

DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT  
AT  
CLENMORE STREET,  
KIDDERMINSTER,  
WORCESTERSHIRE

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Illustrations by Carolyn Hunt

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INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Project 3389  
Report 1708  
WSM 41733



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## **Desk-based assessment of Clensmore Street, Kidderminster, Worcestershire**

**Elizabeth A Curran and Tom Vaughan**

### **Part 1 Project summary**

A desk-based assessment for the historic environment was undertaken at Clensmore Street, Kidderminster, Worcestershire (NGR SO 829 774). It was undertaken on behalf of Bellway Homes Ltd, who intends to redevelop the site. The aims of this assessment were to summarise the character and extent of any identified features of the historic environment, indicate their significance, the impact of the proposed development and identify mitigation measures, where appropriate.

There is at present no evidence of activity predating the post-medieval/modern period either within or adjacent to the site. However, as the site is located on the edge of the floodplain of the River Stour, it would have been rich in natural, particularly food, resources from the prehistoric onwards.

Cartographic sources indicate that there were occasional buildings off Clensmore Street by the early 19<sup>th</sup> century. The corn (or steam) mill along the canal and Clensmore House along the frontage of Clensmore Street existed by the 1830s. The iron foundry and carpet works were established by 1859 and 1866 respectively. The northern two-thirds of the site appear to have been undeveloped fields and meadows up to the latter half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Sand quarrying was then undertaken within the middle third of the site in the early decades of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, prior to expansion of the industrial works across much of the site by the 1970s.

Despite the many alterations to the site, the buildings on the south side of the site, adjacent to the canal, appear to contain early and later 19<sup>th</sup> century elements, including one which incorporates the Corn Mill which is recorded on the site as early as 1838. Part of the 19<sup>th</sup> century north boundary wall of the carpet factory still exists, adjacent to these buildings. The rest of the buildings on the site appear to date to the middle and latter half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

It is at present unclear exactly what level of disturbance has been caused to the subsurface deposits by this quarrying, the foundations of the industrial buildings and their associated services.

Currently no details are available as to the nature of the proposed redevelopment of the site. It is therefore not possible at this stage to determine whether the development will have an adverse or beneficial effect on the historic buildings identified, or on the potential archaeological deposits.

Should the development involve only limited ground disturbance, for example within the footprint of the current buildings, then the scope of the programme of works may take the form of a watching brief. Alternatively if the groundworks are more widespread and substantial then a programme of works may consist of field evaluation in the form of trial trenches of the less and undisturbed areas.

It is recommended that historic building survey be undertaken of the existing site and buildings prior to planning consent. This may need to be followed by a more detailed specific recording of areas prior to redevelopment. Such recording would add to the research into the industrial nature of Kidderminster, allowing the post-1800s buildings to be placed in their context.

## Part 2 Detailed report

### 1. Background

#### 1.1 Reasons for the project

A desk-based assessment for the historic environment was undertaken at Clensmore Street, Kidderminster, Worcestershire (NGR SO 829 774; Fig 1). It was undertaken on behalf of Bellway Homes Ltd, who intends to redevelop the site. The project was undertaken in advance of submission of a planning application.

#### 1.2 Project parameters

The project conforms to the *Standard and guidance for archaeological desk-based assessment* (IfA 2008), Planning Policy Guidance Notes 15 '*Planning and the Historic Environment*', and 16 '*Archaeology and Planning*' and relevant EIA guidance and Legislation.

The project also conforms to a project proposal (including detailed specification) prepared by Worcestershire County Council, Historic Environment and Archaeology Service (HEAS 2009).

#### 1.3 Aims

The aims of the desk-based assessment were to:

- Collect relevant information relating to the archaeological potential of the proposed development area;
- Assess the potential significance of any archaeological remains and the built heritage;
- Assess the impact of the proposed development on these archaeological remains and the built heritage;
- Recommend mitigation measures to offset detrimental effects of the development.

### 2. Methods

#### 2.1 Study area

The study area encompasses the site (Fig 1). Features of the historic environment, including the settings of scheduled ancient monuments and Listed Buildings, were considered within approximately 500m of the site.

#### 2.2 Documentary search

Prior to fieldwork commencing a search was made of Worcestershire Historic Environment Record (HER) Worcestershire County Record Office (CRO), Kidderminster Local Reference Library and Kidderminster Carpet Museum Archive.

The event reference given by the HER is WSM 41733.

The following sources are relevant to the study area:

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*Cartographic sources*

- 1753, Doharty, J. Map of Kidderminster, CRO BA3676 (xxix)
- 1780, Sherriff, J, Map of town and land lying within the borough of Kidderminster, copied by Perrett and Whitehouse in 1936, Kidderminster Reference Library (Fig 2)
- 1832, Kidderminster Municipal Boundary Plan, 4":1 mile, CRO 899:60, 1471 (Fig 3)
- 1838, Mathews, J, Kidderminster Survey, CRO S705: 398; 2412, 564 (Fig 4)
- 1842, Tithe map of Kidderminster, CRO APS760:377 BA 1572 (Fig 5)
- 1859, Broadfield, A Plan of the Town of Kidderminster, Kidderminster Reference Library (Fig 6)
- 1<sup>st</sup> edition Ordnance Survey, 1884-1885, scale 25":1 mile (1:2,500; Fig 7)
- 1902, Ordnance Survey, scale 25":1 mile (1:2,500)
- 1924-1927, Ordnance Survey, scale 25":1 mile (1:2,500; Fig 8)
- 1938, Ordnance Survey, scale 1:2,500
- 1969, Ordnance Survey, sheet SO 87 NW, scale 6":1 mile (1:10,560)
- 1976, Ordnance Survey, sheet SO 87 NW, scale 1:10,000
- 1989, Ordnance Survey, sheet SO 87 NW, scale 1:10,000
- 2006, Churchfield's Industrial Estate, Kidderminster, Hunter Page Planning (not to scale)
- 2009, Ordnance Survey Superplan (Fig 1)

*Aerial photographs*

- Aerofilm Ltd, Accession Numbers: AE-IND 72, C-GEO 8-503151, AE-IND 8-503152, AE-IND 8-503109, AE-IND 8-503111, AE-IND 8-503115, Kidderminster Reference Library

*Documentary sources*

- Legat, P S, 1990 *Carpets from Kidderminster: a brief history of the carpet industry of Kidderminster and district since 1735*
- Soil Survey of England and Wales, 1983 Midland and Western England, sheet 3, scale 1:250,000 + *Legend for the 1:250,000 Soil Map of England and Wales (A brief explanation of the constituent soil associations)*
- Thompson, M, 2002 *Woven in Kidderminster*, Stargold Ltd, Kidderminster
- Thorn, F, and Thorn, C, 1982 *Domesday Book - Worcestershire*, Chichester
- VCH I, Page, W (ed), 1913 *Victoria History of the County of Worcestershire, I*

Kidderminster Carpet Museum documents are listed in Appendix 2.

The following sources have also been cited in this assessment.

- Buteux, V, 1996 *Archaeological Assessment of Kidderminster, Hereford and Worcester*, County Archaeological Service, Hereford and Worcester County Council, unpublished report **320**, P945
- DoE, 1990 *Planning Policy Guidance Note 16: Archaeology and Planning (PPG 16)*, Department of the Environment
- DoE, 1995 *Planning Policy Guidance Note 15: Archaeology and the historic Environment (PPG 15)*, Department of the Environment
- EH, 2006, *Understanding historic buildings: a guide to good recording practice*, English Heritage
- IfA, 2008 *Standard and guidance for archaeological desk-based assessment*, Institute for Archaeologists
- HEAS, 2009 *Proposal for an archaeological desk-based assessment at Clensmore Street, Kidderminster, Worcestershire*, Historic Environment and Archaeology Service, Worcestershire County Council, unpublished document, dated 14 July 2009, **P3389**
- Williams, P, 2003 *Kidderminster Flood Elevation Scheme Worcestershire*, Historic Environment and Archaeology Service, Worcestershire County Council, unpublished report 989, dated 12 February 2003, **P1936**

### 2.3 **Other methods**

A site visit was undertaken on 20 July 2009.

Access within the interior of the buildings was not possible. Many of the disused buildings were locked and elsewhere those that were in use for storage had limited entry.

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

### 2.4 **Results**

The results are mapped on Figure 1 and the details of individual features of the historic environment are given in Appendix 1. HER references have been used throughout this assessment. Event records have been omitted where this would repeat information in other record types, and would not materially affect the assessment.

No previously un-recorded historic environment features have been identified within the site.

### 2.5 **Impact assessment criteria**

The criteria cited in Table 1 have been used.

*Table 1: Significance Criteria for Cultural Heritage Issues*

<p><b>Severe Adverse:</b> Loss of integrity of nationally important archaeology/cultural heritage including Scheduled Ancient Monuments, Grade I/II* registered parks and gardens and registered battlefields. Demolition of a Grade I/II* Listed Building. Dramatic adverse change in the setting or visual amenity of the feature/site.</p>
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<p><b>Major Adverse:</b> Land take resulting in the degradation of a cultural heritage site of national importance and/or extensive change to the setting or visual amenity of such a site e.g. intrusion into the setting of a Scheduled Ancient Monument. Loss of integrity of sites of archaeological interest of regional value, or Grade II registered parks and gardens, e.g. a dramatic change in the setting or visual amenity of a regionally important site such as a Conservation Area. Widespread adverse effects on the setting or structure of a Grade I/II* Listed Building. Demolition of a Grade II Listed Building.</p>
<p><b>Moderate Adverse:</b> Land take resulting in the degradation of a cultural heritage site of regional importance and/or extensive change to the setting or visual amenity of such a site. Extensive change to the setting or structure of a Grade II Listed Building. Demolition of a locally listed or other historically important building. Encroachment upon a Conservation Area, historic parkland or other historic landscapes where the quality of the setting or its amenity would be noticeably impaired. Slight change to the setting or structure of a Grade I/II* listed building. Removal of a historically important hedgerow (after the Hedgerows Regulations).</p>
<p><b>Minor Adverse:</b> Loss of integrity of an area where archaeological features/areas of local importance have been identified. Slight change to the setting or structure of a Grade II Listed Building. Limited encroachment upon a Conservation Area or historic parkland or other historic landscape where intrusive views are created or slight effects upon its integrity would result.</p>
<p><b>Not Significant:</b> Landscape or ecological planting on an area where locally important archaeological features have been identified but impacts are thought to have no long term effect on the resource. Removal of common hedgerows and limited damage to important hedgerows where no replacement proposed.</p>
<p><b>Minor Beneficial:</b> Perceptible improvement in the setting or structure of a Grade II listed building, Conservation Area or Grade II historic parkland. Improved management of locally/regionally important archaeological site.</p>
<p><b>Moderate Beneficial:</b> Perceptible improvement in the setting or structure of a Grade I/II* listed building, Conservation Area or Grade I/II* historic parkland. Improved management of nationally important archaeological site.</p>

## 2.6 The methods in retrospect

The methods adopted allow a high degree of confidence that the aims of the assessment have been achieved.

## 3. Topography, archaeology and historical background

### 3.1 Topography

Kidderminster is 27km from Birmingham and 24km from Worcester. It is situated on either bank of the River Stour, an important route-way between the Midlands and Wales. The river flows quite swiftly southwards and ultimately drains into the River Severn. The main church in the town, of St Mary and All Saints, sits on top of the sandstone ridge overlooking the river.

The site lies 1.4 km to the north of the centre of the historic town of Kidderminster. It comprises a sub-rectangular piece of land, bounded by Clensmore Street and Stoney Lane to the southeast, Red Sands Road to the northeast, the Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal to the west. The ground rises gently from the southwest to the northeast, from approximately 37 to 38m AOD, with an overgrown raised area to the west.

Several industrial buildings occupy the land, each of which have separate access. The south western single storey building is currently occupied by roofing contractors. To the north are disused carpet factory buildings. To the rear are a variety of mixed brick and steel framed buildings, surrounded by yards and loading bays, with both concrete and tarmac surfaces. The buildings in the northern corner, to the rear of this area, appear to be of late 19<sup>th</sup> or early 20<sup>th</sup> century origin and possibly relate to the Corn Mill.

Beyond this is the CMS Vauxhall preparation centre, with a rough gravel car park to the rear. West of the perimeter fence is an overgrown unused raised area. Further north is the long red brick building occupied by Pallet Return System Depot. Finally the brick and corrugated metal buildings on the frontage of Red Stands Road are mainly unoccupied, with tarmac car park and access to the front.

The area to the west of the site is low lying land on the flood plain of the River Stour. Today the area is separated from the centre of the town by the ring road, which cuts across to the south, where Church Street once ran directly into the town centre.

