

HISTORIC BUILDING  
EVALUATION OF  
BRINTONS' OFFICES (No 1 SITE),  
EXCHANGE STREET,  
KIDDERMINSTER

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INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Project 3313  
Report 1674  
WSM 40609



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## **Historic building evaluation of Brinton's Offices (No 1 Site), Exchange Street, Kidderminster**

**Shona Robson-Glyde**

### **Part 1 Project summary**

An historic building evaluation was undertaken at Brintons' Offices (No 1 Site), Kidderminster, Worcestershire (NGR SO 8312 7651). It was undertaken on behalf of Brintons Limited and Shaylor Developments who propose partial demolition, refurbishment, extensions and change of use of a listed building for which a planning application has been submitted. The project aimed to establish the character, history, dating, form and development of the building.

Brinton's Offices are a range of Grade II listed, Italianate brick built structures dating from 1876 and 1926. The buildings still contain a large number of original features from these dates. Hidden within the buildings are a small rectangular structure dating from around 1820 and a long building dating from the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century. This building is also brick built but using polychrome brickwork, giving a striped appearance. The 1820 building is probably the last surviving building from the first Brintons' carpet factory.

## **Part 2 Detailed report**

### **1. Background**

#### **1.1 Reasons for the project**

An historic building evaluation was undertaken of Brintons Offices (No 1 Site) (NGR SO 8312 7651), Kidderminster, Worcestershire (Fig 1), on behalf of Brintons Limited and Shaylor Developments (the Client), who propose partial demolition, refurbishment, extensions and change of use of a listed building. A planning application has been submitted to Wyre Forest District Council (reference 08/0693 and 08/0694). It is considered that a site of archaeological interest may be affected by the proposals (WSM 35974).

#### **1.2 Project parameters**

The project conforms to the *Standard and guidance for the archaeological investigation and recording of standing buildings or structures* (IfA 2008).

The project also conforms to a brief prepared by the Planning Advisory Section of Worcestershire County Council, Historic Environment and Archaeology Service (HEAS 2008) and for which a project proposal (including detailed specification) was produced (HEAS 2009).

#### **1.3 Aims**

The IfA defines the aims of building recording as 'a programme of work intended to establish the character, history, dating, form and archaeological development of a specified building, or structure, or complex and its setting' (IfA 2008, 1). A number of aims, specific to this building evaluation, were also identified in the brief. These are as follows:

- Provide a descriptive account and interpretation of the building, including discussion of its local, regional and national significance.
- Provide information to guide the Conservation Officer and Planning Officer as to the historic significance of the building and the impact of the proposals.
- Inform whether amendments to the scheme are required to conserve or enhance features or structures of architectural or historic significance.

### **2. Methods**

#### **2.1 Documentary search**

Prior to fieldwork commencing a search was made of the Historic Environment Record (HER) Sites and Monuments Record (SMR). In addition to the sources listed in the bibliography the following were also consulted:

##### *Cartographic sources*

- Ordnance Survey maps dating to 1885, 1902, 1926-7 and 1938

- 
- Insurance Plans, Chas E Goad 1897 (Legat no date), 1904 (WRO f899:156.73 BA 6313) and 1943 (WRO f251:2 BA 6254)
  - Wyre Forest Council planning archives documents from 1928 (WRO r498 BA 8895/141 (vi))

#### *Documentary sources*

- Architecture – Brooks and Pevsner 2007, WFDC 2003
- Carpet history – Gilbert 1990, Legat no date, Thompson 2002
- Kidderminster history – Buteux 1996, Gilbert 2004, Tomkinson and Hall 1985

## 2.2 **Fieldwork methodology**

### 2.2.1 **Fieldwork strategy**

A detailed specification has been prepared by the Service (HEAS 2009).

Fieldwork was undertaken between 26<sup>th</sup> January and 20<sup>th</sup> February 2009. The site reference number and site code is WSM 40609.

Building recording consisted of a photographic survey of the interior and exterior of the buildings, analysis of their development, annotation of existing survey drawings and measured survey. All photographs were taken with photographic scales visible in each shot. The photographic survey was carried out with a Sony  $\alpha$ 350 digital camera. All photographs were recorded on pro-forma Photographic Record Sheets. Annotation of existing ground plans and elevations, and completion of pro-forma Building Record and Building Phase sheets, complemented the photographic record along with measured drawings completed to scale on permatrace drafting film at 1:1 scale.

### 2.2.2 **Building analysis**

Analysis of the building was based on the study of the photographic record, building recording forms, annotated drawings and measured drawings. It was also informed by the documentary sources listed above.

## 2.3 **Building recording methodology**

The project conformed to the specification for a level 3 survey as defined in the English Heritage document *Understanding historic buildings: a guide to good recording practice* (EH 2006). This level of survey is described as ‘an analytical record’ comprising of ‘an introductory description followed by a systematic account of the buildings origins, development and use’ (EH 2006). This required the following elements of survey.

#### Survey and drawings

- Plans of all main floors and elevations as existing (provided by client).
- Measured drawings showing the form of any architectural or functional detail not more readily captured by photography.

#### Photography

- Overall appearance of rooms and circulation areas.
- Detailed coverage of the building’s external appearance.
- Any detail, structural or decorative, relevant to the building’s design, development and use, which does not show on general photographs.

## 2.4 The methods in retrospect

Having undertaken the project the following comments may be made with regard to the methods adopted. Access was given to all areas of the complex of buildings forming Brinton's Offices with the exception of a couple of offices and a small wine store. Two of the offices were locked for the entire time recording was taking place, due to the sensitivity of the occupants of the offices, the Managing Director and the Chairman. Other rooms were not accessible due to the amount of stored material and carpet within them. However, out of 149 rooms only eight were not accessible so the degree of confidence that the aims of the project were met is high.

## 3. Topographical and archaeological context

Kidderminster lies at a height of between 35m and 50m OD on the west and east banks of the River Stour. The Church [of St Mary and All Saints] sits on top of the sandstone ridge overlooking the river. Kidderminster grew-up at a crossing point of the River Stour, on an important route-way between the Midlands and Wales. A minster was founded in the vicinity during the eighth century and Kidderminster was of sufficient importance to be mentioned in the Domesday.

Kidderminster has been known for its textile industry since the medieval period. This industry was so successful due to the River Stour having great industrial potential as well as the settlement growing around the crossing point of the River. This means that the river supplied the needed water supply for the washing and dyeing of the wool and also, given that the local geology was sandstone, it was possible to build right up to the river edge. Thus tenement plots of the medieval period ran down to the river (Buteux 1996, 6-7). The textile industry reached its peak with the carpet companies of the late 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. A large amount of research in the carpet industries of Kidderminster has already been carried out. Of particular importance are the documents produced by Gilbert (1990), Legat (nd) and Thompson (2002).

The Historic Environment Record (HER) holds a number of entries relating to the immediate surroundings of the site. The records include details of historic buildings, monuments, activities, assessments and landscape components. These are detailed below in Table 1. Records relating specifically to the site and Brinton's carpet works are detailed and discussed below.

Table 1: List of sites in the vicinity

HER Ref	Name	Description	Dates	OS Ref
<b>Buildings</b>				
WSM 12878	Public Rooms / Corn Exchange	Public building	1853	SO 83165 76548
WSM 16992	Statue of Sir Roland Hill	Memorial	1881	SO 83186 76564
WSM 16993	Town Hall	Public building Air raid shelter	1867 1939-1945	SO 83162 76560
WSM 16994	17-20 Vicar Street (south part)	Commercial office	1850	SO 83162 76611
WSM 35920	17-20 Vicar Street (north part)	Commercial office	1850	SO 83132 76624
WSM 35976	Barclays Bank, 66 Oxford Street	Bank	1860	SO 83203 76542
<b>Activities</b>				
WSM 25984	57-65 Worcester Street	Salvage recording in 1997	1850-1997	SO 83234 76553
WSM 30865	Kidderminster Town Centre	Evaluation in 2001 Phase 1 Pond Field drain Backyard Carpet factory Steam engine	1700-1832 1780-1853 1753-1853 1853-1929 1879-1929	SO 83068 76396
WSM 33493	Kidderminster Town Centre	Evaluation in 2001 Phase 2-4 Wall Floor	1540-2000 1540-2000	SO 83004 76579
WSM 34757	Town Hall	Building recording in 2006	-	SO 83162 76560
WSM 35854	Town Hall Basement	Watching brief in 2006	-	SO 83162 76556



		Environmental deposit	1066-1799	
<b>Assessments</b>				
WSM 22556	Kidderminster Town Centre	Industrial Desk-based assessment	-	SO 83059 76557
WSM 29106	Kidderminster Town Centre	Desk-based assessment Carpet mill	1770-2000 1772-2000	SO 83061 76486
<b>Landscape Components</b>				
WSM 27848	Kidderminster	CMHTS survey of extents Settlement	1066-1994	SO 83059 76810
WSM 17831	Worcester Street	Tenement plots fronting Worcester Street Planned development	1066-1994	
WSM 20712	Vicar Street and Worcester Street	Tenement plots between the two streets Planned development	1066-1994	
WSM 20714	South of Vicar Street	Area of vicarage Religious House	1066-1850	
WSM	West of Vicar Street	Tenement plots Planned development	1200-1960	
WSM 20752	Kidderminster streets	Medieval street system Road network	1066-1539	
WSM 20755	Kidderminster streets	Post-medieval street system Road Network	1540-1800	
<b>Monuments</b>				
WSM 562	Site of Market Hall	Market House Air raid shelter	1800-1899 1939-1945	SO 83174 76682
WSM 12894	Site of Library, Museum & Institute, Exchange Street	School Library Museum	1878 1878 1878	SO 83160 76471
WSM 12916	Site of tithe barn, Vicar Street	Tithe barn	1200-1800	SO 83170 76591
WSM 16967	Site of Waterside Carpet Mill	Carpet Factory	1540-2000	SO 83135 76388
WSM 19980	Site of carpet works, Vicar Street	Carpet factory	1800-1900	SO 83128 76627
WSM 20704	Approx site of old vicarage, Vicar Str	Vicarage	1525-1870	SO 83152 76587
WSM 20724	Poss course of Vicars Brook/River Stour	Watercourse	-	SO 83300 76371
WSM 31321	Site of cinema. Vicar Street	Battle headquarters	1939-1945	SO 83119 76619
WSM 33946	Site of old dye house, Waterside Mills	Dye house	1862-2001	SO 83079 76400
WSM 33947	Site of store, Waterside Mills	Store	1880-2000	SO 831099 76386
WSM 34538	Tramway, Kidderminster and Stourport Electric Tramway Company	Tramway	1898-1929	SO 80878 71171
WSM 36212	Site of 'Green Man and Still', Oxford Street	Public House	1800-1950	SO 83116 76569
WSM 36215	Site 'The Anchor Inn', Worcester Street	Inn	1800-1950	SO 83241 76570
WSM 37084	Site of worsted spinning mill, nr Pitts Lane	Spinning Mill	1800-1950	SO 83116 76639
WSM 38535	Site of tramway shelter, Oxford Street	Tram shelter	1910-1929	SO 83225 76513
WSM 39770	Canal basin and wharf	Canal Wharf Canal basin	1771-1950 1771-1950	SO 82989 76477

The Brintons Office building (Plate 1) is situated in the south central area of the historic town of Kidderminster on Exchange Street (Fig 1). Exchange Street is a fairly new street leading west from the southern end of Vicar Street to the River Stour. It probably dates to the early 19<sup>th</sup> century and took its name from the Corn Exchange built at its east end in 1853, now part of the Town Hall buildings adjacent to it (WFDC 2003, 4)

Brintons Offices are a listed building. They were listed Grade II in 1996. This means that they were deemed to have sufficient architectural and historical interest to belong to a National list of important buildings. The following description of Brinton's Offices is detailed in the listed building record.

