816 when hunger was widespread amongst the poor of Spitalfields Buxton helped to raise over £40,000 in order to set up an extensive and well organised system of relief (Biouet, 2004, Bruce D, 2009). However it is for his campaigning against slavery that Buxton is most recognised and he succeeded William Wilberforce as the main activist against slavery in the House of Commons in 1821. With Wilberforce and others he formed the Anti-Slavery Society in 1823 and the campaigning and pressure exerted by Buxton, Wilberforce and the Anti-Slavery Society eventually resulted in the abolition of slavery by an Act of Parliament in 1833.

The Director's House at 91 Brick lane was Thomas Buxton's principal residence from 1808–1815 but as his parliamentary and other duties caused him to increasingly withdraw from the management of the business, the running of the company passed into the hands of Robert Hanbury (son of Osgood). He introduced an Ale Department, a concept quickly adopted by other London Brewers (VCH 1911). The

Pryor family became connected to the Brewery in the early 19th century when, as owners of the Shoreditch Brewery, Messrs T and R. Pryor joined the firm in 1816.

The Pryors continued to be directors into the early 20th century and the Victoria County History (VCH) written in 1911 gives a detailed description of the processes involved in the brewing processes at Brick Lane at this time. A weighbridge was positioned at the entrance to the brewery yard to receive the van loads of malt. The sacks of malt were tipped into a bin from where it was conveyed to the top of the brewery to be screened and passed, via two Archimedean screws to the malt bins (VCH 1911). The malt stores or bins were in a building 200 ft in length and approximately 60 ft high adjacent to the western side of the brewhouse. This is the layout that is still visible in plans from the 1950s held at the LMA (Fig 3 and Fig 4). When required the malt was conveyed by screws from the bins to rollers, where it was crushed and conveyed to copper tubes. The crushed malt or 'grist' was then elevated and mixed with water in a process called mashing. The use of gravity in the process, with malt being raised to the top of the building in order to be mixed with water is an important factor, which influenced the design of brewery buildings. The brewing processes began at the top of the building, each stage being below the previous, ending with fermentation and storage at the bottom. Water at the Truman Brewery was provided by a well 850 ft deep (Fig 3 and Fig 4). It provided good hard water, free from organic matter which is essential in the brewing process. The six mash tuns at the Truman Brewery are depicted on plans from the 1950s as being in the 'New Brewery House' on the west side of Brick Lane. The Juke's Furnaces installed in 1848 and still being used in 1911, heated boilers so that the correct temperature of the wort (mash mixed with water) could be maintained and once the correct time had elapsed the wort ran into the hop-back to settle. Ice machines and refrigerators provided cold water to aid the cooling of the liquid, which then passed to a room below for fermentation. The brewery's fermentation cellars are depicted on the plan from 1950 (Fig 3) and may well have extended under the majority of the brewery site for this purpose. The VCH says the following:

The extent of the cellars in the basement is enormous. They are divided off into great main avenues which appear of endless length and these are intersected by others branching in all directions.

The VCH gives details of one fermentation room called the Havelock Room (visible to the north in the plan of 1957 (Fig 4), named after Major-General Sir Henry Havelock having been built at the time of the Indian Mutiny in 1857. The room had a slate floor with timber and slate fermenting vessels each holding 120–190 barrels of beer. Another area mentioned in 1911 and annotated on the plan from 1957 (see Fig 4) was King's College, where large cleansing vats removed the yeast from the beer. An area called Long Acre is also mentioned in the 1911 text as another cleansing area and visible to the north in the 1957 plan. This was formerly a street that had been enclosed and roofed by the brewery in the 19th century and described in 1911 as the longest building in the brewery. Other departments such as cooperage and sign-writing are mentioned, whilst the early 20th century demand for bottled beers is noted in the VCH as having led to the establishment of the bottling department.

The buildings and the processes described above were swept away in the 1970s as the changing tastes of the British drinker led to a decline in the popularity of ales and porters. The availability of affordable travel, foreign holidays and the discovery of chilled continental lagers led to the increasing demand for and production of the newly fashionable drink in Britain. The Truman Brewery's twin site in Burton-upon-Trent that had opened in 1873 closed in the 1960s and in the 1970s the brewing industry changed dramatically after a series of mergers and takeovers created the "Big Six" companies of national brewers, Whitbread, Scottish and Newcastle, Bass Charrington, Allied Breweries, Courage Imperial and Watney Mann (CAMRA 2005).

In 1971 Watney Mann competed with Grand Metropolitan to buy Truman with the latter being successful. A year later Grand Metropolitan then bought Watney Mann to form a Watney Mann Truman conglomerate. The new company hoped to maintain its leading position with the full scale switch to lager production at Brick Lane in the 1970s and the former brewery buildings were replaced with the modern industrial buildings such as Block C (Fig 5), though some important historical buildings, the Director's House, The Brewmaster's House (listed Grade II* and Grade II both in 1950), the Sables (listed Grade II 1973), the Engineer's House, the Vat House and the Black Eagle Brewery Building (all Listed Grade II in 1949) were preserved. However Grand Metropolitan inevitably felt the need to consolidate in order to reduce its production costs, with a concentration of production at one centre, Watney's Stag Brewery in Mortlake and as a result the Truman Brewery closed in 1989 ending the 323 year history of beer production at the site.

3 Analytical Description of the Building

3.1 Outline description and the setting of Block C

Block C of the Truman Brewery complex is located at the junction of Dray Walk and the former Wilkes Street, which was amalgamated into the brewery complex in the early 1970s. It is one of the latest brewery buildings to be constructed and is composed of a steel frame encased in concrete, with floor slabs of reinforced concrete. Walls are generally faced in yellow stock bricks laid in stretcher bond (though there is one exception in Area 3) bonded with a yellow cementitious mortar. These walls may have cement blocks behind and are not likely to be load bearing. In some areas of the building there are features which suggest that additions to the building were planned as a future option and never realized. These features are described in detail below in the descriptions of each area.

The most striking element of the building during its period of use were the large filtered beer tanks, which partially extended above the level of the present roof of Area 1, each capable of holding 14,400 gallons of lager (Brown and Pletts 2011). These were manufactured by Burnett and Rolfe of Rochester, Kent and removed in the late 1980s shortly after the closure of the brewery. The construction of Block C was undertaken as a part of the major development of the Truman Brewery in the early 1970s by Arup, which included the glazed atrium new offices built in 1977 and the renovation of some of the historic buildings, such as the Grade II Listed Black Eagle Brewery building on the east side of Brick Lane, with its clock within a tympanum, louvered cupola and weathervane.

Block C is thought to have been designed by the architects Gordon Smith and Partners, who designed the Atlantis Building, formerly the bottling plant on the east side of Brick Lane, which resembles Block C in its construction. To the west of Block C is another former brewery building, Block B, which is similar in appearance and the two are linked by a bridge. This long building is on the western side of what was formerly Wilkes Street and is on the site of 19th century terraced housing, demolished prior to 1972 and the development of the site. Adjacent and to the north of Block C is Block Z, a further industrial building dating to Arup's development of the site in the 1970s, though there is no communication between this building and Block C. To the east of Block C is Block D which is again similar in construction. Both Blocks C and D share the same alignment along Dray Walk (Formerly Black Eagle Street), which is slightly different to the 18th century alignment of the Grade II* Listed Directors House (LB UID 205793, List entry number 1252152). The other listed buildings within the Truman Brewery complex are as follows:

- The Brewmaster's House, 95 Brick Lane, Grade II, LB UID 442317 Listing entry Number (LEN) 1117049
- The Former Stables, 152 Brick Lane Grade II, LB UID 205796, LEN 1065279
- The Vat House, 148 Brick Lane, Grade II, LB UID 205794, LEN 1357789
- The Engineer's House 150 Brick Lane, Grade II, LB UID 442338, LEN 1117050
- The Black Eagle Brewery, Grade II, LB UID 205795, LEN 1252365

Despite the comparatively recent construction of Block C and its modern industrial form, it is clearly an element of the historic Truman Brewery complex, which has a

history of beer production on the site spanning over 300 years and is thus an evidential component of the sites history, in particular the story of its decline. Block C therefore contributes to the history of the Truman Brewery, providing evidence of the alterations to the site, late in its history as a response to the introduction and growing popularity of lager to Britain.

3.2 Area 1

Area 1 is situated in the south-western corner of Block C and is the largest element of the building; though at six storeys in height it is not the tallest (Fig 10) was constructed to house eight of the lager vats, which originally extended above the roof line. The building is constructed of plain yellow stock bricks in stretcher bond, with a load bearing concrete encased steel frame. Four groups of four windows with aluminium frames are present at the 5th floor level on the western façade. The vertical elements of the building in the form of concrete cladding on the outside of the steels are the only other features to break up the facades. Unusually the vertical concrete element on the southern façade is not in a central position giving an asymmetrical appearance to this façade of the building. The concrete is of rough cast panels with divisions at each floor level. The ground floor exterior on the southern and western facades has glazed openings.

Internally the ground floor is an open area currently used as exhibition space, with three supporting concrete columns. Within the concrete ceiling are eight circular openings which formerly housed the lager vats (Fig 11). The cut ends of steel RSJs, 'I' shaped in profile, are also visible. These may have provided further bracing for the lager vats, or possibly supported pipes and machinery. The circular holes have been covered over at 1st floor level with corrugated aluminium and a former concrete lip around the upper edge of the circular opening has been removed to facilitate this. Two pipes are present at ground floor level and above, running from the ceiling into the concrete floor. These would presumably have been part of the drainage of the building, rather than for the conveyance of brewed lager. As will be seen the drainage of the building was an important feature as the brewing requires a clean and controlled atmosphere, free from bacteria. The regular washing down of work areas and effective drainage was therefore necessary.

The current 1st floor of Area A is used as an artist's studio at present (Fig 12). This floor has been recently inserted, causing an inconsistency in the floor level between areas 1 and 3 (Fig 13). The upper area of the building above ground floor level was intended to be open and without floors with the exception of the 5th floor, where the circular openings are again present (Fig 12). The 4th floor has concrete encase steel beams running north-south and east-west and is currently layered with further aluminium corrugated sheets though this is not an original feature.

The roof of area 1 is currently constructed of aluminium sheeting or similar material, with four bands of Perspex skylights running west to east (Fig 14). The roof is gently pitched, rising to the west and east with a central valley. This central valley is not in line with the asymmetrical concrete encased steel element on the southern façade. The roof is a recent addition installed after the removal of the vats from the building. Along the top of the eastern wall of Area 1, adjacent to area 2 are a group of large RSJ's bolted together, two supporting elements, extending from the steel frame of the eastern side of the building, with a third cross beam over the top. These protruding and exposed steels may have originally supported the vats which extended above the roof line of Area 1, but they are also extensions of the steel frame of the building, a structural frame which is shared by Area 2.

