

BUILDING RECORDING
AT
STOKE WORKS, STOKE PRIOR,
WORCESTERSHIRE



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Building recording at Stoke Works, Stoke Prior, Worcestershire

Shona Robson-Glyde

Project overview for client

This section of the report is an overview of the building recording required in preparation for submission of a planning condition relating to the redevelopment of the Stoke Works, former salt works, at Stoke Prior, Worcestershire.

The Written Scheme of Investigation specified that the buildings should be recorded to English Heritage standard. This required photographing the exterior and interior of the buildings and drawing plans and elevations of the buildings to scale. This produced an archive of the buildings before any changes were made.

The Written Scheme of Investigation also required an element of historical research and synthesis. Original records relating to the salt working site were studied at Worcestershire Archives along with historic maps and trade directories. Online census records were accessed along with digitised historic mapping, aerial photographs and other online sources.

Analysis of the buildings was based upon the recorded fabric and documentary research. The development of the buildings was reconstructed and illustrated on ground plans and elevations. These have been reproduced at the end of the report along with relevant photographs.

The buildings recorded at Stoke Works consisted of a small brick structure with a double gabled roof (Building A) and a larger brick structure with multi-light windows and a gabled roof (Building B). Both structures had modern metal box-profile roof coverings.

The buildings themselves were simple brick structures built in the early to mid 19th century and the early 20th century. The oldest structures was built as a gig house, whilst the other building was probably built as part of a wagon shop. The buildings have a research interest because of their history as part of the Stoke Prior Salt Works owned by John Corbett, the 'Salt King', although neither structure was built while he owned the site.



Report

1 Background

1.1 Reasons for the project

Recording of two historic buildings was undertaken at Stoke Works, Stoke Prior, Worcestershire (NGR SO 945 664). It was commissioned by CgMs Ltd for One Property Group, who intend to redevelop the Stoke Works site including the demolition of the majority of the standing buildings. A planning application will be submitted to Bromsgrove District Council.

The buildings are undesignated heritage assets within the terms used by the *National Planning Policy Framework*. The buildings are not registered with the Worcestershire Historic Environment Record (HER).

The project conforms to a written scheme of investigation prepared by CgMs Ltd (CgMs 2012) and for which a project proposal (including detailed specification) was produced (WA 2012b).

The project also conforms to the *Standard and guidance for the archaeological investigation and recording of standing buildings or structures* (IfA 2008), *Standards and guidelines for archaeological projects in Worcestershire* (WCC 2010).

The event reference for this building recording project given by the HER is WSM 47411.

2 Aims

The aims of the historic building recording were to:

- Further our understanding of the historic building and structures on the site.
- Mitigate against the loss of the buildings by preserving them through record.
- Further our understanding of the buildings and the fabric and development.

The written scheme of investigation also set in the following purposes:

- To record standing built fabric, features and fixtures identified by Worcestershire County Council that will be lost through the demolition.
- To ensure that above ground structures recorded are clearly identified.
- To disseminate the findings in report format and consider appropriateness of publication.

The following objectives were also set out in the WSI:

- Undertake work in accordance with national best practice and guidelines set by English Heritage and the IfA as well as in-house technical manuals
- Inspect the structures on the site and associated structures and context, their fabric, fixtures and fittings for evidence of construction, phase and function
- Provide an archival photographic record of the building and its immediate context and the evidence revealed by the works.
- Provide sketch drawn records to complete the record.
- Produce an illustrated report incorporating the results of the building record.
- Provide an ordered archive of all records taken.

3 Methods

3.1 Personnel

The project was undertaken by Shona Robson-Glyde (BA, PG Dip Arch); who joined Worcestershire Archaeology in 1998 and has been practicing buildings archaeology since 1994. The project manager responsible for the quality of the project was Hal Dalwood (BA, MIfA). Illustrations were prepared by Carolyn Hunt (BSc, PG Cert, MIfA).

3.2 Documentary research

Prior to fieldwork commencing a search was made of the Worcestershire Historic Environment Record (HER).

3.3 List of sources consulted

Cartographic sources

- Ordnance Survey maps of 1885, 1903, 1927 and 2012
- Tithe map of 1846 (see below)

Documentary sources

Published and grey literature sources are listed in the bibliography.

Documentary sources (Worcestershire Archives)

- tithe map of 1846 – ref x760:553
- lease of 1852, BAC and John Corbett - ref 705:35 BA8551/15 (25)
- sale documents, BAC and John Corbett - ref 705:35 BA8551/21 (i) (3)

3.4 Fieldwork strategy

A detailed specification has been prepared by Worcestershire Archaeology (WA 2012a).

Fieldwork was undertaken between 25th and 26th September 2012. The site reference number and site code is WSM 47411.

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 α350 digital SLR camera. All photographs were recorded on a pro-forma Photographic Record Sheet. Completion of pro-forma Building Record sheets complemented the photographic record along with dimensioned sketch ground plans and elevations. The drawings were then completed to scale on drawing film at 1:50 and 1:100 scales.

The project conformed to the specification for a level 2 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 'a visual record supplemented by the minimum of information needed to identify the building's location, age and type. The record will produce enough information to produce conclusions about the buildings development and use' (EH 2006). This required the following elements of survey:

Survey and drawings

- Dimensioned sketch ground plans and elevations as existing.

Photography

- General view or views of the building in its wider setting or landscape
- External appearance of the building, using oblique and right angle shots

- Overall appearance of the principal rooms and circulation areas
- General record of the interior spaces and specific features.

3.5 Building analysis

Analysis of the building was based on the study of the photographic record, building recording sheets and annotated drawings. It was also informed by the documentary sources listed above. This allowed plans to be drawn up showing the structural development of the building.

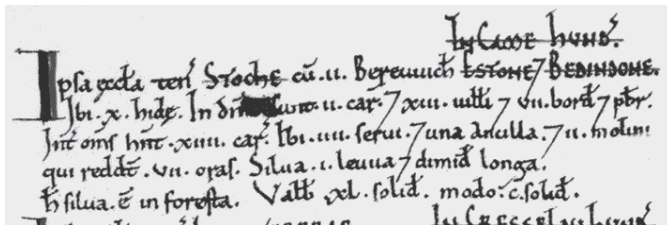
The buildings as recorded are depicted in Plates 1-26. Ground plans and elevations have been reproduced as Figures 4 and 5. Historic maps are included as Figure 6.

3.6 Statement of confidence in the methods and results

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

4 Context

Stoke Works is situated close to the village of Stoke Prior around two miles south of Bromsgrove (Fig 1). Stoke Prior is an ancient settlement that dates back to at least the 11th century and possibly as early as the 8th century. The name means land held by the Priory of Worcester (Mawer and Stenton 1927, 359). At the time of the Domesday Survey, in 1086, Stoke Prior was known as 'Stoche'. It was quite a small settlement of only 10 hides with 13 villagers and 7 smallholders and a taxable value of 100s or £5. The settlement was held by Worcester Priory (Thorn and Thorn 1982, 2,81).



By the time of the 1275 Lay Subsidy Roll, there were 59 residents paying tax in Stoke Prior (Willis Bund and Amphlett 1893, 28). By 1828-9, Pigot's trade directory shows that Stoke Prior had a population of around 900 (Pigot 1828-9, 858). This had risen to 2,744 in 1901 (Kelly 1912, 247) with a large portion of the population concentrated around the salt works built in the early-mid 19th century at Stoke Works. The village of Stoke Works is to the south of the main Stoke Prior settlement. The salt works themselves were begun in 1828 and expanded after John Corbett took over in 1852. John Corbett helped construct the village of Stoke Works by building houses for his workers, close to the salt works themselves. He also constructed the Stoke Prior school and paid for the restoration of Stoke Prior church.

The area around the salt works includes a number of sites of archaeological, historical and architectural interest (Appendix 1 and Fig 3). These are all included on the Worcestershire Historic Environment Record (HER). The salt works themselves are included as monument WSM 3348. Other monuments are the Stoke Prior railway station (WSM 1718), where a Bronze Age burial was discovered during construction of the railway. The Birmingham to Worcester Railway (WSM 24844), the Abbotswood to Stoke Works Railway (WSM 31660), the Droitwich to Stoke Works Railway (WSM 31667) and the Stoke Works to Longbridge Railway (WSM 44916) are also included on the HER as monuments. A possible Roman road lies to the east of Stoke Works (WSM 30612) adjacent to the site of a possible brick kiln (WSM 24888). To the north east of the salt works is the site of a wharf that is marked on historic mapping (WSM 3355). Place-names shown on historic maps suggest that there were canal buildings (WSM 34291) associated with the wharf. Another place name has been noted south east of the salt works, Harbour's Hill (WSM 34294) may be associated with the Roman road (WSM 30612). Only one historic garden has been noted in the area, Foley Gardens (WSM 24860), and is shown on Ordnance Survey 1st edition mapping.

There are a larger number of entries on the HER for historic buildings in the area of the salt works. The earliest structures in the area are the early 17th century timber-framed Elms Farmhouse (WSM

1695) and the 17th century timber-frame barn on the same farm (WSM 1696). Close to Elms Farm is Little Elms Farmhouse (WSM 9941) and Westonhall Farmhouse (WSM 1676) both of early 18th century date. A school and schoolhouse on Sagebury Terrace, built by John Corbett in 1871, are recorded as WSM 1687 and WSM 1697.

A number of buildings in the area, recorded on the HER, were built in the early 19th century. Around 1800 the Worcester and Birmingham Canal (WSM 12000) was constructed and was opened in 1815. The Astwood Bridge (WSM 32521) and Hanbury Road Bridge (WSM 37343) over the canal are also of this date. Bridge House (WSM 37371) at Stoke Wharf is an early 19th century house that was formerly the residence of the Chief Engineer to the Canal. The early to mid 19th century saw the construction of Birmingham and Gloucester Railway (WSM 31661) followed by the Oxford, Worcester and Wolverhampton Railway (WSM 31664). A footbridge (WSM 37329) over the railway was constructed in the 19th century at the same time as, or post-dating, the construction of the railway. Accommodation Bridge (WSM 37358) over the canal is also mid 19th century in date and is marked with a plaque saying 'BRYMBO 1861'. 20th century structures include the Shaw Lane Bridge (WSM 33866) over the canal and the use of the village hall as a military headquarters (WSM 31285) in the Second World War.

