



Archaeological Building Investigation and Recording, Royal Worcester Porcelain Works: Buildings Recorded at Level B

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Revised version number 2
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archenfield archaeology ltd

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Archenfield Archaeology Ltd is a multidisciplinary archaeological consultancy, offering a complete range of archaeological advice and services to the public and private sector. We specialise in giving archaeological advice to developers, housing associations and private individuals. We also undertake archaeological intervention, from monitoring to full-scale excavation; building survey; landscape and geophysical surveys and community-based historical and archaeological projects.

Archaeological Building Investigation and Recording,

Royal Worcester Porcelain Works,

Buildings recorded at level B:

Buildings A1, A2, C1, F, I, L, L1, O, P, T, U, V, W1, W2, X, X1, Y, Z,

six outbuildings (sheds 1-6), the boundary walls of the site and the maintenance block (Building J eastern extension).

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Cover Photograph: View of the Works from Building W1

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Summary

Archaeological building investigation and recording was undertaken by Archenfield Archaeology Ltd at Royal Worcester Porcelain Works, Severn Street, Worcester, on behalf of Berkeley Homes (Oxford & Chiltern) Ltd prior to re-development of the site.

The majority of this group of buildings were built in the mid twentieth century and purely utilitarian in nature, having little or no aesthetic or architectural value. Their intrinsic interest as buildings relating to the porcelain manufacturing industry on the site has been noted and discussed in a series of reports by John van Laun and Wendy Cook dealing with the documentary history and industrial archaeology of the site, and this document should be considered alongside these reports.

1 Introduction

Site name: Royal Worcester Porcelain Works
Location: Severn Street, Worcester, Worcestershire
NGR: SO 8515 5425
SMR/HER: WCM 96186
Type: Building Investigation and Recording
Date: November 2006 – September 2007
Location of archive: Worcester City Museum
Planning authority: Worcester City Council
Planning reference: P05D0432, L05D0074
Developer: Berkeley Homes (Oxford & Chiltern) Ltd
Site Code: AA_70

Archenfield Archaeology Ltd was commissioned by Berkeley Homes to undertake a programme of archaeological building investigation and recording prior to the re-development of the Royal Worcester Porcelain Works, Severn Street, Worcester. The development site constitutes approximately three-quarters of the whole Severn Street site and the remaining quarter is to be retained by Royal Worcester Porcelain Works. The development scheme involves the demolition of 26 large buildings and 6 small sheds, and the modification of 10 existing buildings in order to build 356 dwellings (comprising 317 apartments and 39 houses), a hotel, B1 space and A3 restaurants. The site is located on the south side of Worcester city centre and is bounded by Sidbury, St Peter's Street, King Street, Severn Street, Mill Street and the Birmingham and Worcester Canal (Figures 1 and 2). The majority of the buildings were built parallel or perpendicular to the central lane of the Works (Prince's Drive) which runs north-west to south-east. Thus a site north was established for the survey at approximately the same orientation (Figure 2).

This report deals with all the buildings and structures that were required to be recorded at level B which is comprised of Buildings A1, A2, C1, F, I, L, L1, O, P, T, U, V, W1, W2, X, X1, Y, Z, six outbuildings (sheds 1-6), the boundary walls of the Severn Street site of the Royal Worcester Porcelain Work and the maintenance block (Building J eastern extension) (Figure 2). Building K3 extension has previously been reported on in a separate report in this series (Cook *et al.* 2008).

The archaeological work was conducted in accordance with the written scheme of investigation (WSI) issued by Archenfield Archaeology Ltd (2006), which was in response to a brief issued by Worcester City Museum Archaeology Section (2006). The WSI was issued to fulfil a condition in the planning approval which stated that a programme of archaeological work must be carried out before the re-development works commence. This document gives details of how the archaeological project was conducted and includes any conclusions drawn from the investigation.