3.3 Area 2

This part of Block C, adjacent and to the east of Area 1 is of similar design and build to its neighbour, but of a lesser height (Fig 15). The roof of the building is of similar construction with a central valley and Perspex skylights (Fig 16). The cut ends of steel RSJs are visible in the eastern wall of Area 1, which would originally have extended west to east over the roof of Area 2 (Fig 17), whilst in the central valley of the roof are two further vertical RSJs, showing signs of a bolted extension having been cut off. It seems likely that an exposed steel frame originally extended above Area 2 and was linked to the concrete-encased and exposed steel frame of Area 1. This is likely to have been a structure designed to support the large vats which extended above the roofline.

Internally there are differences in the scale and appearance of Area 2 in comparison with its western neighbour Area 1. On the ground floor the internal area has been converted to be used as a restaurant, but the upper part of the structure, now accessible from the 2nd floor contains the former vat housing area (Fig 18). The present 2nd floor access has been knocked through a cement block wall from the adjoining Area 3 and is not located at an original point of access. However the original access into the vat area from Area 3 to the north is likely to have been from the 3rd floor (Fig 19). The vats of Area 2 were less in circumference than those of Area 1 and probably less in height. Instead of circular openings, cast into the concrete, the vats of Area 2 were bracketed in place by metal frames, and joists, set into concrete beams running between 2nd and 3rd floor levels.

3.4 Area 3

This part of Block C is the tallest, being nine storeys in height (Fig 20) and forms a stair block with a long wing extending to the east and smaller spaces or rooms to the south west and the layout of each of its floors conforms to a similar pattern (Fig 6 and Fig 7). The roof area is easily accessible and is likely to have required access for maintenance during the brewing life of the building, as there are numerous pipes and valves present (Fig 21), along with a number of cut RSJ's, which may have supported machinery or the pipe network. The structure is linked to Block B to the west by a redundant bridge clad in corrugated metal. Holes in the west wall of Area 3 immediately below the level of the bridge indicate where former pipes entered the building.

Area 3 is extensively glazed on its western façade in contrast to Areas 1 and 2. A lift shaft runs through the full height of the building, whilst the dog-leg stair has a mezzanine level between each floor, adjacent to west facing windows. The stair is concrete, with a steel handrail and a cast, terrazzo covering on the steps (Fig 22). On each floor the staircase leads into a lobby area where the lift access is situated. Here, running west to east is a long narrow open space, the length of the stairwell, terminating at a window in the structures western façade, whilst a second window is situated adjacent to the lift in the structures north wall (Fig 23). This empty area serves no obvious purpose, does not lead anywhere and does not appear to have been used to house any equipment. It may have been designed by the architects in order to allow the easy extension of the building to the north, if necessary, indicating the brewery's intention to modify the function or increase the capacity Block C in the future.

From the lobby area access to the rest of Area 3 is through a fire door, with a double rolling shutter (Fig 24). The necessity for regular washing down was illustrated in this inner area, by the presence of drains and a slight camber in the floor, to allow for the removal of water. The cast concrete surface of the floors were also continued slightly at the base of the brick walls, forming a concrete skirting, again to facilitate the

washing down of the floors and the removal of water. This skirting was noted throughout Area 3 on all floors. Some variations were noted in this area such as a small electrical plant room on the 7th floor at the northern end, whilst signage from the former brewery was noted on the 2nd floor stating:

ACID PRODUCTS
(GMB No 2, 3 and 11)
MUST NOT BE STORED ALONGSIDE
SODIUM HYPOCHLORITE
(No 9A and 9B)

A second feature related to the brewery was a blackboard fixed to the east wall of the 4th floor in this inner area, marked out with lines for workers to annotate the state of each tank (Fig 25). Within this area on each floor of Area 3 is a section of wall to the north-east, which was built of the same pale stock brick seen throughout the interior, but in English bond rather than stretcher bond seen elsewhere (Fig 26). This suggests that this part of the structure may have been built to be load-bearing, rather than as simply panels of brick infill.

The south western part of Area 3 has some variation between floors, but generally it is divided into two rooms whilst a portion of the 3rd floor in this part of Area 3 has been removed on the 2nd floor as part of the post-brewery modifications of the building (Fig 13). The only areas of communication between Areas 1 and 3 are on the 1st and 5th floor levels, where there were a pair of timber and wire-glazed double swing doors, both locked at the time of the survey. Both of these accesses led onto the concrete floors of Area 1 with the circular vat openings. Also in this south-western area of Area 3 is a circular hole in the concrete slab between the 5th and 6th floors (Fig 27). This appears to have been cut through the concrete, leaving a pile of concrete rubble on the 6th floor and exposing the steel reinforcing rebar, but abandoned before the rebar was cut. The hole is smaller than the lager vat holes within Area 1 and it may have been cut just prior to the closure of the brewery, with the possible intention of inserting a smaller tank between the 5th and 6th floors.

An important part of Area 3 was the long eastern room, which again followed the same pattern throughout the building. On the 8th and 6th floors the walls of this room is covered in yellow, glazed tiles (Fig 28), whilst on all floors on both south and north walls former openings have been blocked up with coarse cement blocks, which have been block bonded into the original finer cement blocks. The floor of this area of the 8th and 6th floors was asphalted along the edges, with a central concreted strip running the length of the room. On all floors circular holes are present along the edges of this area, formerly used to carry pipes up through the building. They are sometimes in groups of 2 or 3, sometimes individually, but they appear to correspond to three sets or groups of pipes along the north and south walls. Similar holes are visible running through the walls themselves, such as those on the 5th floor, which have been blocked up since the pipes removal. Notices attached to the wall indicate tank number (Fig 29), or the switches for pumps (Fig 30). The north facing façade of Area 3 is visible from the roof of Area 4, in particular the exterior of these easternmost rooms. This façade is covered with scaffold, but the pipe holes and cement blocked openings can be seen (Fig 31).

On the 3rd, 4th and 5th floors there is a blocked doorway situated in the eastern end of these eastern rooms (accessed by steps on the 4th and 5th floors), indicating the

former communication between Area 3 of Block C and Block D adjacent to the east. On the 6th, 7th and 8th floors the doors are substituted by metal framed windows. The need for stairs up to these doorways is due to the change in floor level between Blocks C and D, indicating that they were not likely to have been built at the same time.

3.5 Area 4

Area 4 is a two storey structure, the lowest part of Block C linked to Area 3 on both ground and first-floor levels. It is constructed with a concrete clad steel frame with infill of dark red engineering type brick instead of the pale London Stock brick used elsewhere. The roof of Area 4 is accessible from the 3rd floor of Area 3. As with the roof of Areas 1 and 2, large RSJs are present (Fig 31), with one rising vertically from the east wall connected horizontally with another, which runs to the north wall of Area 3. The vertical RSJ is topped by a bolted fixing for a further RSJ, which has been cut off.

The ground floor is currently in use as an art gallery, whilst the 1st floor is a studio (Fig 32). Recent partitions have altered the layout of the ground floor, though it appears that it may have always been linked to Areas 1, 2 and 3. It is currently linked to Area 5 through an opening in its east wall which was formerly a window. Both the ground floor and the 1st floor are extensively tiled, using the same yellow tiles noted in Area 3, though many tiled areas have been painted white. A toilet block is situated at the northern end of the building on the 1st floor, tiled in the same yellow tiles seen in Area 3.

3.6 Area 5

Area 5 is an open space bordered to the south by Area 3 and the west by Area 4 (Fig 31). The base is a concrete slab whilst the cut ends of RSJs emerge horizontally from the east wall of Area 4 and the west wall of the adjoining Block D to the east (Fig 33). These suggest that Area 5 was formerly occupied by a steel framed structure and probably used to house large storage tanks or vats. The storage or 'racking' of fermented beer is done in horizontal tanks rather than the vertical brewing vats, and it may be that the steel framed structure that formerly occupied Area 5 was designed to hold these horizontal vessels. The word Lager comes from the German '*Largen*' meaning to store, which reflects the need to store the beer for 30 days or more, preferably at 34°F to complete the fermentation process. If this indeed was a horizontal storage area it is not apparent how the temperature was regulated.

4 A summary of the development and function of the building

The construction of Block C is known to have begun in the mid 1970s and it was one of the changes made to the layout of the Truman Brewery, during a phase of modernisation not long before its closure in 1989. The engineers Arup constructed numerous new buildings for the brewery c1977, including Block Z to the north of Block C, which is likely to have existed in or near its present form by this time. The 1970s buildings of the brewery were therefore completed at different stages and the changes in floor levels between Area 3 of Block C and Block D to the east certainly suggest this. It may also be the case that Areas 1 and 2 were completed at different times as despite the similarity in the form of the buildings, there are slight differences.

The documentary archive research has thrown light on the way the pre-1970s brewery buildings functioned (those illustrated in Fig 3 and Fig 4) and the VCH has provided a detailed description of how the process of brewing was undertaken in these buildings from 1911, the named areas being the same as those illustrated in the 1950s plans. We can therefore assume that this original method of brewing and the brewery buildings were well established and had been used for many decades when the 1950s plans were drawn up. The fact that one of the fermenting rooms still retained the name it was given in 1857 (Havelock), certainly suggests these former buildings dated to the mid 19th century.

After their demolition and the construction of Block C in their place, there was undoubtedly a drastic change in the method of brewing and the type of beer produced. The on site survey has provided the physical evidence which suggests the system by which Block C functioned, rather than relying on documentary archive evidence.

Block C had clearly definable areas within its design that related to the large scale manufacture of lager. It also appears to have been designed with the view to future modifications and additions. Areas 1 and 2 housing the large vertical vats that extended above the building's roof line, both areas probably being built at different times. In Area 1 the vats themselves could be accessed for close inspection or maintenance if necessary via the 1st and 5th floors of Area 3. Area 3 was evidently area from where the brewery workers could control the fermentation and brewing process, monitor the state of the vats and operate pumping machinery. The eastern long room of Area 3 seems to have enabled workers to monitor tanks in both Areas 2 and 5, Area 5 being currently an empty void, but the evidence shows that at some stage it held a large steel framed structure, built into the surrounding buildings of Area 4 and Block D. The indication is that perhaps the tanks stored in Area 5 were not vertical but horizontal as they were in Area 1. It is possible to speculate that fermented beer was pumped from the vertical fermenting vats of Areas 1 and 2 into the horizontal storage vats of Area 5, via the pumping machinery of Area 3. An illustration from the Arup Journal of 1977 shows the western elevation of block C and three large horizontal tanks can be seen behind and above Area 4 and adjacent to Area 3 (Fig 5). The two storey building of Area 4 is likely to have acted as an area for the staff, as it is the only part of Block C with toilets and may originally have also had changing and other facilities for the workers. It has been possible to use the physical evidence gathered in the survey to suggest how the building of Block C operated, with each of the five areas having a different function.

