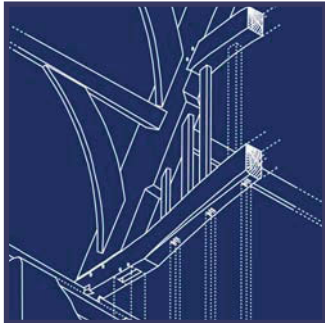


Cannop Foundry  
Cinderford  
Gloucestershire



**Historic Building Survey**



June 2007

**Client: Allodium Properties Ltd**

Issue N<sup>o</sup>: 1  
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# Cannop Foundry, Valley Road, Cinderford, Gloucestershire

## *HISTORIC BUILDING ASSESSMENT AND RECORDING*

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# CANNOP FOUNDRY, CINDERFORD, FOREST OF DEAN, GLOUCESTERSHIRE

## HISTORIC BUILDING ASSESSMENT AND RECORDING

### SUMMARY

*On April 25th 2007, Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out a programme of building assessment and recording at Cannop Foundry, Valley Road, Cinderford, Forest of Dean, Gloucestershire (NGR: SO 650 138). The work was commissioned in advance of the proposed redevelopment of the site, which will involve demolition of all the former foundry buildings. The site was originally constructed for the "The Bilson Gas Light Co." in the 1880s before being vacated in the 1940s and Cannop Foundry acquiring the site in 1957.*

*There are eight buildings surviving, some of which have acquired major extensions during the life of the foundry. They range from small stores to very large brick and stone built workshops, of which three were originally part of the earlier gasworks. One of the workshops was constructed using coursed limestone blocks for the first 3 m of height with later brick courses added to increase the height and rebuild the gables. The second workshop was built using only brick with a series of 20 round topped windows along the top of each side. The larger workshops display signs of continuous adaptation and alteration over their working life. Their original roofs have been replaced with steel roof trusses and asbestos sheeting, probably during the same time as the extensions were added.*

*The majority of the extensions and the wooden sectional stores were added in the 1960s and 1970s.*

## 1 INTRODUCTION

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### 1.1 Background

1.1.1 Oxford Archaeology (OA) has been commissioned by Allodium Properties Ltd to undertake a programme of rapid historic building assessment and recording at Cannop Foundry, Valley Road, Cinderford, Forest of Dean, Gloucestershire (NGR: SO 650 138) (Figures 1 & 2). The work relates to the proposed redevelopment of the site including demolition of the foundry buildings and construction of new dwellings.

### 1.2 Methodology

1.2.1 The recording programme consisted of three main elements: a drawn survey, a photographic survey and a written survey. The drawn survey (Figure 2) consisted of a site plan based on a pre-existing survey made when the foundry was still in operation. This was annotated to show which buildings were still standing and the identification numbers assigned to them for the purposes of this survey.



- 1.2.2 The photographic survey used 35 mm film (colour slide and black and white prints) and selected digital photographs, and consisted of general views and specific details (external). Where possible the interior of the buildings were photographed, however the size of the buildings and low level of illumination available meant that this was not possible in all cases.
- 1.2.3 The written survey complemented the other surveys and consisted of descriptive notes to explain and interpret the buildings. The site work was undertaken entirely before the start of any demolition/development works.
- 1.2.4 The site work was undertaken on the 25th of April 2007. A project archive will be ordered and deposited with Gloucestershire Museum Services (or other agreed body). It will include all site drawings, photographs (contact sheets), slides, photographic negatives, a copy of this report and other site notes. A copy of this report will also be deposited with the Gloucestershire Sites and Monuments Record or other appropriate body.

## 2 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1.1 The site of the Cannop Foundry was originally occupied by the “Bilson Gaslight and Coke Co Ltd” and was built in 1859-60. The buildings were constructed by Messrs Rosser and Son of London and in September 1860 the new works began supplying gas to a series of industrial and domestic customers. In 1907 the company was reformed as the “Cinderford Gas Company Ltd” and in 1948 was absorbed into the nationalised industry. Seven years later it was closed as a town gasworks, although the large holders continued in use until the 1960s.
- 2.1.2 The site was occupied by the Cannop Foundry in 1957, where it continued in use as a foundry until the beginning of the 21st century. During this latter period of it’s working life a number of modern extensions were constructed adjacent to the original buildings.

## 2.2 Map Regression Analysis

### *Archaeological background*

A request to the Gloucestershire SMR provided OA with all SMR data within a 500m radius of the Site. This data is listed in Table 1. The SMR data provides no evidence for any pre medieval activity within the Site or surrounding area.

Table 1: SMR Data

<b><i>SMR Number</i></b>	<b><i>Description</i></b>	<b><i>Grid Reference</i></b>
4363	19th-20th century Foxes Bridge Colliery, (also known as Crabtreehill Colliery) and railway incline, Crabtreehill Inclosure, Cinderford Also the probable site of Crabtree coal pit, mentioned in 1656	364000 213500
5686	Post medieval St Annal's Ironstone Mine (1849-1886) and associated Tramroad, Littledean Hill, Cinderford. Red oxide for the paint industry was also mined here	366360 214340