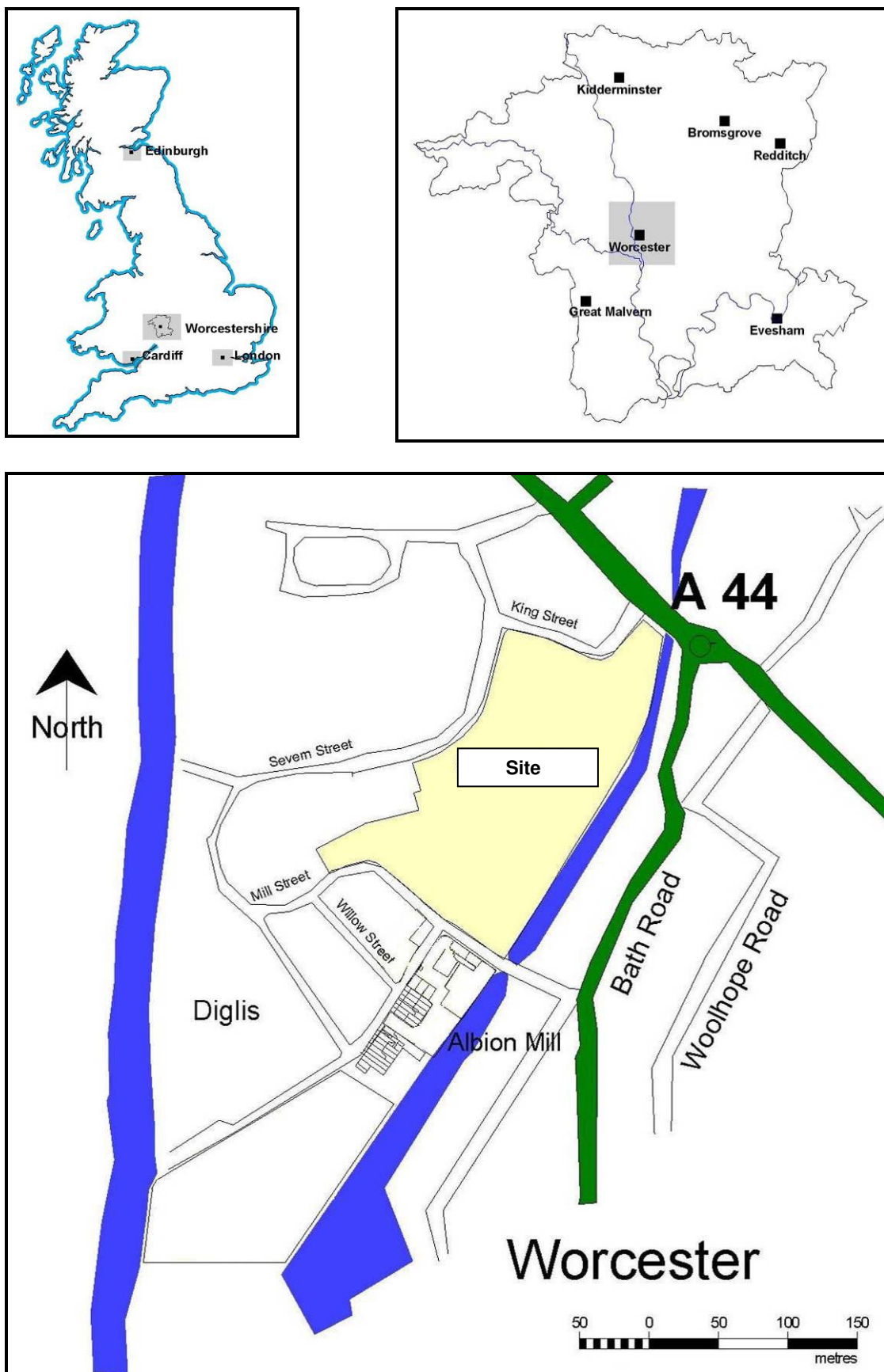


Figure 1: Site location

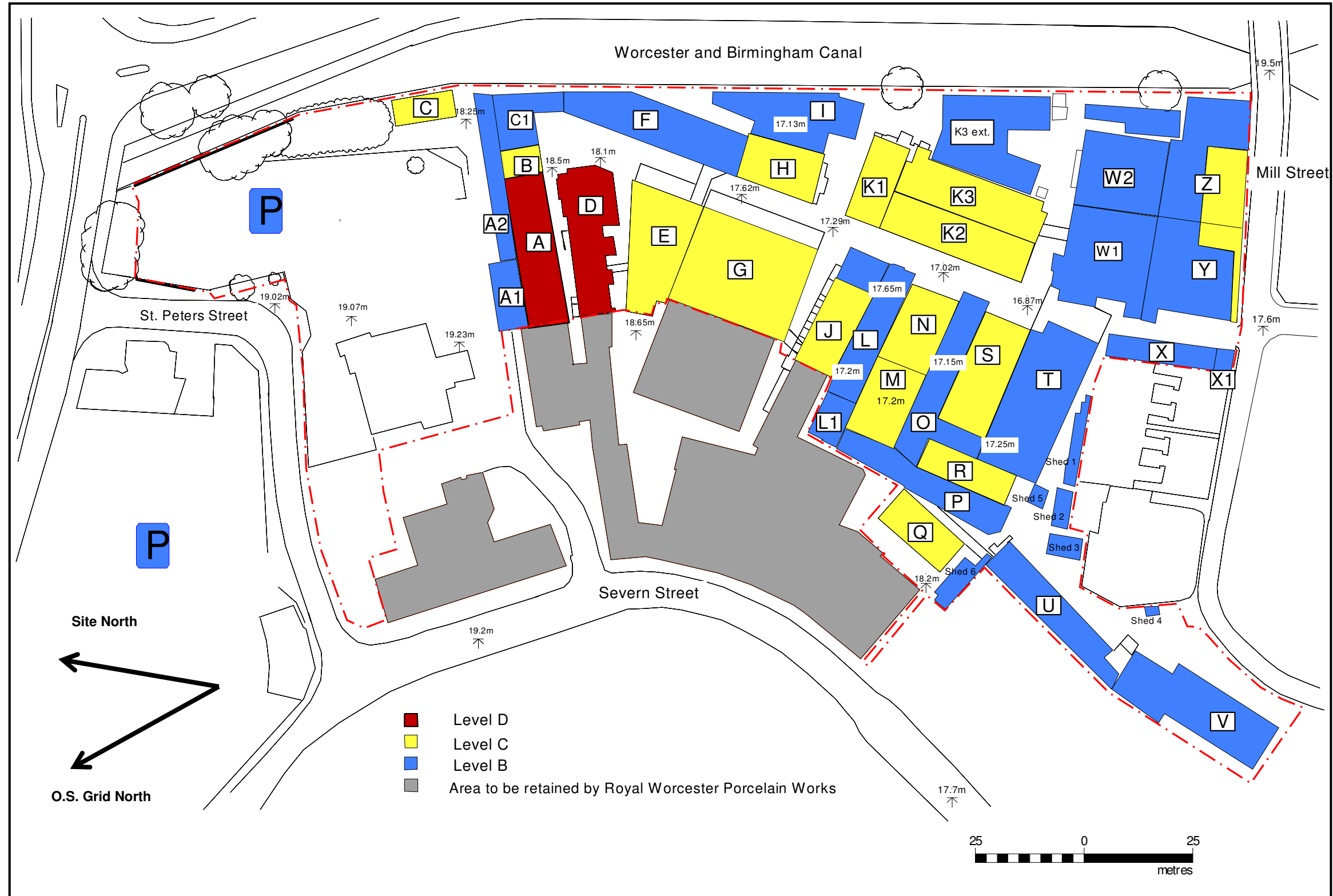


Figure 2: Detailed plan of site, building codes and levels of recording (scale 1:1,000 based on architect's drawing provided by Berkeley Homes)

2 Project aims

The aims of the programme of archaeological building investigation and recording, as defined by the project brief, consisted of the following:

- To make an appropriate record, as identified by the levels of building recording stipulated by the brief, of all the standing buildings at the Royal Worcester Porcelain site.
- To record different phases of all the buildings affected by the development and identify features for conservation.
- To annotate available architects' drawings to include archaeological features such as blocked windows and doors, etc.
- To produce original drawings of important elevations and features.
- To conduct a photographic survey of the major components of the buildings that are directly affected by the development. This should include general views of the exterior of the buildings, all exterior and internal elevations, selective internal views and any detailed coverage of the buildings deemed to be fitting with the character and setting of the buildings. Photographs of any machinery and fittings associated with the working life of the buildings should also be taken.
- To maintain close liaison with the curator of the Worcester Porcelain Museum (henceforth abbreviated as WPM), Wendy Cook, to enable access to the museum archives and give advice on specific aspects of the operation of the manufactory.
- To create a detailed project archive and deposit it with Worcester City Museum after completion of the project.
- To disseminate the results obtained.

3 Geological, historical and archaeological background

3.1 Geology and land use

Worcester lies in the valley of the River Severn, just to the north of its confluence with the River Teme. The eastern bank of the Severn is a sand and gravel terrace. The site lies in the valley of a former tributary of the Severn, the Frog Brook, whose former course was partially used in the creation of the Birmingham and Worcester Canal, which forms the eastern boundary of the site. The underlying geology of the site consists of beds of alluvial drift deposit over the Eldersfield mudstone formation (British Geological Survey).

3.2 Historical, archaeological and architectural background

Two archaeological desk-based assessments have been produced which examine the historical and archaeological background to the Royal Worcester Porcelain Works, Severn Street site (Feryok and Sherlock 2004; Lovell and Pikes 2004). These include cartographic regressions and reproduce the results of documentary studies of the historical evolution of the site. In addition two assessments of the nature, architectural merit and relative importance of the building have also been undertaken

(Morriss and Sherlock 2004; Robinson 2005). These four documents have previously been submitted to the local planning authority in support of the planning application for re-development, and thus they should be used in conjunction with this report. However, this report includes revised and updated facts, which have been revealed during the site work and where discrepancies appear, then this document supersedes previous statements.

4 Methodology

A detailed project design was prepared by Archenfield Archaeology Ltd (2006a). The recording of all the buildings in this report corresponded to level B (specified in Worcester City Museum Archaeology Section brief 06/22) which corresponds to English Heritage level 2 (EH 2006).

The requirement for the archaeological building investigation and recording on the Royal Worcester Porcelain site is in line with government guidance and with the archaeological policies in the adopted City of Worcester Local Plan (1991 – 2001; saved policies BE21, BE24, BE26 and BE27). All work was undertaken to the standards specified in the *Recording Historic Buildings: A Descriptive Specification* (RCHME 1996); *Measured Survey and Building Recording for Historic Buildings and Structures* (Dallas 2003); *Understanding Historic Buildings: A guide to good recording practice* (English Heritage 2006) and in accordance with the standards set out by the Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for the Archaeological Investigation and Recording of Standing Buildings or Structures* (IFA 2001). All stages of the project were carried out in accordance with the guidelines established in the *Management of Archaeological Projects (MAP 2)* (English Heritage 1991).

The project archive will be compiled in accordance with the guidelines contained in *Guidelines for the Preparation of Excavation Archives for Long-Term Storage* (UKIC 1990) and the *Standards in the Museum Care of Archaeological Collections* (Museum and Galleries Commission 1992).

The project complied with all Health and Safety requirements stipulated by Berkeley Homes (Oxford & Chiltern) Ltd and those outlined in the *Health and Safety in Field Archaeology Manual* (SCAUM 2002) and in the project's *Risk Assessment* (Archenfield Archaeology Ltd 2006b).

The fieldwork was managed by Huw Sherlock BA DIPARCH MIFA and supervised by Alvaro Mora-Ottomano (Gamba). Brenainn Morley and Robert Williams assisted in the fieldwork. The report was written by Gamba. The historic and industrial research was conducted by Dr John van Laun and Wendy Cook, and it is included as an appendix. The survey photographs reproduced in the report were taken by Gamba. The report was edited by Julie Phillips. The subsequent result comprised the following elements:

4.1 The written record

A written record of the buildings was carried out by annotating plans and by completing *pro-forma* building recording sheets. The presence of any significant artefacts was recorded with a description of their type, quantity and original location.

4.2 The photographic record

A detailed photographic survey comprised high resolution digital photographs (6 megapixels or above). A further 35mm colour print photographic survey of general exterior views was also conducted. Where possible, photographs included a graduated scale; and cameras were mounted on tripods for extra stability. Details of the photographs were recorded on *pro-forma* index sheets, and included location, subject and orientation. The location and direction of the photographs were plotted on scaled plans.

5 Results

This section deals with the analysis and interpretation of buildings and structures recorded at level B (English Heritage level 2). Whilst most of the buildings have already been demolished, the building analysis refers to the record made when they still existed.

5.1 Building A1: Western Lean-to of the Slip House

Building A1 is the westernmost of the two lean-to structures added against the northern side wall of the Slip House Range (Building A). This building is a shop with a warehouse. It measures 16 metres long, 6.4 metres wide and 7.1 metres high. It is built of machine-made red bricks laid to a fairly crude Flemish bond and it has a slated roof and a concrete floor. In the western end of its north wall there is a section of steel framing incorporated into the brickwork that could suggest that the window openings beneath it are part of the infilling of an earlier opening.

Its windows are steel-framed 'Crittall' type under flat concrete lintels and there is a doorway towards the eastern end of the north wall and others in each gable end. The stanchions of the projecting steel-framed tower added to the Slip House (Building A) are visible within this range.

Internally it is divided into two by a brick cross wall which has a riveted steel straight staircase set against the partition wall. The staircase leads to the first floor of the Slip House (Building A). It has a simple steel half-trussed roof covered with asbestos concrete corrugated sheeting.

This lean-to structure was built in the 1940s and its earliest cartographic evidence is the 1948 plan of the Works. The range is of little architectural merit or historical interest.



Figure 3: North elevation of Building A1



Figure 4: Inside Building A1, looking west

5.2 Building A2: Eastern Lean-to of the Slip House

Building A2 is the second of the lean-to structures built against the northern side elevation of the Slip House Range (Building A). It is narrower than the one immediately to the west (Building A1) and appears to butt against it, suggesting that it is a later addition. This building is a warehouse which has a tumbler machine. It measures 39 metres long, 3.5 metres wide and 5.65 metres high.

It is a simple five-bay structure built of machine-made bricks laid to a Flemish bond and has a concrete floor. There is a row of large five-light timber casements in its northern side wall. Its roof is supported on a series of fairly ephemeral timber half-trusses carrying trenched purlins and is covered with slate. Internally, it is divided into two by a fairly flimsy partition but was presumably once one single space.

Attached to the northern side of the Dispatch Range (Building C1) is a small and much altered brick extension forming the present entrance to the site from the north-east. It includes a gateway with a coped gable top and a metal bay door. This section was built in 1990.

The majority of this range was built in the first quarter of the 20th Century. The earliest cartographic evidence for this range is the 1931 plan of the Works. The range is of little or no architectural or historical importance, despite being at the Works entrance.