5 Acknowledgements

This report was commissioned by the PSP Consultants, on behalf of the Old Truman Brewery, whom MOLA wishes to thank. In particular the author wishes to thank Stuart Wilkinson of PSP Consultants for the supplied drawings, along with Jason Zeloof and Steve Paton of the Old Truman Brewery for their assistance. The on site survey was undertaken with the assistance of Andrew Westman of the MOLA Standing Buildings Team, with on site photography by Maggie Cox. The supplementary CAD work was done by Greg Laban, whilst the typesetting and layout was done by Juan Jose Fuldain.

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7 Cartographic sources Photo lists and site drawings

Drawings provided by PSP Consultants

1	E_024_Existing North Elevation.dwg
2	E_602_Proposed South Elevation.dwg
3	E_603_Proposed East Elevation.dwg
4	E_701_Proposed West Elevation.dwg
5	E_702_Proposed South Elevation.dwg
6	E_703_Proposed East Elevation.dwg
7	E_706_Proposed North Elevation.dwg
8	E020_Existing South Elevation.dwg
9	E021_Existing West Elevation.dwg
10	E023_Existing East Elevation.dwg
11	E601_Proposed West Elevation.dwg
12	P_1000 site plan.dwg
13	P500_Existing ground level plan.dwg
14	P501_Existing first level plan.dwg
15	P502_Existing second level plan.dwg
16	P503_Existing third level plan.dwg
178	P504_Existing fourth level plan.dwg
18	P505_Existing fifth level plan.dwg
19	P506_Existing sixth level plan.dwg
20	P507_Existing seventh level plan.dwg
21	P508_Existing eighth level plan.dwg
22	P600_Ground level plan.dwg
23	P601_First level plan.dwg
24	P602_Second level plan.dwg
25	P603_Third level plan.dwg
26	P604_Fourth level plan.dwg
27	P605_Fifth level plan.dwg
28	P606_Sixth level plan.dwg
29	P607_Seventh level plan.dwg
30	P608_Eighth level plan.dwg
31	P609_Roof plan.dwg
32	P900_Existing site plan.dwg
33	P901_Proposed site plan.dwg
34	PC_100_Proposed cycle layout plan.dwg
35	S302_Proposed cross section through C.dwg
36	S303_Proposed C-block section looking east.dwg
37	S304_Proposed C-block section though infill.dwg
38	S402_Existing cross section through C.dwg
39	S403_Existing C-block section looking east.dwg
40	S404_Existing C-block section though infill.dwg

List of Site Drawings 23/06/11	
Sheet 1	Annotated Sketch Plan of the 8th floor of Area 3
Sheet 2	Annotated sketch plan and elevation of the ground floor of Area 1
Sheet 3	Annotated elevation drawing of west façade of Block C
Sheet 4	Annotated sketch plan of 7th floor & typical lower floors of Area 3
Sheet 5	Sheet of descriptive notes made on site, with measured heights of interior of Areas 1 and 2.

List of Photographs taken on site on 28th June 2011			
No.	DSCN No.	Description	Direction of view
1.	5226	Pipes on the southern façade of Area 2, Block C	north
2.	5227	2nd floor, area 2, interior	north
3.	5228	2nd floor, interior, area 1	north
4.	5229	2nd floor, interior, area 1	south
5.	5230	2nd floor, interior, area 1 pipe detail	south east
6.	5231	2nd floor, interior, area 1, artist's studio	south
7.	5232	2nd floor, interior, area 1	west
8.	5233	2nd floor, interior, area 1 artist's studio	south
9.	5234	2nd floor, interior, area 1, artist's studio	west
10.	5235	2nd floor, interior, area 1, entrance from Area 3	north west
11.	5236	2nd floor, interior, area 1/3	west
12.	5237	2nd floor, interior, area 1/3	south east
13.	5238	2nd floor, interior, area 1/3	south west
14.	5239	Vat holes in ceiling, 2nd floor, interior, area 1	south
15.	5240	Area 3, 2nd floor, viewed from area 1	north east
16.	5241	South-western corner of area 2, 2nd floor	south
17.	5242	Concrete beams & pillars, area 2, 2nd Floor	north
18.	5243	Concrete beams & pillars, area 2, 2nd Floor	north
19.	5244	Concrete beams & pillars, area 2, 2nd Floor	north
20.	5245	Access to 3rd floor, area 2	north
21.	5246	2nd floor entrance to area 2 from area 3	south east
22.	5247	Area 3, 2nd floor	east

23.	5248	Entrance to area 3 2nd floor from adjacent building (outside survey area)	south west
24.	5249	Area 5, construction of crane base	south
25.	5250	Areas 3 and 4 from area 5	south west
26.	5251	Cut RSJ, area 5	south west
27.	5252	East elevation of area 4 from area 5	north west
28.	5253	Detail of cut RSJs, area 4/5	south west
29.	5254	Detail of RSJs, area 4/5	south west
30.	5255	Ground floor area 3	west
31.	5256	Ground floor area 3	east
32.	5257	Corridor, area 4 ground floor, leading to area 5	north
33.	5258	Corridor, area 4 ground floor, leading to area 5	south
34.	5259	English bond, Corridor, area 4 ground floor, leading to area 5	north
35.	5226	Pipes on the southern façade of Area 2, Block C	north
36.	5227	2nd floor, area 2, interior	north
37.	5228	2nd floor, interior, area 1	north
38.	5229	2nd floor, interior, area 1	south
39.	5230	2nd floor, interior, area 1 pipe detail	south east
40.	5231	2nd floor, interior, area 1, artist's studio	south
41.	5232	2nd floor, interior, area 1	west
42.	5233	2nd floor, interior, area 1 artist's studio	south
43.	5234	2nd floor, interior, area 1, artist's studio	west
44.	5235	2nd floor, interior, area 1, entrance from Area 3	north west
45.	5236	2nd floor, interior, area 1/3	west
46.	5237	2nd floor, interior, area 1/3	south east
47.	5238	2nd floor, interior, area 1/3	south west
48.	5239	Vat holes in ceiling, 2nd floor, interior, area 1	south
49.	5240	Area 3, 2nd floor, viewed from area 1	north east
50.	5241	South-western corner of area 2, 2nd floor	south
51.	5242	Concrete beams & pillars, area 2, 2nd Floor	north
52.	5243	Concrete beams & pillars, area 2, 2nd Floor	north
53.	5244	Concrete beams & pillars, area 2, 2nd Floor	north
54.	5245	Access to 3rd floor, area 2	north
55.	5246	2nd floor entrance to area 2 from area 3	south east
56.	5247	Area 3, 2nd floor	east
57.	5248	Entrance to area 3 2nd floor from adjacent building (outside survey area)	south west

		area)	
58.	5249	Area 5, construction of crane base	south
59.	5250	Areas 3 and 4 from area 5	south west
60.	5251	Cut RSJ, area 5	south west
61.	5252	East elevation of area 4 from area 5	north west
62.	5253	Detail of cut RSJs, area 4/5	south west

Site Photos. 23/06/11 Block C Truman's Brewery, Brick Lane

No	Photo ID	Description	Direction of view
1.	5039	View from roof of block C, from Area 3	south
2.	5040	View of the roof of area 1, block C from Area 3	south
3.	5041	View of the roof of area 2, block C from Area 3	south
4.	5042	Area 3 roof block C	east
5.	5043	View from roof of block C, from Area 3	north east
6.	5044	View from roof of block C, from Area 3	south
7.	5045	View of the roof of areas 1 & 2, block C, from Area 3	south
8.	5046	View of the roof of areas 1 & 2, block C, from Area 3	South east
9.	5047	View of the roof of area 2, block C, from Area 3	south
10.	5048	View of the void area 5 from Area 3 roof, block C	north
11.	5049	View of the void area 5 from Area 3 roof, block C	north
12.	5050	View of the void area 5 from Area 3 roof, block C	north
13.	5051	View of the roof of area 1, block C from Area 3	South west
14.	5052	Detail of cut RSJ end, view of the roof of area 1, block C from Area 3	South west
15.	5053	Brewery pipes disused. Roof of area 3, Block C	west
16.	5054	Brewery pipes disused and cut RSJs. Roof of area 3, Block C	east
17.	5055	Cut RSJs. Roof of area 3, Block C	south west
18.	5056	View from roof of area 3, Block C	west
19.	5067	View from roof of area 3	north east
20.	5068	View from roof of area 3	south
21.	5069	View from roof of area 3	south west
22.	5060	View from roof of area 3	South south west
23.	5061	View from roof of area 3	west
24.	5062	View from roof of area 3	west
25.	5063	8th floor, Area 3	south east
26.	5064	8th floor Area 3	west
27.	5065	8th floor Area 3, block bonded cement blocks, filling gap	north east
28.	5066	8th floor Area 3, block bonded cement blocks, filling gap	south east
29.	5067	8th floor Area 3, block bonded cement blocks, filling gap	north west
30.	5068	View from 8th floor Area 3, down to void area 5	east
31.	5069	View from 8th floor Area 3, view down to roof of area 4	north

