

# Building recording at Churchfields, Kidderminster

Worcestershire Archaeology  
*for RPS Consulting*

July 2020



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# CHURCHFIELDS KIDDERMINSTER WORCESTERSHIRE

Building recording report

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## SITE INFORMATION

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Site name: Churchfields, Kidderminster, Worcestershire  
Local planning authority: Wyre Forest District Council  
Planning reference: 18/0285/OUTL  
Central NGR: SO 83078 77159  
Commissioning client: RPS Heritage  
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# Building recording at Churchfields, Kidderminster, Worcestershire

By Tim Cornah

Illustrations by Tim Cornah

## Summary

Building recording was undertaken by Worcestershire Archaeology (WA) in June 2020 at Churchfields, Kidderminster, Worcestershire (NGR SO 83078 77159). The project was commissioned by RPS Consulting on behalf of Vistry Partnerships, in advance of a proposed residential redevelopment. A planning application has been submitted to Wyre Forest District Council.

The buildings were located within the Churchfields area of Kidderminster, to the north-east of St Mary and All Saints church. The site was known in the 19<sup>th</sup> century as the Mount Pleasant works, home to Tomkinson and Adams, later Tomkinsons Ltd, carpet manufacturers. After their closing, the site was known as Churchfields business park.

The surviving buildings reflected a key expansion period in the history of Tomkinson and Adams company between 1885 and 1904, with four ranges of brick-built structures largely all built within this time frame. These retained a large degree of similarity in detail of construction, though with extra detailing given to the buildings of the 1902-4 period. Few major changes were made to the buildings through the 20<sup>th</sup> century, reflecting their continued use for carpet manufactory up until Tomkinson Ltd went into liquidation in 2003. The buildings were then subdivided internally for light industrial and commercial uses.

# Report

## 1 Introduction

### 1.1 Background to the project

Building recording of buildings formerly part of Tomkinson carpet production was undertaken by Worcestershire Archaeology (WA) in June 2020 at Churchfields, Kidderminster, Worcestershire (NGR SO 83078 77159). The project was commissioned by RPS Consulting on behalf of Vistry Partnerships, in advance of a proposed residential redevelopment. A planning application has been submitted to Wyre Forest District Council (planning reference 18/0285/OUTL).

The buildings are an undesignated heritage asset, within the terms used by the National Planning Policy Framework. The buildings are registered with the Worcestershire Historic Environment Record (WSM38287).

The project conforms to a brief prepared by Worcestershire Archive and Archaeology Service (WAAS 2020). A WSI was prepared by RPS Consulting (RPS 2020) and approved by the Archaeological Planning Officer for Wyre Forest District Council. The evaluation also conforms to the industry guidelines and standards set out by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists in *Standard and guidance for the archaeological investigation and recording of standing buildings or structures* (CIfA 2019), as well as *the Standards and guidelines for archaeological projects in Worcestershire* (WCC 2019).

## 2 Project Aims

The historic building recording will determine, as far as reasonably possible, the nature of the historic resource.

The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists defines the aims of building recording as 'a programme of work intended to establish the character, history, dating, form and archaeological development of a specified building' (CIfA 2014a).

## 3 Project methodology

### 3.1 Documentary sources consulted

#### *Cartographic sources*

- 1753 Doharty Map (WRO Ref b899;31 BA3676)
- c1840 Tithe Map (WRO S760-377)
- 1<sup>st</sup> edition, 1885 Ordnance Survey Map 1:10,560
- 1897 Goad insurance plan
- 1902 Ordnance Survey Map 1:10,560
- 1909 Goad Insurance plan
- 1924 Ordnance Survey Map 1:10,560
- 1927 Goad insurance plan
- 1943 Goad insurance plan

#### *Aerial photographs*

- EPW037607 ENGLAND (1932). St Mary and All Saints' Church and the Church Street area, Kidderminster, 1932 (Britain from Above)
- EPW037598 ENGLAND (1932). The Dudley Street area and Greenhill, Kidderminster, from the south-west, 1932 (Britain from Above)

#### *Documentary sources*

An archaeological desk-based assessment (DBA) of the site was undertaken by RPS (2011), with an updated HER search undertaken as part of the WSI (RPS 2020). The findings presented in the DBA and HER search are summarised below along with the findings of the Heritage Statement (Built Heritage Consultancy 2018).

Published and grey literature sources are listed in the bibliography.

### **3.2 Fieldwork strategy**

A detailed specification has been prepared (RPS 2020).

Fieldwork was undertaken between 9 - 18 June 2020. The site reference number used by the Historic Environment Record to record archaeological "events", and site code used in the archive is WSM 73039.

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 Canon EOS 200D digital SLR camera. All photographs were recorded on a pro-forma Photographic Record Sheet. Annotation of existing ground plans and elevations, and completion of pro-forma Building Record and Building Phase sheets, complemented the photographic record, along with photogrammetric survey and measured drawings completed to scale on drawing film at 1:20 scale.

For recording of the Duke Street ranges and the 1902 building, the project conformed to the specification for a level 3 survey as defined in the Historic England document *Understanding historic buildings: a guide to good recording practice* (HE 2016). This level of survey is described as 'an analytical record' comprising of 'an introductory description followed by a systematic account of the buildings origins, development and use'. This required the following elements of survey:

#### Survey and drawings

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

#### Photography

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

For recording of the Chenille and Yarn store the project conformed to the specification for a level 2 survey as defined in the Historic England document *Understanding historic buildings: a guide to good recording practice* (HE 2016). This is 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. This required the following elements of survey:

#### 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

#### Drawings

- Roughly dimensioned sketched plan, section, or elevation
- Measured plans as existing
- Measured drawings recording the form or location of other significant detail (when required)
- Measured cross-sections, long sections or elevational sections illustrating the vertical relationships within the building (when required)
- Measured drawings showing the form of any architectural decoration (when required)
- Measured elevations (when required)

#### Written account

- A summary of the building's form, function, date and sequence of development, including builders, architects, owners or patrons' names where known

### 3.3 Building analysis

Analysis of the building was based on the study of the photographic record, building recording forms, annotated drawings photogrammetric survey and measured 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.

## 4 Site context

### 4.1 Site location, topography and geology

The site, known as Churchfields Business park (Plate 1 and Plate 2), is approximately 6.9 hectares, located c 500m to the north of Kidderminster town centre. Most of the site is relatively flat at approximately 53m AOD, sloping steeply downwards at the northern end to approximately 38m AOD. To the west of the site is the church of St Mary and All Saints, with the River Stour immediately beyond. The site is bounded to the north and east by residential areas, with commercial premises to the south.

The British Geological Survey (BGS 2020) records superficial deposits on the site as Holt Heath Sand and Gravel Member (sand gravel, sedimentary superficial deposit) at the south-east of the site, with no superficial deposits recorded in the centre of the site, and a narrow band of Worcester Member (sand and gravel) at the north-west of the site. Bedrock geology is identified as Wildmoor Sandstone Member (sandstone) at the south-east and north-west, with the centre of the site identified as Chester Formation (sandstone).

### 4.2 Historic and archaeological background

An archaeological desk-based assessment (DBA) of the site was undertaken by RPS (2011), with an updated HER search undertaken as part of the WSI (RPS 2020). The findings presented in the DBA and HER search are summarised below along with the findings of the Heritage Statement (Built Heritage Consultancy 2018) and other sources.