Figure 5: North elevation of Building A2



Figure 6: The north-east gate of Building A2

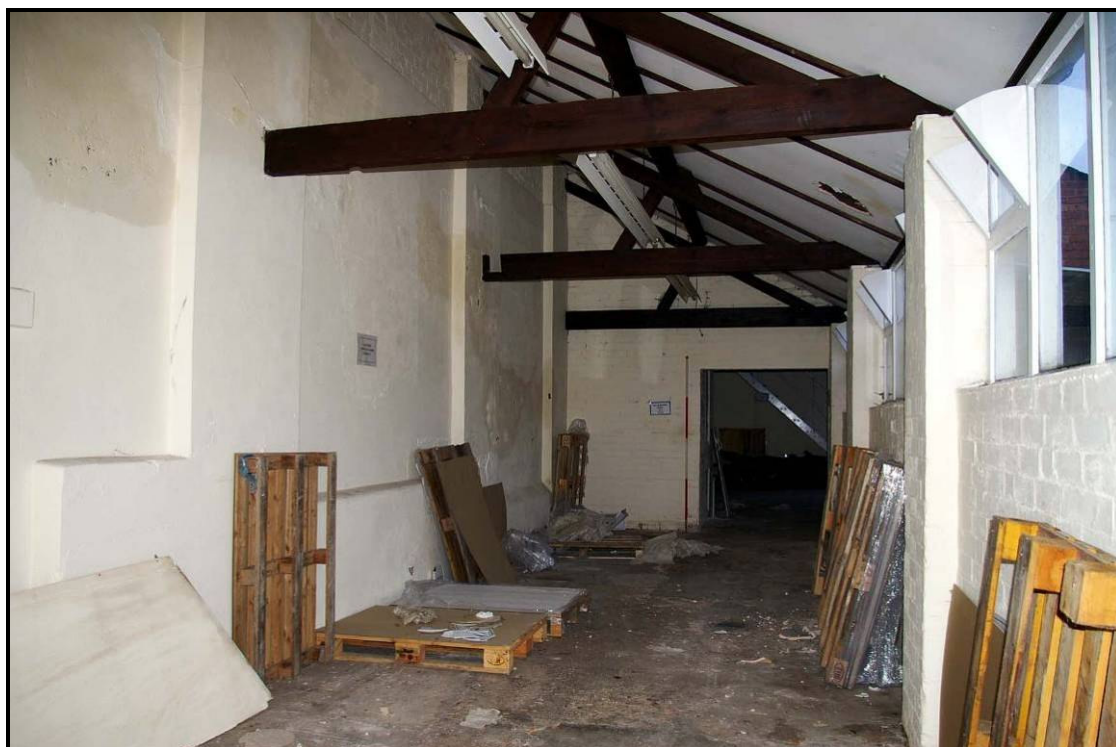


Figure 7: Inside Building A2, looking west

5.3 Building C1: Dispatch Range

The Dispatch Range is a tall two-storey 'L' shaped building between the gabled end of the Slip House Extension (Building B) to the west, the canal to the east, and the northern canal-side warehouse (Building F) to the south-east. The 'stem' of the 'L' is roughly parallel to the canal whilst the 'foot' forms the northern elevation. Its overall dimensions are 17 metres long, 13.4 metres wide and 8.7 metres high. The ground floor is a large storage area and the first floor has offices, a kitchen and a testing room.

It is a flat-roofed structure of machine-made red bricks laid mainly to an English bond with the panels articulated by projecting pilasters. The roof structure consists of RSJ beams and concrete and externally it has a brick parapet. The floors are also made of concrete.

There are steel-framed windows with concrete lintels and projecting brick sills. On the south side, the eastern full bay of the foot is obscured by the 'stem' of the 'L'; inclusive of the 'heel', this is three-and-a-half bays parallel to the canal. The doorways have wooden frames and concrete lintels. On the first floor there is a large wooden partition panel with glazing lights which divides the floor into two rooms.

There is a modern steel-framed and sheeted infill in the angle of the 'L' that makes the overall footprint rectangular.

This range was built in 1942 and its earliest cartographic evidence is the 1948 plan of the Works. It is a typically utilitarian building of that period with no pretensions to architectural elegance.



Figure 8: East elevation of Building C1



Figure 9: First floor of Building C1, looking west towards Building B



Figure 10: The kitchen on the first floor of Building C1, looking north

5.4 Building F: Northern Canal-side Warehouse

This long range is built parallel to the central lane through the factory, in the shallow angle between it and the canal to the east. It measures 30 metres long, 9.5 metres wide and 12.2 metres high. The west elevation along the central lane of the Works continues uninterrupted, but the east elevation has to be angled in to run along the canal bank itself and the roof of this last section is also dropped slightly.

It is a long steel-framed three-storey building clad in brick and is of eight bays – six in the main section and two more in the narrowing north end. The brickwork is of machine-made pale red bricks laid to a simple Flemish Garden Wall bond between piers. In most bays there are windows at all three levels. The windows are long and full-bay width, with concrete lintels and projecting brick sills, and their glazing is of the steel-framed 'Crittall' type. Several windows have been blocked in brick on the first floor of the canal-side elevation.

Whilst the western elevation is largely free of accretions, except for an added brick lift with a bridge linking it to Building E on the opposite side of the lane, the canal-side elevation is disfigured by a large selection of pipes, flues and vents associated with the processes within.

The building has a gabled roof in two sections – the taller main roof over the eight southern bays and a slightly lower one over the northern pair of bays. The roof is made of slate supported on light-weight steel trusses of 'L' shaped sections carrying two tiers of purlins and a ridge-piece. It has coped gables at either end with small parapets and the down-stand between its two sections is slate-hung. Internally there are large working and warehousing areas on all three floor levels. There are two sets of straight timber staircases. At the southern end there is virtually uninterrupted access into the adjacent and much older range to the south, the Old Warehouse (Building H).

This range was built in 1935 and its earliest cartographic evidence is the 1940 Ordnance Survey map. It has limited architectural and historical interest in the manner of its construction and design but virtually no aesthetic merit.



Figure 11: West elevation of Building F



Figure 12: East elevation of Building F



Figure 13: Second floor of Building F, looking south-west



Figure 14: Ground floor of Building F, looking south

5.5 Building I: Gabled Canal-side Range

This is a wedge-shaped multi-gabled range in the angle between the canal to the east and the side elevations of the Old Warehouse (Building H) and the northern Canal-side Warehouse (Building F).

It is built of machine-made red bricks laid to a simple English bond. It consists of four parallel ranges end on to the canal, two broad (southern end) and two quite narrow (northern end). It measures 28 metres long, 13 metres wide and the height of the two southern blocks is 7.2 metres whereas the two northern blocks measure 5.1 metres high. In all but the northern bay, which has one, there are two window openings per each bay on the canal elevation. These have flat concrete lintels, brick sills and steel-framed windows.

The roofs have steel-framed trusses and the two larger ones have hipped western ends to avoid too much loss of light to the earlier Old Warehouse (Building H). They are covered with asbestos cement corrugated sheeting with two plastic skylights and cowls on the ridges.

Internally there is one large storage space on the ground floor, directly accessed through the largely removed lower wall of the adjacent Old Warehouse (Building H) to the west. On the south elevation there is an attached single-storey toilet block made of bricks. This has a flat roof covered with felt, steel-framed 'Crittall' type windows and a wooden door.

This range, except for the southernmost block, was built in the first quarter of the 20th Century and its earliest cartographic evidence is the 1928 Ordnance Survey map. The toilet block was built in 1934 and it appears in the 1940 Ordnance Survey map. The southernmost block was probably built around the mid 1940s as the 1941 plan of the Works does not show it but the 1948 plan of the Works includes it.



Figure 15: East elevation of Building I



Figure 16: Building I, looking north



Figure 17: The toilet block of Building I, looking east

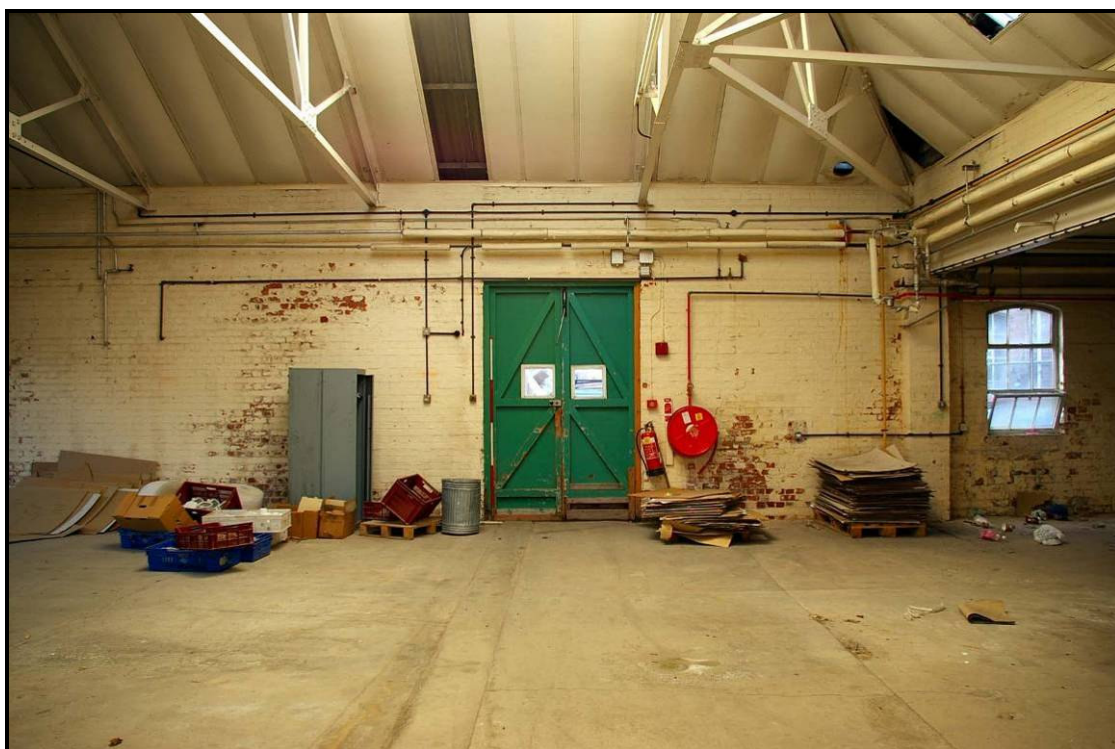


Figure 18: Inside Building I, looking south

5.6 Building L: Glost Inspection Range

The complex infill range between the Gilding Shop (Building J) and the Grinding and Polishing Shops (Buildings M and N) is partly used as the Glost Inspection shops. This range consists of two parallel blocks of which the northern is a single-storey structure with a lantern roof and the southern is a two-storey brick-built structure with a hipped slated roof which has a continuous skylight on its southern pitch. On the north elevation of the southern block, there are six wooden sash windows on the eastern side and three further steel-framed 'Crittal' type windows with concrete lintels on the west end. The overall dimensions are 33 metres long, 7 metres wide and 7 metres high. Internally, there are large workshops at both levels. The ground floor is made of concrete and the first floor is made of wooden boards.