There are only two archaeological events recorded in the area of Stoke Works. These are the recording of the Redhouse Farm (WSM 40534) and a photographic survey of the Worcester and Birmingham Canal (WSM 33800).

The archaeology of the area around Stoke Works is dominated by sites of an industrial nature. The close proximity of Bromsgrove to the industrial centre of Birmingham and the Black Country, and its natural resources made the landscape around Bromsgrove, Redditch and Droitwich an ideal area for expansion of the industrial conurbation.

5 The buildings

5.1 Building descriptions

The buildings recorded (Figs 2, 4 and 5) consist of a small brick structure (Building A) on the north west boundary of the site and a larger brick structure (Building B) in the south central part of the site.

Building A (Plate 1) is constructed of brick with a double gabled roof with modern metal box-profile sheeting. The north west elevation faces onto the canal and is not accessible from within the Stoke Works site although the interior of the building shows that there are three blocked openings in this wall. The north east elevation (Plate 2) has a single window with a brick cill and a full height opening with a roller shutter over it. The south east elevation (Plate 3) has a large opening with a roller shutter over it. This has removed the majority of the brick wall. Adjacent to this is a set of double doors, partially altered by the small store built off the elevation and continuing beyond its southern extents. The south west elevation (Plate 4) is completely blank with just three pipes cut through the wall of the structure. The interior of the structure contains a large amount of piping and valves for the fire hydrant system of the Stoke Works.

Building B (Plate 5) is also constructed of brick with a gabled roof with modern metal box-profile sheeting. It is a tall rectangular building with the top part of each gable also covered in modern metal box-profile sheeting. The north east elevation (Plate 6) of the building has two segmental headed windows each with 40 lights, of which the central eight are hinged to open outwards, and a cill formed of bricks angled outwards from the wall. Each side of this wall has a flat pilaster forming the corners of the building. The north west elevation (Plate 7) has three large segmental headed windows the same as those on the north west gable. At the southern end of the elevation is a smaller more modern rectangular window with the same brick cill. The south west elevation (Plate 8) is obscured by vegetation and a stanchion structure carrying pipes. The elevation has only one window and this has also has multi-lights and the same angled brick cill. The south east elevation (Plate 9) has a tall opening with an internal roller shutter over it. It also has a small door and adjoining window. The whole top part of the elevation is of modern metal box-profile sheeting with

two large multi-light windows. The interior of the building shows that a number of windows in the brick part of this elevation have been blocked. The interior also has the metal roof trusses on show (Plate 10).

5.2 Historical information

A number of books cover the history of John Corbett and the Stoke Prior salt works. The most relevant book relating to the salt works is *Worcestershire Salt: a history of Stoke Prior Salt Works* by Alan White (White 1996) and has been used to provide a lot of the information below.

The Stoke Works factory began life as a salt working industrial site. Salt was first discovered at Stoke in 1812-13 during the cutting of the Worcester to Birmingham Canal. The salt industry at Stoke began in 1825 when the British Rock and Patent Salt Company started off mining rock salt on the west side of the canal. The works on the east side of the canal were begun in 1828 by Jonathan Fardon who found beds of rock salt 300ft below the red marl. He acquired the land in April 1829 and by this time had already begun building a factory on the site. In 1830 Fardon was joined by William Gossage and the company became 'Fardon Gossage and Company'. They began by mining the rock salt but then decided to pump water into the mine and extract the salt as brine that had to be heated to return it to salt. The 1835 trade directory records the company as 'salt proprietors' and 'soap and vitriol manufacturers' (Pigot 1835, 631).

In 1835 'Fardon Gossage and Company' became a public company called the 'British Alkali Company' (BAC). In the following year Gossage erected a 309ft high chimney on the site for the production of chemicals. By this time, 1836, following a number of owners and bankruptcies, the 'Imperial Salt and Alkali Company' (ISAC) were established on the west side of the canal. Both companies appear for the first time in the 1840-1 trade directory with BAC described as 'manufacturing chemists' and ISAC as 'salt and chemical manufacturers' (Bentley 1840-1, 133 and 134).

The 1840s were a difficult time for both the BAC and the ISAC. Due to the rise in competition from the salt industries in Cheshire and in Droitwich itself, the companies suffered financially. In 1845 John Corbett became an agent for BAC in London and other places along the route of his canal carrying business. In 1846 BAC, in order to reduce competition, took over the lease of the works of the 'Droitwich Patent Salt Company' but the company collapsed in 1850. All three of the directors of the BAC were in financial trouble at this time and in 1852 their bank collapsed. The ISAC was put into the hands of receivers in 1850. In 1852, John Corbett leased the British Alkali Company site for £2,500 half-yearly, although the 1851 trade directory shows that he was using the site prior to the date of the lease (Slater 1851, 34). The lease described the site as '*divers pieces of land, messuages, Brine springs, Salt works, Soap works and Chemical works, Engines and so on*' (Worcestershire Archives ref 705:35 BA8551/15 (25)). John Corbett stopped all soap and chemical production and concentrated solely on salt. At this time the site was producing 26,000 tons of salt per year. He bought the site in 1857 for £33,000 (Worcestershire Archives ref 705:35 BA8551/21 (i) (3)) and in 1858 he leased the former ISAC site, sold twice since going into receivership, for £1,800 a year. John Corbett was now in control of all salt workings at Stoke and he eventually bought the former ISAC works in 1867 for £25,500.

Corbett's business prospered due to the high quality of the salt he produced and the marketing that he did for the product. When he took over the BAC works in 1852, they covered just over nine acres of land and had two bine pits, only one of which was working. There were twelve fine-salt panhouses and four larger broad-salt panhouses. The chemical works were also extensive and included eleven soap coppers with soap frames and soap-cutting machinery. By the time Corbett took over the former ISAC works he had doubled his salt production which he then increased further with the addition of the two brine wells and 31 salt pans of the ISAC site. He expanded production further by building broad-salt panhouses on the chemical works portions of the two sites. In 1871-2 Corbett again expanded the works by building a new siding from the Midland Railway and installing new salt pans to produce a better quality fine-salt. By 1880 the Stoke Works covered over 30 acres. As well as expanding the works Corbett created a village for his workers

around the site of the works. He built houses in the 1860s and a school and school house in the 1870s and a dispensary soon after. He also funded the restoration of the Stoke Prior church.

The change in the status of the works can be seen by the entries in the trade directories. The 1860 directory simply states *'here are extensive salt and soap works, a stone quarry, and brick and tile making is carried on'* (Kelly 1860, 1246). The directory of 1876 describes the site somewhat differently: *'the works belonging to John Corbett, esq. M.P., cover an extent of 27 acres; the manufacture consists in pumping the brine from the salt springs, depositing it in reservoirs, to which heat is applied to evaporate the water, when the salt rises to the surface, whence it is collected and pressed into moulds: there are three kinds of salt: butter salt, used in curing provisions; table salt for domestic purposes; and broad salt, for manuring land; they differ only in process of manufacture: attached to the works are iron works, where the pans and reservoirs, and also railway trucks for carrying the salt, are made: there are nearly 200 cottages for the workmen, and a dispensary, provided by the proprietor of the salt works'* (Kelly 1876, 1049).

The 1879 Littlebury trade directory has over a page describing the works and the process of salt making. The beginning of the description includes the statement that they are the *'model salt works of Europe'* that were *'erected at a cost of about half a million sterling'* (Littlebury 1879, 663). The description also ends with a statement from an eminent chemist of the time who had examined all the brine-springs in the country: *'Those of Stoke Prior rank among the first in point of concentration, and are also very remarkable for their freedom from earthy impurities, and calculated to produce a very fine and pure variety of salt'* (ibid, 664). The numerous medals that were awarded to John Corbett for the quality of his salt are included in the entry for John Corbett in the directory *'prize medals awarded London 1862, Paris 1867, gold medals London 1873, Paris 1875, Philadelphia 1876, Paris 1878'* (ibid, 667).

Corbett continued the production of salt at the works through the 1880s and by the time he sold out to the Salt Union in 1889 he was producing 170,000 tons of salt a year with a capacity to produce 200,000 tons. Corbett sold the whole works, both sides of the canal, for £600,000 but did not sell his distribution business and could therefore continue as a salt merchant. He did not sell this part of the business to the Salt Union until 1894 for £60,000. The Salt Union, which eventually owned all the salt works in the country, sold all their assets to Imperial Chemical Industries Limited (ICI) in 1937. At that time the Stoke Prior works consisted of *'three pits and pumphouses, twenty-nine fine-salt open pans, four patent covered machine pans, fourteen broad-salt pans, two salt mills and packing departments, and all the various ancillary works including a foundry, wagon shop, fitting shop, timber yard, sawmill and offices'* (White 1996, 62).

Between 1946 and 1949, ICI converted the site to a vacuum plant with many of the old salt works buildings being demolished. They still continued making salt producing about 145,000 tons of salt per year, about 10% of the UK total. In 1962 ICI sold the east side of the works to StoChem Uni-Royal who converted the site to a chemical plant to make synthetic rubber latex. This use continued until its closure in the 2000s. The west side of the works was held by ICI as a salt production site until 1972 when it was closed, ending 147 years of salt production at Stoke Prior.

5.3 Building development

5.4 Phase 1 Early-mid 19th century (pre 1852)

In the early to mid 19th century a small brick structure, Building A (Fig 4; Plate 1), was built against the west boundary, immediately adjacent to the canal, of the British Alkali Company works. The British Alkali Company began building structures on the site in the late 1820s and by the time of the tithe map in 1846 (Fig 6) the salt and chemical works were well established, including the small structure that formed Building A. The 1852 lease (Worcestershire Archives ref 705:35 BA8551/15 (25)) for John Corbett taking over from the British Alkali Company included a plan of the site (Fig 6) showing the functions of the buildings. Building A is marked with the number '91' (Plate 11) and the key indicates that the building was a 'gig house' (Plate 12), used for the storage of light horse-drawn vehicles ('gigs'). The building was attached to a range of stables and offices running along the west boundary of the site.