Kidderminster has been known for its textile industry since the medieval period. This success of the industry was due in part to the river which supplied water for washing and dyeing the wool and also, given that the local geology was sandstone, the ability to build right up to the river edge. Thus tenement plots of the medieval period ran down to the river (Buteux 1996, 6-7). The textile industry



reached its peak with the carpet companies of the late 19th century. A large amount of research in the carpet industries of Kidderminster has already been carried out. Of particular importance are the documents produced by Legat (1990) and Thompson (2002) among others.

Cartographic evidence for the site indicates that in 1753 it was under pasture and horticultural use, with little changing by 1780, though some buildings had been constructed parallel to Church Fields Lane (modern Churchfields). By 1832 the southern half of the site had seen development, and by 1859 the site was subdivided by a number of streets and alleys. The 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1885 indicates significant development along the east, south and west sides, with the northern half divided into small fields. The buildings are a mix of residential and manufactories. The firm Tomkinson and Adams owned premises on Milk Street, with some the extant buildings developed by this firm first seen on an insurance map of 1897.

The early 20th century saw large scale redevelopment of the site with the Tomkinsons and Adams carpet manufactory, though first noted as the Axminster Works on the 1902 OS map. The 1924 map reveals demolition of domestic properties on the east and south-east of the site, replaced by new industrial buildings. During the Second World War, parts of the factory complex were used to make small arms ammunition.

Tomkinson and Adams, having changed their name to Tomkinsons Ltd in 1927, owned the site through to 2003 when economic difficulties halted carpet production. Some of the buildings of the site were demolished at this time whilst others were rented out for light industry and other uses. Some further buildings have since been demolished and others subject to significant decay.

## 5 The building

### 5.1 Building descriptions

Two of the buildings recorded within this project were located on the western side of the site, and known as the Duke Street south (Plate 3) and north ranges (Plate 4). These buildings formerly faced onto Duke Street which was to their south-west. Duke Street south range was of brick with gables at either end and fairly low pitch slate covered roof. Its south-west side had two further small gables projecting from wall plate level facing onto the former street at its northern end.

The Duke Street north range continued the same north-west to south-east alignment of the south range, after a gap of circa 6m. The north range was also of brick with slate covered roof, though hipped at its northern end in order to accommodate an extension to the building towards the north-east, forming an L shape overall. The building had regular fenestration between brick pilasters which largely marked the position of each internal roof truss

To the east of these and within the centre of the site was the Chenille and Yarn store (Plate 5) which was aligned north-east to south-west. It was again of brick and with a slate covered roof. Its overall style was comparable to the Duke street north range with fenestration between pilasters denoting internal roof frame positions.

The 1902 building (Plate 6) was of larger scale, having been built over three floors though again in brick with a relatively low pitched slate roof. It was aligned north-west to south-east with its gable facing south-east onto the road known as Churchfields with the date 1902 written into the gable.

All of the buildings were abandoned by the time of recording, though had relatively recently been split internally for use as office spaces, studios and light industry.

### 5.2 Historic information

The historic background of the buildings was outlined in detail in the Heritage Statement (Built Heritage Consultancy 2018). The background to the carpet production company is repeated below in italics.

*The Tomkinson & Adam carpet company was established in 1869 by Michael Tomkinson (1840-1921) and William Adam (1840-1898). Tomkinson had previously been apprenticed to the Kidderminster carpet manufacturer Lea & Simcox (which had workshops in the Mount Pleasant/Churchfields area). By about 1862, he was a clerk at Pemberton Talbot's carpet factory on Mill Street. In around 1866, Pemberton Talbot went out of business, and Tomkinson was able to purchase a number of their rugs and re-sell them at a good profit. He subsequently set himself up as an agent selling carpet yarns on commission.*

*Adam had been an apprentice at Templeton's carpet factory in Glasgow, where he had become a skilled engineer specialising in the Chenille process. In 1858, he came to Kidderminster to help Brinton & Lewis set up their newly-acquired Chenille plant. He subsequently established William Adam, George Race & Company with George Race, Brinton's accountant. This firm failed in 1863 and was bought out by H. R. Willis & Company. Adam continued as their works manager.*

*With a start-up capital of £1,000, Tomkinson & Adam was established in rented property in The Sling, approximately in the area today known as Weavers' Wharf, and at Arch Hill Works, off Church Street, where they installed second-hand Chenille looms purchased from Willis & Company. The partnership was successful, and by 1871 Tomkinson & Adam was employing over 190 people. Their success was largely due to Adam having perfected and patented the application of power to the Chenille setting loom. In the early 1870s, Tomkinson & Adam rented further accommodation in Milk Street in the Mount Pleasant area, premises which they bought in 1875. At about this time, they purchased the whole of Brinton's Chenille rug-making plant in an agreement which saw Brinton's marketing the production.*

*In 1878, Tomkinson & Adam purchased the British patent for Spool Axminster production. This process was to make Tomkinson & Adam a very significant player in the carpet trade, and allowed the firm to extend the Mount Pleasant factory and purchase the Arch Hill Works outright. By this time, the firm employed a staff of 800, and a decade later it had warehouses in London, Manchester, Amsterdam, Melbourne and Montreal.*

*Between 1889 and 1897, perhaps in response to severe flooding in the lower parts of Kidderminster (in 1886), the increasingly successful company further developed its Mount Pleasant factory, building extensive modern weaving sheds, store buildings, a boiler house and a dye house.*

*Between the 1880s and 1920s, the firm maintained a strong reputation for studio or art carpets, many made to designs by the eminent architect C. F. A. Voysey, and in 1910 it secured the British rights for the Reynard Knotting loom for mass producing fashionable Persian/Turkish style rugs. These developments saw further expansion of the Mount Pleasant factory, including along Churchfields to the south of the existing facilities.*

*Michael Tomkinson died in 1921 and in 1927 the partnership with the Adam family was dissolved. Michael's heirs continued as Tomkinsons Ltd on the Mount Pleasant site, whilst the Adam family set up as W. & R. R. Adam Ltd with a new factory in the Greenhill area of the town.*

*Tomkinsons Ltd played a major part in Kidderminster's war effort, making over a quarter of a million blankets and tarpaulins on Chenille looms, as well as producing small arms ammunition and phosphorous mortar bombs and grenades. Carpet production resumed in 1946, and the site was further developed throughout the 1950s, '60s and '70s. Tomkinsons merged with the Lancashire-based Gaskells Plc in 1999, but in 2003 economic difficulties led to the cessation of carpet production on the Mount Pleasant site.*

The period of 1889 to 1897 was of importance with the buildings recorded here. None of the buildings were present on the Ordnance survey mapping of 1885, though the Duke Street north building as well as the Chenille and Yarn store were present on an insurance plan of 1897. This plan shows these two elements linked by a large area of sheds which were no longer extant on the site. This plan outlines the use of some of these elements. It notes that the ground floor of the whole L-shaped **Duke Street**

**north** building was in use as 'Manufactured Goods Store and Packing', with 'Yarn Store' on the first floor of the N-S range, and 'Yarn Winding and Reeling' on the first floor of the E-W range. The 1897 plan shows that there was an upper-level passage over Duke Street to further buildings (since replaced). On a drawn image from 1902, a small two storey structure extended towards the north-east from the south-east end of the Duke Street south range. There was some evidence for this on site, as will be outlined below. This was similarly visible on the aerial photograph of 1932 with a gable visible facing onto Duke Street.

By 1924, the building had been connected to the range to the south of the works entrance (the Duke Street South Range) via a bridge, which the insurance plan of 1927 notes was constructed of timber and glass. Both levels of the N-S range were now identified as 'Setting Yarn Store'. The 1943 insurance plan indicates similar functions as previously, although the ground floor of the E-W range was now used for 'Threading'.