### 3.2 **Geology and soils**

The site lies within an unsurveyed urban area. However the soils along the west of the River Stour are of the Conway (811b) soil series, comprising deep stoneless fine silty and clayey soils variably affected by groundwater over parent material of river alluvium (Soil Survey of England and Wales 1983).

### 3.3 **Archaeological and historic environment**

The documentary evidence relating to Kidderminster has been detailed in the Victoria County History (VCH I). The Central Marches Historic Town Survey of Kidderminster (Buteux 1996) is a recent collation of the documentary and archaeological evidence for the town. Research into the carpet industries of Kidderminster has been undertaken by Legat (1990) and Thompson (2002).

#### 3.3.1 **Prehistoric and Roman**

No prehistoric or Roman activity has been identified within the immediate vicinity of the site, although unstratified stray finds of prehistoric date (WSM 04042 and WSM 38453) found within the parish of Kidderminster indicate that such activity took place. Early aerial photographic evidence suggested prehistoric or Romano-British field systems were in the Stour Valley, although this had been destroyed by the 20<sup>th</sup> century (Buteux 1996, 4).

There is limited evidence for Romano-British activity within Kidderminster, all of stray finds. Roman coins have been found under the floor of St Mary's church (WSM 07485). At the Three Tons public house in the High Street, a 4<sup>th</sup> century coin and an associated quern stone have been discovered, (Buteux 1996, 4).

#### 3.3.2 **Anglo-Saxon and medieval**

The earliest documentary evidence for Kidderminster is in AD 736, when Ethelbald, King of Mercia made a grant of land to Cynibert for the foundation of a monastery (VCH I, 158). The location of the Anglo-Saxon Minster is conjectured to be on or in the vicinity of St Mary's church (WSM 01303). In the Domesday Survey of 1086, Kidderminster is referred to as *Chideminstre* and is described as consisting of a central manor and sixteen outlying farms (Thorn and Thorn 1982). By 1228 the settlement was described as a town (Buteux 1996, 3).

Two medieval structures survive within the medieval town; the church of St Mary's and All Saints and the base of a cross within the post-medieval churchyard (WSM 07484). It is

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considered that the medieval churchyard also lies within the extant post-medieval churchyard (WSM 20740).

Situated to the south of the church is the manorial enclosure (WSM 20718). Following the division of the manor in 1214 the house appears to have been assigned to the manor at Kidderminster Biset. Excavations in the 1950s revealed deposits possibly associated with the medieval manor (WSM 19997). This area has undergone considerable change in the last few centuries and the original layout of the medieval manorial enclosure cannot be determined (Buteux 1996, 5).

The town was in an excellent position for the development of the cloth industry. The river supplied the needed water supply for the washing and dyeing of the wool while a natural crossing point lay within the centre of the settlement. The cloth industry is recorded as in operation by 1280, when there was reference to a Kidderminster dyer, and in 1290 with the existence of a fulling mill (VCH I, 163).

The Central Marches Historic Town Survey (Buteux, 1996) was identified the extent of the medieval town of Kidderminster. Thus Clensmore Street lay outside the town's boundaries, to the north-east. Therefore it is not surprising that there have been no finds of Anglo-Saxon or medieval date within the immediate vicinity of the site. It is conjectured that the site would have lain under meadows or other agricultural use during the period.

The later medieval period saw a marked acceleration in the development of the town, occupying an important position on the growing road network (WSM 20752), where roads from Dudley, Bewdley, Worcester/Bromsgrove and Birmingham/Coventry intersected.

### 3.3.3 Post-medieval

The cloth industry was declining sharply during the 17<sup>th</sup> century. However the 18<sup>th</sup> century saw the growth of a new industry in Kidderminster, carpet weaving. During the 18<sup>th</sup> century cloth was being produced in weaver's cottages. These buildings combined domestic and workshop functions, with weaving in the attic rooms (Buteux 1996). However the industrial growth of the town meant that large sections of the town underwent rebuilding, with many of the cottages lost to the carpet factories. Examples of weaver's cottages survive at the Horse Fair (WSM 33616).

In 1735 the first carpet factory was established in Kidderminster producing reversible carpets without a pile. The first factory was set up in 1749 at Mount Skipet, purpose built to hold looms for making "Kidderminster Stuff" and called a loom-shop (Buteux 1996, 2). The 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries also saw the growth of iron manufacturing, fuelled by coal brought by water from South Staffordshire and charcoal from the Wyre Forest.

An archaeological watching brief (WSM 32276 and 31723) was undertaken in 2003 during the development of the flood defence system for Kidderminster (Williams 2003). This identified post-medieval remains and deposits at four locations between the canal and the river, including the area immediately west of the present site. Evidence was found for a mill leat, which was possibly associated with the Stourvale Ironworks (WSM 33287).

By the mid 18<sup>th</sup> century the urban form of the town had changed (WSM 20755). New streets between the parish church and Blackwell Street were established by Lord Fowley, Baron of Kidderminster, and shown on Doharty's 1753 map. Much of the rebuilding wiped away the medieval street system. The map shows the expansion of the town, as far as an area marked as Horse Fair (presumably the present day Horse Fair; WSM 12874) but the study area is depicted as an open rural area with field system.

The opening of the Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal in 1772 by James Brindley (WSM 12001) brought increased trade and in the 19<sup>th</sup> century the textile industry continued to expand and prosper, becoming the major industry of the town. The HER lists the location

of several wharfs with associated weighing machines within the vicinity of Clensmore (WSM 36217, 36220 and 36221).

A modern copy of Sherriff's 1780 map (Fig 2) shows a road established on the site of the present Clensmore Street. The accompanying apportionment details the land within the study area as undeveloped arable fields and meadows.

Plot	Land lord	Tenant	Description
265	Lord Fowley	H Penn	meadow
266	Lord Fowley	H Penn	meadow
267	Pearce and Crane		arable
268	Fowely, Jeff	H Smith	garden
269	ditto	Mr Colley	arable
270	T Rous	T Rous	arable

The earliest documentary evidence relating to Clensmore Street identifies it as Clansmore Lane. Deeds from 1823 relating to the sale of freehold land by Thomas, Lord Foley, Baron of Kidderminster and his trustees to James Hynet of Kidderminster, describe it as follows (Kidderminster Carpet Museum, GTW/9/5/1):

"All that parcel of meadow Land being part of a meadow situate near to Swivel Bridge in the Borough of Kidderminster (one acre or thereabouts having been taken therefrom and sold and conveyed to William Boycot and his heirs) Also all that piece or parcel of arable Land adjoining the last mentioned meadow which said two pieces or parcels land contain together two acres two roods and six perches or thereabouts be the same more or less formerly in the possession of Samuel Horne and now of the said James Hynet and are bounded on or near the east part by land formerly belonging to Messieurs Pearce and Crane and now of and in the possession of Thomas Jones and on or near the west and north west by the Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal on or near the south by Clansmore (sic) Lane and by the said other part of the meadow so sold and conveyed to the said William Boycot ..."

The Kidderminster Municipal Boundary Plan of 1832 (Fig 3), shows the site within the north ward, inside the north western boundary of the Old Municipal Borough. The map depicts two separate buildings. A larger L-shaped building lies directly on the frontage. This is conjectured to be Clensmore House. A smaller square building is situated adjacent to the south-west. The road is shown continuing as far at present day Broad Street. This road was extended north-east by the time of the 1838 Kidderminster Survey.

The 1838 Survey (Fig 4) depicts similar detail to that featured on the 1842 tithe map (Fig 5). The tithe map contained the following information within the accompanying apportionment:

Plot	Landowners	Occupiers	description	size (a/r/p)
44	Beaman William	Himself	Timber Yard and Gardens	1 - 6
93	Hinitt James (trustees of)	Various	Garden, Arable	2 2 17
94	Davis John	William Hinett	Close, Arable	2 1 1
95			Meadow	1 - 8
96			Barn and Close, Arable	- 2 3
97			House and Garden	-- 32
98			Garden, arable	- 1 16
99			Garden, arable	1 1 13
110	Boycot William (trustee of)	John Grubham	Garden, Arable	1 - 7
111	Newcomb and Boycot	John Simpson	Close, Meadow	1 - 31
112	(trustees of)	John Simpson	Garden, Pasture	-- 31
113		John Simpson	Meadow, Arable	- 3 37
114	Burrows John	Himself	Meadow, Pasture	- 3 28
115			Garden, Arable	- 1 6
116			Close, Arable	- 3 2
117	Boycot William (trustee of)	Richard Taylor	Close, Arable	3 2 11
118	Boycot Williams	Richard Taylor	Clensmore Land, arable	1 2 10
119			Clensmore Land, Pasture	2 3 33

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120	Clensmore Land, Pasture	3 3 22
121	Clensmore Land, Pasture	3 - 29

According to the title apportionment, the site had varied usage in the 1840's. Domestic housing mixed with occasional commercial premises lay along the frontage to Clensmore Lane, with one premise to the rear, adjacent to the Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal. The map indicates many changes to the area since 1780. The buildings on these plots appear to be detached and it is considered that the buildings to the rear of plot 93, is the mill and premises cited in 1838 lease agreements (GTW/9/5/22). The agreement was between James Hinit (sic) to William Butler Best and Charles Collins of Kidderminster, Merchants and Co-partners in Trade. It related to the mill and associated buildings "lately used as a windmill..." and a right of way from Clensmore Lane. This document notes Messrs. Harlow, Timber Merchants, occupied the land to the south.

To the rear of the site, viewed from the towpath of the Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal is part of the original canal boundary wall, the bottom courses appear to be of the same age as those adjoining the corn mill buildings, which may indicate that the corn mill was established as early as the later 18<sup>th</sup> century (Plates 18 and 27).

A deed of sale from 1844 has four plots of land for sale within the south-western third of the study area (Plate 1). At this time Lot 1 is occupied by a Brew House, dwellings and garden fronting Clensmore Lane, Lot 2 also contains a three dwellings and Lot 3 is a parcel of land (1603 square yards) "well appointed for a Wharf". Lot 4 is described as "Logwood Mill, engine, Engine house, Appurtenances, Blacksmiths Shop and Tool house. Also a Windmill having Steam power attached. With two pairs of stones, and the usual appendages to a corn mill" (WSM 36224).

Broadfield's 1859 map of Kidderminster (Fig 6) shows there is continued development after the land was sold as separate lots in 1844. The building to the north is noted as a Steam Mill and a Foundry (WSM 36222) is marked at the south-western corner on the site of the timber merchants. A further building has been erected to the rear of the foundry. The road itself is denoted as *Clensmore Lane*.

C E and H Jefferies "Carpet Manufacturers and Millers" built the first carpet works on the site by 1866 and installed twenty Brussels power looms in Clensmore Mill (WSM 10032). The company failed twenty years later and the looms were sold (GTW/9/5/26). Mortgage deeds stored in the Carpet Museum archives detail their troubled partnership (Appendix 2).

The widening of Clensmore Lane occurred after 1873, when land to the south-east was required for the extension of the road and the access to the plots adjacent. The plan held at the Worcestershire Record Office depicts the proposed developments (Plate 2; BA 8895/360, 5498). The foundry has a wharf (WSM 36220), the cottages are owned by Mrs Bradley and the large house to the north-east is owned by Mr Jefferies.

The 1<sup>st</sup> edition Ordnance Survey map shows Clensmore Street (*sic*) continuing beyond Broad Street to the south. Elm Grove house and expansive grounds occupy the north-eastern third of the site. The grounds contain paths and areas of woodland, along with two small adjacent buildings toward the centre of the site. A public footpath bisects the grounds through the trees, connecting the road to the east with a footpath across the canal and Stourvale Iron and Tinplate Works to the west. The Iron Foundry at the south corner has been redeveloped with extensive additional buildings off the wharf. The three dwellings sold as Lot 2 in 1844 are still present. Between these premises and the carpet works is an area of laid out paths and woods, which run back to the canal from the large dwelling, which comprised Lot 1 and is now referred to as Clensmore House (WSM 36226). Along with the Carpet Works and the Corn Mill (or steam mill?) adjacent to the canal, these properties were collectively known as Clensmore Mills.

Clensmore Carpet works was leased from the Metropolitan Bank Ltd to Messrs. Roger Brinton & Co. of Bridgnorth in 1896, where they ran a Worsted spinning operation until 1907. A photograph of these buildings survives from c 1900 (Plate 3).

### 3.3.4 **Modern**

The only changes visible by the time of the 1902 OS map are the removal of the wooded area on the site, while a small sand pit is located within the northern corner adjacent to the canal. Clensmore Mills are referred to as Worsted Spinning.