32.	5070	Stairwell Area 3, 7th floor	east
33.	5071	Stairwell Area 3, 7th floor	east
34.	5072	7th floor Open area by lifts,	west
35.	5073	7th floor Open area by lifts,	west
36.	5074	7th floor, fire door & hall way	south
37.	5075	7th floor long pump room	east
38.	5076	7th floor	
39.	5077	7th floor Fire door	west
40.	5078	6th floor stairwell entrance	east
41.	5079	Hole cut thorough 6th floor concrete slab	west
42.	5080	Hole cut thorough 6th floor concrete slab	west
43.	5081	6th floor Long pump room	east
44.	5082	6th floor Long pump room	west
45.	5083	Detail – 6th floor electrical switch in pump room	north
46.	5084	Fire sign (with graffiti) 6th floor	east
47.	5085	Fire sign (with graffiti) 6th floor	east
48.	5086	6th floor, drain in concrete floor	north
49.	5087	5th floor Entrance from stairwell	east
50.	5088	5th floor Ramp, staircase, hole in ceiling & access to area 1 (locked)	west
51.	5087	5th floor hole in ceiling	north west
52.	5090	5th floor ramp & staircase	east
53.	5091	5th floor electrical equipment	north
54.	5092	5th floor	south
55.	5093	5th floor Drains in doorway to pump room	east
56.	5094	5th floor pump room	east
57.	5095	5th floor blocked exit in pump room	east
58.	5096	5th floor blocked pipe recesses	south
59.	5097	5th floor pump switch	north
60.	5098	5th floor Concrete bases for former equipment. Pump room	east
61.	5099	4th floor entrance from stairwell	east
62.	5100	4th floor Foyer with blackboard Tank No etc	south east
63.	5101	4th floor Blackboard with tank No. etc	east
64.	5102	4th floor English Bond brick work	north east
65.	5103	4th floor English Bond brick work	south east
66.	5104	4th floor room – not entered due to conditions	east
67.	5105	4th floor pump room	east
68.	5106	4th floor Pump room	east
69.	5107	4th floor view from open door in pump room wall over roof of area 2.	south
70.	5108	4th floor detail of cut stanchions in area 2 roof	south
71.	5109	4th floor detail of stanchions in area 1	south west
72.	5110	3rd floor Entrance from stairwell	east
73.	5111	View of block C Area 3 north elevation, taken from roof of area 4	south
74.	5112	View of block C Area 3 north elevation, taken from roof of area 4	south
75.	5113	View of block C Area 3 north elevation, taken from roof of area 4	south
76.	5114	View of block C Area 3 north elevation, taken from roof of area 4	south
77.	5115	Void area 5 taken from roof of area 4	south

78.	5116	Void area 5, north east wall of area 3 and west wall of area 4	east
79.	5117	Roof of area 4	south west
80.	5118	3rd floor pump room	east
81.	5119	Exit (locked) pump room area 3	east
82.	5120	2nd floor entrance from stairwell	east
83.	5121	Vestibule, 2nd floor	north
84.	5122	Vestibule, 2nd floor	south
85.	5123	Acid Sign, 2nd floor	east
86.	5124	1st floor entrance from stairwell	east
87.	5125	1st floor	north
88.	5126	1st floor	south
89.	5127	1st floor	north
90.	5128	Toilets 1st floor	north
91.	5129	1st floor studio	east
92.	5130	1st floor studio graffiti	east
93.	5131	1st floor studio	north west
94.	5132	1st floor blacked out open area outside lift	west
95.	5133	Ground floor entrance from stairwell	east
96.	5134	Ground floor entrance from street	west
97.	5135	Stairs up to 1st floor	east
98.	5136	Sight 1st floor stairwell	north
99.	5137	Floor slab, 8th floor	east
100.	5138	Detail of staircase 7/8th floors	south
101.	5139	Fire door, 3rd floor	north west
102.	5140	Lift, 3rd floor	east
103.	5141	Detail, lift 3rd floor	east
104.	5142	4th floor room with machinery blocks on floor	west
105.	5143	4th floor detail of rebuild above doorway	south west
106.	5144	View of footbridge from 4th floor	west
107.	5145	1st floor	west
108.	5146	Within room on 1st floor – (out of focus)	west
109.	5147	Within room on 1st floor	west
110.	5148	Graffiti on door to room on 1st floor	west
111.	5149	-	-
112.	5150	Exterior of area 3	east
113.	5151	Exterior of area 3	east
114.	5152	Exterior of area 3 & area 4	east
115.	5153	Exterior of area 1	south east
116.	5154	Towards block C	north
117.	5155	Block C, areas 1 & 2 south elevation	north
118.	5156	Dray Walk	east
119.	5157	Holes in Ceiling, area 1 Block C ground floor	south
120.	5158	Holes in Ceiling, area 1 Block C ground floor	east
121.	5159	Holes in Ceiling, area 1 Block C ground floor	south
122.	5160	Cut beam ground floor	south
123.	5161	Pipes & vat hole ground floor Area 1	east
124.	5162	Holes in Ceiling, area 1 Block C ground floor	west
125.	5163	Pipes & vat hole ground floor Area 1	east
126.	5164	Exterior west elevation, Area 1	south east
127.	5165	Block C west elevation	south east
128.	5166	Area 4 west elevation	east
129.	5167	Detail, holes under foot bridge	south east

130.	5168	Entrance to Area 3 + graffiti	east
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Site photos taken on 30th June 2011.

No.	Archive No	Description	Direction of view
1.	20011001.tif	Bridge between Block C and Block B	south
2.	20011002.tif	View from roof of Area 3	north east
3.	20011003.tif	View from roof of Area 3	East
4.	20011004.tif	View from roof of Area 3	north east
5.	20011005.tif	View from roof of Area 3	East
6.	20011006.tif	View from roof of Area 3	East
7.	20011007.tif	View from roof of Area 3	north
8.	20011008.tif	View from roof of Area 3	North east
9.	20011009.tif	View from roof of Area 3	North East
10.	20011010.tif	View of Area 1 roof from Area 3	south
11.	20011011.tif	View of Area 1 roof from Area 3	south
12.	20011012.tif	View of Area 1 roof from Area 3	south
13.	20011013.tif	View of Area 1 roof from Area 3	south
14.	20011014.tif	View of Area 1 and Area 2 roofs from Area 3	south
15.	20011015.tif	View from roof of Area 3	East
16.	20011016.tif	View from roof of Area 3	East
17.	20011017.tif	View from roof of Area 3	north East
18.	20011018.tif	View from roof of Area 3	south
19.	20011019.tif	Area 3 from over Open Area 5	south
20.	20011020.tif	Area 3 from roof of Area 4	south
21.	20011021.tif	Areas 3, 4 and 5, with RSJs	south
22.	20011022.tif	Block C with Area 1 to front	north east
23.	20011023.tif	Block C with Areas 4, 3 and 1	south east
24.	20011024.tif	View down Dray Walk with Block C on the left	East
25.	20011025.tif	View down Dray Walk with Block C on the right	west

Archive & documentary research photos

Photos taken at the LMA 30.06.11			
All photos taken of plans stored under reference number GLC\AR\BR\17\037358			
	Photo ID DSCN	date	Description
1	5274	1957	Site plan
2	5275	1957	Detail of Site plan
3	5276	1957	Detail of Site plan
4	5277	July 1954	Site plan
5	5278	July 1954	Detail of site plan
5	5279	1956	Elevation of opposite buildings on Dray walk (Bottling Dept)
6	5280	1956	Detail of elevation of opposite buildings on Dray walk (Bottling Dept)
7	5281	1950	Site plan
8	5282	1950	Detail of date of above
9	5283	1950	Detail of site plan
10	5284	1950	Detail of site plan

8 NMR OASIS archaeological report form

8.1 OASIS ID: molas1-106506

Project details

Project name	Block C, the Old Truman Brewery, Brick lane.
Short description of the project	A level 3 standing building recording was undertaken by MOLA on Block C of the Old Truman Brewery, Brick Lane, in the London Borough of Tower Hamlets in advance of refurbishment. Though Block C was built in the early 1970s it formed a working part of the Truman Brewery which includes numerous 18th and 19th Century listed buildings. Block C was constructed to produce lager in response to growing popular demand. The brewery closed in 1989 and block C was converted to be used as exhibition and studio space.
Project dates	Start: 28-06-2011 End: 02-08-2011
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	TUB11 - Sitecode
Type of project	Building Recording
Site status	Conservation Area
Site status (other)	Associated with listed buildings
Current Land use	Industry and Commerce 3 - Retailing
Monument type	BREWERY Modern

Project location

Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON TOWER HAMLETS BETHNAL GREEN Block C The Old Truman Brewery Brick Lane
Postcode	E1

Study area	1069.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 33808 82021 51.5207381559 -0.07114096954150 51 31 14 N 000 04 16 W Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	MOLA
Project brief originator	Consultant
Project design originator	MOLA
Project director/manager	David Divers
Project supervisor	David Sorapure
Type of sponsor/funding body	Client
Name of sponsor/funding body	PSP Consultants