Factory offices. Dated 1876, built for Brintons carpet manufacturers; extended 1926. Red brick with stone dressings. Slate hipped roof behind parapet. PLAN: Large rectangular plan building with rounded corners to east, the south east with main entrance; extended by a further 15 bays to the west in 1926. Italianate style. EXTERIOR: 3 storeys. Original building has 7-bay east elevation and 9-bay south elevation, with rounded corners to the east and superimposed pilasters, stone cornices and strings, ground floor windows with panelled aprons over moulded plinth and with frieze above with company name inscribed; large moulded stone eaves cornice and blocking course; double recessed windows with cambered stone arches with keyblocks and sash windows without glazing bars. On the south east corner a round-headed doorway with recessed pilasters, curved panelled double doors and fanlight with large keyblock supporting balustrade above to first floor window; modillion cornice at corner and small stone gable above with date 1876, monogram and carved figure in shaped panel above. The south elevation has 15-bay extension on left in similar style, with small stone gable on right and carriageway at centre. At rear, north, C20 3-storey extension with large windows between brick pilasters. INTERIOR: Small circular entrance vestibule with domed ceiling. Mahogany main staircase. Boardroom said to contain circa 1926 panelling and interior generally altered. (EH 2009)

The HER holds a number of entries that relate specifically to the Brintons' carpet works. These are detailed below in Table 2. Much of the carpet works buildings have been demolished and these are now included as monuments on the HER with their date and original site noted. An industrial assessment of Kidderminster town centre, focusing on Brintons' works, was carried out by John van Laun Associates for Marches Archaeology (WSM 22556, van Laun 1999). This included a short history of Brinton's and made a number of recommendations for recording of the buildings. Following these recommendations, Brintons' carpet works was the subject of a building recording project (WSM 34072) undertaken by AOC Archaeology Group in March 2001 (AOS 2001). This survey identified the individual buildings on all of the Brintons' land to the west and up to the west boundary of the site but did not include the Brintons' office building. Much of the information in the HER about the, now demolished, Brintons' buildings came from these two sources.

Table 2: Sites relating to Brinton's (see also Fig 2)

HER Ref	Name	Description	Dates	OS Ref
<b>Buildings</b>				
WSM 33936	Piano Building, Brintons Carpet Works	Carpet factory Wool warehouse	1867	SO 82988 76477
WSM 35974	Brintons Factory Offices	Factory	1876	SO 83113 76507
<b>Activities</b>				
WSM 12918	Behind Brintons Carpet Works	Spanish Olive Jar found in River Stour	1700-1799	SO 83076 76519
WSM 34072	Brintons Carpet Works	Building recording in 2001 Carpet Factory	1850-2001	SO 83038 76434
WSM 39544	Piano Building, Weavers Wharf	Photo survey	-	SO 82989 76477
<b>Monuments</b>				
WSM 12900	Site of 'A' shed, Brintons Carpets	Carpet factory Ordnance factory	1700-2000 1939-1945	SO 83100 76500
WSM 19977	Site 'C' shed, Brintons Carpets	Carpet Factory Spinning shed Ordnance factory	1873-2002 1873-2002 1939-1945	SO 83024 76404
WSM 19979	Site of dye house 1, Brintons Carpets	Dye House Carpet factory Ordnance factory	1899-2002 1801-2002 1939-1945	SO 83069 76578
WSM 19994	Site of dye house, Brintons Carpets	Carpet factory Dye house Ordnance factory	1800-2000 1830-2002 1939-1945	SO 83092 76528
WSM 33917	Site of dye house 2, Brintons Carpets	Carpet factory Dye house Ordnance factory	1899-2000 1899-2002 1939-1945	SO 83064 76524
WSM 33918	Site of engine house, Brintons	Carpet factory Engine house	1850-2002 1850-2000	SO 83103 76516
WSM 33929	Site of part of Brintons North	Carpet factory Ordnance factory	1850-2002 1939-1945	SO 83080 76509
WSM 33932	Site of starch house, Brintons Carpets	Carpet factory	1870-2002	SO 83061 76490

WSM 33933	Site of 'The Mill', Brintons Carpets	Carpet factory	1855-2002	SO 83061 76490
WSM 33934	Site of chimney, Brintons Carpets	Carpet factory Chimney	1870-2002 1870-2002	SO 83016 76499
WSM 33935	Site of boiler house, Brintons Carpets	Carpet factory Boiler house	1869-2002 1869-2002	SO 83010 76445
WSM 33938	Site of range of buildings between 'B' & 'C' sheds, Brintons Carpets	Carpet factory Engine house Ordnance factory	1879-2002 1879-2002 1939-1945	SO 83024 76430
WSM 33940	Site of 'D' shed, Brintons Carpets	Carpet factory Spinning shed Ordnance factory	1873-2002 1873-2002 1939-1945	SO 83036 76365
WSM 33942	Site of yarn store and Axminster winding loom, Brintons Carpets	Carpet factory	1873-2001	SO 83083 76369
WSM 33943	Site of starch house, Brintons Carpets	-	-	SO 83071 76382
WSM 33948	Site of over-entrance building, Brintons Carpets	Carpet factory	1901-2000	SO 83101 76464
WSM 33949	Site of original main block, Waterside Mill	Carpet factory	1927-2001	SO 83108 76463
WSM 33950	Site of warehouse, Brintons Carpets	Carpet factory	1862-2001	SO 83114 76425
WSM 33951	Site of 'G' shed, Brintons Carpets	Carpet factory Ordnance factory	1924-2001 1939-1945	SO 83130 76407
WSM 37085	Site of carpet factory between Vicar Street and River Stour	Carpet factory	1800-1950	SO 83116 76569

#### 4. **Brintons Offices (No 1 Site)**

##### 4.1 **The History of Brintons Limited**

In the late 1980s, Legat produced a short but comprehensive history of Brintons Limited in his book *Carpets of Kidderminster* (Legat nd, 16-19). Other histories have also been produced, as discussed above. The history of the largest and oldest carpet company in Kidderminster is associated with the histories of many of the other Kidderminster companies. The history of the company can be traced back to around 1783 when William Brinton began spinning at Hill Pool (Thompson 2002, 18). This was followed by partnerships with other manufacturers including John Cooper around 1798 (Legat, 16). The partnership was dissolved by 1819 and soon after Henry Brinton set up a new business in Mill Street. The company names and dates following this are as follows: Henry Brinton (1819-1848); Henry Brinton and Sons (1848-1858); Brinton and Lewis (1858-1870); John Brinton and Company (1870-1891); Brintons Limited (1891-present) (Legat nd, 37).

##### 4.2 **Early 19<sup>th</sup> century building**

In the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, around 1820, Mr Henry Brinton, who was already running a carpet manufacturing company from Mill Street, built a new factory on Brinton's No 1 Site in Exchange Street. This site included looms but much of the weaving was done on handlooms in the small weaving shops that were located all over Kidderminster (Legat nd, 16). The factory probably contained a large number of buildings, some small and some large and one of the buildings still surviving within the Brintons' Offices site dates from this period. This is a small rectangular, two-bay structure on the north side of the yard (Fig 2, Plate 2). It is built of brick and its original semi-circular headed openings can still be seen, although on the ground floor they are now blocked (Plate 3). Two of the first floor windows have survived: one is now a door (Plate 4), but the other is still glazed with its original fanlight glazing bars (Plate 5). Windows like this were commonly used on the industrial buildings of Kidderminster in this period, despite their style being more typical of late 18<sup>th</sup> century architecture. On the 1897 insurance plan by Charles Goad, one of the rooms contains some form of machinery. This small structure is the last surviving section of the original Brinton's factory and can be seen on a painting of the works completed in 1870 (Plate 6).

#### 4.3 **Mid-19<sup>th</sup> century building**

At some time in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century a long range was constructed on the north side of the site (Fig 2). This structure was built of brick and had segmental arch head windows. It is visible on the 1870 painting (Plate 7). The building had only a first and second floor, as can be seen by the painting. This structure is still in existence today, although it has been remodelled inside and out since the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century. The rear wall of this structure is hidden within the range later of buildings on the site, although it has been considerably altered. The wall has a number of blocked segmental arch windows (Plate 8), which are also shown on the 1897 and 1904 (Plate 9) insurance plans produced by Chas. E Goad. The front wall, north side is also intact but with major remodelling from the 1930s, and shows that the building was constructed with polychrome bricks, red and blue, giving it a striped appearance (Plate 10). The insurance plans also show that the building had a function of carpet warehouse and packing. However the original function of the building may have been completely different.

#### 4.4 **1876 office building**

In 1876 the impressive office building (Fig 2 and Plate 11) was constructed on Exchange Street on the corner adjacent to the Corn Exchange and Town Hall. This building gives a good impression of how the offices of the carpet manufactories of Kidderminster looked. The building was designed in an Italianate style by J T Meredith, whose offices were on the opposite side of Exchange Street. The building is constructed of red brick with yellow limestone dressings. These stone details include a corner gable with date stone (Plate 12), keystones and cambered stone arches around the tops of the window openings (Plate 13) and an impressive entranceway with balustrade above (Plate 14). Above the date stone is a monogram of JB&Co (Plate 12) from 'John Brinton and Company,' the name of the business when the offices were constructed. The entrance is flanked by recessed pilasters (Plate 15) and the door has a semi-circular head with fanlight (Plate 16). Between the ground and first floor windows is a moulded string course (Plate 17) and between the first and second floor windows is a simple string course (Plate 18). The second floor windows have aprons below them (Plate 17), as have the ground floor windows (Plate 19). The windows, on each floor, are arranged in pairs and are separated by pilasters that run from the ground to the eaves (Plate 11).

The interior of the structure consisted of large open spaces for housing sewing rooms, offices and on the first floor a show room. Throughout the building are architectural details typical of the period of construction but with elements of unusual detail. The entranceway is circular with a mosaic floor containing an initial 'B' (Plate 20). The ceiling is domed with plaster moulding (Plate 21). The two sets of double doors are slightly askew but both have deeply moulded panels (Plate 22, Fig 7). The exterior doors are curved to match the shape of the corner of the building (Plate 23). This space was the reception for the building and therefore built into the south wall is a reception hatch (Plate 24) with moulded architrave.

The building's sash windows have shaped segmental head panes of glass with heavily moulded architraves and cills (Plate 25). The room cornices are also heavily moulded (Plate 26). An unusual feature is the way of opening the top parts of the tall ground floor windows (Plate 27). This bar and catch system was marked with 'ELSLEY'S PATENT' (Plate 28). This is a very industrial answer to the problem of opening a high window as opposed to the domestic way of a 'brass hook on a long stick'. Occasional examples of the original air vents also still survive in some of the rooms (Plate 29). The mahogany stairs to the first floor (Plate 30) are closed string, winder stairs with ¼ landing, curtail step and open well. The newel posts are chunky and the balusters are tapered columns with a simple handrail (Plate 31, Fig 7). The large showroom (Plate 32) covered all of the first floor east side of the building as can be seen on the 1897 Goad insurance plan. The upper floor of the building was used as a sewing room at the time of this plan.

#### 4.5 **1926 extension**

In 1926 Pritchard and Godwin, successors to J T Meredith, designed an extension (Plate 33) to the 1876 building, running west along Exchange Street. Interestingly, the Wyre Forest District Council planning archive, now at Worcestershire Record Office, contains the architect's plans for the new

extension but they are dated 1928 (WRO r498 BA8895/141 vi). It consisted of a building along the frontage of Exchange Street and further structures surrounding a yard. The extension was designed so that the style of the 1876 building was carried through into the new structure (Plate 34). The bricks are very similar in both buildings and only a slight variation in colour can tell them apart (Plate 35). It is decorated with the same limestone and even the detailing is the same as the original build (Plate 36). The one difference, apart from the slight colour change in the brickwork, is that the 1926 part has no pilasters between pairs of segmental head windows. Instead the cambered arches join together to create a limestone lintel (Plate 37). The most impressive feature on the exterior of the extension is the date stone and gable, placed so that it would be at the centre of the full length of the two structures. It has the date 1926 carved into it and the initials of the people associated with its construction (Plate 38). The frontage to Exchange Street contains a large number of windows giving the impression of rooms on the ground floor, however all of the windows to the west of the large opening (Plate 39) look onto an internal covered yard area. The building was planned to keep the style of the building rather than let the function dictate the appearance.

