BRSMG 2009/44

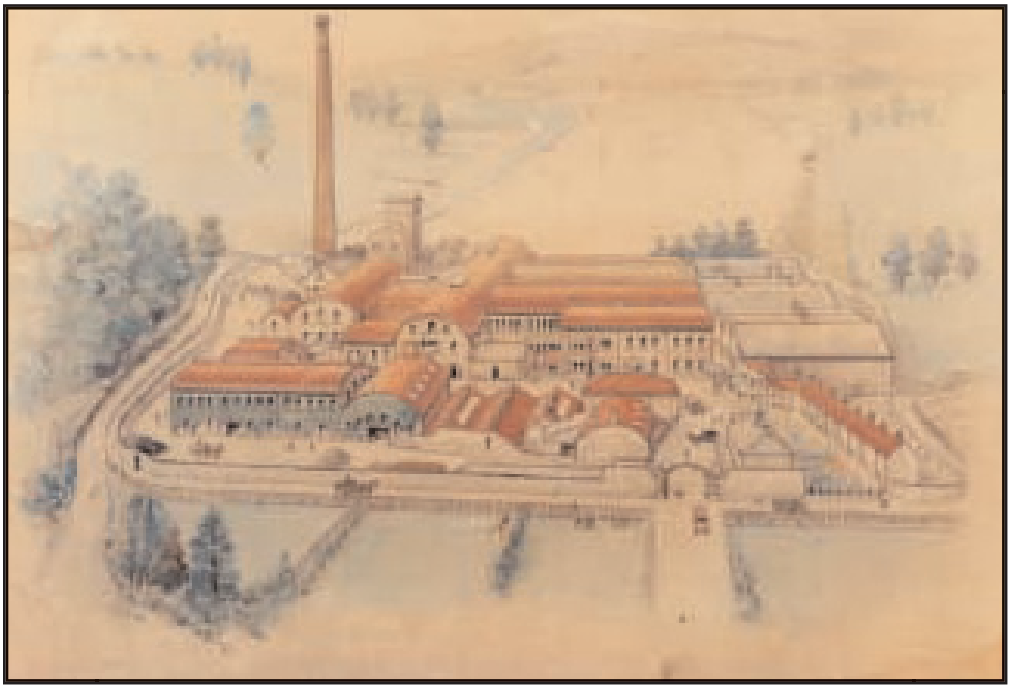
Archaeological Building Survey

of

THE FORMER INTIER WORKS, GOLDEN VALLEY MILLS, MILL LANE, BITTON, SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE.

for

Magna International Developments



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By Simon Roper

Bristol and Region Archaeological Services

St. Nicholas Church, St. Nicholas Street, Bristol, BS1 1UE. Tel: (0117) 903 9010 Fax: (0117) 903 9011

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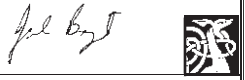
Centred on
N.G.R. ST 6820 6980

Client: Magna International Developments
Agent: Colliers International

Author:	Simon Roper
email:	simon.roper@bristol.gov.uk
Approved by:	John Bryant
Signature:	
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St.Nicholas Church, St.Nicholas Street, Bristol BS1 1UE. Tel: (0117) 903 9010 Fax: (0117) 903 9011
E-mail: info@baras.org.uk
www.baras.org.uk

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Abbreviations

AD	Anno Domini	m	Metre
aOD	Above Ordnance Datum	NGR	National Grid Reference
BaRAS	Bristol & Region Archaeological Services	NMR	National Monuments Record
BC	Before Christ	OS	Ordnance Survey
c.	Circa	SGHER	South Glos. Historic Env. Record
Km	Kilometre		

NOTE
Notwithstanding that Bristol and Region Archaeological Services have taken reasonable care to produce a comprehensive summary of the known and recorded archaeological evidence, no responsibility can be accepted for any omissions of fact or opinion, however caused.

December, 2010.

SUMMARY

Bristol and Region Archaeological Services (BaRAS) were commissioned by Colliers International on behalf of Magna International Developments to undertake a standing building survey and buildings assessment prior to the demolition of the former paper mill and associated buildings at the site of Golden Valley Mill. The site lies north of Bath Road and High Street in the centre of Bitton village, centred on NGR ST 6820 6980. The building recording was commissioned to comply with English Heritage Level 2 and 3 archaeological recording of the existing structures.

The survey of the early mill buildings at the Golden Valley Mills site revealed a number of features relating to the sequence of development of the complex. These in conjunction with map and aerial photographic evidence have allowed a basic phasing of the site to be produced. The entire sequence of phasing for these buildings takes less than a hundred years, with some development occurring in a very short space of time, for example phases 1 to 3 occur between 1876 and 1881.

The recording carried out on the chapel, gatehouse and canteen block, identified a number of external features, and indicated the sequence of some internal changes within the canteen. These buildings were however primarily utilitarian in their function and therefore very few original decorative internal features were identifiable. The building assessment carried out on the buildings which front on to Bath Road found that the majority had very few surviving original internal features and their external appearance was not exceptional for the region. The factory contained a greater number of surviving original features, which ought to be recorded, and where practical those elements that are in good condition could be recovered for re-use.

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

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Plates

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 It is proposed to redevelop the former Intier works at Golden Valley Mills, Mill Lane, Bitton. This is likely to result in removal of most of the historic buildings and all of the modern structures. Bristol and Region Archaeological Services (BaRAS) were commissioned by Colliers International on behalf of Magna International Developments to undertake a standing building survey and assessment prior to the demolition of the existing buildings on site.

1.2 The building recording was commissioned to comply with English Heritage Level 2 and 3 archaeological recording of the existing structures in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by Bristol and Region Archaeological Services (BaRAS 2009) and approved by Mr David Evans, Historic Environment Record Officer, South Gloucestershire Council on the 15th May 2009.

1.3 The fieldwork was undertaken between the 23rd and 27th July 2009, and on 23rd and 24th November 2010 under the supervision of Simon Roper who also compiled this report.

1.4 The project archive will be deposited with Bristol City Museum & Art Gallery under the Accession Number 2009/44 and a copy of the report will be sent to the National Monuments Record maintained by English Heritage. The project has been entered in the South Gloucestershire Historic Environment Record as SGSMR 18919. The OASIS number for this project is bristola1-59528.

2. THE SITE

2.1 The site comprises two parts, the principle area consists of the main Mill site and lies approximately 100m north of Bath Road and High Street in the centre of Bitton village, centred on NGR ST 6820 6980 (**Fig. 1**). To its north and west flows the River Boyd, now contained within a substantial concrete channel. An area of public open space lies to the south-east, and the remains of the former mill pond to the north-east beyond an earth mound. The second area is situated to the south on the Bath Road, consisting of the remnant of a Wesleyan Methodist Chapel, two residential houses, an office block and a factory building

2.2 According to the British Geological Survey, the site lies on alluvial Pleistocene clays over Lower Liassic clay with limestone of the Jurassic period. The site is level and sits at about 16m aOD.

2.3 The site lies within the Bitton Conservation Area. No buildings on the site are DCMS-listed, although two are locally listed (the gatehouse and canteen block). A number of buildings in the village centre are listed structures. Although there are no Scheduled Ancient Monuments on the site, there is one close by, the rectangular earthwork on the west side of Golden Valley Lane, only 50m from the mill buildings.

3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

3.1 As part of the planning process a Desk Based Assessment has been carried out on the history of the site and an Archaeological Watching Brief on a series of Geotechnical Survey works in November and December 2008. A brief summary of the historical background from the Desk Based Assessment follows.

3.2 The study area is situated in the parish of Bitton, which historically formed part of the hundred of Langley & Swineshead, in the county of Gloucestershire.The ancient parish of Bitton historically comprised four tithings, Bitton itself, plus Upton Cheyney, Hanham, and Oldland. Hanham Abbots and Oldland are now separate civil and ecclesiastical parishes. Bitton parish, in addition to the village of Bitton, includes the hamlets of Upton Cheyney, Willsbridge, North Common, Oldland Common and Swineford.

3.3 There is evidence of both prehistoric and Romano-British activity in the vicinity of Bitton. The former is evidenced by the earthwork on Barrow Hill *c.*300m south-west of the study area. The Roman period is represented by the Roman road between *Abonae* (Sea Mills) and *Aquae Sulis* (Bath) the line of which is followed by the modern A431 Bath Road through the village.

3.4 The place-name Bitton means 'farm on the [River] Boyd' (Smith 1964, 75) and is Anglo-Saxon in origin. St Mary's parish church (SMR 1247) has considerable Saxon fabric and was probably a Minster. In 1151 the manor of Bitton, along with other estates, was granted to Robert FitzHarding. In 1287 Robert Harding sold the manor to Robert de Hanham. By the 1320's the manor was owned by Richard Le Blount and the Blount family retained ownership for the next 200 years or so.

3.5 1652 Sir John Newton of Barr's Court was claiming the rights of the manor. Later created a baronet, Sir John Newton died without issue in 1661, and his estates and titles passed to his distant cousin Thomas Newton, Esq. of Hatherthorp (Lincs.), who became the 2nd baron Newton. In 1743 on the death of Sir Michael Newton, 4th baronet, the baronetcy became extinct. His widow, Margaret Countess Coningsby, lived until 1761 when the estate was sold. The Bitton lands were later purchased by the Whittuck family of Hanham Hall.

3.6 By 1761 William Champion, the owner of Warmley brass works, gained new business partners Charles Whittuck of Hanham Hall, Charles Bragge of Cleve Hill, and Norborne Berkeley of Stoke Park. New premises were opened, to augment those at Warmley, including battery mills (known as Bitton Mill) on the River Boyd at Bitton. In March 1769 the works at Warmley, Bitton and Kelston were sold at auction to the Brass Battery, Wire & Copper Company of Bristol. In 1787 *'all the works, mills, estates and utensils'* of the United Brass Battery, Wire & Copper Company of Bristol were sold to a group of Bristol merchants. The new company was named Harfords & Bristol Brass & Copper Company and was valued at £100,000.

3.7 In 1825 Bitton Mill was bought by Thomas Bevan and converted into a paper mill. The paper making process essentially involved boiling rags with bleach and lime before they were shredded into pulp and then pressed and rolled. The 1843 tithe apportionment records that 'Bitton Mill' was then the property of William Bevan. The 1843 tithe map (**Fig. 7**) also depicts the Wesleyan Methodist Chapel within apportionment 37 and another structure within apportionment 37a, the only structures depicted on the southern section of the study area.

3.8 The paper mill burnt down in 1849 and Messrs. Sommerville of Edinburgh purchased the premises and had the works rebuilt and enlarged. Bitton Mill was rebuilt again in 1876 after another fire. Apparently only the machine room survived the fire. By 1881 the paper mill was

known as Golden Valley Mills and it employed some 400 people manufacturing 30-35 tons per week of writing, envelope and Government paper.