Project archives

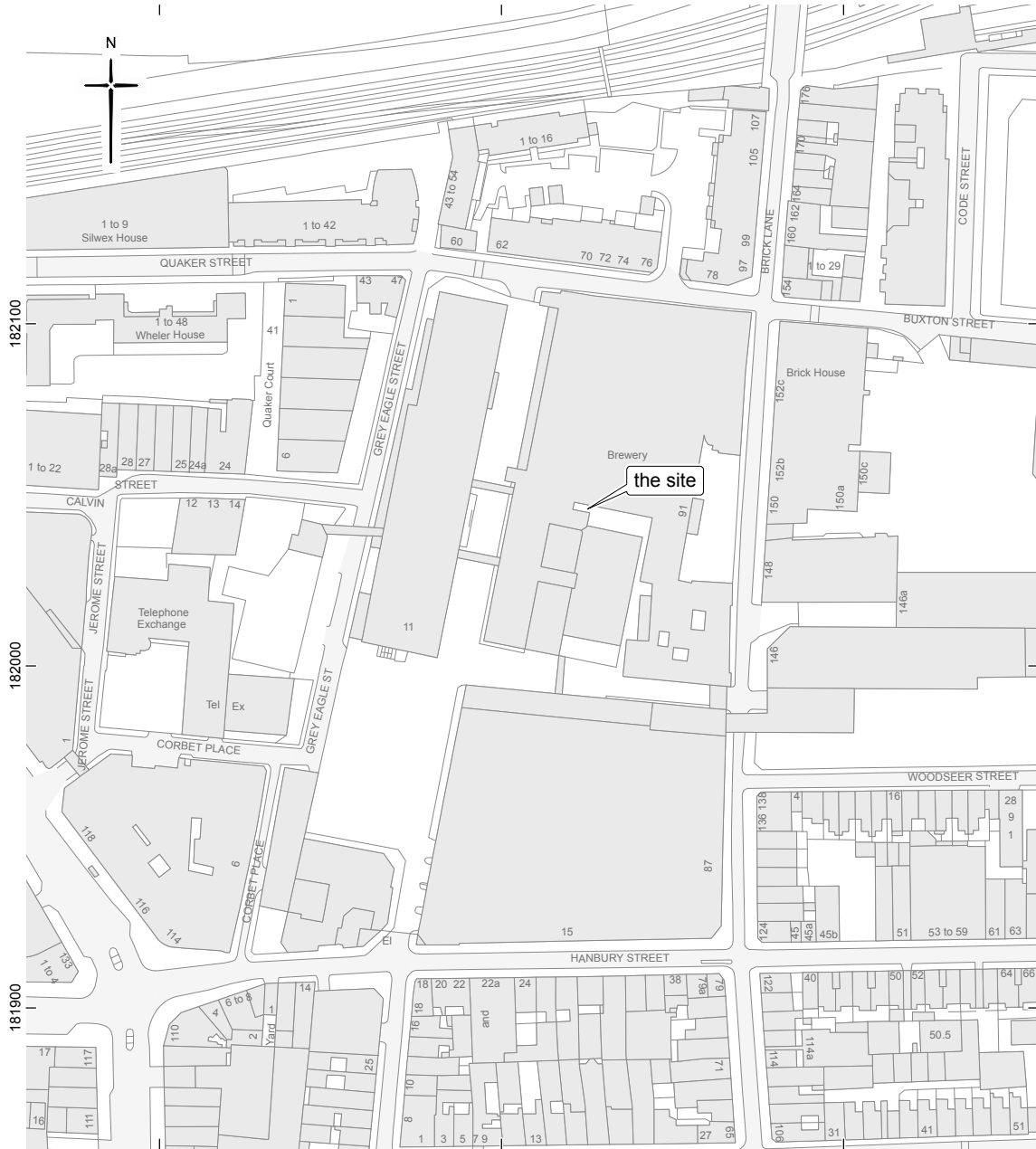
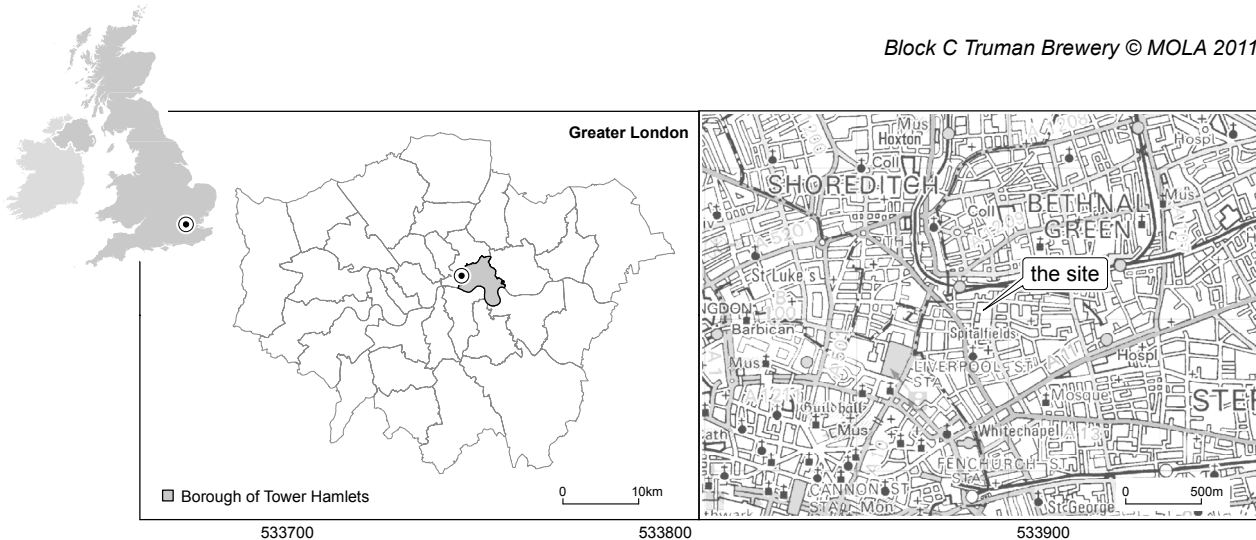
Digital Media available	'Images raster / digital photography'
Paper Archive recipient	LAARC
Paper Media available	'Drawing','Miscellaneous Material','Photograph','Plan','Report','Section'

Project bibliography 1

Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Publication type
Title Block C the Truman Brewery, 91 Brick Lane
Author(s)/Editor(s) Sorapure, D.
Date 2011
Issuer or publisher MOLA
Place of issue or publication London
Description unpublished client report

Entered by David Sorapure (dsorapure@museumoflondon.org.uk)
Entered on 2 August 2011



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Scale 1:2,000 @ A4

Fig 1 Site location



Fig 2 Historic environment features map

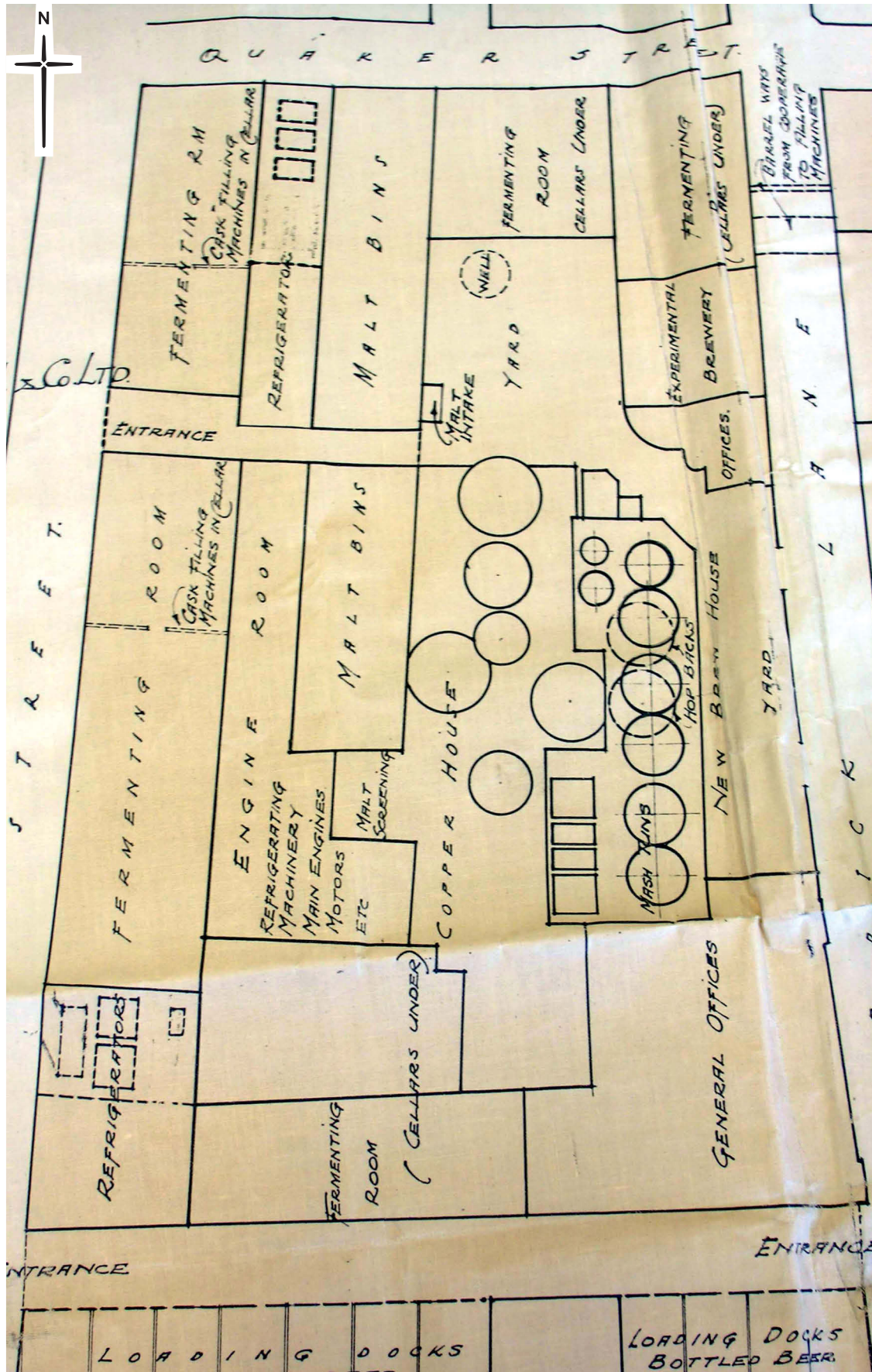


Fig 3 A plan of the former brewery buildings, demolished in the 1970s, held at the LMA, dated 1950

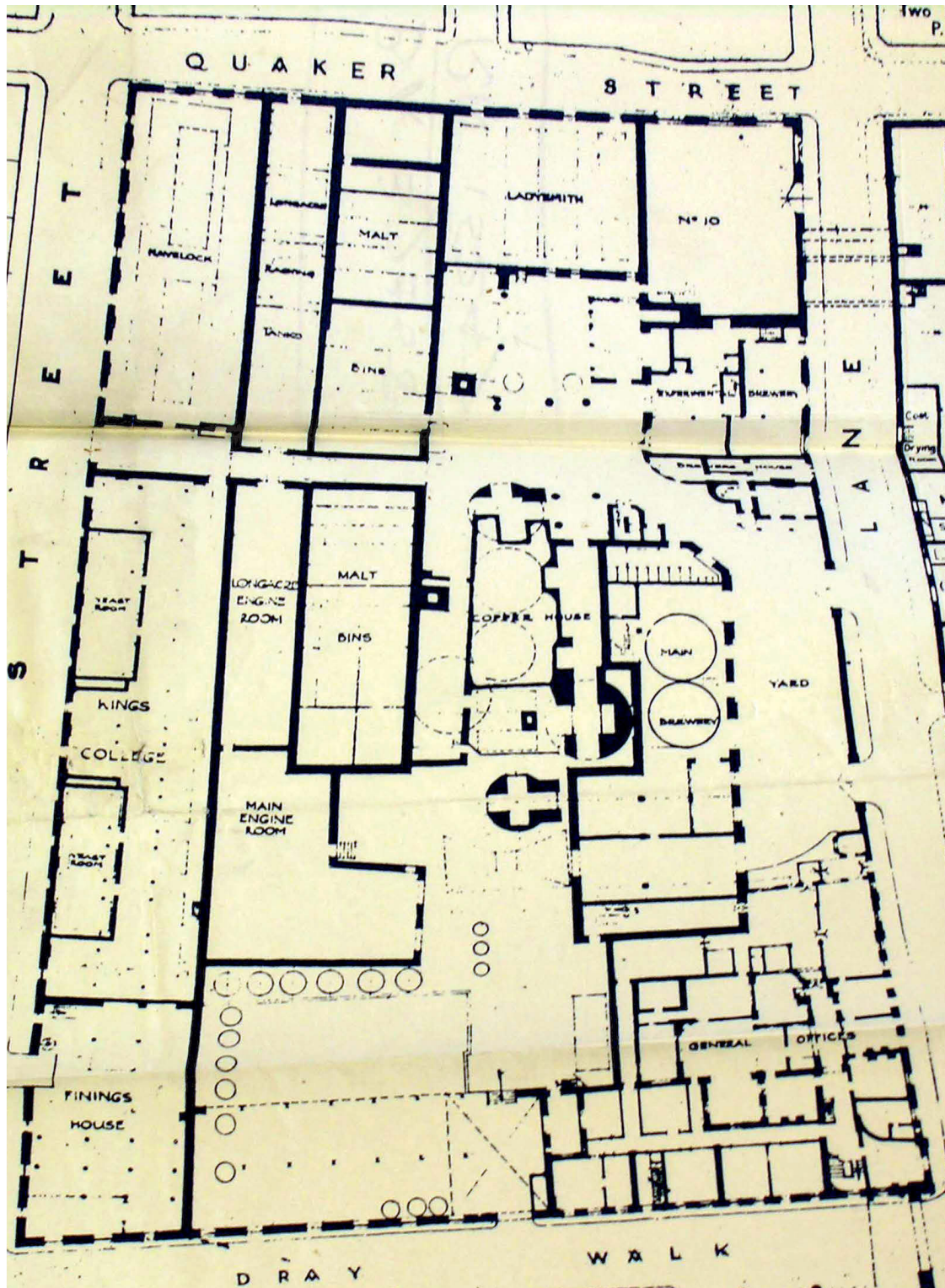


Fig 4 A plan of the former brewery buildings, demolished in the 1970s, held at the LMA, dated 1957