The interior of the extension building contains a number of features still surviving from this period. The roof trusses are steel and industrial in style (Plate 40), like the over-engineered RSJs used throughout the 1926 structure (Plate 41). These are more suited to large-scale industrial buildings than office buildings. One of the best features of this date is the lift (Plate 42), or, as described on the architect's plans (WRO r498 BA8895/141 vi), 'hoist'. Both the lifts still have concertina doors and original call buttons, although it is likely that the northern lift was constructed in the early 1930s. Next to the western lift on the first and second floors is a steel spiral staircase (Plate 43). This is a rather elegant piece of metalwork with stick balusters and a very plain handrail; it has an industrial appearance (Plate 44) and was shown on the architect's plans.

The original early 19<sup>th</sup> century building had by this time been converted to garages on the ground floor with a store on the second floor. The architect's plans show that the ground floor buildings consisted of a general office men's toilets, lift, WC, typists area, experimental room, garages and a covered yard. The first floor is described as containing a large showroom, above the general office and the covered yard, and two stores.

#### 4.6 **1930s remodelling**

At some point in this period, the north wall of the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century range of buildings was completely remodelled. The original structure had been a two-storey building but by 1935, as shown on a plan produced in the AOC building recording report (AOC 2001 - Fig 8), this remodelled range had an extra floor and housed carpet stores or warehousing on the first and second floors with packing on the ground floor. This raising of the height of the building can be seen on the external elevation where the top floor is constructed of different bricks (Plate 45). The remodelling retained the polychrome brickwork of red and blue bricks, coursed alternately to create the striped exterior, but inserted large openings on the ground floor (Plate 46). Instead of the narrow pairs of sash windows of the 1876 and 1926 buildings, it had large many paned windows to give a great amount of light. These 1930s windows have survived on the ground floor (Plate 47) but have been replaced on the first floor. The 1943 Goad insurance plan shows that the structure was still being used as a carpet warehouse and for packing even though it had been remodelled.

In 1935 the current boardroom (Fig 3) on the ground floor was created (Plate 48). This has walnut panelling on all four sides and an adjoining cloakroom and WC. The walnut panelling has built in cupboards with brass fittings and the doors have brass doorknobs. A small plaque on the fireplace details this conversion of the room (Plate 49).

#### 4.7 **1950s to 60s**

The 1950s saw a change in the buildings. There appears to have been a requirement for a second showroom, as the first floor of the carpet warehouse and packing building was converted to this use (Fig 5). Panelling was put on the walls (Plate 50) and ceiling (Plate 51) and shelving (Plate 52) was added to store carpet samples. The room had built in heating (Plate 53) and an ingenious method of

opening the large replaced windows by turning a knob, to wind in or out a cable attached to the window (Plate 54). Again this appears to be an industrial application to a simple domestic problem.

The 1960s saw a change in working conditions. There was a move away from large open offices into cubicle working and it is probably at this time that many of the half-glazed partitions that exist throughout the building were inserted (Plate 55).

## 5. **Significance**

The proposals currently being considered for the site would involve the complete demolition of all the buildings excluding the 1876 office building and the 1926 frontage on Exchange Street. The demolition of the rest of the buildings would be followed by the construction of facilities and domestic accommodation for an 'extra-care' home as well as retail space. The building affected is a Grade II listed structure and whilst the listing description does not give details of all of the structures behind the façade, these are listed along with those sections described. The proposals would require the demolition of the most historic buildings on the site. These buildings are hidden behind the impressive façade on Exchange Street but are not any less significant. The significance of these structures is detailed below.

Brintons Office stands on the site of the first Brinton's carpet factory, constructed by Henry Brinton around 1820. Although almost all of the original structures have been demolished and replaced with later structures, hidden within this site is the last surviving building from this first development of the Brinton's factory. This small structure has been considerably altered since it was constructed nearly 200 years ago and there is now no evidence of its original function. It is shown as containing some machinery on the 1897 Goad insurance plan on one side but empty on the other. It is therefore likely that it had an industrial purpose rather than being an office. Its location right on the edge of the River Stour as it runs through the site suggests that it may have had a function that required using water, possibly dyeing. Further research in the Brintons' archives may reveal its original layout, function or appearance. This building has great significance for the history of Brintons Limited as it is probably the earliest surviving building from the first Brinton's factory.

The further development of the factory site in the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century led to the construction of the long range of buildings on the north elevation of the Brintons' Offices site. This structure has also been severely altered since it was first built and again the original function of the building is not known. Even its appearance can be barely discerned from the 1870 painting, which only shows that it had two rows of windows along its north elevation, like many other buildings in Kidderminster, and a possible pitching eye on its gable. This building probably relates to the second phase of development of the factory and was probably also built by Henry Brinton. The 1870 painting shows that the roof had two vents projecting from its ridge, which shows that it probably had an industrial or manufacturing use. Large structures like this were sometimes used for weaving before the large weaving sheds came into use, as at New Road Mills, Green Street.

## 6. **Research frameworks**

This project can be considered alongside the previous assessments produced by AOC Archaeology Group and Marches Archaeology (van Laun 1999) to provide an assessment of the full footprint of Brintons Limited. As detailed above there has been a considerable amount of research on the carpet industry in Kidderminster. Brintons Limited also has a very extensive archive, part of which has been passed to the Carpet Museum in Kidderminster.

The Central Marches Historic Town Survey (Buteux 1996) has already produced a study of the archaeology of Kidderminster, however this did not include any information after 1750 and so the historic importance of the carpet industry was not assessed in this context.

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## 7. Publication summary

The Service has a professional obligation to publish the results of archaeological projects within a reasonable period of time. To this end, the Service intends to use this summary as the basis for publication through local or regional journals. The client is requested to consider the content of this section as being acceptable for such publication.

*A building evaluation and recording was undertaken on behalf of Brintons Limited and Shaylor Developments at Brinton's Offices (No 1 Site), Exchange Street, Kidderminster, Worcestershire (NGR ref SO 8312 7651; SMR ref WSM 40609). Brinton's Offices are a range of Grade II listed, Italianate, brick built, structures dating from 1876 and 1926. The buildings still contain a large number of original features from these dates. Hidden within the buildings were a small rectangular structure dating from around 1820 and a long building dating from the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century. This building was also brick built but using polychrome brickwork, giving a striped appearance. The 1820 building is probably the last surviving building from the first Brinton's carpet factory.*

## 8. Acknowledgements

The Service would like to thank the following for their kind assistance in the successful conclusion of this project, Brintons Limited, in particular David Smith and the staff at No 1 Site; Kathy Else, RPS; Mike Glyde, Planning Archaeologist and Simon Roper-Presdee, Wyre Forest District Council.

## 9. Personnel

The fieldwork and report preparation was led by Shona Robson-Glyde. The project manager responsible for the quality of the project was Hal Dalwood. Fieldwork was undertaken by Shona Robson-Glyde, and illustration by Steve Rigby and Shona Robson-Glyde.

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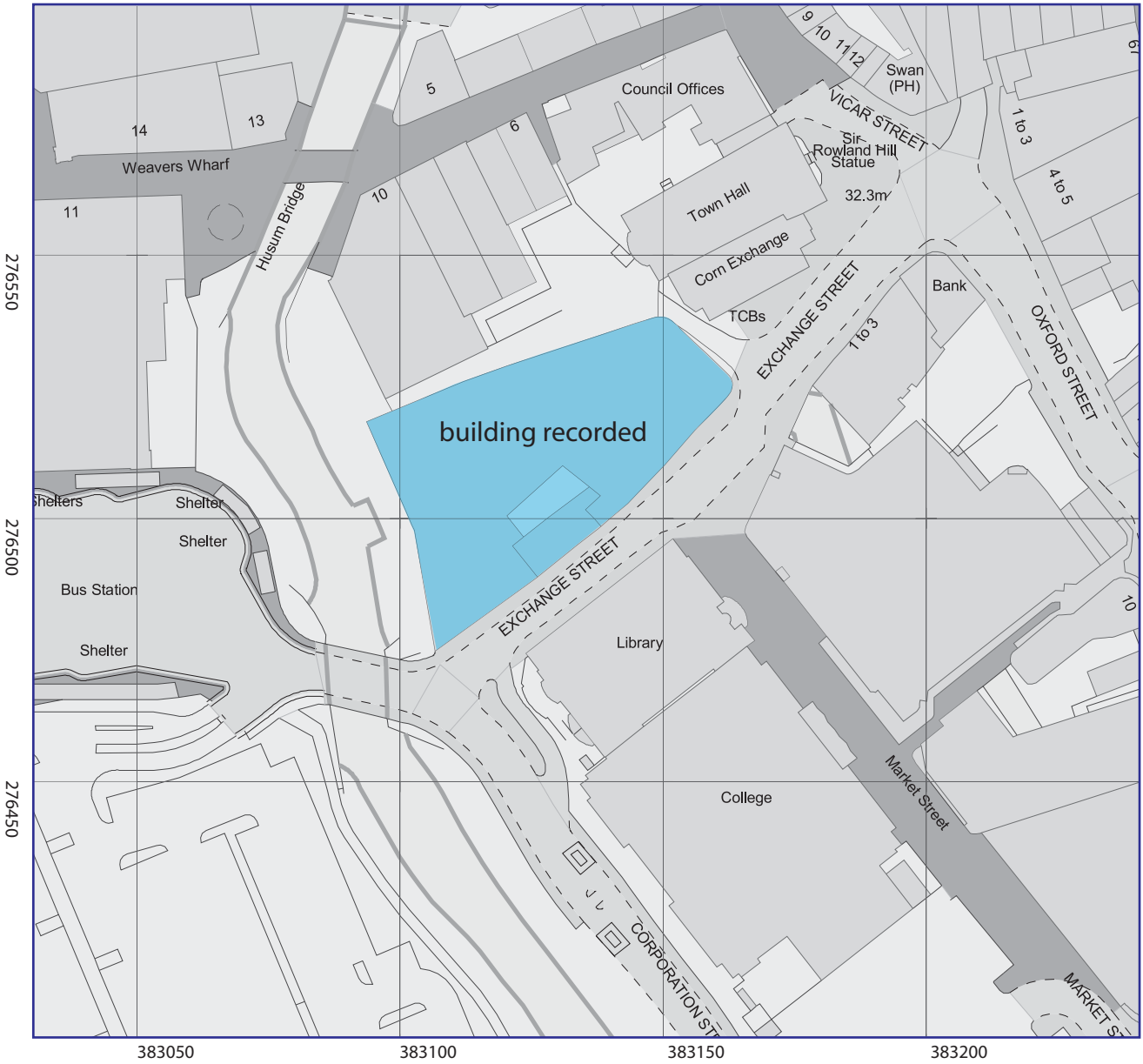
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# Figures