3.9 The 1881 ordnance survey plan (**Fig. 8**) depicts a number of structures within the area located on the Bath Road, one of which may be Ash House which is recorded on the 1891 Census return. In addition to the structures a burial ground is depicted on this plan to the west of the Wesleyan Methodist Chapel. The northern portion of the factory building has been constructed by the time of the 1902 ordnance survey plan and is labelled as the Phoenix Foundry (iron), while a northern extension has been added to the Wesleyan Methodist Chapel, this probably being the surviving remnant. The site remains unchanged on the 1912 ordnance survey plan (**Fig. 9**), both Heather House and the office block being constructed after this date.

3.10 William Sommerville sold the mill to the King-Smith family *c.*1900. They lived at Bitton Hill House, which is located some 300m north-west of the study area, overlooking the works. Until 1932 the mills generated the electricity supply to the village. In 1961 the paper mill closed, being bought the following year by Pressed Fibre Limited. The works was then used to manufacture Morris 1100 bucket seats, which were made from moulded wood pulp. By 1968 the site was occupied by British Moulded Fibre (BMF). The site was redeveloped between late 1976 and 1982 to the current layout with a small number of 19th-century mill buildings were retained, including the Old Press and PIM Fibre Shops. New factory buildings were erected on the site of the former millpond. Marley purchased the site in 1985. Magna bought it in 1996 and still retain ownership of the buildings and land. Plastic moulding for interior fittings for the car industry commenced in 1999, although wood fibre moulding continued until 2002. Production ceased on site in 2006.

4. AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

4.1 The fieldwork complied with the methodology contained within the Written Scheme of Investigation (BaRAS 2009) approved by South Gloucestershire Council's Historic Environment Record Officer Mr David Evans on the 15th May 2009. The survey of the buildings of the Mill site and the Wesleyan Methodist Chapel was conducted to English Heritage levels 2 and 3 standard, outlined in their 2006 publication "*Understanding Historic Buildings, A guide To Good Recording Practice*". In addition a buildings assessment was carried out on the factory, office block and residential houses, located on Bath Road.

4.2 The survey comprised comprehensive photographic recording of the whole building with notes and annotated floor plans. The photographic record was created using a conventional SLR camera with monochrome film, supplemented by colour images produced with a digital camera with a resolution of 5 mega-pixels or above. All details of the photographs taken were recorded on a standard BaRAS photographic record sheet.

4.3 The drawn record comprised a series of annotations made to floor plans, produced by Barton Willmore, of the internal layout of each building and floor of the mill buildings. Additional floor plans were made of the remnant of the Wesleyan Methodist Chapel, the canteen block and the gatehouse. The written record comprised detailed notes on the form, construction, probable function of the buildings as a whole and elements within them.

4.4 The aim of the survey was to create a visual record of the buildings prior to their demolition resulting from the proposed development. The survey sought to provide information that will help understand the development history of the buildings, and where possible phase structural changes according to date.

5. RESULTS

Survey

Mill Buildings

5.1 The focus of the first stage of recording was principally upon the Old Press Shop and PIM Fibre Shop buildings. The later buildings, most of which dated from the 1970s, were subject to a less comprehensive photographic survey (**Plates 16 & 17**). A phase plan of the development of the older core of the site (**Fig. 2 & 3**) was produced during the survey.

5.2 The earliest building on the site was believed to be that which forms the south-western part of room 2, as labelled on the Barton Willmore plans, and comprised a ground and first floor. With rubble wall construction, a curved roof (**Plate 1**) and vaulted ground floor ceiling forming the floor of the upper storey (**Plate 2**), a number of blocked first floor windows were identified on the north-east side, indicating that this side of the building would once have been external (**Plate 3**). Part of the south-west wall had been rebuilt with concrete blocks (**Plate 4**), probably at the time of the demolition of the smaller neighbouring building of similar construction visible in aerial photos from 1935 (**Plate 18**) and 1966 (**Plate 19**), the curved topped south-east end elevation of which survived (**Plate 5**). An early photo (**Plate 20**), taken between 1912 and 1935, shows that may of the buildings on the site at this time were of the same construction. A form of curved truss supported the surviving roof.

5.3 A number of cast iron columns were used on the site, three of them to support the first floor of this building, types 2, 3 and 4. Type 2 columns were all located along the north-east edge of the building, measured 152mm (6") in diameter and were 2.82m in height. All were stamped near their base with ' G.K. STOTHERT & CO., BRISTOL, 1905, ENGINEERS' (**Plate 11**). Type 3 formed the middle row of columns (with the exception of the last two at the north-west end), was 140mm (5½") in diameter and 3.17m high, with no stamp (**Plate 12**). Type 4 were located on the south-west side and the north-west end of the middle row, were 152mm (6") in diameter and 3.17m high (**Plate 13**), again with no stamp. The opening at the south-east end of the building is supported by a large modern column, Type 5.

5.4 The second phase of the development of the site was the construction of another building to the north-east. Much of this had been subsequently rebuilt, however some of the original rubble wall construction and blocked arches were visible on the north-east side of the building (**Plate 6**). The complex was later extended to the south-east with the construction of a narrower building on the south-east end of second phase building. This was initially single storey and only the south-east and north-east walls survived, the others having been removed when the building was incorporated into a larger work space. Both of the remaining elevations contained blocked window openings (**Plate 7**) indicating the area beyond was originally external space.

5.5 In addition the north-east elevation of the third phase building contained a remnant of flashing from a roof (**Plate 7**), at the top of the stone work of the original building and below the brickwork which subsequently raised the height of the building, probably associated with the roof on a neighbouring structure. What may have been a temporary structure or enclosure is shown on the 1912 Ordnance Survey Map, and comprised phase 4 of the site development.

5.6 The fifth phase was the construction of the PIM fibre shop, which now forms part of the south-west elevation of the larger amalgamated work space. The sills and vents beneath the blocked window openings (**Plate 8**) indicate that this would originally have been an external elevation. The first floor of the PIM fibre shop was supported by large cast iron columns (type 1), 229mm (9") in diameter and all stamped with 'BUSH & WILTON, IRON. FOUNDER, BITTON. OLD' (**Plate 14**). The Bush and Wilton iron works were located to the south-east of the mill off of Golden Valley Lane in an area which is now Baron Close. Surmounting the

PIM fibre shop was a brick built fire watcher's lookout post (**Plate 5**), the access to which was not located. While not a unique structure the lookout post should be recorded prior to demolition, and the intention is to carry out this work once demolition to some of the surrounding structures has taken place, allowing the lookout post to be accessed safely.

5.7 Phase six was the construction of the building between the PIM fibre shop and the phase 3 building, and the construction of the building to the north-east of the phase 3 building, replacing the less substantial building of phase 4. Both of the south-east end elevations of these buildings (**Plates 9 & 10**) were very similar in appearance, with the same decorative brickwork around the window openings, suggesting they may have been built at the same time. All of the buildings of phases 5 and 6 were built at some time between 1912 (when they are not depicted on the Ordnance Survey map) and 1935 (when the buildings are shown on an aerial photograph of that year).

5.8 Phase seven was the raising of the height of the phase 3 building, with the side and end elevations being extended with the addition of brickwork sections added on top of the rubble walls (**Plate 7**). This occurred between 1935 and 1966, aerial photographs (**Plates 56 & 57**) of these years showing the change in height.

5.9 The filling in of the mill pond, demolition of the other early buildings and construction of the large modern workshops all occurred between 1976 and 1982.

5.10 The second stage of the recording was focused on the canteen and gatehouse, both of which were locally listed, with recording carried out to level 3 standard. As with phases 5 and 6 of the mill buildings these were constructed sometime between 1912 and 1935. Both buildings were constructed from Pennant sandstone, as was the boundary wall of the site that formed the west elevation of the gatehouse and extended as far as the weir of the river Boyd.

5.11 The gatehouse was pentagonal in shape (**Fig. 10 & Plate 18**) with a doorway in the south elevation, immediately within the gateway of the site (**Plate 19**). The south-east and north-east elevations each had a window within them comprised of two sash elements each of 12 panes (**Plate 20**), while the west elevation had a single narrow window with two panes. All of the windows and the doorway had Pennant sandstone voussoirs above them. The roof was formed from corrugated asbestos sheets with ridge tiles running from each of the corners to the apex at the centre. Circular pattress plates were visible on the south, west (**Plate 21**) and south-east elevations, as was a lightning conductor strip running down the east side of the south elevation. Externally the north elevation was largely obscured by a small rectangular addition to the gatehouse, which had a Pennant sandstone rubble construction for the east elevation (**Plate 22**) and a red brick construction for the north elevation. The south and east elevations of this addition were formed by the gatehouse and boundary wall respectively. The east elevation of the addition contained a doorway, a partially blocked doorway with a window inserted and a brick blocking of a window opening. The addition was roofed with modern corrugated metal sheets.

5.12 Few features were visible internally, with a false ceiling masking the construction of the roof and the walls obscured by plaster and paint. The original metalwork catches of the windows were still in place (**Plate 23**). The interior of the addition was not accessible.

5.13 The canteen building (**Fig. 11**) was located to the south of the gatehouse on the opposite side of the main gateway into the site. The building was formed from three principle elements, the canteen itself in the centre, a small porch to the west and the kitchen block to the east. The south elevation had six windows located in the canteen section and the chimney of the kitchen was also located on this elevation (**Plate 24**). The porch dominated the west elevation with a single small window present (**Plate 25**), and the north elevation of the porch had a single doorway within it. Five large 12-pane sash windows were visible in the north elevation of the canteen with a 6-pane window set above the doorway at the east end (**Plate 26**). At each end

and in-between each window was the end section of an iron beam set in the masonry at the same height as the middle of the large windows (**Plate 27**). These beams may have been used to support a canopy as possibly appears on the early 20th century painting of the Mill (**Cover**). The north elevation of the kitchen block comprised a doorway and three windows, two of them 4-pane sash windows (**Plate 28**). The east elevation of the kitchen had three small windows of identical dimensions. All of the windows and the doorway to the kitchen had Pennant sandstone voussoirs above them, with the exception of the smallest windows of the kitchen section that had Pennant sandstone lintels, and all the windows had Pennant sandstone cills. A pediment surrounded the hipped roofs of both the canteen and the kitchen sections, both of them roofed in slates with orange ridge tiles running up each hip to the central ridge. The kitchen roof included a timber skylight and the canteen roof a timber cupola surmounted by a weather-vane (**Plate 29**).

5.14 As with the gatehouse relatively few original features were visible within the building, all of those identified were within the canteen section. This section was split into four rooms, a large main room with five sash windows on the south side and four sash windows and the doorway on the north side. At the western end of the main room was a dividing wall with a set of modern double doors in it, through which was a small hallway with small rooms to the north and south of it. A herring bone design parquet floor was laid across the whole of the canteen block and a dado rail, set at approximately 1.5m above the floor, ran around the external walls of the canteen block (**Plate 30**). The fact that both these features ignored the dividing walls suggests that these internal walls were later additions. At the far west end of the canteen was a double doorway leading to the porch section, on the north side a section of plaster had fallen away exposing glazed bull-nosed bricks forming the edge of this doorway (**Plate 31)**.