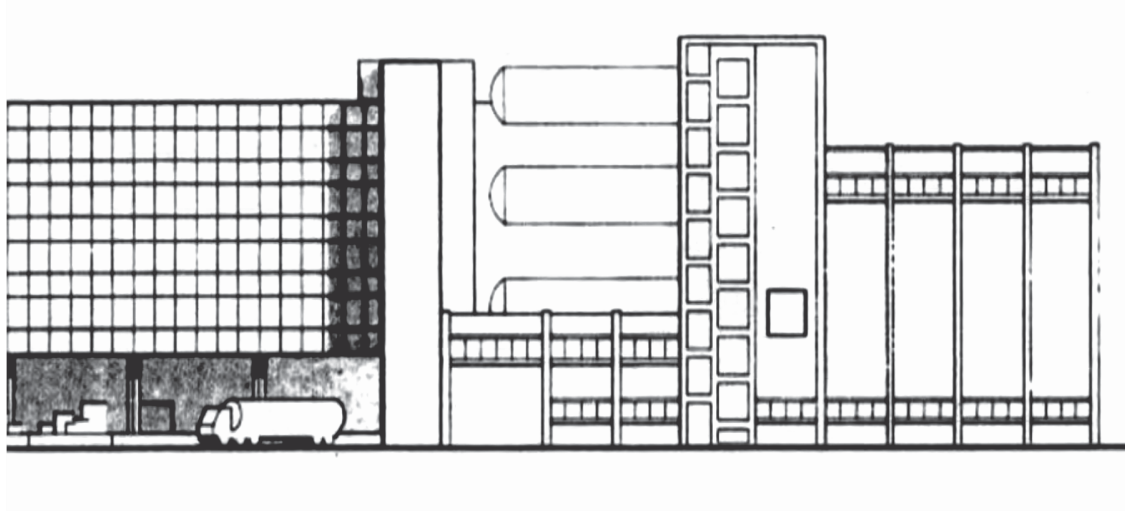


Fig 5 The western elevation of Block C shown in the Arup Journal Vol 12, 1977

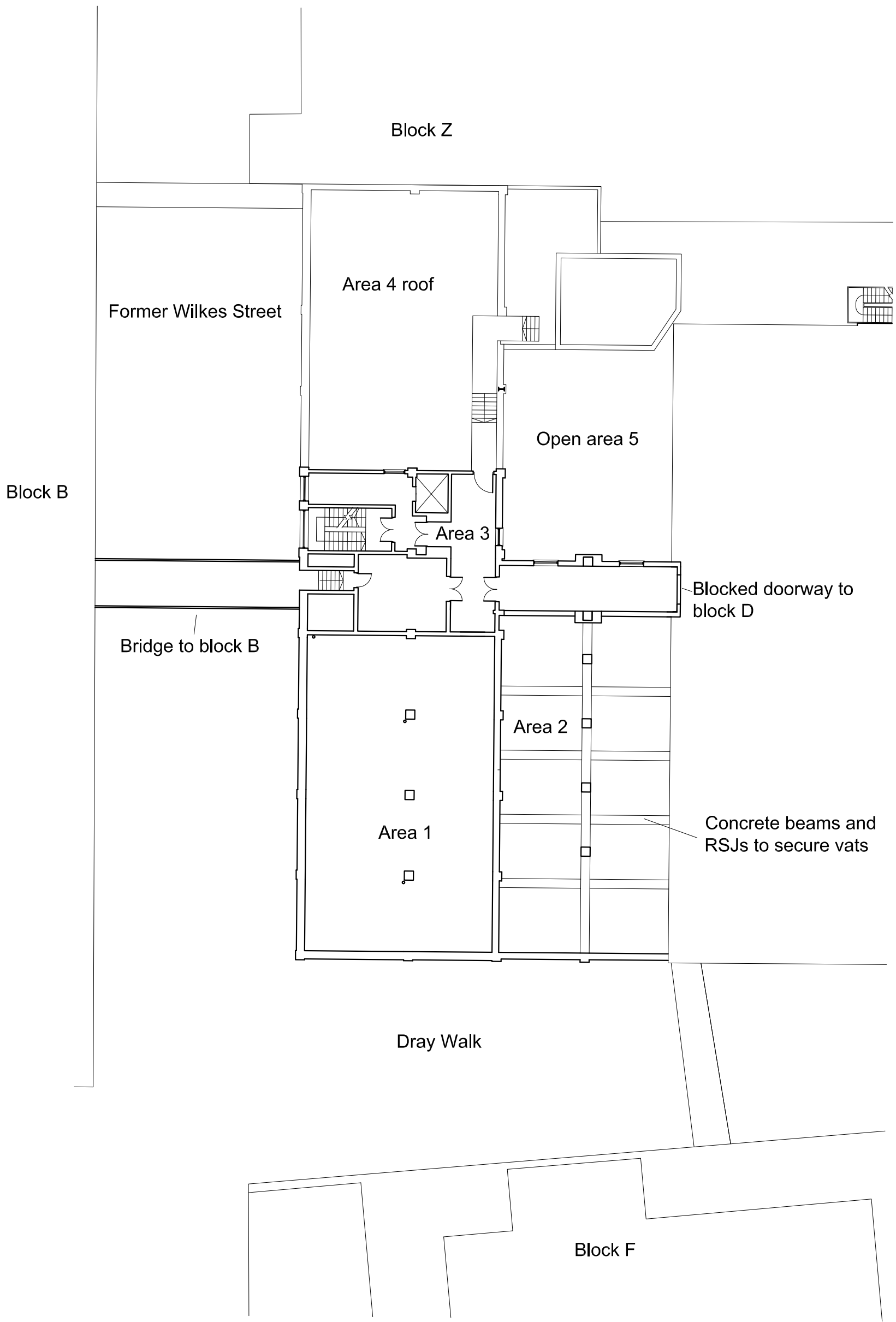


Fig 6 Plan showing the third floor of block C 1:250

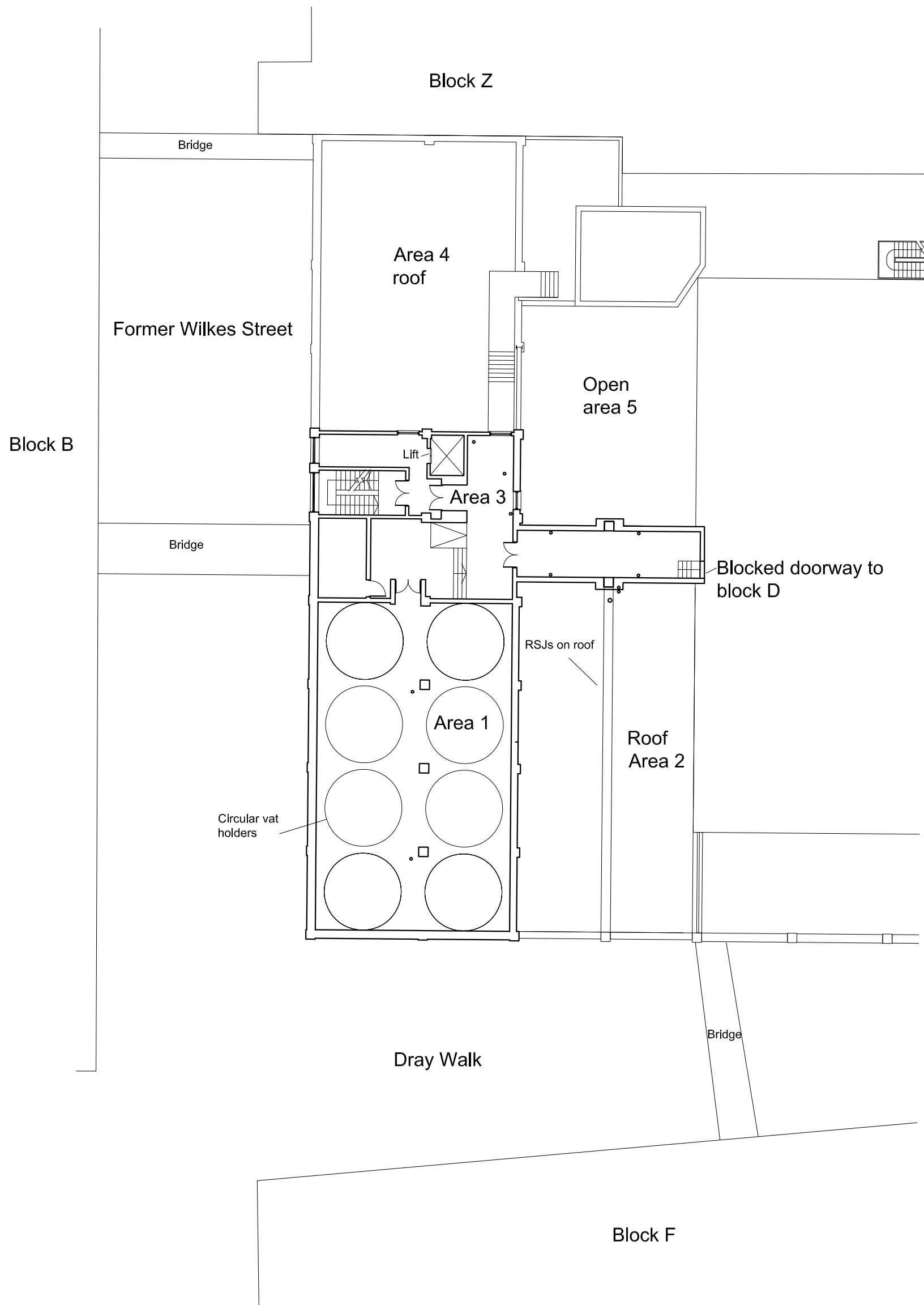


Fig 7 Plan showing the fifth floor of Block C 1:250

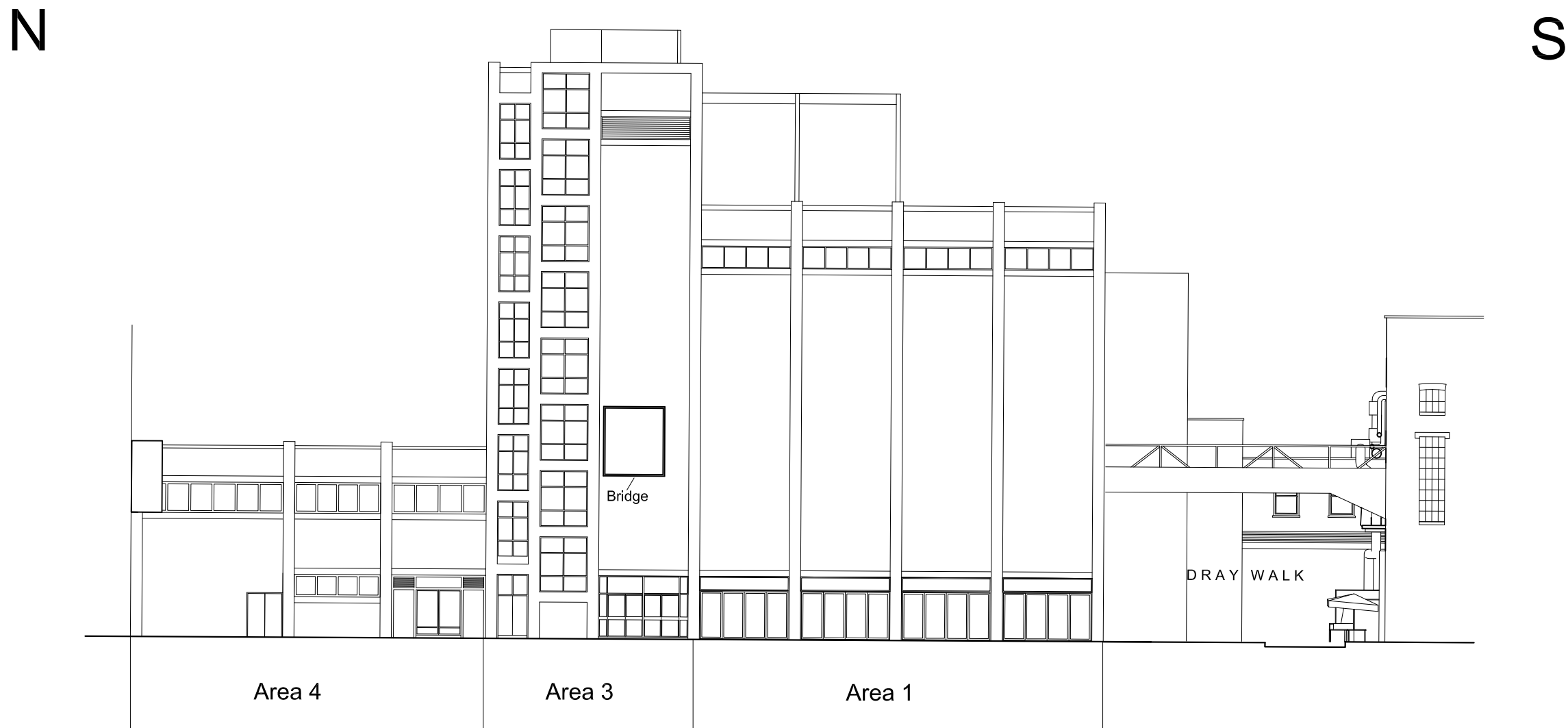


Fig 8 The west facing elevation of Block C 1:250





W

E

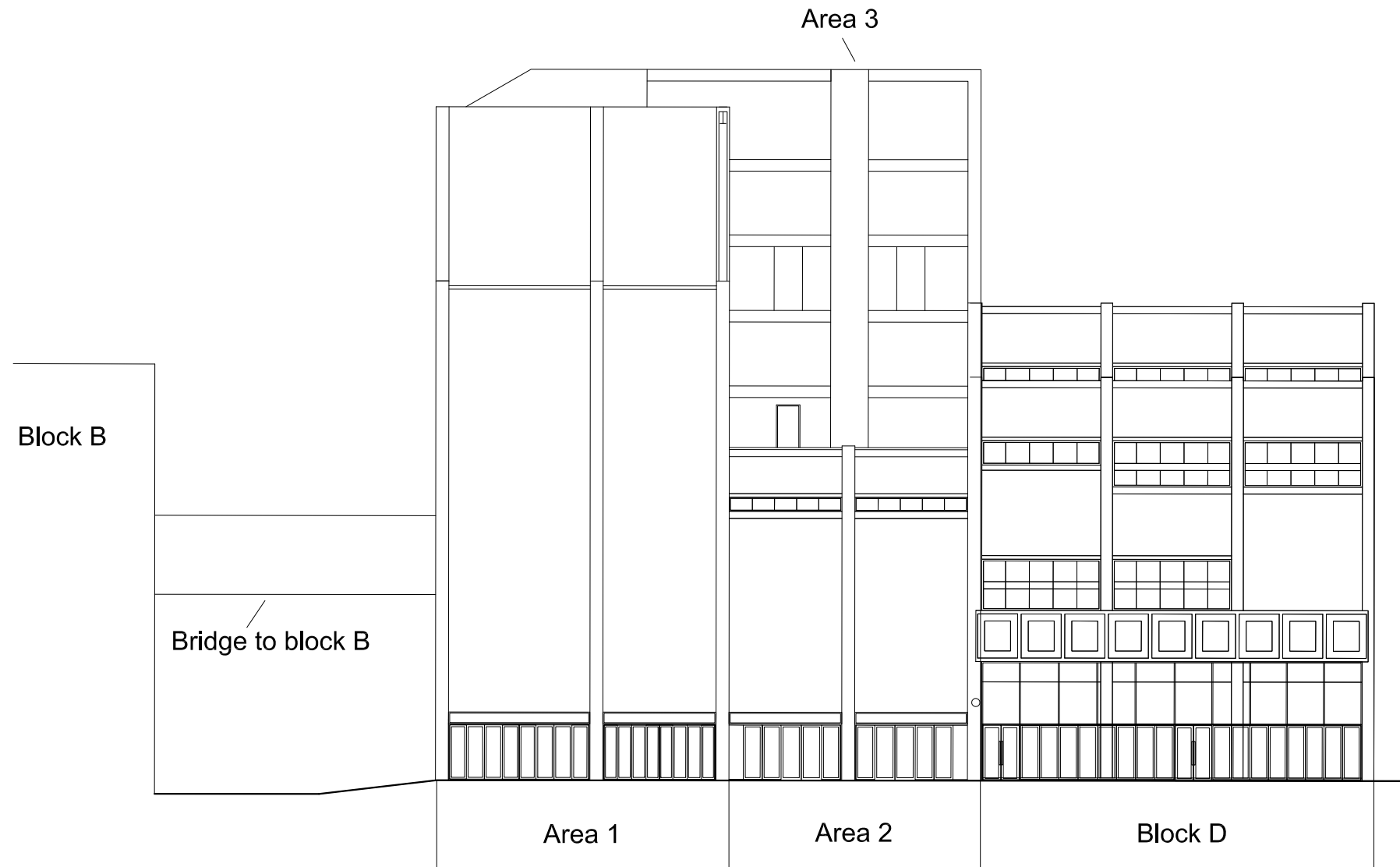


Fig 9 The south facing elevation of Block C 1:250





Fig 10 The view towards Area 1 of Block C from the south west



Fig 11 The ground floor ceiling of Area 1, showing the circular holes for the vats & the cut end of an RSJ, looking south



Fig 12 The recently inserted 1st floor of Area 1, looking south