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Location of the site

Figure 1

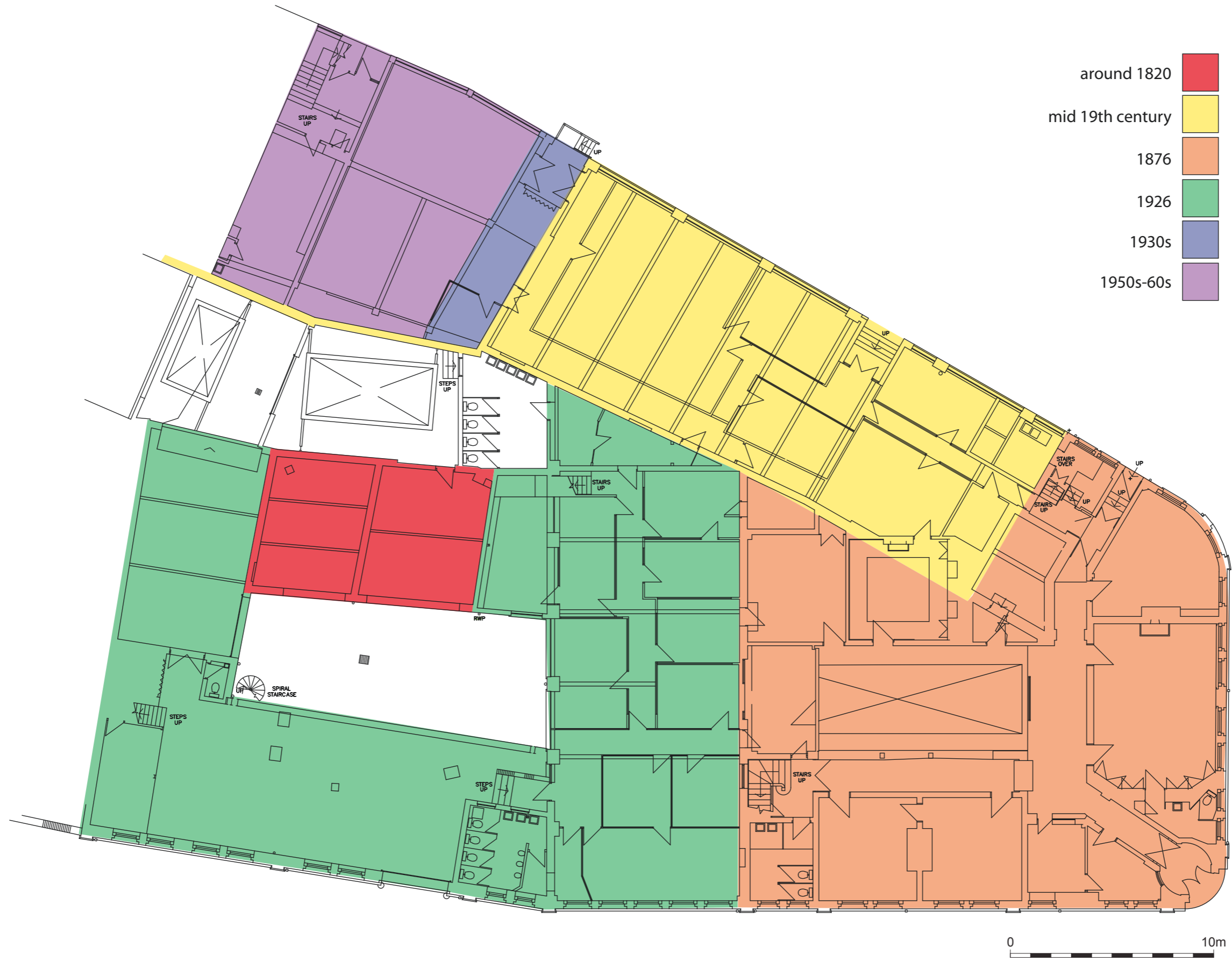


Figure 2: Phased ground plan



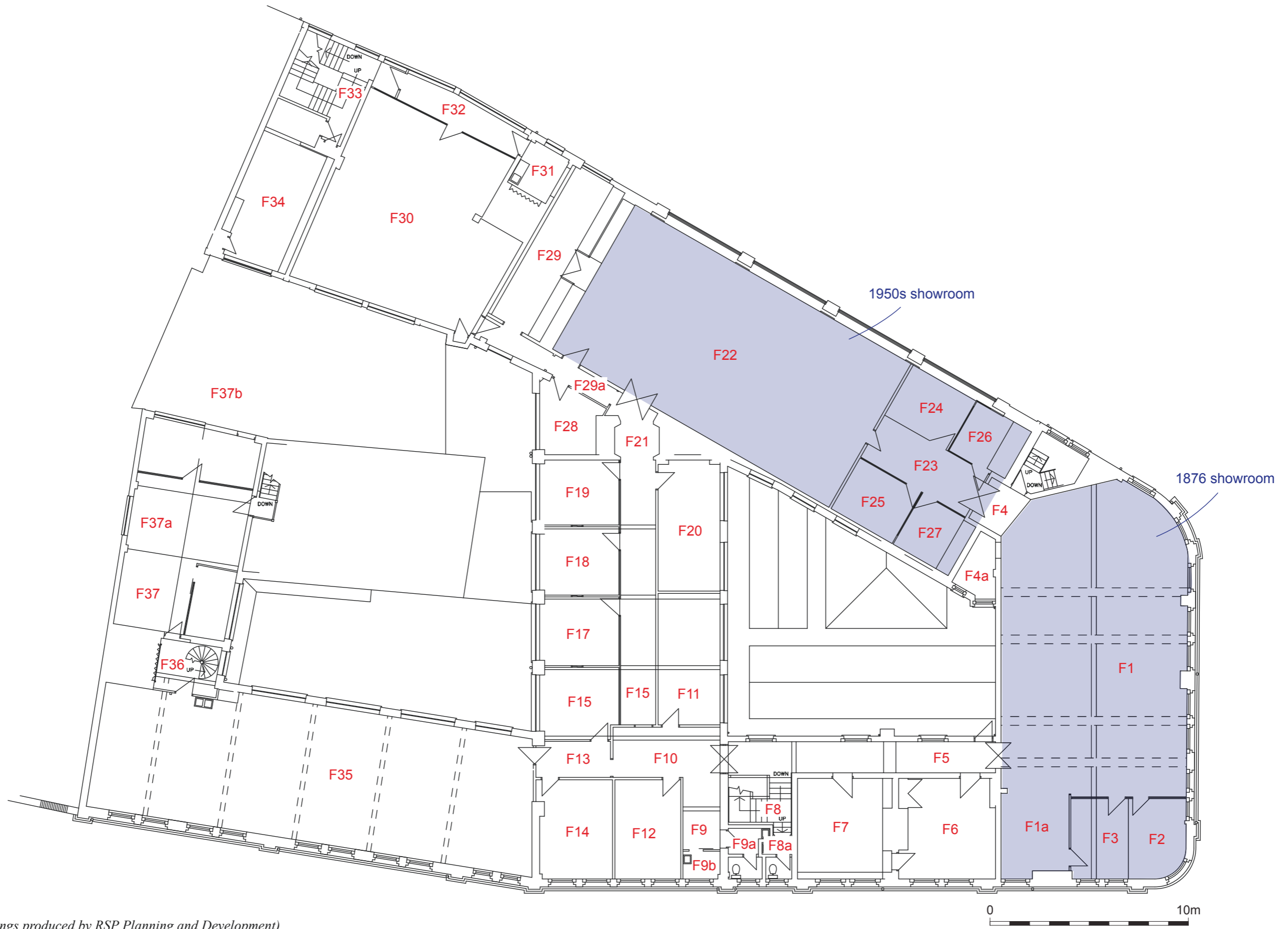
(Based on drawings produced by RSP Planning and Development)

Figure 3: Ground floor plan of Brinton's Office (with room numbers)



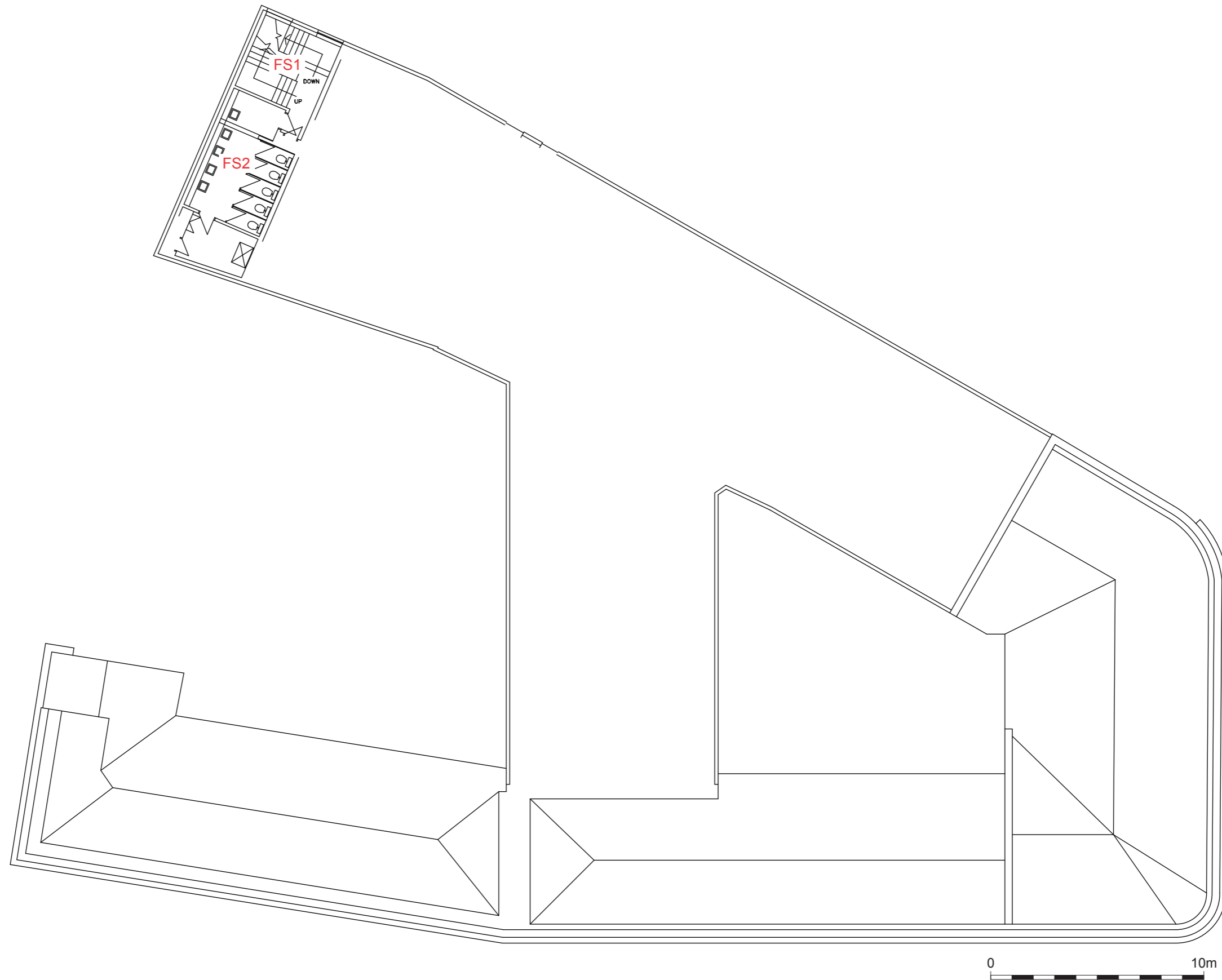
*(Based on drawings produced by RSP Planning and Development)*

Figure 4: Ground/first mid-floor plan of Brinton's Office (with room numbers)



(Based on drawings produced by RSP Planning and Development)

Figure 5: First floor plan of Brinton's Office (with room numbers)