5.5 Phase 2 Early 20th century (between 1903 and 1927)

At some point between the printing of the 1903 and 1927 Ordnance Survey maps a large rectangular brick structure, Building B, was constructed (Fig 5; Plate 5). The structure of Building B, with its high windows (Plate 13), metal roof trusses (Plate 10) and open space (Plate 14), suggests that it had an industrial function when it was first built. A map of the early 1920s, shown in White (1996, 59) is actually based upon the 1903 Ordnance Survey map and does not show Building B. It does, however, record that the building adjacent to Building B is a Wagon Shop with a Loco shed attached to it, suggesting that the function of Building B may have been associated with wagon construction.

The interior of Building A contains a large amount of piping and valves (Plate 15) for a fire hydrant system on the site. Some of the valves appear to date to this phase (Plate 16 and 17) and therefore it is likely that the gig house was converted when it was not needed for its original function anymore.

5.6 Phase 3 Modern

Building A has been altered quite considerably in the recent past. At some time from the 1940s onwards three openings in the north west wall, facing onto the canal, were blocked with breeze block (Plate 18). This is likely to have coincided with the blocking of a door and creation of a window in its place on the north east elevation (Plate 2) and a double door being inserted in the south east elevation (Plate 19). Two further openings were made in the walls of the building, a doorway on the north east elevation and a large opening on the south east elevation, both with roller shutters and are therefore likely to date to the 1970s or soon after.

Building B has also been considerably altered in the recent past. To begin with the building was partitioned into two separate areas with a metal partition (Plate 20). It is likely this partitioning of the space also coincided with a change of use that caused the blocking of a number of windows on the south east elevation of the building (Plate 21). This style of partition suggests a date of the 1960s or later. The other windows have also been partly blocked (Plate 22), which probably occurred at the same time as the result of a change in the use of the structure. This change in use also required new openings to be made within the south east elevation in the 1970s. A large door with roller shutter and a small pedestrian entrance and window were inserted into the elevation (Plate 23). The building was completely re-roofed around the same time as these alterations were taking place. The new roof is formed of metal trusses partly held up with metal stanchions. The top of the south east wall was also rebuilt at this time with timber panelling on the interior (Plate 24) and metal box-profile sheeting on the exterior (Plate 9). The final function of the building was such that required a great deal of control with both the interior and exterior of the building having banks of control panels (Plates 25 and 26).

6 Discussion

The oldest building recorded, Building A, was constructed in the early to mid 19th century. The building was part of the salt working site begun on the east side of the canal at Stoke Prior and became the British Alkali Company salt, soap and chemical works. From primary documents it appears that the structure was a 'gig house' that was attached to a range of stables and was therefore used for storing a horse drawn vehicle. This function was low in importance on the industrial salt working site and it was also a limited function that was lost when the use of horse-drawn transport was no longer needed.

The construction of Building B took place around 100 years after that of Building A. It also was built as part of a salt working site but one which had already passed through the importance that the site had under the management and ownership of John Corbett. By the early 20th century the site was owned by the Salt Union. The suggested function of Building B shows that the business was expanding its need to build wagons for transport and therefore may have been expanding its markets.

Both of the buildings are constructed in a utilitarian style and are simple, brick, structures. They also both have little intrinsic value because they are simple brick structures that have been greatly altered in the modern period. However, their interest and importance lies in their links to the salt working site of Stoke Works and its development as well as their association with John Corbett and subsequently the Salt Union.

6.1 Research frameworks

The archaeological recording of industrial buildings is a technique of recording that has been carried out for many years. These structures are a dwindling link to the past technologies that contributed to the economic growth of the West Midlands. The recording of these structures tends to concentrate on the buildings of the 18th and 19th centuries although 20th century buildings are beginning to be addressed (Stratton and Trinder 2000).

The archaeology of the West Midlands: a framework for research (Watt 2011), the publication of the West Midlands Regional Research Framework for Archaeology, is decidedly lacking in the discussion of upstanding archaeology and the recording of historic buildings. The section regarding post-medieval archaeology recognises that the archaeology of buildings is a 'well-established component' of the discipline of archaeology. However, it also regards that the recording of above ground archaeology is worthless without the excavation of the surrounding remains (Belford 2011, 226). This is a limited view of buildings archaeology and disregards the information that can be gained from investigating and analysing an upstanding structure without any excavation. Mike Hodder discusses the need to record more historic buildings and to integrate above and below ground archaeology (Hodder 2011, 251). He states that the study of buildings 'not just the exceptional but also the typical, would be useful'.

7 Publication summary

Worcestershire Archaeology has a professional obligation to publish the results of archaeological projects within a reasonable period of time. To this end, Worcestershire Archaeology 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.

Archaeological building recording was undertaken on behalf of One Property Group at the Stoke Works, Stoke Prior, Worcestershire (NGR ref SO 945 664; HER ref WSM 47411). Building recording was carried out on two structures on the former salt working site, east of the canal at Stoke Works. The buildings themselves were simple brick structures built in the early to mid 19th century and the early 20th century. The oldest structures was built as a gig house, whilst the other building was probably built as part of a wagon shop. The buildings have a research interest because of their history as part of the Stoke Prior Salt Works owned by John Corbett, the 'Salt King', although neither structure was built while he owned the site.

8 Acknowledgements

Worcestershire Archaeology would like to thank Cathy Patrick and Simon Roper-Pressdee, of CgMs Ltd, and Mike Glyde, the Historic Environment Planning Officer, for their kind assistance in the successful conclusion of this project.

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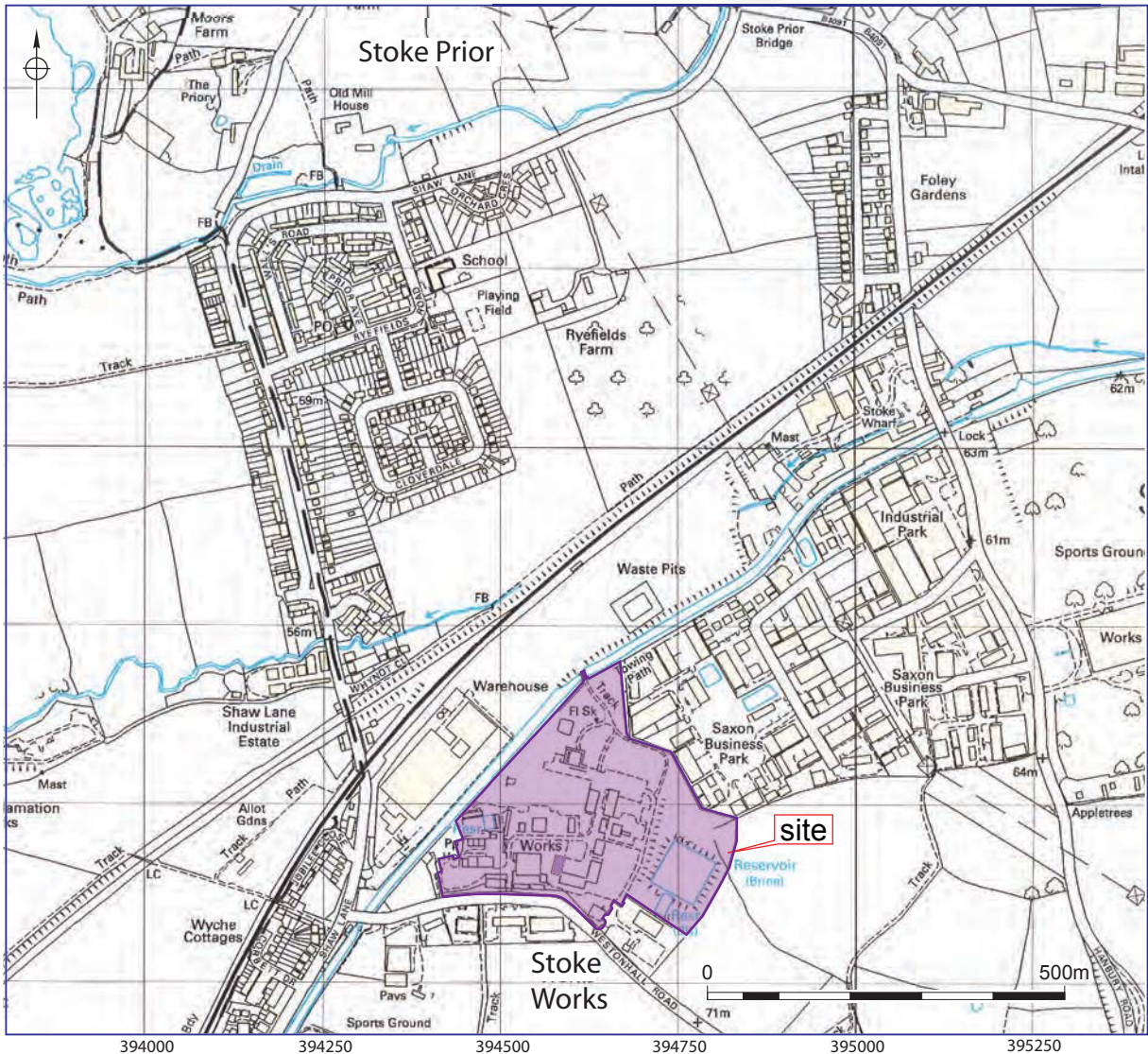
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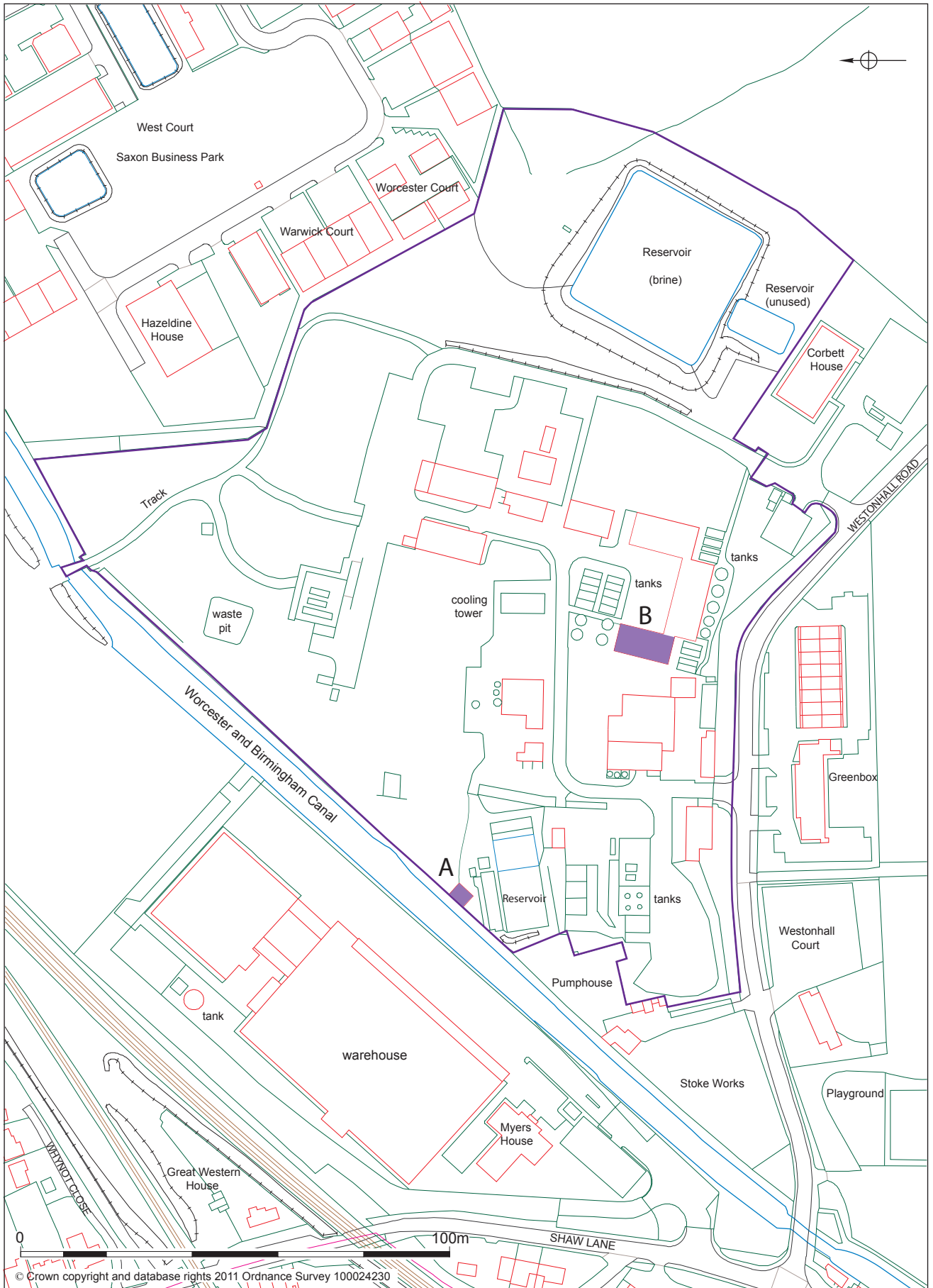
Figures