The first illustration of the **Duke Street south** was in 1904. The image (Built Heritage Consultancy 2018, page 7) shows the Chenille and Yarn Store and 1902 building largely as remaining, though with significant differences with the Duke Street south range, which was shown extended south-east onto Churchfields, then turned a corner to run towards the north-east. No evidence of this remained, so this may be illustrating that which was intended to be built. Single storey structures were present at this point on an aerial photographs of 1932. The 1927 and 1943 Goad plans indicate that the range accommodated a further yarn store and offices.

The **Chenille and Yarn store** was first shown on the insurance plan of 1897 which notes that the ground floor was in use as 'Chenille & Yarn Store & Reeling', whilst the first floor accommodated a 'Yarn Store'. These uses remained consistent until at least 1943.

The first illustration of the **1902 building** was in 1904, despite there being a 1902 Ordnance survey map. An insurance plan of 1909 identifies the building as a 'Warehouse', constructed over three storeys of 'brick, stone or concrete' and 'iron columns and girders', and with a slate roof. The plan shows the building to have had a central, open-well timber staircase wrapped round an enclosed hoist rising through the centre of the building. There is now only a trap door at this point. The top floor was reportedly converted to the works canteen between 1909 and 1927, although this use is not shown on the Goad insurance plan of 1943. Kinchin-Smith suggests that the two internal staircases now present at the north-western and south-western corners of the building were inserted between 1909 and 1927 as on the 1920 insurance plan a single central staircase was illustrated. By 1924, there was a narrow-gauge tramway from the eastern end of the 'Axminster Works' entering the northern side of the 1902 Warehouse via the central bay. The insurance plan of 1943 shows there to have been a narrow, single-storey, slate roofed timber structure, presumably a canopy, projecting from the westernmost bay of the northern elevation (Built Heritage Consultancy 2018).

### 5.3 Building development

Five phases were identified during the investigation of the building, which are described as follows:

- Phase 1a: 1885-1897
- Phase 1b: 1885-1897
- Phase 2: 1902-1904
- Phase 3: 1<sup>st</sup> half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century
- Phase 4: 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century
- Phase 5: Late 20<sup>th</sup> and early 21<sup>st</sup> centuries

### 5.3.1 Phase 1a: 1885-1897

#### Duke Street north range

This broadly north-west to south-east aligned structure (Figures 3 to 5, Plate 4 and Plate 7 to Plate 10) was built on the eastern side of the former Duke Street, and first visible on an insurance plan of 1897. It was primarily of brick with a low pitch slate roof with external pilasters giving support to the position of each internal roof truss, with low arch headed windows between. The building appears originally to have extended for 19 bays, though it is probable that three the south-eastern most bays were added in 1937 when an older building at broadly this point is thought to have been removed. The plain gable end without pilasters (Figure 5) supports this, though internally the same queen post roof trusses used throughout were present across these last three bays. Though covered in plaster board so their character was difficult to determine, three possible brick pilasters were present internally, potentially denoting the former end of the building. This leaves the possibility that the “carpet manufactory” sign was a later addition to the building, though 19<sup>th</sup> century in style. Little clear sign of these changes was visible on the south-western side, though much clearer to the north-east.

The opposing north-western end of the building formerly ended two bays before the later Phase 1b set of double doors, as shown by clear brick pilasters (Plate 11 and Plate 12), the wall of which they supported raised to the roof.

The internal character of the building originally at its south-east end on the ground floor were difficult to determine given the uncertainties outlined above, as well as plaster board coverings across many of the internal walls, see section 5.3.4 below. It is likely many of the walls date to the changes of 1937. The rest of the ground floor space appears to have been a single room (Plate 13 and Plate 14), with the stud divisions and coverings that obscured its character much later. It is probable that there was a through passage at the point of the wider fourth bay from the south-east, shown by both changes in the brickwork at this point (Figure 5) and a passage shown on the 1885 map at broadly this point. Very little of the original detail remained within these areas, apart from a glimpse of a double floor joist with a steel plate between clearly designed to take a significant amount of weight and repeated closely in Phase 1 b.

The original first floor (Plate 15 and Plate 16) was still visible and in the centre of the floor running along part of the building was a wear pattern which exposed small steel plates between floor boards, again suggesting a significant weight requirement (Plate 17). The wear suggested storage or machinery along the walls with central walkway through. This space was listed as a yarn store in 1897.

How the first floor was accessed originally was unclear, given the later staircase. There was again some uncertainty as to the layout at the south-east end with a solid wall raising to the roof at the point of the previously mentioned internal possible pilasters visible at ground floor level. The same type of softwood queen post trusses continued either side of this division (Plate 15 and Plate 16).

Few internal original fittings remained, and no original windows remained.

#### Chenille and Yarn store

This 16 bay building (Plate 18 and Plate 19 and Figures 6) was again brick built with a relatively low pitched slate roof, and softwood queen post roof trusses. It was divided over ground and first floors, though its internal layouts were difficult to suggest clearly given later divisions. It is probable that the remaining staircase was in the original position given brick internal walls at this point. It is likely that it was otherwise open internally (Plate 20 to Plate 25).

Its windows on the south-east side were regularly placed with pilasters between, though obscured at the point of recording. The windows contained steel frame swing casement window, similar to the Duke Street north Phase 1b element. The windows of the north-west side were less regular and largely blocked up at ground floor level.

### 5.3.2 Phase 1b: 1885-1897

#### Duke Street north range

The range was continued towards the north-west by six bays, and then turning the corner to the north-east by eleven bays (Plate 26 and Plate 27 and Figures 3 to 5). This continued with the same style, materials and technique as the Phase 1 a structure, to the point that they were almost indistinguishable externally and extremely similar internally. This supports the short amount of time between phases as shown by the map and plan evidence.

Internally, the building was open spaces throughout on both ground and first floor with the remaining internal divisions added later (Plate 12, Plate 28, Plate 29, Plate 30). The windows were of metal frame and swing casement, with the same double floor joists with steel plate and queen post roof trusses as the Phase 1a element.

The building had a through passage of suitable width for carts close to the end of the Phase 1 a building (Figure 5 and Plate 31) which would have accessed from Duke Street into new courtyard area. A further cart width entrance into the wing was added from the sheds (Plate 31).

A further build phase on the north-east end was built onto the gable of the wing (Plate 32). The structure was of brick with a central row of steel posts to support the first floor above (Plate 33), though the building was decayed and derelict above this point. It had tall thin windows on its north-east wall, though these were later blocked, with none to the south-east. The first floor was of lighter build than the earlier elements, omitting the second floor joist with steel plate.

Low sheds with glass roofs were contemporary with or shortly after this addition as they respect its position on the 1897 plan. Brick supports were added at the centre of each pilaster of the new wing of the L shape addition earliest element of this phase on its southern side (Figure 3).

An element of these sheds remained covering the former courtyard area (Plate 9 and Plate 10). The double pitch glass roofs were supported by rows of steel columns which would have been repeated across the large area to east, but no longer remained. Evidence of their former presence was clear on the north-west side of the Chenille and Yarn store, though they were unlikely to have been designed together given the irregular placement of holes cut into the building to support beams at valley height of the sheds (Figure 7).