*(Based on drawings produced by RSP Planning and Development)*

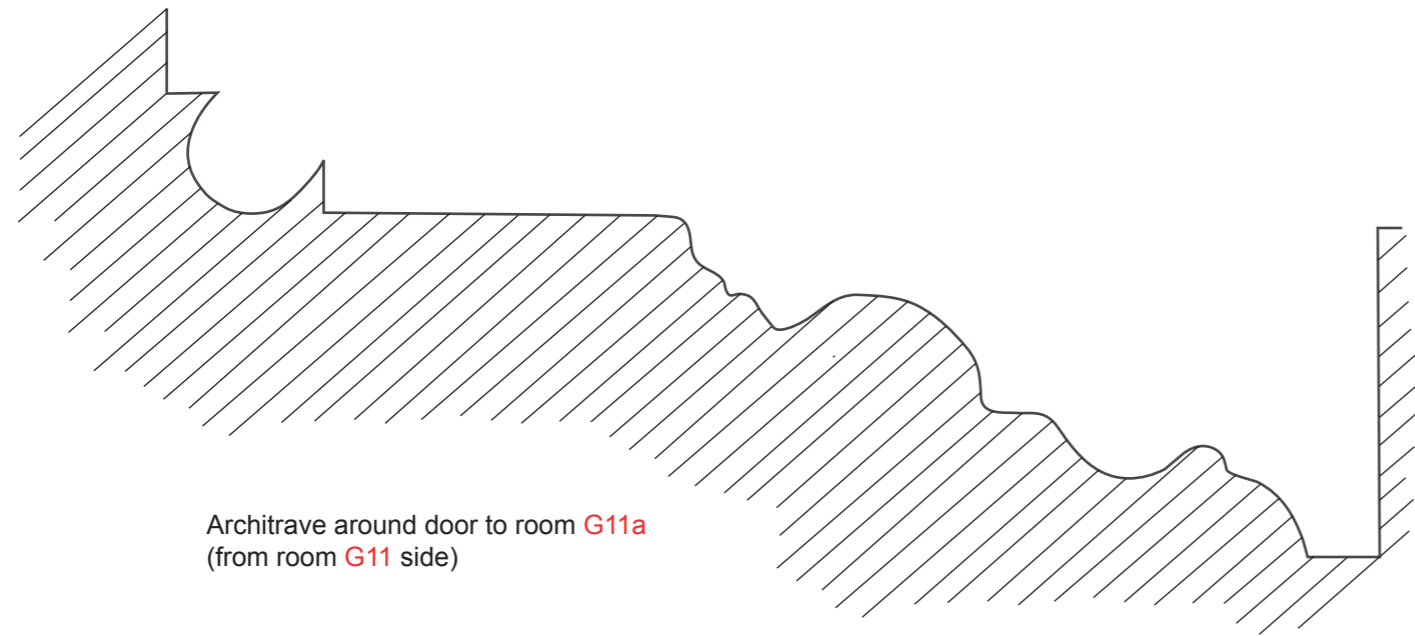
*Figure 6: First/second mid-floor plan of Brinton's Office (with room numbers)*



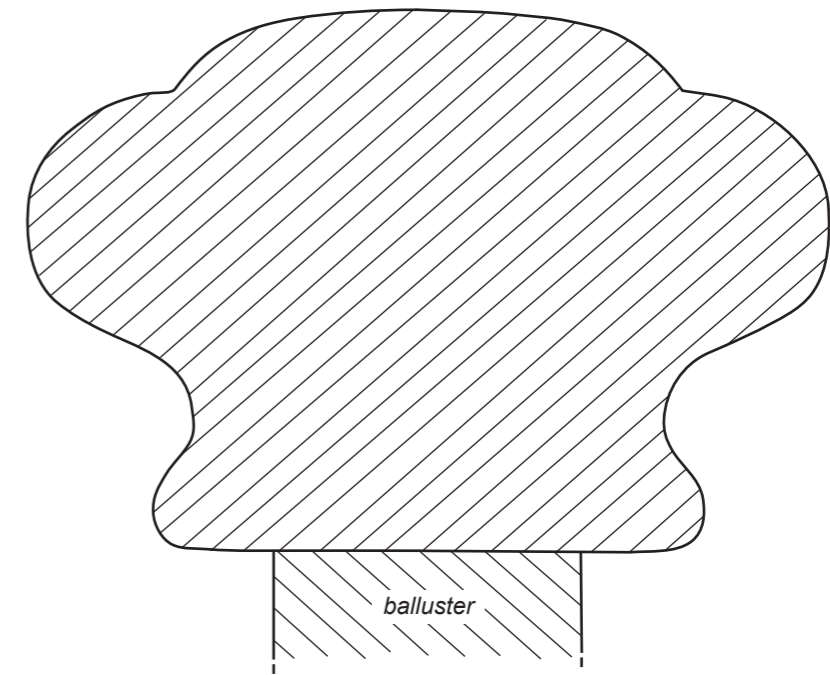
*(Based on drawings produced by RSP Planning and Development)*

Figure 7: Second floor plan of Brinton's Office (with room numbers)

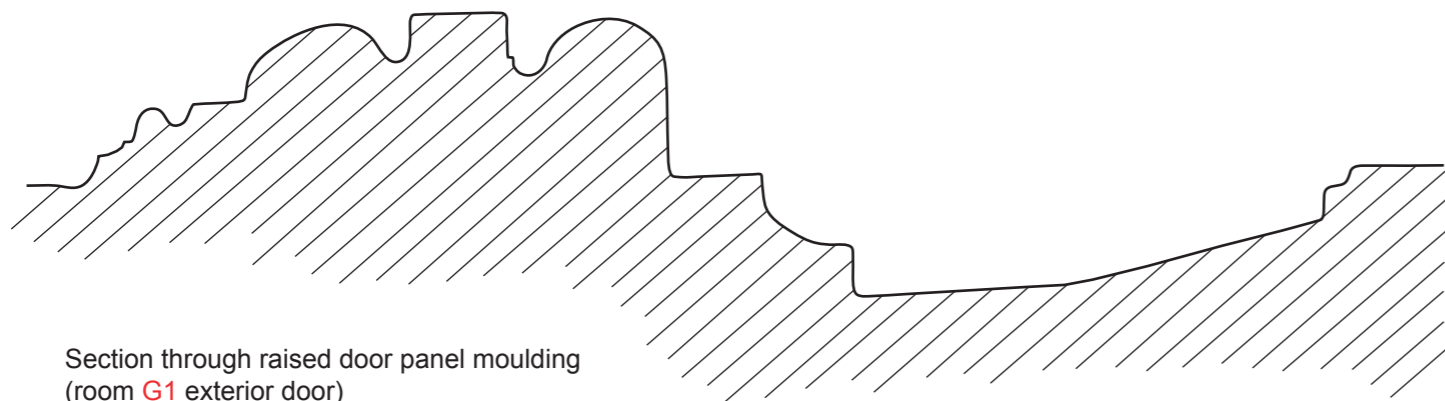




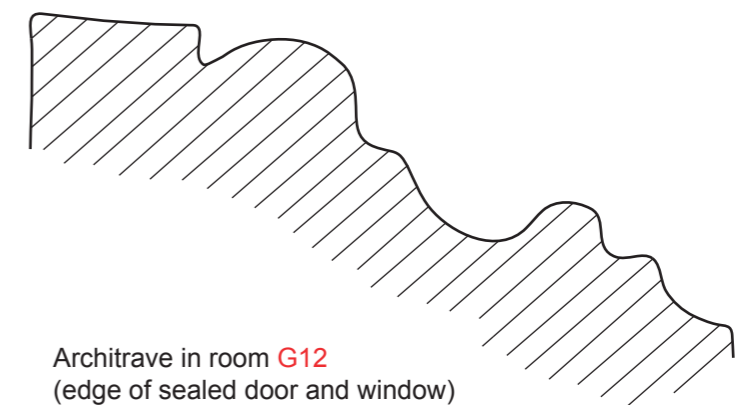
Architrave around door to room G11a  
(from room G11 side)



Section through stair handrail



Section through raised door panel moulding  
(room G1 exterior door)



Architrave in room G12  
(edge of sealed door and window)

Figure 8: Architectural details

**Plates**

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*Plate 1: The building from the south west*



*Plate 2: The early 19<sup>th</sup> century structure from the east*



*Plate 3: One of the blocked windows in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century building*



*Plate 4: Early 19<sup>th</sup> century window, now door*



*Plate 5: Early 19<sup>th</sup> century window with fanlight glazing*

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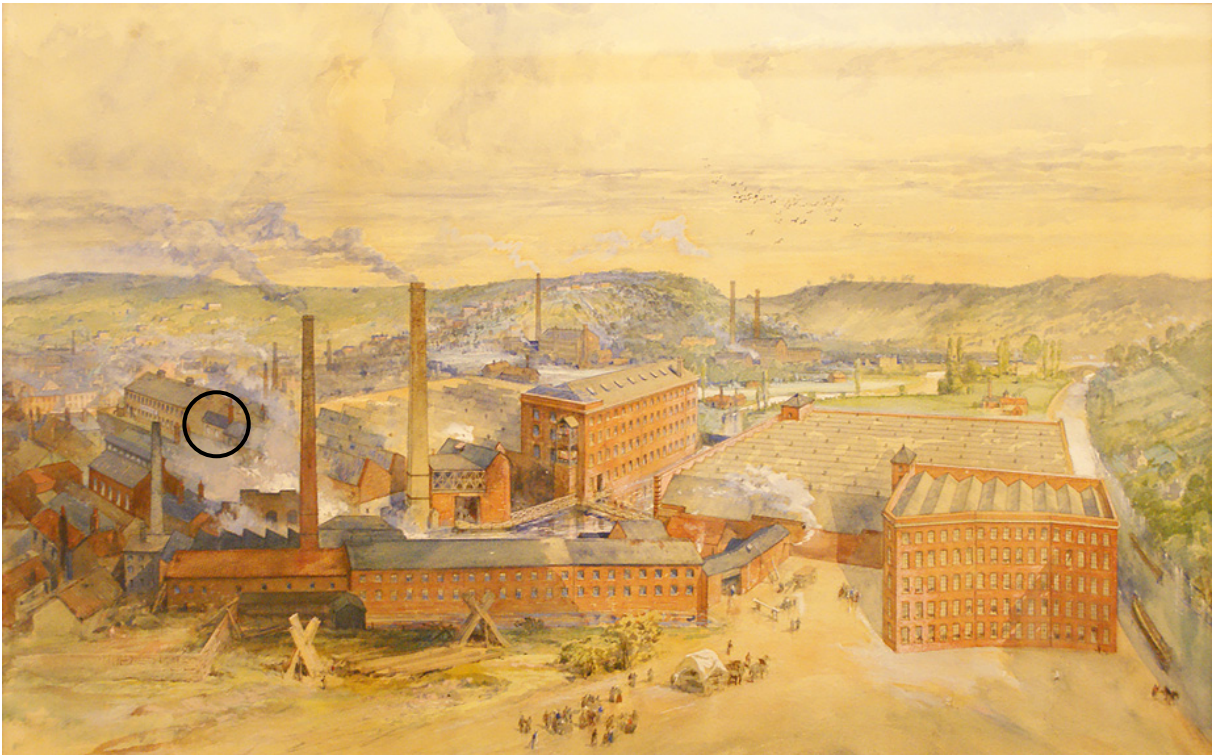


Plate 6: 1870 painting of Brintons Ltd with early 19<sup>th</sup> century building highlighted

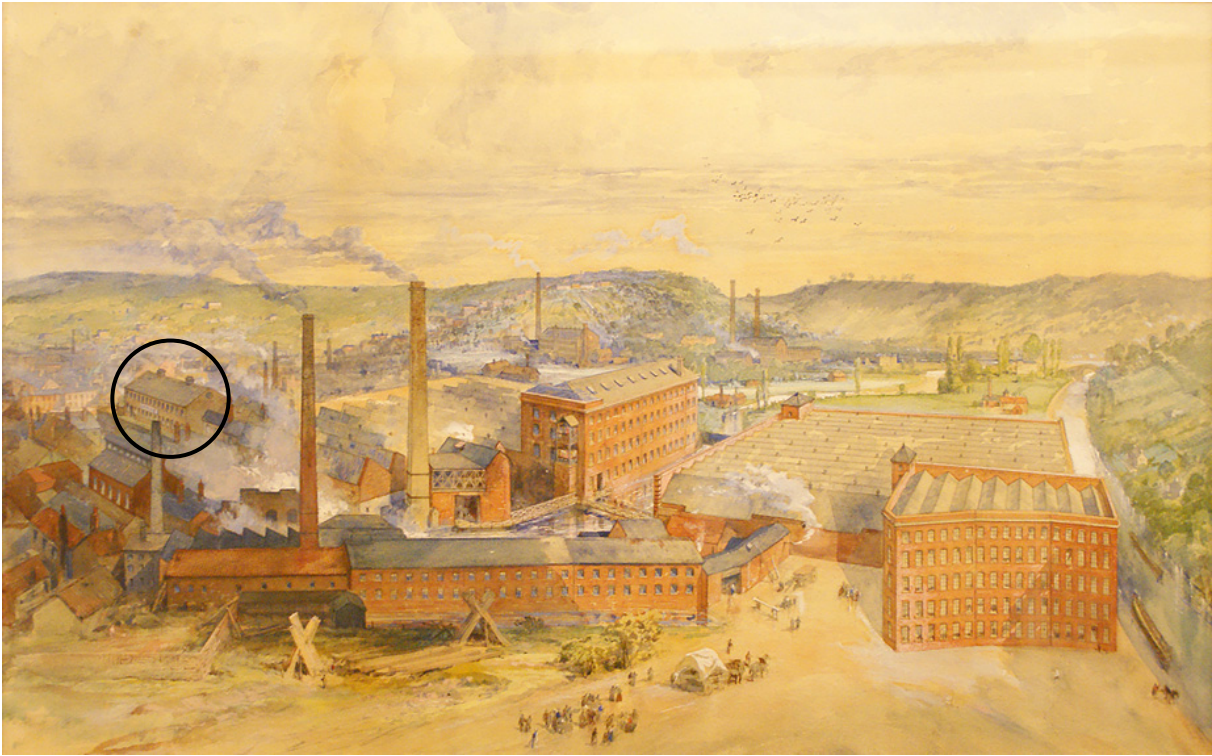


Plate 7: 1870 painting of Brintons Ltd with mid 19<sup>th</sup> century building highlighted