Greatwich Ltd owned Caldwell Mills in Kidderminster and in 1911 bought the additional premises of Clensmore Carpet and Corn Mill (Plate 4). This plan indicated the use of some of the buildings including the Dye House and Loom Shed, and note the access to the site is via Cart Road (HC/GTW/5). In 1928 Greatwich Ltd drew up plans to build a new entrance onto the site and also to construct new mess rooms, to the east of the mill (Plate 5).

The 1924-7 OS map notes substantial development on the site, which are also noted on the valuation drawings of Clensmore Mill (Plate 6; HC/GTW/11). A much larger Woollen Spinning building has superseded the earlier carpet Works. The wooded areas around Elm Grove to the north and Clensmore House to the south are no longer shown, while the middle third of the site appears to have been given over to quarry pits, although they are noted as Old Sand Pits, so may have been in operation for some time previously. The valuation also indicates the use of the associated buildings on the site. These developments are likely to date to 1925 when the production and machinery were moved from Caldwell Mills to Clensmore (Legat 1990, 26).

Further alterations to the site were made following WWII, when the main carpet factory building was converted to run on electric power. In 1955 a welfare block (Unit 24) was added to the south western elevation of the building which is still in existence today (Plate 7).

Aerial photographs from 1965 (Plate 8) show the mill buildings to occupy almost the entire south-eastern third of the site right up to a car park off Clensmore Street. A large rectangular block of industrial buildings lies within the middle portion, close to the street frontage. Elm Grove house is shown along the north edge of the site, surrounded by undeveloped fields, which occupy approximately one half of the site.

The OS map of 1969 appears to contradict the aforementioned aerial photo. It shows Clensmore House as still intact along the frontage, although almost butted by the expanded mill buildings which occupy the larger portion of the south-eastern third of the site. It also denotes the former Elm Grove as having changed its name to The Elms. It would appear that in this instance the OS map was out of date.

The buildings toward the middle of the site were erected when Minster Carpet bought the 4½ acre site and constructed a new shed to house Axminster broadlooms (Legat 1990, 65). The site was sold in 1978 to Greatwich to house its subsidiary company, Georgian Carpets, where they installed new tufted machinery (Legat 1990, 26). This building is currently occupied CMS Vauxhall preparation centre (Unit 25a).

Beyond this, to the north-east, the building on the frontage of Stoney Lane dates to 1973. St Mary Carpet Ltd was built as a subsidiary to Tomkinsons Ltd (Legat 1990, 78) but was quickly sold to Stalwart in 1975 following the failure of a new dying technique pioneered in America. Stalwart traded on this site for four years until the Bowater Group bought it for use as a warehouse (Legat 1990, 26). The Pallet Return System Depot currently occupies this building (Unit 26).

Both Greatwich and Georgian Carpets became part of the Bowater Corporation in 1974. This was eventually merged with Goodacre and Sons and by 1984 was renamed Georgian-Goodacre Ltd.

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The 1975 aerial photographs (Plate 9 and 10) show the whole of the site very much as it is today, with all the industrial buildings constructed, including those along the frontage of Red Sands Road. It is worth noting that the area of ground to the rear of the site appears substantially flatter than it is currently (Plate 11), indicating that there has been deliberate dumping and raising of the site here.

Interestingly again the OS map of 1976 does not accord with these aerial photos. It does not indicate the St Mary Carpet building, nor those off Red Sands Road, whilst The Elms is still extant. The OS map of 1989 does finally show the site in its current configuration.

### 3.3.5 The site

The site is currently occupied by a variety of industrial factory buildings, each with separate access.

The southernmost single storey building, on the site of the former iron foundry (WSM 36221 and 36222), is currently occupied by roofing contractors (Unit 23, Plate 12).

The factory building on the Clensmore Street frontage, on the site of Clensmore House (WSM 36226) dates to the 1960s (Plate 13). Where the structure has been demolished the method of construction shows breezeblock and brick, with concrete floor slabs and pillars (Plate 14).

The northeast elevation (Plate 15) of this building appears to be part of the later 19<sup>th</sup> century carpet factory (WSM 10032; Plate 3), with recently blocked segmental head openings, flat pilasters possibly relating to those on the gable near to the early 19<sup>th</sup> century corn mill (WSM 36224).

Opposite this building (Plate 16) is another of possible similar date. The lower courses of brick appear to be 19<sup>th</sup> century and it may also relate to one of the buildings in front on the corn mill on the photo of 1900 (WSM 10032; Plate 3). The upper courses of brick are much later and the blocked openings date to the late 20<sup>th</sup> century.

To the rear of the site, adjacent to the canal, are a variety of mixed brick and steel framed buildings, surrounded by yards and loading bays, with both concrete and tarmac floor surfaces. The building in the northern corner, to the rear of this area, appears to be of 19<sup>th</sup> century origin and possibly relates to the early 19<sup>th</sup> century corn mill (WSM 36224; Plate 17). Now a single storey structure, with a low-pitched roof, they were originally two and three storey structures. The now blocked loading doorways are visible on the west elevation (Plate 18). These structures may also relate to the two and three storey structures visible on Plate 3, and were probably converted to loom house or carpet stores as part of the Clensmore Mills. The remains of the original 19<sup>th</sup> century boundary to the site can be seen adjacent to this structure (Plate 19).

Toward the middle of the site, immediately off the frontage is the CMS Vauxhall preparation centre, within the 1960s depot, with a rough gravel car park to the rear (butting the south side of Unit 25c; Plate 20). West of the perimeter fence is an overgrown unused raised area (Plate 11). Further north is the long red brick 1970s building occupied by Pallet Return System Depot (Unit 26; Plate 21), with the area surrounding storing stacks of pallets.

The brick and corrugated metal 1970s buildings on the frontage of Red Sands Road, known as Storey Lane Estate (on the site of Elm Grove/The Elms house), are mainly unoccupied, with tarmac car park and access to the front (Plate 22).

The building immediately north of and butting the CMS Vauxhall preparation centre and south of the Pallet Return System Depot was a disused 1960s factory building (Unit 25c; Plate 23). On the north side is a long discrete range of probable 1930s/1950s date, possibly associated with Minster Carpets use of the site (Plate 24). The south elevation (Plate 25)

shows the original extent of the range, as can be seen in the roof line. Plate 26 shows the extension to the side building which also appears to be mid 20<sup>th</sup> century.

#### 3.4 **Statutory and other designations**

There are no known listed buildings, scheduled ancient monuments or conservation areas either within or adjacent to the development site.

#### 4. **Assessment of significance and potential impacts**

There is at present no evidence of activity predating the post-medieval/modern period either within or adjacent to the site. However, as the site is located on the edge of the floodplain of the River Stour, it would have been rich in natural, particularly food, resources from the prehistoric onwards.

Cartographic sources indicate that there were occasional buildings off Clensmore Street by the early 19<sup>th</sup> century. The earliest activity can be defined as domestic and industrial within the south western half of the site. The corn (or steam) mill along the canal and Clensmore House along the frontage of Clensmore Street existed by the 1830s. The iron foundry and carpet works were established by 1859 and 1866 respectively. The northern two-thirds of the site appear to have been undeveloped fields and meadows up to the latter half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Sand quarrying was then undertaken within the middle third of the site in the early decades of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, prior to expansion of the industrial works across much of the site by the 1970s.

Despite the many alterations to the site, the buildings on the south side of the site, adjacent to the canal, appear to contain early and later 19<sup>th</sup> century elements, including one which incorporates the Corn Mill which is recorded on the site as early as 1838. Part of the 19<sup>th</sup> century north boundary wall of the carpet factory still exists, adjacent to these buildings. The rest of the buildings on the site appear to date to the middle and latter half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

It is at present unclear exactly what level of disturbance has been caused to the subsurface deposits by this quarrying, the foundations of the industrial buildings and their associated services.

Currently no details are available as to the nature of the proposed redevelopment of the site. It is therefore not possible at this stage to determine whether the development will have an adverse or beneficial effect on the historic buildings identified, or on the potential archaeological deposits.

#### 5. **Mitigation**

The specific details of the proposed development of the site are not available at present. Should the development involve only limited ground disturbance, for example within the footprint of the current buildings, then the scope of the programme of works may take the form of a watching brief. Alternatively if the groundworks are more widespread and substantial then a programme of works may consist of field evaluation in the form of trial trenches of the less and undisturbed areas.

It is recommended that a Level 1 (photographic; EH 2006) historic building survey be undertaken of the existing site and buildings prior to planning consent. This may need to be followed by a more detailed specific recording of areas prior to redevelopment. Such recording would add to the research into the industrial nature of Kidderminster, allowing the post-1800s buildings to be placed in their context.



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Any site investigation works or watching briefs required would be concluded by production of an archaeological report (and appropriate publication) to be deposited for public consultation with the Worcestershire Historic Environment Record and a project archive to be deposited at a local museum.

## 6. **Research frameworks**

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. There has been no coherent research into the industrial history of Kidderminster and the growth of the town as a result of the weaving and carpet industries. As more buildings of this date are being demolished and altered there is an obvious need for research to take place allowing the post-1800 buildings of Kidderminster to be placed into their wider context.

## 7. **Residual effects**

Implementation of the mitigation proposed above should ensure that there are no residual effects on the historic environment and archaeological resource from the proposed development. Mitigation should ensure that adverse impacts are restricted in scope to *not significant*.

The historic environment is a non-renewable resource and therefore cannot be directly replaced. However mitigation through recording and investigation also produces an important research dividend that can be used for the better understanding of the county's history and contribute to local and regional research agendas.

## 8. **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 desk-based assessment for the historic environment was undertaken at Clensmore Street, Kidderminster, Worcestershire (NGR SO 829 774). It was undertaken on behalf of Bellway Homes Ltd, who intends to redevelop the site. It comprises a sub-rectangular piece of land bounded by Clensmore Street and Stoney Lane to the southeast, Red Sands Road to the northeast and the Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal to the west.*

*There is at present no evidence of activity predating the post-medieval/modern period either within or adjacent to the site. However, as the site is located on the edge of the floodplain of the River Stour, it would have been rich in natural, particularly food, resources from the prehistoric onwards.*

*Cartographic sources indicate that there were occasional buildings off Clensmore Street by the early 19<sup>th</sup> century. The corn (or steam) mill along the canal and Clensmore House along the frontage of Clensmore Street existed by the 1830s. The iron foundry and carpet works were established by 1859 and 1866 respectively. The northern two-thirds of the site appear to have been undeveloped fields and meadows up to the latter half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Sand quarrying was then undertaken within the middle third of the site in the early decades of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, prior to expansion of the industrial works across much of the site by the 1970s.*

*Despite the many alterations to the site, the buildings on the south side of the site, adjacent to the canal, appear to contain early and later 19<sup>th</sup> century elements, including one which incorporates the Corn Mill which is recorded on the site as early as 1838. Part of the 19<sup>th</sup>*

*century north boundary wall of the carpet factory still exists, adjacent to these buildings. The rest of the buildings on the site appear to date to the middle and latter half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.*

*It is at present unclear exactly what level of disturbance has been caused to the subsurface deposits by this quarrying, the foundations of the industrial buildings and their associated services.*

9. **Acknowledgements**

The Service would like to thank the following for their kind assistance in the successful conclusion of this project, Ian Humphries (Bellway Homes Ltd), Melvyn Thompson and Jean Talbot (Kidderminster Carpet Museum).

10. **Personnel**

Data collection was undertaken by Elizabeth Curran. Report preparation was by Elizabeth Curran and Tom Vaughan. The project manager responsible for the quality of the project was Tom Vaughan. Illustrations were prepared by Carolyn Hunt.