### 5.3.3 Phase 2: 1902-1904

#### Duke Street south range

This building (Plate 3 and Figure 7) continued the broad theme and materials up to this point with external brick pilasters denoting its thirteen bays on the north-east facing wall. Its north-western gable contained similar pilasters and dentils (Plate 34), with the south-eastern gable pilasters shortened to incorporate a pre-existing structure, a ghost of which remained (Plate 35). Extra detailing of a moulded brick string course were added with brick dentils above the first floor windows. The brick string course and dentils were repeated on the south-west facing wall, though a further level of detail and ornament was added between the four northernmost pilasters. This included a further lower brick string course, with further on the pilasters only above. Decorative central bricks were inserted within the window arches and gables with chimney stacks either side added between the second and fourth pilasters from the north-west end. A further brick string course was added below these gables, as well as a string course of sandstone. All of the windows of these elements were large pane sashes

This external detailing related closely to the internal layout at the north-west end of the building. It was accessed through a door in its gable which led into a corridor containing the original stairs to the first floor. The corridor led to what was originally likely to have been three ground floor rooms, all of which were potentially heated by corner fire places. One of these remained, though covered, with a single original four panel door in the same room (Plate 36 and Plate 37). Behind this fireplace was a small bathroom with potentially original tiling (Plate 38). These elements are likely to be the offices identified

on the 1927 insurance plan. The high level of detailing suggests public interaction within these spaces.

On first floor above, there appears to have been a large single room, later divided (Plate 39). This floor like below had corridor along the north-eastern side of the structure, into what appears to have been open spaces on both floors, again later divided (Plate 40 and Plate 41). The return to metal frame windows with swing casements (Plate 42), some of which have since been replaced, denotes a change of function typical of yarn storage noted in 1927. How industrial material was placed onto the first floor is unknown, as the staircase at the south-east end of the building was a later addition (Plate 43).

The roof trusses of this building where visible were of broadly the same softwood queen post type as visible within all the other buildings (Plate 44).

### 1902 building

The earliest elements of this building (Figures 8 and 9) were on its south-west facing wall, as shown by a clear division in the brickwork below the second floor windows and stepping down slightly before each end of the building (Figure 9). To the west of the building on the 1897 plan were low single storey weaving sheds, which were clearly denoted on the standing building by the white painted areas. It is possible that this element of brick predates the shed and may have been visible on the mapping of 1885, though there is no substantial building visible at that point within the same position. The two round headed doors at ground floor level within this elevation may be original to this, though a later insertion is possible.

The building as constructed in 1902, or certainly by 1904, was again of brick with a tile roof. It was over three floors and of twelve bays with some of the same detail visible as on the Duke Street south range, such as the dentilled brick details on its gable ends (Figure 9). This also extended to the same fittings used on the metal framed windows with swing casements (Plate 45). Some of its detail differed slightly, such as the use of some yellow brick of the low arch window heads.

The ground floor was originally accessed from its northern gable, as well as from the two round headed doors into the adjacent weaving sheds previously mentioned. It also had ten large broadly square windows facing into the weaving shed, some of which were later changed to doorways, all were the subsequently blocked.

The ground floor, like the first and second floors above, were originally single rooms (Plate 46 to Plate 48). The first and second floors were supported by staggered steel columns which were bracketed to the floor joists above. None of the remaining access to the floors above were of original date, the insurance plan of 1920 suggested a single central staircase, for which no clear evidence remained. Materials were taken to first floor level with a hoist on the north-east facing elevation (Figure 12). An internal trap door through to the second floor above this (Plate 49) existed, though no evidence for hoisting machinery was present. A further such trap door was also present at the northern end of the building, again with no evidence for hoisting equipment (Plate 50).

The roof structure was again of softwood queen post trusses placed upon internal pilasters located directly between the windows which extended downwards to the first floor level.

### 5.3.4 Phase 3: first half of the 20th century

The clearest changes of this date were to the south-eastern end of the Duke Street north range, as outlined above within Phase 1 a. This saw the demolition of the pre-existing structure, and its frontage matched very closely with the rest of the range, to the point that they pretty much indistinguishable. The internal layout presumably dates to this point, though elements of the earlier buildings remaining behind modern coverings could not be ruled out. The doors with concrete lintel of the gable end and north-east side of the building were of this date, though further effort to blend this addition into the existing structure can be seen from the addition of matching metal frame swing casement windows. A

walkway, later removed and blocked, was added to connect the structure to the Duke Street south range. Similarly, a walkway was added across Duke Street, though this was gain later removed.

It is likely that the brick single storey and single pitch lean to slate roof addition to the north-east side of the Duke Street north range (Figure 5, Plate 51) was also of broadly this date, it was illustrated on the insurance plan of 1943. This was matched with the existing style with the use low arch headed window openings filled with metal frame swing casement windows.

The stairs in the 1902 building are thought to have been added in the 1920s, with those at the north-west end of the building with the materials used fitting with the period (Plate 52). The divisions at the end this end of the structure are likely to be contemporary with this, along with the later blocked window with concrete lintel visible on the gable end (Figure 9).

The opposing set of stairs at the at the south-east end of the building were of a style that would not have been out of place as original to the building (Plate 53) but are thought to be insertions of this period. The original floor joists have been truncated to accommodate these stairs, and they also blocked one to the round headed doors which were considered to be of, or potentially predate, the 1902 phase of the building.

### **5.3.5 Phase 4: second half of the 20th century**

Surprisingly few additions were made to the buildings during this period, most likely largely due to the addition on the site of much larger scale industrial units, not within the scope of this project, which fulfilled the requirements of the company better. A notable example of this was the steel frame structure to the north of the Duke Street north range added in the late 1960s, which blocked duke street as a thoroughfare.

Some breeze block additions were created within the south-east end of the 1902 building, the function of which was not obvious. The green corrugated structure on the northern corner of the building is likely to have dated to late within this phase (Figure 9).

### **5.3.6 Phase 5: late 20th and early 21st centuries**

This phase consisted of numerous small divisions of mostly stud and board, as well as numerous coverings and additions aimed at dividing the buildings into offices and light industrial spaces, presumably mostly dating to post 2003 after Tomkinson Ltd went into liquidation. The divisions will be illustrated on the ground plans.

## **6 Discussion**

The buildings were located within the Churchfields area of Kidderminster, to the north-east of St Mary and All Saints church. The site was known in the 19th century as the Mount Pleasant works, home to Tomkinson and Adams, later Tomkinsons Ltd, carpet manufacturers. After their closing, the site was known as Churchfields business park.

The surviving buildings reflected a key expansion period in the history of Tomkinson and Adams company between 1885 and 1904, which aligned a period of much broader expansion within the carpet industry in the town more widely. Four ranges of brick-built structures largely all built within this time frame. These retained a large degree of similarity in detail of construction, though with extra detailing given to the buildings of the 1902-4 period. Few major changes were made to the buildings through the 20th century, reflecting their continued use in for carpet manufactory up until the point Tomkinson Ltd went into liquidation in 2003. The buildings were then subdivided internally for light industrial and commercial uses.

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

## 7 Project personnel

The fieldwork was led by Tim Cornah, ACIfA, and the project was managed by Tom Vaughan MCIfA. The report and illustrations were produced and collated by Tim Cornah.

## 8 Acknowledgements

Worcestershire Archaeology would like to thank the following for the successful conclusion of the project: Susana Parker and Richard Smalley (RPS Consulting), and Emma Hancox (Archaeological Planning Officer, Worcestershire Archive and Archaeology Service Worcestershire County Council).