Plate 8: Rear wall of mid 19<sup>th</sup> century building with blocked openings

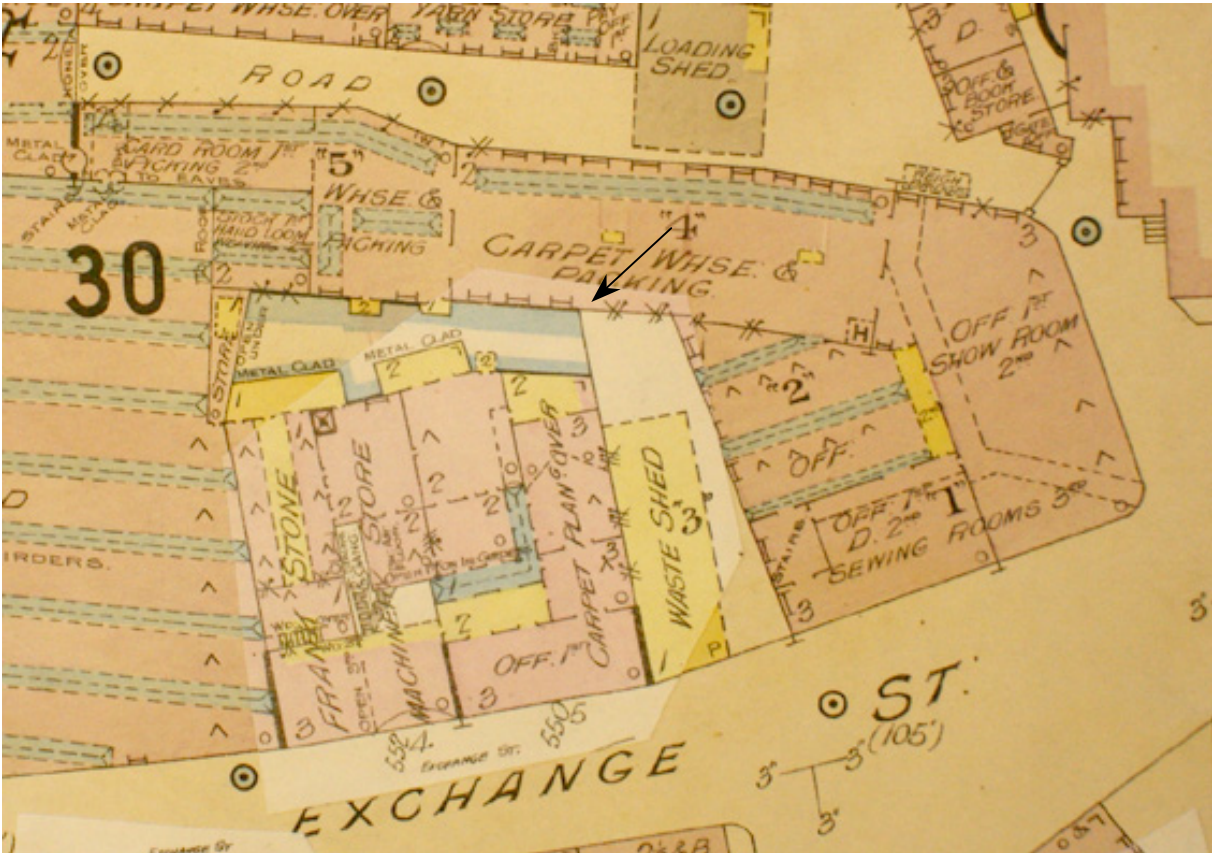


Plate 9: 1904 Goad insurance plan with mid 19<sup>th</sup> century wall highlighted





*Plate 10: Mid 19<sup>th</sup> century building from the north east, note the polychrome brickwork*



*Plate 11: 1876 Brinton's Offices building*



*Plate 12: Limestone gable with date stone and monogram*



*Plate 13: Cambered stone arches on 1876 building*



*Plate 14: Balustrade above main entrance*



*Plate 15: Recessed pilasters at entrance*



*Plate 16: Entrance way with fanlight above door*



*Plate 17: Stringcourse between the ground and first floors*



*Plate 18: Stringcourse between the first and second floors*

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*Plate 19: Ground floor windows and aprons of 1876 building*

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Plate 20: Mosaic floor in entrance way



Plate 21: Entrance way domed ceiling with moulded plasterwork





Plate 22: Interior entrance door



Plate 23: Curved exterior entrance door



*Plate 24: Reception hatch in entrance way*



*Plate 25: Segmental arched glass and moulded architrave and cill*

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*Plate 26: Heavily moulded cornice*

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*Plate 27: Tall ground floor window with bar and catch opening system*



*Plate 28: Top and bottom catches with name embossed in the bottom catch*



*Plate 29: Surviving 1876 air vent*



*Plate 30: 1876 mahogany staircase*

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*Plate31: 1876 mahogany staircase with tapered balusters and chunky newel post*



Plate 32: 1876 first floor show room



Plate 33: 1826 building fronting Exchange Street





*Plate 34: 1876 style matched in the 1926 structure (left of the double drainpipes is 1926, to the right is 1876).*



*Plate 35: Different brick colours (left of the drainpipes is 1926, to the right is 1876).*



*Plate 36: The same limestone detailing (left of the drainpipes is 1926, to the right is 1876).*



*Plate 37: Arches over windows on 1926 building, different to 1896 building*



*Plate 38: Limestone gable date stone on Exchange Street Elevation*



Plate 39: Large opening on Exchange Street, part of 1926 structure



Plate 40: Steel trusses in 1926 structure



*Plate 41: Massive RSJ 'T' beam in yard*



Plate 42: 1930s lift



*Plate 43: Steel spiral staircase*



*Plate 44: Steel spiral staircase*



*Plate 45: Top floor added to mid 19<sup>th</sup> century building, notice different bricks*

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*Plate 46: Large opening in remodelled mid 19<sup>th</sup> century building*



Plate47: Large many paned windows



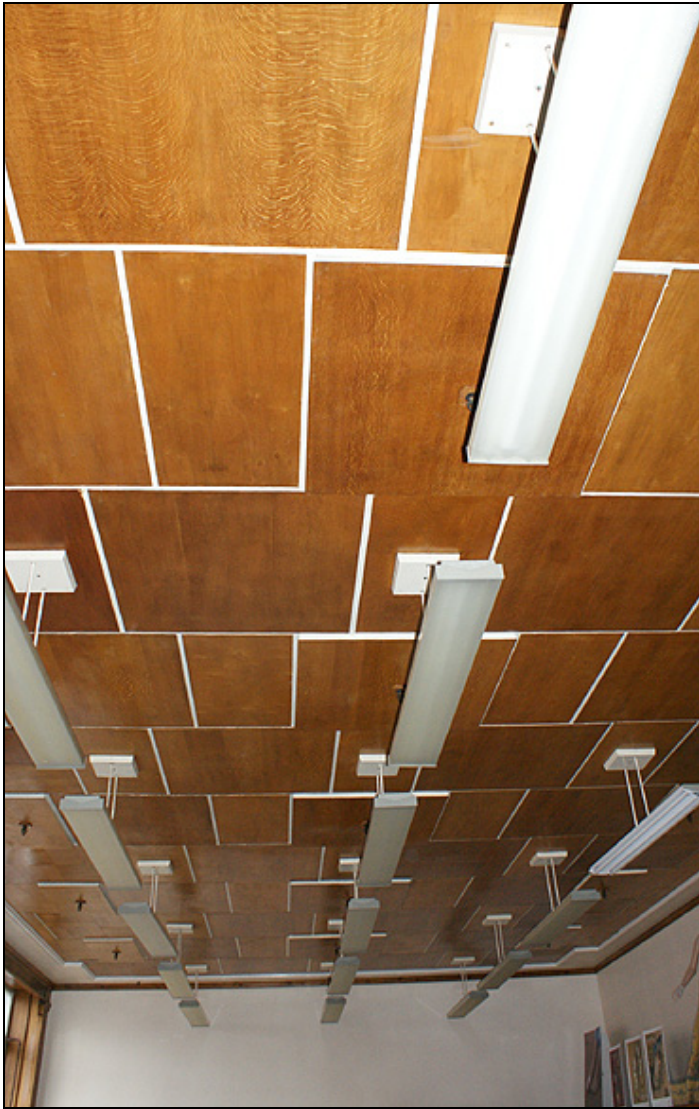
Plate48: 1935 walnut panelled boardroom



*Plate 49: 1935 plaque in boardroom*



*Plate 50: 1950s showroom showing panelling*



*Plate 51: 1950s panelled ceiling*



*Plate 52: Built carpet sample shelving*

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*Plate 53: Built in radiator and grill in 1950s showroom*



*Plate 54: Window opening mechanism in 1950s showroom*



Plate 55: Example of glazed partitions

## **Appendix 1 Technical information**

### **The archive**

The archive consists of:

- 3 Fieldwork progress records AS2
- 15 Photographic records AS3
- 676 Colour digital photographs
- 8 Scale drawings

The project archive is intended to be placed at:

Worcestershire County Museum  
Hartlebury Castle  
Hartlebury  
Near Kidderminster  
Worcestershire DY11 7XZ  
Tel Hartlebury (01299) 250416

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## Appendix 2 Room by room description

Photo numbers refer to those on the CD. Photo record sheets are also on the CD.