5702	Severn and Wye Railway (disused), from Lydney to Lydbrook, with docks branch and a mineral loop. (Cookson terrace is a Grade II Listed Building).	361650 207950
5704	Forest of Dean Railway, a branch of the South Wales Railway laid on the course of the former Forest of Dean tramroad, and subsequently taken over by the GWR.	368870 210340
5705	Forest of Dean Tramroad (also known as the Bullo Pill Tramroad), from Bullo Pill to Churchway Engine with a branch to Whimsey (C19).	368870 210340
5849	Post medieval and modern gas works, known as Bilson Gas Works. Established 1857 and vacated in the 1940's. Located W of Cinderford	365090 213938
9983	Post-medieval Crump Meadow Colliery which was sunk in 1824 and closed in 1929, and associated Tramroad, Cinderford	363870 213970
12340	Site of post-medieval Bilson Colliery, located at Bilson Green on the east side of the Cinderford Brook, Cinderford	364920 214000
16224	Post medieval lime kiln, located north east of Bilson Colliery, on Bilson Green, Cinderford	364960 214081
16657	Modern archaeological assessment of Cinderford Linear Park, located to the west of Cinderford	364970 212480
17385	Post medieval colliery, known as Haywood Colliery with associated shaft and spoil heap, and post medieval tramway to rail sidings in Holly Hill Wood. Located at the north of Bilson Green, Cinderford	365580 214550
17387	Post medieval brickworks, colliery known as Paragon Coal Pits and tramroad, located on Bilson Green, Cinderford.	365310 214290
17391	Post-medieval Spero Colliery, Cinderford	356200 214240
17392	Post medieval colliery, known as Leather Coal Pit. Located near Bilson Green, Cinderford	365336 214047
20428	Post medieval canal, known as the Cinderford Canal. Dating to the 1790's and located west of Cinderford	364770 214370

The earliest viewed map of the area is the 1856 Tithe Map of East Dean (Cinderford), which shows no evidence of any structure within the Site. The Bilson Gas Works is said to have been erected by 1860 (Currie, 1996, 307), and is clearly shown on the 1st Edition Ordnance Survey (OS) Map of 1881. The Gas Works buildings are shown intact until the Provisional OS edition of 1955, which is the year the company closed (*Ibid*, 380). In 1957 the Bilson Gas Works premises were taken over to house the business which were transferred that year from the original Cannop Foundry (Hart, 1971, 165), and the foundry was still operational in 1992 (Currie, 1996, 349).

#### References

Currie, C. R. J. (ed), 1996, *Victoria County History of Gloucestershire, Volume 4 The Forest of Dean* London

Hart, C, 1971, *The Industrial History of Dean*, David & Charles: Newton Abbot



### 3 DESCRIPTION

#### 3.1 Introduction

3.1.1 The site lies adjacent to B4227 Valley Road on the western edge of the town of Cinderford (Fig. 1). The site occupies approximately 0.8 of an hectare and comprises a central group of large buildings with a number of smaller buildings around the edges of the site. At the time of the survey the foundry had ceased to be in production and the internal fixtures had been recently removed. The current site appears to have been arranged for road vehicle access only with no evidence of a rail link.

3.1.2 Fifteen surviving buildings or main phases of construction were identified and are described below in numerical order. The numbers which are included on the site plan (Fig. 2) have been allocated by OA purely for identification purposes and bear no relation to the significance of the buildings. Following the description for each building there is a short paragraph discussing the building's significance. Photographic plates referred to in the text appear together at the end of the report.

3.1.3 The survey covered both the exteriors and the interiors of the buildings. Where possible the interiors have been described because this has afforded a greater understanding of the buildings structure, function and present condition.

#### 3.2 Building Descriptions

##### 3.2.1 Building 1: Woodworking shop and wood store (C Store)

**Dimensions:** 11 m by 4.6 m

**Description:** This was simple rectangular structure constructed of red brick laid using a "bastard" English bond (garden wall bond), with gabled ends and a slate roof. Single double doored entrance in the eastern gable spanned by a flat brick arch. Two windows were located in each side with a large window located centrally in the western gable. The building was divided crossways into 2 equal halves with a brick partition wall, which was keyed into the side walls suggesting that it was part of the original construction. The presence of large amounts of sawdust and woodshavings on the floor suggest that this building was used as a woodworking shop for making patterns, with dried wood being stored in the rafters.

This building is visible in a photograph dating from the late 50s suggesting that it was part of the original gasworks infrastructure.

**Map evidence:** Shown on the 1902 OS 25-inch map

**Significance:** One of the few surviving buildings from the Bilson Gasworks, the Desk Based Assessment (DBA) has shown that it was constructed in 1889 as a meter house. On the 1902 map it is shown sited between two small gasometers.

### **Building 2: Office/ Reception**

*Dimensions:* 7.1 m x 4.8 m

*Description:* Single storey wooden “chalet” style construction using wavy edged wooden planking over a wooden frame. Gabled roof covered with roofing felt. Two doorways in the western side leading into 2 equal sized offices. Windows only in western and southern faces, north and east sides blank

*Map evidence:* A building is shown in this position on the 1955 OS map and also in the 1978 OS map.

*Significance:* The 1950s photograph of the foundry shows a building labelled “Office” just off the edge of the photograph and it is possible it is this building. It’s style of construction suggests that it was constructed in the post-war period and it is probable that it was built to serve the foundry very soon after the take-over of the gasworks yard. It’s simple wooden construction, suggests that it may possibly have been purchased “off the shelf”.

### 3.2.2 **Building 3; Pattern Store (D Store)**

*Dimensions:* 11.2 m x 6.2 m

*Description:* Single storey wooden sectional building constructed using weather boarding over a wooden frame. Wooden floor with central aisle reinforced with steel plate. Gabled roof covered with roofing felt. The sides consist of 6 equal sized bays with a window in each, ends have a single sliding door centrally placed.