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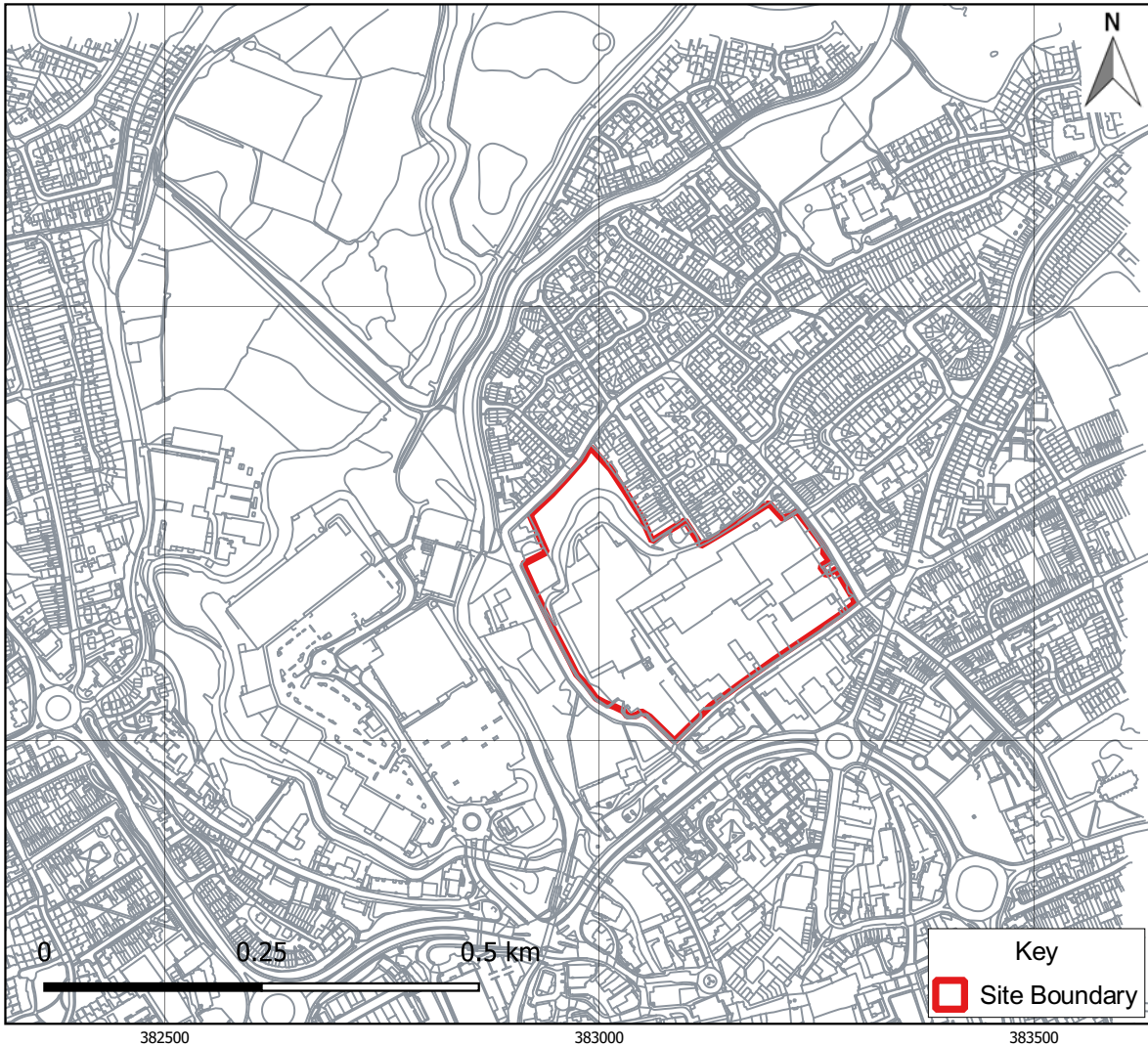
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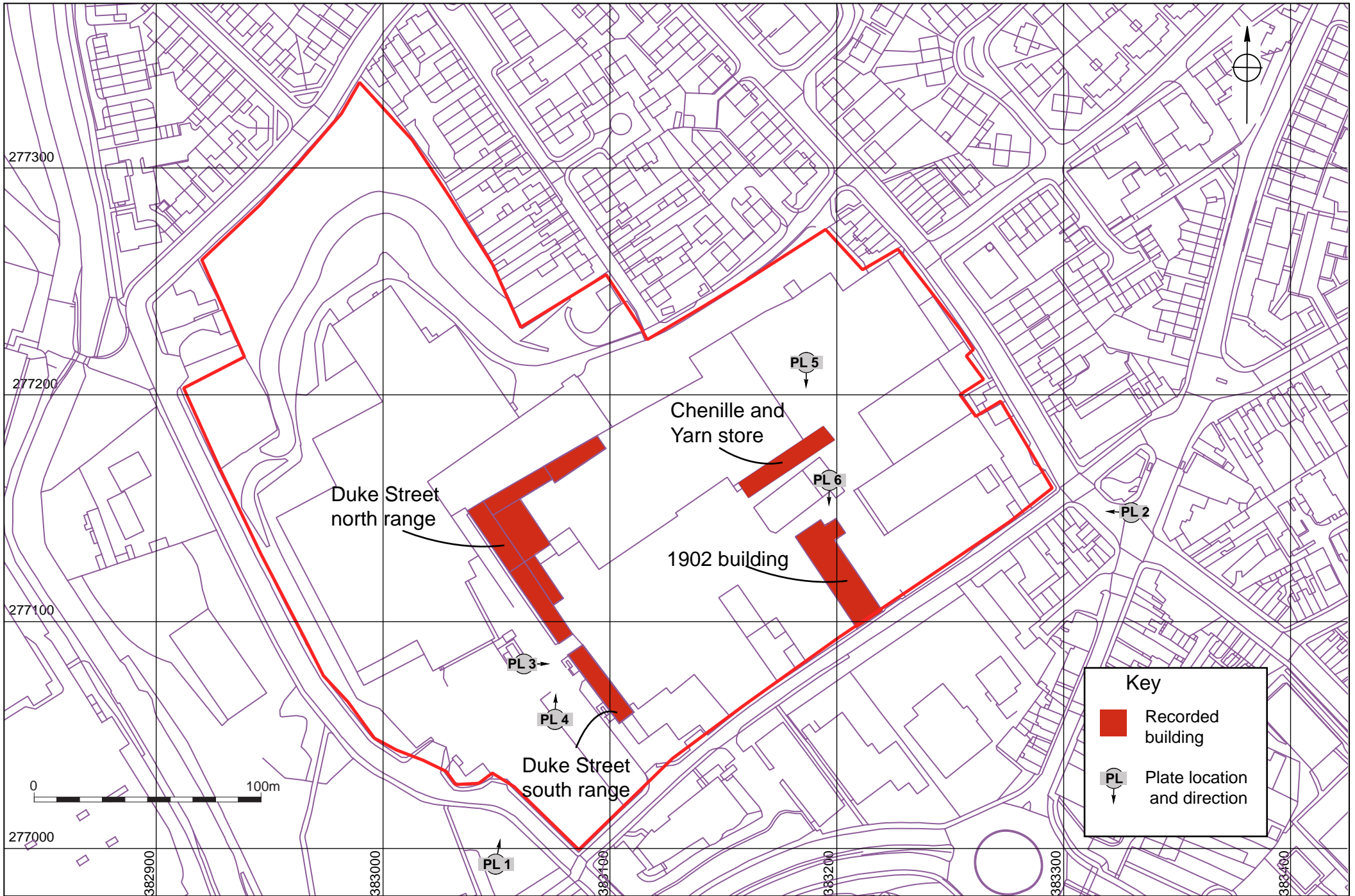
## Figures