Room No	Function	Original Function	Description	Architectural Features	Photos
G1	Entrance way	Entrance	Circular room with dome ceiling. Off-set doors.	Deeply panelled shaped exterior doors. Half glazed panelled internal doors. Reception window. Mosaic Floor	1-6
G2	Corridor	Corridor	Modern decoration	Suspended ceiling.	7-8
G3	IT room	Office / Reception (with G4, G9, G10, G11a)	Unused room.	Moulded cornice. Moulded window architraves. Unusual window catches & stays. Air vent.	11-17
G4	Reception	Office (with G4, G9, G10, G11a)	Modern area.		18
G5	Lounge Corridor	Corridor	Modern decoration		9-10, 19-23
G6	Boardroom	Office (with G7, G16)	Large rectangular area enlarged and repanelled in 1935	Walnut panelled boardroom. 19 <sup>th</sup> C sash windows. Moulded cornice and panel cornice. Built in cupboards. Brass door & cupboard fittings.	24-32
G7	Boardroom cloakroom	Office (with G6, G16)	Cloakroom and toilet with fridge	1950s walnut panelling. Glazed internal shutters. 1970s toilet and sink.	33-36
G8	Lounge	Office / Waiting room (with G12, G13, G14, G15, G29)	Open space with sofas	Modern timber ceiling with glazed roof above	37-39
G9	Chairman's Office	Office (with G3, G4, G10, G11a)	Not accessible		
G10	Office	Office (with G3, G4, G9, G11a)	Modern decoration	1950s panelling, ½ wall height. Panelled ceiling. Segmental head windows. 19 <sup>th</sup> century 1/1 sashes. Internal glazing.	40-42
G11	Stairway	Stairway	Open well stairs.	Closed string, open well, winder stair with ¼ landing & curtail step. Chunky carved newel posts. Tapered column balusters. Simple handrail. Skirting. Late 19 <sup>th</sup> C.	43-49
G11a	Ladies Toilets	Office (with G3, G4, G9, G10, G11a)	Modern decoration. Modern fixtures and fittings.	Deeply panelled door with architrave entrance.	50
G12	Coffee/File room	Office (with G8, G12, G13, G14, G15, G29)	Modern fittings.	Large sealed glass doors and window. Deep architrave. Skirting.	51-53
G13	Director's Secretary	Office (with G8, G12, G14, G15, G15a, G29)	Modern finish	Suspended ceiling. Built in cupboard with raised moulding. Later projecting cupboard with moulding matched.	54
G14	Meeting room	Office (with G8, G12, G13, G15, G29)	Modern fittings	Modern pine ½ wall panelling. Modern pine ¾ wall cupboards/shelves to match.	55-60



				Letter of 1879 on wall. Painting of Brinton's in 1863 on wall. Painting of Brinton's in 1870 on wall.	
G15	Vault	Office (with G8, G12, G13, G14, G29)	Inner and outer rooms.	Outer contains large safe. Large heavy vault door with maker's seal. Fixed metal shelving with decorated brackets. Concrete ceiling.	671-676
G16	Managing Director's Office	Office (with G6, G7)	Not accessible		
G17	Fire escape Corridor	Corridor	Modern paint. Bare walls.	Deeply panelled door with moulding. Moulded skirting board	61-64
G18	Office (with G19)	General Office (with G19, G20, G21, G21a, G22, G23, G24, G25, G26, G27, G28, G29, G30, G31, G32)	G18 and G19 formerly two offices.	Glazed partitions on 3 sides. Backs onto G11 with 19 <sup>th</sup> C sash window.	65-66
G19	Office (with G18)	General Office (with G18, G20, G21, G21a, G22, G23, G24, G25, G26, G27, G28, G29, G31, G32)			
G20	Office	General Office (with G18, G19, G21, G21a, G22, G23, G24, G25, G26, G27, G28, G29, G31, G32)	Large office.	Windows to Exchange Street. Sash windows, 1/1. Segmental head openings. 20 <sup>th</sup> C safe. Glazed partitions to 3 sides.	67-72
G21	Open Corridor space	General Office (with G18, G19, G20, G21a, G22, G23, G24, G25, G26, G27, G28, G29, G31, G32)	Modern space.	Moulded skirting board.	73-74
G21a	Entrance to Men's Toilet	General Office (with G18, G19, G20, G21, G22, G23, G24, G25, G26, G27, G28, G29, G31, G32)	Enclosed space.	Window to Exchange Street. 1/1 sash windows. Segmental head openings.	Not accessible
G22	Corridor	General Office (with G18, G19, G20, G21, G21a, G23, G24, G25, G26, G27, G28, G29, G31, G32)	Modern space.	Glazed partitions to both sides.	75-76
G23	Office	General Office (with G18, G19, G20, G21, G21a, G22, G24, G25, G26, G27, G28, G29, G31, G32)	Modern decoration.	Glazed partitions. Shuttered air vent. Suspended ceiling.	77-78
G24	Office	General Office (with G18, G19, G20, G21, G21a, G22, G23, G25,	Modern decoration.	Glazed partitions on 3 sides. Modern windows replacing original. Moulded skirting boards and	79-82

		G26, G27, G28, G29, G31, G32)		cills.	
G25	Filing Office (attached to G13)	General Office (with G18, G19, G20, G21, G21a, G22, G23, G24, G26, G27, G28, G29, G30, G31, G32)	Modern space.	Glazed partition.	83
G26	Corridor	General Office (with G18, G19, G20, G21, G21a, G22, G23, G24, G25, G27, G28, G29, G31, G32)	Modern space	Glazed partitions to both sides.	84
G27	Secretary's Office	General Office (with G18, G19, G20, G21, G21a, G22, G23, G24, G25, G26, G28, G29, G31, G32)	Modern space	Glazed partitions	85
G28	Office	General Office (with G18, G19, G20, G21, G21a, G22, G23, G24, G25, G26, G27, G29, G31, G32)	Modern space, altered from supplied plan	Glazed partitions.	86
G29	Office	General Office (with G18, G19, G20, G21, G21a, G22, G23, G24, G25, G26, G27, G28, G31, G32)	Modern space with adjoining vault	Glazed partitions on 2 sides. Large vault door. Moulded skirting boards.	90-92
G29a	Vault	Office (with G8, G12, G13, G14, G15)	Tapered room. Full of boxes	Heavy door with chain opening limiter. Metal shelving.	93-94
G30	Office	Typists	Modern fittings. New office space.	Large cast iron frame window. Modern heating vents.	87-89
G31	Photocopying	General Office (with G18, G19, G20, G21, G21a, G22, G23, G24, G25, G26, G27, G28, G29, G32)	Tapering room.	Moulded skirting. 2 blocked segmental arch openings. Very large RSJ 'I' beam. 1930s cast iron glazed partition with hinged windows.	96-103
G32	Server room	General Office (with G18, G19, G20, G21, G21a, G22, G23, G24, G25, G26, G27, G28, G29, G31)	Partitioned part of S31	Parquet floor. Continuation of RSJ 'I' beam. Moulded skirting.	104-106
G33	Ladies toilet		Modern furnishings	Very modern tiling, sinks, toilets & cubicles. 1930s numbered coat hangers.	107-111
G34	Corridor	Packing (with G34a, G35, G36, G37, G38, G39, G40, G41, G42)	Angled around post room	Large cut off Chimney. 3 blocked segmental head arches. 1 blocked opening. 1 partially blocked opening. 4 large RSJ 'I' beams.	113-117, 123-126
G34a	Kitchenette	Packing (with G34, G35, G36, G37, G38, G39, G40, G41, G42)	Very narrow room	1 blocked segmental arched head opening on same wall as S34	118-119
G35	Post room	Packing (with G34,	Modern space	Large iron frame windows with	127-132

		G34a, G36, G37, G38, G39, G40, G41, G42)		hinged casements. 4 large RSJ 'I' beams.	
G36	Office/meeting room	Packing (with G34, G34a, G35, G37, G38, G39, G40, G41, G42)	Modern decoration	Large iron frame window with hinged casement.	Not accessible
G37	Corridor	Packing (with G34, G34a, G35, G36, G38, G39, G40, G41, G42)	Angled around office G38	1960s/1970s glazed partition. Modern panelling.	120-121, 133-134
G38	Office	Packing (with G34, G34a, G35, G36, G37, G39, G40, G41, G42)	Empty office Different to supplied plan.	1960s/1970s glazed partition to 1 side. 2 large RSJ 'I' beams.	135-136
G39	Corridor	Packing (with G34, G34a, G35, G36, G37, G38, G40, G41, G42)	Modern decoration. Modern space.	Windows a top on one side.	138-141
G40	Manufacturing Director	Packing (with G34, G34a, G35, G36, G37, G38, G39, G41, G42)	Modern decoration. Modern space.	Modern fittings. Suspended ceiling. Modern dado rail.	142-143
G41	Manufacturing Director secretary	Packing (with G34, G34a, G35, G36, G37, G38, G39, G40, G42)	Modern decoration	Modern fittings. Large cast iron frame windows. Large sprinkler valve.	144-147
G42	Store	Packing (with G34, G34a, G35, G36, G37, G38, G39, G40, G41)	Not accessible		
G43	Accounts Office	Warehouse (with G44, G45)	Partitioned off G44	1970s safe. Glazed partition	149-150
G44	Accounts	Warehouse (with G43, G45)	Large open space.	Large central-hinge windows with iron frames. High level windows.	152-156
G45	Lift area	Warehouse (with G43, G44)	Small space with exit from building.	1930s lift.	157-158
G46	Stairs		Staircase fitted into unusual shape area.	Dog-leg staircase with ¼ landing. Metal balustrade and handrail with simple straight balusters. Possibly 1920s.	159-163
G46a	Kitchenette		Not accessible.		
GF1	Empty Office	Unknown	Formerly separate rooms	Two different trusses. Cast iron windows. 1 semi-circular head window and 1 door. 2 central hinge casements.	166-176
GF2	Office	Unknown	Modern decoration	Cast iron window	177-178
GF3	Store	Store	Not accessible		
GF3a	Staircase		Same as G 46		179-181
F1	Export Department	Show room (with F1a, F2, F3, F4, F4a)	Large open space. Unused	All windows with moulded architraves and cills. Sash windows, all with horns. Moulded architrave and panels. Brass doorknobs. Double skirting board. Curved corner.	182-190, 2001-201
F1a	Storage area	Show room (with F1, F2, F3, F4, F4a)	Part of F1		197
F2	Export Department	Show room (with F1, F1a, F3, F4,	Unused	Curved corner. Same windows as F1.	191-195

	Office	F4a)		Same skirting as F1. Pilaster hiding vent or pipes with cornice top.	
F3	Export Department Office	Show room (with F1, F1a, F2, F4, F4a)	Now storage area.	Details as F1.	196
F4	Open area off F1	Show room (with F1, F1a, F2, F3, F4a)	Like a hallway	Glass doors. Skirting board.	202
F4a	Kitchenette off F1	Show room (with F1, F1a, F2, F3, F4)	Small space.	2 small early 20 <sup>th</sup> C sash windows Early 20 <sup>th</sup> C radiator.	203-205
F5	Corridor	Offices	Long narrow area Roof space access	Staircase down to G11. Windows and doors with moulded cills, architrave and panelling. Ceiling cornices. Ceiling rose. Corridor arch	210-221
F6	Office	Offices	Suspended ceiling	Sash windows. Two arches, one now a doorway, other has a cupboard in it.	206-209, 222-225
F7	Office	Offices	Print on wall.	Door with moulded panels & architrave. Double skirting. 2 sash windows with architrave and cills. Lowered ceiling.	228-233
F8	Staircase to G11	Staircase	-	As G11	235-236
F8a	Gentleman's toilet	Gentleman's toilet	Small space	Moulded door panels. ½ glazed partition. Early 20 <sup>th</sup> century door lock. Sash window with moulded architrave and cills.	237-241
F9	Photocopy room	Warehouse (with F9b, F10, F11, F12, F13, F14, F15, F16, F17, F18, F19, F20, F21, F28)	Modern space	-	242
F9a	Ladies toilet	Ladies toilet	Small space	Moulded door panels. ½ glazed partition. Early 20 <sup>th</sup> century door lock. Sash window with moulded architrave and cills.	247-253
F9b	Kitchenette	Warehouse (with F9, F10, F11, F12, F13, F14, F15, F16, F17, F18, F19, F20, F21, F28)	Small modern space	Sash window with moulded architrave and cills.	243-246
F10	Open corridor space	Warehouse (with F9, F9b, F11, F12, F13, F14, F15, F16, F17, F18, F19, F20, F21, F28)	Modern space	Doors to F5. RSJ 'I' beam.	358-260
F11	Lounge/meeting room	Warehouse (with F9, F9b, F10, F12, F13, F14, F15, F16, F17, F18, F19, F20, F21,	Cheriot room, Modern space	RSJ 'I' beam	362-365