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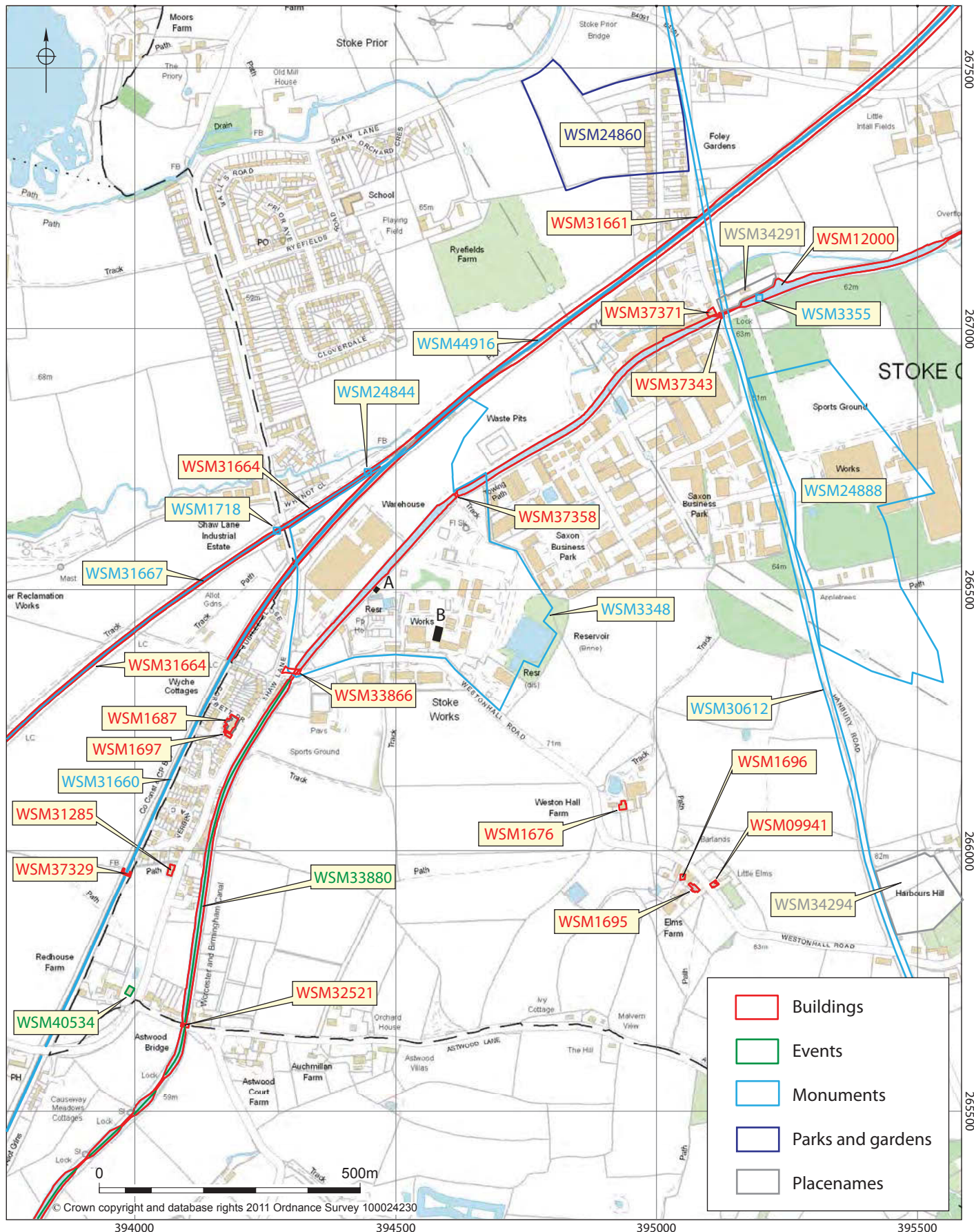
Location of the site