Wesleyan Chapel

5.15 Located to the south-west of the main site are the buildings fronting on to Bath Road. These include the remnant of a Wesleyan Methodist Chapel (**Fig. 12**) built in 1834, the majority of which was demolished in 1981. The section that remained probably served an ancillary role to the main chapel such as a schoolroom, and since the demolition has served as a garage, the south-west elevation having been completely rebuilt in Pennant sandstone with a large shutter door. The survey of this building was carried out to English Heritage Level 2 standard.

5.16 The north-east gable end elevation had been largely obscured by later additions built in brick and Lias. The remaining two elevations shared similarities but were quite distinct. The north-west elevation is constructed from Lias limestone blocks regularly coursed, with two 6-pane sash windows each with freestone lintels, cills and surrounds (**Plate 32**). A blocked doorway at the south-west end of the elevation also had a freestone lintel and surround, while the freestone quoins of the north corner of the building were chamfered for half their height (**Plate 33**).

5.17 The south-east elevation was also constructed from Lias limestone but of rubble rather than worked blocks (**Plate 34**). The two 6-pane sash windows had red brick cills and surrounds. Both windows and the doorway to one of the north-eastern additions all had cast iron lintels with a wheat-sheaf motif in their centre (**Plate 35**), the significance of which may be religious or associated with the iron works that produced them.

5.18 Internally very few original features remained, the windows all had slightly splayed embrasures and the timber roof was largely intact (**Plate 36**). A locked doorway in the north-east elevation led into the north-eastern additions.

BUILDINGS ASSESSMENT (By John Bryant)

Factory Building

5.19 At first sight, apart from a short stretch of walling in Mill Lane this building appears to be of perhaps 1970s construction (**Plates 37, 38**). Modern render, concrete blockwork and roofing and cladding materials all give this appearance. However, once inside, it is clear that the structure is somewhat older than the modern cladding might suggest. Several structural walls are built of stone rubble or brickwork, or a combination of the two (**Plate 39**). Virtually the entire interior framework is carried on a combination of these walls and five rows of cast-iron columns (**Plates 40-42**), while the roof is supported by a variety of roof trusses of largely wooden construction (**Plates 43, 44**).

5.20 Much of the east, or Mill Lane, elevation comprises rubble walling with a number of blocked former windows; there are two brickwork gables added to the southern end of this wall. The rubble section of this elevation turns westwards at a point opposite the Methodist Chapel, continuing as far as the west elevation as a brick wall laid in English bond: there are openings, some now blocked, and the housing for a bearing once carrying a driveshaft (**Plate 45**). At its western end the brick wall meets two lower walls: to the south is a former field wall, originally about 1.30m in height, since raised by the addition of blockwork, while to the north is a low rubble and brick wall, on a slightly different alignment. Running northwards from the east-west brick wall, but set back almost 10m from the Mill Lane building line, is a brick and rubble wall that includes a pair of round-headed window and an oculus. This part of the building is set at a slightly higher floor level than for the majority, and was formerly the Foundry. Beyond this once lay a yard, on the eastern side of which were the boiler and engine house, together with a tall brick chimney.

5.21 Within the former Foundry is a row of 8 no. cast-iron columns, set off centre, and marked as being the product of 'Torrance and Sons L^{td} Engineers Bitton Glo' (**Plate 46**). Further rows are to be found in the larger part of the factory, to the south of the brick wall. Here there are, all aligned east-west, reading from north to south, 10 no. cast-iron columns, then 5 no., another 5 no., and finally 6 no., the last now partly incorporated within a later blockwork wall. All are also marked as being the product of Torrance and Sons. According to an article about Torrance and Sons published in September, 1928, this larger area included the Machine Shop, Turning Shop, Heavy Lathes and Wheel Cutting Shop, the Pattern Shop and the Forging Section, also the Erecting Bay and Stores. While all the machinery and many of the fixtures and fittings have long since been removed, the basic roof structure, including beams and principal trusses, has survived. There are several major valley gutters, and each is equipped with a cast-iron guttering system that also carries the Torrance name (**Plates 47, 48**).

5.22 This building is therefore not only constructed from the products of Torrance and Sons but was indeed their own ironworks or factory, otherwise known as the '*Phoenix Works*'. By the 1920s, they were producing mixing and grinding equipment, a much different product to structural iron and steelwork, but they were clearly capable of producing the latter earlier in their history, although it is not known if there are other surviving examples. The columns themselves are of a fairly standard form typical of the period when they were produced. Here at Bitton, not only does the majority of the ironworks main structure survive, but there is the possibility that below-ground evidence also survives, given the limited amount of change on the site since.

Office Building

5.23 Fronting onto Bath Road, west of No. 95, this is a 2-storey brick building with pitched roof covered with Double Roman clay tiles, constructed before 1928 as offices for Torrance and Sons (**Plate 49**). It was not recorded by the OS 1:2500 plan revision of 1912, so is most likely to post-date the First World War. Facing onto Bath Road is a 6-window elevation with an

entrance right of centre. End elevations are gabled, 2 windows wide, with a chimney stack at the east end only; there are a pair of rainwater heads on the latter elevation (**Plate 50**). A former entrance in the west elevation has been converted in to a window, but an original double door survives around the corner at the end of the rear elevation (**Plate 51**). All openings have segmental-arched heads, and all except the rear doorway have modern PVCu fittings.

5.24 Inside the front door is an entrance hall with tiled floor, to the right (east) of which is an office with Gothic-style fireplace (**Plate**). Behind the office is the staircase to the first floor, original but of little interest; there is a half landing about two-thirds of the way up. A passage parallel with the stairs leads to a small kitchen beyond and also provides access to the toilets behind this block. One large room, latterly sub-divided into smaller units, occupies the western half of the ground floor, now with a raised floor but originally with a parquet floor. A similar room exists on the floor above, and this latter is known to have been the Drawing Office in 1928. Several smaller offices occupy the remainder of the upper floor. Varnished boarding lining the underside of the roof suggests that this floor was originally open into the roofspace, although latterly there have been false ceilings; the tie-beams of each principal truss are visible even below the modern ceilings.

5.25 This building was probably a fairly typical works office. Today's external appearance has been altered by the installation of PVCu windows and doors. Only a small number of original features survive, principally the rear door, rainwaterheads, ground floor fireplace, staircase and roof structure.

Ash House, No. 95 Bath Road

5.26 Ash House was first identified by name in the Census return for 1891, although the 1881 OS 1:2500 plan showed a structure already on the site. There is no evidence that this was the structure shown in the south-east corner of parcel 37a on the 1843 tithe map (**Fig. 7**). In 1901 the house was occupied by Hugh Torrance. This is a double-fronted 2 –storey house with a pitched roof covered with clay Double Roman tiles, with end stacks (**Plate 53**). Constructed from squared, coursed Pennant sandstone with limestone dressings, it has lesenes (flat, plain pilasters) at either end. In the centre, above the entrance, is a block carrying the name, and a lion's head in a roundel. Modern render has been applied to the rear elevation. There is a possibility that the front ground floor may originally have had projecting bay windows. Modern PVCu windows have been fitted throughout. The house was most recently divided into two flats.

5.27 A common lobby leads into the hallway of the ground floor flat. The layout is for two rooms on each side, the larger at the front, with a bathroom in the centre of the rear. In the south-west corner is a lounge, and a kitchen occupies the north-east corner; other rooms are bedrooms. This room arrangement also applies to the first floor. All doors downstairs and most on the upper storey are modern, but two are of a basic 19th-century 6-panel type with wrought iron latches (**Plate 54**). Although the ceilings are lower in the rear first floor rooms, the bottoms of the principal rafters are visible, which is not the case in the front rooms.

5.28 This building is a fairly typical Pennant sandstone small double-fronted house, although the ground floor refenestration has not done any favours visually. There is little of interest inside apart from the two surviving panelled doors and their latches.

Heather House, No 97 Bath Road

5.29 This is a later dwelling than Ash House, and appears to have replaced a number of small structures on the corner of Mill Lane that were being shown on the OS plan as late as 1912. Of two storeys with a canted front bay, this runs around into the lane to produce a building of L-shaped plan (**Plate 55**). Pennant sandstone rubble has been used with limestone dressings, the

rubble squared and coursed to the main road but random laid alongside the lane. Modern roughcast render has been applied to the north elevation. The roof is pitched, covered with clay Double Roman tiles, although slate has been used for the hipped bay. Only one chimney stack survives of the original two, on the east elevation. This has most recently seen use as a pair of flats, with PVCu windows and external doors throughout.

5.30 The house is entered on the left-hand side of the south elevation. There is a hallway and a passage running beside the stairs, which are set against the party wall with No. 95 and, apart from a simple ball finial to the bottom newel post, are unremarkable. The south-east room is a lounge, with an internal chimney breast on the east wall. To the north is the bedroom, with a modern fitted kitchen beyond in the north-east room; a small bathroom occupies the remainder of the rear projection. Upstairs, the room arrangement is similar, although there is the addition of a box room above the front door.

5.31 Nothing of any great interest has survived inside No. 97. Externally, it looks like so many other semi-detached houses to be found in much of South Gloucestershire and Bristol.

6. CONCLUSION

6.1 The survey of the early buildings at the Golden Valley Mills site revealed a number of features relating to the sequence of development of the complex. These in conjunction with map and aerial photographic evidence, compiled in the Desk Based Assessment of the site, have allowed a basic phasing of the site to be produced.

6.2 The mill burned down twice during the 19th century, only the machine room surviving the second fire of 1876, therefore all of the remaining early buildings probably date to the late 19th century or early 20th century. Phases 1 to 3 of the building occurred prior to 1881, all of them being depicted on the ordnance survey map of that year. The temporary building of phase 4 was built between 1881 and 1912 when it is depicted on the ordnance survey map. An aerial photograph of the mill, taken in 1935, shows the buildings of phases 5 and 6 in place, and phase 7 (the raising of the phase 3 building) has occurred by 1966 when another aerial photograph of the site is taken.

6.3 The entire sequence of phasing for these buildings takes less than a hundred years, with some development occurring in a very short space of time, for example phases 1 to 3 occur between 1876 and 1881. Indications of smaller scale changes on site were difficult to identify with confidence due to the buildings having undergone many later alterations in the later 20th century.

6.4 The recording carried out on the chapel, gatehouse and canteen block, has identified a number of interesting external features, and in the case of the canteen indicated the sequence of some internal features. These buildings were however primarily utilitarian in their function and therefore very few original decorative internal features were identifiable.