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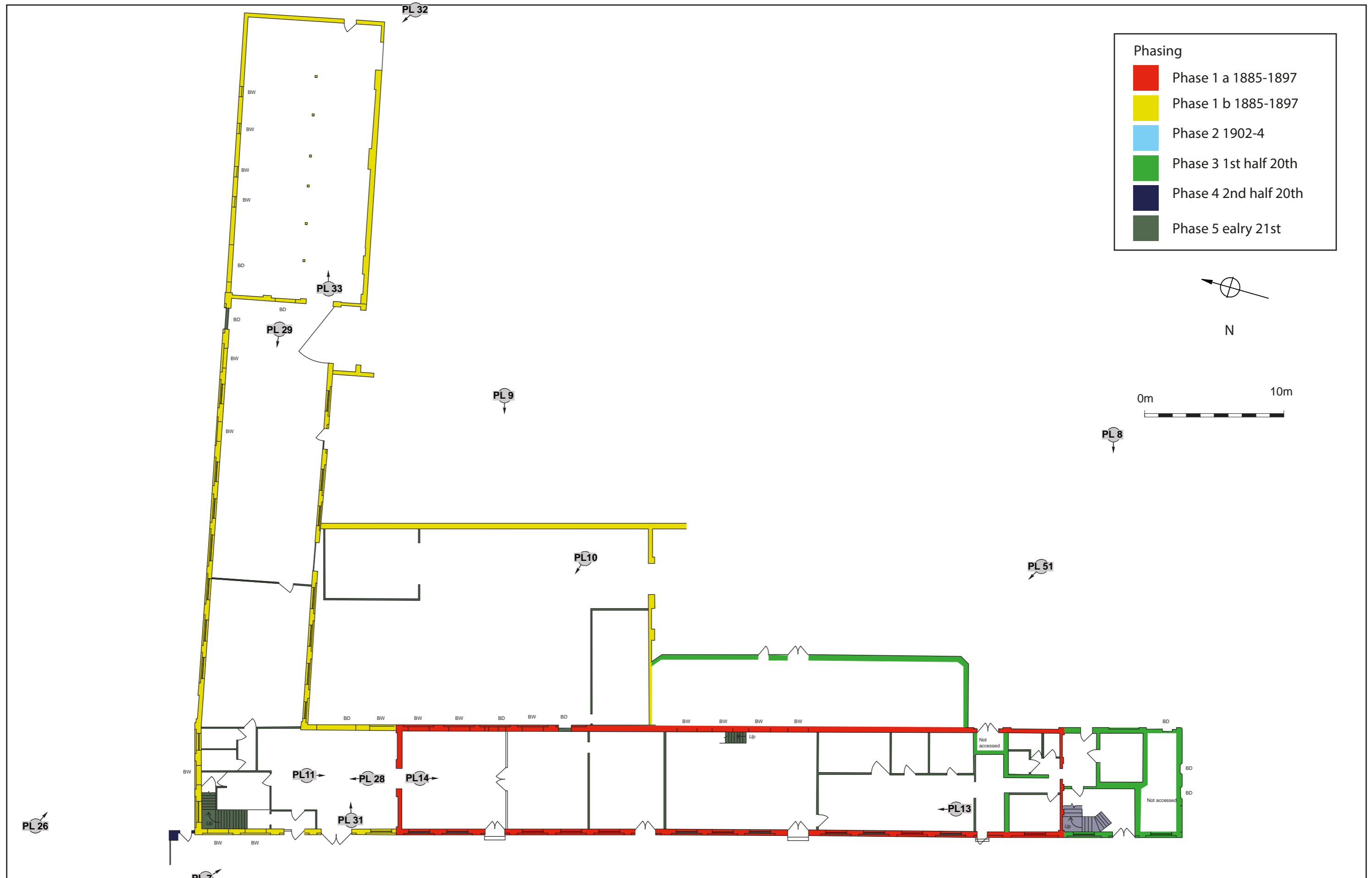
Location of the site

Figure 1



Location of buildings within the site with overview plate locations

Figure 2



Duke street range south, ground floor

Figure 3



Duke street range south, first floor

Figure 4

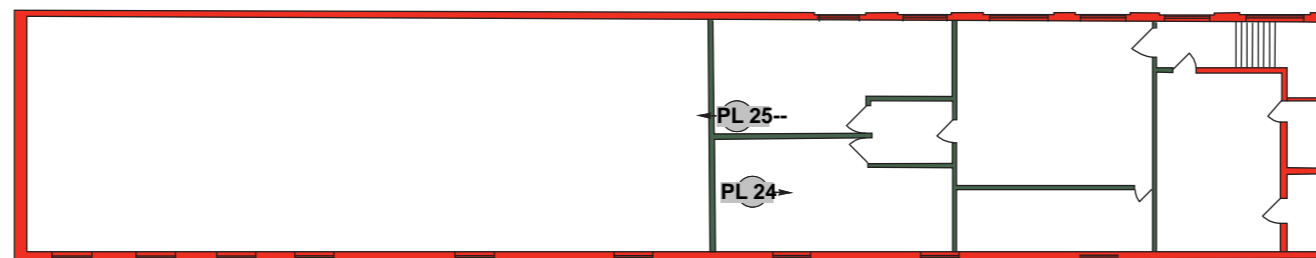


*Duke street range north photorectified elevations*

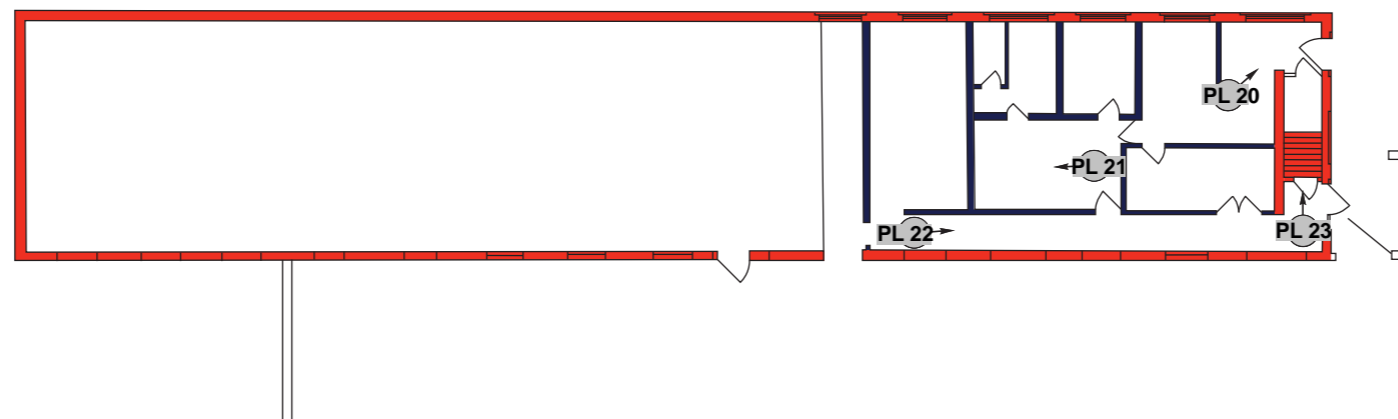
*Figure 5*



Elevation not visible



Elevation not visible



Phasing	
	Phase 1 a 1885-1897
	Phase 1 b 1885-1897
	Phase 2 1902-4
	Phase 3 1st half 20th
	Phase 4 2nd half 20th
	Phase 5 early 21st