The ground floor of the southern block is part of the original Building N, but the upper floor and the northern infill block were built in the late 1940s. The earliest cartographic evidence for this range is the 1948 plan of the Works. There is also a detailed architect's drawing of proposed alterations and additions to the Works in 1950 which shows its footprint. The range is of limited architectural or historical merit.



Figure 19: North elevation of the southern block of Building L



Figure 20: First floor of the southern block of Building L, looking east



Figure 21: First floor of the southern block of Building L, looking north-east



Figure 22: Ground floor of the northern block of Building L, looking east

5.7 Building L1: Lavatory block

This is a brick-built two-storey range situated on the west side of Building L and on the east side of the northern end of Building P. The ground floor is mainly a storage area but it has a small room with a kiln and the first floor is the main factory's lavatory. It measures 7 metres long, 7 metres wide and 5.7 metres high. The brickwork is of machine-made mid orangey brown laid to Flemish bond. There are several steel-framed awning windows with concrete lintels and projecting brick sills. It has a flat roof, covered with felt and surrounded by a parapet. The historical research carried out by Wendy Cook and John van Laun identified that this range was built in 1950.



Figure 23: Building L1, looking south-east



Figure 24: Kiln on the ground floor of Building L1



Figure 25: Toilets on the first floor of Building L1

5.8 Building O: Southern Infill Range

This is a relatively modern low and narrow range built against the south side of the earlier two Grinding and Polishing Ranges (Buildings M and N) to the north and Buildings R and S to the south. Its approximate dimensions are 40 metres long, 6 metres wide and 5.5 metres high.

The front elevation to the central lane is of machine-made brick laid to an English bond. It originally had three segmental-headed windows but these have been blocked and obscured by a later brick lean-to extension to the lane. The gable end is topped by a plain stone-coped gable of a pitched roof supported by steel trusses.

The western portion appears to be of a later build and has a flat roof instead of a pitched one and is made of a yellower machine-made brick. On the west elevation there are three window openings with concrete lintels and the windows have wooden frames with two lights of which the upper lights are awning outer openings. The interior is a single open space lit by a continuous skylight on the top section of the pitched sides of the roof. Its southern wall is largely opened up to the adjacent range (Building S) and its west wall similarly to the West Infill Range (Building P).

This range was built in June 1928 and it appears on the 1931 plan of the Works. However, the western section looks as if it was built shortly after the war, perhaps in the late 1940s or early 1950s.



Figure 26: East elevation of Building O



Figure 27: West elevation of Building O



Figure 28: Inside Building O, looking west

5.9 Building P: Western Infill Range

The complex infill range between the Gilding Shop (Building J) to the north and several ranges to the east is a long and low single-storey range built against the western gable ends of several earlier buildings. It measures approximately 50 metres long, 7 metres wide and its height varies from 2.3 to 3.4 metres.

Little of the exterior is readily visible but what can be seen is of machine-made brick. The roofs vary from shallow mono-pitches to flat and it is possible that the range is not of one single build. For some reason the south-western corner of the range is canted.

The northern section is partly used as the Glost Inspection shops and is open on the ground floor to the Glost Inspection Range (Building L). Internally there is a long open workshop lit by a series of skylights, and two glost kilns, one at either end. This section is also a brick-walled complex with a mixture of lean-to and flat steel roofs, concrete lintels and the floor is made of concrete.

This range was built in November 1963 and is of limited architectural or historical merit.

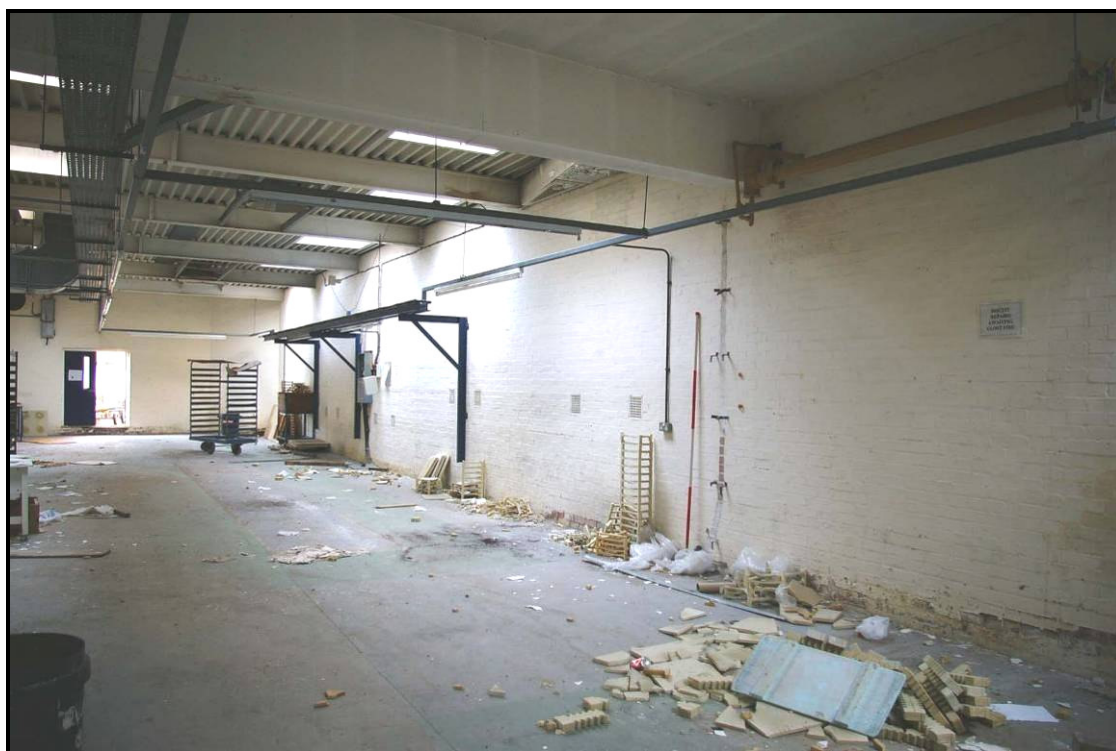


Figure 29: Inside Building P, looking south



Figure 30: Glost kiln on Building P, looking north

5.10 Building T: New South Range

This is a fairly modern and quite tall steel-and-reinforced concrete framed building that is continued as a bridge across the central lane at its eastern end to link it at first floor level with the west wall of Building W1. It is ten bays long and three bays wide. It measures 35 metres long, 15 metres wide and 12 metres high.

On the ground floor of the south elevation there are large full-width three-light windows in each bay above brick dado panels. The upper section is faced with corrugated sheeting. The roof is also sheeted and is gabled with a blank-sided flat-roof at the apex.

This range was built in 1947, on the site of the kiln house associated with the older adjacent buildings to the north and west (Buildings S and R) but no traces of those survive within its current fabric which is of limited architectural or historical merit.



Figure 31: South elevation of Building T



Figure 32: Ground floor of Building T, looking west



Figure 33: First floor of Building T, looking west



Figure 34: First floor of Building T, looking south

5.11 Building U: Men Painters Range

This is a long three-storey, eleven-bay, range close to the south-western corner of the factory that has clearly been raised. Its visible side wall has pilasters only up to the level of the third floor and there is a distinct horizontal break in the type of brickwork at that level. The ground and first floors brickwork is of a reddish yellow machine-made brick, whilst the top section is of a pale red machine-made brick. Its overall dimensions are 34 metres long, 8 metres wide and 13 metres high.

The ground and first floor window openings are full-width between the pilasters topped by concrete lintels and fitted with brick sills. The glazing is of 'Crittal' type steel framing and mostly original. In the second floor, the windows are three-light casements set regularly into the brickwork with concrete lintels and sills.

Evidence for the raising of the range is also clear in the gable ends. These have three windows at first floor level and coped asymmetric gables for the raised northlight roof which is supported by light-weight steel trusses. The roof is made of corrugated asbestos sheeting and has a continuous translucent skylight on the western side. The northern part of the ground floor contains electric kilns, whilst the southern portion is for storage. The upper floors appear to be single open spaces used for further storage or warehousing. At the southern end there is a small single-storey brick extension with flat roof.

This range was erected in 1937, which consisted on the two storeys of seven bays with a canted southern wall. In 1948 the building was extended southwards with a single-storey structure. Such a structure was heightened in 1960, matching the rest of the range. Finally, in 1970 the entire range was raised by one storey. The range is of limited architectural or historical merit.



Figure 35: East elevation of Building U



Figure 36: South and east elevations of Building U



Figure 37: West elevation of Building U



Figure 38: Ground floor of Building U, looking south



Figure 39: First floor of Building U, looking south



Figure 40: Second floor of Building U, looking south-west

5.12 Building V: Moulding Shops

Sited at the extreme south-western end of the factory complex, the Moulding Shops are two connected single-storey ranges of the same or similar dates. It measures 37 metres long, 11.5 metres wide and 5.5 metres high. The larger, southern, section is a steel-framed structure of seven bays with large bay-length steel-framed three-light 'Crittall' type windows with concrete sills above brick dado infills. At the south end of the east wall a doorway has been created in an original window opening and the adjacent window has been blocked.

This portion is three bays wide; the south gable end is completely blank and the truss is integral to the end framing. There is a standard three light window in the return at the northern end of this section to the narrower northern section. The light-weight steel trusses of the roof have been re-clad in modern sheeting in recent years.

The northern section has a steel framed northern gable but there is little evidence of framing in the visible eastern side wall, which is faced with machine-made bricks laid to a Flemish Garden Wall bond. This elevation contains four windows with concrete lintels and brick sills – the middle two larger than those at either end and all fitted with 'Crittall' type glazing.

There are double doors in the north gable and the metal roof is supported on light-weight steel trusses.

The range was built in the late 1940s and appears in the 1948 plan of the Works. The building is of no architectural significance and of little historical importance.