*Map evidence:* Not shown on the 1955 OS map but appears on the 1978 map

*Significance:* A sectional building, identical to those observed on MOD sites dating to the Second World War. This building is not visible on the 1960s photograph, and was possibly bought second-hand and re-erected on site. Probably used as a pattern store. The steel plating may have been laid to enable fork lift trucks and wheeled trolleys to enter the building.

### 3.2.3 **Building 4: Tea Hut**

*Dimensions:* 6.1 m x 2.8 m

*Description:* Standard unaltered “Port-a-Cabin”. Constructed using man-made sheet material over a wood and steel frame, flat roofed.

*Map evidence:* Not shown on any of the OS maps.

*Significance:* Not visible on the 1950’s photograph. Probably bought second-hand and used as a workmans canteen.

### 3.2.4 **Building 5: Pattern Store (B Store)**

*Dimensions:* 13.2 m x 6.4 m



**Description:** Single storey wooden sectional building constructed using weather boarding over a wooden frame. Wooden floor with no evidence for reinforcing with steel plate. Gabled roof covered with roofing felt. The sides consist of 6 equal sized bays with a window in each, ends have a single sliding door centrally placed.

**Map evidence:** Not shown on the 1955 OS map but appears on the 1978 map

**Significance:** A similar building to number 3, again construction appears identical to those observed on MOD sites which may indicate a similar origin. A notice found pinned up on the wall showing allocated storage areas for specific customers patterns confirm that this building was used as a pattern store. This building was not visible on the 1950s photograph suggesting that it was a later addition.

### 3.2.5 **Building 6: Ex Gasworks Building**

**Dimensions:** 18.1 m X 8.8 m

**Description:** Long rectangular building with extensions 1, 2 and 3 attached to the north, east and south faces respectively. The bottom 3 m height of the west wall and the south and north gables was constructed using roughly coursed squared sandstone blocks bonded with lime mortar. The eastern wall and the remaining height of the west wall and the gable ends were constructed in brick using English stretcher bond and lime mortar, the bricks measuring 0.236 m x 0.115 m x 0.086 m. The eastern brick wall has 3 original window openings and 2 doorways still visible on the ground floor, while the west wall has 3 small doorways and a larger doorway visible within the stonework. Both the west and east wall had small square windows visible in the upper half of the walls.

The current roof is constructed using steel framing supporting corrugated asbestos sheeting suggesting that the building may have been reroofed during the lifetime. The floor within the building is composed of concrete and is clear and level. There is a large inserted doorway in the north gable leading Extension 1 and a second inserted doorway in the south gable leading into Extension 3.

**Map evidence:** Shown on the 1881 OS map

**Significance:** The use of stone within much of the base of this building suggests that it may be part of the original gasworks structures. Descriptions taken from the desk top assessment for this site show that this was the original Retort House for the gasworks, downgraded to a coal store when the new Retort House, Building 7, was constructed in 1911. The brick additions may have been added at a later date, possibly during the construction of Building 7. This building appears to have been used for the preparation of the moulds using mould boxes from Extension 1 and patterns bought in from the storage sheds.

### **Building 7: Ex Gasworks Building**

**Dimensions:** 22.2 m X 11.2 m

**Description:** Long rectangular building built adjacent to the western side of Building 6 (leaving an approximate 1 m gap between the 2 buildings). The walls were divided into 4 bays and were constructed of plain red brick measuring 0.237 m x 0.113 m x 0.076 m laid in English stretcher bond. Later work has inserted extra brick piers/buttresses in the centre of each bay which run from floor to the eaves. The end gables were also constructed using plain red brick laid in English stretcher bond, but with blue engineering brick embellishment including parapets along the top edge of the gable. The ground floor of the building was constructed using concrete with a raised platform built along the northern end of the building. The base of the walls contain two large doorways located towards the southern end of the building and 2 smaller doorways located towards the northern end. The southern gable wall has been severely rebuilt leaving a large opening, almost the width of the building, leading into Extension 4 while the northern gable has had a small doorway inserted into the north-east corner leading into Extension 7. Within the upper part of the west and east walls a total of 20 round topped windows each side (5 to each bay) are visible, although all windows had been bricked up at the time of recording (although the blocking appears to have happened during the lifetime of the foundry rather than recently suggested by the fact that the later inserted brick piers run over the central window in each bay.). The doorways in the eastern wall of the building correspond with those in the western wall of Building 6. The gap between the two buildings has been blocked either side, and above, these doorways leaving 1.5 m long passageways running between the buildings.

The roof is constructed using angle iron trusses and ties covered with corrugated asbestos sheeting. The roof profile continues into Extension 4 suggesting that the building had been reroofed during the construction of Extension 4.

A single square chimney was visible on the exterior of the northern gable in the 1950s photograph, its absence during the recording of the standing structures suggests that it had been demolished during the working period of the foundry.

During the removal of the internal metal fittings of the foundry for scrap the north-west corner of this building had been damaged leaving the top of the wall leaning outwards and a large crack in the face of the gable.

**Map evidence:** Shown on the 1922 OS map

**Significance:** This building probably dates from the original use of the site as a gasworks, the presence of the row of windows along the tops of the walls may have been to allow the heat and gases from the banks of ovens to pass out. The desk based assessment showed that this building was constructed as a Retort House in 1911.