6.5 The building assessment carried out on the buildings which front on to Bath Road found that the two houses (Nos. 95 and 97) and the office block had very few surviving original internal features and their external appearance was not exceptional for the region. The factory contained a greater number of original features, with much of the original ironworks building still in place, beneath the shell of modern brickwork and shuttering. This indicates that the below ground survival of archaeological features associated with the ironworks is likely to be good.

6.6 A programme of detailed recording should be carried out on the surviving elements of the ironworks, with particular attention paid to the ironwork, roof trusses and remnants of the external structure surviving beneath the modern brickwork and shuttering. This ought to be produced to English Heritage level 4 building recording standard. Where practical those elements of the ironwork, which are in good condition, could be removed for re-use prior to demolition. As highlighted earlier additional recording is also required on part of the mill site to record the fire watcher's lookout post, however this would need to take place after some demolition has taken place to allow access to be gained safely.

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Maps and Plans

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8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

8.1 Bristol and Region Archaeological Services wish to thank the following for their help and advice: Marcus Plaw of Colliers International, Simon Pugh-Jones and Lee Lukins of Barton Willmore, and David Evans of South Gloucestershire Council. BaRAS would also like to thank Tony Willmott, caretaker of the site, for his assistance and for providing BaRAS with digital images of aerial photos and a painting of the site. The fieldwork was undertaken by Simon Roper, who also produced this report, Ray Ducker, John Bryant and Ann Linge. The illustrations were prepared and the report compiled by Ann Linge. The archive was compiled and prepared for deposition by Simon Roper. The project was managed by John Bryant.

APPENDIX 1: Policy Statement

This report is the result of work carried out in the light of national and local authority policies.

NATIONAL POLICIES
Statutory protection for archaeology is enshrined in the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act (1979), amended by the National Heritage Act, 1983. Nationally important sites are listed in the Schedule of Ancient Monuments (SAM). Scheduled Monument consent is required for any work that would affect a SAM.

GOVERNMENT POLICY GUIDANCE
Planning Policy Guidance Note 15: Planning and the Historic Environment (1994) and Planning Policy Guidance Note 16: Archaeology and Planning (1990) have been replaced (23 March 2010) by Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment (2010) which sets out the Government's national policies on conservation of the historic environment. Those parts of the historic environment that have significance because of their historic, archaeological, architectural or artistic interest are called heritage assets.

Of particular relevance within the Planning Policy Statement are:

Policy HE6: Information Requirements for Applications for Consent Affecting Heritage Assets
HE6.1 Local planning authorities should require an applicant to provide a description of the significance of the heritage assets affected and the contribution of their setting to that significance. The level of detail should be proportionate to the importance of the heritage asset and no more than is sufficient to understand the potential impact of the proposal on the significance of the heritage asset. As a minimum the relevant historic environment record should have been consulted and the heritage assets themselves should have been assessed using appropriate expertise where necessary given the application's impact. Where an application site includes, or is considered to have the potential to include, heritage assets with archaeological interest, local planning authorities should require developers to submit an appropriate desk-based assessment and, where desk-based research is insufficient to properly assess the interest, a field evaluation.

Policy HE9: Additional Policy Principles Guiding the Consideration of Applications for Consent Relating to Designated Heritage Assets
HE9.1 There should be a presumption in favour of the conservation of designated heritage assets and the more significant the designated heritage asset, the greater the presumption in favour of its conservation should be. Once lost, heritage assets cannot be replaced and their loss has a cultural, environmental, economic and social impact. Significance can be harmed or lost through alteration or destruction of the heritage asset or development within its setting. Loss affecting any designated heritage asset should require clear and convincing justification. Substantial harm to or loss of a grade II listed building, park or garden should be exceptional. Substantial harm to or loss of designated heritage assets of the highest significance, including scheduled monuments, protected wreck sites, battlefields, grade I or II* listed buildings and grade I and II* registered parks and gardens, World Heritage Sites, should be wholly exceptional.

Policy HE12: Policy Principles Guiding the Recording of Information Related to Heritage Assets
HE12.3 Where the loss of the whole or a material part of a heritage asset's significance is justified, local planning authorities should require the developer to record and advance understanding of the significance of the heritage asset before it is lost, using planning conditions or obligations as appropriate. The extent of the requirement should be proportionate to the nature and level of the asset's significance. Developers should publish this evidence and deposit copies of the reports with the relevant historic environment record. Local planning authorities should require any archive generated to be deposited with a local museum or other public depository willing to receive it. Local planning authorities should impose planning conditions or obligations to ensure such work is carried out in a timely manner and that the completion of the exercise is properly secured.

South Gloucestershire's Local Plan (adopted January 2006) states:
Archaeology L11
Development which would not physically preserve sites of national archaeological importance, whether scheduled or not, or would have a significant impact on the setting of visible remains, will not be permitted.

Planning permission will not be granted for development on sites or landscapes of archaeological interest or of high archaeological potential without an archaeological assessment and if necessary a field evaluation.

Where the assessment indicates that the proposed development would harm a site, structure or landscape of archaeological or historic importance or its setting, development will not be permitted unless applicants can demonstrate a satisfactory scheme indicating how the impact of the proposal on the archaeological resource can be mitigated. The council will negotiate agreements to preserve and manage archaeological remains.

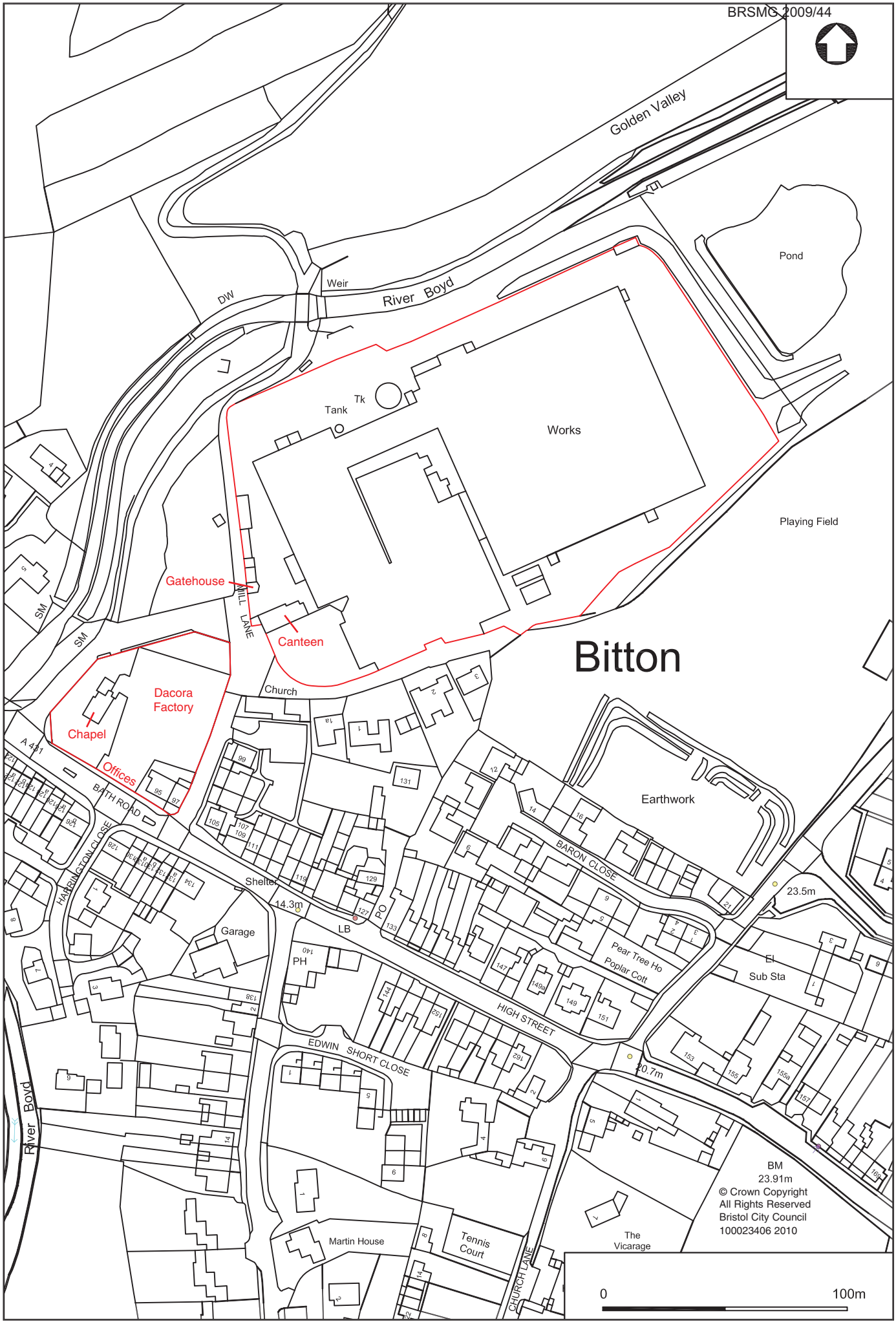

Fig.1 Location and extent of study area

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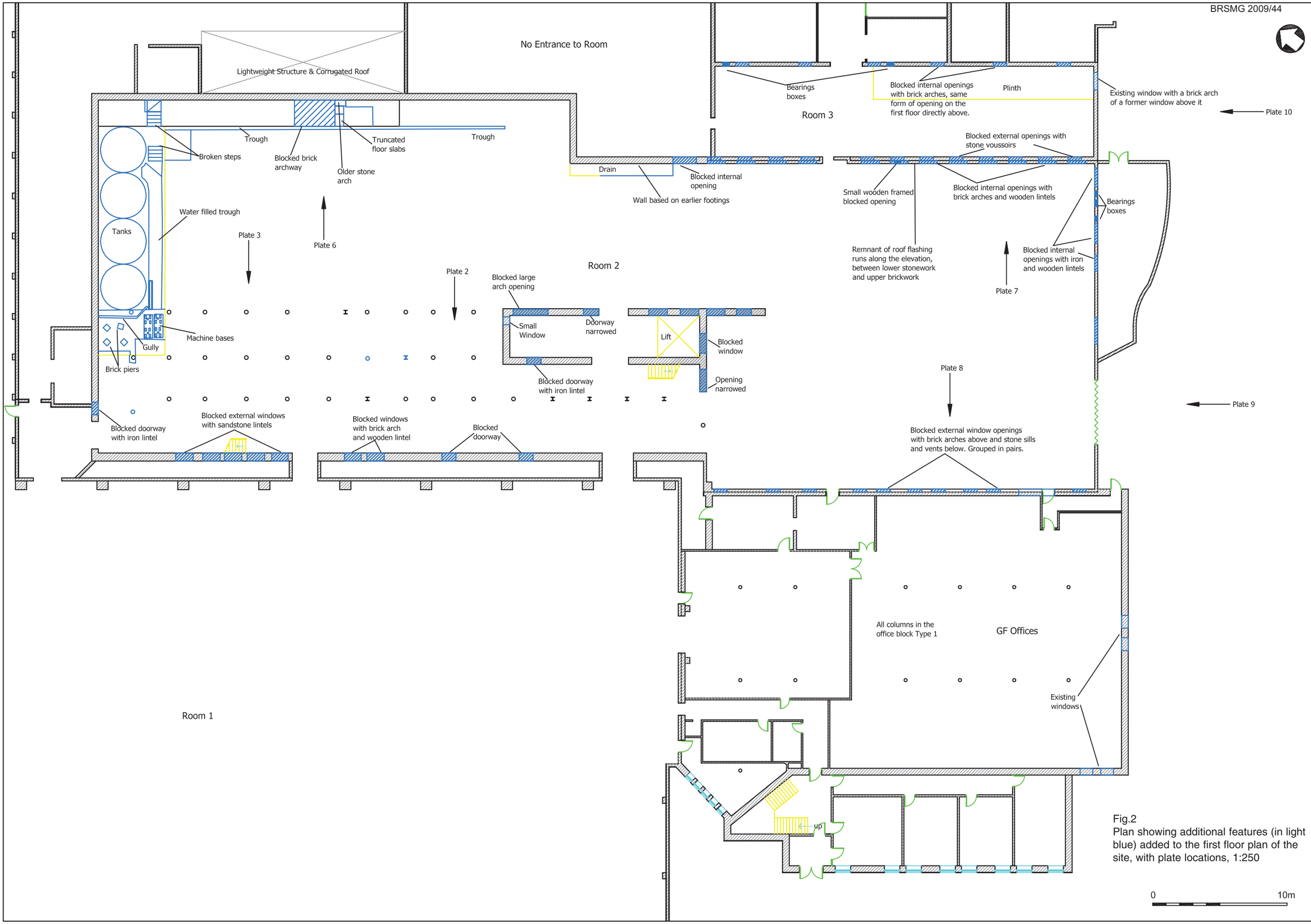