Figure 41: North elevation of Building V



Figure 42: East elevation of Building V



Figure 43: Inside Building V, looking north



Figure 44: Inside Building V, looking west

5.13 Building W1: Plate Shop and Colour Shop West Range

Building W1 is a three-bay wide four-storey high steel-framed and concrete structure with asbestos sheeted sides and continuous bands of glazing at each floor level. It is topped by three parallel saw-toothed roof with continuous skylights on the northern sides. The roof is supported on lightweight steel-framed trusses integral to the main framing of the building. It measures approximately 20 metres long, 20 metres wide and 18.15 metres high. The building is situated along the central lane on the southern end of the Works, next to W2 and Y, and south of the southern gable ends of K2 and K3. On the west elevation there is a brick lift shaft and on the north elevation a bridge made of steel and asbestos sheeting which connects to Building K3. Internally there are large workshops and mould storage areas. This building was erected in 1959 and its current footprint appears in the 1963 Ordnance Survey map. Its modern date and construction are of little architectural or historical significance.



Figure 45: The south gate of the Works with Buildings W1 in the background



Figure 46: First floor of Building W1, looking east

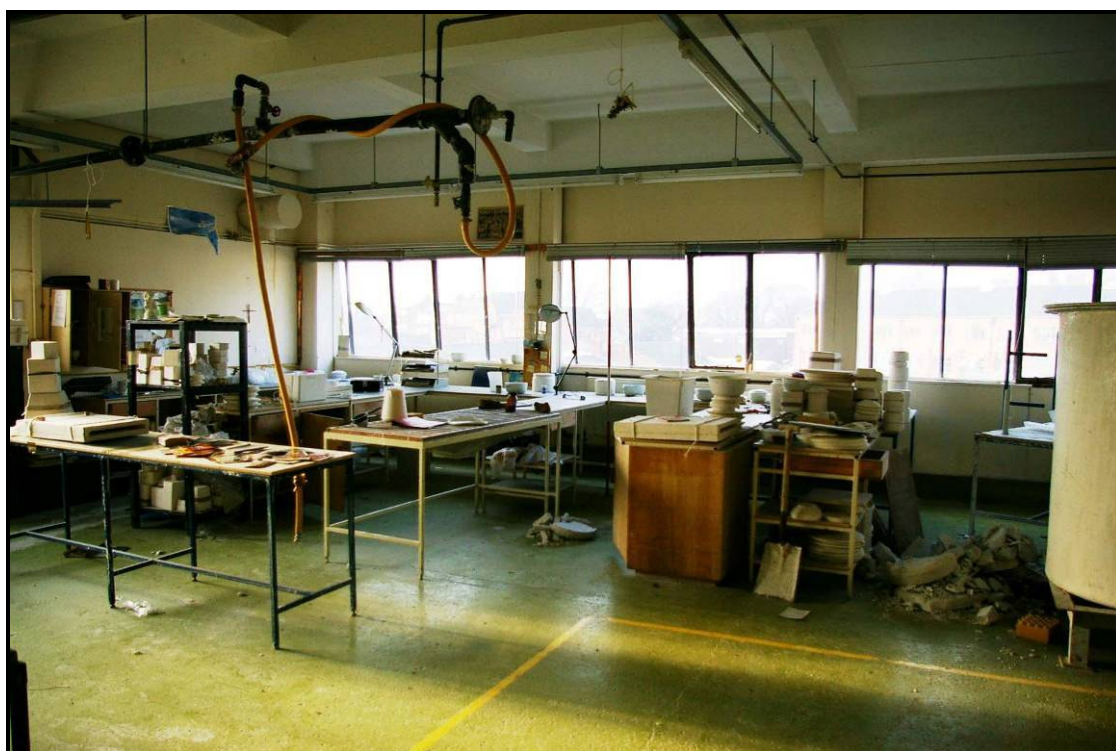


Figure 47: Second floor of Building W1, looking south



Figure 48: Third floor of Building W1, looking north

5.14 Building W2: Plate Shop and Colour Shop East Range

The later Eastern Range is shorter than the Western Range. It is situated east of Building W1 and was built as an extension. It is also steel-framed but the sheeting is different and the windows on the three floor levels are individual rather than continuous. It has a shallow-pitched plain gabled roof. It measures approximately 20 metres long, 18 metres wide and 12.8 metres high. This range was built in 1984 and is of little architectural or historical significance.

Between the east elevation and the canal there is a rectangular (north/south) single-story breeze block structure which measures 12 metres long, 6 metres wide and 3.35 metres high. It has a flat roof covered with felt membrane and a concrete floor. On the east elevation there are five wooden louvre vents with concrete lintels. The historic research identified that this structure was built as an alternator house in 1972 but internally there are electric equipments stored on tall shelves.

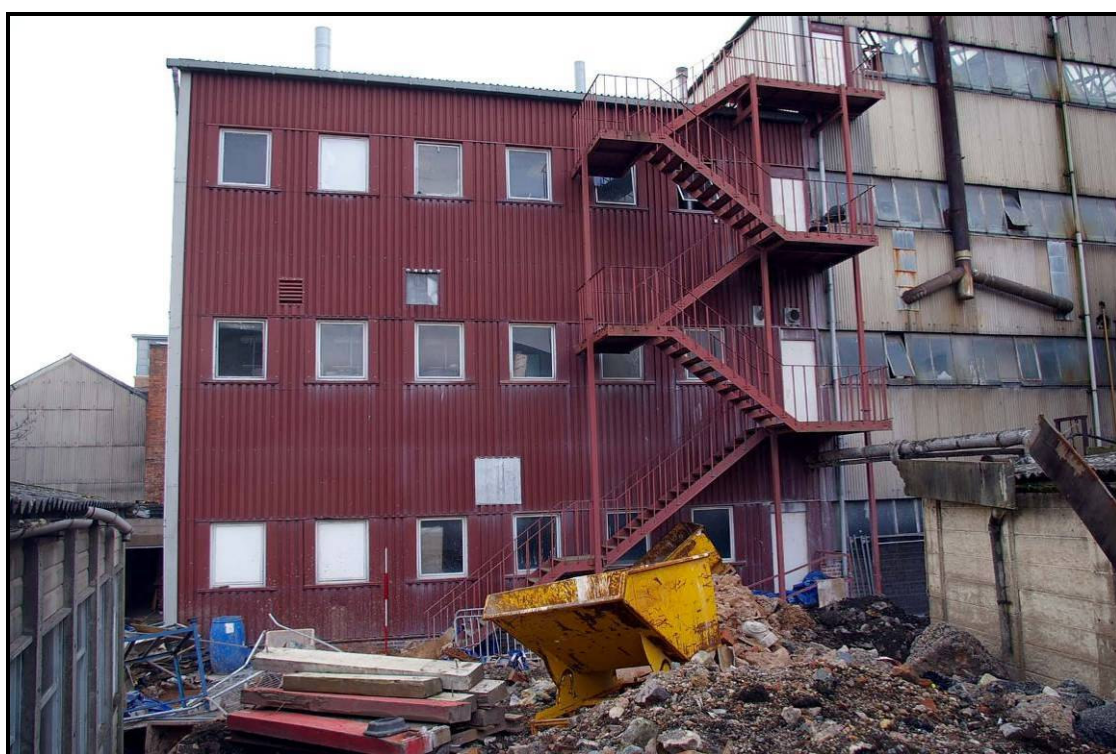


Figure 49: North elevation of Building W2



Figure 50: Ground floor of Building W2, looking north-east



Figure 51: First floor of Building W2, looking south



Figure 52: Second floor of Building W2, looking west



Figure 53: East elevation of eastern block of W2, looking north

5.15 Building X: The Mould Store

Immediately next to the Gatehouse Range (Building X1), and alongside the western side of the entrance into the Works, is a long and low single-storey building known as the Mould Store. It measures approximately 15 metres long, 5 metres wide and 3.5 metres high. It is a seven-and-a-half bay steel-framed structure with stretcher bond machine-made red brick infill panels. In the eastern side wall, in all but the northernmost half-bay, there are large three-light steel-framed windows.

The plain gabled roof has light-weight steel trusses integral to the main framing and is covered in asbestos cement corrugated sheeting with a long plastic skylight on the eastern side. The inside consists of the mould store.

This is a fairly modern range built sometime in the 1930s. It is not shown on the 1931 plan of the Works but is already included on the 1940 Ordnance Survey map. Nevertheless, it is of little or no architectural merit or historical interest.



Figure 54: East elevation of Building X

5.16 Building X1: The Gatehouse

The Gatehouse is a small single-storey block flanking the western side of the southern entrance into the site and at the southern end of the Mould Store (Building X). It is built of brick laid to Flemish Garden Wall bond and has a pedestrian doorway on the street with a segmental brick head and a three-light flat-headed window to the west. The southern elevation is topped with blue engineering saddle-back capping bricks which serves as a parapet for its shallow half-pitched roof.

This little range has been considerably altered since it was built, probably in the early 20th century. It is not shown on the 1886 Ordnance Survey map, nor on the 1902 edition; it is however, shown on the 1928 version.