During the use of the site as a foundry, this building (together with Extension 4) appears to have been used as the casting floor for the production of iron and steel castings. The raised platform at the northern end of the building may have supported the furnace/ cupola used during the casting. Its height above the casting floor would have facilitated pouring the metal into the moulds.

### 3.2.6 **Building 8: Weighbridge**

*Dimensions:* 3.23 m x 1.83 m

*Description:* This is a single storey building constructed in plain red brick (measuring 0.237 m x 0.110 m x 0.063 m) using stretcher bond. Built with a single pitched roof of corrugated iron. The northern side of the building has a single large window overlooking the weighbridge platform while the southern side has a doorway located in the south-west. Adjacent to the northern side of the building is a cast iron platform 5 m long by 2.4 m wide. The western end of this platform bears the inscription “ 1926 To weigh 20 ton”.

*Map evidence:* This building is not shown on the 1955 OS map suggesting that it post dates the closure of the gasworks.

*Significance:* This weighbridge probably relates to the operation of the foundry, since during the use of the site as a gasworks both the coal input and coke output would have probably been carried by rail (A tramway link is shown on the 1881 1st edition OS map running into the western side of the yard). The date on the plate may indicate that the mechanism was reused from another site.

### 3.2.7 **Building 9a: Transformer, Sub Station Building**

*Dimensions:* 9.6 m x 4.2 m

*Description:* Small single storey brick block butting the north-west corner of Building 7. Constructed using red brick measuring 0.215 m x 0.115 m x 0.067 m with a single pitched corrugated asbestos roof. Two sets of doorways, a double solid door in the north-east corner and a set of double louvered doors in the south-west corner of the building. At the time of recording the doors were locked, however the presence of the louvered doors is indicative of electrical switchgear.

*Map evidence:* Not shown on the 1955 OS map but appears on the 1978 map

*Significance:* This building is not shown on the 1947 plan of the gasworks and appears to be of late 1950s construction, suggesting that they are part of the adaptation of the site by the foundry.

### 3.2.8 **Building 9b: Toilet and Offices**

*Dimensions:* 8 m x 4.6 m

*Description:* Small single storey brick block adjacent to the north-west end of Building 9a. Constructed of plain red brick measuring 0.215 m x 0.115 m x

0.067 m with a double pitched corrugated asbestos roof. The building is divided internally into 2 equal halves by a brick wall running across the building. There were single doors and either end of the building and a row of windows running down each wall. There is an “L” shaped concrete wall around the northern doorway, which together with a roof mounted tank visible in the 1950s photograph suggest that the building was originally constructed as a toilet block. At the time of recording the roof mounted tank had been removed together with any associated internal fittings. The northern half of the building contained many boxes of files suggesting that it was used as an archive/storage, while the southern half contains an electrical transformer.

**Map evidence:** Not shown on the 1955 OS map but appears on the 1978 map

**Significance:** The construction and brick size is very similar to Building 9a and Extension 6 and it is probable that they all relate to the same phase of construction.

### 3.2.9 **Extension 1: Mould Box Store**

**Dimensions:** 7.8 m x 6.1 m

**Description:** A modern steel framed building with breeze block infilled walls to a height of 1 m and sheet metal cladding above the remainder. This structure butts up to the northern gable of Building 6 and is accessed by a large doorway inserted into the north gable, a second access with a sliding metal door was built into the eastern wall. The size of the doorways and the presence of a substantial concrete floor indicates that forklift trucks were used within this area. This structure is not shown on the 1950's photograph and is a probable late addition to Building 6.

**Map evidence:** Not shown on the 1955 OS map but appears on the 1978 map.

**Significance:** The presence of stacks of mould boxes within this extension suggests that it was used for the storage of unused mould boxes, moving them into Building 6 when required.

### 3.2.10 **Extension 2: Office, Stores, Drying Room, Showers and Toilets**

**Dimensions:** 30 m x 5.1m

**Description:** A single storey “lean to” type extension attached to the eastern wall of Building 6. Constructed using a steel frame with the walls filled in using a single skin of breeze blocks to a height of 1.2 m with corrugated asbestos sheets used for the remainder. The single pitch roof was built using corrugated asbestos sheeting. Internally the space has been sub-divided into 6 distinct areas. Immediately inside the entrance there is an open area, further to the south are 2 separate rooms, the first was constructed using wooden framing and plywood sides, this appears to be an office. The second room was constructed using breeze blocks and appears to be a combined storeroom and



electrical workshop. The extension is divided into two by a brick wall at this point, with a doorway in the western side of the wall. Passing through this doorway leads into a shower room, with 4 shower cubicles built against the eastern wall. To the south of the showers there is a changing room with lockers and cupboards, while to the south of this are the toilets and urinals. A door in the southern wall of the extension leads into the rear yard of the foundry.

**Map evidence:** Not shown on the 1955 OS map but appears on the 1978 map.

**Significance:** This extension is shown on the 1950s photograph of the foundry and may have been constructed soon after the reuse of the gasworks as a foundry.

### 3.2.11 **Extension 3: Fettling Floor**

**Dimensions:** 22 m x 8.8 m

**Description:** A modern steel framed building butting up to the southern gable of Building 6 and constructed onto the side of Extension 4. The walls are constructed using concrete breeze blocks and the roof is a single pitch constructed of asbestos sheeting over steel bracing. The floor of the building is concrete. Constructed within the north-eastern corner of the extension is a single storey wooden framed room 3 m x 3 m. This has a single door in its western side and windows in its southern side overlooking the interior of extension. A large opening has been inserted into the south gable of Building 6 to allow access with fork lift trucks, while in the southern end of the extension a roller door has been fitted.