Fig.2
Plan showing additional features (in light blue) added to the first floor plan of the site, with plate locations, 1:250

0 10m

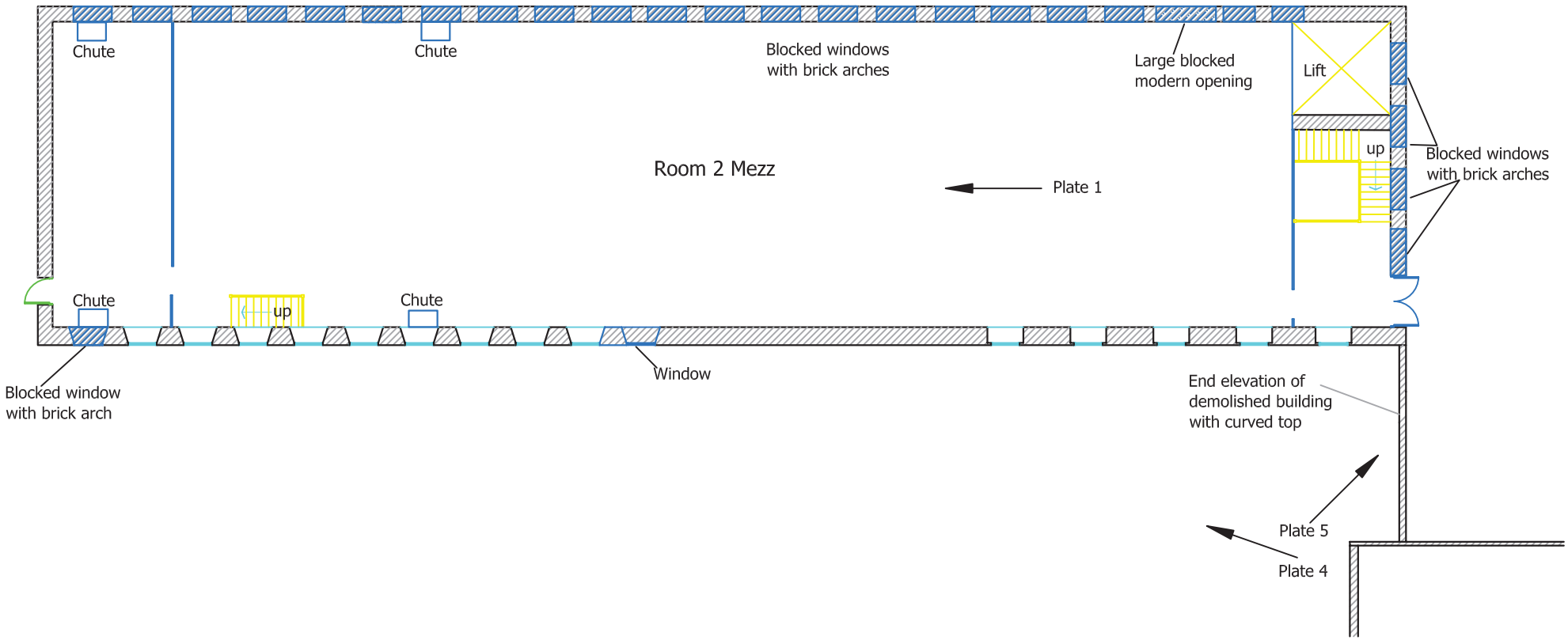

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Fig.3
Plan showing additional features (in light Blue) added to the first floor plan of the site, with plate locations, 1:200