Figure 55: South elevation of Building X1

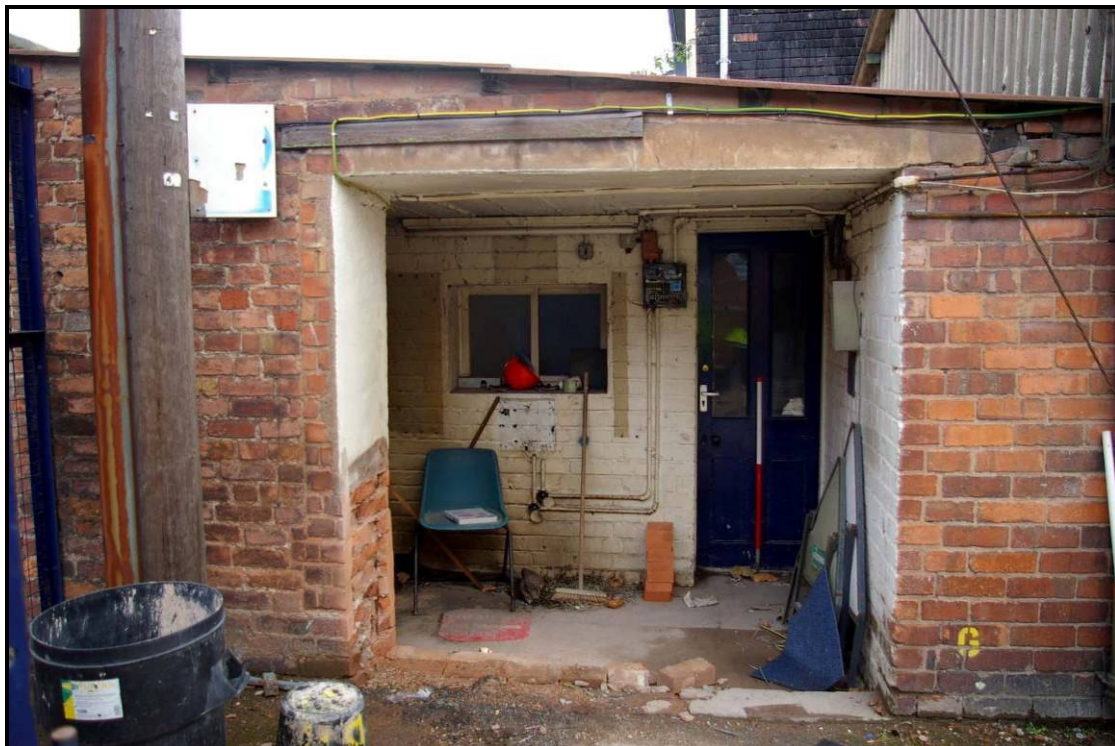


Figure 56: East elevation of Building X1

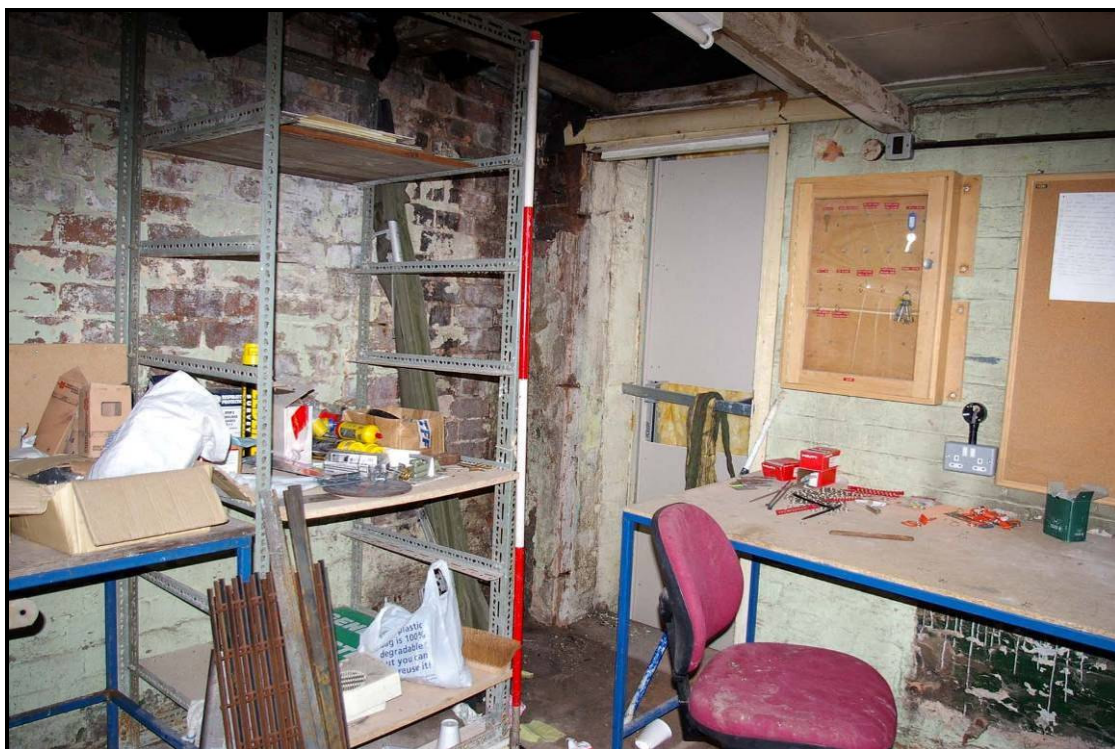


Figure 57: Inside Building X1, looking north-west

5.17 Building Y: The South-Eastern Workshop (western section)

The south-eastern portion of the site is covered by a series of undistinguished brick and steel-framed sheds mainly of early to mid 20th century date. The western section (Building Y) is now covered by a pair of gabled roofs and has twin brick gables facing the main entrance drive into the site from the south gate on Mill Street. It measures 22 metres long, 20 metres wide, the northern gabled block is 6.3 metres high and the southern is 6.1 metres high. The northern block is made of bricks laid to English bond whereas the southern is laid mainly to stretcher bond. Both have windows and there is a doorway on the northern block. The roofs are made of steel sheeting and the northern block has a large glazing skylight. Internally there are small rooms with workshops.

This range has been altered since it was built, but most of the southern block was built in 1929 (although it incorporated earlier structures). The northern parallel block was erected in 1937.



Figure 58: West elevation of Building Y



Figure 59: West elevation of the northern block of Building Y

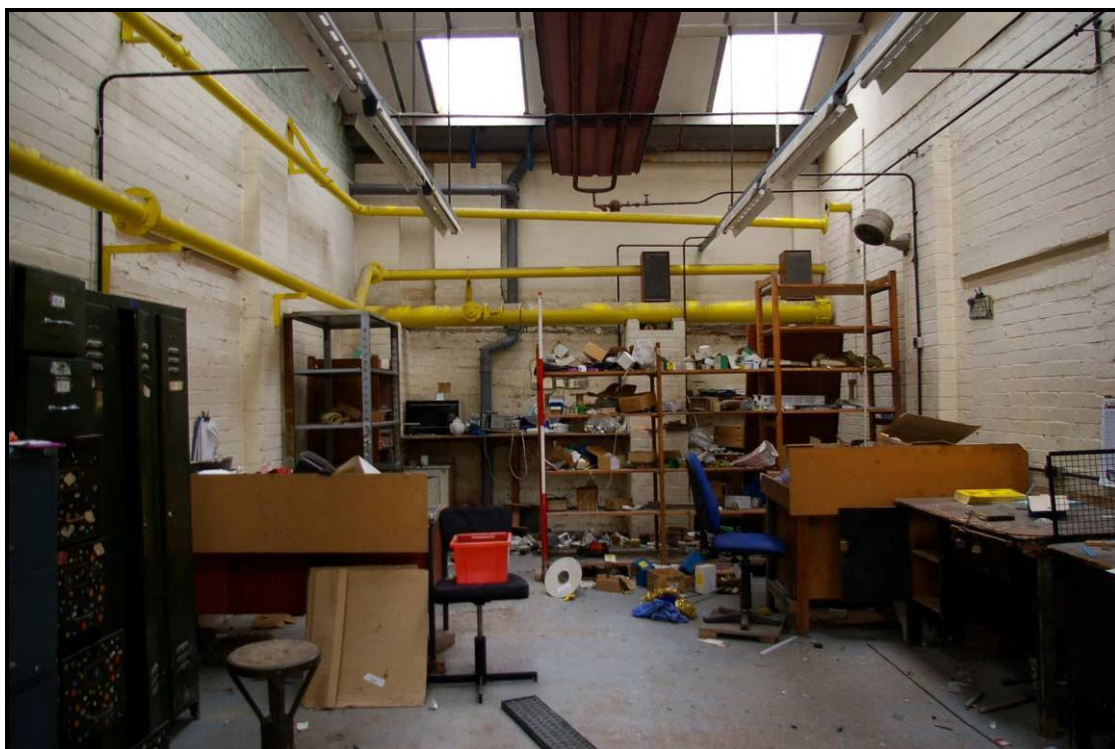


Figure 60: Electric components room of the southern block of Building Y, looking south