**Map evidence:** Not shown on the 1955 OS map but appears on the 1978 map.

**Significance:** The presence of large amounts of grinding debris and notices regarding the safety of grinding wheels suggest that this extension was used as a “fettling” floor, ie, for removal of the castings from the moulds and “fettling” (cleaning the casting sprue, flash and any remaining sand from the castings) the finished castings.

### 3.2.12 **Extension 4: Moulding Floor**

**Dimensions:** 21.4 m x 11.2 m

**Description:** A steel framed structure butting onto the south gable of Building 7. The walls are constructed of breeze block infill up to a height of 2 m with sheet steel cladding over the remainder. The roof is double pitched using corrugated asbestos sheeting over steel bracing. The profile of the roof is continued over both the extension and Building 7 with no visible joint suggesting that Building 7 may have been reroofed during the same phase of construction as Extension 4. A very large opening, almost the full width of the building has been inserted into the south gable of Building 7. The southern gable of the extension contains a large roller shutter door. A small doorway in the north-west corner of the extension leads into Extension 5.



*Map evidence:* Not shown on the 1955 OS map but appears on the 1978 map.

*Significance:* A large structure of modern construction built during the life of the foundry. It was probably used to provide extra area for the moulding floor.

### 3.2.13 **Extension 5: Aluminium Casting Shop**

*Dimensions:* 22 m x 10 m

*Description:* A steel framed building butting up to the western side of Extension 4. The walls are clad externally with sheet metal, while the internal walls are clad with a composite material up to a height of 2 m. The roof is single pitched and constructed of corrugated asbestos sheeting over steel bracing. A small doorway in the north-east corner of the extension leads into Extension 4, while the southern gable contains a large roller shutter door. Several large apertures were also visible in the southern end of the extension suggesting that equipment (probably ventilation/fume removal ducting) had been removed. The northern end of the extension is plain with no openings. The floor is a single concrete slab. The presence of waste crucibles with aluminium debris, and the presence of a gas fired retort also containing aluminium shows that this area had been used for casting aluminium separate from the iron casting floor in Building 7 and Extension 4.

*Map evidence:* Not shown on the 1955 OS map but appears on the 1978 map.

*Significance:* Late twentieth century prefabricated building of no historical importance.

### 3.2.14 **Extension 6: Compressor Room**

*Dimensions:* 8.8 m x 2.6 m

*Description:* Single storey brick built extension backing onto the western side of Building 7. Constructed with a single pitched roof of corrugated asbestos sheeting with a set of solid double doors at each end of the western wall. The walls are constructed of a single brick skin laid using flemish bond and cement mortar. The brick size is 0.215 m x 0.115 m x 0.067 m which together with it appearing to share part of its roof with Building 9a suggests that it is probably contemporary with Buildings 9a and 9b. The building is windowless but contains a large electric air compressor and a transformer.

*Map evidence:* Not shown on the 1955 OS map but appears on the 1978 map.

*Significance:* This structure can be seen on the 1950s photograph, it is probable that its utilitarian construction suggests that it may date to the late 1950s and be part of the same phase of activity as Buildings 9a and 9b.

### 3.2.15 **Extension 7: Moulding Room**

*Dimensions:* 8 m x 7.4 m



**Description:** An irregularly shaped single storey structure butting up to the northern gable of Building 7. The east and west walls are a single brick skin of plain red bricks measuring 0.218 m x 103 m x 65 m, laid using flemish bond and lime mortar. The north wall is almost wholly taken up with a pair of large doors constructed using corrugated iron over a steel frame. The roof is single pitched and uses a mixture of corrugated asbestos sheeting and clear plastic.

The interior of the structure is a single level of concrete floor with a set of steps leading up to a doorway in the south-east corner of the extension which leads onto the raised platform at the northern end of Building 7. There are a series of benches built up against the north wall of Building 7 together with a large mixer which may have been used for mixing moulding sand. The presence of a storage area for CO<sub>2</sub> bottles (used to fix the moulding sand) suggests that this area may have been used for the preparation of sand moulds.

**Map evidence:** Not shown on the 1955 OS map but appears on the 1978 map.

**Significance:** This structure is not present on the 1950s photograph of the site suggesting that it was constructed during the life of the foundry. The small brick size may be a peculiarity of local manufacture.

## 4 CONCLUSION

### 4.1 Summary of buildings

4.1.1 Of the eight identified surviving buildings and seven extensions on the site only three, Buildings 1, 6 and 7, can be safely identified as being part of the earlier gasworks industry. Based on their construction Buildings 9a and 9b and Extension 6 may date from the 1950s period however there is no conclusive evidence. The majority of the buildings and extensions probably date from the working period of the foundry and were added as and when needed.

4.1.2 The buildings are constructed using a mixture of brick, stone and wood, while the extensions (except Extensions 6 and 7) are of modern steel framed construction.

4.1.3 The lower walls of Building 5 being constructed of stone suggest that is probably the oldest structure on the site (c1859), with Buildings 1 and 6 being the next (1911 and 1889 respectively).

4.1.4 Most of the buildings are neither unusual or of intrinsic importance in terms of their design or construction and alterations over the life of the buildings has removed evidence of any earlier industrial use.

4.1.5 A number of the buildings are in a poor and neglected condition and Building 7 has now become structurally unsound.