PL 19



PL 18

Chenille and yarn store plans and elevations

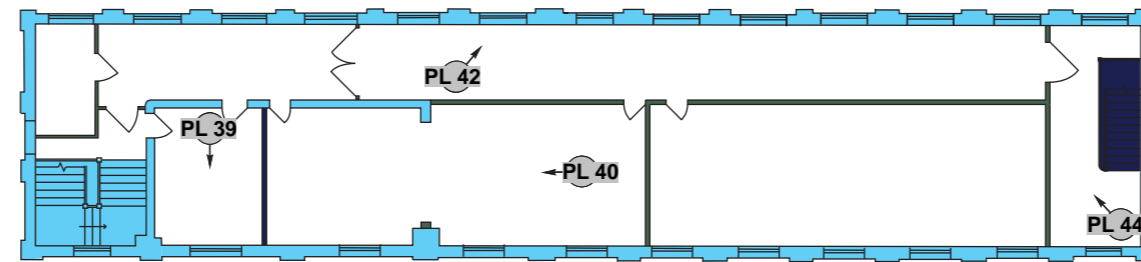
Figure 6



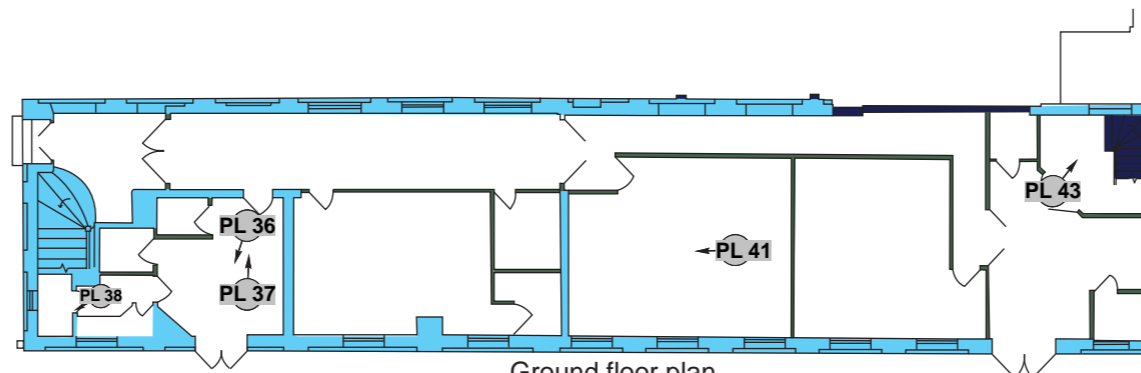
South-west facing elevation



North-east facing elevation



First floor floor plan



Ground floor plan

PL 34



PL 35

Phasing	
	Phase 1 a 1885-1897
	Phase 1 b 1885-1897
	Phase 2 1902-4
	Phase 3 1st half 20th
	Phase 4 2nd half 20th
	Phase 5 early 21st

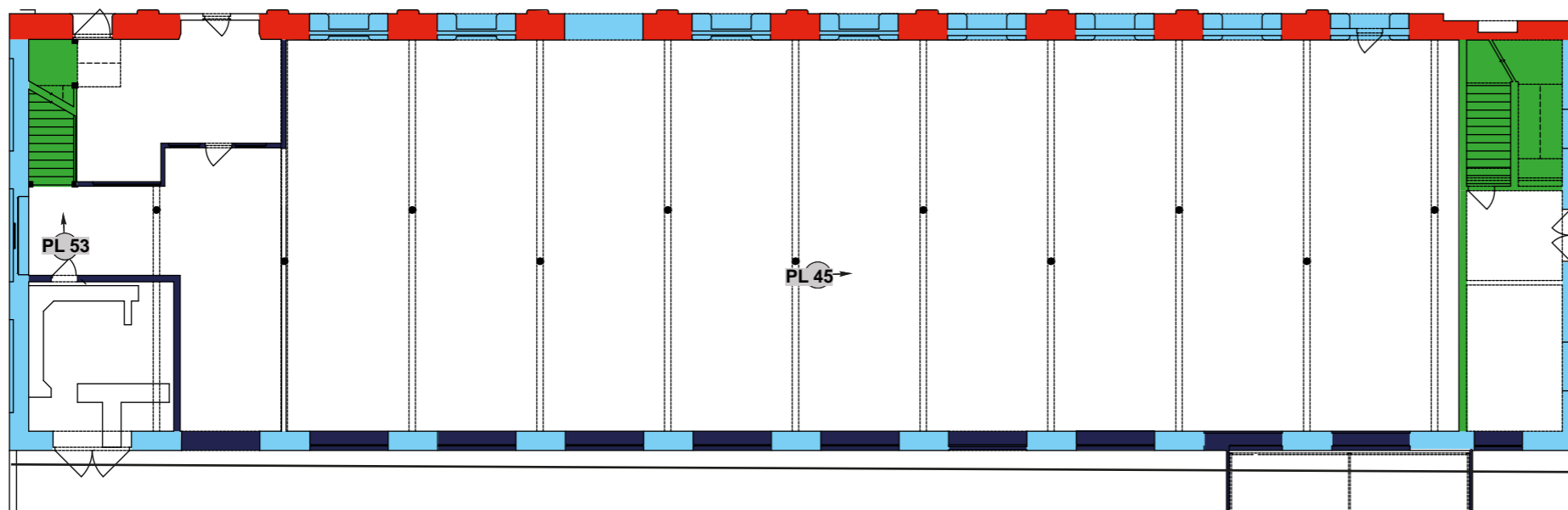
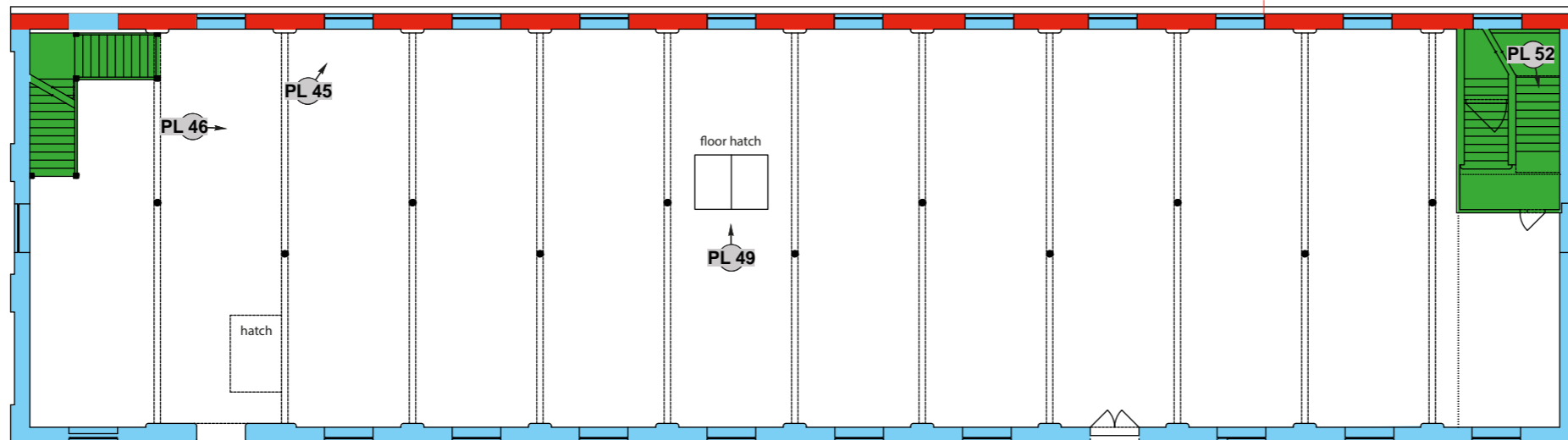
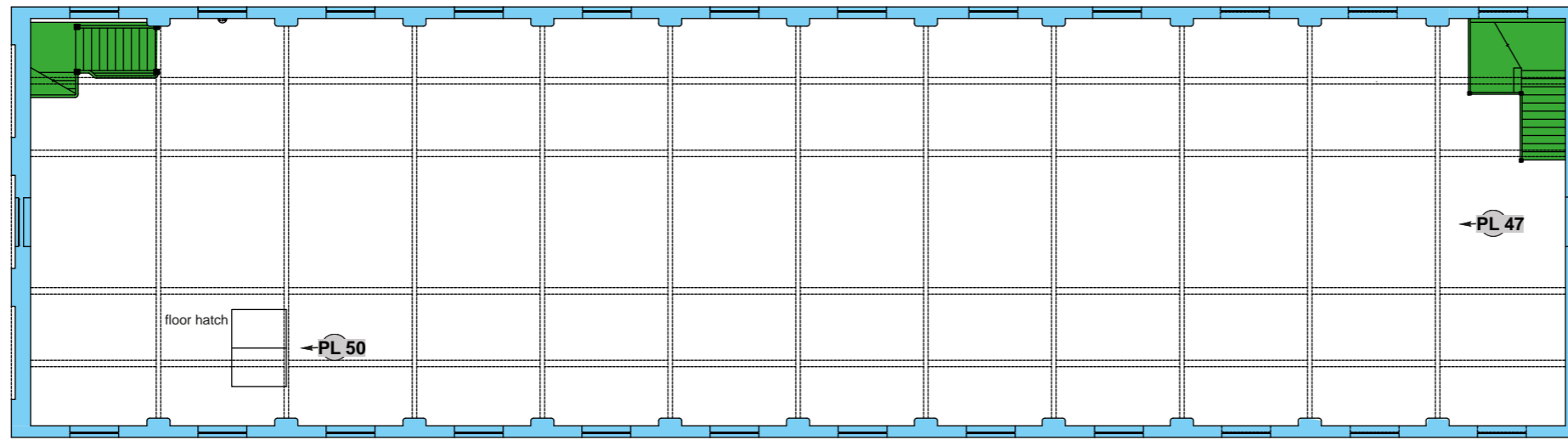