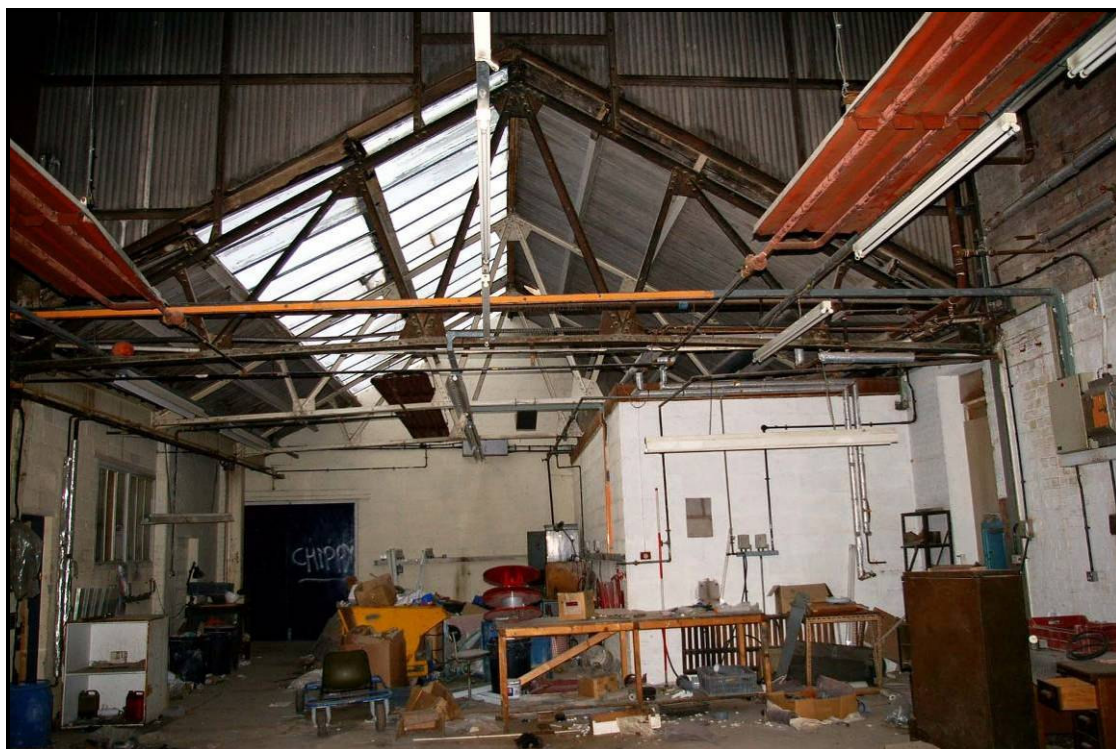


Figure 61: Northern block of Building Y, looking west

5.18 Building Z: South-Eastern Workshop (eastern section)

The eastern section is made up of the much altered remains of two gabled buildings running east/west and aligned with the blocks of Building Y. The northern one measures 18 metres long, 10 metres wide and 10.3 metres high. It is made of steel with corrugated asbestos sheeting and has two large skylights on the southern half-pitch. The southern block has approximately the same length and width but it is 6.7 metres high. Its eastern elevation has the remains of an earlier single-story gable with pilasters and cornice with moulded dentilled brickwork. Although this wall has been extended upright and is painted, the gabled shape is still visible. Internally this structure seems to have more surviving early features such as the timber roof structure which consists of four Queen-post trusses which carry five tiers of trencled side purlins (two on the northern side and three on the other). The straining beams, Queen posts and upper end of principal rafters are reinforced with metal straps. The structure is supported by later RSJ stanchions and externally is covered with slate topped by tile ridge, although the western end has been modified with asbestos sheeting. The roof space has currently a mezzanine floor which is access from a straight timber staircase situated on the western end. These early remains have been recorded at level C and are included in the report number 20 under the New Mould Shed (Buildings Y and Z). There is a third building at right-angles along the canal side which is made partly of bricks and partly of steel frame with asbestos sheeting panels. It has a pitched roof with a continuous glazed skylight on the western half-pitch. It measures 15 metres long, 7 metres wide and 9.8 metres high. Its southern gabled wall projects upright from the Mill Street boundary wall.

Apart from the remains of an earlier gable and roof structure, which date to 1875, these ranges are of little or no architectural or historical significance. They were built in 1937 and have been considerably altered on several occasions in their relatively short history.



Figure 62: Ghost gable on the east elevation of the early phase of Building Z



Figure 63: East elevation of the eastern block of Building Z



Figure 64: The eastern block, looking south



Figure 65: Inside Building Z, looking east



Figure 66: Mezzanine floor of Building Z with collar-beam trusses

5.19 Shed 1

This is a long and narrow single-storey brick-built shed situated south of Building T and is a lean-to attached to the southern boundary wall of the Works. It measures approximately 20 metres long, 3 metres wide and 2.8 metres high. It has a low half-pitched roof made of corrugated asbestos sheeting, a concrete floor, two iron sliding doors and the walls are made of machine-made mid reddish brown bricks laid to a Flemish Garden Wall bond. Internally the shed is divided into two rooms by a brick partition. The lower section of the south wall might have been part of an earlier boundary wall of the Works. This shed was built in the 1930s as it does not appear on the 1931 plan of the Works but it is shown on the 1940 Ordnance Survey map.



Figure 67: North elevation of Shed 1



Figure 68: Inside Shed 1, looking east

5.20 Shed 2

Shed 2 is also situated south of Building T and immediately west of Shed 1. This too has a low half-pitched corrugated asbestos roof but with the reverse angle, sloping down towards the boundary wall. It measures 9 metres long, 4 metres wide and 2.8 metres high. It is made of pale reddish brown bricks laid to a Flemish bond and the north wall has a large weather board panel with windows and a central doorway. This is a workshop which has carpentry machinery inside. This shed was probably built in the first quarter of the 20th Century as it appears on the 1928 Ordnance Survey map.



Figure 69: North elevation of Shed 2



Figure 70: Inside Shed 2, looking north-west

5.21 Shed 3

This is a single-storey building situated between Building U and Shed 2. It measures 8 metres long, 5 metres wide and 2.4 metres high. The walls are made of orangey bricks laid to a Flemish Garden Wall bond, it has a concrete floor and the roof is made of slates topped with semi-circular tile ridge and supported by timber trusses. There is a skylight on the western half-pitch. There is a doorway on the north elevation with concrete lintel and the west elevation has three large window openings with projecting brick sills and the windows have wooden frames and glazing bars. It contains paint tins, bricks and wooden boards. This shed was also built in the 1930s as it does not appear on the 1931 plan of the Works but it is shown on the 1940 Ordnance Survey map.



Figure 71: North elevation of Shed 3



Figure 72: West elevation of Shed 3

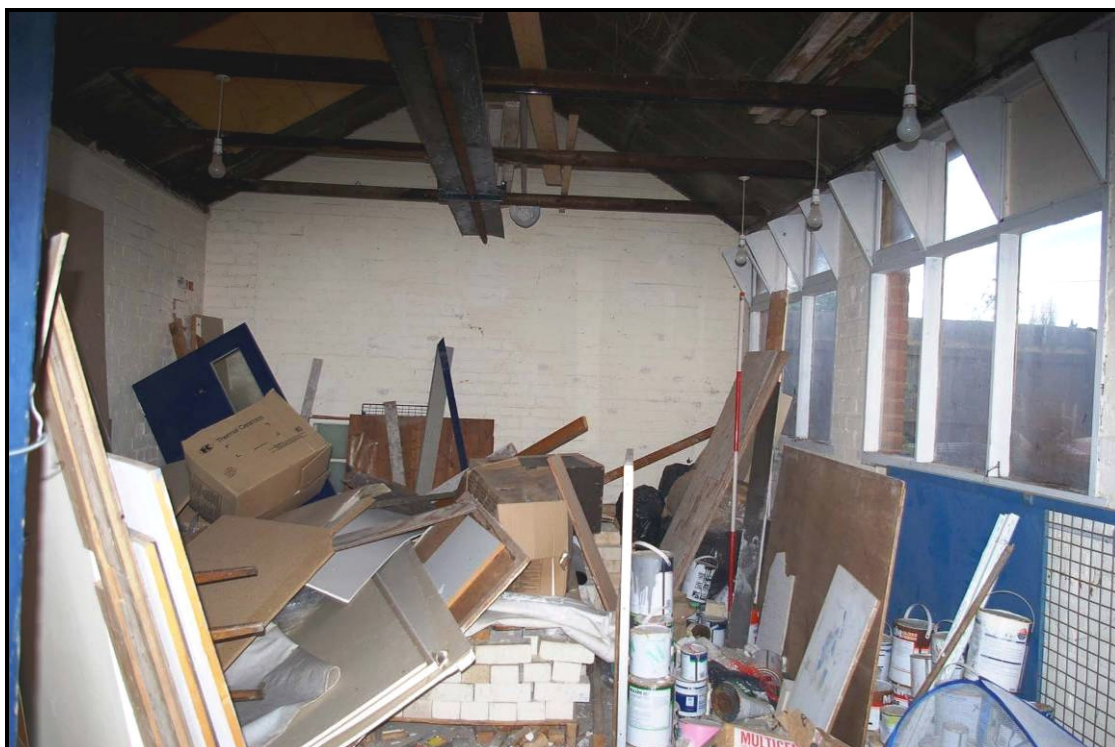


Figure 73: Inside Shed 3, looking south

5.22 Shed 4

This is a small lean-to structure situated at the back of a house in Mill Street which is opposite the northern end of Building V. It measures 3 metres long, 2 metres wide and 3.2 metres high. It is made of yellowish bricks laid to stretcher bond and it has a window on its west wall. This shed was probably built in the 1950s or early 1960s as it appears in the 1963 Ordnance Survey map.



Figure 74: West elevation of Shed 4

5.23 Shed 5

Shed 5 is situated on the south-west corner of Building T and opposite Shed 2. It measures 4 metres long, 4 metres wide and 2.58 metres high. It is made of pale reddish brown bricks laid to a Flemish Garden Wall bond. It has a flat roof supported by RSJ beams, a concrete floor and the south wall has a wide opening topped with a concrete lintel over a wooden double door. Internally there is a large tank. This shed was probably built in the 1950s or early 1960s as it appears in the 1963 Ordnance Survey map.



Figure 75: Shed 5, looking north-east

5.24 Shed 6

This shed is the Acid Shop which is situated opposite the south elevation of Building Q. It measures 11 metres long, 4 metres wide and 4 metres high. On the west elevation there is a chimney stack made of bricks which measures 7.15 metres high. The walls are made of bricks and weather boards like Shed 2 but the windows have a continuous projecting blue engineering brick sill. It has a half-pitch roof made of corrugated asbestos sheeting supported by timber trusses. The floor is made of blue engineering bricks laid on bed to stretcher bond. There are two doorways, one on the eastern wall and another on the north elevation. The former is accessed from three concrete steps and has a concrete lintel and threshold; the latter has large glazing lights. Internally it is divided into two rooms by a brick partition with a doorway and the rooms have large sinks. The sinks were used for dipping plates into hydrofluoric acid as part of etching process. This shed was built in 1950.

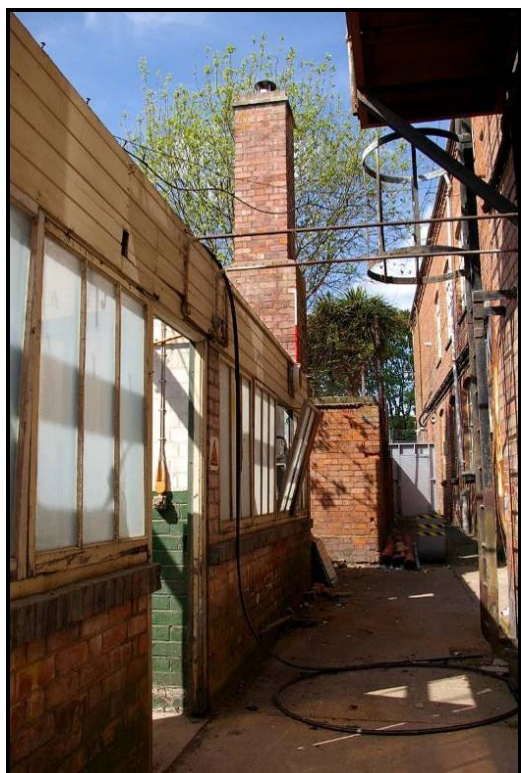


Figure 76: Shed 6, looking west



Figure 77: Chimney of Shed 6, looking south



Figure 78: North elevation of Shed 6



Figure 79: Inside Shed 6, looking west

5.25 Mill Street Boundary

The southern boundary wall is composed by the south elevations of Buildings Y and Z in Mill Street. This wall has been repaired and re-built considerably and consists of several types of bricks. However, the majority of the wall of Building Z seems to be genuine and may date to the 1870s where it is exhibited on the 1875 plan of the Works which also shows a gate roughly where the current gate lies. The original fabric is of dark reddish brown hand-made bricks laid to Flemish Garden Wall bond. There are five blocked windows with concrete lintels which are later insertions but they might have replaced earlier fabrics. The wall of Building Y is made of pinkish machine-cut bricks laid to Flemish Garden Wall bond. On the west end, there is a brick pillar which although it may have its original coping stone, the bricks are machine-cut of modern date and the whole structure is built over a concrete platform. The whole wall is topped with ridge tiles except for the eastern end which has an additional gabled block built over the boundary wall.