### 4.2 Discussion



- 4.2.1 The site was used as a foundry late in its life with little of relevant historical importance being added to the original structures. Little now survives of the foundry infrastructure worthy of preservation and the main buildings (Buildings 6 and 7) have both been highly altered and poorly maintained. The potential for conversion of these buildings is minimal and the cost of renovation and removal of any contaminated material may make such activity both uneconomic and impractical.

## 5 **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

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Figure 1: Site location



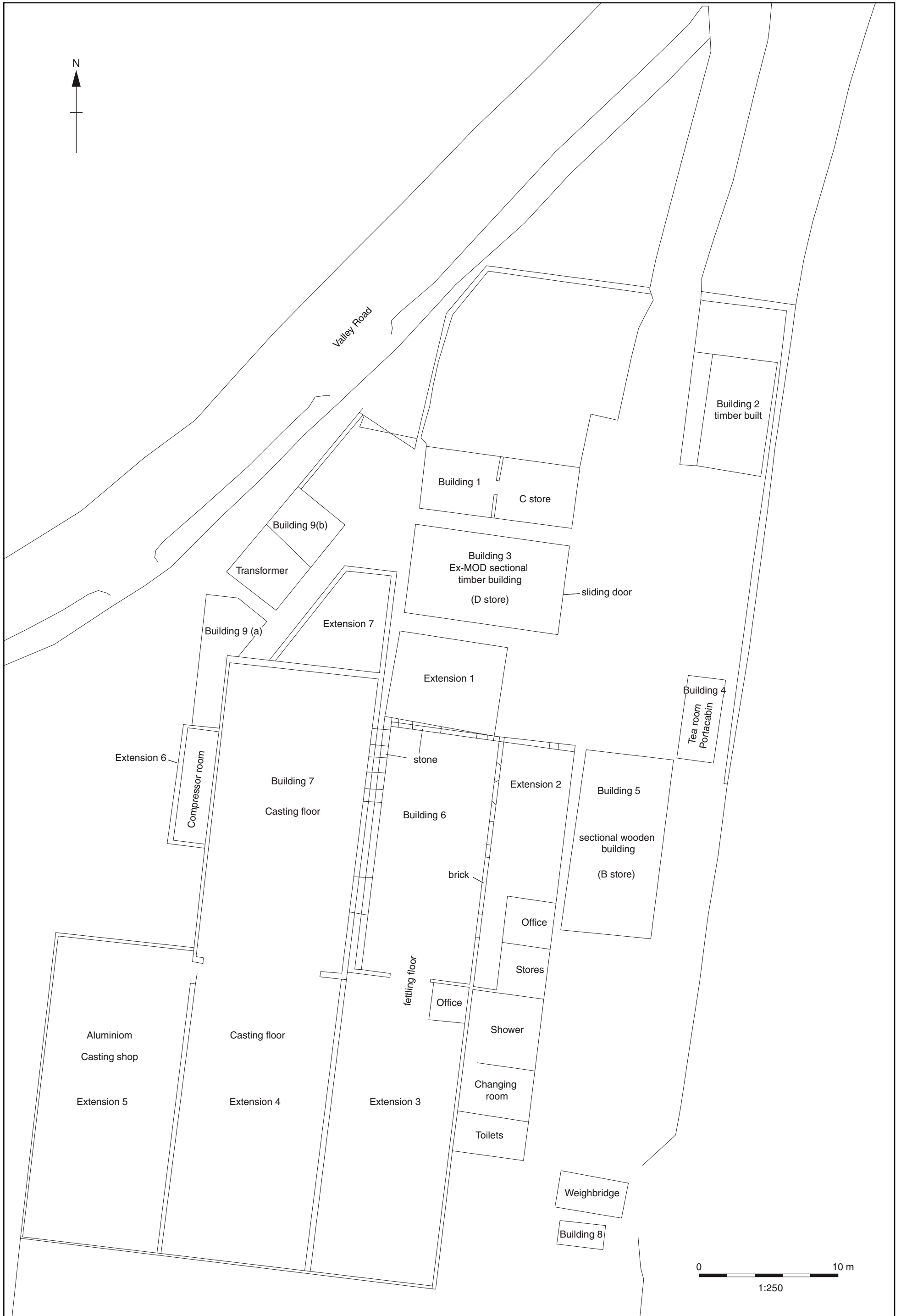


Figure 2: Site plan showing buildings and identification numbers





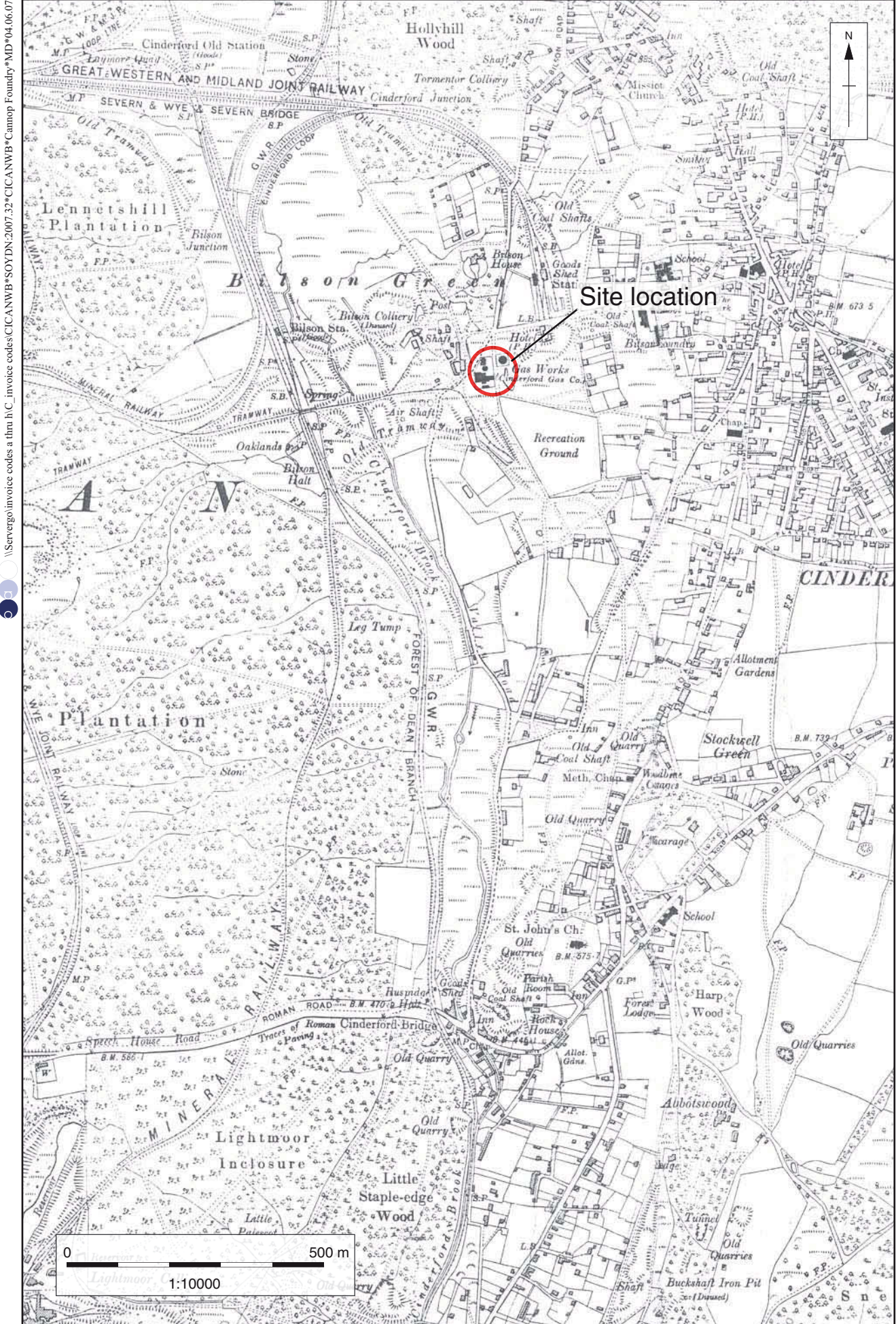


Figure 3: OS 1924 edition map



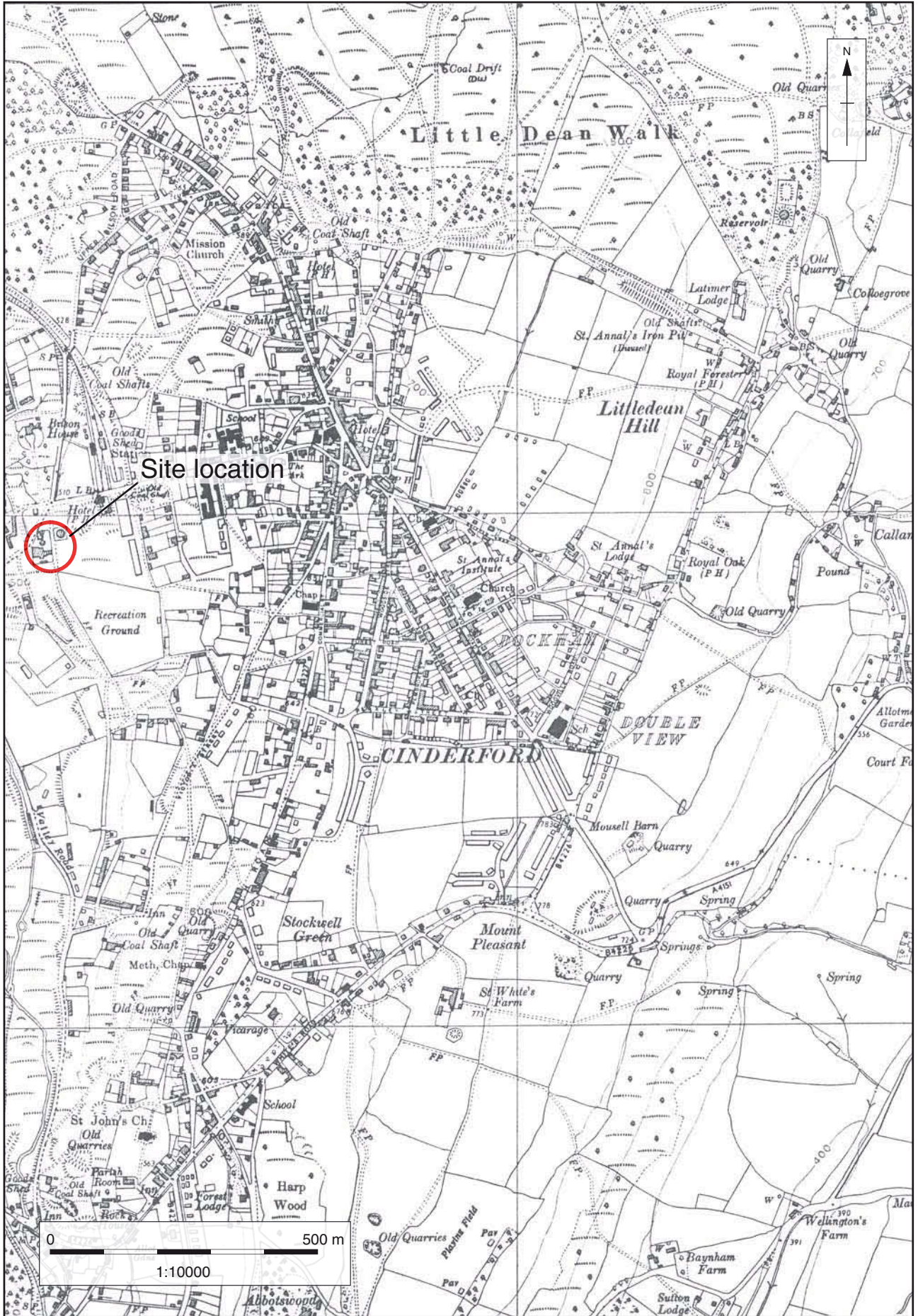


Figure 4: OS 1955 edition map



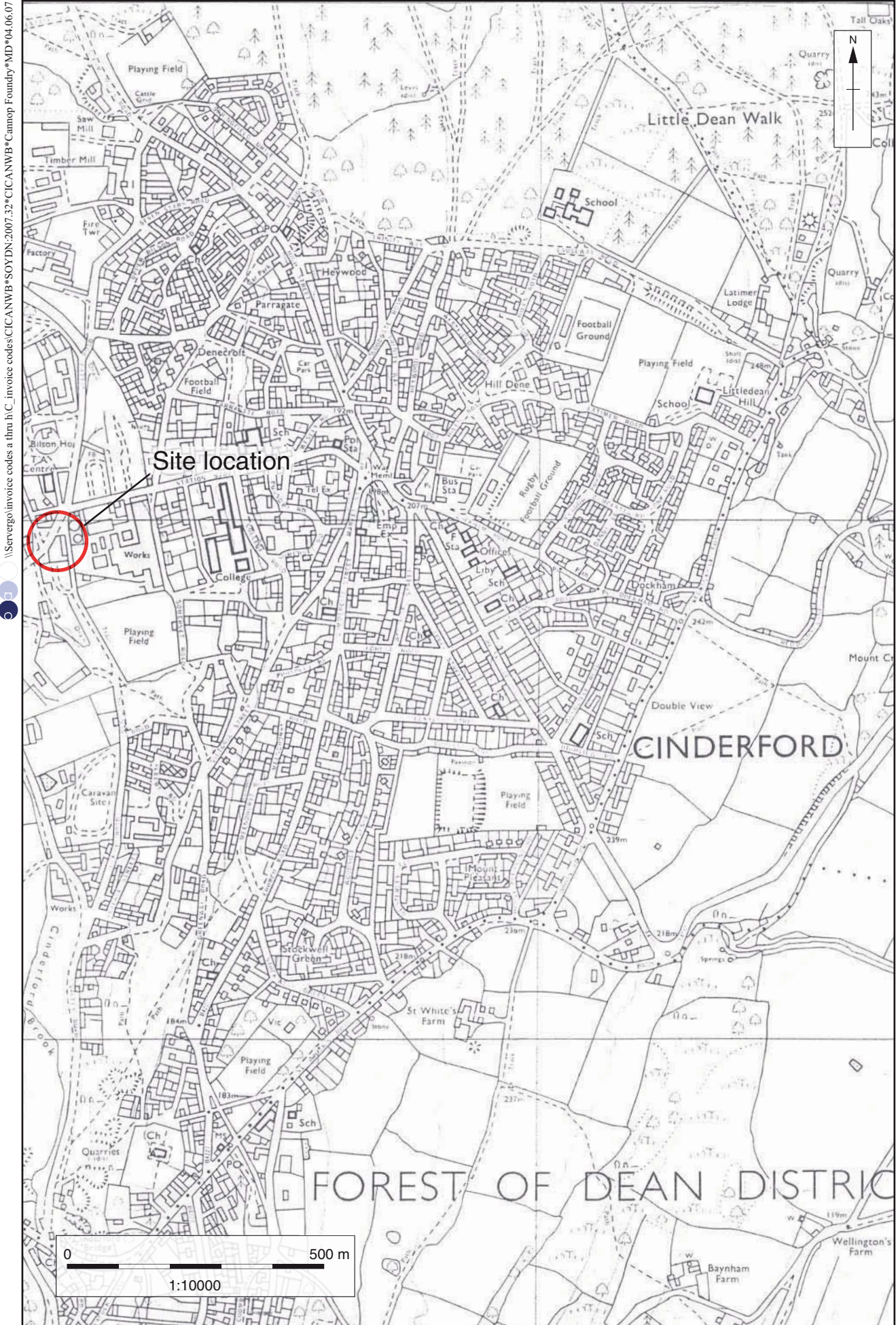


Figure 5: OS 1978 edition map





Plate 1: Cannop Foundry c. 1960



Plate 2: North end of foundry, showing buildings 1, 3, 5, 6 and 7







Plate 3: South end of foundry, showing extension 3, 4 and 5



Plate 4: Building 6, interior





Plate 5: Building 7, interior



Plate 6: Extension 3, interior





Plate 7: Interior of extension 7, showing moulding benches



Plate 8: North-western end of building 7, showing round topped windows







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