## Appendix 1 Features of the historic environment registered with the HER (those within the site are indicated in bold)

HER Ref	Name	Description	Dates	OS Ref
<b>Buildings</b>				
WSM 01303	Church of St Mary and All Saints, Kidderminster	Church Minster Church	410 to 1065 1066 to 1290 1290 to 2050	SO8301476945
WSM 07484	Base and shaft of Churchyard Cross, Church of St. Mary and All Saints	Churchyard Cross	1066 to 2050	SO8303276939
WSM 12001	Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal	Canal	1772 to 2050	SO8085371047
WSM 33616	20 to 22 (the Weaver's Cottage) Horse Fair Kidderminster	House  Weaver Cottage	1750 to 2050  1750 to 1850	SO8334177200
<b>Activities</b>				
WSM 07485	Unstratified finds of Romano-British Coins, Church of St Mary and All Saints, Kidderminster	Event	43 to 409	SO8300776941
WSM 19997	Excavation in the early 1950's, Area between Hall Street and Church Kidderminster	Wall	1066 to 1539	SO8309476954
WSM 31723	Watching Brief 2003, Kidderminster Flood Alleviation Scheme, Kidderminster	Boundary Ditch Wire Mill Corn Mill Mill Pond Canal Wharf	1540 to 1899 1669 to 1950 1066 to 1539 1066 to 1900 1800 to 1899	SO8336377870
WSM 32276	Watching Brief at Cofton Embankment, Blakedown Brook, Wolverly	Boundary Ditch	1540 to 1899	SO8288177550
WSM 35913	Unstratified finds 1980 Church of St Mary and All Saints, Kidderminster	Event	43 to 410 1540 to 1899	
<b>Landscapes</b>				
WSM 12874	Horse Fair, Kidderminster	Market Plane	1750 to 2050	
WSM 20718	Manorial Enclosure, Hall Street Kidderminster	Manorial Enclosure	1066 to 1782	
WSM 20740	Church of St Mary and All Saints, Kidderminster	Church Precinct	1066 to 2050	
WSM 20752	Medieval Street System	Road Network	1066 to 1539	
WSM 20755	Most medieval Street System	Road Network	1540 to 1800	
<b>Monuments</b>				
<b>WSM 10032</b>	<b>Carpet Works, Clensmore Street, Kidderminster</b>	<b>Carpet Works</b>	<b>1800 to 1950</b>	<b>SO8287277391</b>
WSM 36217	Site of Wharf Clensmore Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal	Canal Wharf  Weighing Machine	1772 to 2050  1772 to 1950	SO8286677143
WSM 36220	Site of Wharf, Clensmore Street, Kidderminster	Canal Wharf  Weighing Machine	1772 to 2050  1772 to 1950	SO8288477225
<b>WSM 36221</b>	<b>Site of Wharf, Clensmore Street, Kidderminster</b>	<b>Canal Wharf</b>  <b>Weighing Machine</b>	<b>1772 to 2050</b>  <b>1772 to 1950</b>	<b>SO8288477285</b>
<b>WSM 36222</b>	<b>Site of Iron Foundry Clensmore Street, Kidderminster</b>	<b>Iron Foundry</b>	<b>1800 to 1950</b>	<b>SO8290477319</b>
<b>WSM 36224</b>	<b>Site of Corn Mill Clensmore Street, Kidderminster</b>	<b>Corn Mill</b>	<b>1800 to 1950</b>	<b>SO8287277428</b>
<b>WSM 36226</b>	<b>Site of Clensmore House, Clensmore Street, Kidderminster</b>	<b>House</b>	<b>1800 to 1950</b>	<b>SO8296577353</b>
WSM 36827	Site of Clensmore Works Clensmore Kidderminster	Chemical Works	1800 to 1950	SO8289177103

## Appendix 2 Kidderminster Carpet Museum Archive Documents

Archive Ref.	Details	Date
GTW/9/5/1	Deeds relating to the sale of freehold land at Clensmore by the Right Hon. Thomas Lord Foley, Baron of Kidderminster and his trustees to James Hynet of Kidderminster, Civil Engineer, for £435, being, "All that parcel of meadow Land being part of a meadow situate near to Swivel Bridge in the Borough of Kidderminster (one acre or thereabouts having been taken therefrom and sold and conveyed to William Boycot and his heirs) Also all that piece or parcel of arable Land adjoining the last mentioned meadow which said two pieces or parcels land contain together two acres two roods and six perches or thereabouts be the same more or less formerly in the possession of Samuel Horne and now of the said James Hynet and are bounded on or near the east part by land formerly belonging to Messieurs Pearce and Crane and now of and in the possession of Thomas Jones and on or near the west and north west by the Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal on or near the south by Clansmore (sic) Lane and by the said other part of the meadow so sold and conveyed to the said William Boycot ..."	1823
GTW/9/2	Mortgage deed on land and buildings for £300 loaned by John Burrows of Kidderminster, maltster, to James Hynet. Deed refers to a windmill and other buildings "lately erected and built" by Hynet.	5 March 1823
GTW/9/5/3	Deed for a further charge on the property for securing an additional £200 to John Burrows	14 August 1823
GTW/9/5/4	Deed for the redemption of the mortgage to John Burrows on payment of £500.	4 November 1830
GTW/9/5/5	Mortgage deeds to secure a loan of £750 by Jenny Cooke of Kidderminster, widow, to James Hynett (sic). In addition to the windmill, the document mentions a "Capital Messuage or dwellinghouse ...in the occupation of ... James Hynett and of Edward Parsons North" and "three Messuages ...in the occupation of John Darbyshire Thomas Owens and James Hynett the younger ..."	5-6 November 1830
GTW/9/5/6	A further charge on the property to secure the loan of an additional £120 by Jenny Cooke to James Hynett.	14 May 1832
GTW/9/5/7	Deed conveying mortgage on property to George Hallen of Rushock in the County of Worcester, Clerk, and Moses Piper the younger of Wolverley, Accountant, in trust to secure a further loan from Jenny Cooke amounting in total to £1300.  Included with the windmill are its grinding stones and machinery and " all that Steam Engine with the Boiler Shafts Wheels and appurtenances to the same belonging. ..."	14-15 May 1834
GTW/9/5/8	Copy Agreement for lease of the Mill and Premises by James Hinitt (sic) to William Butler Best and Charles Collins of Kidderminster, Merchants and Co-partners in Trade. Lease restricted to the Mill and associated buildings "lately used as a windmill..." together with the Steam Engine etc. and a right of way from Clensmore Lane. The lease to run for 21 years at a rent of £40 pa with options to terminate after 7 or 14 years.  Noted that land to the south in occupation of Messrs. Harlow, Timber Merchants and by Hinitt or his tenants. Attaching letters;  1. 22 April 1850. From W. Brinton, solicitor, to Nicholas & Pardoe, solicitors, advising that lease assigned to Mr John Watson by deed of 15th April and enquiry regarding sale and price of property.  25 April 1850. Acknowledgment by Nicholas & Pardoe	27 June 1838

	3. Undated note to Collins Esq. with enquiries regarding certain terms of lease	
GTW/9/5/9	Abstract of Title to a Mill, Messuages, Land and Hereditaments situate near to Swivel Bridge ...the property of James Hinitt deceased and in mortgage to the Devisee of the late Jenny Cooke of Wribbenhall, died 5th December 1841. Sole beneficiary to real and personal estate, John Williams of Bewdley, Surgeon.	1853
GTW/9/5/10	Conveyance of Freehold Messuages Windmill and Land by Revd. George Hallen now of Penetanguishine, Upper Canada West and Moses Piper of Wolverley, Ironmaster, to Charles Edward and Francis Jefferies of Kidderminster, Millers and Provision Dealers for £1580. Still subject to lease of 1838 by Best & Collins. Sale is at request of John Williams following unsuccessful attempt to sell by public auction. Land adjoining to south west in possession of Mr. George Austin.  Plan of site shows Flour Mill, Dwelling House and and the three cottages with yard and brewhouse.	23 December 1854
GTW/9/5/11	Mortgage deed for securing loan of £1500 by Miss Ann Burgess of Kinver, spinster, to Charles Edward and Francis Jefferies of Kidderminster, Provision Dealers. Signed memorandum that only £1400 advanced.	31 Jan 1855
GTW/9/5/11	Mortgage deed for securing loan of £1500 by Miss Ann Burgess of Kinver, spinster, to Charles Edward and Francis Jefferies of Kidderminster, Provision Dealers. Signed memorandum that only £1400 advanced.	31 January 1855
GTW/9/5/12	Conveyance by Francis Jefferies, now of Stourbridge, Provision Dealer, of his half share in the property to Charles Edward Jefferies, provision dealer and miller. Subject to unpaid mortgage to Burgess.	28December 1857
GTW/9/5/13	Assignment of property and three life policies by Charles Jefferies, Miller to the Stourbridge & Kidderminster Banking Company as security for debts of £8283 but reduced by the Bank to £4000 provided this sum paid as prescribed. Still in mortgage to Ann Burgess.	25 January 1858
GTW/9/5/14	Supplemental Abstract of Title to Mill and hereditaments in mortgage to the late Ann Burgess (see below).	1860
GTW/9/5/15	Transfer of mortgage securing £ 1400 plus an additional £ 1100 to William Wilson of Beobridge in the Parish of Claverley, following the death of Ann Burgess (24 January, 1860).	2 April 1860
GTW/9/5/13	Deed engrossed on Assignment dated 25 January, 1858 releasing life policies and security on property on payment by Charles Jefferies of £2100 to the Stourbridge and Kidderminster Banking Co. in complete discharge of debts to the Bank.	23 April 1860 [engrossed on assignment of 25 January 1858]
GTW/9/5/14	Declarations by Harriet Burgess with certificates confirming Burgess family identities following death of Ann Burgess.	26 April 1860
GTW/9/5/16	Mortgage deed to secure borrowings on current account of £1241.5s.7d. by Charles Edward and Henry Jefferies, Millers, to John Henry Cooper and Thomas Pardoe Purton of Bridgnorth, Bankers. Deed refers to "considerable sums of money" laid out in making alterations and improvements and includes mention of a "modern built cornmill ... warehouse ... Office Stables Gighouse and other buildings recently erected ... newly erected Steam engine (of thirty horse power) ... two Boilers ... Seven pairs of grinding stones ... Smutting and dressing machines ... Also included are "tenements" in Washington Place.	8 December 1863

GTW/9/5/17	Deed of Partnership between Charles Edward and Henry Jefferies of "Clensmore Mills", in partnership as Millers and now "also about to enter ... business as Carpet Manufacturers in or about the same premises..." Capital £6,600 in addition to value of real estate; £6,300 brought in by Charles and £300 by Henry.	14 September 1866
GTW/9/5/18	Release of Mortgage engrossed on deed of 8 December 1863 on full settlement of debt to Cooper & Purton, Bankers.	13 July 1867 [engrossed on deed of 8 December 1863]
GTW/9/5/18	Mortgage deed to secure debt on current banking account to The Worcester City & County Banking Co. Ltd. of £5830 by Messrs. C.E. and H. Jefferies, including " all that Carpet Factory lately erected..."	17 September 1867
GTW/9/5/18	Release of Mortgage engrossed on deed of 17 September 1867 on full settlement of debt.	18 October 1872 [engrossed on deed of 17 September 1867]
GTW/9/5/19	Mortgage to The Midland Banking Co. Ltd. to secure a debt on current banking account of £3919. 2s.	1 November 1872
GTW/9/5/20	Release of above Mortgage on full settlement of debt engrossed on same document.	27 March 1877 [engrossed on mortgage of 1 November 1872]
GTW/9/5/20	Mortgage to secure debt of £8621. 10s. 1 d. owing to the Stourbridge & Kidderminster Banking Co. by Messrs. C.E. & H. Jefferies. In addition to earlier property there are also seven tenements in Blackwell St. and three acres of land at Blakebrook. Scottish Widows Life Assurance policies are also included in the security.	31 March 1877
GTW/9/5/21	Schedule of Deeds relating to Messrs. C.E. & H. Jefferies security to the Stourbridge & Kidderminster Bank. Includes, Land in Crab Tree Closes, Houses in Washington Place, Houses in Blackwell St., and Land near Broomfield (? Blakebrook).	31 March 1877
GTW/9	Mortgage to secure bank debt transferred to the Birmingham Banking Co. Ltd., successors to the Stourbridge & Kidderminster Banking Co. engrossed on deed of 31 March 1877.	13 October 1880
GTW/9/5/22	Schedule of Deeds relating to Clensmore Mill in mortgage to William Wilson for securing £2500 and interest.	December 1880
GTW/9	Transfer of Mortgage from William Wilson to The Birmingham Banking Co. Ltd	15 January 1881 [engrossed on mortgage of 2 April 1860]
GTW/9/5/23	Agreement between C.E. & H. Jefferies, Millers and Carpet Manufacturers and The Birmingham Banking Co. Ltd. to reduce the mortgage debt from £ 11,294 to £6,500 secured on Clensmore Mills by surrendering to the Bank the properties at Washington Place and Blakebrook and Life Policies with the Scottish Widows Life	16 May 1884