Figure 1



Location of buildings A and B

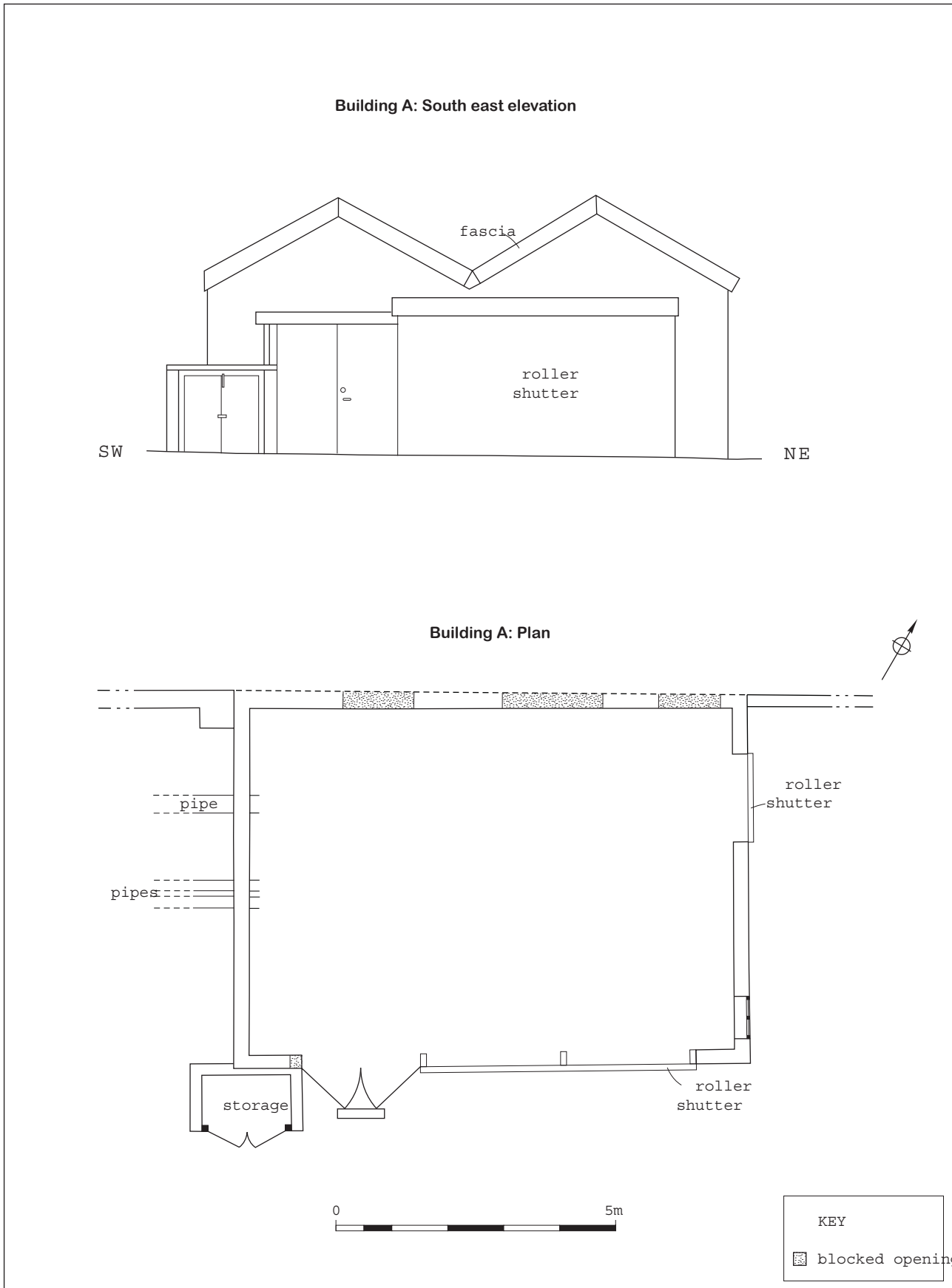
Figure 2



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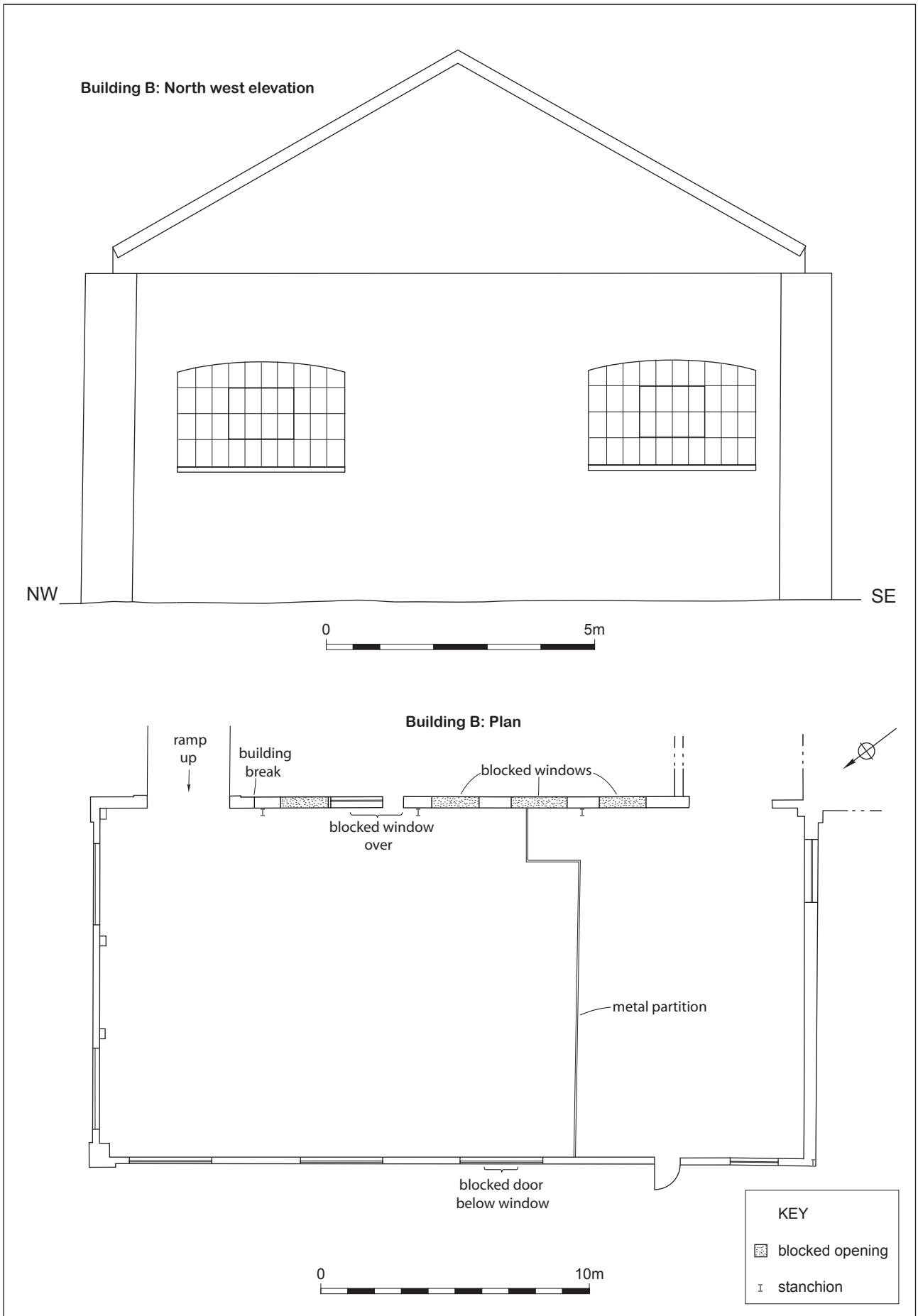
HER information

Figure 3



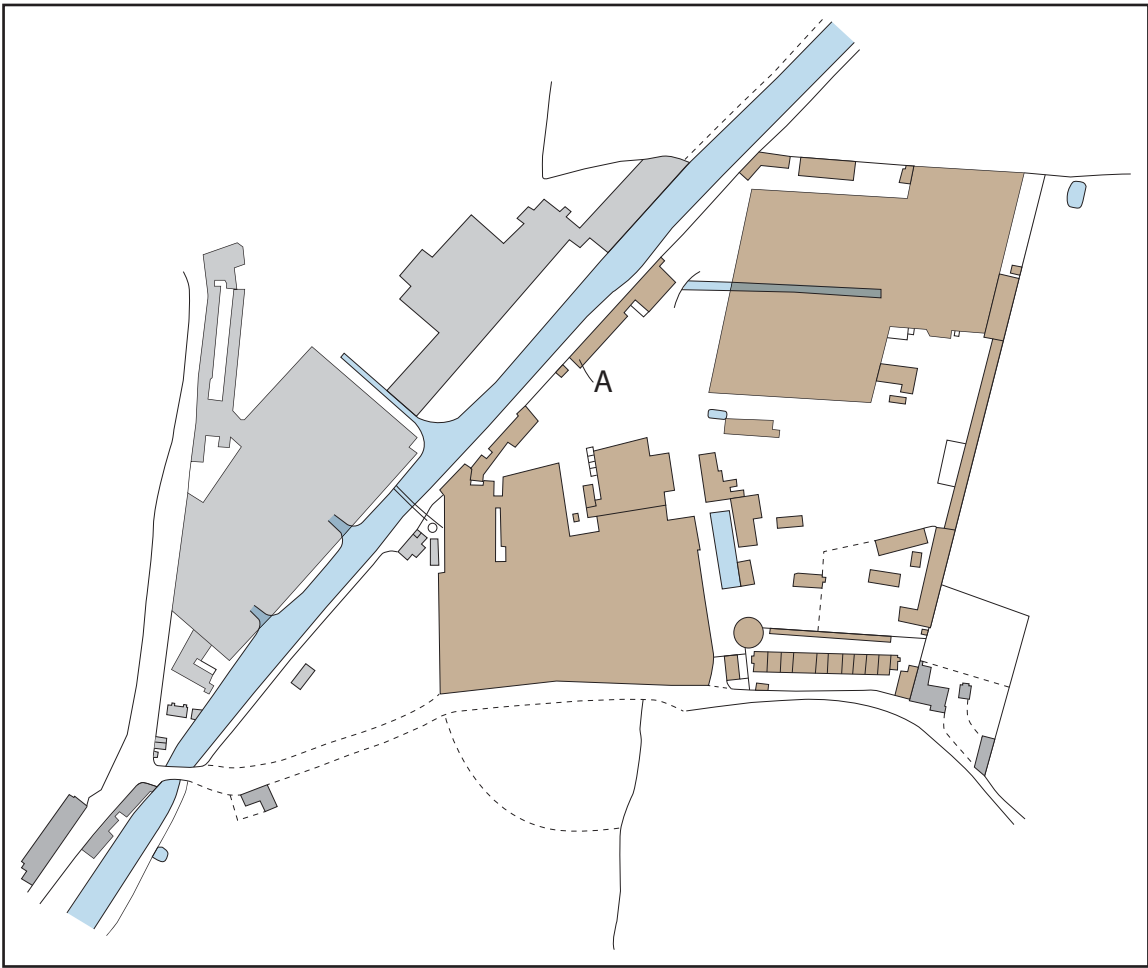
Building A: South east elevation and plan

Figure 4

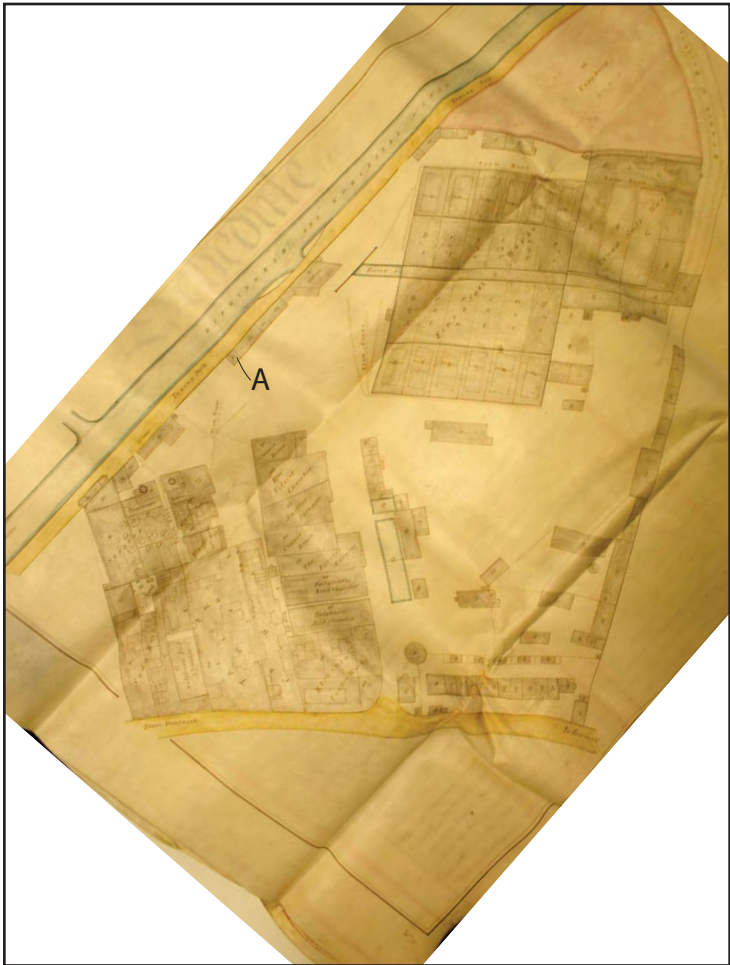


Building B: North west elevation and plan

Figure 5



Transcription of 1846 Tithe Map (building A marked)