		F28)			
F12	Office	Warehouse (with F9, F9b, F10, F11, F13, F14, F15, F16, F17, F18, F19, F20, F21, F28)	Modern space	2 sash windows with moulded architraves and cills.	366-369
F13	Corridor	Warehouse (with F9, F9b, F10, F11, F12, F14, F15, F16, F17, F18, F19, F20, F21, F28)	Extension of F11	RSJ 'I' beam.	370-371
F14	Office	Warehouse (with F9, F9b, F10, F11, F12, F13, F15, F16, F17, F18, F19, F20, F21, F28)	Modern space	2 sash windows with moulded architraves and cills.	372-373
F15	Office	Warehouse (with F9, F9b, F10, F11, F12, F13, F14, F16, F17, F18, F19, F20, F21, F28)	Modern furnishing	Modern window with moulded cill. RSJ 'I' beam.	374-376
F16	Corridor (to show room)	Warehouse (with F9, F9b, F10, F11, F12, F13, F14, F15, F17, F18, F19, F20, F21, F28)	Modern space	3 RSJ 'I' beams. Partitions on each side. 'Borrowed light' windows. 1950s end to corridor.	377-382
F17	Office	Warehouse (with F9, F9b, F10, F11, F12, F13, F14, F15, F16, F18, F19, F20, F21, F28)	Not accessible (due to stored carpet)		
F18	Office	Warehouse (with F9, F9b, F10, F11, F12, F13, F14, F15, F16, F17, F19, F20, F21, F28)	Not accessible (due to stored carpet)		
F19	Office	Warehouse (with F9, F9b, F10, F11, F12, F13, F14, F15, F16, F17, F18, F20, F21, F28)	Not accessible (due to stored carpet)		
F20	Meeting room	Warehouse (with F9, F9b, F10, F11, F12, F13, F14, F15, F16, F17, F18, F19, F21, F28)	Romney room. Modern space. Joins to F11.	Modern window catches. Moulded cills. Cast iron frames. Lowered ceiling.	383-386
F21	Lobby/end of corridor F16	Warehouse (with F9, F9b, F10, F11, F12, F13, F14, F15, F16, F17, F18, F19, F20, F28)	Modern space	1950s cupboards, ceiling and pilasters.	387
F22	Showroom	Warehouse (with F23, F24, F25, F26, F27, F29,	Large open space	1950s ceiling. ?1930s pilasters and panels (?reused).	388-400

		F29a)		1950s built in radiators and grills. 1950s window opening system.	
F23	Corridor	Warehouse (with F22, F24, F25, F26, F27, F29, F29a)	Modern space Continuation of show room	1950s ceiling	401-402
F24	Office	Warehouse (with F22, F23, F25, F26, F27, F29, F29a)	Modern space Continuation of show room	1950s ceiling and pilasters. 1950s radiator and window.	403-406
F25	Meeting room	Warehouse (with F22, F23, F24, F26, F27, F29, F29a)	Modern space Continuation of show room	1950s ceiling	407-408
F26	Office	Warehouse (with F22, F23, F24, F25, F27, F29, F29a)	Modern space Continuation of show room	1950s ceiling and pilasters. 1950s radiator and window.	411-414
F27	Office	Warehouse (with F22, F23, F24, F25, F26, F29, F29a)	Modern space Continuation of show room	1950s ceiling	409-410
F28	Office	Warehouse (with F9, F9b, F10, F11, F12, F13, F14, F15, F16, F17, F18, F19, F20, F21)	Vacant Modern space	Large 1970s window, replacement of original. Wooden shelves.	417-418
F29	Corridor	Warehouse (with F22, F23, F24, F25, F26, F29a)	Modern space	Wooden sample shelves Large iron frame window with opening lights.	419-426
F29a	Corridor	Warehouse (with F22, F23, F24, F25, F26, F29)	Modern space	Rounded edge brick. Metal post.	415-416
F30	Conference room	Carpet stores	Large open space. Completely modernised.	1930s metal frame windows.	427-429
F31	Lift area	Carpet stores	Small sink.	1930s lift. 1900s iron frame window.	430-436
F32	Corridor	Carpet stores	Modern space	1930s large windows Window opening mechanism ½ glazed partition	437-442
F33	Stairs	Carpet stores	Modern area	1950s open well, ¼ landing staircase. Terrazzo floor tiles. Metal balusters.	443
F34	Former postroom	Carpet stores	Completely modern		444-445
F35	Marketing office	Warehouse	Large open office space	Pairs of segmental arched head windows with moulded architraves and cills. Iron frame windows opposite with moulded cills. Moulded skirting. Steel RSJ 'I' beams crossing room.	446-452
F36	Lift area	Lift area	Small space	1930s lift. Steel spiral staircase. Iron frame window. Skirting. Partially blocked round-edged opening with chamfer. Lift roller shutter.	453-462
F37	Office	Unknown	Vacant	Steel trusses.	463-470

				½ glazed partitions. Long workroom window with opening lights. Round-edged openings. Wall base finisher.	
F37a	Office	Unknown	Vacant. Part of 37	Steel truss. Barred window. ½ glazed partition.	471-476
F37b	Office	Unknown	Vacant Part of 37	Steel truss. Blocked door. Long workroom window. Wall base finished. ½ glazed partition.	477-480
FS1	Stairwell	Carpet stores	Modern area Same as F33	1950s open well, ¼ landing staircase. Terrazzo floor tiles. Metal balusters.	481-485
FS2	Ladies toilet	Toilet	Modern area	Door has brass handle and finger board. Floor to ceiling 1950s tiling. Cubicles. 1970s paper towel dispenser.	486-489
S1	Stairwell	Carpet stores (with S2, S3, S4, S5, S6, S7)	Modern area Same as F33 and FS1	1950s open well, ¼ landing staircase. Terrazzo floor tiles. Metal balusters.	528, 531
S2	Office/meeting room	Carpet stores (with S1, S3, S4, S5, S6, S7)	Modern space	½ glazed partition Modern windows	529
S3	Office	Carpet stores (with S1, S2, S4, S5, S6, S7)	Modern space	½ glazed partition Modern windows	530
S4	Corridor	Carpet stores (with S1, S2, S3, S5, S6, S7)	Modern space	½ glazed partitions Large 1930s iron frame windows. Centrally hinged openers.	532-536
S5	Office	Carpet stores (with S1, S2, S3, S5, S6, S7)	Modern space	½ glazed partitions Vents.	537-539
S6	Office	Carpet stores (with S1, S2, S3, S4, S5, S7)	Modern space	½ glazed partitions	540
S7	Office (IT)	Carpet stores (with S1, S2, S3, S4, S5, S6)	Modern space	½ glazed partitions 1930s windows	541-544
S8	Lift area	Lift area	Small space	1930s lift Iron frame window as F31	545-550
S9	Corridor	Warehouse (with S10, S12, S13, S14, S15, S16, S17)	Modern space	Modern glazed partitions 1930s parquet floor Large 1930s window	551-556
S10	Computer/server room	Warehouse (with S9, S12, S13, S14, S15, S16, S17)	Very modern space	Raised floor Lowered ceiling Modern glazed partitions	557-558
S11	Corridor/open space	Carpet warehouse (with S18, S19, S20, S21, S22, S23)	Modern space	Large 1930s double window Modern partitions Parquet floor beneath carpet	559-565, 566
S12	Corridor/open space	Warehouse (with S9, S10, S13, S14, S15, S16, S17)	Modern space	Modern glazed partitions 1 large window	566, 567-570
S13	Office	Warehouse (with S9, S10, S12, S14, S15, S16, S17)	Modern space	Large windows. Modern glazed partitions	571-572

S14	Store	Warehouse (with S9, S10, S12, S13, S15, S16, S17)	Modern area	Modern partitions	573-574
S15	Office/meeting room	Warehouse (with S9, S10, S12, S13, S14, S16, S17)	Modern room	Modern glazed partitions Modern ceiling 1930s windows	575-578
S16	Office	Warehouse (with S9, S10, S12, S13, S14, S15, S17)	Unused modern space	Large 1930s windows Modern glazed partitions	579-581
S17	Office	Warehouse (with S9, S10, S12, S13, S14, S15, S16)	Unused modern space	Modern glazed partitions Metal frame double doors to fire escape	582-586
S18	Corridor	Carpet warehouse (with S11, S19, S20, S21, S22, S23)	Modern space	Glazed partitions Suspended ceiling	587-588
S19	Office	Carpet warehouse (with S11, S18, S20, S21, S22, S23)	Modern space	1930s double window and ½ of another Modern partitions	600-602
S20	Office	Carpet warehouse (with S11, S18, S19, S21, S22, S23)	Modern space	Long room 3 double 1930s windows Modern partitions	589-591
S21	Office	Carpet warehouse (with S11, S18, S19, S20, S22, S23)	Modern space	1930s double window Blocking of wall to next offices (S 29) Modern partitions	592-594
S22	Office	Carpet warehouse (with S11, S18, S19, S20, S21, S23)	Modern space	Modern partitions.	598-599
S23	Office	Carpet warehouse (with S11, S18, S19, S20, S21, S22)	Modern space	Large double window	595-597
S24	Corridor	Sewing room (with S25, S26, S27, S28, S28a, S28b)	Modern space	Right-angled corner Roof space hatch (no access)	603-606
S25	Stairwell	Sewing room (with S24, S26, S27, S28, S28a, S28b)	Modern space	1930s metal banister & balustrade stairwell Open well with ¼ landing and closed brackets Sash window with moulded horns	607-610
S26	Ladies toilets	Sewing room (with S24, S25, S27, S28, S28a, S28b)	Modern space	In curve of building Tiled floor to ceiling Lino floor Sash windows with carved horns and moulded architraves.	611-613
S27	Gents toilets	Sewing room (with S24, S25, S26, S28, S28a, S28b)	Modern space	Floor to ceiling tiles Lino floor	614-615
S28	Former sales office	Sewing room (with S24, S25, S26, S27, S28a, S28b)	Large open space	Pairs of sash windows with carved horns. Moulded skirting Low ceiling Curved corner and window	616-624
S28a	Kitchenette	Sewing room (with S24, S25, S26, S27, S28, S28b)	Modern space	Sash window as S28 Moulded skirting as S28	625-628
S28b	Meeting room	Sewing room (with S24, S25, S26, S27, S28, S28a)	Modern space	Modern glazed partition Skirting & sash window as S28	629-631



S29	Retail sales/hot line	Sewing room (with S29a)	Large open space	Long room Queen post trusses partially visible Pairs of sash windows with carved horns Moulded skirting	632-637
S29a	Kitchenette	Sewing room (with S29)	Modern space	Sash windows as rest of S29 Moulded skirting ½ glazed partitions	638
S30	Former office	Carpet warehouse (with S30a, S30b, S31, S31a)	Large open space	Long room Steel trusses Hipped roof 1926 sash windows to match 1876 ones of S29 & S28 but with 1920s catches Iron frame windows opposite Painted walls	639-648
S30a	Store	Carpet warehouse (with S30, S30b, S31, S31a)	Modern space	Modern ½ glazed partition Window into S29a Sash windows to match S30	649-652
S30b	Store	Carpet warehouse (with S30, S30a, S31, S31a)	Modern space	Modern glazed partition Steel truss Sash window	659-662
S31	Store (former office)	Carpet warehouse (with S30, S30a, S30b, S31a)	Modern space	Sash windows as S30 Steel trusses	654-658
S31a	Store	Carpet warehouse (with S30, S30a, S30b, S31)	Modern space	Modern glazed partitions	653
S32	Lift area	Lift area	Small space	1930s lift Steel spiral staircase Metal frame windows Steel truss Roof access RSJ 'I' beam	663-670
Y1	Car parking	Yard	Covered yard	Pairs of segmental head windows. Raised office area at 1 end. Large double height segmental head opening with shutter (formerly with rolling door).	490, 491-496, 501, 514
Y1a	Office	Office	Overhanging Y1	½ glazed walls	499
Y1b	Office	Office	Overhanging Y1	½ glazed walls Segmental head window	497-498
Y1c	Lift area	Lift area	Same as F36	1930s lift. Lift roller shutter.	500
Y2	Yard	Yard		Cast iron spiral staircase. Massive RSJ 'I' beam Dorman Long stanchions	490, 501, 502-507
Y2a	Garage	Unknown		Blocked semi-circular opening.	508-510
Y2b	Garage	Unknown		2 blocked semi-circular head openings. 1 segmental head opening	511-513
Y3	Covered yard	Experimental room	Roadway	Blocked semi-circular head opening (from Y2b). Former overhead walkway. High-level workroom windows.	515-520
Y4	Garage	River Stour	River runs beneath floor	Blocked openings on both long walls including 2 of those in Y2b	521-525
Y5	Covered yard	River Stour	River runs beneath floor	Only one wall survives (north). Rooflight.	526
Y6	Garage	'A' shed	Brintons oldest weaving shed	Rear wall replaced when shed demolished	527