	Assurance Society.	
GTW/9/5/24	Deed of Management to give effect to the above.	16 May 1884
GTW/9/5/25	Mortgage Deed on Clensmore Mills to secure a loan of £1107. 0s. 3d. by William Jefferies of Bromsgrove, Grocer to Messrs. C.E & H. Jefferies Carpet Manufacturers and Millers. William Jefferies guarantor for payments of 7shillings and sixpence in the pound to creditors agreed at a meeting on 14 January 1886. Attaching schedule of stock & equipment in mortgage and book debts.	8 March 1886
GTW/9/5/26	Agreement for sale of 20 Brussels power looms by auction, the proceeds to be divided between The Birmingham Banking Co. (2/3) and Messrs. Jeffries (1/3).	23 August 1886
GTW/9/5/27	Agreement for the surrender of Clensmore Mills to the Birmingham Banking Co. by Charles Edward Jefferies and Elizabeth Harriet Jefferies, widow of Henry Jefferies, died 17 October 1886.	9 December 1886
GTW/9/5/28	Conveyance of Clensmore Mills to the Birmingham Banking Co. by C.E. Jefferies.	19 April 1887
GTW/9/5/29	Assignment of any interest Elizabeth Jefferies may have inherited in Clensmore Mills to the Birmingham Bank.	16 May 1887
HC/GTW/1	Agreement by William Jefferies to the disposal of Clensmore Mills and equipment engrossed on Agreement of 9 December 1886.	24 May 1887 [engrossed on Agreement of 9 December 1886]
GTW/9	Provisional Agreement for the Lease of Clensmore Mills by Mrs. Mary Jane Willis of Brockencote Hall, Chaddesley Corbett from The Metropolitan and Birmingham Bank Ltd.	31 August 1889
GTW/9	Solicitors letter regarding Island Mills [at Stourport?] and the above agreement.	2 January 1890
GTW/9	Counterpart Lease for Clensmore House and Mills to Mrs. Willis by the Bank.	8 November 1890
GTW/9	Counterpart Agreement for the lease of Clensmore Carpet Mills by Messrs. Roger Brinton & Co. of Bridgnorth, Worsted Spinners, from the Metropolitan Bank (of England & Wales) Ltd.	24 June 1896
GTW/9	Agreement by Samuel Thomas Highley to convey small piece of land adjoining cottages at Clensmore to the Metropolitan Bank.	28 September 1897
GTW/9	Letter from Roger Brinton & Co. to The Bank requesting permission to install a new Steam Engine at the Mills by the Company.	24 January 1898
GTW/9	Copy of reply from Bank to Roger Brinton & Co. giving agreement.	25 January 1898
GTW/9	Agreement for variation of that of 24 June 1896, including provision for Bank to erect a new boiler.	14 November 1902
GTW/9	Schedule of Machinery and fittings belonging to the freehold at Clensmore Mills.	2 January 1907
GTW/9	Letter from Metropolitan Bank regarding release of property by Liquidator to The Bank	15 February 1907
GTW/9	Surrender and Release of Clensmore Mills by the Liquidator to the Bank.	4 April 1907

GTW/9/6/1	Sale Bill for Clensmore Carpet & Corn Mills	c 1911
HC/GTW/5	Plan of Clensmore Mills (photocopy) showing the Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal, the iron foundry, Clensmore House and the mill buildings fronting Clensmore Street. Uses of some buildings (loom shed, dye house, offices etc) indicated on plan	1911
HC/GTW/3	Sale poster for "The Clensmore Carpet & Corn Mills" (photocopy) - for sale by private treaty or to be let on lease. Property includes the carpet mills, corn mill, dwelling house for the manager or foreman and "excellent cottage accommodation for workmen in the immediate neighbourhood". The whole property 10,400 square yards. Price for the whole £3000. For sale through Nock & Joseland, estate agents, Kidderminster and Wolverhampton.	1911
GTW/9/2/1	Valuation of mills and machinery of Messrs. Greatwich Ltd, <b>Clensmore</b> Mill, Kidderminster, containing inventory and valuation (for insurance purposes) of the mill buildings, motive plant, and the willeying, scribbling, spinning and doubling plant and effects, September 1935, by Eddison, Taylor and Booth, Mill and machinery auctioneers and valuers, Huddersfield. Also includes plan of buildings	1935
HC/GTW/11	Valuation drawing of Clensmore Mill (photocopy) marked to show departments and indicating the uses of the various buildings on the site. Valued at £31,490	1935
HC/GTW/12	Valuation drawing of Caldwell Mill (photocopy) marked to show departments and indicating the uses of the various buildings on the site. Valued at £19,010	1935
GTW/10/6	Album of photographs [assembled by Melvyn Thompson from loose photographs in the Greatwich archive] relating to Greatwich Ltd and Georgeian Carpets Ltd of Clensmore Mills, Kidderminster.	1950-1970
HC/GTW/18	Greatwich Limited, Woollen Yarn Spinners" a brief company history written by George Rainsford	1965



Plates

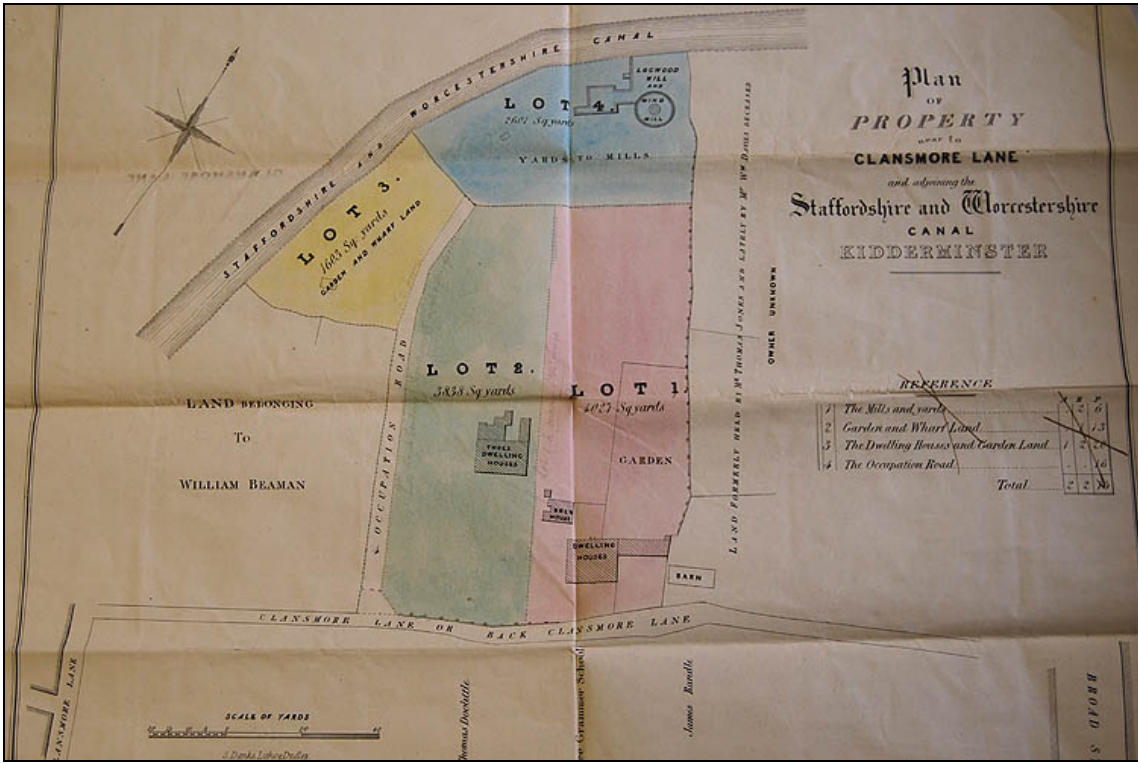


Plate 1: Plan of property for sale near to Clansmore Lane, 1844 (705:500, 4600, 623)

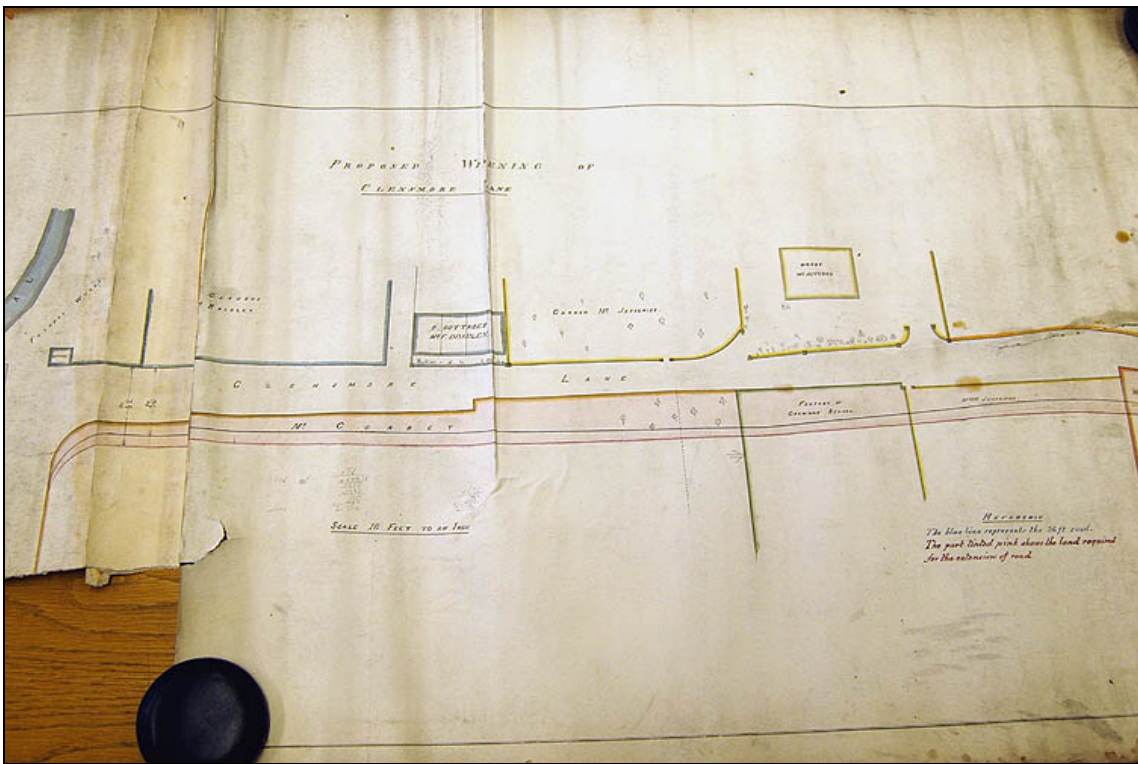
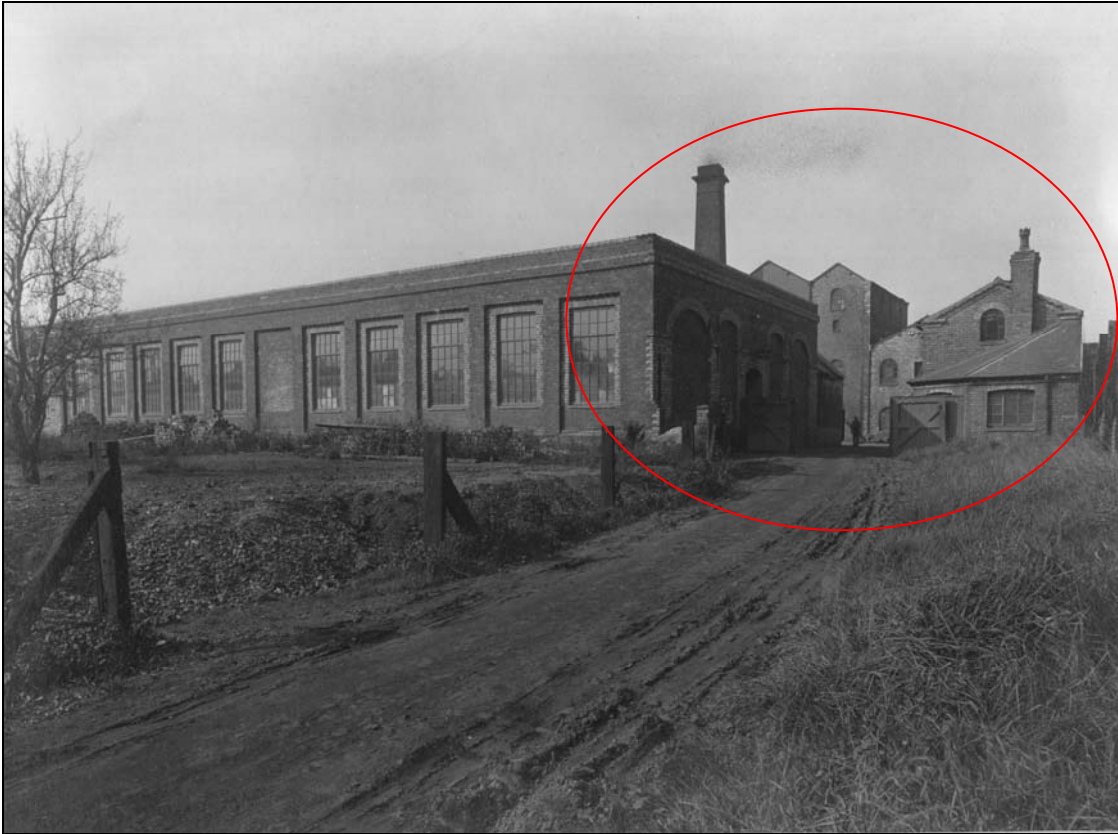