Figure 80: South wall of Building Y (left) and early phase of Building Z (right)



Figure 81: South wall of early phase of Building Z



Figure 82: Eastern end of south wall of Building Z with later eastern block built over it

5.26 Canal Boundary

The canal side has sections of walls added to the original construction of the early 19th century. It was difficult to survey it due to a great amount of vegetation including Japanese knotweed. The additional walls are made of bricks of great diversity of which the northern section is the most notable example. The northern section is approximately 4 metres high and is topped with half round blue engineering brick capping. There are clear signs of repairing and re-building which might have occurred during the late 19th century. An historic photograph shows the repairing of the canal wall in the northern section, just before the Sidbury Bridge (Figure 88). It is difficult to date the majority of the added walls but most of them were probably built in the mid 20th century as the Works used the canal side for transportation of material in long-boats. A photograph taken around 1906 confirms it (Figure 89).



Figure 83: South end of the canal wall



Figure 84: General view of the canal wall, looking south



Figure 85: The canal wall between Buildings D (south) and C (north)



Figure 86: The canal wall enclosing the northern car park of the Works



Figure 87: Northern end of the canal wall with repaired section



Figure 88: Repairing the canal wall during the late 19th century (courtesy of Worcester City Museum)

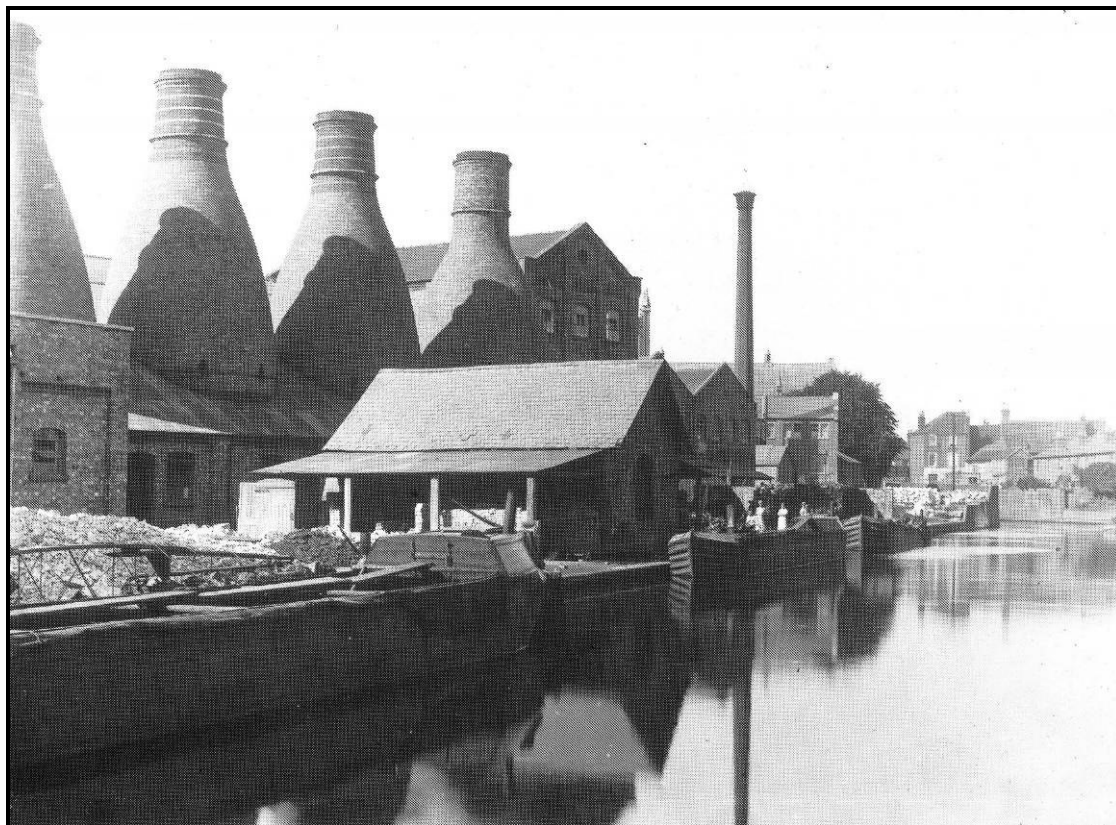


Figure 89: The canal side at the Works around 1906 (WPM)



Figure 90: North end of the canal wall viewed from the car park



Figure 91: Japanese knotweed on the canal wall east of Building F



Figure 92: The canal wall on the east of Building K1



Figure 93: The canal wall on the east of Building W2

5.27 St Peter's Street Boundary

The northernmost section of the boundary wall on St Peter's Street is made of yellowish bricks laid to Flemish bond and is approximately 1.5 metres high. The wall has a thin concrete coping. The southern section is mainly made of dark reddish brown bricks laid to Flemish Garden Wall bond with two string courses of blue engineering bricks making an elegant copping. It measures approximately 2 metres high. In the middle of this southern section, there is a blocked doorway facing towards King Street. The doorway is set in a projecting bay higher than the wall which joins the walls with rounded copings resembling a Dutch gable. The doorway would have led into the Old Vicarage yard. This section of the wall seems to be original and is shown on the 1884 Ordnance Survey map.



Figure 94: North end of boundary wall on St Peter's Street



Figure 95: Car park boundary wall on St Peter's Street



Figure 96: Former doorway to the Old Vicarage yard on St Peter's Street

5.28 King Street Boundary

The boundary wall on King Street is made of machine-made reddish bricks laid to Flemish bond copped with blue engineering double bullnose bricks. It is approximately 1.7 metres high, has a steel double gate supported by two brick piers and extends c. 30 metres westward from the gate to the west end of the Old School. The present fabric is of modern date and of no historical importance.



Figure 97: The northern gate to the Work's car park on King Street



Figure 98: The northern gate viewed from the car park



Figure 99: Boundary wall along King Street viewed from the Old School

5.29 The maintenance block (Building J eastern extension)

This building is a small two-storey brick block situated next to the east elevation of Building J, facing the central lane of the Works. It measures 7 metres long, 5 metres wide and 6.5 metres high. The ground floor is an electrical sub-station and the first floor has two offices. The east elevation has two large openings under a large concrete lintel on the ground floor and three 'Crittall-type' windows with concrete lintels and projecting brick sills on the first floor. The block is made of red bricks. It has concrete floors and a flat concrete roof covered with felt. On the north elevation there is an external straight staircase which enables access to the first floor through a doorway. There is a small window under the staircase on the ground floor and another one on the first floor. The window is consistent with the types on the east elevation. On the first floor of the south elevation there are two window openings which are now blocked with bricks. Internally the ground floor was not accessible and thus it was not observed. The first floor is divided into two rooms by a light-weight stud with a doorway in the middle. This block was built in 1952.



Figure 100: The maintenance block, looking south-west



Figure 101: Staircase on the north elevation



Figure 102: South elevation showing blocked windows



Figure 103: First floor of the maintenance block, looking east

6 Conclusion

This report deals with an archaeological investigation and recording of Buildings A1, A2, C1, F, I, L, L1, O, P, T, U, V, W1, W2, X, X1, Y, Z, six outbuildings (sheds 1-6), the boundary walls of the Severn Street site of the Royal Worcester Porcelain Work and the maintenance block (Building J eastern extension). The buildings were recorded at level B (English Heritage level 2) which consisted of basic photographs and written description of the buildings. The results indicate that the majority of these buildings were built in the mid twentieth century and purely utilitarian in nature, having little or no aesthetic or architectural value. Their intrinsic interest as buildings relating to the porcelain manufacturing industry on the site has been noted and discussed in a series of reports by John van Laun and Wendy Cook dealing with the documentary history and industrial archaeology of the site, and this document should be considered alongside these reports.

7 Archive deposition

The project archive, consisting of scaled drawings, digital photographs, photographic records, building recording sheets and computer discs will be prepared and stored in accordance with the guidelines laid down in the Institute of Field Archaeologists' guidelines for the preparation and storage of archives. The archive will be placed at Worcester City Museum.

The archive of the entire project consists of:

- 41 Building record sheets
- 7 Context register sheets
- 208 Photographic records
- 3495 Digital photographs
- 30 35mm colour prints
- 14 Computer discs
- 10 Drawing register sheets
- 240 Scaled drawings

The photographic record consists of 392 digital images recorded on *pro-forma* index sheets and plotted on 10 plans. The on-site optical survey comprises 35 scaled drawings at 1:50, 1:20, 1:10 and 1:5.

8 Publication and dissemination proposals

Paper copies of this report will be lodged with the Archaeological Adviser to Worcester City Council, Worcester Sites and Monuments Record and Worcester City Library. A short note on the project will be prepared for publication.

CDs of this report, together with the supporting archival material will be available from Archenfield Archaeology Ltd. Information will also be available on OASIS, after completion of the report and an OASIS form (<http://.ads.ahds.ac.uk>)

The complete photographic record and database will be retained by Archenfield Archaeology Ltd and a digital copy will be included in the archive.

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