N

Duke street range south, plans and elevations

Figure 7





Phasing

- Phase 1 a 1885-1897
- Phase 1 b 1885-1897
- Phase 2 1902-4
- Phase 3 1st half 20th
- Phase 4 2nd half 20th
- Phase 5 early 21st



1902 building , floor plans (based upon Midland Survey Ltd drawings 34238/1 and 34238/2)

Figure 8

SE

NW

NE

SW



NW

SE



1902 building ,photogrammetric elevations

Figure 9

## Plates



*Plate 1 The site, looking north (image courtesy of RPS consulting)*



*Plate 2 The site, looking west (image courtesy of RPS consulting)*



*Plate 3 The Duke Street south range, scale 1m, looking south-east*



*Plate 4 Duke Street north range, looking north (image courtesy of RPS Consulting)*



*Plate 5 Chenille and Yarn store in the fore ground, looking south (image courtesy of RPS Consulting)*



*Plate 6 1902 building, looking south (image courtesy of RPS Consulting)*



*Plate 7 Duke Street north range, looking east, 1m scale*



*Plate 8 Duke Street north range, looking west, 1m scale*



*Plate 9 Duke Street north range, looking west*



*Plate 10 Duke Street north range former external wall, looking west, 1m scale*



*Plate 11 Phase 1a Duke Street north former gable end at ground floor level from within the Phase 1b addition, looking south-east, 1m scale*



*Plate 12 Phase 1a Duke Street north former gable end at first floor level from within the Phase 1b addition, looking south-east, 1m scale*





*Plate 13 Phase 1a Duke Street ground floor, looking north-west, 1m scale*



*Plate 14 Phase 1a Duke Street ground floor, looking south-east, 1m scale*



*Plate 15 Phase 1a Duke Street first floor, looking north-west, 1m scale*



*Plate 16 Phase 1a Duke Street first floor, looking south-east, 1m scale*



*Plate 17 Phase 1a Duke Street first floor showing a wear pattern and exposed steel plates between boards, looking south-east, 1m scale*



*Plate 18 Phase 1 a Chenille and Yarn store, looking east*



*Plate 19 Phase 1 a Chenille and Yarn store, looking south*



*Plate 20 Phase 1 a Chenille and Yarn store ground floor, looking south, scale 1m*



*Plate 21 Phase 1 a Chenille and Yarn store ground floor, looking north-east, scale 1m*



*Plate 22 Phase 1 a Chenille and Yarn store ground floor, looking south-west, scale 1m*



*Plate 23 Phase 1 a Chenille and Yarn store ground floor, looking south-east, scale 1m*





*Plate 24 Phase 1 a Chenille and Yarn store first floor, looking south-west, scale 1m*



*Plate 25 Phase 1 a Chenille and Yarn store first floor, looking north-east*



*Plate 26 Duke Street north range Phase 1 b wing, 1m scale, looking east*



*Plate 27 Duke Street north range Phase 1 b wing gable end, looking west*



*Plate 28 Duke Street north range Phase 1 b ground floor, looking north-west, scale 1m*



*Plate 29 Duke Street north range Phase 1 b ground floor, looking south-west, scale 1m*



*Plate 30 Duke Street north range Phase 1 b first floor, looking north-east, scale 1m*



*Plate 31 Duke Street north range Phase 1 b ground floor blocked former cart entrance and window, looking north-east, scale 1m*



*Plate 32 Duke Street north range Phase 1 b further extension, looking west*



*Plate 33 Duke Street north range Phase 1 b further extension, looking north-east, 1m scale*



*Plate 34 Phase 2 Duke Street south range north-western gable, 1m scale, looking south-east*



*Plate 35 Phase 2 Duke Street south range south-eastern gable, 1m scale, looking north-east*



*Plate 36 Phase 2 Duke Street south range ground floor, 1m scale, looking north-west*



*Plate 37 Phase 2 Duke Street south range ground floor original door, 1m scale, looking north-east*





*Plate 38 Phase 2 Duke Street south range ground floor, 1m scale, looking north-west*



*Plate 39 Phase 2 Duke Street south range first floor, 1m scale, looking south-west*



*Plate 40 Phase 2 Duke Street south range first floor, 1m scale, looking north-east*



*Plate 41 Phase 2 Duke Street south range ground floor, 1m scale, looking north-east*



*Plate 42 Phase 2 Duke Street south range first floor window, 0.3m scale, looking south-east*



*Plate 43 Phase 2 Duke Street south range ground floor later added staircase, 1m scale, looking south*



*Plate 44 Phase 2 Duke Street south range roof truss, looking north*



*Plate 45 Phase 2 1902 building window, looking north*



*Plate 46 Phase 2 1902 building ground floor, looking north-east, 1m scale*



*Plate 47 Phase 2 1902 building first floor, looking north-west, 1m scale*





*Plate 48 Phase 2 1902 building first floor, looking south-east, 1m scale*



*Plate 49 Phase 2 1902 building first floor trap door, looking south-west, 1m scale*



*Plate 50 Phase 2 1902 building second floor trap door, looking south-west, 1m scale*



*Plate 51 Phase 3 addition to the Duke Street north range, 1m scale, looking west*



*Plate 52 Phase 3 staircase added to the 1902 building, 1m scale, looking north*



*Plate 53 Phase 3 staircase added to the 1902 building, 1m scale, looking south-west*

## Appendix 1: Summary of project archive (WSM 73039)

TYPE	DETAILS*
Paper	Diary (Field progress form), Drawing, Plan
Digital	Images raster/digital photography, Survey, Text, Photograph, Report.

*\*OASIS terminology*

The project archive is currently held at the offices of Worcestershire Archaeology. Subject to the agreement of the landowner it is anticipated that it will be deposited at Museums Worcestershire.