Plate 2: Plan of the proposed road widening at Clensmore Lane, 1873 (BA:8895)



*Plate 3: The carpet factory at Clensmore Street, 1900. The area highlighted shows the location of the extant buildings believed to be of this date*

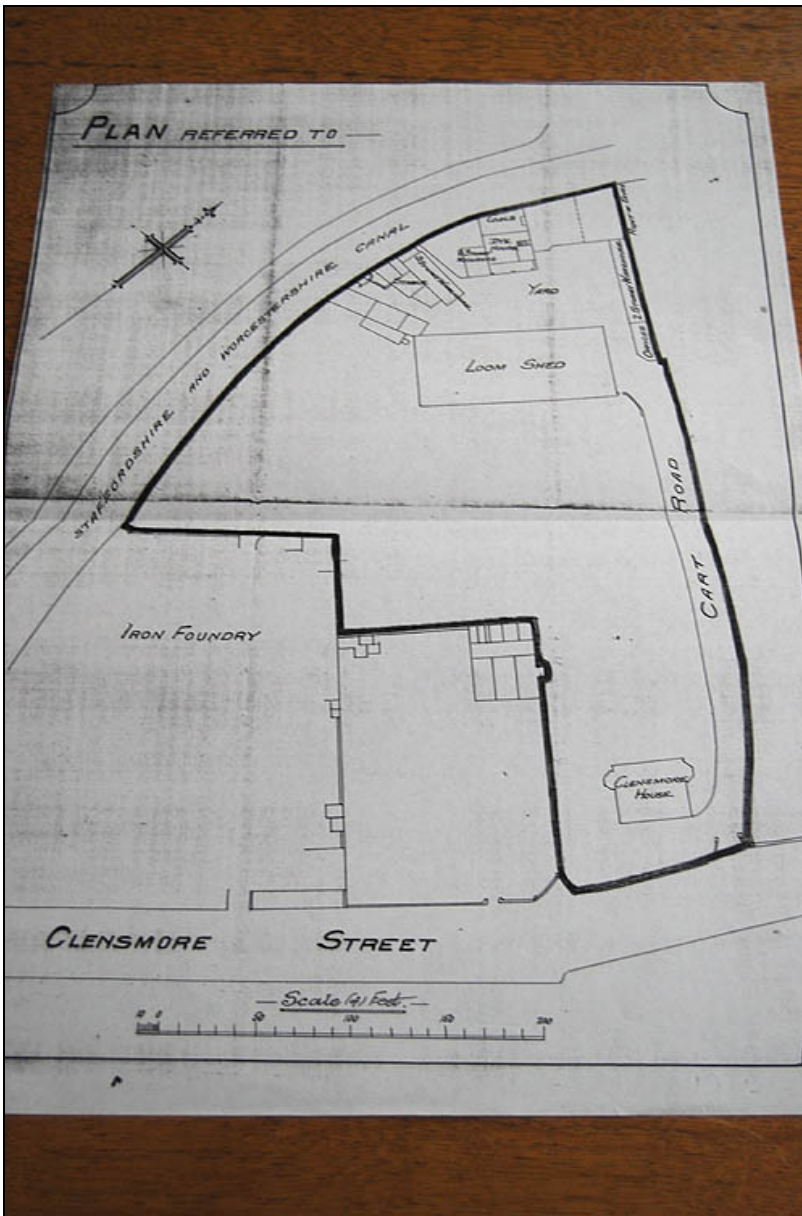


Plate 4: Plan of the premises of Clensmore Carpet and Corn Mill, Clensmore Street, 1911 (HC/GTW/5)

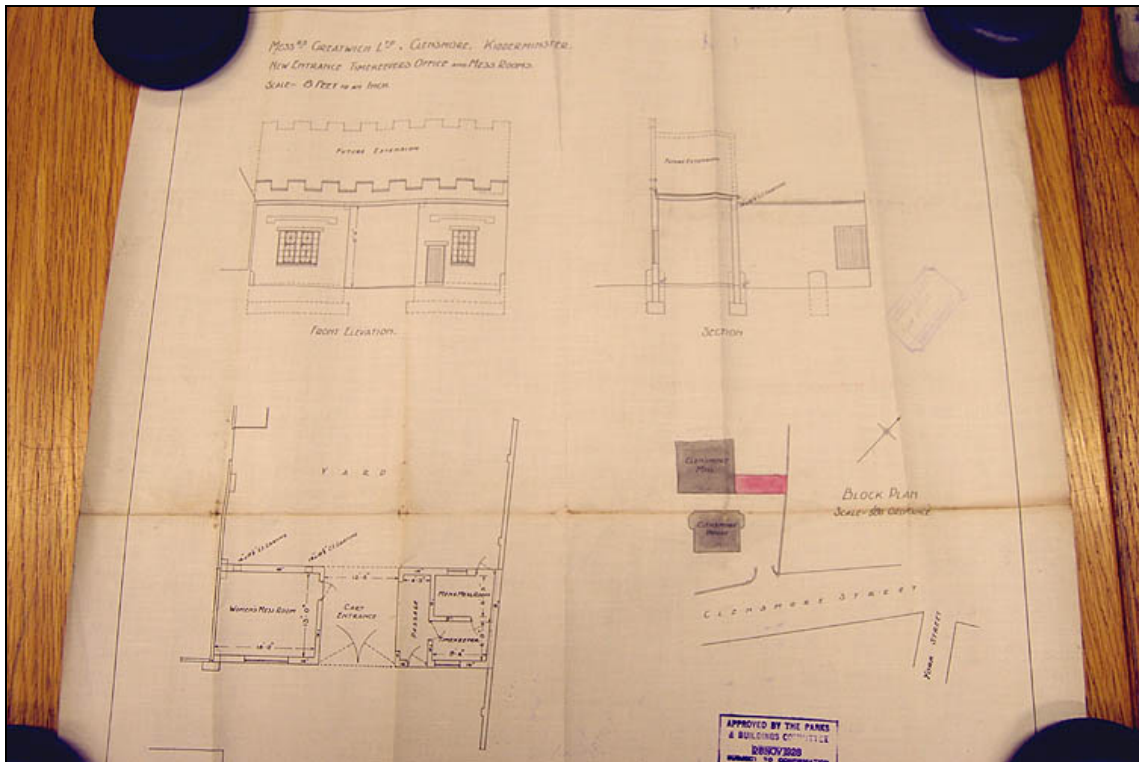


Plate 5: Plans relating to new entrance to Greatwich Factory, 1928 (BA: 8895)

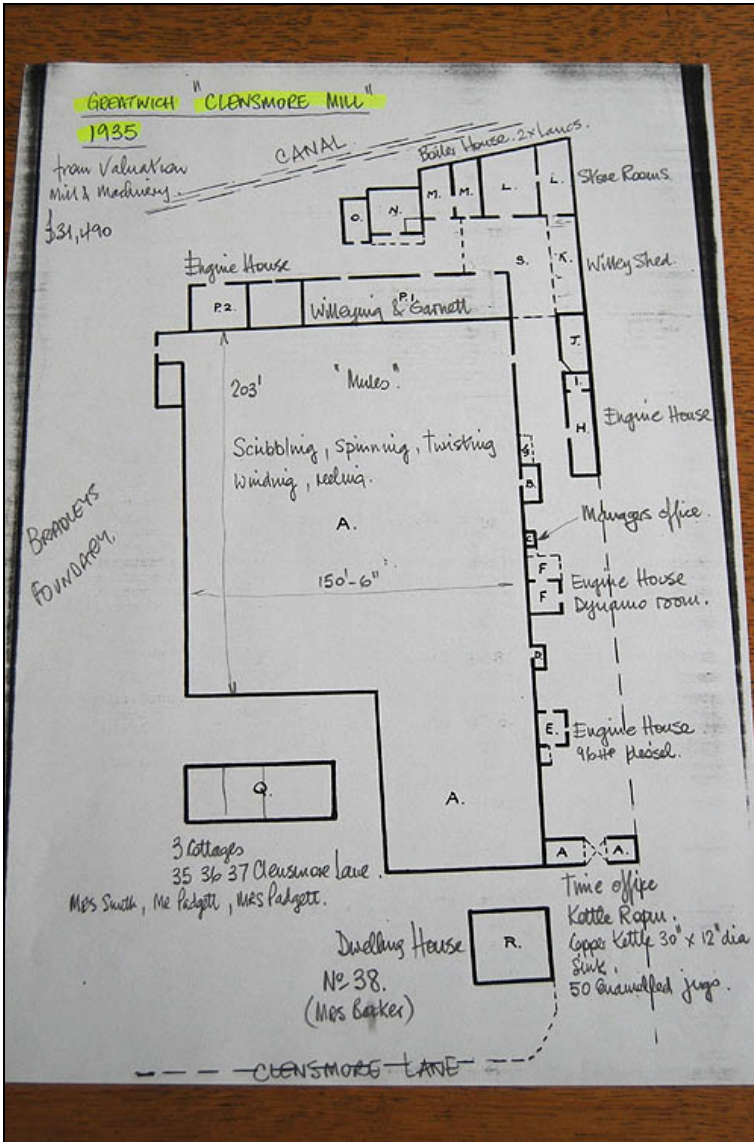
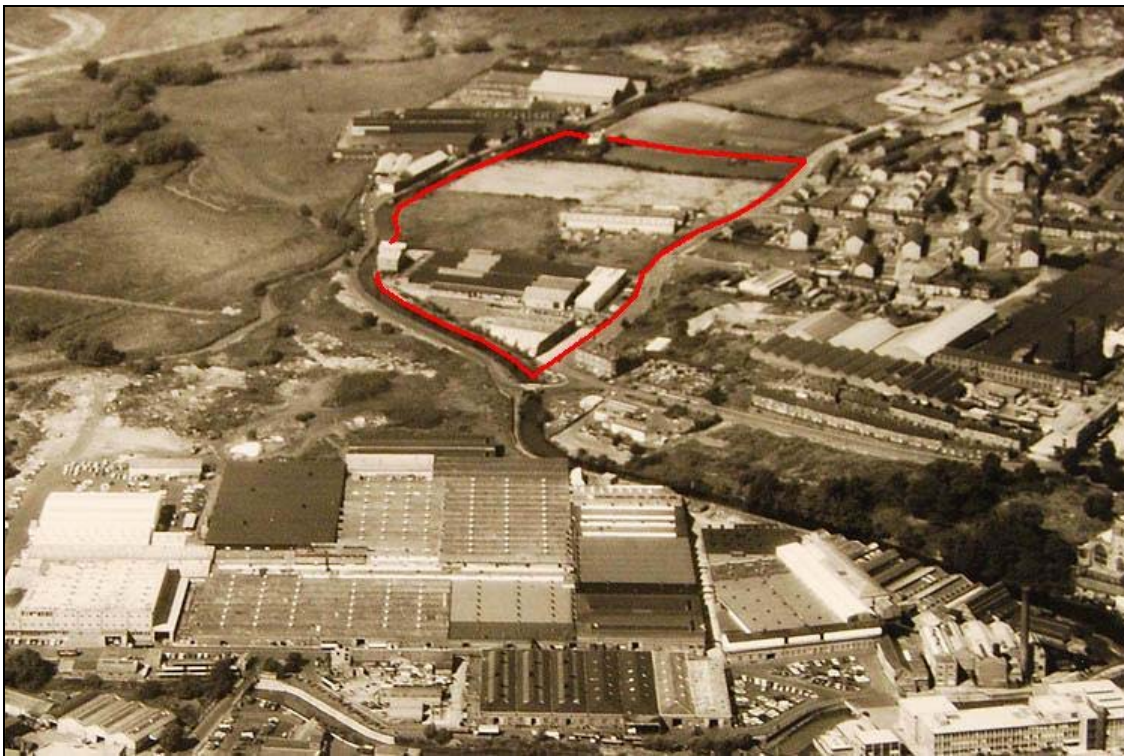


Plate 6: The valuation of Clensmore Mill, 1935 (HC/GTW/11)



*Plate 7: The 1955 welfare block (Unit 24) south of the main carpet factory building, view north-west*



*Plate 8: Aerial northeast view with the site in the background, 1965 (Accession 72)*



*Plate 9: Aerial northwest view with the site in the background, 1975 (accession 8-503151)*