BRSMG 2009/44

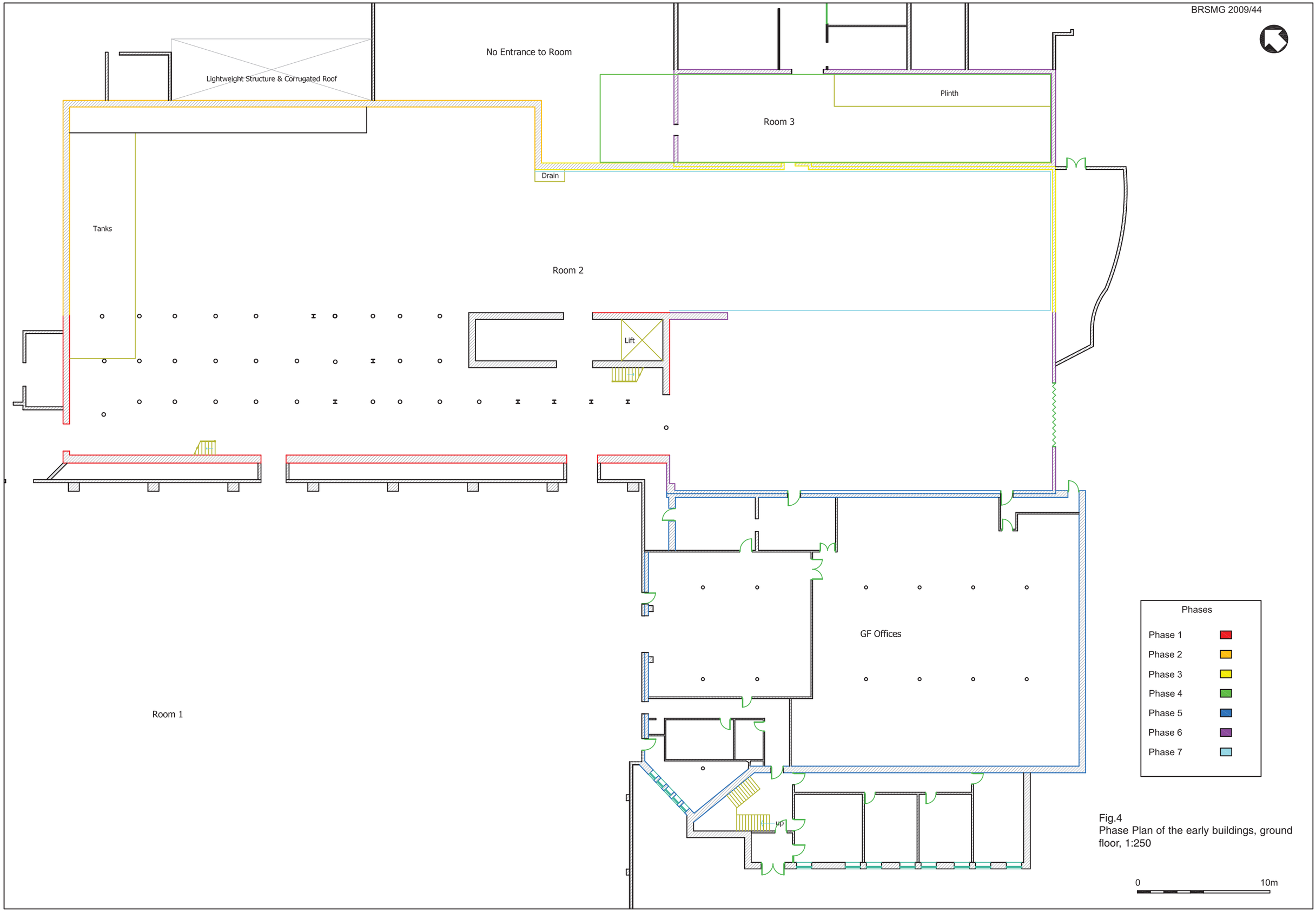

Fig.4
Phase Plan of the early buildings, ground floor, 1:250

Fig.5
Phase Plan of the early buildings, first floor, 1:250

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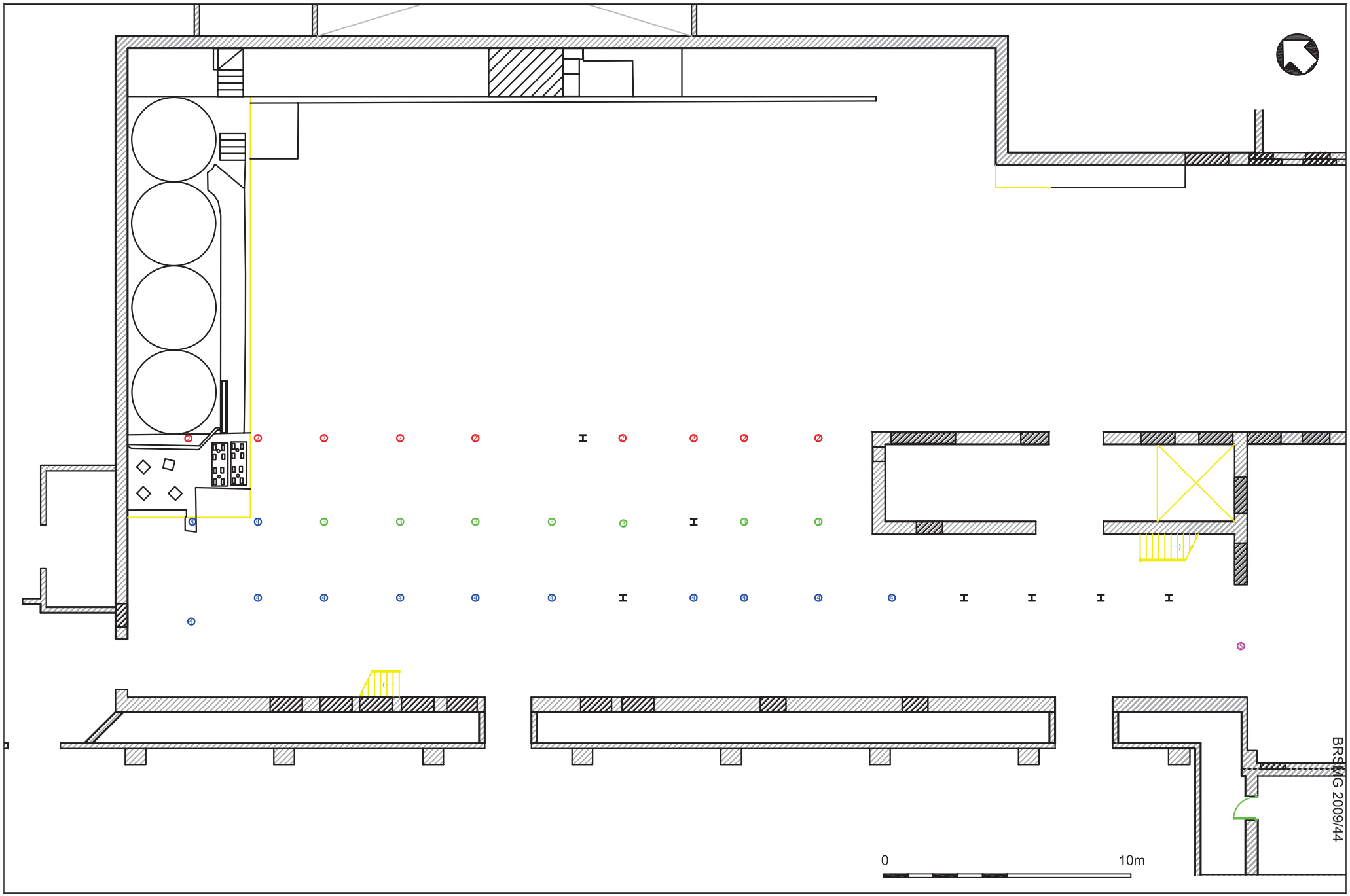

Fig.6 Plan of columns within the phase 1 building (Type 2 red, Type 3 green, Type 4 blue, Type 5 magenta), 1:200

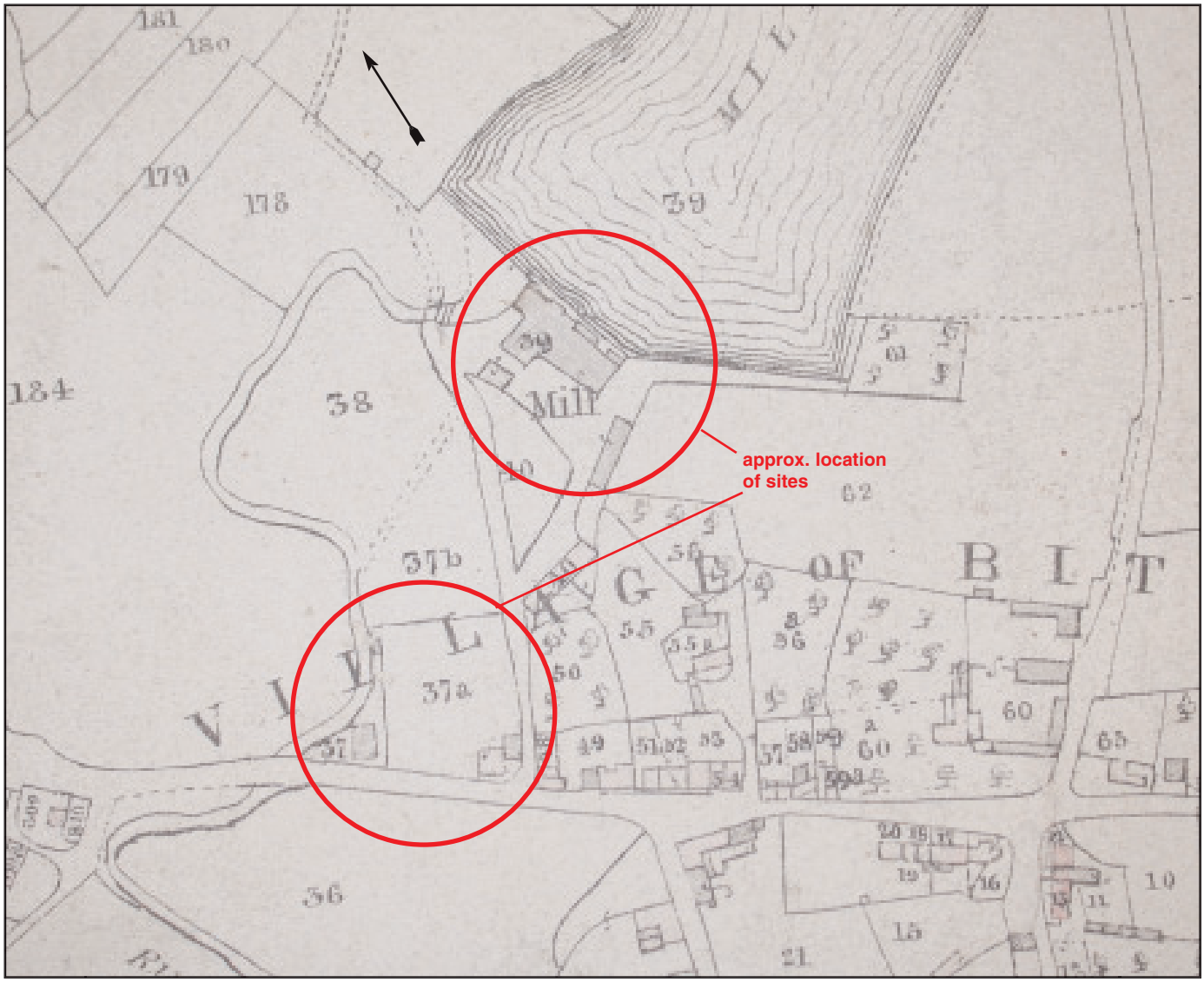

Fig.7 Extract from a copy of the 1843 tithe map entitled ‘A map of the Parish of Bitton in the county of Gloucester’

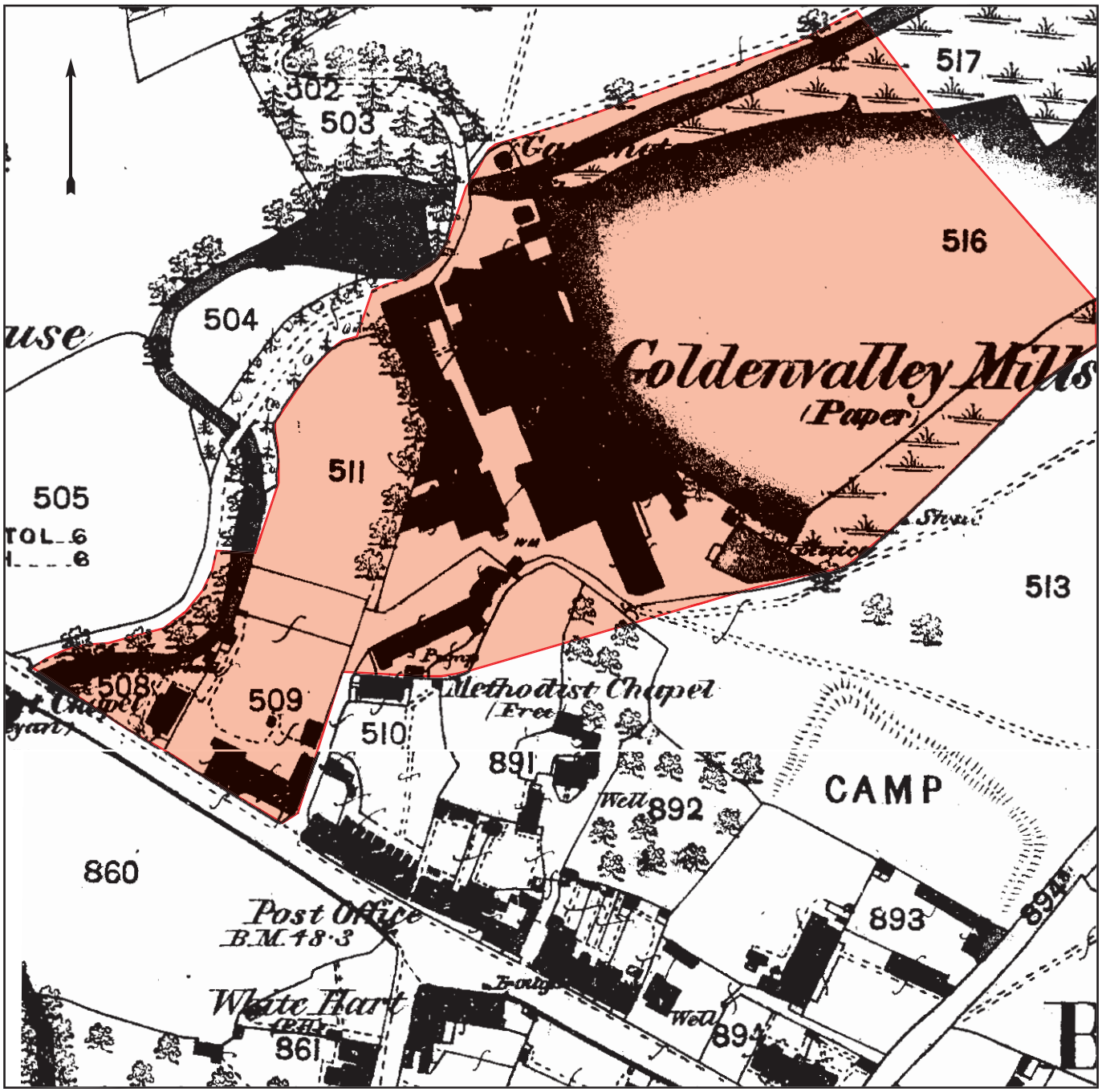

Fig.8 Extract from the 1881 O. S. (1:2500)