Fig 13 The view north from Area 1 into Area 3, through a recent opening in the wall, showing the difference in floor levels and the removed floor in Area 3



Fig 14 The roof of Area 1, viewed looking south from the roof of Area 3



Fig 15 The south elevations of Area 1 on the left, with Area 2 on the right, taken looking north west



Fig 16 The roof of Area 2, viewed looking south from the roof of Area 3



Fig 17 Steel columns and the cut ends of steel joists, emanating from the east wall of Area 1 looking south west, traces of a former structure in the space over Area 2



Fig 18 The vat housing structure within Area 2, looking south



Fig 19 The former 3rd-floor access from Area 1 into the vat area of Area 2

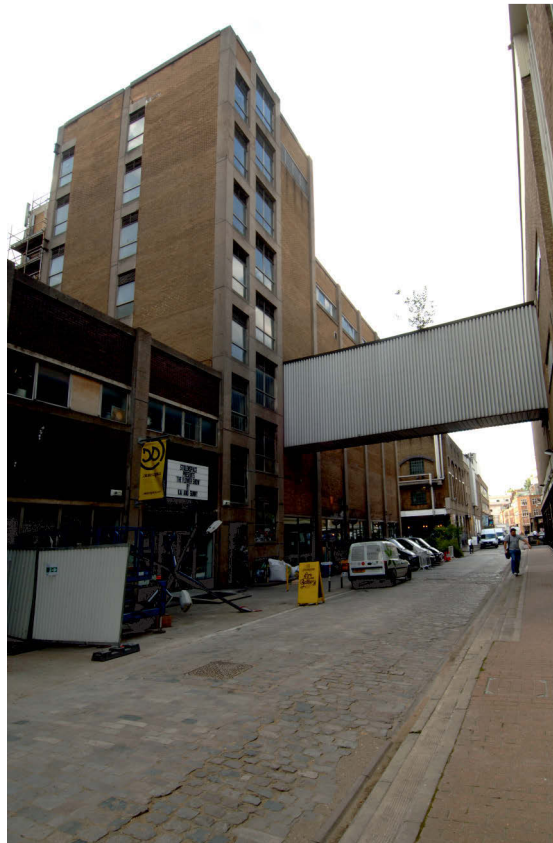


Fig 20 Block C taken looking south east, with the two storey Area 4 on the left, Area 3 in the centre and Area 1 beyond