*Plate 10: Aerial northwest view of the central portion of the site and the 1960s/1970s buildings, with the frontage of Stoney Lane in the foreground, 1975 (accession no 318115)*



*Plate 11: Car park area to the west of CMS, beyond the boundary fence is an area of raised ground, view west*



*Plate 12: View of the building constructed in 1960 (Unit 23), view south*





*Plate 13: The carpet factory, built in the 1960s on the frontage of Clensmore Street, view northwest*



*Plate 14: Northwest elevation of the 1960s carpet factory building*



*Plate 15: Northwest elevation of carpet factory*



*Plate 16: South elevation of buildings opposite the carpet factory*



*Plate 17: Altered east elevation of the early 19<sup>th</sup> century former corn mill (WSM 36224)*



*Plate 18: West elevation of the early 19<sup>th</sup> century former corn mill (WSM 36224; see also Plate 27)*



*Plate 19: The 19<sup>th</sup> century boundary wall to the factory site*



*Plate 20: CMS Vauxhall preparation centre, 1970s buildings, view north*



*Plate 21: The 1970s Pallet Return System Depot (Unit 26) on the frontage of Stoney Lane, view northwest*



*Plate 22: Stoney Lane Estate buildings fronting Red Sands Road, view west*



*Plate 23: Disused 1960s buildings (Unit 25c) between CMS Vauxhall preparation centre and Pallet Return System Depot, view west*



*Plate 24: The mid 20<sup>th</sup> century building (Unit 25c) south of the Pallet Return System Depot, view west*



*Plate 25: The north elevation, showing the full range (Unit 25c)*



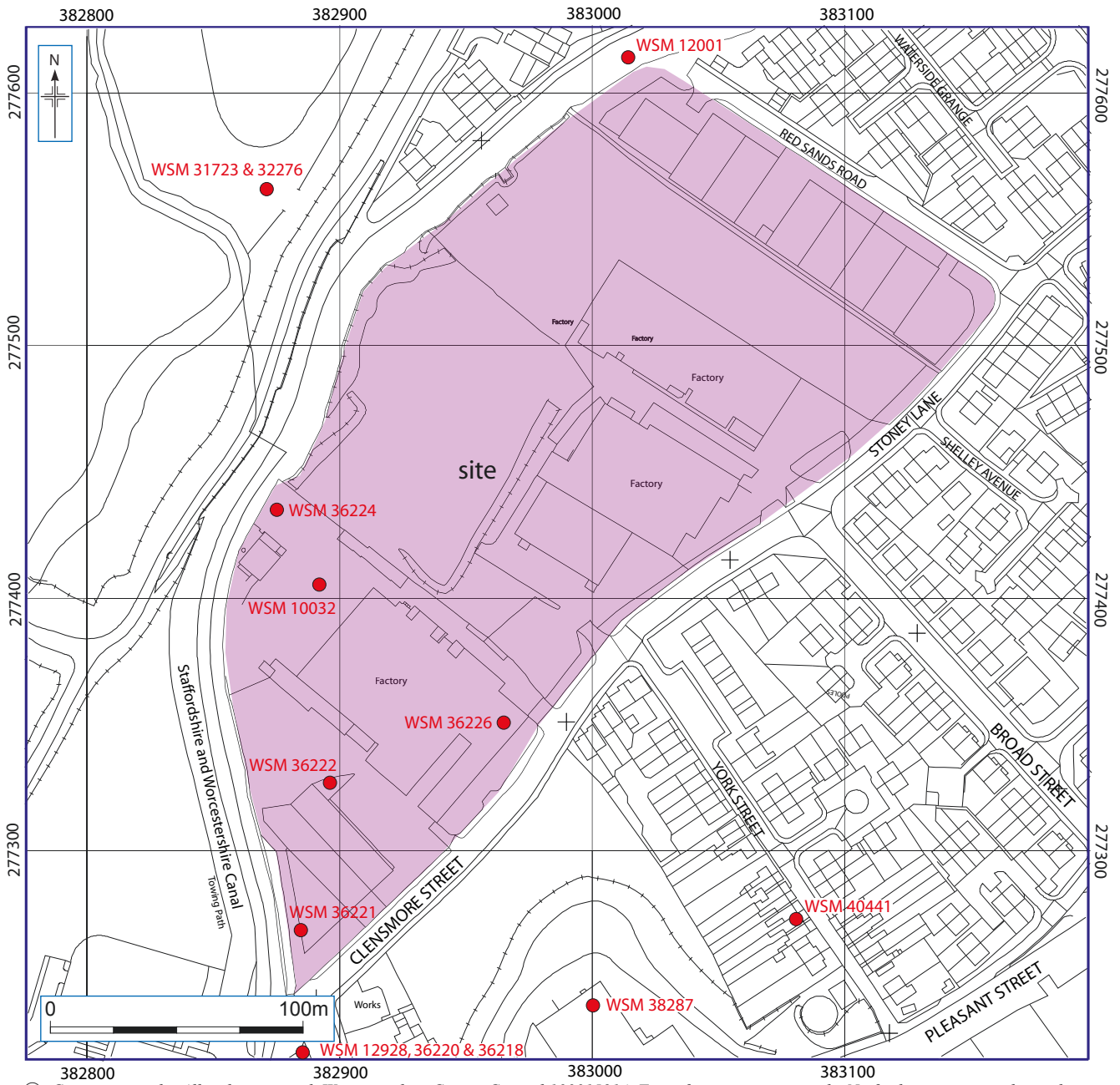
*Plate 26: The north elevation showing the extension to the mid 20<sup>th</sup> century building (Unit 25c).*



*Plate 27: Canal boundary wall and former corn mill west elevation (WSM 36224), view northeast (see also Plate 18)*



# Figures



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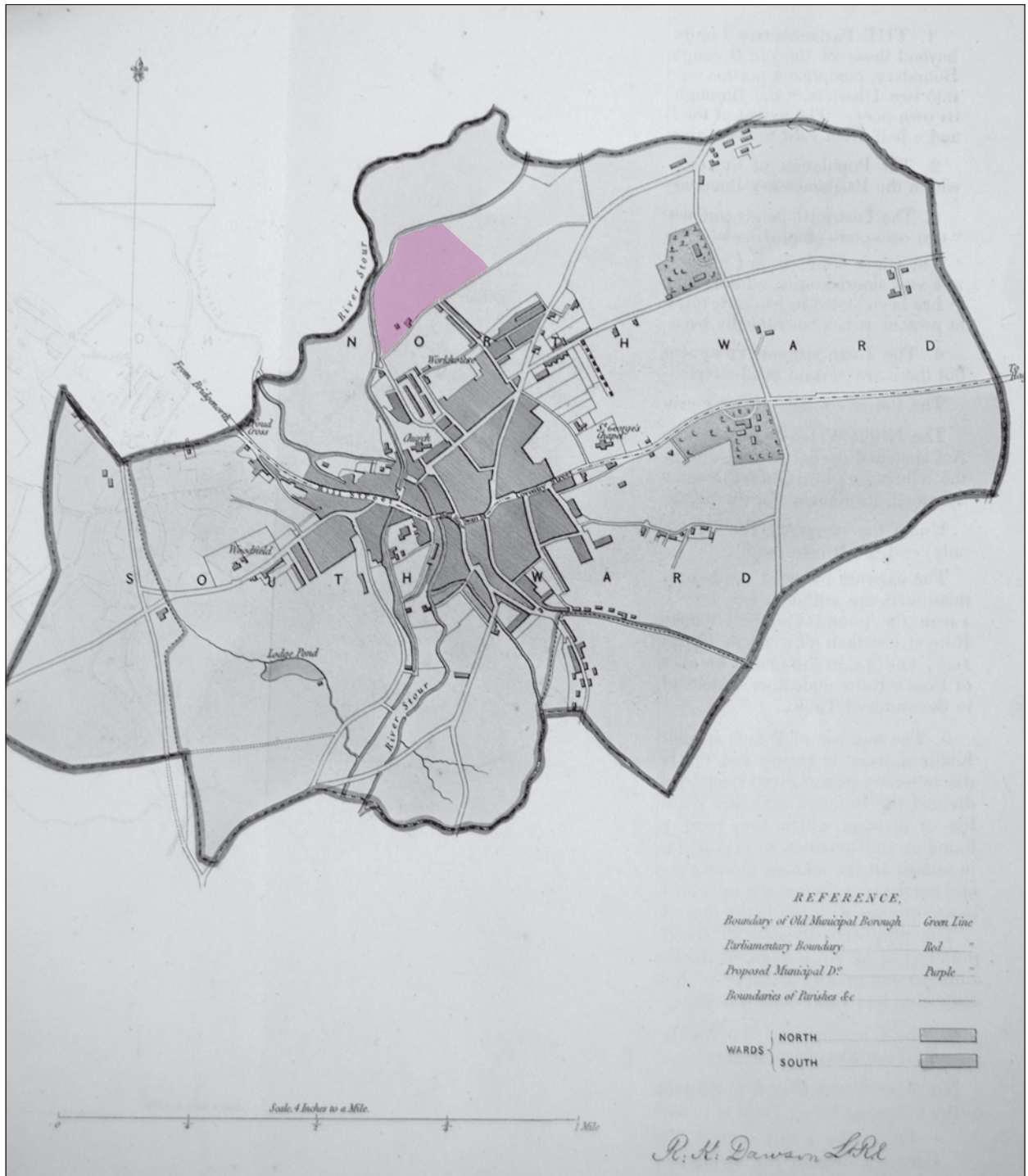
Location of the site with HER references

Figure 1



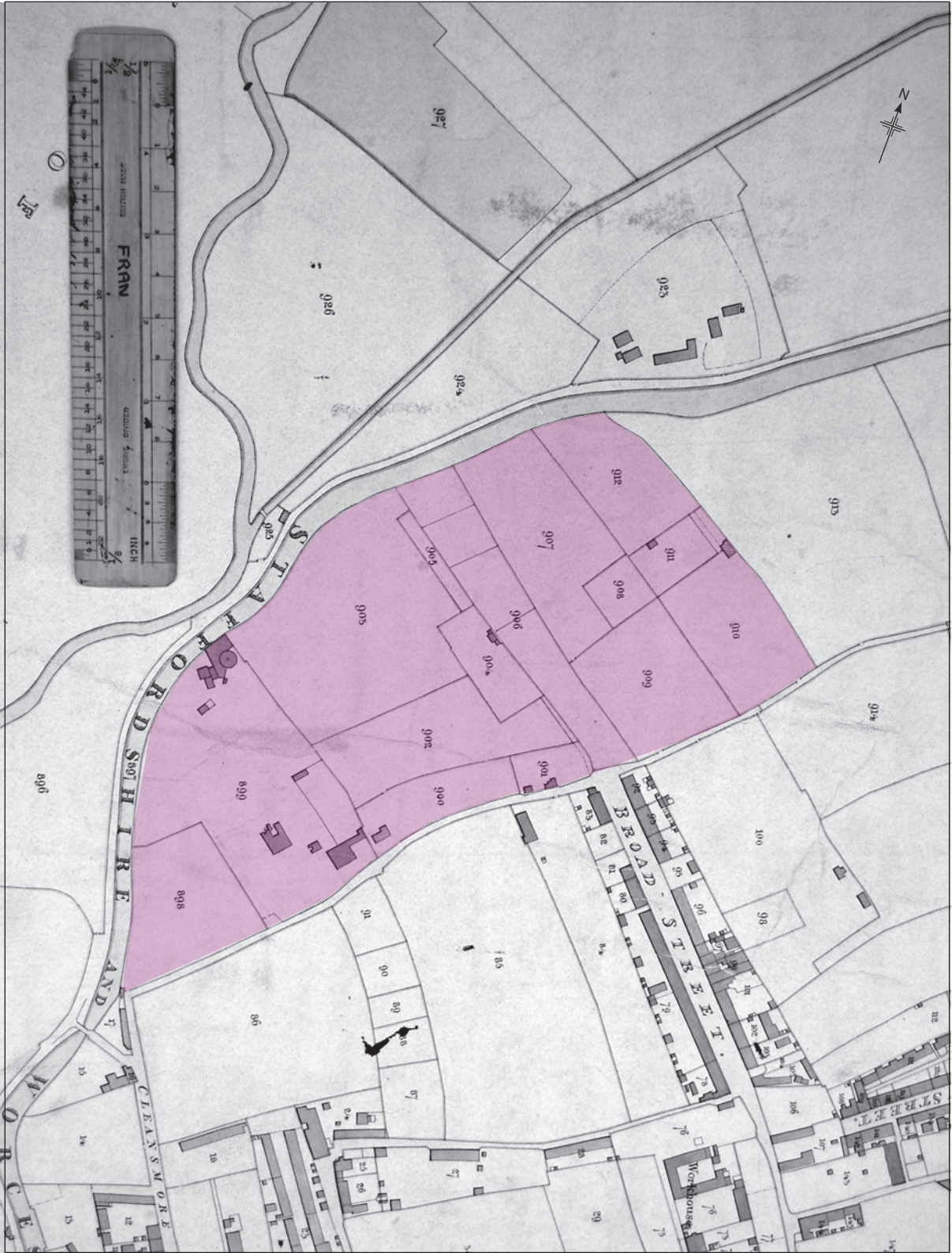
Map of town and land lying within the borough of Kidderminster; Sherriff 1780