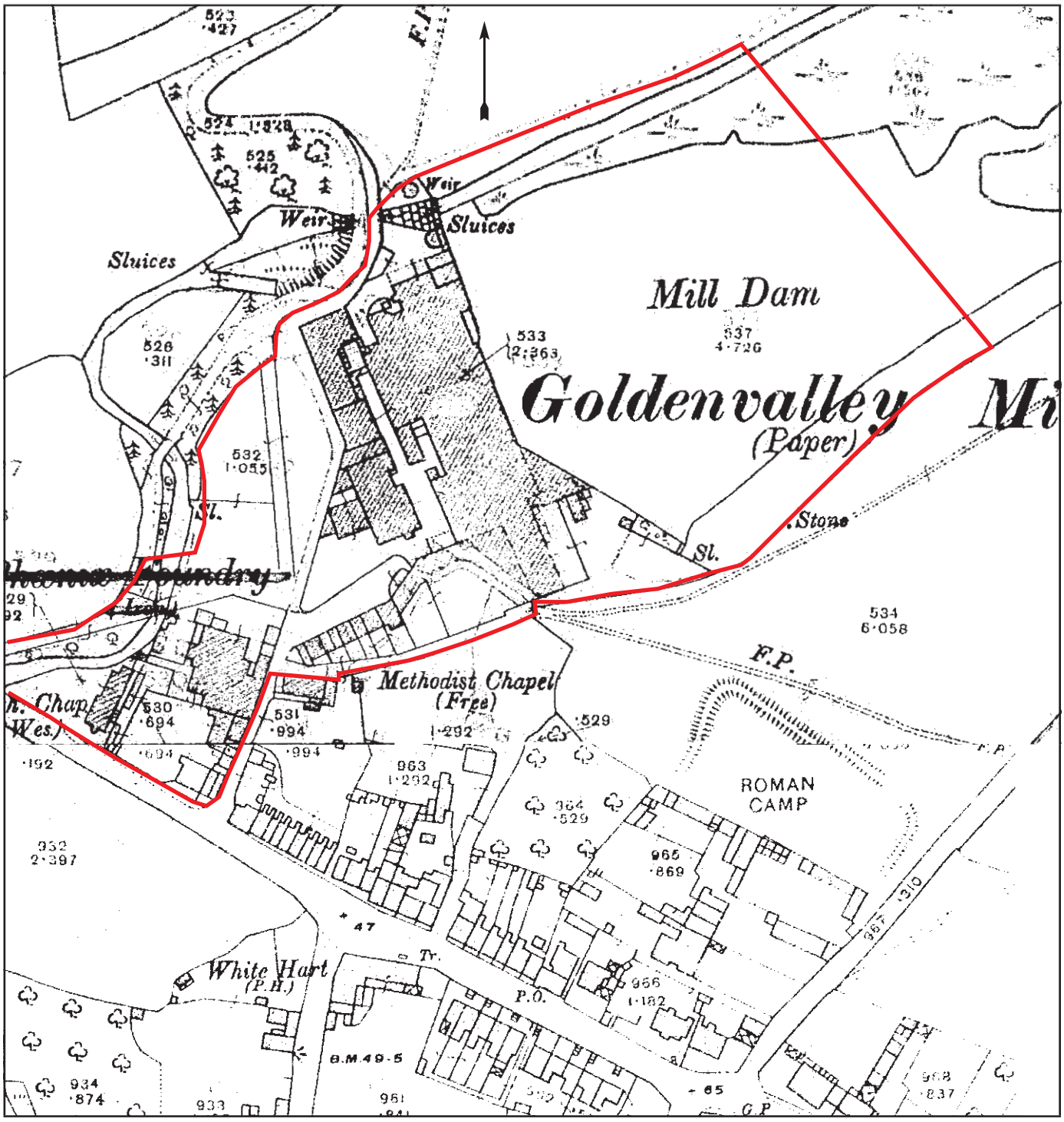

Fig.9 Extract from the 1912 O. S. (1:2500)

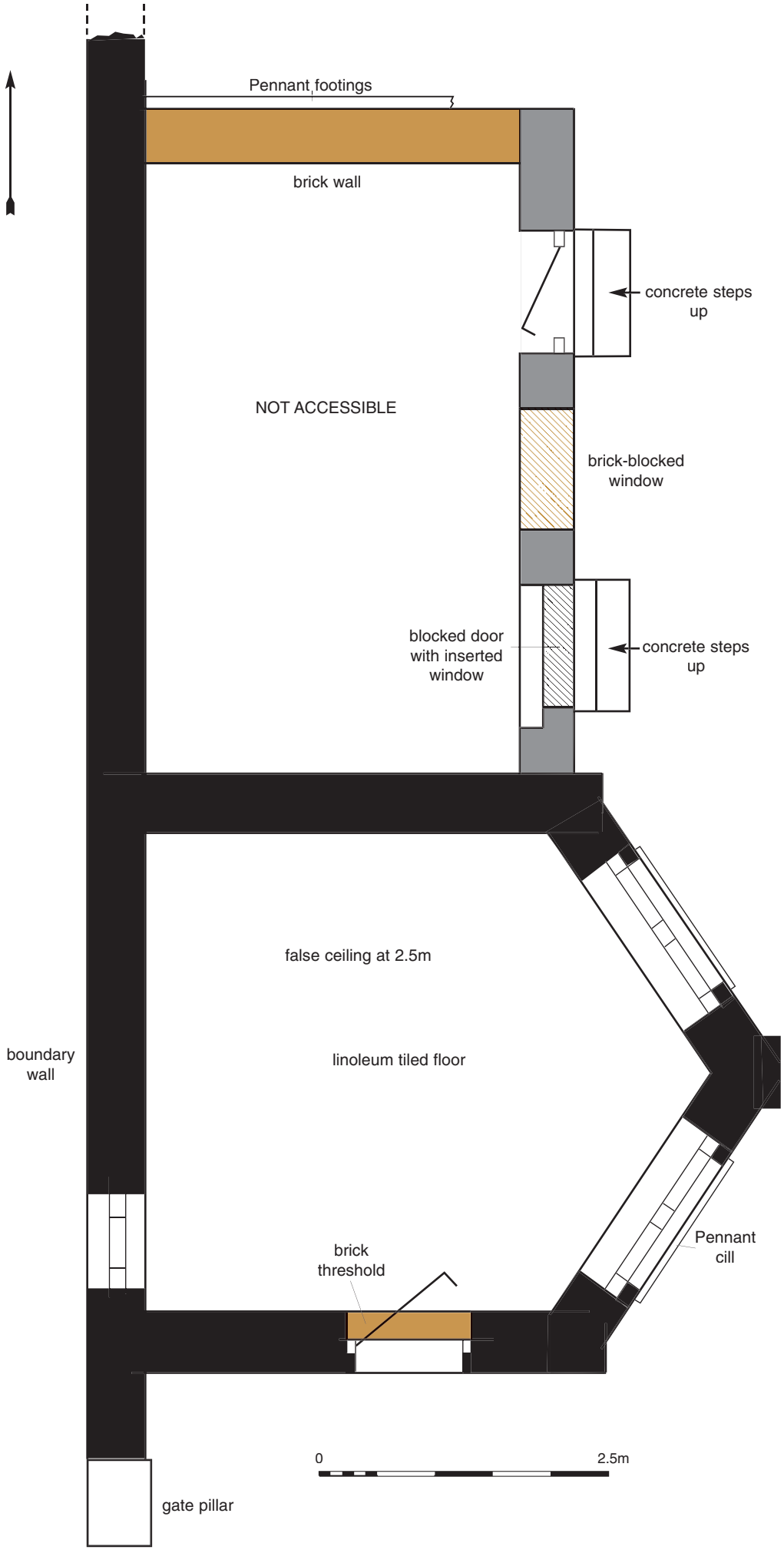

Fig.10 Floor plan of the gatehouse, scale 1:50

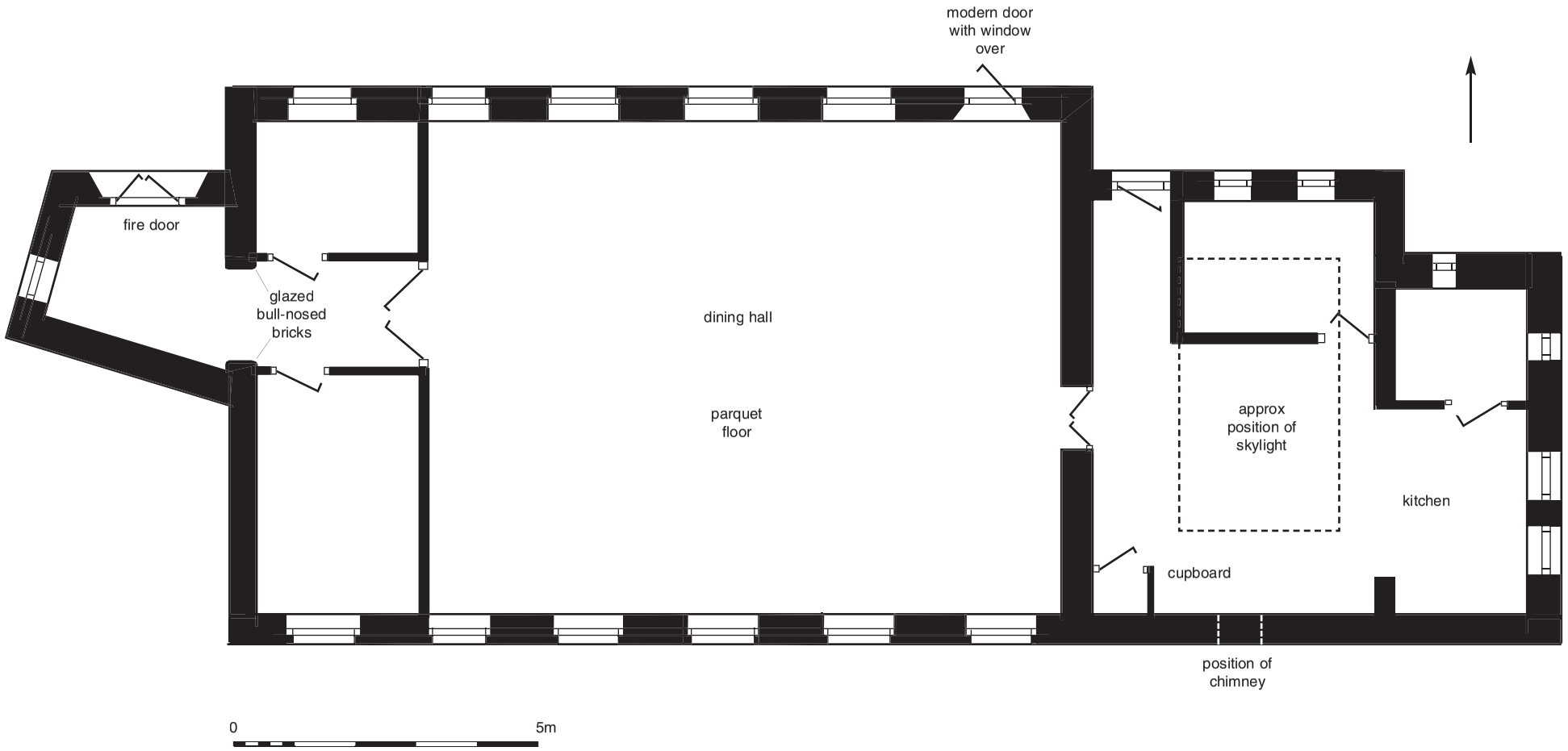

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Fig.11 Floor plan of the canteen block, scale 1:100