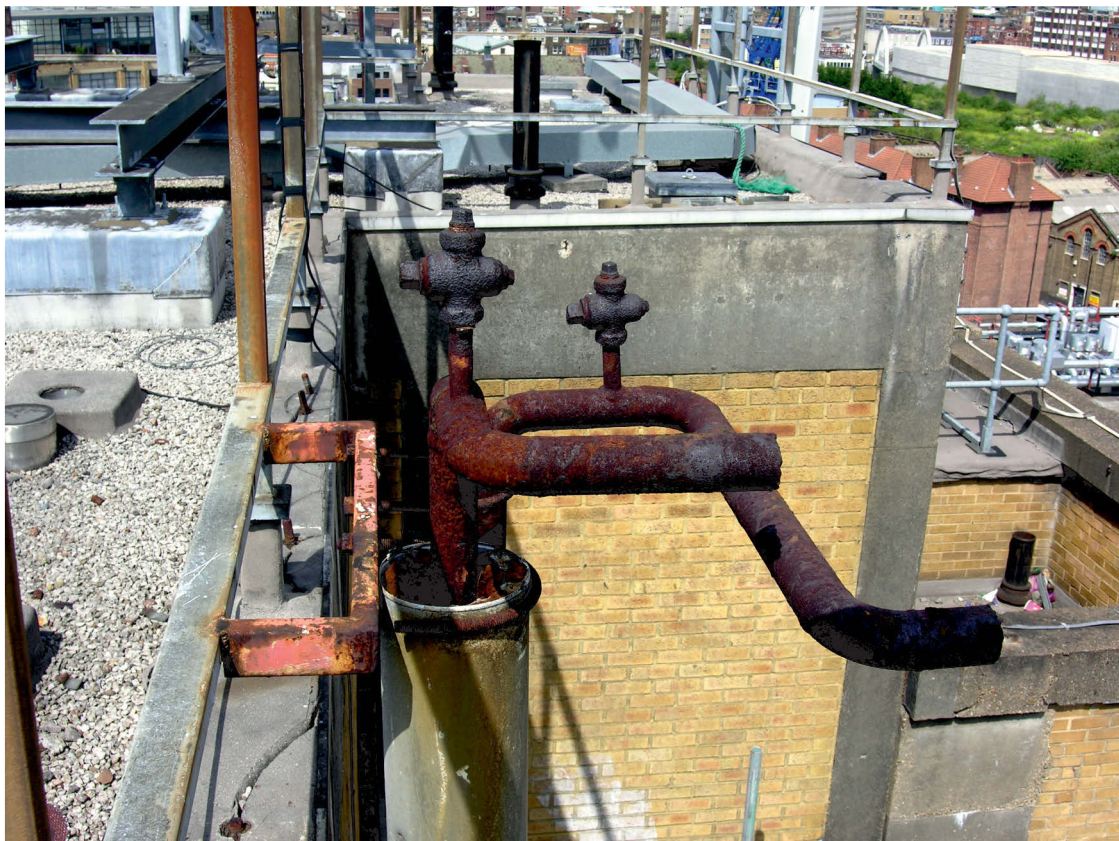


Fig 21 Disused pipes on the rooftop of Area 3, looking west



Fig 22 The terrazzo covered steps of Area 3, looking south

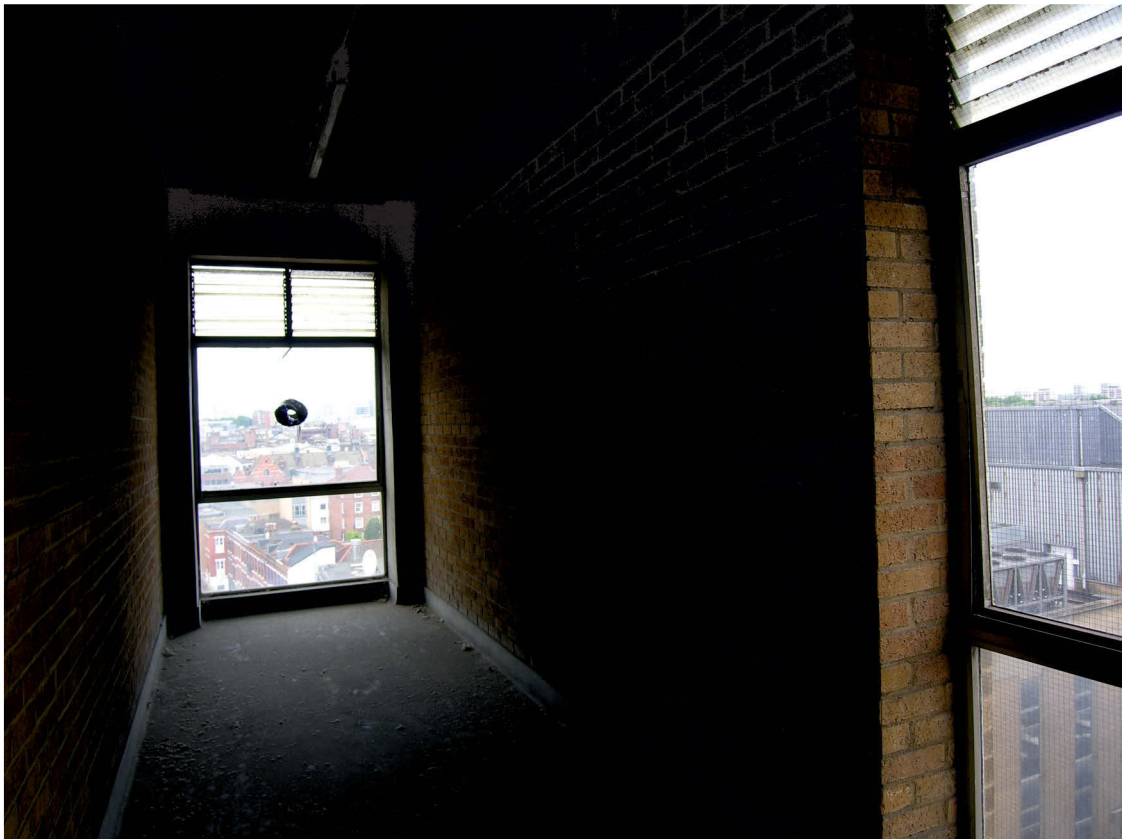


Fig 23 The glazed but vacant open space in front of the lift in Area 3, looking west



Fig 24 The lobby area of Area 3 with the rolling shutter fire door, looking south



Fig 25 The blackboard on the 4th floor of Area 3, looking south east



Fig 26 The English bond brickwork in the east wall of Area 3, 4th floor, looking south



Fig 27 The circular hole cut into the concrete slab between the 5th and 6th floors of Area 3, looking north west



Fig 28 The easternmost room on the 6th floor of Area 3, looking west



Fig 29 A blocked hole for a former pipe, labelled with a tank number, south wall of the 5th floor, Area 3

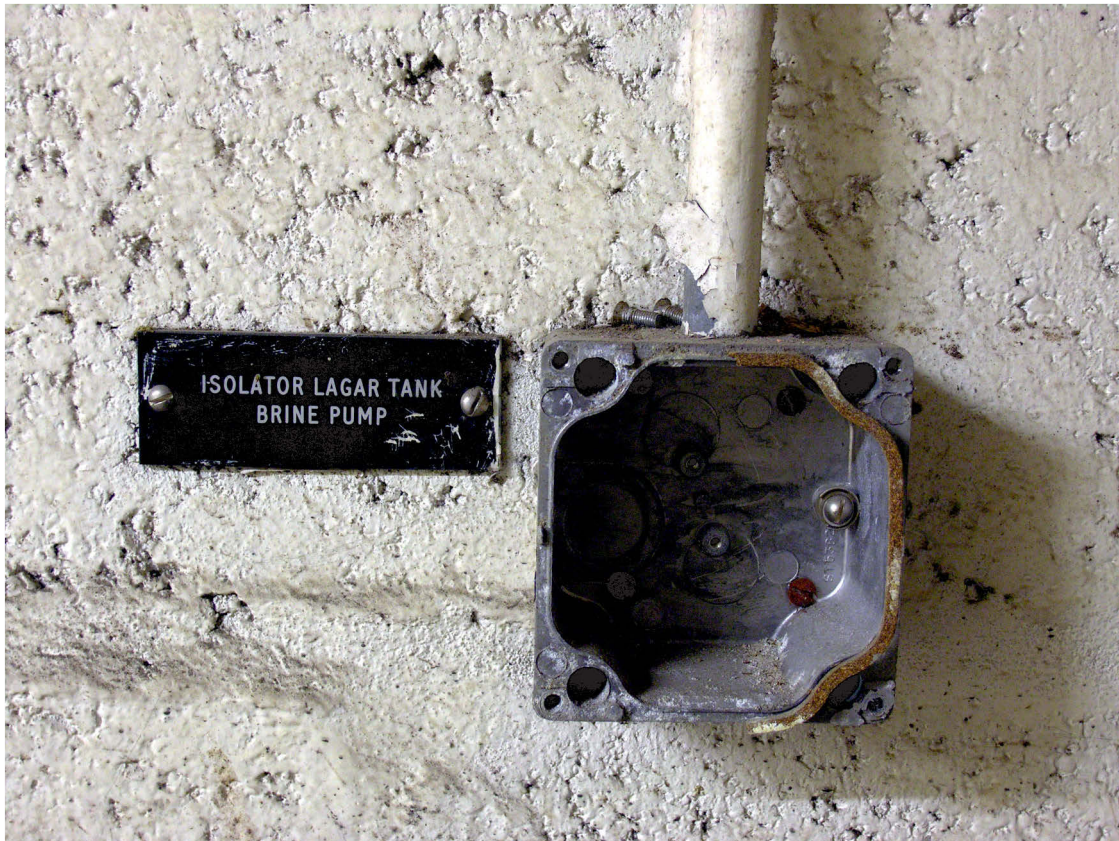


Fig 30 A label for a former pump switch, north wall, of the 5th floor, Area 3



Fig 31 The north wall of the easternmost part of Area 3, looking south over Open Area 5. Note the RSJs on the right of the photo



Fig 32 The studio on the 1st floor of Area 4, looking east



Fig 33 The view down into Area 5 from the roof of area 3. Note the cut ends of RSJs within the west wall of the adjacent Block D