Figure 2



Kidderminster Municipal Boundary Plan, 1832. 4 inch to 1 mile (899:60,1471)

Figure 3



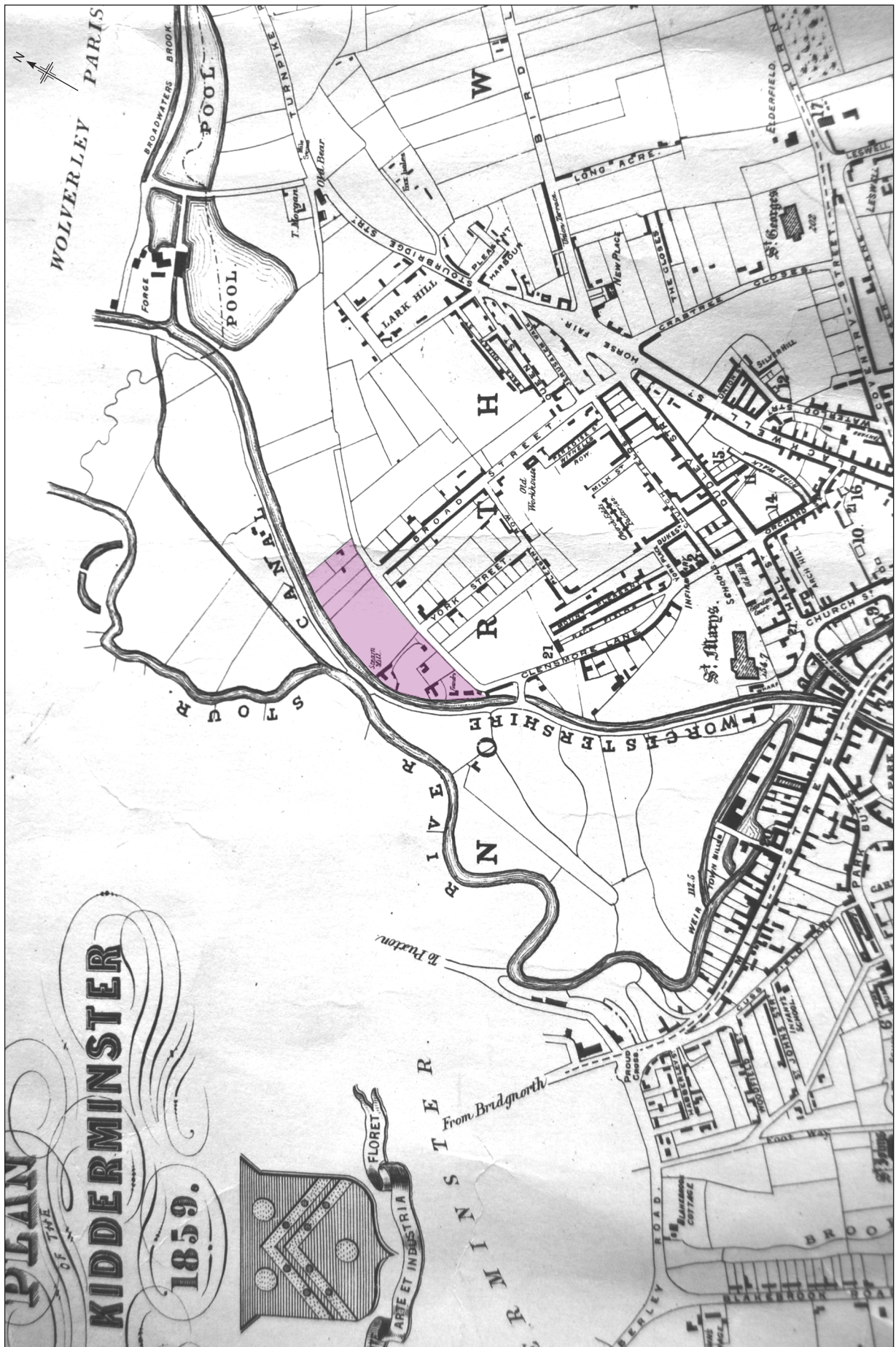
Kidderminster Survey, 1838 by Mathews (S705:398; 2412,564)

Figure 4



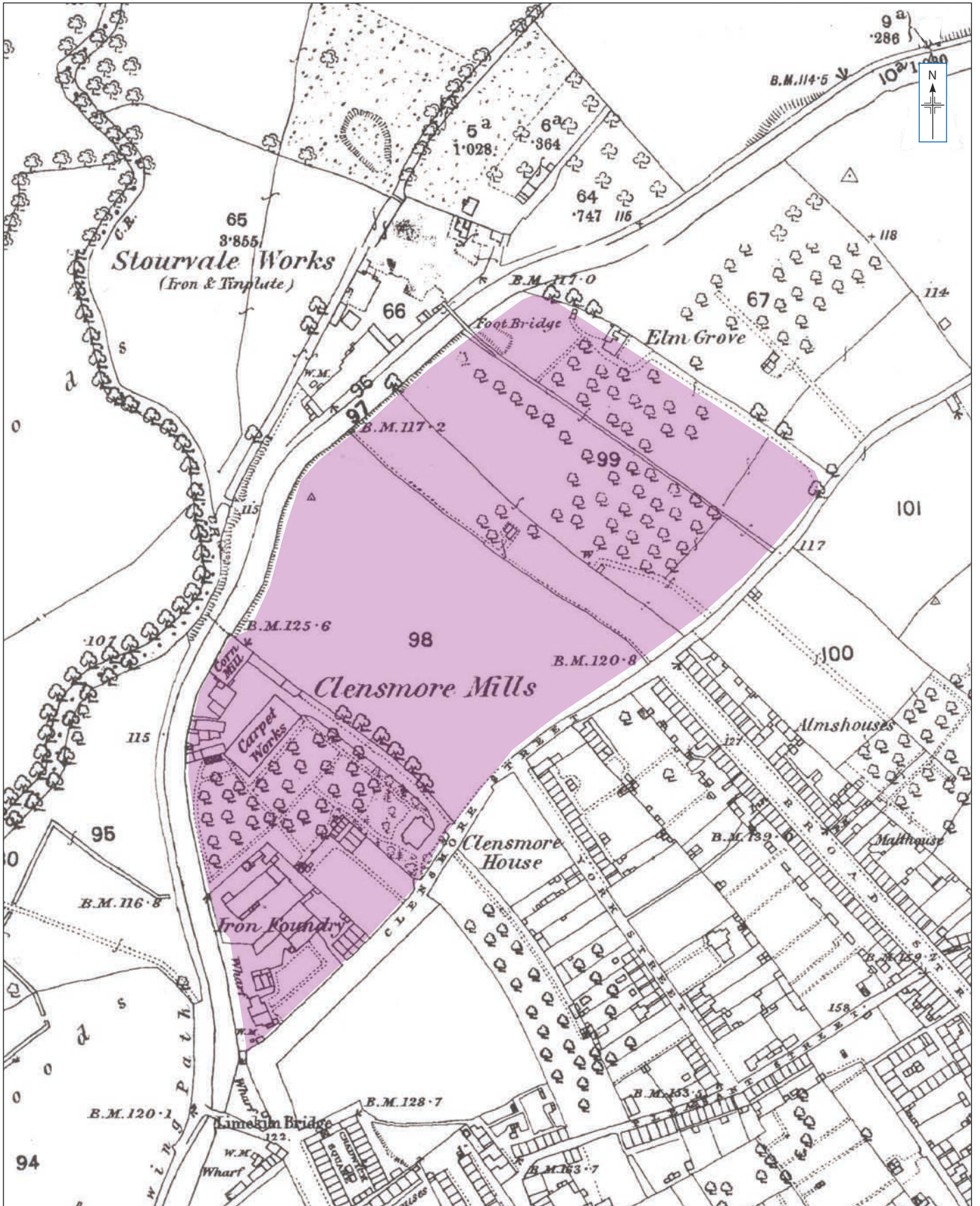
Tithe Map of Kidderminster, 1842

Figure 5



Broadfield's Plan of the Town of Kidderminster, 1859

Figure 6

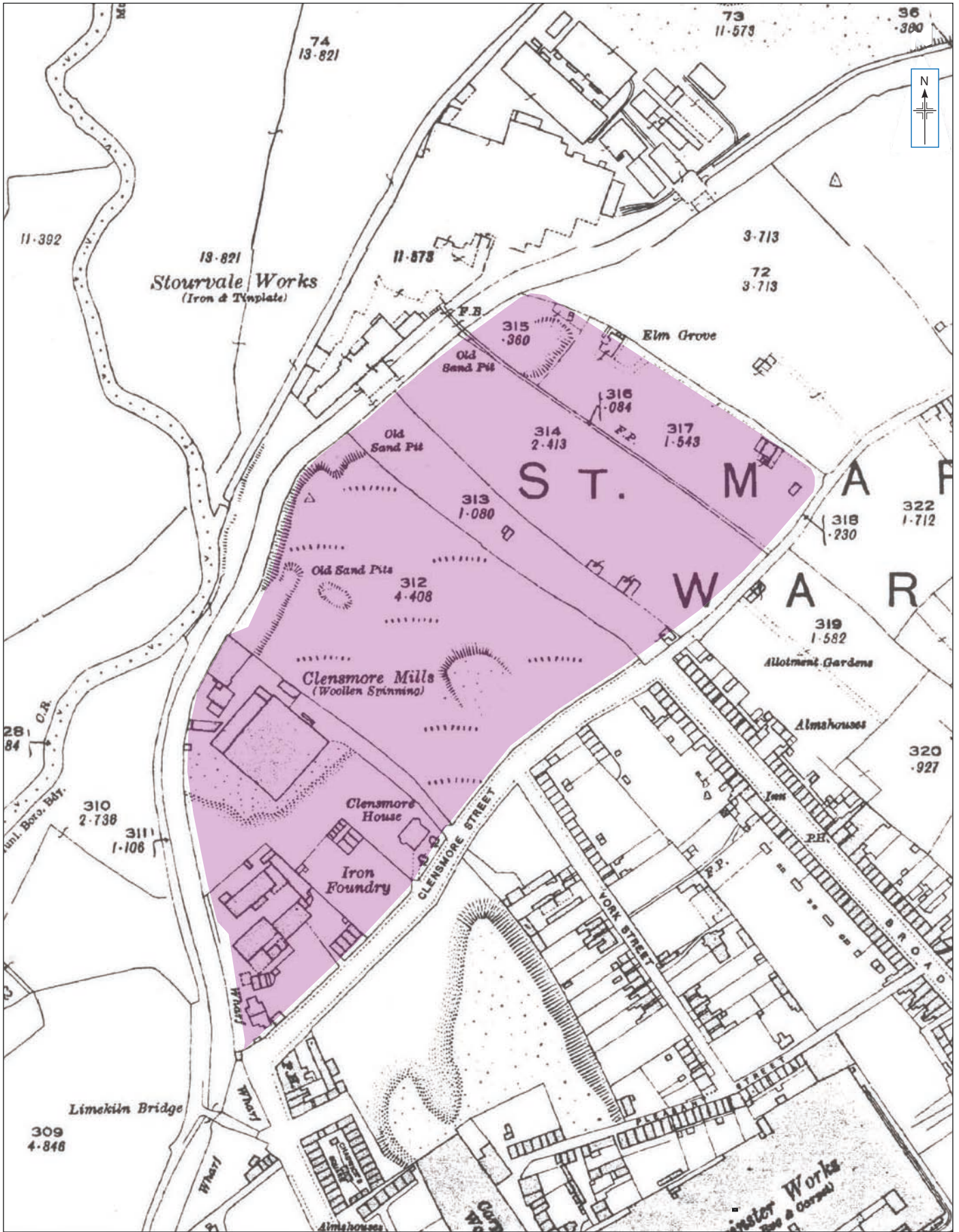


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Extract from 1st edition OS map, 1884/1885

Figure 7





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Extract from 3rd edition OS map, 1924/1927

Figure 8