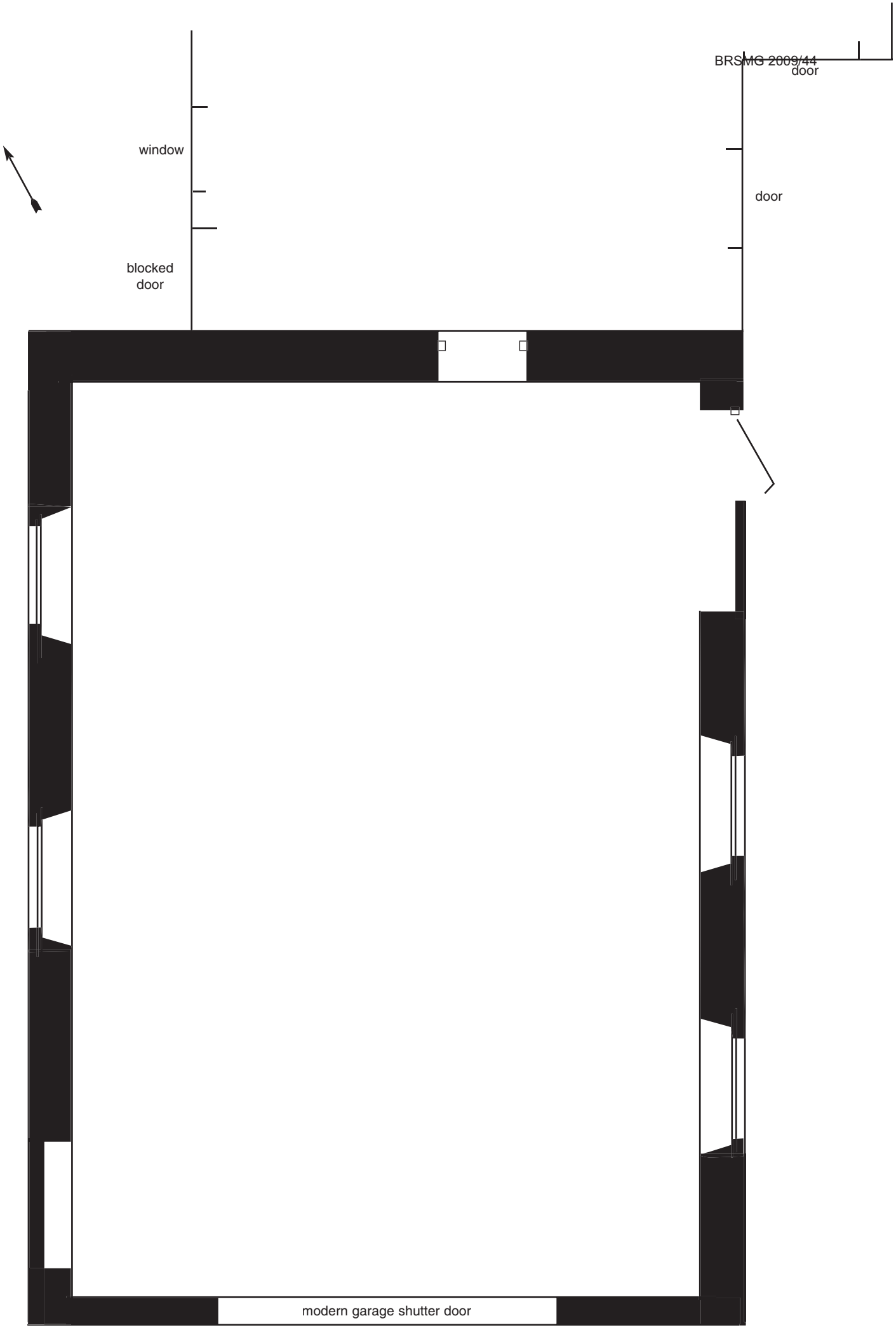

Fig.12 Floor plan on the Wesleyan Methodist Chapel, scale 1:100

Plate 1
First floor of the phase 1 building, facing north-west

Plate 2
Ceiling of phase 1 building, ground floor, facing south-west

Plate 3
North-east facing formerly external elevation of phase 1 building, facing south-west

Plate 4
External elevation of phase 1 building, facing north

Plate 5
North-west facing formerly internal elevation of demolished building with fire watcher's lookout post behind, facing east

Plate 6
South-west facing internal elevation of phase 2 building, facing north-east

Plate 7
BRSMG 2009/44
South-west facing internal elevation of phase 3 building, facing north-east

Plate 8
North-east facing formerly external elevation of phase 5 building, facing south-west

Plate 9
South-east facing external elevation of phase 6 building, facing north-west

Plate 10
South-east facing external elevation of phase 6 building, facing north-west

Plate 11
Column type 2 makers stamp, facing north-west

Plate 12
Column type 3, facing north-west

Plate 13
Column type 4, facing north-west

Plate 14
Column type 1 maker's stamp, facing south-east

Plate 15
Brackets on the north-east facing formerly external elevation of phase 1 building, facing west

Plate 16
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Modern building room 4, facing north-east

Plate 17
Modern building room 6, facing north-east

Plate 18
Gatehouse, facing north-west

Plate 19 South facing external elevation of the gatehouse, facing north

Plate 20 South-east facing external elevation of the gatehouse, facing north-west

Plate 21 West facing external elevation of the gatehouse, facing south-east

Plate 22 East facing external elevation of the gatehouse addition, facing west

Plate 23 Internal view of the gatehouse, facing south-east

Plate 24 South facing external elevation of the canteen block, facing north

Plate 25 West facing external elevation of the canteen block, facing east

Plate 26 North facing external elevation of the canteen block, facing south

Plate 27 Windows and iron beams of north facing external elevation of the canteen block, facing south

Plate 28 North facing external elevation of the kitchen section, facing south

Plate 29 Cupola and weather-vane, facing north-east

Plate 30 Internal view of the canteen, facing north-east

Plate 31
Glazed bull-nosed bricks within the canteen, facing south-west

Plate 32 Window and freestone surround in north-west facing external elevation of the chapel, facing south-east

Plate 33 Chamfered quoins of the north-west facing external elevation of the chapel, facing south-east

Plate 34 South-east facing external elevation of the chapel, facing north-west

Plate 35 Cast iron lintel with wheatsheaf motif, facing north-west

Plate 36 Chapel roof internal view, facing south-west

Plate 37
Central part of Mill Lane elevation, looking south-west

Plate 38 West side of factory, seen from main road

Plate 39 Inside of east wall, southern end, showing added brick gables

Plate 40 Cast iron columns in main part of factory

Plate 41 Cast iron columns and hoist

Plate 42
Cast iron column incorporated into blockwork south wall

Plate 43
Foundry roof, looking east

Plate 44
Braced roof truss

Plate 45
South elevation of east-west brick wall, showing housing for drive shaft

Plate 46 Maker's name on typical column

Plate 48 Torrance cast iron guttering - underside

Plate 47 Torrance cast iron guttering system

Plate 49
Office block as seen
from main Bath Road

Plate 50 East elevation of offices, showing rainwaterheads

Plate 51 Surviving original door in rear elevation

Plate 52 Ground floor fireplace in east room of offices

Plate 53 Front elevation of No. 95 Bath Road

Plate 54 Original door, including latch, on first floor of No. 95

Plate 55 No. 97 Bath Road and end of Mill Lane

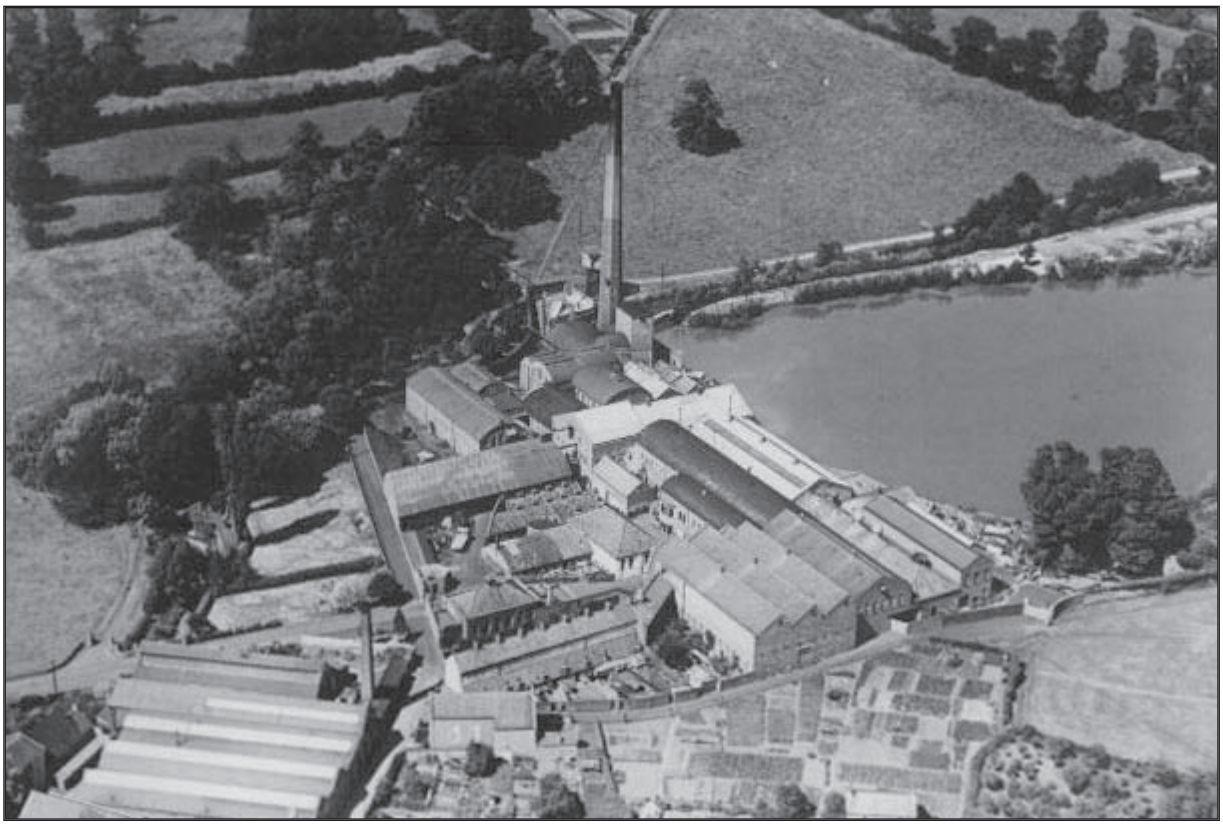

Plate 56 An oblique air-photograph of the study area in 1935, facing north

Plate 57 An oblique air-photograph of the study area in 1966, facing north

Plate 58 General view of the mill early 20th century (between 1912 and 1935), from the south (J. F. Wallis, Bristol Museum and Galleries Glass Negatives Collection)