1852 Lease Plan (building A marked)

Plates



Plate 1: Building A from the east



Plate 2: Building A north east elevation



Plate 3: Building A south east elevation



Plate 4: Building A south west elevation



Plate 5: Building B from the north



Plate 6: Building B north east elevation



Plate 7: Building B north west elevation



Plate 8: Building B south west elevation



Plate 9: Building B south west elevation



Plate 10: Building B metal trusses

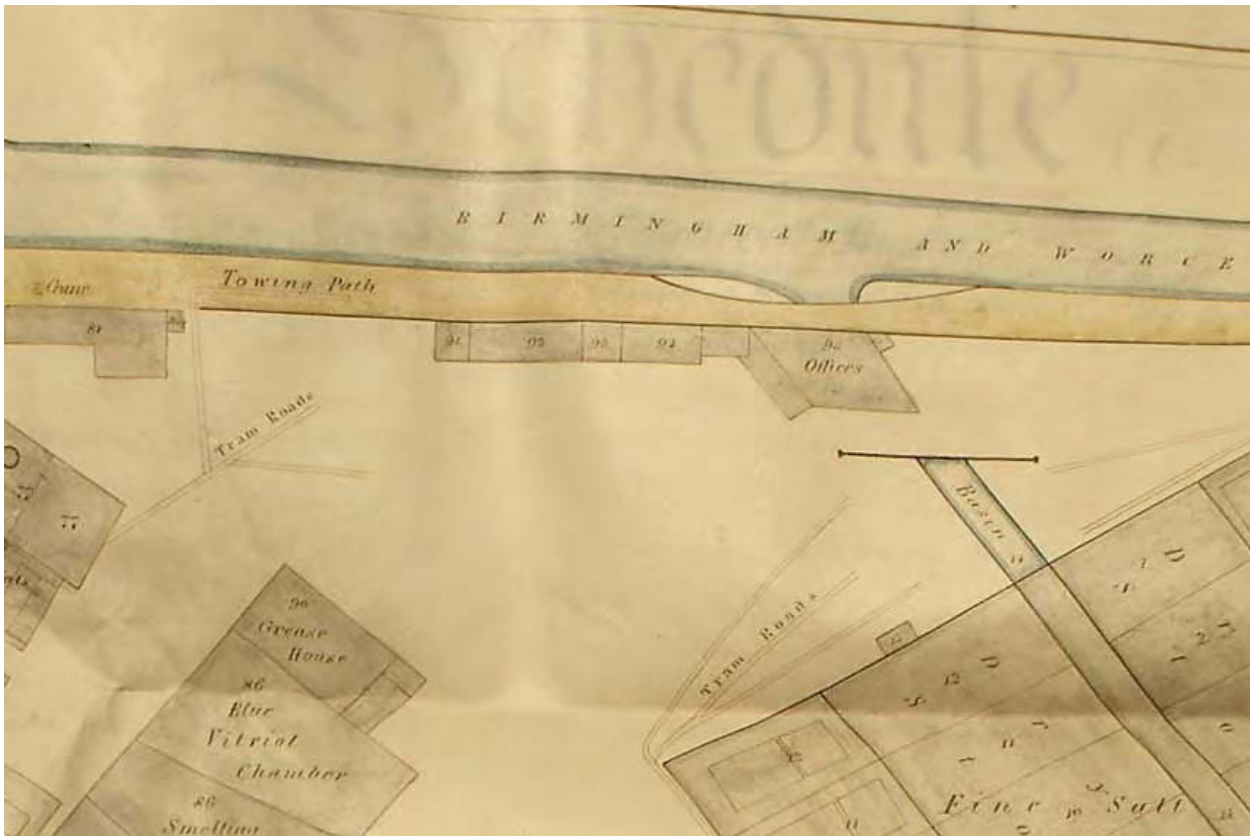


Plate 11: 1852 lease plan showing Building A – 'number 91'

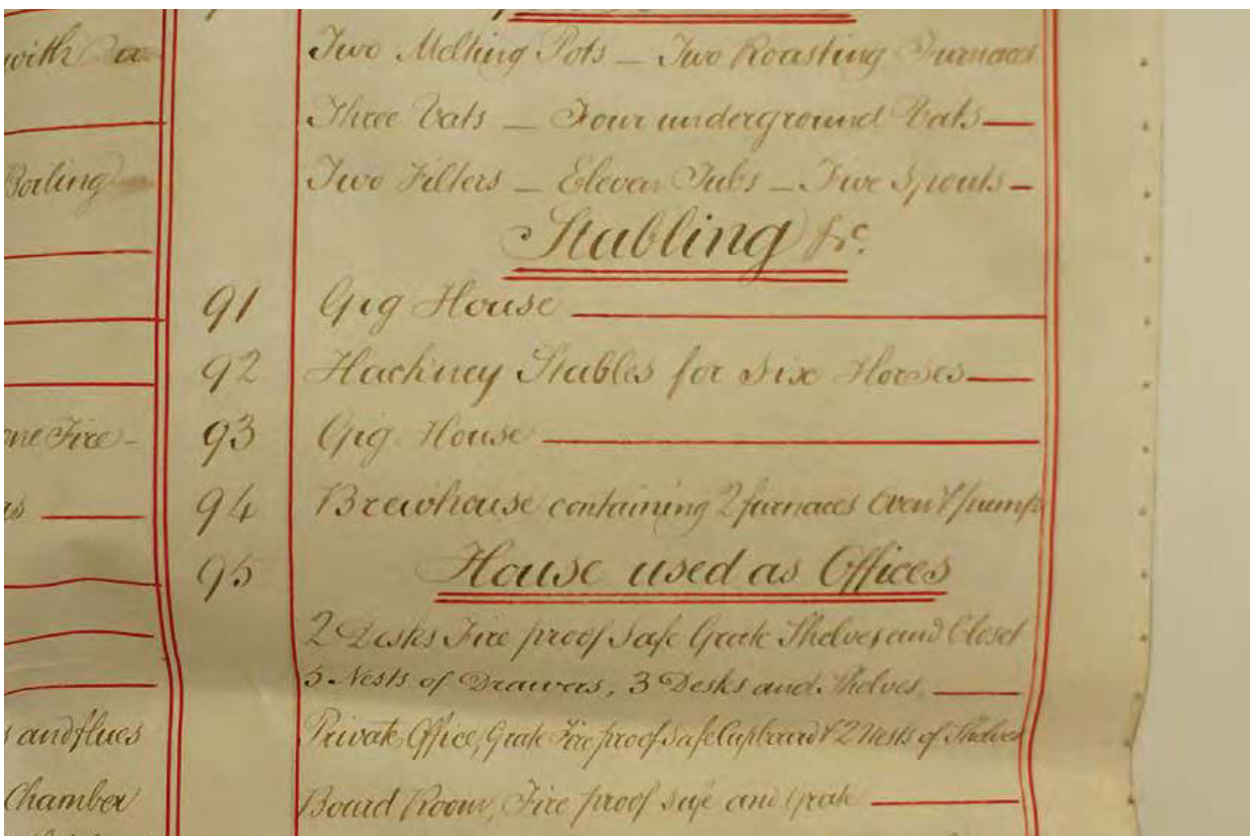


Plate 12: 1852 lease, description of Building A – '91 Gig house'



Plate 13: Building B window

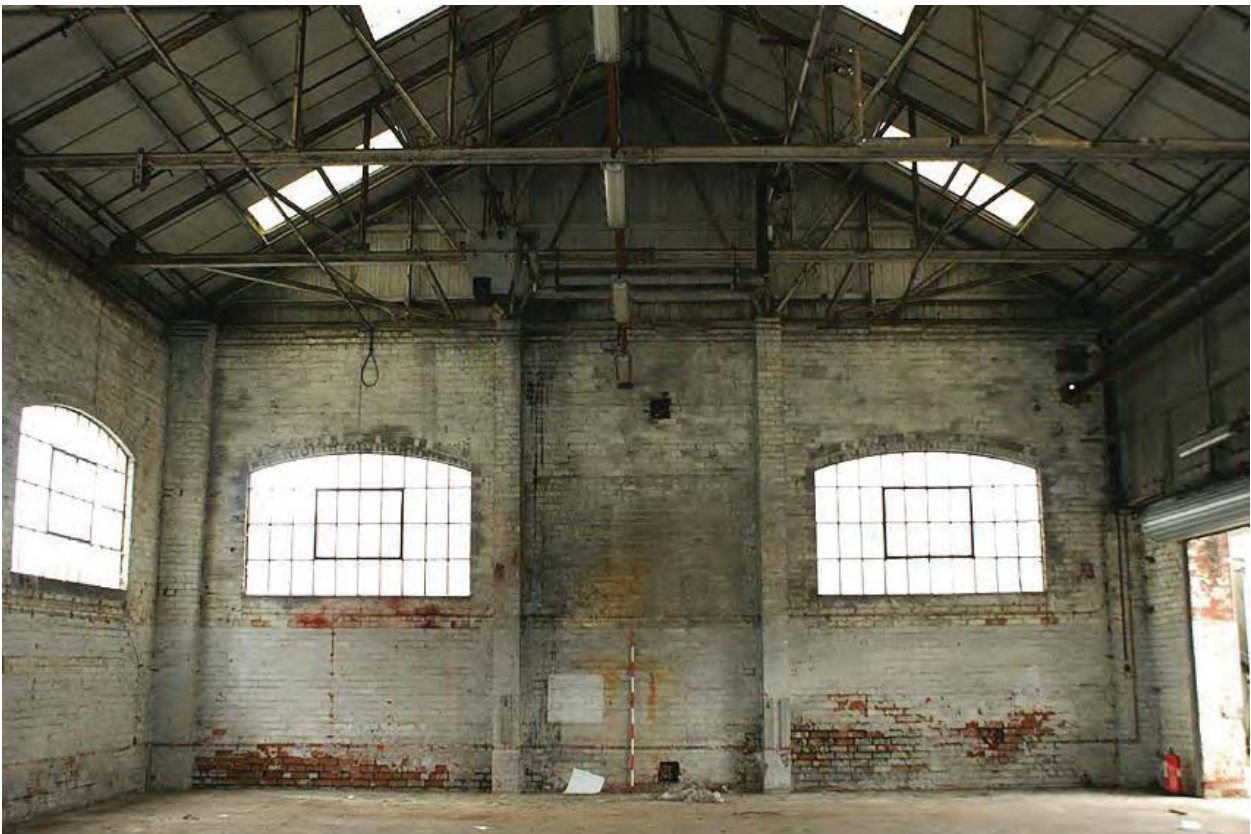


Plate 14: Building B open interior



Plate 15: Interior of Building A, showing pipes



Plate 16: One of old valves in Building A

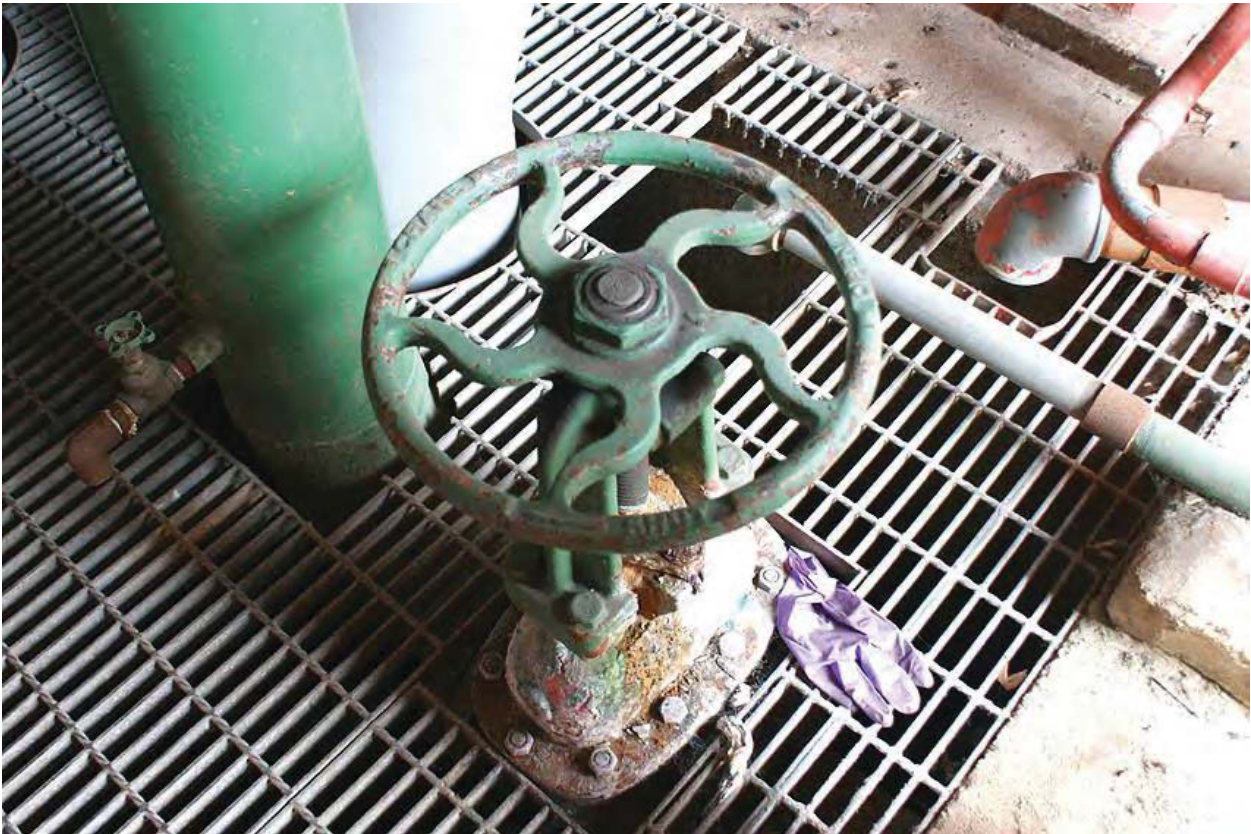


Plate 17: One of old valves in Building A



Plate 18: North east wall of Building A showing three blocked windows



Plate 19: Exterior of Building A, south east elevation inserted doors



Plate 20: Building B, inserted metal partition

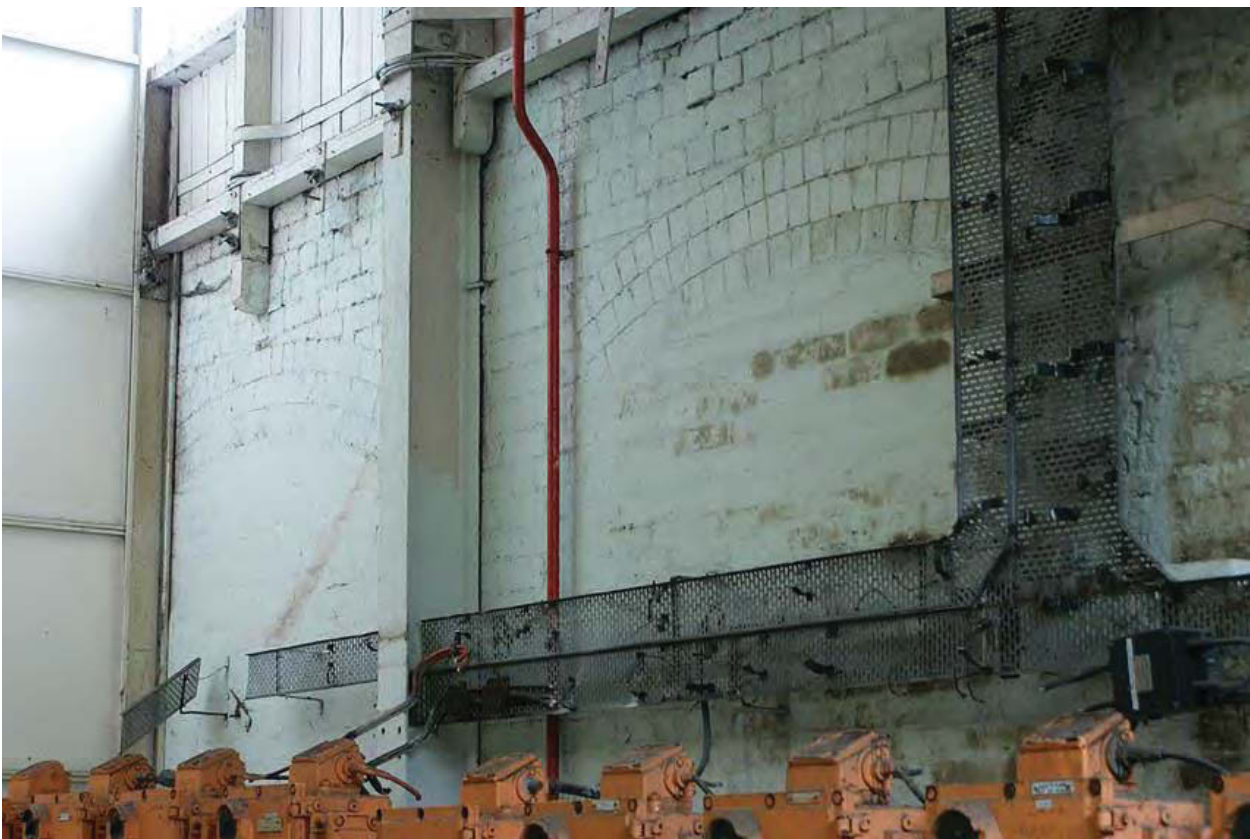


Plate 21: Building B, south east elevation, example of blocked openings

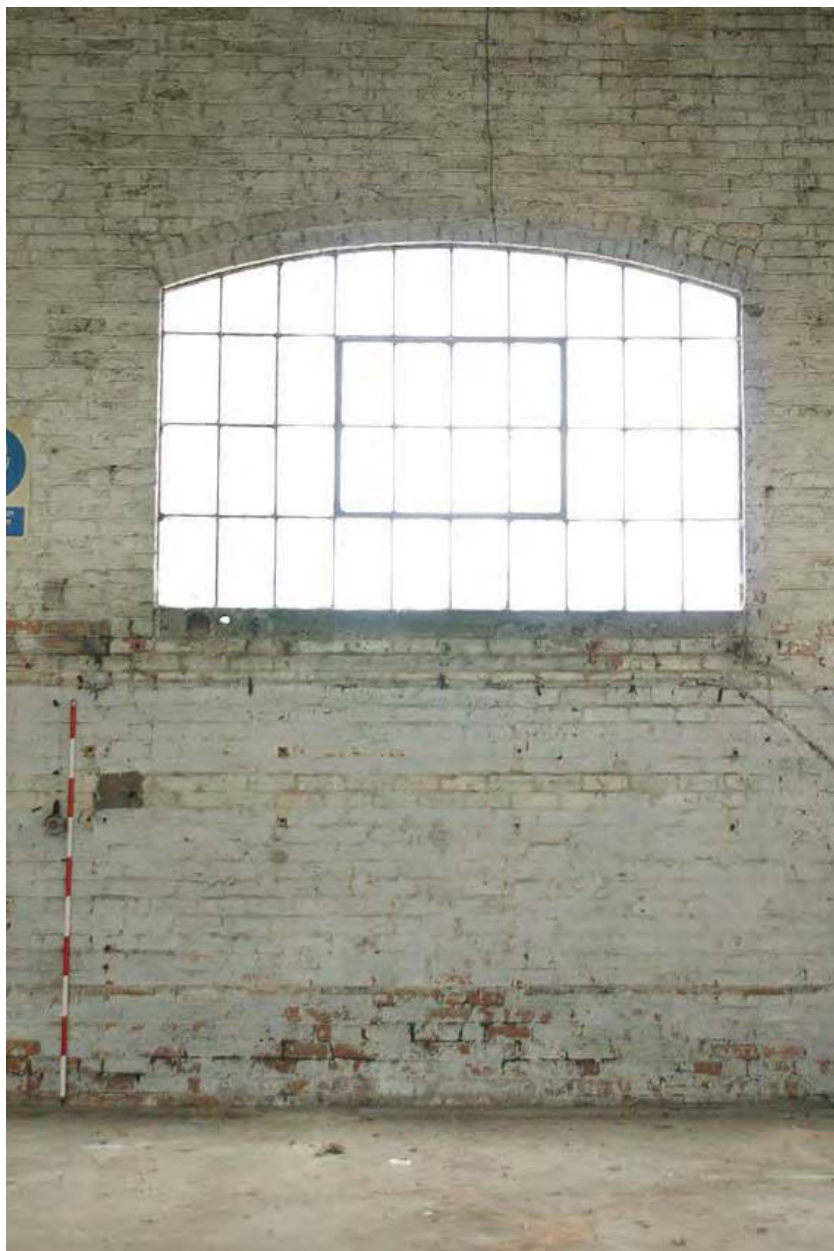


Plate 22: Building B, example of windows reduced in size



Plate 23: Building B, south east elevation showing inserted openings and blocked windows

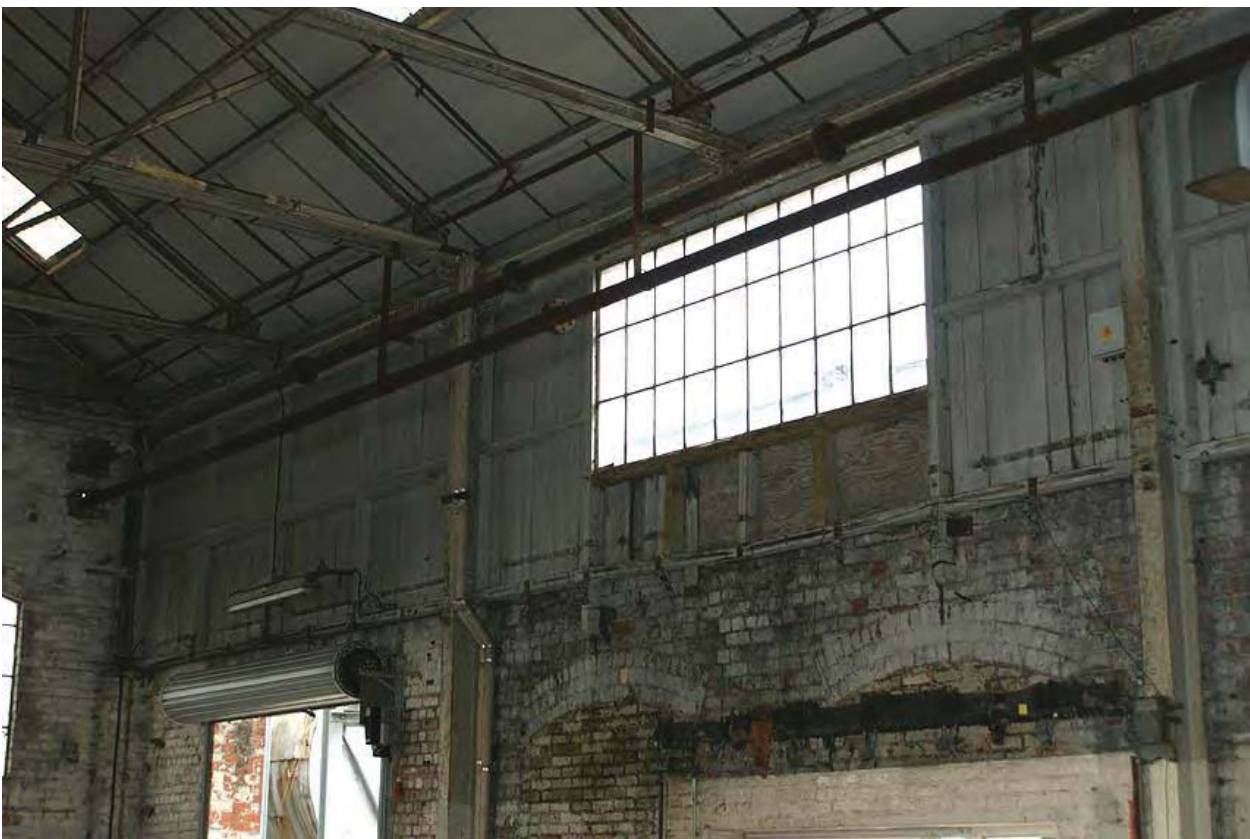


Plate 24: Building B, first floor panelling on south east elevation



Plate 25: Building B, exterior bank of control boxes



Plate 26: Building B, interior bank of control boxes

Appendix 1 HER information (see Fig 3)

WSM No	Name	Type	Date	Description
Buildings				
1676	Westonhall Farm, Westonhall Road, Stoke Prior	Farmhouse	Early 18 th C	Grade II listed timber-framed farmhouse with late 20 th C extension.
1687	Sagebury Terrace, Stoke Prior	School	Late 19 th C	School built in 1871 with schoolhouse (WSM 1697). Paid for by John Corbett and built by Matthew Bohill
1695	Elms Farm, Harbour Hill, Stoke Prior	Farmhouse	Early 17 th C	Grade II listed timber-framed farmhouse with 19 th C extension.
1696		Barn	17 th C	Small timber-frame and brick barn.
1697	Sagenbury Terrace, Stoke Prior	School house	Late 19 th C	Schoolhouse built in 1871 with school (WSM 1687). Paid for by John Corbett and built by Matthew Bohill
9941	Little Elms, Westonhall Road, Stoke Prior	Farmhouse	Early 18 th C	Grade II listed brick farmhouse with mid-19 th and late 20 th C alterations.
12000	Worcester and Birmingham Canal	Canal	Early 19 th C	Work started in 1791 and canal was opened in 1815. It is around 30 miles long running from Birmingham through Tardebigge, Stoke Prior, Fernhill Heath to Worcester.
31285	Village Hall, Stoke Works, Stoke Prior	Military headquarters	Mid 20 th C	Hall used as platoon and section headquarters
31661	Birmingham and Gloucester Railway	Railway	Early to mid 19 th C	Construction started 1837 opened in 1840. Includes the Lickey Incline cutting.
31664	Oxford, Worcester and Wolverhampton Railway	Railway	Mid 19 th C	Constructed between 1845 and 1854. Broad gauge railway. Spur to Stoke Works opened in 1852.
32521	Astwood Bridge, Worcester and Birmingham Canal	Bridge	c1800	Bridge 41. Brick road bridge over canal.
33866	Shaw Lane Bridge, Stoke Works, Worcester and Birmingham Canal	Bridge	20 th C	Bridge 42. Modern concrete bridge over canal replacing earlier brick bridge.
37329	Footbridge, Stoke Prior	Bridge	Poss 19 th C	Footbridge over railway line
37343	Hanbury Road Bridge, Stoke Prior	Bridge	Early 19 th C	Bridge 44. Original brick bridge over canal.
37358	Accommodation Bridge, Stoke Works, Worcester and Birmingham Canal	Bridge	Mid 19 th C	Bridge 43. Access bridge across canal Marked with plaque saying 'BRYMBO 1861'.
37371	Bridge House, Stoke Wharf, Stoke Prior	House	Early 19 th C	Formerly residence of Chief Engineer to canal.
Events				
33800	Worcester and Birmingham Canal	Photographic survey	Early 19 th C	Carried out in 2004. Survey of canal from Offerton to Stoke Prior.
40534	Redhouse Farm, Shaw Lane, Stoke Prior	Building recording	Unknown	Historic building assessment carried out by Mercian Archaeology
Monuments				
1718	Railway station, Stoke Prior	Burial Armllets	Early Bronze Age	Part of Bronze Age burial discovered when railway being constructed.
3348	Stoke Works, Stoke Prior	Salt works	19 th C	Salt works begun in early 1820s but began to be profitable when taken over by John Corbett in 1850s.
3355	Stoke Wharf, Nr Hanbury Road Bridge, Stoke Prior	Wharf	18 th to 19 th C	Wharf marked on historic mapping. Probably part of canal system.
24844	Birmingham to Worcester Railway	Railway	19 th C	Branches off Birmingham to Cheltenham line.
24888	Stoke Prior	Brick kiln	Unknown	Identified from tithe map of 1845 which shows three fields with brick kiln names.
30612	Possible road between Stoke Heath and Hanbury	Road	Roman	Route of road conjectured from place name evidence.

31660	Abbotswood to Stoke Works Railway	Railway	19 th C	Railway.
31667	Droitwich to Stoke Works Railway	Railway	19 th C	Railway.
44916	Stoke Works to Longbridge Railway	Railway	19 th C	Railway.
Parks and Gardens				
24860	Foley Gardens, Stoke Prior	Garden	Post medieval	Area shown as 'The Gardens' on OS 1 st edition mapping.
Placenames				
34291	Canal buildings, Stoke Wharf, Stoke Prior	Warehouse Wharf Lime kiln	Post medieval to 19 th C	Place names noted on tithe map of 1845.
34294	Harbours Hill, Stoke Prior	Road	Roman	Place name noted on 1845 tithe map.

Appendix 2 Technical information

The archive (site code: WSM 47411)

The archive consists of:

- 2 Field progress reports AS2
- 3 Photographic records AS3
- 108 Digital photographs
- 1 Drawing number catalogues AS4
- 5 Scale drawings
- 2 Building record sheets AS40
- 1 CD-Rom/DVDs
- 1 Copy of this report (bound hard copy)

The project archive is intended to be placed at:

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